

James Lane

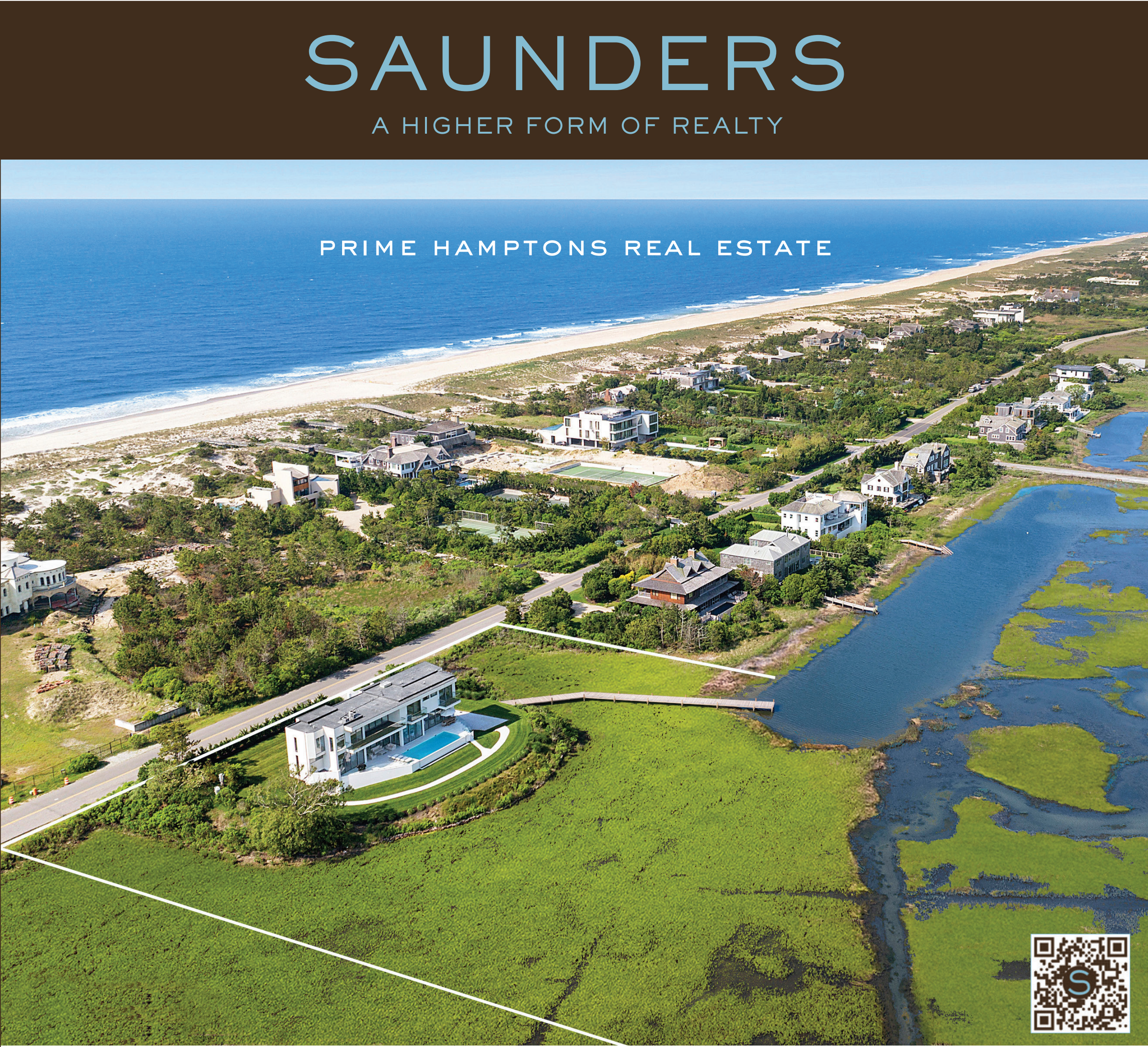
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Project Zero

Alexandra Richards Talks Ocean Conservation & Upcoming Event

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

On Sunday, June 7, Project Zero launched its summer season with the Blessing of the Ocean + Beach Clean Summer Kickoff at Peter’s Pond Beach in Sagaponack. Hosted by ambassadors Alexandra Richards, Sailor Brinkley Cook, Georgia Cohen, and Kelly Brady, the event brought together members of the East End community for a morning of wellness, ocean conservation, and collective action and featured a guided ocean-blessing meditation and sound bath led by Vivian Rosenthal of Frequency Breathwork. This beach clean previewed the upcoming Hamptons fundraiser, Celebration for Coral, on August 22 at Maison Close in Southampton. Hosted by Richards and Brinkley Cook, the seated brunch and auction will support coral reef restoration and marine conservation worldwide, with proceeds from tickets benefiting Project Zero’s Coral Collective Initiative.

We asked Alexandra a few questions to learn more about Project Zero and the upcoming event.

What initially drew you to Project Zero, and what motivated you to make ocean conservation a personal mission?

