

# Thunderbird Owners of New York

1955's 1956's 1957's

Member, Classic Thunderbird Club International – Chapter 49 ~ July 2023 edition

## TALES OF A TWO-SEATER

[clubs.hemmings.com/tony/](http://clubs.hemmings.com/tony/)

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## JULY 2023

NEXT Meeting:

**Monday, July 3, 2023**

**7 p.m. @ BETHPAGE LIBRARY**

47 Powell Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714 516-931-3907

(up-coming meetings: Aug. 7, Sept. 9; Oct 8)



1957 Coral Sand Thunderbird



## MY MESSAGE: Arlene Swenson

Car shows and cruise nights are moving along as weather has been perfect so far. There are many car shows during the month of July – check them out in this newsletter! –call your fellow club member and perhaps drive together to an event - such as Flo's Luncheonette for a group cruise? ....great place to attend during a summer afternoon or evening!

Hundreds of antique and classic cars showed themselves at Old Westbury Gardens annual car show, on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> – this venue was the former estate of businessman, John Phipps, an heir to the Phipps family fortune, in Nassau County, NY.

Old Westbury Gardens..... .  
( <https://www.oldwestburygardens.org/> ) is a gilded age mansion built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century known for its opulent architecture and lavish furnishings. Its grounds provided the perfect forefront for our show vehicles. Yes, T.O.N.Y was represented and two of our members were lucky enough to receive trophies, although Best in Show went to Arthur Wolf with his 1959 silver Cadillac Eldorado.– read more in this newsletter. The show is certainly one of the best on the Island!

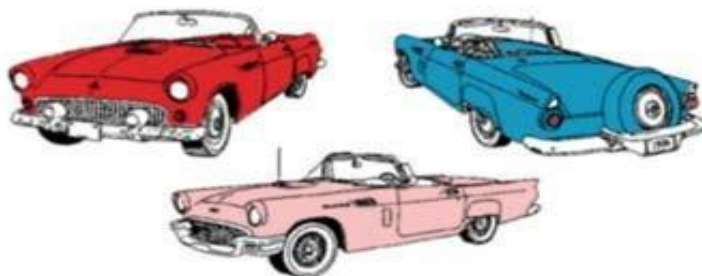
Did anyone attend the AutoMat car show in Hicksville, on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>? The Automat gals usually do the casual judging! It turned out to be a great day - & no entry fees - to show off classic cars!

Will any of our members be in Florida in October to attend the CTCL Convention at the Villages?

Reminder that our club car show's flyer/registration form is in this issue – again. ...write out your \$15. check to **Dennis Benfante**, not T.O.N.Y. Remember, some of the proceeds go to the well deserved charity - **Building Homes for Heroes!** Consider adding an extra amount for this charity when you register for the show, which is Sunday, October 1, 2023 – Key Food Shopping Center, Indian Head Road, Kings Park, NY 11754 – Thank you!

We'd like reports/stories from our members – please send to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of any month.

I wish you a happy Fourth of July – Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> - celebrating the birth of our Nation -perhaps celebrating with family gatherings for barbeques, and watching fireworks? Stay safe. Arlene



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## SECRETARIES REPORT/MESSAGE

### SECRETARIES MINUTES: THUNDERBIRD OWNERS of NEW YORK

June 5, 2023 Meeting Notes

Prepared by: **John Cattonar** T.O.N.Y. Club Secretary

Our meeting started off at 7:05 P.M. at our usual Bethpage Library location with 15 members present. After Vice President **Dennis Benfante**, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, I spoke about the Westbury Garden Show held the previous Sunday.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Congratulations go to **Jim Mezey**, our treasurer, for taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in our category at the Westbury Garden Show. If you've never gone to the Westbury Garden Show held every June, you really need to go. It's a great show of cars from the brass era to the 1980's. When's the last time you saw a 1916 Graham which was there?

Next, Jim reported we now have \$3,049.63 in our treasury.

