

Jill Bowers
 President
 Cathy Di Stefano
 Recording Secretary
 Barbara Strype
 Correspondence
 Margaret Barry
 Treasurer

Elaine Croteau
 Parliamentarian

President's Letter



Welcome to our beginning of Spring meeting.

We are looking forward to our Woman of Distinction luncheon which will be on Saturday, April 5th at The Staaten. We have a wonderful group of women that we will be honoring and look forward to seeing you at this event.

More information about this event can be found on page 2.

Jill Bowers

Committee Chairs
Finance
 Ann Celia/Christine Donahue
Greeters
 Diane Seridge, Margaret Barry
Holiday Party
 Cathy Di Stefano
Membership
 Elaine Croteau
Newsletter Editor
 Elaine Croteau
Women of Distinction
Ann Celia/Rosemarie Abid
Scholarship
 Cathy Di Stefano/
 Barbara Strype

Mission:

To build powerful women personally, professionally, and politically.

Vision:

To make a difference in the lives of working women.

MARCH PROGRAM

The Staaten
 Forest Avenue
 Tuesday, March 18, 2014
 6:30 P.M.

Guest Speaker

Sonny Golden, Interior Decorator, Golden Key Interiors
 Interior Decorator
 Golden Key Interiors

Sonny earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hunter College. She completed her internship with a national company based in Georgia which led to her position as a Director with that company. She has earned many national and local design and interior decorating awards for both residential and commercial projects. Her latest endeavor was to join with twenty-one other entrepreneurs on Staten Island to write a book entitled: "From Humble Beginnings...Success". Showtime Books published the book and it's publisher Bob Williams will also be with us.

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At our April 2014 meeting we will be voting for our officers for the 2014-2015 year. Following is the slate of officers that is being presented by our Nominating Committee:

PRESIDENT – Jill Holtermann Bowers
VICE PRESIDENT – Cathy Di Stefano
RECORDING SECRETARY – Diane Hague
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Elizabeth Micalizzi
TREASURER - Margaret Barry

CALENDAR

March 18, 2014 - General Meeting (Book Author)
Location: The Staaten on Forest Avenue – 6:30 p.m.

April 5, 2014 - Women of Distinction Luncheon
Location: The Staaten on Forest Avenue – 12:00 p.m.

April 5, 2014 – State Board Meeting
Location: Griffiss Institute, 725 Daedalian Drive, Rome, NY

April 8, 2014 - Chamber of Commerce – Business After
Hours- 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – IDB Bank, 201 Edward
Curry Avenue, Suite 204. Cost for member \$20.

April 12, 2014 – Staten Island Women’s Political Caucus
Location: 150 Nicholas Avenue – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 15, 2014 – General Meeting (Elections)
Location: The Staaten on Forest Avenue – 6:30 p.m.

May 10, 2014 – Staten Island Women’s Political Caucus
Location: 150 Nicholas Avenue – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

May 20, 2014 – General Meeting (Scholarships)
Location: The Staaten on Forest Avenue – 6:30 p.m.

June 3, 2014 - Chamber of Commerce – Business After
Hours- 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – Marina Café, 154 Mansion
Avenue. Cost for member \$20

June 14, 2014 – Staten Island Women’s Political Caucus
Location: 150 Nicholas Avenue – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

June 17, 2014 – General Meeting (Induction of Officers)
Location: The Staaten on Forest Avenue – 6:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION LUNCHEON
Saturday, April 5, 2014
12:00 P.M.
Li Greci’s Staaten

Honorees:

Carol Belmonte, Founding Board Member Amethyst
House
Linda Dianto, Executive Director National Lighthouse
Museum
Ethel Holtermann, Auxiliary Historic Richmond Town
Diane Lore, Journalist Staten Island Advance
Mary Jane Meconi, Chairperson WAGGGS United
Nations New York Team
Dorothy Reilly, Director of Public Relations Greenbelt
Conservancy
Tiffany Reingold, School Counselor Gaynor McCown
Expeditionary Learning School
Carmen Torrado-Jule, MD, Director Pediatric
Endocrinology SIUH

*Please support this important Staten Island
Chapter function. We are in need of the following
items to be raffled at the luncheon.*

NEEDED

Baskets needed – Please contact Jill Bowers &
Cathy Di Stefano
Bottles of Wine needed – Please bring to February
and March meetings
\$5.00 Scratch Off Tickets needed – Please bring to
February and March meetings

MEMBER INFORMATION

Alla Mae Clark
Is at home recovering from surgery
I'm sure she would love to hear from her friends.
Cards can be sent to:
470 Villa Avenue, SI, NY 10302

Please let Elaine Croteau know at
Ebcroteau@aol.com or 718-698-6056
of any information about our members for the newsletter.

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Update Your Profile
(Only you can make changes)
To update your profile, please go to

www.NYSwomeninc.org

- Member Login: your email address
- Password: NYSW09 (you will be asked to change it)
- The Website contains online copies of the Communicator, Nike, etc.
- **You need to login to get into the Database and Membership Only Section.**

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members will receive a notice from
State about their renewals.
Follow the instructions to send the
Dues to contact at New York State, Inc.
This information will arrive via e-mail
Or postal mail.
Do not send your renewal to Margaret Barry.

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Food Pantry

Please bring non-perishable items to our meetings.
Items will be brought to the Ocean Breeze Food
Pantry.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Bennett Café at Historic Richmond Town
Offers a variety of functions:
Sunday morning brunch
Elegant Afternoon Tea
Thursday play cards
Birthday party luncheon
Monthly Saturday Night dinner

For more information contact:
718-351-1611, Extension 256

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Save Mt. Manresa as a Park Say NO to Developers

Write your Politicians. ALL OF THEM. We have a sample letter
AND list to help you get started

<http://savemountmanresa.org/write-politicians/>

Mt. Manresa Fundraiser

Thursday, March 13, 2014
7:30 P.M.

