

The Leader *Our 60th Year*

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LV History Reborn



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Photo courtesy of LV Historical Society

Martha Breasted (center) with Operation Democracy volunteers, collecting clothes to send overseas to Ste. Mere Eglise, the town Locust Valley adopted in France circa 1944.

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Brookville Man to
Sue Manhasset
Restaurant**
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Induction Ceremony Held for Town Board Members in Oyster Bay

by Kathleen Wickham

The Induction Ceremony for the now all-Republican Town Board of Oyster Bay was held Tuesday, January 10th. Inductees included Town Supervisor John Venditto; Town Councilman Angelo A. Delligatti; Town Councilman Chris J. Coschignano; Town Councilwoman Elizabeth A. Faughnan and Town Clerk Steven L. Labriola. Mistress of Ceremonies, Councilwoman Rose Marie Walker, introduced the dignitaries to a very enthusiastic crowd, which included the inductees' families and friends, as well as local residents and many public officials, who gave the new Board Members more than one standing ovation throughout the ceremony.



Supervisor John Venditto, right, was sworn into office by the Honorable Joseph N. Mondello, with his wife by his side.

Presenting colors and leading the Pledge of were Amvets Post 88 and American Legion Post 1066 from Massapequa. Rev. Thomas M. Fusco, Pastor of St. Edward R.C. Church, Syosset gave an invocation. The Honorable Joseph N. Mondello, Chairman of the Nassau County Republican Committee, then administered the Oaths of Office. Honored Inductees all took their Oaths of Office with family members by their sides. Town Clerk Steven Labriola was first, followed by Councilwoman Elizabeth Faughnan; Councilman Chris Coschignano; and Councilman Angelo Delligatti.

Town Supervisor John Venditto was last to take his

Oath of Office and thanked the Town board for their hard work and support, describing how he and his administration took a town with a \$30 million deficit and turned it around into a \$10 million surplus. One of his major goals this term, Supervisor Venditto said, will be to address the issue of affordable housing so that the next generation can afford to stay and live here on Long Island. Supervisor Venditto concluded his remarks with a statement given to him by his daughter that morning; she had told him he should simply state that, "The best is yet to come," and so he did.



Town Clerk Steve Labriola takes his Oath of Office.



Town Councilwoman Elizabeth Faughnan, Town Councilman Angelo A. Delligatti and Town Councilman Chris J. Coschignano take their Oaths of Office.

Rekindling the Concepts Set Forth By Operation Democracy

by Kathleen Wickham

In October 2005, *The Leader* reported a story of how the citizens of Locust Valley came together under the leadership of Martha Breasted 57 years ago and formed Operation Democracy adopting the town of Ste. Mere Eglise, France, after it was liberated in the Normandy Invasion. Clothes, food, medical supplies and many other items were generously donated and sent to this community which was devastated after World War II. Operation Democracy soon spread throughout our country as other American communities came together and adopted cities in Europe also in need of help.

These acts of kindness and generosity were so greatly appreciated by the people of Ste Mere Eglise that Madame Simone Renaud, the Mayor's wife, wrote a poem in thanks to the community of Locust Valley, which will soon be engraved on a bronze plaque and displayed in Locust Valley, along with the story about Operation Democracy and Madame Renaud. Madame Renaud so appreciated the sacrifice of the American soldiers who gave their lives for France's freedom that she dedicated her life to tending their graves and sending photos to their families in America. Madame Renaud became famous when Life magazine printed a photograph of her placing flowers on the grave of Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr's grave, who was buried in Ste Mere Eglise shortly after the Normandy Invasion. The final filming of a documentary about Madame Renaud's life will be filmed in Locust Valley on February 14th as the plaque with her poem and the story of Operation Democracy is dedicated to Locust Valley.



Above: Headmaster Stephen Watters (Green Vale), Bill Morris (Friends Academy) Dr. David Hahn with his wife, Janet, a middle school science teacher (Lutheran High), Legislator Diane and Bernard Yatauro and Dr. John Staudt, the Executive Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association.

Right: History teachers Wayne Huneke (East Woods), Bill Simonds (Green Vale) and French Teachers Martine Tawaji (East Woods), Elizabeth Atkins (Portledge) and Monique McGhee (Green Vale).



The freedom and democracy we enjoy in America is often taken for granted until we are forced to take a look at other countries where people must fight for these rights, which is why, as America still fights for these rights overseas, the concepts set forth by Operation Democracy are as important today as they were 57 years ago.

Last Thursday evening, Cathy Soref, who has been an integral part in bringing the story of Operation Democracy back to life, along with Kaye Weninger and the Locust Valley Chamber of Commerce, who are sponsoring the bronze plaque in dedication to the citizens of Locust Valley, brought together representatives from local schools, as well as local dignitaries, to discuss the idea of utilizing the relevant concepts set forth by Operation Democracy as learning tools for students today. The Headmasters in attendance were Stephen Watters (Green Vale), Dr. David Hahn with his wife, Janet, a middle school science teacher (Lutheran High) and Bill Morris (Friends Academy). Also attending were History teachers Wayne Huneke (East Woods), Bill Simonds (Green Vale) and French Teachers Monique McGhee (Green Vale), Martine Tawaji (East Woods) and Elizabeth Atkins (Portledge). Dr. John Staudt, the Executive Director of the



Kaye Weninger (left) and Cathy Soref

Theodore Roosevelt Association and Legislator Diane Yatauro were also present. They all came to hear this important story concerning the history of Locust Valley and its citizens, who took a grass roots approach to making a difference in the lives of so many. The learning opportunities are limitless in an interdisciplinary academic community and everyone in attendance was excited by the prospects of where this can lead students today.