## NEW BUSINESS

We spoke about **Bruce Daly** being in the hospital - everything went well and he's home getting ready to drive his T-Bird. **Dennis Benfante** brought up the show for the Bright View Senior Living residents in Sayville, coming up in July. (See the newsletter for details). Next, **Jim Mezey** brought samples of 2 jackets and 2 shirts for possible club jackets/shirts if members are interested. If you are interested in buying a jacket or shirt with the club's logo embroidery on it, PLEASE let Jim know. He will need to know how many are interested. Also, if anyone else knows of a place that does club jackets/shirts, let Jim know. I wrapped up the meeting letting everyone know that we will have another breakfast sometime prior to the Ford Show in October. (See next month's newsletter.)

Our Club received a thank you note from Tunnel to Towers Foundation for our donation.

<https://t2t.org/>

The meeting closed early at 7:48 P.M.

Next meeting: July 3, 2023, 7 p.m. at Bethpage Library.

...the 50/50 drawing. **John & Nancy Fink** walked out with \$31.00.



## **MEMBER REPORTS:**

**f**rom **John Cattonar**:

A good turnout of people for the 99<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade in Smithtown. I'm following a new member, **Adam Gorecki**, in his 1956 T-Bird. Only one other member showed up with his red Thunderbird, **Ron Kohlmann**.

Today is the day to think about and even say a prayer for those who died keeping this country free.

It is not Happy Memorial Day.

**John Cattonar** *T.O.N.Y. Club Secretary*

(Ed: Instead, say: "remembering Memorial Day" or "Have a thoughtful Memorial Day" - we must take time to reflect on the men and women who gave it all for us)

from **Arlene Swenson**: **OLD WESTBURY GARDENS CAR SHOW:**

Sunday, June 4 – great show, beautiful grounds, spectacular rhododendrons!



Thank you to **Faith & Tony Cardone**. for four car photos below.

**Jim Mezey** won first place with his Colonial White '57 and **John Cattonar** won second place for his dark (Lincoln '78) blue '57. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was a non-member with a '57 Dusk Rose car. Attending: **Steve Katsur** with his torch red '55, **John Zengel** with his '57 Inca Gold, **Marc Grodinsky** with his red '57; and other Thunderbirds (totaling approximately 10) scattered all over – some judged, some not.

**Here's a neat story...on club member, Steve Katsur's 1955 torch red Thunderbird: (see red car below with clever license plate # FIF T 5 )**

Steve got his first '55 in 1960 from a Ford Executive. It was p5fh007 number 3 production. He kept it for five years and got a Corvette.

When working at Chevrolet one of his customers offered him the one he has now, for free! He and his wife, Linda went to get it in Lindenhurst and towed it to Westbury where it sat in a garage for 30 years.

In 2000 the job began. Steve did the entire frame - rear end, front end, etc. to make a complete rolling chassis. Then, it was off to Connecticut to the best T-Bird guy ever! Nine months later he had it home and has been caring for it for 12 years. ...only a bit over 2000 miles on it and perfect!



Steve Katsur – '55 torch red



John Cattonar, dark navy '57; Jim Mezey, colonial white '57; Marc Grodinsky, fiesta red '57 (and also on next page)

awaiting official Westbury Garden 'best-in-show' photo



**NEW MEMBER:** Our club welcomes new members with a 1956 Black TBird, 3-speed with OD, 312CID

ADAM & DIANE GORECKI      MEMBERSHIP # 770

81 Stony Hill Path

Smithtown, New York 11787    P: 631-366-0416 - C: 613-793-9132 - Email: [agore81@optonline.net](mailto:agore81@optonline.net)

SPONSOR – John Cattonar

Keep 'em 'greased, gased & polished' or else, when neglect takes over, you get a rotting ('55) Ford Thunderbird!