I first got involved after attending a couple of events with Project Zero, where I was also DJing for the dance portions of the program. Being in that space really opened my eyes, especially because there were so many notable speakers and meaningful conversations happening around ocean conservation.

At the time, I felt like there wasn’t as much awareness as there is now, and that really pushed me to want to be part of the movement.

What really stayed with me was learning how vast and vulnerable our oceans were/are — covering over 70% of the Earth’s surface, yet still largely unprotected and under-regulated in many areas. Even today, only a small percentage is designated as protected, and enforcement in those zones can be limited. A lot of the ocean is still exposed to pollution, overfishing, and exploitation.

That combination of awareness and urgency

is what really drew me in and continues to motivate me.

As I learned more about the challenges our oceans face — from pollution to habitat loss — I realized how important it is to help protect them for future generations.

Can you tell us a bit more about the organization’s mission and the projects it is currently involved in?

Project Zero is a new generation focused on fixing the world’s largest, most solvable problem — the ocean. We’re a global movement supported by renowned scientists, business leaders, celebrities, campaigners, ocean experts, and individuals from around the world, who are all working together to restore and protect the ocean.

Project Zero’s Hamptons events are bringing together local residents, businesses, and ocean advocates in support of cleaner beaches and healthier oceans.

You’ve supported Project Zero as a board member and advocate. What does your involvement look like behind the scenes?

I help produce events, and help connect like-minded people to our foundation to help us raise awareness and funds for our oceans.

Can you tell us about the dinner you have coming up on the East End?

Project Zero will return to the Hamptons this summer with Celebration for Coral, the organization’s annual fundraising benefit in support of its Coral Collective initiative dedicated to ocean conservation and coral reef protection. Taking place on August 22, this year’s event will debut a new daytime format as an elevated seated brunch hosted at Maison Close Southampton.

Our event is to help raise awareness for our collaboration with The Coral Collective. The Coral Collective is dedicated to protecting and restoring coral reefs around the world. Funds raised through this event will support a coral restoration project in Turks &

Caicos, helping vulnerable reefs withstand the growing impacts of climate change while preserving marine biodiversity for future generations.

Hosted by Project Zero ambassador Sailor Brinkley Cook and myself, the Celebration for Coral will bring together the Hamptons community, philanthropic leaders, creatives, and brand partners for an afternoon sup-

porting Project Zero’s mission to restore and protect the world’s oceans. The event will also feature a curated charity auction benefiting Project Zero’s Coral Collective initiative, offering guests the opportunity to support coral reef restoration and marine conservation efforts through exclusive experiences, artwork, and donated items. One hundred percent of ticket proceeds from the event will directly benefit Project Zero’s Coral Collective initia-

tive and its ongoing coral reef restoration and marine conservation efforts.

As a DJ and creative professional, how do you use your platform to promote awareness of environmental issues?

I believe music has a unique way of bringing people together and creating meaningful conversations. I try to use my platform to raise awareness around environmental issues by sharing ideas about sustainability and encouraging people to think about the impact of their everyday choices.

Whether it’s through social media, events, collaborations, or creative projects, I look for opportunities to highlight causes and organizations doing important work for the environment. For me, it’s about using music and community as a way to inspire connection, awareness, and positive action in an authentic way.

How can people get involved to help the mission?

Getting involved doesn’t have to be complicated. Small actions can make a real difference when enough people take part. People can support ocean awareness by learning more about the issues facing our oceans, reducing single-use plastics, making sustainable choices in their daily lives, and supporting organizations that are doing important conservation work.

I also think sharing information in an approachable way is powerful. Whether it’s through conversations with friends, social media, community events, or creative projects, helping others connect with and appreciate our oceans can inspire positive change. The goal isn’t perfection — it’s encouraging more people to take small, meaningful steps that add up over time.



Alexandra Richards & Sailor Brinkley Cook.
Photo by Eduardo Amorim



phy career with his daily lived experience navigating local waters.

“We are excited to present Paul Brooke and celebrate his deep connection to and love of our local waters,” said John Maroney, General Manager of Hotel Moraine. “His work beautifully reflects the coastal seascapes and natural beauty that define the East End. Through our Sound Waves Moraine Music & Arts Series, presented in the North Cottage, we are committed to showcasing artists from across Long Island’s East End — from the North Fork to Montauk — creating a space where guests can experience the creativity, culture, and unique sense of place that make this region so special.”

The Waterman’s Archive

Paul Brooke Jr. Solo Exhibition To Debut At Hotel Moraine This Summer

This summer, celebrated East End artist, photographer, and captain Paul Brooke Jr. presents a five-week solo exhibition, “The Waterman’s Archive.” Hosted at the Greenport seaside destination Hotel Moraine, the collection will be on display at the property’s vaulted North Cottage from July 9 through August 11.

To celebrate the exhibition, Hotel Moraine will host an opening gallery and artist reception on Saturday, July 11, from 5 to 7 PM, featuring a menu of complimentary seasonal tastings, custom cocktails, and live music overlooking the Long Island Sound.

