



INN...THE NEWS!

SERVING HUNGRY AND HOMELESS LONG ISLANDERS

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www.the-inn.org

SUMMER 2024

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GUEST STORY

Being There

If we are lucky, learning is a lifelong activity.

I recently learned a new lesson: if you want to help someone in an embarrassing situation, join them in their embarrassment. *Here's an example: a tourist is walking along a busy Manhattan Street and their luggage pops open, strewn underwear and other private items into a most unwanted public display. Get down on your hands and knees and help them.*

While talking with a fellow volunteer in front of the Mary Brennan INN, I noticed an unsettled-looking gentleman off by himself. Ten minutes later he was still alone, so I went over to ask if he needed any help. I think he was waiting for someone to ask that, because he looked relieved when I did. He said he had never eaten in a soup kitchen and was embarrassed to go in. He didn't think he could do it. Perfect timing for my new lesson! "I would be happy to join you for lunch." We walked in side by side, he was glad to have company and I was feeling good about my new lesson.

We enjoyed our lunch* and our conversation. We bonded. He (Matthew) had many questions about The INN. How long had the soup kitchen been there? Could



The INN help him find a job? And with clothing for a job interview?

At the end of lunch, he thanked me for what he had learned: the Mary Brennan INN has been there 41 years and there is no need to feel embarrassed about eating there, The INN could help him find employment, The INN's boutique could help with nice clothes for an interview, and there is magic in feeling good about yourself. All things that will change his life.

I learned from Matthew as well: to be on the lookout for luggage that has popped open, two people sharing an embarrassing situation means half the embarrassment for each, and too often I overlook being grateful for what I have.

In closing, I now feel embarrassed. I neglected to thank you, the readers, who have helped to make the above possible. Thank you!

**Respecting that lunch is intended for the guests, my lunch was limited to a cup of coffee.*

Save THE Dates:

(see page 3)

- September 21 – Dance-A-Thon
- September 30 – INN Golf Classic
- October 25 – INN Luncheon
- November 10 – Day of Thanks and Giving

TO SPONSOR A MEAL, PLEASE CALL (516) 486-8506, EXT. 115



Jean Kelly
Executive Director

REFLECTION Hot Summer Days

Hot summer days seem perfect for relaxation. But for those who are struggling to find their basic necessities, summer is never a time to relax.

I remember years ago speaking with a guest who told me that he was never more tired than during the summer months. And when I asked him why, he said it was because he never was able to sleep. He explained that in the nice weather people tended to stay up late and enjoy the outdoors while sitting on public benches, the same benches where he would be looking for a place to sleep.

Almost everyone in the northeast imagines that those who are homeless are more likely to be in danger during the winter months, when the temperature is much colder. This same guest told me that the only time he lost a friend who was sleeping outside, was during the summer when

his friend died of dehydration and heat stroke.

We are fortunate that thanks to you, we can operate in every season of the year. We offer each guest whatever they need to help them survive, be more comfortable and hopefully find a way forward towards a life with better support and self-sufficiency.

We'll be here all summer working to keep everyone safe with lots of bottled water and an air-conditioned Mary Brennan INN where guests can cool off on the hottest of days. And guests are also able to take a refreshing shower at the MBI.

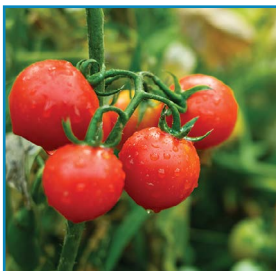
Meanwhile we do hope you are taking the best of care of yourselves and your families. Please know you remain always in our warmest thoughts and in our daily prayers of gratitude.

Wishing you a peaceful, relaxing, and restorative summer.

Love,
Jean

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW

- Calling all gardeners! If you are blessed with a prolific vegetable garden, and your



cupboard is already full, the Mary Brennan INN would be grateful for your surplus. Drop-offs are welcome Monday – Friday, 9 am – 2 pm at 100 Madison Avenue in the village of Hempstead.

- Did you know The INN receives hundreds of thousands of pounds of food each year. Moving this

food to where it needs to be requires planning, timeliness and muscle-power. We salute all the food handlers.

- Speaking of food, there have been several unusual food donations in past summers. Here are three of the most unusual: garlic flavored ice cream – looks like vanilla, tastes like garlic, definitely not popular with the guests; shark steaks – the crew of a fishing boat brought these to The INN; chipotle ice cream – the lesson learned here was always taste ice cream before serving so guests can be told to expect a

surprise.

