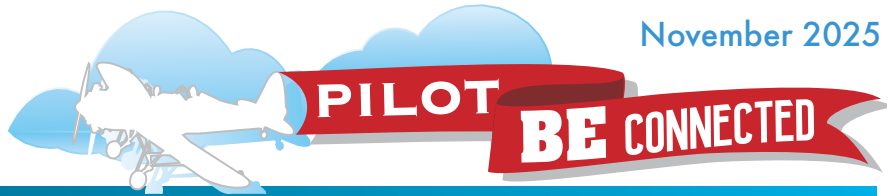




**GRENVILLE BAKER
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**



November 2025



LEADERS' CIRCLE RECEPTION

The Club hosted its annual Leaders' Circle Reception, bringing together supporters to recognize their contributions to the organization's mission. The event also featured tastings from participating restaurants, whose autumn-themed displays were highlighted as a standout element of the evening.

Three longtime supporters—**Kerian and Eric Carlstrom, Veronica and Robert Chasanoff, and Edith Hay Wyckoff***—were inducted into the Club's **Hall of Fame** for their sustained commitment to the organization.

The **MacDonald Family Volunteer Award** was presented to **Amy Dzija Driscoll and Carol McKey Harrington** in recognition of their work documenting the Club's history in *Images of America: Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club*.

Associate Director **Marc Bilbrey** received the **William "Bill" Hinckley Award**, marking 27 years of service to the Club.

The Club also honored **Board Chairman Colin O'Donnell**, adding his name to the **Alumni Wall of Fame** and announcing that the Youth of the Year Award will be *renamed the Honorable Colin F. O'Donnell Youth of the Year Award*.

Club leaders expressed appreciation to all honorees and attendees, noting the continued importance of community support in advancing programs for local youth.

Eligibility for the Leaders' Circle Reception is extended to those who have contributed \$300 or more over the past year or who have demonstrated consistent volunteer service at the Club. Thank you all for your support and dedication to Grenville Baker!

**recognized posthumously*





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KEYSTONE CLUB CELEBRATES CULTURE AT ANNUAL HISPANIC HERITAGE DINNER

Each year, the Keystone Program proudly hosts its Hispanic Heritage Dinner, inviting families and friends to enjoy an evening filled with culture, community, and delicious food. This year's celebration was especially meaningful, as the Club welcomed its largest group of Keystoneers ever—45 dedicated teens who attend meetings and volunteer regularly.

The dinner featured an incredible array of 45 home-made dishes representing countries such as El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Mexico, and more. A week before the event, Keystoneers visited local businesses to request support, and five generous restaurants stepped up to donate food.

The night was alive with Spanish music, laughter, and the warmth of community. Proudly serving guests with smiles, the teens created a welcoming atmosphere where everyone could share in the celebration. Plates were sold for \$7, with all proceeds supporting the Keystone Club's 2026 service trip to California.

By the end of the evening, the teens had raised an impressive \$800! At their next meeting, they reflected on the event's success, discussing what worked well and brainstorming ways to make next year's Hispanic Heritage Dinner even better.

KEYSTONE CLUB ELECTS 2025–2026 OFFICERS

It's election season for the Keystone Club! On October 15, members gathered to elect their new officers who will lead meetings and guide the group throughout the coming year.

This year's election saw incredible participation, with three candidates running for President, five for Vice President, two for Secretary, two for Treasurer, two for Community Liaison, and two for Sergeant at Arms. Each candidate took the stage to share their vision and passion for Keystone, delivering speeches filled with enthusiasm and confidence.

2025–2026 Keystone Officers

President: Teresa M

Vice President: Ashley V & Alyssa D

Secretary: Keiry A

Treasurer: Sandra G

Community Liaison: Alexandra G

Sergeant at Arms: Mike M

The energy in the room was electric as members cast their votes and waited eagerly for the results. When the winners were finally announced, cheers and applause filled the air. The newly elected 2025–2026 Keystone Officers stood proudly, surrounded by their peers' excitement and support—a moment that celebrated leadership, teamwork, and the bright future ahead for the Club.





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DR. CHRISTINA MERCURIO, PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Aviator Circle Spotlight: Each month, we're proud to highlight members of our Aviator Circle—a distinguished group of donors whose generosity fuels our mission year-round. These dedicated supporters sponsor three or more events or programs annually, including the Gala, Golf Outing, Basketball Program, and Day for Kids.

Their ongoing support makes a lasting impact on the lives of the young people we serve. Interested in joining? Contact Tara Butler-Sahai at (516) 759-5437 ext. 214 or tara.butler-sahai@gbbgc.org.

