

Celebrating the role of All Souls and running for accessibility

BY DANIEL KERR

Historic All Souls church has stood on the hill at the entrance to Stony Brook village since 1896. Although much has changed since then, the simple beauty of the church building and the interior have remained true to Stanford White's design. The church opens its doors every morning for prayer and reflection and hosts monthly Saturdays at Six Concerts, Second Saturday poetry readings, and Native American Drumming.

On Sunday, Oct. 2, the 14th annual SOLES for All Souls 5K Race/2K Walk will celebrate the role of the National Landmark chapel in the community and raise funds to make it accessible to all.

All Souls vicar Father Tom Reese said, "Part of our mission is that our doors and hearts are opened wide to all people. With the help of our neighbors and friends, the success of this project will truly make it possible for all people to come through the doors into All Souls."

SOLES For All Souls is one of the most inclusive 5K race/2K walks on Long Island. Serious runners compete for gold, bronze and silver medals in age groups from under 13 to over 80 and receive their hard-won medals in an Olympic-style awards ceremony. Dogs are welcome to accompany their masters and

students from Stony Brook University and others often come in costume. Senior citizens with walking sticks line up at the starting line with parents pushing their kids in strollers.

Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn (D-Setauket) is a regular participant and sponsor of the event.

"All Souls Church's historic charm is a blessing for the Stony Brook community but also a condemnation for its accessibility," Hahn said. "The SOLES for All Souls Race/Walk is a divine effort to update this sacred and revered place so that it can serve all who seek its sanctuary."

Avid runner and Stony Brook resident Dick Halluska has also run in the race in the past.

"It is a fun way to spend some time in a lovely setting knowing you are contributing to a worthy cause," Halluska said. "The hilly course is challenging so finishing is its own reward. My advice to first timers, respect the climb up Hollow Road. Your legs will thank you in the end. And don't forget to enjoy the music and comradery."

Registration for SOLES for All Souls 5K Run/2K Walk is through the ACTIVE.COM website (Search SOLES for All Souls) or register Race Day Oct. 2. The Registration desk at the Reboli Center for Art & History is open from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. The race/walk begins at 9 a.m. Complimentary pre- and post-event stretching will be provided by



Winners from a past SOLES for All Souls race. Photo from All Souls Church

Progressive Personal Training. Local musician Bill Clark will perform throughout. SOLES for All Souls is also hosting a Food Drive, "Lend a Hand, Bring a Can." Call 631-655-7798 for

more information on the event or if you would like to be a sponsor. Donations dedicated to accessibility can be mailed to All Souls Race, P.O. Box 548, Stony Brook, NY 11790.