



# VOICES OF WOMEN

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF THE DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND  
*Fall 2023*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Dear Episcopal Church Women & Friends,**

If you find the thing you love, it doesn't necessarily matter whether you do it well or not, you just need to do it. For success, attitude is equally as important as ability.

***Proverbs 31: 8-9***

8. Speak up for the people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights for all who are helpless.

9. Speak for them and be a righteous judge,  
Protect the rights of the poor and needy.

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***Peace and Blessings on you all.***

In His Service,  
***Lois Johnson-Rodney***  
Diocesan ECW President  
718 723-6050  
[loisjohnsonrodney1@gmail.com](mailto:loisjohnsonrodney1@gmail.com)



### Chaplain's corner

**Father,**

This day we dedicate ourselves to Your service and promise to do our best to abide in You with simple trust, knowing that Your perfect Spirit is in supreme control of our minds, bodies and all our daily affairs. We give thanks for all the manifold blessings that are ours.


We gladly accept the love, protection, confidence, health, happiness and abundance now pouring forth into every aspect of our being. *Amen*

Submitted by  
***Barbara Taylor***

## DIOCESAN ELECTIONS

The ECW Diocese of Long Island will have their Annual Meeting on Friday Nov. 3 following the Annual ECW Book Remembrance Service at the Cathedral @ 11 am.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers to be elected at this meeting.

 **President** – to fill TWO years of an unexpired term -- ***Debbie Richberg***, St Boniface Church, Lindenhurst.

 Vice President – ***Jean Ryan***, St. John's Church, Flushing

 Recording Secretary – **no volunteer**

In addition to the slate, nominations may be made from the floor, provided a statement of the proposed candidate(s) qualifications and consent have been received by the Nominating Committee **10** days before the Annual Meeting. ([janeames913@gmail.com](mailto:janeames913@gmail.com)) 516-921-0580

***Jane Ames***  
Diocesan Nominating Committee  
Co-chair



September, 2023

To the ECW/Women's group of each parish:

**Greetings my sisters in Christ,**

In accordance with the by-laws of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Long Island, please note:

1. The fiscal year begins on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.
2. Monies received after December 15<sup>th</sup> will be credited to the next fiscal year.
3. Each parish shall make an annual contribution to support the Diocesan budget of the ECW, and donations from individuals will be gratefully accepted.
4. It is suggested that each participating parish contribute \$150.00, or as much as they are able, annually to support the budget.

Monies in the budget cover operating expenses such as the bonding of those who handle money, audits, postage, supplies, Triennial Delegates expenses, handbooks, directories, National and Province ECW dues etc.

Checks are to be made payable to the **ECW Diocese of Long Island** and sent to the Finance Chair,

**Sheryl Edwards,**  
119 Lucille Street,  
Hempstead, NY 11550

or to the Diocesan Treasurer,

**Vernese Smith,**  
227-40 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Queens Village, NY 11429

As we approach the end of the year, thank you to the parishes that have sent in their dues. To the remaining parishes, we look forward to receiving your contribution.

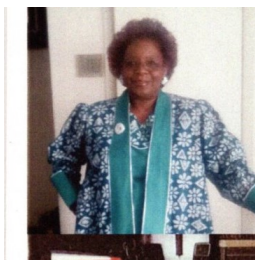
***Yours in Christ,***  
**Sheryl Edwards**  
Finance Chair



***In loving memory of Birdie Elizabeth Blake-Reid***

Birdie Blake-Reid has served in many leadership roles in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, while attending St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. From Parish President of the ECW, Coordinator of the United Thank Offering, ECW Area President for Brooklyn, Province II Delegate to the National Convention, to the position of Secretary on the National UTO Board. Birdie worked tirelessly to promote the work of the ECW. A very religious individual who lived her life with dignity, graciousness, and lots of respect for others. A woman of poise, humor and talent, always willing to help where needed.

***Birdie Blake-Reid has earned her wings to fly!***



***Rest in Peace, Birdie***

***The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Long Island***





**Honoring the Garden at St. Francis in North Bellmore and the  
Pop-up Pantry at St. Ann & Holy Trinity Church and Pro-Cathedral**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm  
The Inn at New Hyde Park**

