



# The Grand Island Lion

## July-August 2024

[www.gilions.com](http://www.gilions.com)



July 4th  
Parade – come march with us . . . bring your kids with you!

July 17th  
Special Kids Picnic held at the Buffalo Launch Club.

July 20th  
Members Picnic at Bob and Anne Fahnings. 12-3PM details to follow.

August  
White Cane Days  
TBA

Thank you for nominating and approving me to be your President. I am honored by your confidence.

I'm at a loss for words about how happy I am to be President of this club again. The last time was in 1990. Back then, it was a source of pride for the club that we never repeated Presidents. I thought I would never get a chance to do this again. I've learned a lot since then. I spent all those years in the Northern Virginia area bragging about how great this club was and how well it was run. I got my Virginia club and a couple of other clubs to improve their operations by following the lead of this club.



I want to thank Lion Kelly for her outstanding job as President. I want to thank all the members for their hard work last year. I could mention every member for specific work. But to name a few – Lions Dick for the Spaghetti Dinner and everything else he does, Shelia for the Kid's Picnic, Ann for the White Cane Sale, Donna for keeping the minutes, Paul for the Peace Poster and Scholarships, Dave for the newsletter and keeping every member up to date, and Tom for all the Treasurer work. All of you keep this club going.

I'm thrilled we are starting a new year with 4 new members. I want to thank them for joining. And thank Lions Rusert, Witkowski, and Lavallee for sponsoring them. And thank Dick Crawford for sponsoring 10 new members over the years. Lion Tom Rusert is our new Membership Chair and will have a busy year. I challenge every member to sponsor a new member this year. But to do that and keep them, we need to give the new members something to do.

Grand Island doesn't have extensive poverty. I'm proud that we are willing to help people outside of the Island, like all the kids we invite to the picnic. As a DG, one of the things I learned was about successful clubs. They are willing to help anyone. All of them had many different and diverse service projects. Not every member had to work on every project. But there were projects for every member to work on when and where they liked. We need new service projects. They don't have to be as big as the Kid's Picnic. All ideas are welcome. Let's set a goal that we start a few more.

Lion Paul and the scholarship committee asked for more money next year. I support that idea. But we will need to increase the profits from our existing fundraisers or start a new fundraiser to make a long-term commitment and make that happen. I would like to see if we could begin the Avenue of Flags fundraiser project. Or another fundraiser, if a member has a new idea, we can try something else.

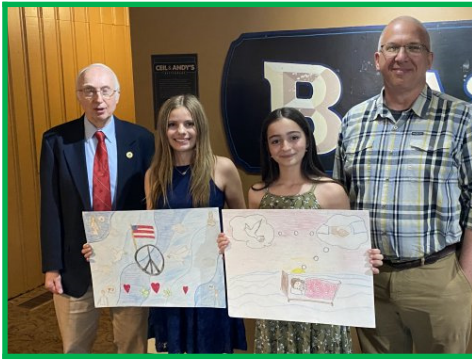
The last item I want to accomplish is improving our publicity. I see a few objectives here. First, get more articles in the local paper. Second, update the look and feel of our website. And third, get more members involved in posting items to our social media sites. I'm looking for volunteers to help. All these should help with other goals of providing more service projects, increasing membership, and putting more money into our charitable contributions.

We have much work to accomplish. We all need to pull together and contribute in any way we can. Let's get started. Thanks.



**WE SERVE**

Lion Jim Ryan



(Left to Right): Lion Paul Bassette, Peace Poster Chair, 2nd Place winner Chloe Fraser, 1st Place winner Quinn Yardwood and Grand Island Middle School Art Teacher Andrew (Drew) Dulak.

I thought you would like to read what our Peace Poster Contest winners (Quinn Yarwood, Chole Fraser) had to say about what peace means to them, especially those Lions who were not at the May 22 Lions meeting honoring our Peace Poster Contest winners. Remember these girls are only in the 6th grade and they have mature insight on how peace can bring all peoples in the world closer together.