“The Waterman’s Archive” presents a unique, multidimensional look at the Atlantic coast through three distinct series of fine-art photography, mixed-media historical nautical charts, and striking, life-size marine cyanotype prints. With a deeply refined eye for design, Captain Paul serves as a visual historian of the ocean and coast, blending a 13-year photogra-



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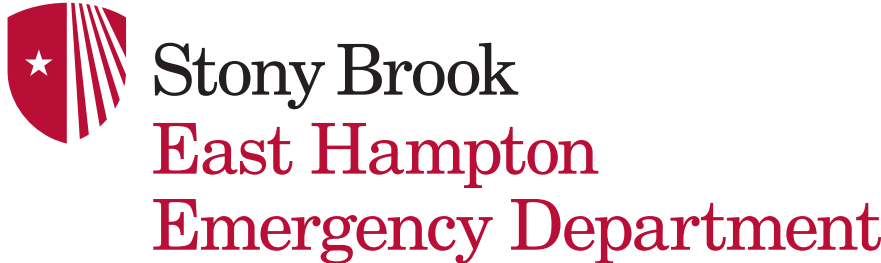


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Alexis Roderick Joel

Advocating For Women’s Health With The EndoFound

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

Alexis Roderick Joel is passionately advocating for increased awareness and research funding for women’s health. She lives with endometriosis, a chronic condition affecting 10% of women worldwide. Recently, she was appointed Chair of Advocacy & Strategic Partnerships at the Endometriosis Foundation of America. She also serves as Co-Chair of The Joel Foundation, created by her husband, Billy Joel. The foundation supports the Seckin Endometriosis Research Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on

Long Island, which is dedicated to pioneering research on endometriosis. On July 10, Alexis will host a private event in Sag Harbor to support the EndoFound.

You’ve spoken openly about your own experience with endometriosis. What motivated you to turn a personal health challenge into a public advocacy mission?

I never set out with a specific mission in

mind. My journey began after I was finally diagnosed with endometriosis during a difficult surgery in Florida. More than a year of searching for the right physician eventually led me to Dr. Tamer Seckin in New York, who performed my second surgery. He was the first person who gave me confidence that I would finally have answers and a path forward.

What struck me most was how long it takes so many women to receive a diagnosis. Even within our healthcare system, the delays are extraordinary. Everyone in the endometriosis community understands what it feels like to live with pain, uncertainty, and the frustration of not being heard.

Like so many advocates, I simply wanted to help. I began volunteering and supporting outreach efforts within the endometriosis community, and over time I realized that I had both a platform and a voice. I feel fortunate to be able to use them to raise awareness, support others, and help ensure that more women are heard. Using that platform for good has become deeply meaningful to me.

As Chair of Advocacy & Strategic Partnerships for EndoFound, what are your top priorities for raising awareness and driving change in the coming years?

My top priorities center on addressing the gaps that continue to prevent people with endometriosis from receiving timely, effective care. Awareness remains critical, but awareness alone is not enough. We need a coordinated approach that includes education, access, and innovation.

That means expanding public awareness, improving physician training so healthcare providers can recognize and manage the disease earlier, and advocating for meaningful insurance coverage — particularly for specialized surgical care, which remains inaccessible for many patients.

At the same time, these efforts must go hand in hand with increased investment in research. We urgently need better diagnostics and new therapeutics so patients are not forced to wait years for answers or rely on limited treatment options. My hope is that by bringing together advocates, clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and industry partners, we can build a future where earlier diagnosis, effective treatments, and equitable access to care are the standard — not the exception.

Despite affecting roughly one in ten women worldwide, endometriosis remains widely misunderstood. Why do you think awareness has lagged behind, and what needs to happen to change that?

One of the biggest reasons awareness has lagged is the extraordinary delay in diagnosis. If it takes seven to ten years, on average, for someone to receive a diagnosis, you have to wonder how many people are living with the disease and remain undiag-

nosed. We can’t fully appreciate the scope of the problem when so many patients are never counted.

Another major factor is the lack of education and training within the medical community. Many physicians receive little instruction on recognizing and treating endometriosis, and there are too few surgeons with specialized expertise. Women’s health overall has historically been underfunded and under-researched, leaving millions of patients without the scientific advances they deserve.

There is also the stigma surrounding a disease that begins with menstruation. For generations, painful periods have been normalized or dismissed, and women have often been told that their symptoms are simply something they have to live with.

Changing that requires a comprehensive approach: increasing public awareness, improving physician education, expanding access to specialized care, and investing in research that will lead to better diagnostics and new therapeutics. Most importantly, we need to start listening to patients and treating endometriosis with the urgency and seriousness that a disease affecting one in ten women deserves.

You recently moderated a panel at the inaugural National Conference on Women’s Health hosted by the Department of Health & Human Services. What were some of the most important conversations or takeaways from that event?

One of the most valuable aspects of the conference was the opportunity to bring together experts from many different disciplines and perspectives to discuss women’s health in a more comprehensive way. I had the privilege of moderating a panel on the causes of infertility, where we explored the role that endometriosis and its many comorbidities play in reproductive health.

