



The Life Enrichment Center AT OYSTER BAY

There is a Season ...
A Time for New Friends, New Activities and Expanding Relationships
By Silvana LaFerlita Gullo, Executive Director

This winter's many "spring-like" days not only gave us budding Cherry Blossoms one day and snow the next, but also inspired many new and exciting things for us to enjoy now that the real Spring is here.

I have lots of excitement of my own to report. An act of kindness by our Member Pat Chesire connected me to the folks at Christian Fellowship, who generously extended their hospitality by sharing their beloved "horse family" with me. Spending time at the ranch this winter provided me many hours of pleasure, great fitness both in riding and grooming their horses and an amazing way to manage the stress of a most challenging period in my life. Many thanks to the Christian Fellowship Family and Pat for planting the seeds for wonderful relationships I will cherish forever.

Our "Town Hall" meetings continue to provide a perfect direct connection with Members. I happily shared reports of my behind the scenes work with the County, Town and State officials on behalf of seniors. I hope that these important relationships will help develop resources for weather emergencies, secure more NYS funding for senior programs, and address transportation issues faced by seniors across the County. Members offer their thoughts and ideas relating to these and other activities. These meetings lead to new and improved activities for Members to enjoy. Thanks to Tom Powers, the Staff and I will participate in backgammon tournaments on Name Your Game Day.

With the goal of ensuring that all seniors have access to the kinds of services we offer, this winter kept us busy forming new friendships with seniors in Hicksville and Syosset. We look forward to our new friends from the Indian Cultural Club in Hicksville to join us once a month for lunch. They have promised to share some of their activities and teach us more about their customs. As a result of a presentation to a group of seniors at St. Edwards Church in Syosset, we were invited to meet fifty seniors at the Syosset Senior Housing on Muttontown Road for lunch on St. Patty's Day. Seniors were happy to learn of our Center and will be visiting as often as possible. We look forward to everyone welcoming these new Members with open arms.

New partnerships by way of activities will bring exciting monthly programs from the Waterfront Association. Sagamore Hill and others are being explored for monthly programs as well.

This winter planted seeds for a bounty of new friends, activities and partnerships. We welcome Spring and are thankful for all the lovely relationships that will develop this year.

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