

Woman's Club of Douglaston
Established 1916



NEWSBYTES SEPTEMBER 2023



President's Message Maria DiChiara

*I see it not as **My Mission** but as **Our Mission**. Let us share our thoughts, ideas and numerous talents and work together to better serve the Douglaston Community. Let us grow and strengthen new and existing friendships. Let us continue to work tirelessly toward our philanthropic, educational and intellectual goals. Let us grow together as members of the **Woman's Club of Douglaston**. Let us keep smiling!*

My Dear Members,

First let me say I am both honored and humbled to have been elected the **51st President of the Woman's Club of Douglaston** and I am grateful for the confidence and support I have received from the Board and from members alike.

Hopefully, each one of you has had a relaxing Summer and are ready to come together once again to enjoy the camaraderie, friendship and all the outstanding **WCD** events that have been planned. Since we last met all Committee Chairs have been working diligently to put together exciting monthly programs, trips and events that will stimulate, educate, entertain or just bring a smile to your face.

At our first meeting in **October** we will continue our **“Expo”** theme with a **“Handbag” Exhibit**. Many of you have submitted interesting, fashionable, and exotic bags for display. It is amazing what treasures have been tucked away in your closets and attics and I am sure you will be sharing many interesting stories that go along with some of these lovely bags.

Also scheduled for **October** is our annual Antiques trip. This year a visit to Cold Spring NY has been planned. As always, I am sure it will be a lovely Fall day spent with members searching for that special something.

In **November**, Art Historian Louise Cella Caruso will return for a third time to present a fascinating program titled, *Painted Lady: Muse or Mistress?*. And, in December a musical afternoon is planned with local entertainer “Bobby D” who will take you on a trip down memory lane and will surely put you in a festive Holiday mood.

I am pleased to announce that we have added **“Center for the Women of NY”** to our list of vetted and approved local Charities. We will hear more about the CWNY at the October meeting. I would also like to announce that due to the enthusiastic student response we hope to continue our Education Program with one of the local Douglaston elementary schools.

In addition to the exciting line-up of programs planned for the monthly meetings, there will be much to look forward to in the days ahead. Trips...to a Museum, to Broadway, and the Met. And, let’s not forget our more intimate Potpourri gatherings. If you enjoy reading, be sure to join the Book Club and participate in lively discussions about the latest bestsellers. So much to do and share with fellow members.

Dates and details about all programs and events are available in your Program

Booklet, in our monthly newsletter **NewsBytes** and on our Website: www.womansclubofdouglaston.com which we urge you to visit often. Let's get our calendars up-to-date and "pencil-in" the dates.

As your new President, I am interested in, and I hope you will share with me, your thoughts and any suggestions you may have to make your membership in the **WCD** more rewarding. I will work tirelessly with Committee Chairs to bring you the best in programming and to propel the **WCD** forward for the good of the Douglaston Community and for each other.

As the new season begins there will be much for us to share. Our membership is comprised of many talented, professional, and accomplished women with much to offer. I urge you to reach out in friendship to members beyond your circle. *"A friend may be waiting behind a stranger's face."*

I would like to thank in advance for their hard work, dedication and support, Executive Board Members: Jeri Lynett, Sandy Hart, Barbara Buckley and Margarita Autz. Committee Chairs: Linda Akers, Fran Bello, Annette Aloisio, Cecilia Cody, Joan Curran, Pat Doyle, Martha Gotz, Aida Ieraci, Carolyn Karoff, Sharon Lee, Arlene McGillick, Sarah Milunec, Diane Polland, Joyce Ramirez, Helene Schutz, Marilyn Stone, Margaret Warren, Helena Wong, Maura Wrynn and Mary Taylor. [You are the backbone of the WCD.](#)

Dear Members...I look forward to serving as your President, to seeing all of you at the October meeting and to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Maria DiChiara

WOMAN'S CLUB OF DOUGLASTON

General Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

1:00 p.m.

DOUGLASTON CLUB

600 West Drive - Douglaston

PROGRAM

HANDBAG EXPO

We proudly present the opening of the **2023 WCD** season with our third expo of prized possessions from our members. This curated collection of handbags has been put together by the Expo Team Helene Schutz, Mary Taylor and Maria DiChiara. They worked tirelessly summer long to bring this event to fruition. Almost 90 examples display an array of bag types from exquisite, zany, sophisticated, unique, antique and whimsical. Be sure to read the detailed program notes which provide background information and attributions to enrich your understanding.