**Celebration Committee CO-CHAIRS**

**The Rev. Jesse Lebus, St. Luke's, Sea Cliff**

**Valerie Siener, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Garden City**

**HONORARY COMMITTEE**

**The Rev. Deacon Marjorie Boyden-Edmonds, Flushing Deanery**

**The Rev. Cn. John Denaro, St. Ann & the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn**

**The Rev. Grace Flint, St. Francis, North Bellmore**

**Diane Gaidon, Christ Church, Babylon**

**Joan King, St. Alban the Martyr, St. Albans**

**The Rev. Cn. John Merz, North Brooklyn Angels**

**Doug O'Dell, SCO Family of Services**

**Ruth Ohlsen, St. Andrew's, Yaphank**

**The Very Rev. Gideon Pollach, St. John's, Cold Spring Harbor**

**Valerie Reid, Grace and Resurrection, East Elmhurst**

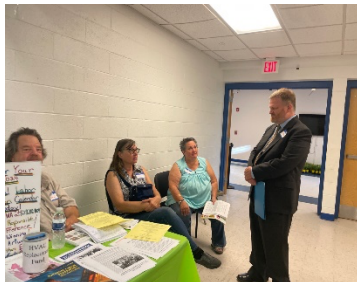
**Vernese Smith, Episcopal Church Women of Long Island**

**The Rev. Cn. Marie Tatro, Vicar for Community Justice Ministry**

## ECW OF SUFFOLK

**EFWA Support** -- Suffolk ECW has been assisting the Eastern Farm Workers (EFWA) on an ongoing basis.

**St. Marks, (Islip)** continues to support their Benefits Office with donation of clothing and household items, as does **St. Thomas (Farmingdale)**, **St. Boniface (Lindenhurst)** and **St. Paul's, (Patchogue)**. We all attended the **annual EFWA Annual Gala on August 13<sup>th</sup>**. Members of St. Boniface donated to the event and worked as volunteers at the event as well.



**LEFT: Joel Biddle, Director of EFWA with members**



**RIGHT: Robyn Cricchio , Sue Ellinghaus, St. Mark's Islip at the EFWA Annual Gala**



**LEFT:** Members of St. Boniface at the gala. Marilyn Solbakken and Eleanor Foster



**RIGHT: Deacon Claire Mis, St. Paul's, Patchogue, with Evelyn Suner and Laquita Brooks, St. Boniface, Lindenhurst**

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## Mammography Event

Church of the Messiah hosted a Mammography van, where cancer screenings were conducted. Over 3 women per hour from throughout the Diocese were served. Thanks to the publicity of News 12, the Local Long Island Cable Channel, women took Uber to receive the screening. Their return trips were provided by Stony Brook University.



**Stonybrook Mammography  
Van at Church of the  
Messiah Health Event  
9/16/23**



### Staff of the Mammography Van at Church of the Messiah, Central Islip

### ***MORE FROM ECW OF SUFFOLK***

**Baby Bag Assembly for St. John's Episcopal Hospital (SJEH)** is an ongoing, monthly commitment, members of the Auxiliary make to provide gifts for all mothers who deliver at our hospital. In September, we assembled 50 bags (something of a record) along with the help of some PSEG volunteers.



**PSEG volunteers at the St. John's Episcopal Hospital Baby bag assembly**



**Baby Bag Assembly Team for September 2023**

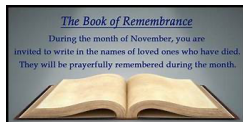


**Marilyn Solbakken, St. Boniface**



**Maria Finley, Grace Church,  
(Whitestone)**

***Debbie Richberg***  
President



**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**  
**Diocese of Long**

**Episcopal Church Women**  
**Diocese of Long Island**

**Book of Remembrance**  
**Memorial Service**

**Friday, November 3, 2023**

11:00 AM

The Cathedral of the Incarnation  
50 Cathedral Avenue  
Garden City, New York 11530

**All are invited to worship with us**



Book of Remembrance  
Diocesan Chair: Valerie Brandford-Pierre  
631.758-6621  
valeane2@rcn.com

**Valerie Brandford-Pierre**  
BOR Diocesan Chair





*The Diocesan Altar Guild presents an*  
**Autumn Gathering**  
**Saturday, October 28, 2023**



**What:** In response to your requests following the Spring Workshop Day, the DAG Board is excited to offer a day to swap stories (horror or happy!) ideas, best practices and whatever may be on your mind. We will also have time to worship together.

**Bring:** Your biggest challenges to play "Stump the Board." With any luck, we can help you get that stain out, make the metalware look nearly new or help figure out what to do with that pesky candle or tricky hanging. (Bring the actual things, not just questions!)

**Who:** Altar Guild members new and old, and all who wish to attend.

**When:** Saturday, October 28, 2023 9:30 AM- 2:00 PM

**Where:** St. David's Episcopal Church 117-35 235th St, Cambria Heights, NY 11411

**Cost:** \$20 for a prepared box lunch (or you may "brown bag it")

**Questions :** Please call Jane Ames 516-921-0580 or email: [Jane.Ames913@gmail.com](mailto:Jane.Ames913@gmail.com)

**Register :** Please register by **October 23**. Return the form below by mail to  
Sally Bergmeyer, 33-70 165th St., Flushing, NY 11358



**Autumn Gathering Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

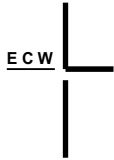
Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Circle One:*    Regular lunch    Vegetarian Lunch    No Lunch

For Box Lunch I am enclosing a check for \$20.00 made out to "Altar Guild, Diocese of L.I."