For more than 25 years, Dr. Christina Mercurio has been a loyal supporter of Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club, most recently serving as an Aviator Sponsor. Her commitment to children extends far beyond her philanthropy—she has been brightening smiles since 1996, when she opened Glen Cove's first dental practice dedicated exclusively to children.

"It is so important to provide every child with a safe place to learn, grow, and discover their potential. That's why I'm proud to support Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club. Nothing gives me greater hope than seeing a young person's eyes light up when they realize they are capable of so much more than they ever imagined," said Dr. Tina.

A graduate of New York University College of Dentistry, Dr. Mercurio earned a full-tuition academic scholarship and graduated in 1994 with top honors, including induction into the OKU National Dental Honors Society and ranking among the "Top 10" in her class. She completed her Pediatric Dental Certificate as Chief Resident at Montefiore Hospital, Albert Einstein College of Medicine.



Dr. Christina Mercurio, Pediatric Dentistry

Board Certified by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Mercurio has held appointments at Lenox Hill Hospital and Long Island Jewish Medical Center. She now divides her time between private practice and teaching in the Pediatric Dental Department at NYU College of Dentistry.

An active member of numerous professional organizations and a published author, Dr. Mercurio is dedicated to creating a fun, stress-free experience for every child she treats. Her passion for education and outreach has inspired her to participate in numerous community and city-wide dental initiatives.

When she's not working, Dr. Mercurio enjoys exploring life's adventures with her three children.

Stay connected about upcoming events at the Club— Visit www.gbbgc.org for the latest updates or follow us on social @grenvillebaker.



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SMALL PEOPLE, BIG LESSONS



Kasey Z.'s college essay — a dedicated Keystone member and valued staff member for the past two years.

The after-school bus hadn't even left before twenty-some kids burst into the room, voices overlapping, laughter that could be heard down the hall bouncing off the walls, and tiny feet stomping across the floor. Some dash straight to their homework, their pencils being held by their little second grader hands in a death grip, while others circle me, negotiating for candy before they'll even sit down. Five minutes in, millions of toys scatter the carpet, papers are shuffled everywhere. Somewhere in the middle is me, attempting to maneuver around backpacks laid out on the floor like an obstacle course, to no avail, because I still end up tripping on one. This is my world every afternoon, and two years ago, I never imagined it would feel like home, or that these kids would become such a big part of who I am.

When I first started working at the Club, I thought my role would be simple: make sure homework got done, activities ran smoothly, and overall make sure it wasn't total chaos. But over time, I realized it was so much more than that. Talking with my kids about small moments of their days, listening to their not-so-funny jokes, and seeing how they trusted me with even the smallest details like their weekend plans or complaining once again about their teachers, taught me the power of presence. I learned that by being patient and attentive, I make a difference even in small everyday moments. Slowly, I began to see that my impact on their lives was greater than I had imagined and that they were shaping me just as much as I was shaping them.

Working at the Club has pushed me out of the corner I used to hide in. The kids there pulled me into their world, with all the noise, laughter, and little victories. I'll never forget a shy little girl on the last day of summer camp. I had spent weeks encouraging her to join activities, seeing a bit of my younger self in her. When she hugged me and said thank you, it reassured me that this was why I love working with kids. They taught me valuable lessons like how to be patient when a question is asked for the tenth time, how to calm them when their emotions are all over the place, or how to give them courage when they have none. Every day, I learned not just how to help them grow, but how to grow myself.

Now, as I begin my final year before college, I feel both gratitude and heartache. Within such a short time, I have watched my kids grow, discover their voices, find their talents, and gain confidence within themselves, and I'm so glad that I got to be a part of that. Even though I'll miss the everyday chaos and laughs I had, I can't wait to return someday and see how much more they'll grow.

With the help of the Club, I have discovered my passion for working with children. Seeing the impact I make in their days, even just a little, showed me how much of a difference a person can make. That's why I want to become a pediatric nurse, so I can help children face challenges much bigger than schoolwork. The time I spent at the Club has taught me how much even small actions can matter, and I want to carry that into the work I will someday do in the future.

The Boys & Girls Club is no longer just a place I worked at. It is where I discovered my voice, my leadership, and my purpose. Saying goodbye is hard because I know a part of me will always belong there. Every day gave me lessons I didn't know I was learning, and those lessons will follow me wherever I go.



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HEALTHY HABITS!

Our fall programs are off to a fantastic start! The kids are eager to learn new things—so much so that we often hear them asking for “just five more minutes,” which is music to our ears.

