Letter From Executive Director

Dear Port Washington Community,

We are so pleased to report an uptick in people getting involved with our organization, and we love it! As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “The time is always right to do what is right.”

Please join us! Become a member, sponsor or volunteer. Take a moment to visit our “Get Involved” page at www.residentsforward.org. With your help, we can continue to build vibrancy, resiliency, beauty and sustainability for our community.

We can’t wait to work with and for you.

Mindy Germain
Executive Director

“Why I volunteer with Residents Forward” from Jocelyn Worrall

I believe it’s important to think globally and act locally. RF is a welcoming, creative and proactive organization that makes this philosophy possible! Strength in numbers, critical mass—this is how to make change.

Gala Weaves Fabric of Community

On March 22, Residents Forward celebrated the culture of giving that is woven throughout the fabric of Port Washington. It was a vibrant gala with dinner, dancing and community pride!

Honorees for this year’s gala, Judith Heller, Rick Krainin and Marvin Makofsky, have created and supported projects that make our community thrive. We were honored to shine a spotlight on these trailblazers.

This year we encouraged gala guests to reduce waste by providing hay straws, skipping cellophane wrap on our raffle baskets and renting reusable table centerpieces. Annette Jaffe Interiors amazed guests by turning magnificent fabric scraps into eco-chic, upcycled, reusable bags.

The gala underwriter, The Peter & Jeri Dejana Foundation, embodies our mission of advancing the vibrancy, resiliency, sustainability and beauty of our Peninsula. We thank them for their steadfast support. Residents would also like to thank The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company for being our 2019 presenting sponsor and Annette Oestreich for sponsoring the talented Bach to Rock band. Our gala would not be possible without the dynamic leadership of Gala Co-Chairs Dawn Serignese and Betsy Liegey, as well as all the hard-working members of the Gala Committee.
Students Help Create Bay Walk Water Exhibit

Elementary School Green Team Leaders and Schreiber students are working with Port Washington North Mayor Bob Weitzner and Residents Forward on an educational exhibit about our drinking water. The exhibit, which will be located in the Bay Walk Park along Shore Road, will focus on conservation, protection and recharging our aquifers in an interactive, fun, family-friendly way. Existing conservation features of the Bay Walk, including a rain garden, permeable pavers and a smart irrigation system will be highlighted in the new Water exhibit, which will be unveiled over the coming months.

Skip the Straw Pilot

Research shows that the U.S. uses enough straws annually to wrap around the earth two-and one half times...that's over 60,000 miles of straws! We are so pleased that Amalfi's, Frank's Pizza and Salvatore's are eager to participate in our “Skip the Straw” pilot program. Each restaurant received over 3,000 paper straws and informational table tent cards that reference these alarming statistics and encourage customers to either choose paper straws or skip straws altogether.

Beyond reducing plastic straw use, our ultimate goal is to encourage people be more mindful of all of their single-use plastic consumption. This program is underwritten by The Jaggar Foundation and planned by students of the Youth Climate Summit.

Inter-generational Climate Awareness Garden

During last year’s Residents Forward Youth Climate Summit, students learned that food choices have a direct impact on the environment. In breakout workshops, they set a goal to create a Climate Awareness Garden at Schreiber to encourage people to eat locally, more plant-based meals and waste less. In a meet and greet with residents of The Amsterdam at Harborside last fall, students presented their plans and asked seniors to help decorate the square foot garden with painted rocks. This project is funded by The Jaggar Foundation with support from Plant a Row For the Hungry and The Square Foot Garden Association.
Main Street is Clean, No Butts About it

Every year on a Saturday morning in April, Residents Forward and the Town of North Hempstead organizes Clean Green Main Street where well over 100 volunteers and a High School leadership team help us plant, sweep, pick up litter and prepare tree beds for the growing season.

This year Residents Forward announced a cigarette recycling pilot, the newest initiative of the Residents Forward “Give a Litter Bit” campaign. Residents Forward is partnering with Teracycle along with the Town of North Hempstead and the Greater Port Washington BID to hang cigarette receptacles in key problem areas. A team from Spectrum Designs will empty them and then Terracycle will separate them, melt them into hard plastic and remold them for use in new products like shipping pallets. We hope the Litter Bit cigarette recycling pilot spreads awareness that cigarette butts are litter too.

We thank Bach to Rock for providing musical entertainment, as well the 2019 Clean Green Main Street sponsors: Deith Distributing Inc., The Feingold Family, Beth and David Horn, PM Pediatrics and Honorable Fred Pollack.

Help Us Beautify Main Street

There’s no better way to show your pride in our beautiful community than to help make it even prettier. We hope you’ll consider sponsoring a planter on Main Street. These gorgeous and durable teak planters are freshened each spring, adding pops of color along Main Street three seasons long. The more sponsors we get, the more beautiful Main Street will be.

Call 767-9151 or email info@pwresidents.org to put your name on a planter!

Envisioning Our Future Waterfront

The Town of North Hempstead is currently engaged in a waterfront moratorium. As part of this process the Town asked what enhancements community members would most like. Residents Forward conducted a survey with over 800 participants, and will be sharing the results with the Town, villages and community at large.

Because you are valuable members and supporters, we would like to provide you a first glimpse of community priorities identified: inviting spaces with public areas to meet up, like an old “town square” feel; pedestrian friendly areas with long, safe paths linking destinations together; vibrancy both day and night (restaurants, shops, bars, cafes); resilient and sustainable features to withstand sea level rise and the elements; ageless activities for all (parks, fitness, culture, programming, watersports); and, family friendly!

In the coming months Residents Forward will be publishing a summary report. Our goal is to share this report with the Town and Villages to help ensure future waterfront projects and plans, further the goals and vision of the Port Washington community.
Get Your Name Up in Lights!

Our Cinema on the Bay 2019 Season is set with another amazing lineup of great movies! This beloved summer tradition, located in Sunset Park along Manhasset Bay, is a perfect way to spend a Saturday evening in the summer with family and friends. Bring a chair or blanket and a picnic dinner. Better yet, have food delivered by a local restaurant. Free popcorn for members of Residents Forward!

This event is made possible through our generous sponsors. For $500, your family or business name will be featured in social media, event signage, flyers and other publicity, as well as on a slide show that runs before the movie starts. Business sponsors are invited to bring promotional literature and a table.

Contact us at 767-9151 or email info@pwresidents.org for more information.

**Our Mission** To inspire and unify the residents of Port Washington to protect and advance the vibrancy, resiliency, sustainability and beauty of our Peninsula.

**About Residents Forward (formerly Residents For a More Beautiful Port Washington)** Rooted in the principle that our environment, health and well being are interdependent, Residents Forward imagines and advances the critical projects that make the Port Washington peninsula beautiful, sustainable and resilient.