- You may have heard teachers now are checking who is writing student papers – the student or AI? We make this promise to you – all content in INN Newsletters, and INN correspondence, is always written by real people.
- If you are a Millennial or Gen Z'er, you can learn more about The INN at the following:



FALL EVENTS AT THE INN

INN events bring people together to enjoy each other's company and to show support for The INN's work. This Fall there are several. Please visit the web links below or call (516) 486-8506, ext.108 for additional information.

Dance-A-Thon (New)

Saturday, September 21, 4:00 – 7:00 pm
Mary Brennan INN
100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead

Dance lovers of all ages and skill levels are welcome to this "cool and casual" new event, where the emphasis is fun for all. DJ Full Splitz will be "spinning". Food and refreshments are included.



Tickets are \$25, children under ten — \$15.
Sign up at the-inn.org/2024danceathon.

2024 INN Golf Classic*

Monday, September 30
Nassau Country Club
Glen Cove

**Pickleball and tennis are also available*

Join Brett Schneider, recipient of the 2024 Joseph & Laurel Anne Mancino Award, EVP and CFO, NFP, for a day of outdoor recreation.



Brett Schneider

Chairs Eric Kramer and Kurt Pohmer invite you to visit the-inn.org/2024golf to make reservations.

INN Luncheon

Friday, October 25, 10:30 am – noon (networking),
noon – 1:45 pm (lunch and program)
Garden City Hotel
Garden City

We are pleased to announce Francis Korzekwinski, Senior EVP, Flushing Bank, is being honored at The INN's 2024 Luncheon. This midday activity, with ample time for networking, is chaired by Lisa Arning and Susan MacDonald.



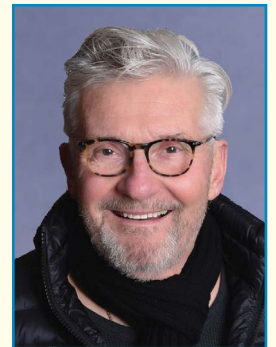
Francis Korzekwinski

Tickets and additional information are available at the-inn.org/2024luncheon.

Day of Thanks and Giving (New Format)

Sunday, November 10, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Mary Brennan INN
100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead

By popular demand, the Day of Thanks and Giving is returning to its original format — a traditional, family-style Thanksgiving Dinner served in the perfect location — the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen. This year, in addition to celebrating an early Thanksgiving, we will be celebrating and honoring former INN Board member, Ray Sikorski. Plan to have a great time. Chairs are Ellen Broder and Pauline Ferstenberg.



Ray Sikorski

Tickets and additional information are available at the-inn.org/2024thanksgiving.

INN VOLUNTEERS



The INN celebrated National Volunteer Week with a festive, “Thank You” event for volunteers on April 25th. Held at the Mary Brennan INN, the evening featured dinner catered by Butera’s, music by Joe DePiolo, and dancing by the volunteers. For those who may not know, most INN volunteers serve on a weekly basis — there are Monday volunteers, Tuesday volunteers, etc. This evening was an anticipated opportunity for the 75 attendees to meet, and make friends with, the volunteers from the “other four days”.

Donna Buccellato, volunteer manager, reported, “Our volunteers are some of the kindest, most dedicated people I have ever met. Many of them have been coming to give their time for years without asking for anything in return but for the smiles from the guests. It was the least we could do to take a little time out, to make sure they know we couldn’t do any of this without them.”



Our Wish List

The INN is in need of:

- Non-perishable food – **no glass please**
- Fresh fruit, bottled water
- Toiletry items – soap, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, diapers
- New underwear (men, women & children)
- Gift Cards (supermarket and Visa) – preferred amounts, \$10, \$25 and \$50
- Auction items for upcoming events – concert tickets, sports tickets, restaurant gift certificates, experiences, etc. Please call Nora White at (516) 486-8506, ext. 108.

Please bring your donations to the Mary Brennan INN, 100 Madison Avenue, Hempstead, M-F, 9 am – 2 pm, or one Saturday each month at the monthly Food Drive (see website for date). Questions, call (516) 486-8506, ext. 114. Thank you.



“Serving Hungry and Homeless Long Islanders”

211 Fulton Avenue Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 486-8506 • www.the-inn.org

OUR MISSION

As a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization, The INN provides a broad variety of essential services to assist those challenged by hunger, homelessness and profound poverty. We partner with those in need in a dignified and respectful manner to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Follow us on:

