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*Woman's Club of Douglaston*  
Established 1916



## **NEWSBYTES**

### **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024**

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***A Message from the President of the  
Woman's Club of Douglaston  
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!*

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Dear Members,

Welcome back from what I hope was a restful and enjoyable Summer. I hope you are looking forward to the Fall as much as I am and most of all connecting once again with the ladies of the **WCD**.

**Please mark your calendars...**The first meeting this season featuring the “Babies & Babes” Expo will be held on the **second Thursday in October (October 10th)**. This is our Fourth Expo, and I have discovered that our members really were adorable Babies and beautiful Babes. Ladies, really... was there any doubt?

**Note:** An email was sent on September 9<sup>th</sup> to all members notifying them that the Executive Board approved the following amendment to the Bylaws. ***Non-resident members of Douglaston Little Neck may not exceed 30% of the allowable membership of 130.*** A vote will be taken at the October General Meeting to amend the By-laws.

**The annual Antiques trip is scheduled for Thursday, October 24th** destination Peddler’s Village in Lushaska, Pennsylvania, the cost - \$150. A flyer with all the details was emailed to you earlier this month and is attached to this publication under the “Monthly Programs” section. Thank you to Co-Chairs Marilyn Stone and Carolyn Karoff for planning this trip. Be sure to sign up and bring your check to the October 10th General Meeting.

**Since last we met...**The “New Member Welcome Reception” held at Linda Akers’ home was enjoyable and fruitful. Stepping forward as Music/Dance Co-Chairs are Laretta and Dorothy Mulholland. We are delighted that Laretta has volunteered and Dorothy has decided to rejoin the Board. Also, Mary Burke will be working with Maura Wrynn as Theatre Co-Chair. A special thank you to Laretta, Dorothy and Mary for stepping up and to Linda for graciously hosting the New Member Reception. The **WCD** survives and is what it is today because of the generosity and participation of its members. As always, I encourage you to get involved.

**Board Members and Committee Chairs never seem to rest!** They worked diligently throughout the summer months to make the year ahead an exciting one focusing on crucial women’s issues. Included in the program line-up and for the first time in **WCD** history, we are partnering with the **United Nations** to help some of the most severely affected educationally deprived girls around the world. To put a smile on your face and a song in your heart, entertainer **Bobby D** will return to serenade us with a seasonal musical tribute. That is just a

sample of what you can expect in the months ahead. Thank you to Program Chairs, Helene Schutz and Sharon Lee for putting together another outstanding program. Click [here](#) to print the Annual Program Booklet included in the mailing recently sent to you for a complete schedule of speakers and topics.

**The ladies of the WCD love to get together. Game Day** has become so popular that we decided to continue to meet during the summer. We really enjoy each other's company and keeping our minds sharp playing games i.e. Canasta, Mah Jong, Rummikub and more. I hope you will join us even just to socialize and have lunch. Thank you, Pat Doyle, for organizing these fun days.

**For important Club news, photos, announcements and more,** visit [www.womansclubofdouglaston.com](http://www.womansclubofdouglaston.com). Be sure to read this issue of NewsBytes and keep the Program Schedule booklet and Membership Roster on hand for ready reference.

**In closing ...** As always, we are grateful for our blessings, we remember the women and children of war and all those suffering around the world. And let us not forget the blessing of friendships made and time spent with the ladies of the Woman's Club of Douglaston. Feel free to contact me at any time. I am always interested in what you have to say.

My Dear ladies ... I look forward to seeing each one of you at the first General Meeting of the Season on October 10th. Until then, be safe and at peace and... remember to keep smiling.

Sincerely,

*Maria DiChiara*

**WOMAN'S CLUB OF DOUGLASTON  
GENERAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024**

**1:00 PM**

## **PROGRAM:**

### **"BABIES & BABES" EXPO**

Our fourth upcoming Expo features photos of our members from their early years to the glory days of adulthood.