*Please register by October 21st*

Mail this registration to: Sally Bergmeyer, 3370 165th St. Flushing, NY 11358



***Episcopal Church Women  
Of  
The Diocese of Long Island***

cordially invite you to the

**2023 ANNUAL MEETING  
INFORMATION DAY & LUNCHEON**

**Friday, November 3, 2023  
at**

***THE GARDEN CITY CASINO***

**51 Cathedral Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530**

**Following the Book of Remembrance Service at  
The Cathedral of the Incarnation**

**Lunch \$30.00 per person – prepaid**

**Deadline for Luncheon Tickets – Monday, October 23, 2023**

**Contact your Treasurer or ECW President for tickets  
Make checks payable to ECW - Diocese of Long Island**

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***SEAMENS'S CHURCH INSTITUTE (SCI)***

The SCI Pickup from the SCI New Jersey port will be on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, at 12 noon at the Cathedral door. Please inform your parishes. Anyone can meet me there with their items for SCI or bring them to the BOR Luncheon, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you know anyone who would appreciate some yarn or need patterns, please call or text

**Angie Morris at 631 626-9012**  
SCI Liaison

Thanks to all you amazing ladies of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island





On September 10, storm Daniel hit Libya hard with high winds, strong rains and flash flooding that caused the collapse of two dams, devastated numerous cities and towns, and killed more than 4,000 people. Unfortunately, that number is sure to rise as recently revised reports from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs indicate more than 9,000 people are still missing.

Episcopal Relief & Development is joining with [DanChurchAid](#) (DCA) and their local partners to save lives and strengthen resilience. With a focus on communities around Derna and Benghazi, Episcopal Relief & Development supports DCA in providing shelter, non-food items such as blankets and hygiene kits, and mental health support to 2,000+ survivors of the storm Daniel disaster.

“Episcopal Relief & Development is proud to partner with DanChurchAid,” said Nagulan Nesiah, Senior Program Officer, Disaster Resilience, Episcopal Relief & Development. “DCA shares our belief in the dignity of all people and our commitment to building on community-based partnerships to address urgent humanitarian needs.”

Please [pray](#) for the people impacted by storm Daniel in Libya and consider making a donation to the [International Disaster Response Fund](#) to support Episcopal Relief & Development and its partners as they respond to this and other events including the recent earthquake in Morocco.

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On September 8, a devastating 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Morocco, killing almost 3,000 people with the number of deceased persons still growing. Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the [International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation](#) (IBC) to provide relief to over 10,000 survivors of the disaster who have left the area of impact for safer grounds.

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### *MORE NEWS FROM ERD*

Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting IBC, an organization with over 20 years of experience responding to crises, in providing food, hygiene products, tents, medical supplies, flashlights and items for mothers and babies in Chichaoua, Morocco. The aid is reaching extremely rural and hard-to-reach villages (also known as “last mile” communities) for whom a lack of resources has contributed to weak infrastructure that is especially vulnerable to earthquakes.

The earthquake was the strongest to hit the area in a century, and the full scale of its impact is still unfolding. Please [pray](#) for the people impacted by the earthquake in Morocco and consider making a donation to the [International Disaster Response Fund](#) to support Episcopal Relief & Development and its partners as they respond to this and other events including the recent catastrophic flooding in Libya.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

We invite you to connect with Episcopal Relief & Development and work together for lasting change! Whether you would like to pray for our work and partner communities, make a donation or stay informed with the latest news, we offer a host of ways to get involved. Take the first step and learn more about your opportunities by clicking the links below.

**Gifts for Life** – Transform communities worldwide with Gifts for Life. Empower families to make lasting change by purchasing symbolic gifts ranging from access to clean water to farming tools that help rural farmers earn an income and cultivate a sustainable food supply. Honor loved ones for Christmas, birthdays and other special occasions.

**Donate Now** – Empower individuals and communities by contributing to the fund of your choice. Our donation process is easy to use, quick and secure.

**Monthly Giving** – Partner with us monthly. Select the fund of your choice to make a long-term impact in an area that is close to your heart.

**Other Giving Opportunities** – Make a memorial gift or gift of stock, or participate in a corporate matching campaign. These are just a few of the additional ways you can make a contribution. Learn more here.