One of our most popular programs for our youngest members is Healthy Habits. In this class, our kindergarten through 2nd graders learn how to make simple, healthy snacks using five ingredients or fewer. The goal is to teach them how to prepare fun, nutritious foods they can easily recreate at home.

From veggie quesadillas to strawberry and banana sandwiches, the kids are discovering that healthy eating can be both delicious and creative. Best of all, they’re learning, laughing, and connecting with their friends and staff along the way!



MINDFUL MOMENT

Yoga has become a special tradition at the Club. The kids love spending time with friends in a calm, welcoming space. Their favorite parts include using breath balls, playing Musical Mats, and rolling up in their mats for meditation.

Each class begins with breathing exercises, followed by fun, creative games—like rolling a ball to collect yoga cards and then teaching their favorite pose to the group. The last five minutes are for meditation, with

soft music and uplifting stories as the kids relax in their mats.

Class ends with everyone saying:
“I am happy, I am safe, I am brave, I am strong, and I am loved.”

They leave feeling calm, confident, and ready for the weekend.



VOLLEYBALL CLUB MAKES A STRONG COMEBACK!

After a successful summer volleyball camp, our Volleyball Club is back and better than ever! Each Thursday, 4th–5th graders and 6th–8th graders hit the court to sharpen their skills and enjoy the game.

Our practices focus on the fundamentals—serving, passing, setting, hitting, and positioning. For younger players, a big milestone is serving the ball over the net from the endline. Some are mastering their underhand serves, while others have already advanced to overhand serves. Many of our middle school players now serve overhand with confidence, and a few are eager to

learn the jump serve they’ve seen from advanced players. We remind them, “Once your serve is consistent, we’ll teach you the jump serve!”

The enthusiasm and progress have been incredible. If interest continues to grow this spring—with around 40 participants—we plan to introduce a league to help our players gain even more experience and prepare for middle and high school tryouts next year.





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OCTOBER MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Tween: Blake L. was the October member of the month. Blake shows up every day, sits down, and gets his homework done without hesitation. He's been an active participant in Passport to Manhood and is a huge fan of our open gym time. Blake truly stood out in October because of his big heart. He always makes sure everyone feels included and checks in to make sure others are doing okay.



Teen: Ashaira E. was the October Teen member of the month. Ashaira shows up every day and actively participates in our programs. She supports Maria Arana with Healthy Habits and plays a huge role in the Keystone program. Ashaira loves to volunteer and give back, and she brings so much joy to the club. She walks in each day with a big smile, greeting staff and friends with her positivity.

TEENS EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF BROADWAY

October kicked off with a truly magical adventure for our City Club teens! With schools closed for the day, ten teens had the opportunity to travel into New York City to see Harry Potter and the Cursed Child on Broadway—a trip that turned into an unforgettable experience.

It was a perfect fall day for exploring, and for many, it was a day of firsts. Out of the ten participants, eight experienced something completely new—whether it was riding the LIRR, visiting the city for the first time, or seeing a Broadway show. The excitement was contagious as they peppered staff with questions like, “How do you buy a train ticket?” and “Is Broadway like a movie theater?”

As the group made their way through the city, the teens’ enthusiasm was undeniable—snapping photos, pointing out landmarks, and marveling at every detail.

Once inside the theatre, they were completely captivated by the performance, reacting with smiles, gasps, and awe throughout the show.

During intermission, they eagerly thanked staff for what many called “*the best thing ever*.” On the train ride home, the conversation buzzed with excitement as they relived their favorite moments and vowed to read the book next.

It was a day full of firsts, learning, and pure joy—a reminder of how transformative these experiences can be for our teens.





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**SAVE
THE
DATE**

DECEMBER 2

Join Grenville Baker
Boys & Girls Club for
Giving Tuesday 2025.



**Mark your calendars.
We have stories to tell.**



Holiday Wreath Workshop

UNWIND, CREATE & CELEBRATE

Under the expert guidance of Randy from Scarsella's Florist

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025
11:30A.M. - 1:30P.M.**



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Reserve your spot today at
www.GBBGC.org



Thanksgiving
DINNER

5:00PM - 7:00PM

Food - Family - Fun

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025

5:00PM - 7:00PM

FREE OF CHARGE!

**OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
PARENTS MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN!**

135 FOREST AVE. LOCUST VALLEY, NY 11560

11 DAYS TILL #GIVINGTUESDAY

TORCH CLUB

A FUN TWEEN CLUB DIVING INTO SERVICE PROJECTS, CLEANUPS, HOME-
WORK HELP, AND FUNDRAISING.

**"WE GET
TO HELP OUR
COMMUNITY
& HAVE FUN
DOING IT!"**



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