It was particularly important to discuss these conditions alongside fibroids and PMOS — formerly known as PCOS — because these disorders are interconnected and affect far more than fertility alone. One of the key takeaways was that endometriosis is a full-body inflammatory disease that should be understood and managed throughout a woman’s lifetime. It becomes part of how you function, and its impact extends well beyond the reproductive system.

Another important message was the need for women to become their own advocates. Understanding these diseases empowers patients to recognize symptoms, seek appropriate care, and ask the right questions. I was also struck by the insights shared by our reproductive endocrinology and infertility and obstetrics and gynecology, who highlighted how hormonal testing can provide valuable information and help identify underlying conditions — even for women who are not trying to become pregnant. That broader perspective on women’s health, rather than viewing these diseases in isolation, was one of the con-

ference’s most meaningful themes.

As co-chair of The Joel Foundation, how do you balance its support for music education with its growing commitment to public and women’s health initiatives?

From the beginning, I was drawn to the importance of music therapy and the role the arts can play in health and healing. Through The Joel Foundation, we have long supported music-based therapeutic programs, and I was already familiar with the clinical benefits of music therapy.

When both my husband and I experienced health challenges — conditions that are often misdiagnosed or go undiagnosed for years — I felt compelled to use that experience to help others. That naturally expanded our interest in public and women’s health.

There is actually a great deal of crossover between the physicians and researchers I work with through the Foundation and the people I collaborate with in my advocacy work as a private citizen. Whether it’s neurologists studying Parkinson’s disease, specialists working with autism, or researchers connected through organizations like Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, many of these worlds intersect, particularly around the science of music therapy.

At The Joel Foundation, we support programs and research, including initiatives focused on endometriosis and education surrounding women’s health. Separately, in my role as a private citizen, I am able to engage more directly in advocacy — both for music therapy and for endometriosis awareness. To me, these efforts are complementary. They all center on improving quality of life, expanding access to care, and helping people who too often go unseen or unheard.

The event in Sag Harbor is designed as both a benefit and an awareness-raising event. What do you hope guests leave thinking about after attending?

I hope people leave feeling inspired to help us change the narrative around endometriosis. We are making meaningful progress, but this work takes an army. No one person or organization can do it alone.

I want guests to see that everyone has the ability to make a difference and that lasting change happens when people come together around a common purpose. My hope is to leave a lasting impact by doing what I can, and I’m incredibly grateful to everyone who comes out to listen and support the cause.

Once people understand the statistics, the years-long delays in diagnosis, and the profound impact this disease has on women’s lives, they often feel compelled to help. Awareness itself is powerful, and I hope guests leave not only informed, but motivated to be part of the change.

James Lane[®]

POST

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Editor’s Note

Welcome to our July issue pages! Summer is in full swing, and we couldn’t be more excited. We hope you take time to enjoy both the simple pleasures of summer and the vibrant energy of the East End.

We are thrilled to feature Alexandra Richards on our cover, where we discuss all things Project Zero, including the foundation’s upcoming event and its work in ocean conservation.

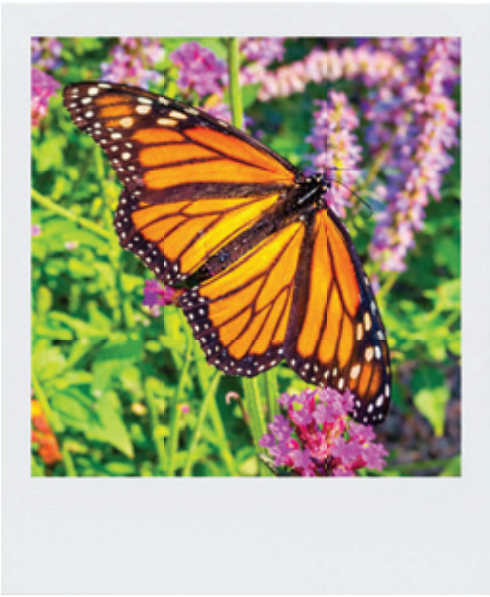
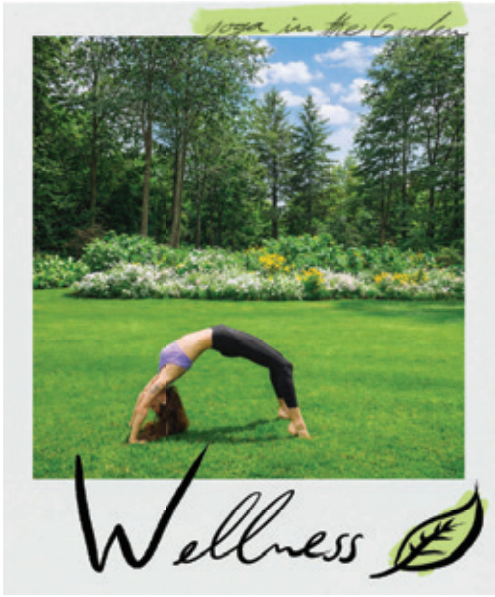
We hope you enjoy the features and interviews we’ve curated for this issue, and we wish everyone a wonderful summer!