The Staaten
697 Forest Avenue
\$25.

Once Upon A Time in Staten Island Film
Buffet

Checks payable to Our Lady of Graces and put Save Mount
Manresa in memo field or use Paypal through Our Lady of
Graces website
Or pay at the door.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to the
homebound

If you are interested, contact:
Roseann Holt at 718-727-4435

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Greenbelt Conservancy
Wine and Food Pairing Event
Catered by A Taste of Honey
Thursday, March 27
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

POETRY CORNER



SPRING

BY ANN CLINTON

SPRING

The day is sunny
What a delight
Calm breezes filling
The day and night
Astir in its nest
Robin knows best
It must be spring
As robin takes wing
Winter woes
A thing of the past
Wonderful spring
Arriving at last
Purple hyacinths
Fragrant and bright
Join yellow daffodils
What a glorious sight!
It's SPRING!!!



Submitted by Christine Olivieri Donahue

Tax breaks for everyone (even top earners)

Some perks are available to just about anybody — regardless of income.

If you're a high-income type, you're probably painfully aware that some tax breaks are phased out (either reduced or eliminated) as your adjusted gross income, or AGI, increases. That's the price of success, right? Well, not necessarily. Believe it or not, some tax breaks are available to just about anybody — regardless of income. Here are six of them. If you're self-employed, you may be able to contribute and deduct up to \$50,000 for 2012 and up to \$51,000 for 2013 by setting up a simplified employee pension, or SEP. Contributing to a SEP could dramatically reduce your taxable income and save you a bundle. Think you've already missed the boat for your 2012 taxes? Think again. If you don't already have a retirement plan in place, you can still set up a SEP and make a deductible contribution to your account for 2012. And that could be done as late as Oct. 15 of this year if you extend your 2011 return for the automatic six-month period.

Credit for overpaid Social Security taxes - Did you have two jobs last year and earn more than \$110,100? Then you probably had too much withheld for Social Security tax. Your credit will be for the amount you contributed beyond \$4,624, which represents the 4.2% Social Security tax based on a maximum salary of \$110,100. Getting the money back is easy — just report the overpaid amount (you can tell what that is by summing up the Social Security tax withholding shown on your W-2s) on Form 1040, line 69.

Deducting alimony payments to your ex - Assuming you qualify, you can claim a full write-off of your alimony payments on line 31a on page one of Form 1040.

Writing off your gambling losses - So Lady Luck up and left you during your last trip to Vegas, huh? Believe it or not, Uncle Sam feels your pain, and will allow you to deduct your losses up to the amount you've won during the year on Schedule A, line 28, assuming you itemize deductions. (Your gross winnings are taxed as regular income and should be reported on line 21 of Form 1040.) But beware: If you claim this deduction, you should have written evidence of your losses, just in case you get audited. So try to dig up some evidence (slot club statements, etc.). In the future, keeping a journal of your daily net wins and losses should do the trick. After all, asking that blackjack dealer for a receipt might be tricky.

Writing off your investment interest - Did you borrow on margin last year? As long as you itemize deductions on your return, you probably can deduct the interest you paid on the account on line 14 of Schedule A (assuming you itemize deductions). The deduction for the interest paid to carry taxable investments (so-called investment interest expense) is unaffected by any phase-out rules. There's only one small catch: Your investment interest expense deduction generally can't exceed your taxable income from interest, annuities, royalties and short-term capital gains. That said, any excess investment interest expense can be carried over to the following tax year. See IRS Form 4952 (Investment Interest Expense Deduction) for all the details (including a special election to treat long-term capital gains and dividends as investment income).

The Dependent Care Credit - OK — so this last tax break is technically subject to some AGI phase-out rules. But truthfully, nearly everybody who claims this credit is partially "phased out." What's left is still a great tax break. If you worked last year and paid someone to take care of your under-age-13 child, you could be eligible for this credit. Keep in mind, if you're married, both spouses must work, unless one is a student. Additionally, neither of you could have contributed to a child-care flexible spending account (through your employer) to cover the same expenses last year. If your income (married or single) exceeds \$43,000 then you can take a credit equal to 20% of your child-care expenses. However, the credit limit is \$600, if you have one child, or \$1,200, if you have two or more. (If you earned less than \$43,000 you may be entitled to a larger credit.) Thankfully, the definition of child care is generous — it can cover anything from summer day camp to a baby sitter. See Form 2441 for details. Claim your credit on line 48 of Form 1040.

If you are looking to clean out your closets and want to know where to donate your items, the

Vietnam Veterans of America

Will pick up your items on the day that you select.

Gently Used Clothing and Household Goods

ClothingDonations.org is a service of Vietnam Veterans of America. We'll pick up your used clothes and household goods at your convenience and use them to support programs that address the concerns and needs of all veterans.

Because your old clothes could be a lifeline. Support our vets. [Schedule a pickup today.](#)

VVA accepts donations of household goods and clothing in 30 states in the continental United States. To schedule a pickup, please call toll-free 1-888-518-VETS (8387) or [use our interactive map.](#) Your donations are urgently needed – especially clothing. We pick up all types and sizes, clothing accessories, and shoes (all kinds). Household goods are also appreciated like baby items, glassware, books, toys, bikes, stereos, radios, portable TVs, all bedding, draperies, curtains, kitchenware, usable small furniture and rugs, small appliances, tools (all kinds), jewelry and cosmetics – almost anything!