Lion Paul Bassette

What does peace mean to me?

I think peace means something different to everyone. For me, peace means a world where there is no fighting and where everyone gets along without chaos. Peace means calm and happiness. Peace is when all cultures work together and when people from different places get along. Peace is when you don't have to worry about things, like your friends being mean, bullying, and you don't have to worry about food and shelter. I think love is an important part of peace, it is important to have love from your family to have love from your family, your neighbors, pets, and friends.

Some things that make me feel at peace are reading, drawing and going outside when it is nice. Being with my family makes me feel at peace, we love going on our boat together, we love cooking and laughing together. Listening to music makes me feel at peace. I love listening to country music in my room.

Music helps me relax and it brings me peace and helps me forget things that are bothering me. Overall, I think one way we could have more peace in our world is if people helped each other more and smiled more.

By: Chole Fraser

I dream that peace can be built from kindness and trust, creating a mindful community. I tried to capture my idea of peace with three main parts. The dove represents peace, the shaking hands represent people with differences coming together to create peace. The drawing of someone dreaming represents the hope that someday everyone on earth will see past differences to create peace for all.

I would like to thank the Grand Island Lions Club for sponsoring the Peace Poster contest, and for selecting my poster.

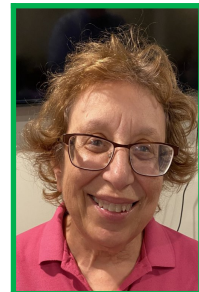
By Quinn Yarwood



At our June 12 Installation and Awards dinner, we warmly greeted our newest members to the Grand Islnd Lions. Newly inducted as Lions are (l-r holding lit candles) are Angelyn "Annie" Carlsen, Jose Garcia, Deborah Hays, and Alice Gerard. The candles symbolize their dedication to service. Joining them in the photo (l-r) are sponsors Lion Tom Rusert, Lion Donna Lavallee, and Lion Tom Witkowski. Presiding over the ceremony at right is our Lions Zone Chair, Stephen Smith, who conducted his inaugural induction at the event. Congratulations to our new Lions; we know you will greatly enjoy being part of the Grand Island Lions!

### New members:

My name is Alice Gerard, and I am a journalist. Or, at least, I am masquerading as one as, a freelance reporter/ photographer for the Island Dispatch. I've been doing that for a while. When I am not impersonating a journalist (Lois Lane), I can be found in various homeowners' gardens, removing their healthy weed collection. I also can be found walking around Grand Island or in Buffalo or the Tonawandas or virtually anywhere, once I get there via random methods of transportation, which may include kayaks, canoes, small boats, and golf carts with no tops (very suitable for a drenching rainfall). I have been seen climbing over tall snowbanks, and I have attempted to cross rapidly moving creeks while wearing sneakers.



I like to draw, paint, take photographs, sing, play the guitar or the piano, and dance (not simultaneously).

**What is one fun thing you want the members to know about you?**

I have been in the chorus of three operas at Shea's Performing Arts Center. Those operas were Aida, Turandot and Tosca. I discovered that opera is a much better participation sport than a spectator sport. When you're in an opera chorus, you get to sing at the top of your lungs, run around the stage, and overact to your heart's content. It was a blast. Quite literally, because I was belting out a high C while on my knees! It was far out of my comfort zone but... um... no one threw tomatoes and demanded a refund. So, I guess it was successful!

**What do you want to get from your Lions membership?**

What project would interest me? Well, I am a journalist, or at least, I impersonate one. I love storytelling and oral histories. I would love to work on an oral history project, maybe involving the Lions or maybe involving the Grand Island community. I believe that Lions have some incredible stories that need to be preserved. We have people who have done extraordinary things, and it would be sad if those stories were forgotten.

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My name is Annie Carlson. I am a proud blessed mother and grandmother, and sadly a widow of 10 1/2 years. I have been a Registered Nurse since 1985, and love being a Nurse as much today as I did in 1985. I have been since the early 1990's a Home Infusion Nurse.