Jessica Mackin-Cipro
Editor-in-Chief,
James Lane Post

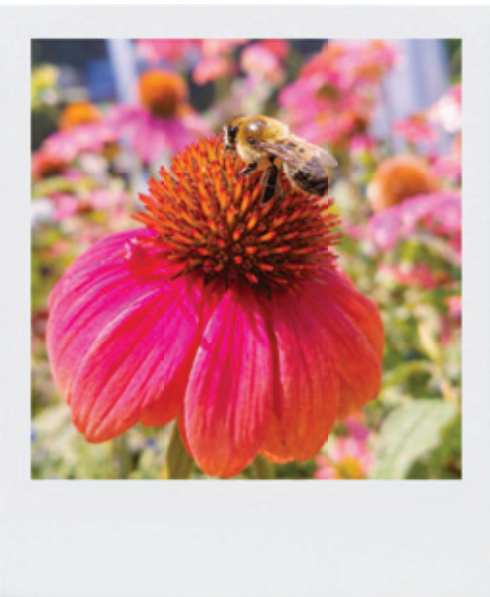
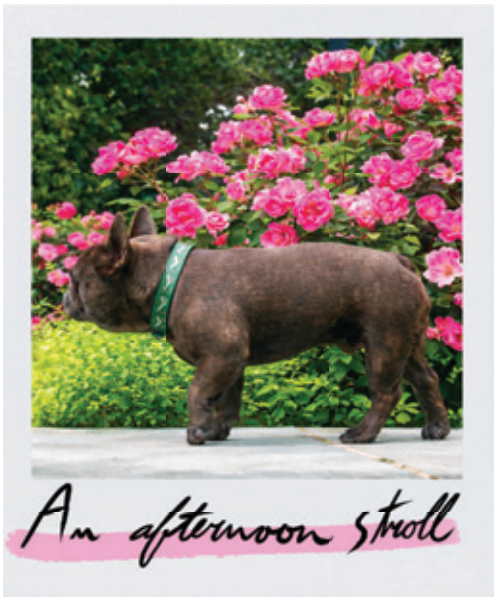


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Eric Firestone

Insights From The East Hampton Gallerist

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

The Eric Firestone Gallery has been a staple on Newtown Lane in East Hampton for 16 years, displaying significant yet under-recognized artists from the 20th and 21st centuries. Since its beginnings, the gallery has expanded to New York City and West Palm Beach. We spoke to Eric to learn more.

What originally drew you to opening a gallery in East Hampton?

My family and I wanted to be closer to New York, and we had spent several summers in East Hampton before making the move. We were drawn not only to the natural beauty of the area, but also to its remarkable artistic history. There is a long tradition of artists living and working here, and it felt like a place where we could raise our daughter while also becoming part of a community that values creativity and culture.

How has the East Hampton art scene evolved since you first became part of it?

The visibility of the arts on the East End has grown tremendously. Institutions like the

Parrish Art Museum, now in its Herzog & de Meuron-designed building, along with Guild Hall, LongHouse Reserve, and the Pollock-Krasner House, have helped create a vibrant cultural landscape. During Covid, many galleries established a presence here, which added new energy and audiences. At the same time, what makes the East Hampton art community special is its continuity. The history remains very much alive, and the newer initiatives work in conversation with that legacy rather than replacing it.

When visitors walk into the gallery for the first time, what do you hope they feel?

I hope they feel a sense of discovery. Art should invite curiosity, and I want people to feel comfortable walking through the door, regardless of their background or level of familiarity with art. The best experiences often begin when someone encounters something unexpected and feels free to spend time with it.

How do you see the relationship between art, place, and community?

To me, they're inseparable. Art grows out



Photo courtesy Eric Firestone Gallery

of place, and communities are shaped by the people and ideas that gather around it. If you're going to be part of a community, you have to be accessible and engaged. That means creating opportunities for people from all backgrounds to participate, connect, and feel welcome.

What first sparked your interest in art?

My interest began when I was a child taking classes at the Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami. A few years later, I remember seeing Christo and Jeanne-Claude's Surround-

ed Islands in Biscayne Bay. It was a transformative experience. Seeing something on that scale made me realize that art could completely change the way you look at the world. It opened my mind to the idea that anything is possible, and it taught me to remain receptive to art in whatever form it takes.

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Geralyn Lucas

Breast Cancer Survivor & Advocate To Be Honored At The Ellen Hermanson Foundation’s Annual Summer Gala

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro



Geralyn Lucas, a breast cancer survivor, advocate, and the author of “Why I Wore Lipstick to My Mastectomy,” will be honored at The Ellen Hermanson Foundation’s Annual Summer Gala on Friday, July 24, at the Bridge-hampton Tennis & Surf Club, in recognition of her leadership and commitment to breast cancer awareness, education, and early detection.