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- Dianne Daly – 4<sup>th</sup>
- Faith Cardone 9<sup>th</sup>
- Tina Grippa – 10<sup>th</sup>
- Erma Ciervo – 12<sup>th</sup>
- Keith Larsen – 13<sup>th</sup>
- Rudy Deckert – 18<sup>th</sup>
- Debra Larsen – 20<sup>th</sup>

## JULY CAR SHOWS

			USA	LOVE IT or LEAVE IT!!
4th	Tuesday	Independence Day		
8th	Saturday	Hot Rods for Heroes Car Show Fundraiser by Beyond the Badge	Seaford	7/15/2023 516-501-2583
8-9th	Sat-Sun	Antique Truck Show by Amer Trk Hist Society @ 5951 Sound Ave	Riverhead	None 631-339-3065
9th	Sunday	<b>National Collector Car Appreciation Day, Cruise Anywhere In Your Classic Car!!</b>		<b>SAN/SEMA</b>
9th	Sunday	Charity Car Show by LI Vettes for Last Hope Animal Shelter	Bethpage	7/16/2023 516-216-0217
9th	Sunday	Car show by Fabulous 50's 60's Car Club for Masons & Shriners	Medford	7/16/2023 631-402-2798
9th	Sunday	Mustangs at the Museum by MSCLI at the Vanderbilt Museum	Centerport	None 631-371-1432
14-15th	Fri-Sun	All Chrysler Car Show and Swap Meet	Carlisle PA	www.carsatcarlisle.com
16th	Sunday	Car Show @ Bellmore Presbyterian Church, 2740 Martin Ave	Bellmore	7/23/2023 516-790-2475
16th	Sunday	Car Show by Impressive Aggressive Club for Animal Rescue	Manorville	None 631-902-1522
16th	Sunday	Car Show with vendors by Fungawee Car Club at West Hampton Beach Brewery	Manorville	None 631-873-6068
22-23rd	Sat-Sun	Car Show and Sock Hop By Rescue Vixens & Fabulous 50's 60's	Manorville	29 & 30th 631-402-2798

### OTHER DATE OF INTEREST:

**Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>** - classic cars to be shown in the **Brightview Assisted Living facility**, in Sayville -10 A.M. TO 2 P.M. - Contact Dennis Benfante - [tbirden@optonline.net](mailto:tbirden@optonline.net)

Address: 445 Broadway, Sayville, NY 11782 631-546-0302  
<https://www.brightviewseniorliving.com/find-a-community/brightview-sayville>

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Happy T-Birding  
*Arlene Swenson*  
[swenson@optonline.net](mailto:swenson@optonline.net)  
 631-277-9511  
 JUNE 22, 2023



**The Long Island Thunderbird Club**  
and  
**Thunderbird Owners of New York**  
*present the*



**17th ANNUAL  
SIBEN & SIBEN  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
THUNDERBIRD & ALL FORD CAR SHOW**

**Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

*(Rain Date October 8th)*

**58 Indian Head Road  
Kings Park, New York 11754**  
*(in the Keyfood Shopping Center)*

**VEHICLES MUST BE ON SHOW  
FIELD BY 10AM IN  
ORDER TO BE JUDGED**

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS  
HIGHLY RECCOMENDED**

**T-shirt to the first  
100 Vehicles**

*Judging by*



**Awards in all classes**

**Food and restrooms on site ■ 50/50 drawing ■ Door Prizes**

**Portion of the proceeds to Building Homes for Heroes**

**Music by:  
DJ Bob Marketta**

Vendors welcome – Call ahead

Contacts: Elliott Weiner, 631-724-3756 or Dennis Benfante, 631-447-3847

**Registration Info:** Pre-Register: \$15.00 Day of Show: \$20.00 Voluntary Donation to Charity: \$5 \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_

*Make checks payable to Dennis Benfante and send to: 15 Foxcroft Lane, East Patchogue, NY 11772*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Year & Model \_\_\_\_\_ Stock \_\_\_\_\_ Modified \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: (check one) - Large \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_