The **Expo** will conclude with remarks from member owners who will share personal stories surrounding these most utilitarian yet decorative accessories.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Wait List has been established for membership for non-resident applicants.

Until further notice **no guests** will be allowed to attend upcoming **WCD** General Meetings with the exception of the **Annual Meeting and Luncheon Fundraiser in May**.

To access our **Members Only Page** to create a secure online profile. visit our website www.womansclubofdouglaston.com **home page** upper right corner, to sign up. Please use your email as recorded in our Membership Roster.

MONTHLY CLUB CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

Handbag Expo

We will be collecting the selected bags at the **Douglaston Club** on **Wednesday, October 4th**, between the hours of **10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.** If you signed up to participate you will receive an email with more details.

Contact **Mary Taylor** Tel: 917-608-9516 Email: marybride8@gmail.com for further information.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

Bridge to Life Charity Event

At our first meeting in **October**, members will be given empty **Baby Bottles** which will be a fundraiser for **Bridge to Life**. We request that you fill the baby bottles with spare coins, dollars of any denomination or a check made payable to them. These bottles will then be delivered to **Bridge to Life** for the benefit of those needy Moms and their children. Thank you for your anticipated participation. Contact Co-Chairwomen Joyce Ramirez Tel: **347-495-8082**
Email: thevoice45@aol.com Annette Aloisio **718-510-3758**
Email: Caralo718@aol.com

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet at **12:00 p.m.** in the Bar Room prior to our General Meeting. All members are welcome to share our love of books.

HOUR OF THE WITCH BY CHRIS BOHJALIAN

An historical novel, set in Boston, 1630 tells the story of Mary Deerfield, second wife of Thomas a powerful and cruel husband.

Books for upcoming Meetings as follows:

November

Lessons in Chemistry, by Bonnie Garmus.

December

Reader's Choice

February

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray.

March

Reader's Choice

April

The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis.

Joan Curran has been Chairwoman of our Book Club since 2013. Joan has decided to resign this position but will remain an active member of said book club. **On a personal note:** As a participant in Joan's Book Club for these many years, while I am reluctant to let go of her leadership, the members and I wish to express our appreciation for her interesting selection of books; her thoughtfulness in her analysis of the selected books and for engaging us in lively and thought-provoking discussions. Sometimes we go off topic (most times) but that is part of the camaraderie Joan has afforded us in this exceptional book club. So, dear Joan, we thank you for your many years of service to our Club – we thank you for your insightfulness, your intelligence and most of all your dedication.

We are pleased to announce that the New Chairwoman and Co-Chairwoman of the **WCD Book Club** is **Cecilia Cody and Arlene McGillick** – both of whom are long time members of the Club. We welcome our new regime and look forward to their leadership. I know it will be an exciting time for us – lovers of books. **Welcome Cecilia and Arlene.**

A.A.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

ANTIQUe TRIP TO COLD SPRING, PUTMAN COUNTY, NY

You can sign up to attend at our next General Meeting on October 5th, or to sign up prior to the meeting contact chairwomen **Marilyn Stone** - Tel: **718-229-0383** - **Carolyn Karoff**: Email: ckaroff01@gmail.com - Tel: **917 680-7100**

[For more information, you can view/print the trip flyer here.](#)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

AFTERNOON OF CARDS AND GAMES

Time: 12:30-3:00 p.m.

(Optional Lunch : \$25.00 - cash only for non-Douglaston Club members.)

Save the date for next game days:

Friday, November 17th

Friday, December 15th

We will meet at the Douglaston Club for mingling with fellow members while enjoying your favorite table game. (Bridge, Canasta, Scrabble, Dominoes, Poker and other quick to learn and fun to play games.)

12:30 p.m. (Greet, meet, organize tables) 1:00 p.m. (Play commences)

For further information please contact **Pat Doyle**: crxbeach@aol.com or Tel. **718-631-1609**.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

POTPOURRI: MOZZARELLA CHEESE MAKING WORKSHOP

Cheese making is both fun and enjoyable for all ages!

In this interactive class, we provide a hands-on mozzarella-making experience. In as little as 30 minutes you can craft approximately one pound of fresh warm mozzarella ready to share with family and friends!

Imagine adding your own warm mozzarella on homemade pizza or chilled for your fresh caprese salad. It`s even fantastic as a warm snack.