The Ellen Hermanson Foundation hosts its annual Gala to raise funds to support its programs and services, helping women on the East End access breast health care screenings, breast cancer treatment, and support.

We spoke to Geralyn to learn more.

What does being honored by the Ellen Hermanson Foundation mean to you?

It is really the honor of a lifetime. This organization is actually life-saving! It has been fascinating to learn about all the grants they distribute and the pressing needs in this community.

When you reflect on your advocacy journey, what moments feel most meaningful today?

That is a great question! I remember how much it meant to me to speak with survivors when I was first diagnosed. When I get a call from a newly diagnosed woman, especially someone very young, it means so much to be able to be that light now for someone who is so scared. I also love volunteering at a clinic now where I am there right when women are diagnosed. Being able to reassure someone in that moment of extreme uncertainty is very powerful.

You’ve spoken openly and honestly about survivorship throughout your career. Why was sharing your story so important to you?

I had no idea that I could get breast cancer because my mom and grandmothers never had it. I also thought I had to be in my 40s or 50s. When I was diagnosed, I was reporting on medical stories at ABC News, and married to a doctor. I thought if I didn’t know the facts, many other women probably didn’t either. For instance, most women diagnosed do not have a family history of the disease. Also, diagnoses among younger women are increasing. I wanted to alert others because public awareness about screening guidelines for younger women is low. If my story leads someone to get a breast exam and saves a life, that is a miracle. That is a silver lining. There was also significant controversy and uncertainty regarding pregnancy after my diagnosis. I am incredibly lucky because at the time no one was talking

about fertility preservation for young cancer patients. Being able to share my story about having kids after my cancer is important to encourage others.

How have conversations around breast cancer changed since you first began advocating publicly?

It is a radically different landscape! I was diagnosed 31 years ago. I was scared I would lose my job, and we were even uncertain whether to use the word “mastectomy” in the title of the book and movie! There was no awareness about fertility preservation, and now there is so much awareness and open conversation.

Organizations like the Ellen Hermanson Foundation emphasize access, support, and community care. Why are those resources so critical for patients and families?

Patients and families need support! Cancer affects everyone. Can you imagine worrying about paying your electric bill while going through chemo? Recently, I heard about women scared to take public transportation to chemo because of ICE crackdowns. The foundation provided a grant to support transportation without fear. Recently, a Stage 4 patient couldn’t afford a walker she needed. These invisible needs exist in our community, and this organization fills these gaps!

What are you most looking forward to at the Summer Gala?

I am truly most looking forward to celebrating Julie, Mady, the volunteers, and the memory of Ellen. Julie told me a remarkable story about her sister who died of breast cancer far too young: she made a snowman in January, hid it in the freezer, and brought it out onto the lawn in July! Talk about an optimistic and life-loving person! Her memory is a blessing, and I will that night pledge during the Gala to remember her, and the other women we lost because their memories and life-force should inspire us all to do more! I am a little scared to be honored, to be honest! (After cancer, I never thought I would be scared of anything.) I am excited to see the money raised to give back to the community, because the Gala is the MOST important way these lifesaving funds are raised. If anyone reading this wants to donate and cannot attend, please do! I am looking forward to seeing my daughter and son in the audience, because it means that miracles can and do happen. My daughter is about to turn the age I was (27) when I was diagnosed. I am filled with fear, yet I am hopeful! Hopeful that we can make a difference together. Hopeful that one day there will be a world without this pain and suffering. But hopeful until that day that we can try to ease that burden.



Race Of Hope

Audrey Gruss Talks Southampton’s Annual Race As The Hope For Depression Research Foundation Marks Its 20th Year

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

As Southampton gets ready for its 11th Race of Hope on August 2, the event highlights community spirit and serves as a rallying point in the fight against mental health stigma. Supporting the Hope For Depression Research Foundation, which marks its 20th year, the event has shifted the conversation about depression and attracts over 1,000 participants annually to raise awareness and funds for important research. We talked with HFDR founder Audrey Gruss to learn more.

It’s the 20th anniversary of the Hope For Depression Research Foundation, which you founded in memory of your mother, Hope. Can you tell us about your mission to accelerate research and raise awareness of depression as a medical illness?

Hope for Depression Research Foundation exists to spur the most innovative neuroscience research into the origins, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of depression and its related mood disorders, including postpartum depression, PTSD, and anxiety.

For two decades, HDRF has been a trailblazer in the field. It is home to the Depression Task Force, an outstanding collaboration of top neuroscientists from different universities who are pooling expertise and data to accelerate discovery.

Our scientific mission is urgent. Since the introduction of Prozac (the first SSRI) in 1985, there has been little progress in the treatment of depression — only variations of the same SSRI formula. Yet only 50% of patients respond to the existing medications.

Also important is our work to raise awareness of depression as a medical illness and to educate the public about the facts of depression. We educate and inform in order to reduce the stigma that still surrounds depression.

What are some of the biggest milestones you’ve achieved over the past 20 years?

