

## Dimensions of living



**ART-CENTERED:** Officers sworn in by Smithtown Town councilperson Lynne Nowick (left) at the Celebrate St. James Cultural Arts Center Tuesday, April 8 are (from left) corresponding secretary Susan Meyer, recording secretary Lee Cirillo, treasurer Dorothea McLaughlin, vice president of membership Dr. Maria Benetos, vice president of social media & marketing Danielle DiTomasso, vice president of digital strategy & community engagement Tami Vitebski, executive vice president Jack Ader and president Natalie Weinstein  
- Tom Allegra photo



Natalie Weinstein (left) recognizes outgoing board members and Celebrate St. James volunteers (from left) Susan Meyer, Randi Kuveke, David Kornblith, Arline Goldstein, Lynne Nowick, Margaret Gershowitz, Kathy Ebert, Patricia Clark, Elaine Demy, Jack Ader, and Doris Meyer.

# Celebrate St. James ushers in next chapter, new board

Celebrate St. James hosted a 'Night of Celebration and Community' on Tuesday, April 8 at the St. James Calderone Theatre, located at 176 Second Street, St. James. The cultural arts organization, founded in 2017 with a mission to "preserve and celebrate St. James' rich history and inspire an appreciation and knowledge of the arts in the community while assisting in the revitalization of Lake Avenue," had much to celebrate.

Prior to the installation of upcoming members, Natalie Weinstein, one of the organization's founders, provided guests with an update on the progress being made at the historic Calderone Theatre, which now serves as a cultural arts center for the St. James community and beyond. Major renovations have begun at the theater, including the installation of an elevator.

Ms. Weinstein thanked outgoing board members, in addition to the many community members who have "worked tirelessly" to bring the organization's founding trio's - Jack Ader, Arline Goldstein and Ms. Weinstein - vision to life over the past eight years.

Among those recognized with Certificates of Appreciation for both their dedication to Celebrate St. James and the community were: Susan Meyer, Randi Kuveke, David

Kornblith, Arline Goldstein, Lynne Nowick, Margaret Gershowitz, Kathy Ebert, Patricia Clark, Elaine Demy, Jack Ader, and Doris Meyer.

Town of Smithtown Councilperson Lynne Nowick led the swearing-in of the new board, but not before sharing fond memories of growing up in St. James where she still resides, and likened her time spent as a child along a vibrant Lake Avenue to the revitalization she is seeing now. She expressed her appreciation for the organization's dedication to the community and all it has accomplished, not only through its commitment to the arts but also the impact it has had on Lake Avenue and the community overall, including the construction of Celebrate Park.

The new slate of board members was then sworn in by Ms. Nowick. They are: Natalie Weinstein, President; Jack Ader, Vice President; Tami Vitebski, VP of Digital Strategy & Community Engagement; Danielle DiTomasso Grenier, VP of Social Media & Marketing; Dr. Maria Benetos, VP of Membership; Lee Cirillo, Recording Secretary; Susan Meyer, Corresponding Secretary; and Dorothea McLaughlin, Treasurer.

Following the installation of officers, guests enjoyed music performed by guitarist Lou Mazzaferro and sweet treats provided by The Dirty Cheesecake and Garguilo's Bakery.

Celebrate St. James has a full line-



Celebrate St. James incoming president Natalie Weinstein (left) thanks outgoing president Doris Meyer for her service leading the organization this past year.

up of activities planned for spring, including Line Dancing on Lake Avenue on Monday nights, Vaudeville in St. James on Friday, April 25, Sing Into Spring on Sunday, April 27, art

shows, summer programs for children, and much more. For upcoming activities and to find out how you can support Celebrate St. James, visit [celebratestjames.org](http://celebratestjames.org).