Sign up to attend at our October 5th General Meeting. **Cost: \$35.00 p.p.**
Full payment is required. Class size is limited to 15 people. [For important information, view/print the event flyer here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 20, 2024 - Metropolitan Opera House - Stay tuned for more details.

March 27, 2024 - Theatre - Stay tuned for more details.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON - Stay tuned for more details.



Editor-in-Chief

Annette Aloisio

Welcome back! We hope you had a relaxing, enjoyable summer in spite of the strange weather and the invasion of the red lantern flies. **We look forward to our first General Meeting on October 5th at 1:00 P.M.**

We welcome our new President, **Maria DiChiara**, new Vice President, Jeri Lynett and our new Corresponding Secretary Margarita Autz.

We welcome back our “old” Recording Secretary Barbara Buckley and, of course, our treasured Treasurer, Sandy Hart.

As is evidenced by our President’s Letter, this will prove to be a fruitful and interesting season as far as programs, trips, etc. We know you will agree.

CHARITY:

As you know, Charity is one of the mainstays of the **Woman's Club of Douglaston**. One of our newer Charities is **Bridge to Life**. As you will recall we had representatives from this organization speak at our April 6th Meeting. We also held a Baby Shower for Bridge to Life at that time. The response was overwhelming and deeply appreciated. Bridge to Life is an organization which assists woman in all aspects of their lives and particularly in dealing with unplanned pregnancies. We will hold a "Baby Bottle" fundraiser for Bridge to Life in October. See details under our Monthly Club Calendar above.

PONDERINGS, MUSES AND IDLE THOUGHTS

Now that beach/pool days are over and my face will no longer be ravaged by the sun, (yes I do use sun screen) I took a long look into the mirror....I saw **ME** in that mirror - I stared and I thought....

Who do you see when you look in a mirror? Do you see the impressionable, youthful, adorable young 7 or 8 year old girl with the pigtails, banana curls, Toni Home Perm Wave? She is filled with enthusiasm for so many things – including reading, writing, discovering many new subjects; realizing that she is a member of a family and how blessed she is.

Who do you see when you look in a mirror? Do you see a young pre-teen girl with different hair style from prior years – but the same soulful eyes staring back at her image. Many discoveries await her and she is anxious to experience them.

Who do you see when you look in a mirror? Do you see a teenager – rather boy-crazy, very concerned about her appearance, most interested in her friendships; enjoying some freedoms previously unknown to her– looking forward to higher education and more adventures.

Who do you see when you look in a mirror? Do you see a responsible adult entering the work force, education completed, anticipating working in her chosen field and hoping for success in said career, fairly confident – ready to face the world.

Who do you see when you look in a mirror? Have you found your one true love? Are you ready to make a commitment to someone? Are you prepared to

have a family? If this was not your choice, are you focused on career, continued achievements and accomplishments?

Who do you see when you look in a mirror? I see a strong, intelligent, kind woman who has lived her life on her terms. Maybe there are laugh lines on her face; maybe there is gray in her hair (or not). I see a woman who is comfortable in her own skin. I see a woman who has achieved her goals. I see a woman who is interesting and interested. I see a woman who may be a bit slower in movement, maybe a little less agile but remains strong, focused, family-oriented – never loses love of self or others to whom she is committed. I see a woman who may no longer be running – but she sure is walking, going, seeing and doing. I see a woman who has witnessed many changes in her world –who accepts what is and changes what she can. I see an independent, free-thinker, a fierce warrior who has weathered some storms in her life who acknowledges that most of the best things in life are free and the best things in life are not “things”.

Who do I see when I look in a mirror? I see reflections of my older, wiser self – and in the background I see all of you – a part of a community of women who are all of the above – who have lived all their days with gratitude, who have embraced this community as a sisterhood and most important, a dedication to the greater good. This, my friends, is who we are. We are women!! **We ARE the WCD.**

Mirrors date back to 6000 B.C. (Anatolia – now Turkey)

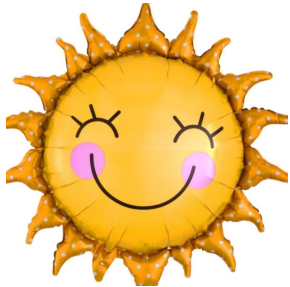
“We have to confront ourselves. Do we like what we see in the mirror? And according to our understanding, according to our courage, we will have to say yea or nay – and rise!” (Maya Angelou – Writer, Poet, Civil Rights Activist)

Annette A.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

“...IF NOT NOW, WHEN?”... (Rabbi Hillel – Jewish Scholar and Sage)

DID YOU KNOW THAT ... the original name of the **WCD** when founded in 1916 was The Douglaston Woman's Civic Association?