This year, HDRF finds itself at a genuinely different moment in depression research. Our Depression Task Force of top scientists has been working together as a single unit, collaborating across multiple institutions, and sharing data in a way that has set the bar for the field. We have targets for treatment in the brain that nobody had identified ten years ago, and we are now confirming the targets in early human studies at Mount Sinai, Columbia, Weill Cornell, and Max Planck Institute in Germany.

This move to test new treatments in humans marks significant progress in a field that has seen few advances in drug discovery over the past forty years.

HDRF has also become a local force for mental health advocacy on the East End. Last year’s Southampton Race of Hope drew more than 1,100 participants and raised over \$500,000 for depression research.

Leading up to the Race, we host our annual Week of Hope in Southampton, a village-wide mental health awareness campaign featuring yellow HOPE flags displayed by local businesses. The week also includes our Summer Seminar and Luncheon, which this year features psychologist Michael Pantalon discussing “How to Inspire Healthy Change in Yourself and Your Loved Ones.”

Our annual HOPE Luncheon Seminar in New York City brings mental health to the forefront through science, storytelling, and advocacy.

Last Fall, we honored Audra McDonald, joining past honorees including Mariska Hargitay, Dakota Johnson, Michael Phelps, and Brooke Shields.

How has the conversation around depression and mental health changed over the past two decades?

The conversation around depression has changed dramatically. Today, more people are willing to share their experiences and discuss the impact of mental illness on their lives. Younger generations are helping break down stigma through HDRF’s Junior Committees, while celebrities and public figures are speaking openly about their experience with depression. Together, these voices have raised awareness and sparked life-saving conversations around mental health.

What are you most excited about for this year’s Race of Hope in Southampton? Could you share how the Southampton community has supported the foundation over the years?

I’m most excited to see the faces of runners as they cross the finish line. Every participant has a personal reason for being there, whether it’s their own experience with depression or supporting a loved one.

Since Southampton is where our Race of Hope began, it’s especially meaningful to see the community return each year as the event continues to grow. Families, professional runners, casual walkers, and corporate teams all continue to show up to raise awareness and support the groundbreaking work of our Depression Task Force. Dogs and babies are welcome too!

It’s also wonderful to welcome public figures who help amplify our message of hope. Past Grand Marshals have included Alexa Ray Joel, Katie Couric, and Brooke Shields’ daughter, Grier Henchy.

What are your goals and ambitions for the future of the Race of Hope and the HDRF?

On the research side, our key goals are to develop new and more effective treatments for the millions of people who do not respond to existing antidepressants, deepen our understanding of the biological causes of depression, and ultimately establish objective, science-based diagnostic tools for the illness.

My vision is to expand the Race of Hope series to major cities across the country, raising awareness, building community, and spreading hope in the fight against depression.



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Brian Kelly Brings A-Listers To The East End All Summer

By Bill McCuddy



Ms. Lauryn Hill

Brian Kelly wrote a novel during Covid. “It was that or baking bread” he tells me with a laugh. He had a band in college. And did a stint teaching literature and creative writing. But he really wanted to produce live entertainment. His first paying gig was presenting a friend’s band at the Islip Art Museum in 2016. “We built a stage out of nothing. It was so claptrap. It rained, but we got through it, and everyone had a blast.”

That was just the beginning. These days he’s putting together more than East End shows at

The Clubhouse and Montauk Lighthouse. His “Murmrr Presents” is also starting a philanthropic foundation. And then there are shows in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Miami. Wherever audiences want to laugh or listen to great music, Brian is just off stage.

How did a love for music and comedy start for you?

I saw R.E.M when I was about 12 or 13 years old at Nassau Coliseum, and that kind of turned on the lights for me. That level of artistic integrity in front of tens of thousands

of people was just super exciting. “Murmrr” is kind of an R.E.M. album title, and I still think about it. They spell it the regular way. My company was based on “murmurations” the way starlings kind of choreograph to the sky. It was an abstraction of that, in kind of organizing people around music and art. I saw Seinfeld in upstate New York when I was in college. And I saw Tracy Morgan early on too. It’s the same as music. It’s about being in a room and feeling that energy. And saying, “How is this even possible?” I look for that now. Creating a kind of intimacy for the audience and performer — whether it’s a 20,000-person show or a 200-person show. And production values have to be good, even on a subconscious level. We’re fortunate with a place like Montauk with a panoramic oceanic wonder.

You’re also doing a lot of things at The Clubhouse. But you also build stages in fields how did all that start?

As a company, Murmrr Presents initially was all about activating un-utilized spaces like a synagogue in Brooklyn. We did events there with Bjork and the Smashing Pumpkins lead singer or Nil Rodgers and Chic. We built it out with sound and lighting, and it was very successful.

Who are you most excited about this summer?

