

Garden City

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LIFE TOGETHER

MEET THE ADVENTUROUS DUO,
WENDY SAMUELSON & JEFFREY WINICK

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CYCLING THROUGH LIFE TOGETHER

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Garden City residents, Wendy Samuelson and Jeffrey Winick are well-known for their shared passions and professional achievements. This adventurous duo, both avid tandem cyclists and enthusiastic travelers, have built a life together that is as inspiring as it is adventurous. Their story is one of dedication, both to their careers and to each other, punctuated by their love for exploration and their love for their adorable pandemic rescue dog, Lexi.

Wendy Samuelson is a name synonymous with excellence in matrimonial law. Wendy grew up in Melville, Long Island. She attended Brandeis University and graduated magna cum laude with honors in English. Immediately thereafter, she went to Cornell Law School. After graduating, she joined her father's thriving boutique matrimonial and family law firm, and has been practicing family law for over 30 years. Today, Wendy is the sole owner of Samuelson Hause, PLLC, and has four attorneys and two paralegals working at her firm as part of a dynamic team. The firm represents high net worth clients in divorce, custody, prenuptial agreements, grandparent visitation, and post-divorce enforcement matters. Samuelson Hause, PLLC works with clients in both mediation and litigation, and does whatever is necessary to help clients move on to a thriving post-divorce life. "I take pride in making my clients smile and building a path to a happier post-divorce life." She is considered the firm's chief strategist, helping clients solve complex financial and emotional problems (verbal, emotional and physical abuse; drug and alcohol addiction; narcissism; and uncovering hidden assets and income). Wendy's outgoing personality and positive spirit help calm the

waters in high conflict cases and help both parties see a better and more productive path forward. This cooperative mindset is in large part why almost all of her cases settle outside of court. Wendy's ability to balance professionalism with empathy allows her to guide her clients through some of the most challenging times in their lives with grace and dignity.

Jeff Winick grew up in Kingston, New York. He graduated from the University of San Francisco. He is a property and casualty insurance broker at Alliant Insurance Services helping high net worth families customize and tailor their expansive personal insurance needs. While Jeff certainly insures quite a few homes in Garden City and throughout Long Island, he works with clients in all 50 states and internationally, with difficult-to-insure locations always in the mix. "There's never a boring day in my division, finding the most robust and expansive contracts for our clients and prospects, and helping them strategically manage risk without breaking the bank, keeps me on my toes." Interesting things Jeff has insured during his career include a 360-degree rotating house, a Torah, 40 boxes of musical manuscripts from some well-known motion pictures and all of the awards, a herd of heritage cattle, including the bull and his "prized DNA," a small hobby oyster farm in the Chesapeake Bay, a 1909 Honus Wagner baseball card, and a Stradivarius violin. His deep understanding of the insurance landscape and commitment to providing personalized service ensure that his clients are well-protected and informed. Jeffrey's approach to his work is characterized by integrity and a genuine desire to help others secure their futures.

MEET THE ADVENTUROUS DUO, WENDY SAMUELSON & JEFFREY WINICK





Jeff and Wendy have been married 20 years with their 21st anniversary coming up on August 24th. The couple met on the NJ Transit. It was completely random. Jeff was living in California at the time, and was in NYC for the weekend, traveling to New Jersey for his best friend's wedding. Wendy was living in NYC at the time, and was taking the train to visit her cousins in New Jersey. After two long weekend dates, their third date was a two-week trip to Chile! Since the couple was bi-coastal, Chile seemed like a great central place to meet. Wendy's brother foreshadowed this fateful day when he told her five years earlier, "Always sit next to the cute guy on a train, you never know who you will meet!"

When Jeff was ready to move to New York, a year after they met on the train, Wendy flew out to San Francisco on a one-way ticket, and the couple drove across the country for two weeks, stopping at National Parks along the way. While in San Francisco, the couple rented a tandem bike and rode across the Golden Gate Bridge and into Sausalito. It was an exhilarating ride and their first dip into tandem cycling. A year and eight months after they first met on the train, Jeff proposed to Wendy on St. Pete Beach in Florida, where Wendy's parents have a winter home. Although Wendy admits it was a short courtship, she was 35, had already been practicing divorce law for 10 years and, most importantly, she knew that when you find a great guy with a golden heart, who makes you laugh and treats others well, you don't let that guy go!

Jeff and Wendy moved to Garden City in January of 2015. In the beginning of their marriage, they lived in NYC in an 800 square foot apartment, and Wendy was reverse commuting to her office in Garden City. After years of taking a subway, train and taxi to the office and back, it was time to move closer to the office, have a backyard, and be part of a community. Garden City was an easy choice as their house is 10 minutes away from her office.