SUNSHINE NEWS

SYMPATHY CARDS WERE SENT TO:

- MARY BARAN FOR THE LOSS OF HER HUSBAND. A THANK YOU CARD WAS RECEIVED FROM MARY.
- THE FAMILY OF ANNE MC DERMOTT.
- VIVIAN BELANICH FOR THE LOSS OF HER DAD; RECEIVED THANK YOU CARD FROM VIVIAN

A MASS CARD WAS SENT TO DOROTHY MULHOLLAND FOR THE LOSS OF HER SISTER GRACE; A THANK YOU CARD WAS RECEIVED FROM DOROTHY

GET WELL CARDS WERE SENT TO

MARIA DICHIARA, ANNE CAVASENO, PAMELA TIMOYANIS, LOUISA MASON, HELENE SCHUTZ, DOROTHY MULHOLLAND, MARIE ROMANO

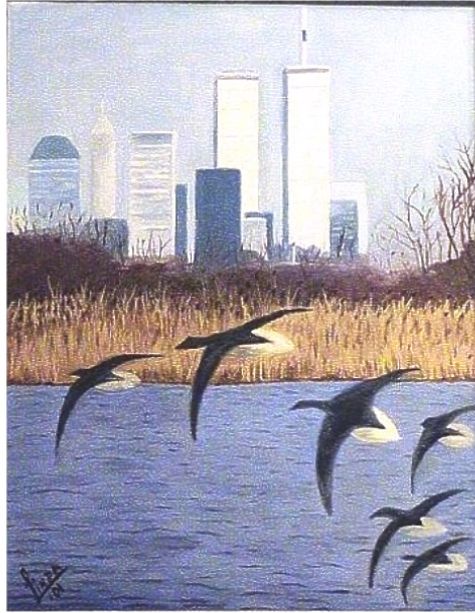
THINKING OF YOU CARDS WERE SENT TO JOAN CURRAN AND MARILYN STONE SENDING HER SON CHARLIE GET WELL WISHES

Please keep all our members in your prayers. Please also notify Sunshine Chair (Annette Aloisio – caralo718@aol.com) if you know of anyone who is ill or needs to know we are thinking of them. Thank you.

A.A.

9/11

WE REMEMBER ...



Happy Birthday to our Summer/ Fall Birthday Girls

Those born in the Summer have more measured responses than those born in the Spring and, although enthusiastic, are more critical, their energies are perhaps a bit less focused on initiating projects and more on bringing them to fruition. Generally speaking, those born in the Fall demonstrate both a greater ability and need to control their external environment. (*The Secret Language of Birthdays*).

SEPTEMBER

Annette Aloisio, Carolyn Lippman, Maria Santalesa, Marilyn Stone, Dolores Felice, Maura Wrynn, Peggi Abularrage

OCTOBER

Florence Clark, Mary Ann Canfield, Celeste Beccalori, Cecilia Cody, Louise Mason, Mary Taylor, Arlene McGillick, Dorothy Mulholland, Joan Lange.

OBITUARY

Ellen Fagan



Longtime Douglaston resident and Woman's Club member **Ellen Fagan** passed peacefully on August 28th. Ellen was born in Douglas Manor and resided in the home in which she was born all her life until recently when she retired to her beloved lake house in Pennsylvania where, sadly but peacefully she passed away.

Ellen was a former school teacher who joined the WCD upon her retirement. She served as Assistant Corresponding Secretary in 2004 and was Treasurer from 2006 – 2010. Ellen was well-liked and much appreciated during her tenure. *Rest in Heavenly Peace dear Ellen.*

[Contact us](#)

[Visit us](#)

OFFICERS:

Maria DiChiara, President
Vice President, Geraldine Lynett
Recording Secretary, Barbara Buckley
Corresponding Secretary, Margarita Autz
Treasurer, Sandy Hart

NEWSBYTES EDITORIAL TEAM:

Annette Aloisio, Editor-in-Chief
Linda Akers, Design, Audiovisual, Publishing

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