



## A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION AT THE BANQUET OF CHAMPIONS



The gym was full of energy and excitement on June 11 as nearly 200 guests gathered for our annual Banquet of Champions, celebrating another incredible year of programs and achievements at Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club.

The evening began with a warm welcome from Executive Director Melissa Rhodes, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by senior Abraham in honor of his final Banquet before graduation. Valentina, our inspiring Youth of the Year, delivered a heartfelt speech reflecting on her Club journey and the impact it has had on her life.

Throughout the evening, we proudly recognized outstanding volunteers and Club members who excelled in more than 25 programs across our three core departments: Sports & Fitness, K-5, and Teens. Every partici-

pant received a medal for their accomplishments—with some kids collecting so many they were practically covered in “bling!”

Highlights of the night included Roberto receiving the second-ever Director’s Award from Michelle, honoring his leadership and excellence during his final year in the K-5 program before moving up to the Tween level. Another standout moment came from Jimmy, who earned an Attendance Award and spread joy by enthusiastically high-fiving or hugging nearly every person recognized on stage.

It was a wonderful evening, filled with pride, smiles, and well-deserved recognition for all of our amazing members. We’re so proud of everything they’ve accomplished this year!







**GRENVILLE BAKER  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY GALA HONORS GBBGC'S LEGACY



GBBGC marked a historic milestone with its 75th Anniversary Gala, hosted beneath a stunning beach-front tent at The Creek Club. Guests were treated to a vibrant cocktail hour, elegant décor, and lively dancing by the water, all set against the picturesque backdrop of the Long Island Sound.

The festive evening featured both a fabulous silent auction and an exhilarating live auction, offering exclusive items and once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Together, these activities helped raise significant funds to support the Club's vital mission of serving local youth.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our incredible Gala Committee, whose tireless efforts made the night

unforgettable. Special appreciation goes to our outstanding Gala Chairs: Andrea Cilmi, Sara Maragos, Christine O'Mahony, Danielle Smith, and Krystina Tomlinson, for their leadership and dedication.

"This milestone gala reflects the unwavering commitment to our mission and the bright future ahead for every child we serve," said Melissa Rhodes, Executive Director. "Celebrating 75 years with such incredible community support was truly inspiring."

The evening was not only a celebration of the Club's rich history but also a powerful reminder of the lasting impact the organization continues to have on the lives of young people in our community.







**View the Gala Photo Gallery: [gbbgc.org/gala](http://gbbgc.org/gala)**





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## A SPECIAL VISIT FROM BGCA PRESIDENT AND CEO JIM CLARK

We were honored to welcome Jim Clark, President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, to Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club. His visit was a highlight of our 75th Anniversary celebrations and a true testament to the strength and unity of the Boys & Girls Club Movement.

During his time with us, Jim toured the Club, met and engaged with our incredible Club members, and attended our milestone Gala, where he served as keynote speaker. He also spent time with our 2025 Youth of the Year candidates and connected with many of our dedicated board leaders and generous supporters.

Jim's inspiring remarks emphasized the critical role Boys & Girls Clubs play in shaping the next generation of innovators, change-makers, and leaders. In a sur-

prise moment that brought the room to its feet, he announced that two of our graduating seniors will each receive a generous \$12,800 scholarship to support their college education.



We are deeply grateful for Jim's visit, his leadership, and his ongoing support of the meaningful work we do here in Locust Valley.



## 4TH ANNUAL DANCE RECITAL



Our Fourth Annual Dance Recital kicked off with a bang on Saturday, May 31st, as the ever-popular hip-hop group—fresh off their exciting performance at Championship Saturday—opened the show with an energetic Taylor Swift medley. Their routine was met with enthusiastic applause from an audience of about fifty guests.



The evening continued with a whimsical fairytale ballet, followed by a lyrical interpretation of "Defying Gravity." Dancers were split between costumes inspired by Elphaba and Glinda—beautifully modeled here by Sadie and



Addie—creating a visual tribute to Wicked that captivated the crowd.

