



# The Life Enrichment Center AT OYSTER BAY

Life Enrichment Center at Oyster Bay

♥♥ The Center that Love Built ♥♥

By Silvana LaFerlita Gullo, Executive Director

Thirty-nine years ago Oyster Bay and the surrounding communities did not have a place where their older citizens could access services or socialize. Sitting on a Main Street bench was the only option available for daily activity. Religious organizations offered some support and the local library was open for those living close enough to walk; but otherwise, there was very little available.

Angela Koenig's concern for seniors became the shared mission of her fellow Christ Church parishioners and Church leaders. Angela's wish for a solution became a reality on February 10, 1977. With a major gift from the Doubleday Babcock Family, Christ Church opened its doors twice a week to seniors. The Doubleday Babcock Senior Center provided lunch, support, and activities.

Angela's commitment did not end there; it was evident that a full-time Center to provide comprehensive services was needed. With her encouragement community leaders, prominent families, other religious organizations and community members donated \$1.3 million dollars to develop a more permanent solution. By 1997, 45 E. Main Street was purchased and what we now lovingly call "our Center" was opened.

Many hours were dedicated to transforming the former factory into the Center as we know it today. Experts worked side by side with Board Members, Senior Advisors and volunteers to complete the renovation. Every effort was made to forecast what would be needed. The result is a brightly lit dining hall that seats up to 160 people, a fully equipped commercial kitchen, a fitness room, a top-of-the-line gym, a nurse's station, handicap accessible facilities and an elevator. Every inch of real estate was thoughtfully put to use.

Angela Koenig and the Board took special care selecting the staff to setup operations. With the love and attention of Barbara Hadel as the Executive Director, Barbara Lang and Mary Frignani in the Program Office, Nancy Farinaccio managing the kitchen, Edna Dormer handling the social work department, and a group of Senior Advisors, Angela's vision came alive.

45 East Main Street • Oyster Bay, NY 11771 • Tel: (516) 922-1770 • Fax: (516) 922-1788 •  
[www.lifeenrichmentcenteroysterbay.org](http://www.lifeenrichmentcenteroysterbay.org)

*Center Programs are made possible with funding from the Dolan Foundation, Bahnik Family Foundation, AHOLD Corporation, United Way of LI, Oyster Bay Community Foundation, Nassau County Department of Human Services, Office of Aging through New York State Office for the Aging and the U.S. Administration on Aging, Town of Oyster Bay and the generous support of our Members and friends.*



# The Life Enrichment Center AT OYSTER BAY

As we celebrate our thirty-eighth anniversary and Valentine's Day we send our collective thanks and best wishes to our founding friends, our past and present Board, and all the wonderful people whose support continue to keep our Center vibrant, vital and thriving. In loving memory we thank Angela Koenig for her commitment, and Barbara Hadel for dedicating more than twenty years to ensuring that Angela's dream for this Center would be reality.

We are honored to continue nurturing the Center that was lovingly built with a collaboration of a most generous community. We are proud to make seniors our first priority 250 days a week for another 50 years! Happy Valentine's Day to all, and may every senior in your life know how much they are loved and that they will forever find friends at the Life Enrichment Center.

On Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. you are invited join us for the Center's 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Open House. In addition, all individuals age 60+ are invited to stay for our Valentine's Day lunch at noon. Seating is limited, so please call in advance for a lunch reservation: 516-922-1770.

*Many thanks to founding donors and friends including Mr. & Mrs. Roger Bahnik, Christ Church, Mr. & Mrs. Fritz Coudert, the Doubleday Babcock Family, the Dolan Family Foundation, Mr. & Mrs. George O'Neill, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Pinkerton, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wang, St. Dominic's Church, and so many generous community members without whom our Center would never exist. A special thanks to Nassau County Department of Human Services, NYS Office of the Aging, Town of Oyster Bay, United Way of Long Island, AHOLD Corporation, Oyster Bay Community Foundation, and our newest benefactor the Long Island Community Foundation. We will always be grateful for your generosity, your guidance and your continued support.*

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