Members have searched through family archives to share their best iconic photos from two very different time periods of their lives.

See **WCD** members/friends from unique previously unseen perspectives. There are sure to be a wide range of emotional responses as you view these treasures. To conclude our program, those members who wish to can tell the personal stories behind their photos.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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**. Guests are also welcomed to attend any other **WCD special** event.

To access our **Members Only Page** and to create a secure online profile, visit our website [www.womansclubofdouglaston.com](http://www.womansclubofdouglaston.com) **home page**.

On the upper right corner, sign up using your email as recorded in our Membership Roster.



# MONTHLY CLUB CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024**

## **BOOK CLUB**

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

**The Book Club** has provided the following Book Club choices for year ending 2024.

**October:** "The Women" by Kristen Hannah

**November:** "Lucy by the Sea" by Elizabeth Strout

**December:** Reader's Choice

**February:** (Black History Month)

"JAMES" by Percival Everett (320 pgs) Good Reads 4.6

**March:** Readers Choice

**April:** "The Spectacular" by Fiona Davis (368 pgs) Good Reads 4.1

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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024**

## **AFTERNOON OF CARDS AND GAMES**

**Time: 11:30-3:00 p.m.**

We want to encourage everyone to come and socialize whether or not you want to play a game.

**Optional Lunch:** Please be prepared to pay cash for lunch (\$25.00 \*have exact change please), if you are not a Douglaston Club member.

DC Members can charge their personal accounts.

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

**11:30 p.m** (Greet, meet, organize tables) **12:00 p.m** (Play commences)

For further information please contact **Pat Doyle** [crxbeach@aol.com](mailto:crxbeach@aol.com)

Tel: **646 299-5758**

The next scheduled Game Day is November 15th, 2024

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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024**

**Trip and Luncheon to Peddler's Village, Bucks County, PA**

**Cost: \$150.00 p.p**

**[CLICK HERE TO PRINT FULL FLYER](#)**

*Woman's Club of Douglaston*  
Fascinating Antique Trip and Luncheon to  
Peddler's Village located in Bucks County, Lahaska, PA  
Thursday, October 24, 2024  
Arrive at the Dock at 8:00 AM promptly



**SAVE THE DATE**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024 - POTPOURRI COMMITTEE**

**SHABU SHABU HOT POT CULINARY ADVENTURE**

Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.

**Vasaiya Shabu Shabu Buffet**

252-11 Northern Blvd. Little Neck

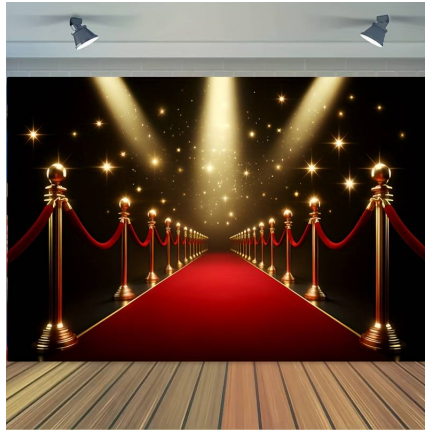
Cost of lunch is approximately **\$35.00** depending on what is ordered. Each person will pay by separate check. Credit cards will only be accepted for amounts over \$35.00 otherwise you must pay cash.

**Please TEXT your RSVP to Diane Polland: 516-606-2344**

Click [HERE](#) to print the flyer.

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND  
LUNCHEON - "HOLLYWOOD AND THE OSCARS"**



Our Annual General Meeting Fundraiser Luncheon themed "**HOLLYWOOD AND THE OSCARS**" at North Hills Country Club in Manhasset is coming up with cocktail hour, a "**surprise**" entertainer, raffles, friendship, and fun, all included. **Cost: \$90.00 p.p.**

*Raffles and donations from members, friends and merchants are needed. We ask our members to please donate a **Grand Prize** item or **gift basket**. Remember the proceeds of this fundraiser are allocated to the support of our charitable endeavors and the much needed administrative **WCD** funds.*

**Stay tuned for more details.** Please contact Chairwoman **Linda Akers** for information. Email: [Linakers@yahoo.com](mailto:Linakers@yahoo.com) - Tel: 917-941-2536 or **WCD** at [womansclubofdouglaston@gmail.com](mailto:womansclubofdouglaston@gmail.com) - Contact **Johanna Abramo** for Grand Prize and Basket raffle donations. Email: [cooljo707@msn.com](mailto:cooljo707@msn.com) Tel: 917-226-4156.