Beyond their professional achievements, Wendy and Jeff are united by their love for tandem cycling. This unique hobby not only keeps them physically fit but also strengthens their bond as they navigate roads and trails together. The couple has a tandem road bike and a tandem mountain bike with double suspension. While tandem road biking is uncommon, tandem mountain biking is even less common. Most of their weekends and vacations center around tandem biking.

Wendy and Jeff got into the sport because Wendy has a visual and hearing impairment, and it's safer for Jeff to be the captain and for them to bike together. Tandem

biking allows Wendy to focus on all of the natural beauty around her and not focus so much on steering the bike. "My motto is, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade! So, taking up tandem cycling has certainly been our lemonade."

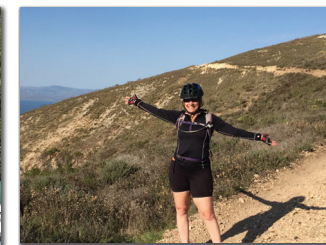
Wendy and Jeff have mountain biked locally in Bethpage State Park and afar—Kingdom Trails, Vermont (near the Canadian border, considered the mountain biking mecca of the East Coast); Crested Butte, Colorado; and San Luis Obispo, California (every year when they visit Jeff's sister and their nephew). The couple takes pride in off-road adventures, such as cycling on narrow 3 foot wide bridges with turns, over water, doing tabletops, high banked turns, and switchbacks down the mountains. They've even conquered the intermediate gravity trails of Burke Ski Mountain, Vermont, after having their tandem go up on a chairlift.

For road cycling, their favorite local ride is from Oyster Bay up to Center Island (past Billy Joel's house). They have cycled abroad in Tuscany, Italy (twice), Croatia, Norway, New Zealand, and this summer, from Prague to Budapest along the Danube River. They have taken one to two week road trips in Vermont, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, South Dakota, Florida, the Canadian Rockies, and the Big Island of Hawaii.

It's hard for Wendy and Jeff to name a favorite trip, but their trip to Norway was incredibly beautiful. "We were on a boat cruise for tandem cyclists, where we would be dropped off in the morning, cycle fifty miles, and then get back on the boat and go to the next place. The scenery was breathtaking, with its light blue waters, fjords, and waterfalls everywhere."

The couple's bikes have couplers, which allow them to break down the bike into two suitcases for travel. It takes Jeff about two hours to break apart the bike and get it into the suitcases, and then about the same time to rebuild the bike.

Tandem biking is the complete opposite of Wendy's work life. As she explains, "When we are biking, we are with couples who love biking together, and are able to



communicate effectively to commandeer this type of bike. We have made close friends from our tandem cycling club and the tandem rallies that we participate in. The tandem community is so tight, that if you are going somewhere in the US, there is someone who will know a tandem couple in that state, and once introduced, they will invite you to go riding with them or even stay at their home."

Of course, like many Garden City residents, Jeff and Wendy completed their family with a pet. During the pandemic, they fostered Lexi from *Ruff House Rescue*. Jeff and Wendy were not ready to take on a dog full-time due to their active lifestyle and frequent travels, but after some mentorship from their Garden City Welcoming Club Crafts buddy, Marilyn (yes, *this Marilyn*) and others who had rescued dogs, they realized they could handle the responsibility as long as they had a reliable dog sitter to help out when they travel. As Wendy likes to say, Lexi was a foster success not a fail. She's a 70 pound mix of Australian Cattle Dog, American Stafford-

shire Terrier, and some Lab and Border Collie. They call Lexi their "dogger" (daughter) as she is their only child.

Wendy and Jeff (and Lexi) agree that there is so much to love about Garden City. As Wendy excitedly explains, "It's such a walkable community with varied and interesting architecture. We live in the Central Section, so we love walking into town with Lexi and eating at the outdoor cafes. There's also a great dog park on Fourth Street behind the church, where everyone is so friendly. We love taking Lexi for a mile long walk in the morning, enjoying the beautiful architecture and gardens of our neighbors' homes. When Jeff commutes into the city, he is able to walk to the train. We are also big fans of the Garden City Community Pool, with three separate pools, great lounge areas and beautiful landscaping." Wendy is also an active member of the community- she is a member of the GC Welcoming Club and enjoys being part of the Bunko group, the Crafts Club and the Supper Club. She has graciously hosted several nights of the Craft Club at her beautiful home.

As they continue to cycle through life's adventures, both on their tandem bike and in their travels, Wendy and Jeff remain a testament to the power of partnership, passion, and perseverance. Their story is a reminder that with love, trust, and a sense of adventure, life's journey can be both rewarding and exhilarating.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WENDY'S FIRM, please visit www.SamuelsonHause.net, email at WSamuelson@SamuelsonHause.net, or call (516) 294-6666.

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