



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

10/22/21

EVENT CANCELLED:

In my quote below, I applaud the positive power of Communities working together for the common good. On the other hand, there is nothing more destructive than the involvement of Bureaucrats and Lawyers to tear down such initiatives. Regretfully we have fallen into this quagmire, and we are working to extricate ourselves.

We hope to have a resolution soon, and are able to resurrect this exciting program.

There will still be a program, but it will not include the scuba divers or riverbed cleanup.

And OANA is no longer a sponsor.

Richard Khuzami

Old Astoria Neighborhood Association



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Press Release



Picture courtesy Michael Delakas

One of the keys to a strong vibrant Community is the contributions of its residents for the common good. We in Western Queens have been especially blessed, with groups involved mutual aid, pandemic resources, local clean up, climate awareness amongst others.

On October 24th, we will expand the clean-up to our waterways with “**Under the Water: Cove cleanup**”

At Hallets Cove at Socrates Sculpture Park, an event sponsored by the [Old Astoria Neighborhood Association](#) and hosted by [Socrates Sculpture Park](#), divers and neighbors will clean up the beach front and under the water. In scuba gear, this should be an interesting insight into our neighborhood.

All are welcome! Join us to help clean Beach area, watch the scuba divers, explore the tides, learn about the history of this site, and consider how we can all help care for the Cove into the future.

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The schedule is as follows:

11:00 am Kin to the Cove gathering to clean up and prepare the beach area 11:00 am Divers arrive and prepare themselves

Noon to 1:00 pm Divers enter the water at to clean up Halletts Cove (Time depends on tide and waves)

2:00 pm Collective sculpture-making with the debris begins, before it is thrown away safely

We hope this action will establish a precedent of citizen activism and that it leads to taking the cleanliness of our waterways seriously and engaging in collective care-taking of our public spaces. We look forward to the return of Halletts Cove as an inviting friendly body of water for everyone to enjoy.

The Dive Team is sponsored by [Blue Water Divers](#), with Astoria's own "Michael A. Delakas" as instructor and team leader. Michael is an Astoria native. Michael's law practice is located and maintained in Astoria. Additionally, he is a PADI Master Instructor, and has been teaching various Scuba diving courses for almost twenty years.

Kin to the Cove is a community-powered environmental public art project that connects people to the water in and around Socrates Sculpture Park. With respect to the Lenape, Carnarsie, and Matinecock people who cared for this water and land for over ten thousand years, we attempt to reframe the water as our Kin through environmental stewardship, story-sharing, movement, deep listening, and art-making in relationship to the water. This project is part of the ongoing global project, [36.5 / A Durational Performance with the Sea](#), which will take place at Socrates Sculpture Park in September 2022.

Quotes:

Michael A. Delakas, Blue Water Divers: 70 % of our planet is covered by water. Humankind cannot survive without the sea. Cleaning a beach is small start to saving our ocean

Richard Khuzami, Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA): "This is a great example of how our various local institutions can partner together to create a stronger more vibrant community. OANA advocates for quality of life issues on the Astoria Waterfront and surrounding communities, and nothing ties us all together more than our waterways.

Sarah Cameron Sunde, Kin: "Direct access to the water is rare in New York City. The Cove is a special spot that deserves our care and attention on October 24 and everyday.

*This action compliments another "riverbed clean" up done by the NYC EDC on the north end of Halletts Cove.