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**Editor-in-Chief**



Annette Aloisio

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***From the Editor ...***

**Welcome Back!** I hope the Summer was what summer should be – peaceful, relaxing, fun-filled days, tranquil evenings, beach, surfing, boating, vacation, travel and maybe just enjoying your lovely decks, gardens, back or front yards – maybe a “staycation” – enjoying your neighborhood.

The Summer of 2024 is officially over – we are back in the groove ready to face the new season of the Woman’s Club of Douglaston. We look forward to sharing our meetings, programs, trips, events and most important - each other!

Our members are exceptional women – we appreciate you, your involvement, your participation and anticipation as we welcome the remaining months of 2024 and look forward to the 2025 Season of the **WCD**. Here we go again!! Remember: “***Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.***” (Helen Keller – Author, Advocate)

Lastly, once again, sincere thanks to our NB Team, Linda, Maria and Margarita. “*Without you – I’m nothing – with you – I’m something – Together we’re everything*” (Unknown)

A.A

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***PONDERINGS, MUSES AND IDLE THOUGHTS:***

*I was thinking....* **Do you ever change your mind?** I am guilty! I believe many of us change our minds regarding the mundane every- day issues of life – maybe I’m going to wear ballet flats – nope I’m wearing sneakers. Maybe I’m going to cook fish tonight – nope I will grill a steak. Someone near and dear to me (who shall remain nameless) recently went through the arduous decision-



making process of selecting wallcovering for her master bathroom – wall paper was installed professionally, of course, at considerable cost – and then, she changed her mind – back to painted walls. You get the idea. Definition: “**Change of mind – adopt a different opinion or plan**”. Some synonyms: flip-flop, reversal, turnabout, turnaround, reconsideration, rethink, second thought, etc. To continue: some might call those who change their minds fickle, inconstant, mercurial and unstable!!! “**I am a woman. I have a right to change my mind**”. (Sidney Sheldon –Writer, actor, comedian).

Then, there are **major** “change your mind” situations. How easily and how readily is it to do so? I knew a married couple who made the decision to remain childless. After quite a few years, they changed their minds - they are now the proud parents of two delightful daughters. I was recently told about a son of a doctor who went through medical school – you guessed it – he changed his mind – he is now in the field of finance.

I think a strong and positive term for changing your mind is “*open-minded*” – an important characteristic.

Have you ever heard or ever experienced: trying to change someone else’s mind? A perfect example is this current political arena (I know – no politics allowed) - but in reality, people scream at each other – for what purpose? To change his/her mind? It doesn’t work.

Then, there is a whole other thought: How to “Change your **STATE** of Mind” – “A ‘state of mind’ is a temporary psychological state or condition that an individual experiences, shaped by emotions, thoughts, beliefs and attitudes. It can significantly influence a person’s perception, behavior, decision-making and overall well-being.” Which makes me think “negativity”. So, how do you turn a negative state of mind into a more positive state of mind? There are tools to be used: “smile; relax; call an old friend; go for a walk; practice gratitude; be present”. (*Jatinder Palaha – Business Coach, Author, Consultant*)

“**Happiness is a state of mind**” (Walt Disney – Animator, film producer voice actor and entrepreneur). One of my favorite quotes, and I hope you will agree: “**A positive state of mind is not merely good for you, it benefits everyone with whom you come into contact, literally changing the**