I was born and raised on Grand Island and remember attending Lions Club events growing up with my family. My father Lou Fabiano was a Lion for many years. My children, grandchildren, and family are the most important "things" in my life. Being kind, having empathy, showing compassion, and being tolerant.

I am a board member of the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation. I am responsible for organizing and coordinating the food pantry and servicing our Neighbors in need when they call for assistance. I am the coordinator of St Patrick Pantry, a FeedMore of WNY food pantry and part of Peaceprints of WNY (a non-profit organization nationally recognized leader in re-entry services), helping break the incarceration cycle, by allowing the opportunity to start over with a clean slate. Everything I do, my career, my volunteer groups all focus on helping others, and providing others with the tools to help themselves.

Helping others is what I do, whether by being a nurse, providing food, or doing a kind act.

Food insecurity plagues our community and doing something to help lessen the burden is something I want to continue to have an impact on.

**What is one fun thing you want the members to know about you?**

In my spare time, I like to be with my family spending time together. Taking walks, playing games, vacationing together, cooking and baking together, doing food pantry "stuff" together, or just hanging around together. I love plants and have over 50 in my house. I love to cook, I love hosting family dinners, and trying new recipes and cuisines. Often, I don't follow a recipe I just use them for reference.

**What do you want to get from your Lions membership?**

I hope by becoming a Lion I can continue to help and serve those who are in need and make the community and world a little better.

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Bios for new members Deborah Hays and Jose Garcia will be seen in a future newsletter



New member  
Deborah Hays



New member  
Jose Garcia

**Punography**

I changed my i Pod name to Titanic. It's syncing now.  
 Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.  
 A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.  
 I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.  
 This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.  
 I'm reading a book about anti-gravity . I can't put it down.  
 I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.  
 They told me I had type A blood, but it was a Type- O.  
 A dyslexic man walks into a bra.  
 I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.  
 How do you make holy water? Boil the hell out of it!  
 Did you hear about the cross eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?  
 When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.  
 What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.  
 Broken pencils are pointless.  
 I tried to catch some fog. I mist.  
 What do you call a dinosaur with a extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.  
 England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool .  
 I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.  
 All the toilets in New York's police stations have been stolen. Police have nothing to go on.  
 I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.  
 Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.  
 Velcro - what a rip off!  
 I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.  
 I used to be conceited but now I'm perfect.  
 Sorry, I couldn't help but plant this corn.



Lion Dave

Send your humor to Lion Dave for publication in future newsletters



Thanks to Lions Tom Rusert, Donna Lavalley, Paul Bassette, Tom Witkowski, Jim Ryan, and Kelly McGarvey for contributions to this newsletter. The deadline for the September Newsletter is Friday August 23rd. If you have material for the newsletter, you can e-mail it to Lion Dave Chervinsky, the editor/publisher at: [grandislandliondave@gmail.com](mailto:grandislandliondave@gmail.com).

Visit us at: [www.gilions.com](http://www.gilions.com).  
 See our facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/GILIONSCLUB>

Please return your empties to Bottle and Can Retrieval Center 2447 Grand Island Blvd, Grand Island, **Grand Island Can and Bottle Retrieval Center is now tracking our donations when items are left for them to credit our account.**



**Donations for the Neighbors Foundation are on the upswing so please continue to bring any of the listed items to our meetings or drop off Tops gift cards, food items and checks/cash to me and I will deliver to them. They are also in need of diapers, toiletries and personal care items.**

**Thank you, Lion Tom Rusert**

Stuart Sports has many styles and colors of polo shirts along with other apparel available. Stop in and peruse their catalogs and request that the Grand Island Lions logo be applied to your selection.



It's just a short drive to Lewiston: Stuart Sports 486 Center St. Lewiston, NY (716-754-4895)

<http://www.stuartsportsinc.com/>

Lion Tom Rusert

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



- Paul Bassette
- Jenny Bagen
- Mark Frentzel
- Paul Krupa
- Shelia Ferrentino
- Donna Lavalley
- Kimberly Pressley