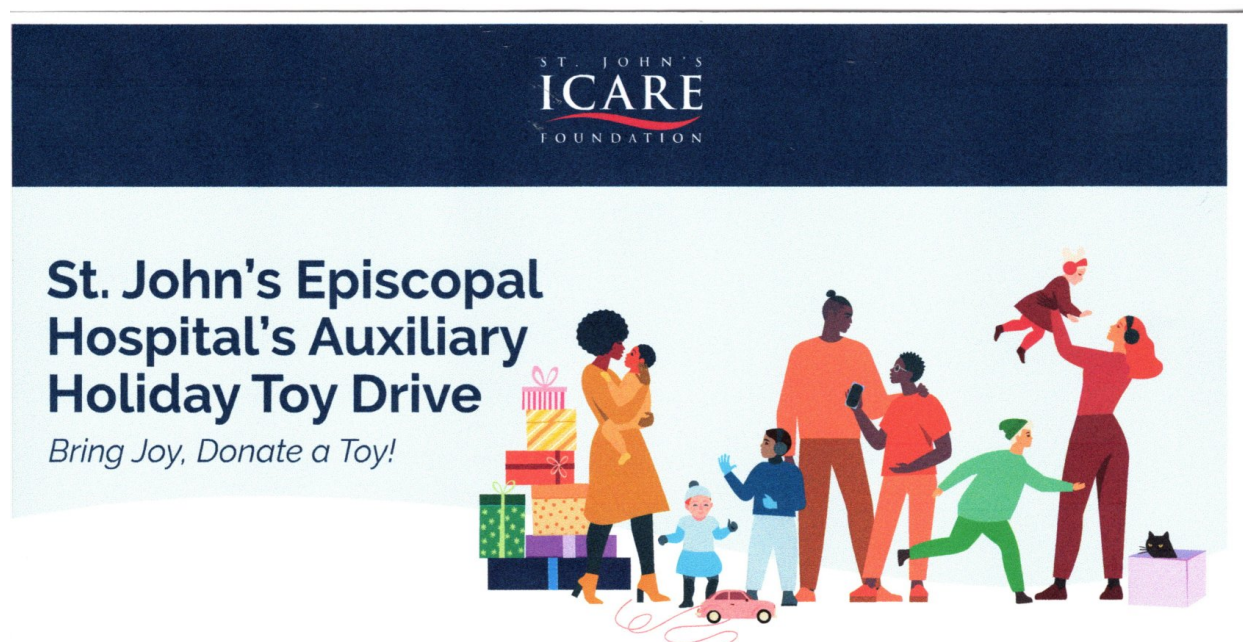
**Act** – Find out how you can take action and get involved with Episcopal Relief & Development efforts on a local, national, and global level.

**Stay Informed** – Get updates on the latest Episcopal Relief & Development news by reading our blog, following our social media channels, and signing up to receive our newsletters.

Reprinted from [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org).

*Sheryl Edwards*  
Ministry Partner, Diocese of LI





If you are interested in donating **NEW, UNWRAPPED, and GENDER NEUTRAL** toys for children ages 6 months to 12 years, you can visit our charity registries until **Monday, December 11th**.

**PURCHASE DIRECTLY FROM:**

**Amazon:** Log in to your Amazon.com account and click "Find a List or Registry". Search St. John's ICARE Foundation and click on Holiday Toy Drive

**Walmart:** Search in Registry for Good, "Episcopal Health Services Inc"

**Target:** Log in to your Target.com account and click on "Registry", "Find a Registry" and search for the organization "Episcopal Health Services Inc"

If you would like to mail in a check for us to purchase toys in your name, please make it out to the St. John's ICARE Foundation and mail it to the address to the right. To make it easier, donate online at [sjcarefoundation.org/Holiday-Toy-Drive](http://sjcarefoundation.org/Holiday-Toy-Drive)

**Send all Toys/Donations to the Following Address:**

**St. John's ICARE Foundation**  
377 Oak Street, Suite 209  
Garden City, NY 11530  
Attention: Ceallaigh Watts,  
Development Coordinator

To learn more about the Holiday Toy Drive, contact on our of subcommittee members:

Debbie Richberg | 631-816-1717 | [debbierichberg@yahoo.com](mailto:debbierichberg@yahoo.com)

Valerie Philpotts | 718-528-0466 | [veeann29@hotmail.com](mailto:veeann29@hotmail.com)



This newsletter will be published once every quarter for distribution in the months of April, July, October, and January. We welcome any questions regarding the role of the Episcopal Church Women in the Church. In order to research and answer your questions in a timely manner, questions must be received by the **15th day** of the month after publications. We will certainly do our best to address all questions received. You may also send us suggestions on things you would like to see or comments on the helpfulness of this newsletter. We certainly hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter, and may God bless you as you continue your ministry in the world.

**Questions may be sent via email to the committee members:**

**Editor:** Barbara Taylor [tylbrb@verizon.net](mailto:tylbrb@verizon.net)

**Editor & Publisher:** Vernese Smith [vern.bert@verizon.net](mailto:vern.bert@verizon.net)



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