**world.”** (*Dalai Lama – his own description – “A simple Buddhist Monk”.*)

My dear Ladies, I hope the aforesaid causes you pause, causes you a re-think or “change of mind” – yes, some of it is frivolous, some of it ridiculous, but when it comes to a “change of state of mind” –it becomes something else. Each of us has the power, the intelligence, the control to change our state of mind. Why be miserable when you can be happy? Why be lonely when you can be involved? Why be sad when you can be glad? Why complain when you can rejoice? Why not change your state of mind – it is a choice. One of the best choices we ever made was to join the **Woman’s Club of Douglaston** - we share a positive state of mind and understand each other when we do change our minds.

**“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”** (*C.S. Lewis- writer, literary scholar*)

**On a Personal Note:** *Ladies, please do not think for one moment I am judging anyone – I am actually talking to myself. I am a procrastinator – it takes me forever to make up my mind and more often than not – I change my mind! As far as my state of mind – it depends – it varies – I would be dishonest with myself and all of you ladies if I suggested that I am always in a positive, happy state of mind (I wish!). Life happens – we all experience difficulties in our daily lives – but we persevere and do the best we can, and that is all we can do – our best. And, by the way, it’s okay to change your mind over and over again.*

**A.A.**

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**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY :** **“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”** (*Aristotle: Greek Philosopher and Scientist*)

**A.A.**

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**DID YOU KNOW THAT ...** Blue whales, which are the largest animals known to have lived on the Earth, have tongues that can weigh as much as an elephant, at about 2,700 kilograms... *the more you know ...*

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## Meet the Board

### Barbara Buckley



### Recording Secretary

Barbara was born in Sunnyside ,a/k/a Blissville, New York where Barbara and her two sisters were raised by their paternal grandparents. Her Dad, Henry, was an Air Force Navigator in WWII and remained in the Reserves after the War. Barbara attended St. Theresa's Elementary School in Woodside, St. Vincent Ferrer H.S., Hunter College and ultimately Queens College where she received a Masters Degree in Library Science. Barbara worked at a Public Relations Firm in Manhattan, and is currently a Librarian in the Great Neck Library System.

In 1971 Barbara married the love of her life, John. They rented their first apartment in Woodside, Queens After several years, they bought their starter house in Little Neck and subsequently moved to Douglaston. Shortly after John's passing, Barbara moved to an apartment on Douglaston Parkway where her terrace is adorned with all sorts of plants as she has created a garden oasis.

Barbara is the extremely proud mother of her daughter and son in law who reside in England and the adoring, doting, loving grandmother of her grandson whom she visits quite often.

Barbara loves to travel, garden, read and volunteer! During COVID, Barbara volunteered at St. Aloysius Parish in Great Neck in an outreach program

reaching out to those in need during those difficult times. She is an activist in the Manhasset Woman's Coalition Against Breast Cancer and is on the Research Committee. She is also on the Sunshine/Gift Committee at the Great Neck Library bringing joy and hope to many members.

When the WCD needed a Recording Secretary, after being a member for four short years, Barbara joined the Board in that capacity. Recording Secretary is an extremely and demanding position – one which requires language skills, listening skills and an ability to cull important from non-important transcriptions. In the spirit of volunteering, when our Sister Club was in need of a President, our dear Barbara agreed to hold that position – speaking about a demanding job!

Barbara is of Irish Ancestry - Interesting to note that many of her relatives still reside on the family farm in Ireland. Barbara is a frequent visitor.

The Woman's Club is enriched with Barbara on our Board. She is an active participant, supportive to all and a very well-loved and respected member of the **WCD**.

*What We Did Not Know About Barbara:* She “broke the glass ceiling” by being the first woman to serve on the Board of the Douglaston Club.