Brandi Carlile has never played in the Hamptons before. She’s on a rocket ship. Played with world-class musicians like Elton John and Dolly Parton. She’s the “next voice” for so much. She identifies with the LGBTQ+ community, and that’s important. She sold out MSG in April. We have Mark Normand back this year. I’m also really excited by Ms. Lauryn Hill. She’s an icon. Every time I mention she’s coming to the Hamptons, everyone goes “Oh my God, I love her.” She’s incredible. Lyle Lovett is going to be great at The Clubhouse. The New York Times recently cited the “People’s Choice for the Top 100 Songwriters” in the country, and Lyle, Brandi, and Lauryn were all on that list. So it’s great. We’re really fortunate.



Brian Kelly. Photo by Rebecca “Pepper” Canese

Do you have time to actually enjoy the shows themselves?

At every event, I’m running around, talking to different people, but there’s always one moment in the show where I’ll stand in the audience, and I just feel that energy of people coming together. It gives me chills. It’s rewarding to be a part of something that creates community.

Here’s a rundown of just what Murmrr Presents has for the next few months. Brandi Carlile will perform at the Montauk Lighthouse on July 23. On July 7, Lyle Lovett will be performing at The Clubhouse, followed

by Yannis Pappas on July 10. Stephen Marley takes the stage on July 17, and Collie Buddz will perform on July 23. On July 25, Ms. Lauryn Hill will play an acoustic set. Mark Normand is scheduled for July 30, and Steel Pulse on July 31. On August 23, the Gipsy Kings will perform.

Bill McCuddy has a WLIW-FM and LTV show, “Air Hamptons,” and has 9 podcasts on various entertainment subjects. He co-hosts a PBS/AllArts show, “Talking Pictures,” with Neil Rosen and Lisa Rosman. He lives in Bridgehampton.



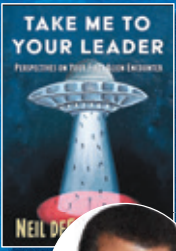
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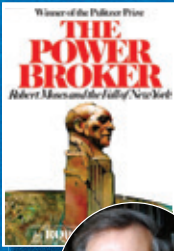
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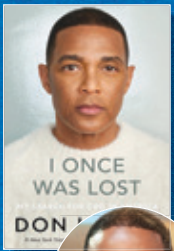
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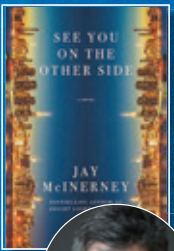
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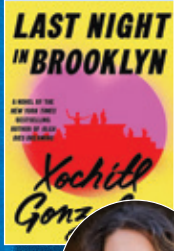
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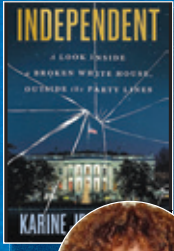
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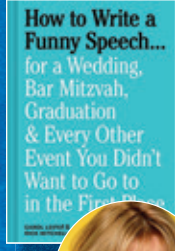
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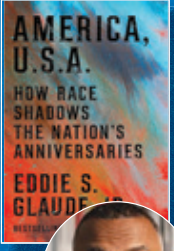
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6:30pm concert
Madoo Conservancy

Haydn & Beethoven
Sunday, August 2, 6pm
Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church

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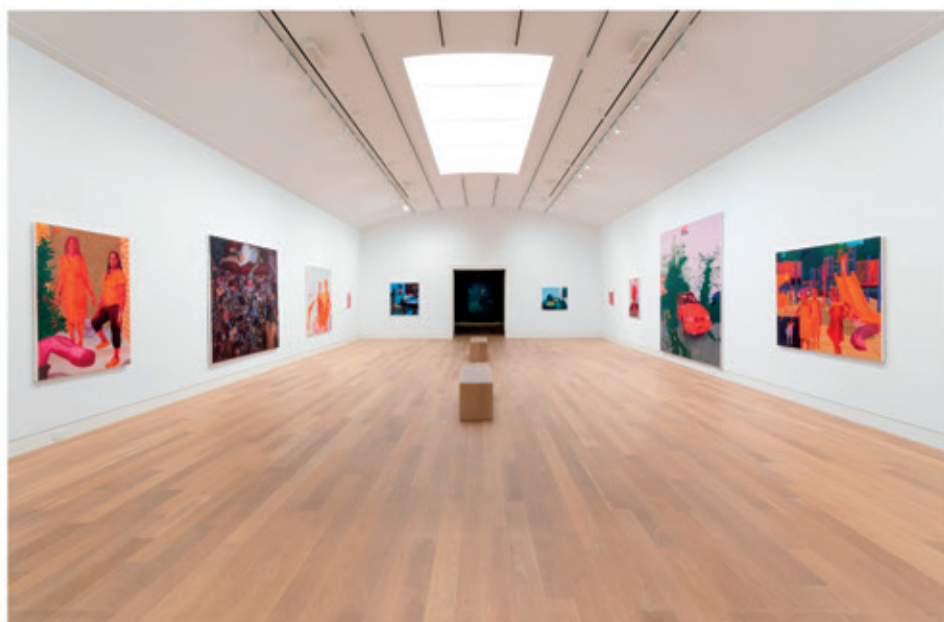
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