



Stone Soup Leadership Institute's
 Story of the Week: Bette Midler, New York Restoration Project
 Week of June 30 - July 6



Sunday June 30: Story: Bette Midler

READ how Bette Midler founded the New York Restoration Project after discovering that the city's "once-majestic parks were marred by refuse, old furniture" and large discarded household items.

"I realized I had to do something. Even if it meant I had to pick up all that stuff with my own two hands."

Discover how Bette Midler's desire to clean up New York City led to a sustainable program that inspired New Yorkers to keep city spaces, gardens and parks clean.

Her story is featured in Stone Soup for the World and in the Stone Soup Educational Curriculum.

<https://stonesoupleadership.org/storage/2022/12/story-polishing-the-big-apple.pdf>



Monday: July 1: Bette Midler

Most people would be surprised to learn that Annette Williams, a former welfare recipient, has a friend named Bette Midler, founder of the New York Restoration Project (NYRP). Annette had been on welfare for 10 years when she became a NYRP AmeriCorps member and helped clean up New York City parks. Annette became a field manager and worked together with Bette to restore six of the city's parks to their natural beauty.

When people ask Annette Williams about her job, she says proudly, "I pick up garbage." She finds working with Bette a real joy.

Their story is featured in Stone Soup for the World and in the Stone Soup Educational Curriculum.

Link: <https://stonesoupleadership.org/storage/2022/12/story-polishing-the-big-apple.pdf>



Tuesday: July 2: Bette Midler: Hero Report

WATCH this short video of NYRP Founder Bette Midler being honored with the 2012 Doris Freedman Award.

Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, city leaders and community members take time to reflect on the work of Bette Midler and why the way she views the city has made the extra difference.

Link: <https://youtu.be/AKbjn-SAhSQ>



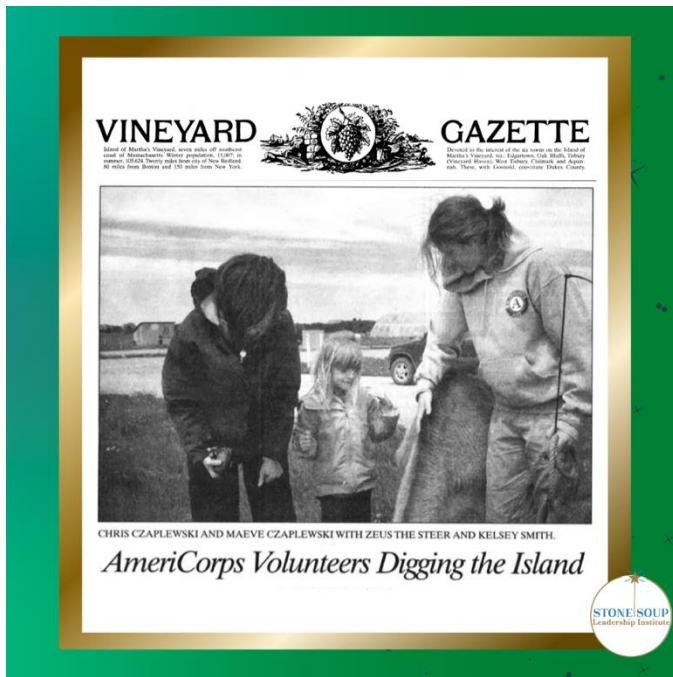
Wednesday: July 3: Honor Roll:

The New York Restoration Project values the unique experiences, knowledge, and resources that each community member brings to our work. NYRP is committed to creating a greener, more resilient city for all. New York Restoration Project's has many ways you can get help by getting involved with one of their gardens, parks, or events.

<https://www.nyrp.org/en/get-involved/>

Nature is a fundamental right of every New Yorker. Everyone deserves access to high-quality public green space. NYRP works collaboratively with residents in communities across the five boroughs to renovate gardens, restore parks, plant trees, promote urban agriculture, and build partnerships that transform the city's landscape.

<https://www.nyrp.org/en/>



Thursday: July 4: The Institute Features AmeriCorps: 2nd Post

The Institute brought the first AmeriCorps team to Martha's Vineyard in 2011. The Vineyard Gazette reports on its impact:

AmeriCorps was invited to the Island by the Stone Soup Leadership Institute and the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative, which sponsored the team for the two months that they serve on the Island. In bringing Raven One here, Stone Soup founding director Marianne Larned said that she "wanted to give back to all of our partners who out of the goodness of their hearts want to share with the kids their green initiatives."

Marianne featured stories of AmeriCorps in her book: Stone Soup for the World: Life Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes. The book and corresponding

curriculum are used in many AmeriCorps training programs.

Read more: <https://mvyli.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/ameri-corps-press.pdf>



Thursday: July 4: Alexis Diaz: 3rd Post

Congratulations Alexis for graduating in the first class of AmeriCorps. We're proud of you for being Manager of the Holyoke Farmer's Market. As a founding member of the Institute's Sustainable Holyoke Youth Leadership Initiative, you helped bring AmeriCorps to your community. We wish you all the best!

Learn more about Alexis Diaz's Journey:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECm1mVhvcHo&feature=youtu.be>

Fridays for Educators

THE STONE SOUP LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE'S
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Social Emotional
& Service Learning Curriculum

Lesson Plan
for the
Story of the Week!

STONE SOUP FOR THE WORLD
A STORY OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP
MARIANNE LARNED

Bette Midler
NY Restoration Project
New York

@stonesoupleader

STONE SOUP
for the World

Friday: July 5: Lesson Plan: Bette Midler

EDUCATORS use this FREE Lesson plan to help your students learn how they can organize clean ups in their own communities.

Help your students learn about the values of imagination, courage, responsibility, volunteerism and determination.

How can your students replicate how Bette Midler “polished the Big Apple” in their own city or town?

Link: <https://stonesoupleadership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/lesson-plan-polishing-the-big-apple.pdf>

Press

COLLIDER

Bette Midler Is a Bride To Be in 'The Fabulous Four'

The Fabulous Four starring Bette Midler, Susan Sarandon, Megan Mullally, and Sheryl Lee Ralph “Once there, sisterhoods are rekindled, the past rises again in all its glory, and there are enough sparks, drinks, and romance to change all their lives in ways they never expected.”

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Saturday: July 6: Press: Bette Midler

Did you know that the New York Restoration Project was born, funded by a special benefit premiere for her film ‘The First Wives Club’ and \$250,000 from Bette Midler's own pocket?

Bette is starring in a new film—headed to theatres this summer. *The Fabulous Four* follows three lifelong friends as they travel to Key West, Florida to be bridesmaids of their college girlfriend, Marilyn (played by Midler).

Theatrical release July 26, 2024 for Jocelyn Moorehouse's (*The Dressmaker*) feature film.

Read more: <https://collider.com/the-fabulous-four-image-bette-midler/>