It was my pleasure to interview Barbara and to learn a bit more about her. Barbara is a lovely woman whom I found to be sincere, caring, compassionate and most intelligent. She is a true asset to the **WCD** team. **Thank you Barbara!**

**A.A.**

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## SUNSHINE

**Sympathy cards** were sent to: Family of Mimi Aliperti; Joan Lange – loss of her sister, Florence; Ruth Harrigan – loss of her mother; Family of Erika Palafox; Family of Annette Alaggia; Florence Clark – loss of her husband, Bob; Family of Louisa Mason; A Mass Card was sent to Linda Akers and Family for loss of her brother, Miguel; A donation was made in his memory to the Kidney Foundation.

**Get Well Cards were sent to:** Marie Romano, Mary Baran, Janet Fini, Marilyn Stone, and Irma Bishay. A Good Wishes card was sent to Bhanu Doshi as she relocated to an assisted Living Facility in Manhattan

**Thank you notes** were received from Maria Ragusa, Florence Clark, Marie Romano, Linda Akers and Ann Cavaseno.

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

**A.A.**

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**Happy Birthday to our Virgo girls.**

Virgos are generally straightforward and direct. Those born in this period who

are blessed with leadership abilities usually apply their talents and energies in the practical service of some group or cause.

**September:**

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

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**LOUISA MASON, ERIKA PALAFOX, ANNETTE ALAGGIA, MIMI ALIPERTI,  
PAT MCGRATH, SALLY VESCATEL**



**LOUISA MASON**

*Please note it was always my intention to “spotlight” Louisa as a member of the WCD; sadly, it never came to be. The following serves as that Spotlight and her Memoriam.*

Sharon Lee writes about her friend: ***Louisa Mason:***

While Covid 19 presented many justifiable excuses to languish, it was the pandemic’s very social isolation mandates that sparked an idea in the mind of our fellow **WCD** member Louisa Mason to combat our sedentary inclinations. This lady, who was always the picture of fashion flair and physical energy, saw the restrictions as an opportunity to unite and uplift the **WCD** membership as well as her other friends by offering free one-and-one half hour yoga and tai chi classes via Zoom. These exercises had helped Louisa overcome cancer some years back, and she sought to spread the good news of their benefits. A retired teacher of Spanish, Italian and French, Louisa led the

group of mostly ladies through a non-stop regimen of stretching, calisthenics, and body tapping, explaining the benefits of the movements while cheering and joking along the way. She told everyone to keep plugging away at the exercises and offered assurances that, with consistent work, they would see improvements in flexibility, strength, and endurance.

At the end of every class, Louisa would call upon her students to open their hearts and minds to the universe and say a prayer for the ills of the world and for specific people who were sick or otherwise struggling. She would conclude every class with a group cheer: "Healthy body, happy heart, power brain. Yes! Yes! Yes!" It was during one of these classes that her students noticed something was not right with Louisa; that she was repeating exercises and having speech difficulties. Her husband, Greg, rushed her to the emergency room mid-lesson - Glioblastoma was the sad diagnosis. Louisa's doctors told her this type of brain cancer was "the bad one", but ever the optimist, she fought it for two years until her passing on August 8th, 2024. Besides the yoga and tai chi classes, Louisa was an active volunteer in other organizations. She was the mother of one son, Colin, who tragically predeceased her. She had a special love for children, teaching religion to the young people of St. Anastasia's Church and Italian to the Tyrolean Club in Ridgewood. Anyone who ever had lunch or attended an event with her would not be surprised that Louisa was also instrumental in hosting the Club's annual Christmas parties. She found joy in traveling and in social gatherings with abundant food and laughter.

One of Louisa's last parties was **WCD's** 2023 luncheon, where she bet on the horses and won big, cashing in at the prize booths staffed by her **WCD** friends. After almost every race, Louisa, a little mystified by her good fortune that day, declared, "I'm lucky!" We at **WCD** can certainly say the same when we recall the moments we shared with this exuberant and generous friend.