Next up was a spirited number from *Moana*, bringing energy and storytelling to the stage. The afternoon concluded with a heartwarming full-company performance of "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes." This finale showcased all the dance styles taught throughout the year, seamlessly woven into one joyful routine.

At the end of the evening, our dedicated dance instructors were presented with flowers as a token of appreciation for their hard work, passion, and for guiding our dancers through another successful and inspiring year.





On June 7, the Locust Valley Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Martino Auto Concepts and 516 Auto Spa, hosted a vibrant Cars & Coffee event near the LIRR Train Station and in the heart of our village square. The parking lot was transformed into a car enthusiast's dream, showcasing an incredible variety of high-end vehicles that drew crowds from across the community.



Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club was honored to be selected as this year's beneficiary in celebration of our 75th Anniversary. Tara Butler-Sahai represented the Club at the event with an informational table filled with upcoming

## HIGH-OCTANE GENEROSITY: CARS & COFFEE BENEFITS GBBGC

event details and Club swag—and even received a few friendly visits from Board members!

This week, we were thrilled to receive a generous \$2,500 donation from the Chamber of Commerce. The check was accepted alongside Julia Villella, Anna Villella (President of the Locust Valley Chamber of Commerce), and Greg Lanza (Vice President of the Chamber).



## KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE: CAR SEAT CHECKS & SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

GBBGC recently partnered with Nassau County Legislator Samantha Goetz and the Nassau County Police Department to host a Child Car Seat Safety Check—an important initiative promoting child passenger safety. Certified officers inspected and adjusted car seats to ensure proper installation, giving new parents peace of mind.

The Club also held the second session of our Speaker Series: Summer Safety Tips, featuring Ed Orski, retired NYPD SVU Captain and NYC Paramedic. Ed covered



key seasonal safety topics including heat exhaustion, pool safety, sunburn care, choking hazards, and CPR.

Twenty community members attended, including representatives from La Fuerza Unida, the EOC of Nassau County, the Charles Evans Center, and the Kiwanis Club of Glen Cove.







**GRENVILLE BAKER  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**



**Old Fashioned  
Clam Bake**



**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BAILEY ARBORETUM!**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025**  
**4:00P.M.-8:00P.M.**



**Bailey  
Arboretum**  
 194 Bayville Rd, Locust Valley, NY 11560

**\$150 per person**

**Menu:** Lobster, Clams, Oysters, Corn, Potatoes,  
 Sausage & Peppers, Salad, Dessert, Wine, Beer, Good Friends,  
 a Beautiful Sunset and so much more!

**Reserve Your Spot Today!**  
 Limited Number of Tickets Sold.  
 Adults Only. Tickets not available at the door.

Visit [www.GBBGC.org](http://www.GBBGC.org) to purchase tickets  
 or call Stephanie Moran at 516-759-5437 x219

Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club  
 135 Forest Avenue Locust Valley, NY 11560 • 516.759.5437



**GRENVILLE BAKER  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

**DAY FOR KIDS**  
 in  
*Wonderland*

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**  
 12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**\$5 ADMISSION AT THE DOOR**  
**ALL AGES WELCOME!**  
*Inflatables, Sport Games, Music, Crafts,  
 Carnival Style Games, and much more!*

**Food will be available for purchase.**  
 Program Registration and Tours  
 will be available throughout the day!  
 Sponsorship opportunities available.

**This is not a drop off event.**  
 135 Forest Avenue,  
 Locust Valley, NY 11560  
[www.GBBGC.org](http://www.GBBGC.org)

*Save* **THE** *Date*  
**OCTOBER 6, 2025**

**GLEN HEAD COUNTRY CLUB**  
 GLEN HEAD, NY

*Honorees*

**AMY & LEN MARGOLIS**

**le joaillier**  
 FINE JEWELRY



**GRENVILLE BAKER  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

*Alumni & Friends*

**GOLF**  
 and  
**PICKLEBALL**

*Outing*

Call Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club with any questions! 516-759-5437 ext. 211 • [www.gbbgc.org](http://www.gbbgc.org)