

Kaye Weninger Honored

On Friday night, October 28, the Locust Valley Chamber of Commerce held their first 'Evening of Recognition' in honor of Kaye Weninger. The Board of Directors of the Locust Valley Chamber of Commerce hosted this event at Coe Hall at Planting Fields. Jeff Lawton, vice president of the Chamber, welcomed everyone to the special evening and then introduced Len Margolis, president, to make the formal speech. Len started off by stating,

"Welcome to the First Evening of Recognition, honoring Kaye Weninger - the face and force of Locust Valley". We are here tonight to honor her for her 15 years of tireless efforts that have transformed Locust Valley and the Chamber of Commerce."

Kaye first came to Locust Valley as a Nanny from South Dakota, she then went onto school at Parson School of Design and got a job with Macy's in the visual department, working her way up the corporate ladder to a Senior Executive Visual Manager. Kaye loved living in a small town and really wanted a change from the corporate feeling so she got a job in a one of the boutiques in the village, this was 15 years ago. After 5 years Kaye realized she needed to go back into the corporate level of a job, as she loved being in Locust Valley as her heart was here—but she needed benefits and the mom and pop stores were offering this. Just by luck that summer, J. McLaughlin signed a lease to open a shop in Locust Valley. This was the first corporate owned store to come to Locust Valley. J. McLaughlin hired Kaye 10 years ago and opened their doors on November 17, 2001 and have become an anchor in this community since then.

Getting involved with the community was her first mission. When she first came to Locust Valley and started working, she didn't know any of the shop owners so she decided got involved with the Chamber to meet her neighbors. There was no strong force uniting the Chamber of Commerce to attract the community to the center, no hanging plants and flowering gardens, no events and it was sad, as she thought this was a beautiful little town and she decided she was going to work in the village to get involved.

The Chamber was small (28 members that first year) and Kaye was determined to get the people of the village involved--

the membership slowly raised over the year—and has continued—an average of 108 members to date. She became the president and ran with it. She continued her loyalty to the community and was president for 9 years. Kaye now feels the Chamber of Commerce has become a reputable organization in town—4 successful events which bring visitors and local residents out to support the village; the town is decorated with beautiful hanging baskets and well maintained gardens, seasonal decorations all having been spearheaded by her. She has taken pride in her village and will light a fire in the others who don't step up to the plate when needed. She has gone over and beyond to be persistent in getting monies (\$400) from both Nassau County & Town of Oyster Bay to renovate Thomas Park; she added 10 additional lamppost (\$50,000) on Birch Hill Road; this year she united the community organizations to come together to build a 9/11 Memorial Garden. Today, she is working on renovating the WWII monument at the Fire Dept.

Kaye also sits on the board of directors for the Matinecock Neighborhood Association, and two weeks ago she became vice-president of the organization. Kaye stated she was proud to be a part of this board as this group is responsible for projects that no other organization can do as funding is needed and they provide that. MNA has been instrumental for wonderful projects in the village over the last 100 years in LV. A few that Kaye has spearheaded for this group are: renovation of the American Legion Hall, the Boy Scout Hut, creating a Veterans Day program last year and the Christmas Tree Lighting.

Over the past 5 years, Kaye has rekindled a charity in Locust Valley called Operation Democracy which was originally formed in 1947. The original organization's mission was to spread the concept of freedom and democracy around the world through peace and goodwill.

With this, Locust Valley adopted a village in Normandy, France, called Sainte Mere Eglise, the first town liberated in WWII. Kaye loved the history of what this represented and was surprised there was no history listed anywhere in Locust Valley. In February of 2006, she raised money and put a huge boulder in the front of the gardens near Chase Bank and



(l - r) Deirdre Ziruk, Director of Stores for J. McLaughlin, Honoree Kaye Weninger, Locust Valley resident Beth Mahon, who also works with Kaye at J. McLaughlin

mounted a bronze plaque telling the story of Operation Democracy, reminding all generations to "Never Forget."

Today, serving as president of this newly rekindled organization, she is creating ways to teach children and future generations of what their grandparents did in the village and also what we can do to help others in need. Kaye's mission is to education the children about the past and present through Operation Democracy. Some of the programs she has developed today to educate are: Painting through Peace, Music for Peace, the Lady Liberty Ball and, today, is working on a sculpture contest honoring the Statue of Liberty's 125 Anniversary which was given to America on Oct. 28.

Kaye has rekindled the bond between the original sister city of Sainte Mere Eglise and will be working with the school on student exchanges. Kaye commented, " This organization is about past history and the future and has captured my heart. I believe we all need to be reminded at times of what started in our

own back yard. This history is important and we should never forget what our veterans and the soldiers of today have given us—the freedom we enjoy everyday."

Kaye stated, " Locust Valley is a gem and I saw it when I started working here. We have had our ups and downs in the Chamber but I believed in it, and look at us today. The business district has never looked this beautiful. J. McLaughlin has been wonderful in supporting my being involved with the village and the Chamber. I have been blessed to be able to work for a company that has been encouraging and supportive in what I believe, and I believe in this village. This is my home, I have lived here for 28 years and have made wonderful friends. Also my sister Jill with her husband Rick live in Locust Valley, which is nice as they are right here to encourage me in all I do.

I live in a place I love and enjoy going to work everyday

I was told tonight Locust Valley was lucky, but I have to say I am the lucky one."

Oyster Bay Resident Surprised by Burglar

This past Saturday evening, with the surprise winter storm lashing long Island, Bernardo Rubilar, age 49, of 166 Mill River Road, Oyster Bay, allegedly broke into the home of an Oyster Bay resident at 4:55 a.m.

The homeowner, age 45, was awakened by a loud bang and found Rubilar in his bedroom, at which time Rubilar drew

a sharp object and cut the left forearm of the homeowner before leaving the scene.

The homeowner was treated for his wound at a nearby hospital and released. Rubilar was arrested shortly thereafter and charged with burglary and assault.

Rubilar was arraigned at the First District Court on Saturday.

Landmark Status Hearing For Maine Maid Inn

The Maine Maid Inn, also known as the Valentine Hicks House in Jericho will be considered for Town landmark status at the Tuesday, November 15, meeting of the Oyster Bay Town Board.

The Town Landmarks Preservation Commission has recommended that the now-closed Maine Maid Inn, circa. 1789 as the Valentine Hicks House, be designated a Town landmark.

The commission cited the building being worthy for designation 'as a place

of historic value and aesthetic interest by reason of its architectural design and uniqueness as part of the history of the Town of Oyster Bay.'

The meeting will be held in the Hearing Room of Town Hall East, 54 Audrey Avenue, Oyster Bay, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Following the regular Town business, the Town Board will be available to listen to public comment on any subject.

School Thief Paroled

After spending four and one half years behind bars, Pamela Gluckin, the former assistant superintendent for business of the Roslyn School District, has been paroled. She was found guilty of first degree grand larceny for her part in the theft of \$11 million of school district funds in 2006. According to prosecutors Gluckin, now a resident of Seaford, used the stolen money to purchase art work,

jewelry, make mortgage payments on her home, as well as paying for her daughter's college tuition, trips and utility bills.

Gluckin's co-conspirator, former Superintendent Frank Tassone, who stole more than \$2 million was released in February 2010 for his part in the theft, is still receiving \$173,495 in annual lifetime New York State Pension funds.