(Thank you Sharon for sharing your memory of this remarkable woman. Rest In Peace Louisa)

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**PATRICIA (PAT) MCGRATH**

Patricia (Pat) McGrath was a former neighbor on Beverly Road. Pat and her family embraced us as the “new people” on Beverly as our daughters became immediate friends. Pat worked as an Administrative Assistant at IBM in her career-life and in her later years was a real estate salesperson. Pat was a devout Catholic and dutifully practiced her faith. She was the adoring mother of four children, one of whom, sadly predeceased her. She was beloved “Grams” to her 12 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Pat was a lover of sports and a true sports fan. She was an active member of the Douglaston Club and enjoyed her time as a member of the **WCD**. She leaves behind many friends especially at the Wellesley where she spent her last years. I quote from her Obituary: *“Though Patricia may no longer walk beside us, her spirit lives on in the memories and the legacy Patricia leaves behind.”*

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**ERIKA PALAFOX**



Erika Palafox was also my neighbor and friend. She resided on Beverly Road



for almost 50 years; Erika was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She was an artist, an athlete, a dedicated gardener, an accomplished pianist and a most generous woman. Erika loved to laugh and did a lot of it. She was an active member of the Community Church of Douglaston. I quote from Erika's Obituary: *"In the soft embrace of remembrance, we recall the profound impact Erika had on those she encountered along her journey"*. Rest in Peace dear Erika.

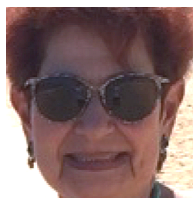
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### **ANNETTE ALAGGIA**

Annette Alaggia was introduced to the **WCD** by her former co-worker, Joan Curran. Annette and Joan were teachers in the New York City School System where Annette changed the lives of many of her students. She was dedicated and devoted to her profession. She was a very generous supporter of the **WCD**. Her husband predeceased her – she treasured his memory. I quote from Annette's Obituary: *"In the quiet moments of reflection, amidst the gentle rustle of leaves and the whispered song of the stars, we shall carry Annette's memory with us."* Rest in Peace dear Annette.

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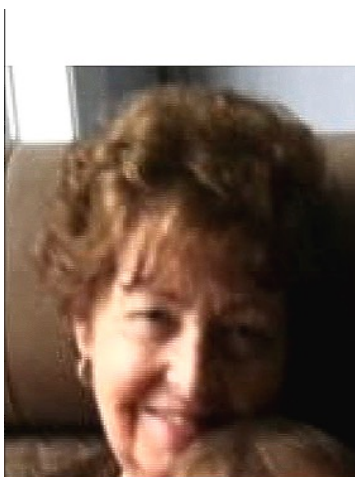
### **MIMI ALIPERTI**

Mimi (Maryann) Aliperti. The last time I saw Mimi was at Mass at St. Andrew Avellino Church in Flushing. It was a special Mass for our former priest. Although Mimi was battling a horrific illness for many years, she refused

to give in or give up. Her last words to me were: “Pray for me”. I responded: “I always do.” Mimi was a devout Catholic and practiced her religion by counselling young couples before marriage. Mimi was an integral member of the VNS, a **WCD** member for a brief period of time and a volunteer with many charities. I quote from Mimi’s Obituary: “*Mimi will be remembered by all for her unwavering positive attitude, generous spirit, and indomitable strong will.*” Rest in Peace dear Mimi.

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### **SALLY VESCATEL**



Sally Vescatel was a member of the **WCD** for many years – sadly she passed away on September 1<sup>st</sup>. She was a school administrator. Sally leaves behind her family, many friends and her beloved grandchildren. Sally shall be missed.

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#### **OFFICERS:**

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Vice President, Geraldine Lynett  
Recording Secretary, Barbara Buckley  
Corresponding Secretary, Margarita Autz  
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***NEWSBYTES EDITORIAL TEAM:***

Annette Aloisio, Editor-in-Chief  
Linda Akers, Design, Audiovisual, Publishing  
Margarita Autz, Hard Copy

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**Woman's Club of Douglaston**  
Douglaston, NY 11363

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