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GIFTS TO OUR TOP 50 WOMEN



YOU'VE BEEN TOPS WITH US SINCE DAY ONE. NOW, EVERYONE ELSE KNOWS TOO.

BNB is proud to congratulate our own

Monica LaCroix-Rubin
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Chief Risk Officer

And all of this year's
Long Island Business News
Top 50 Women in Business.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



THERESA E. SANDERS

PRESIDENT & CEO • URBAN LEAGUE OF LONG ISLAND

Theresa E. Sanders has been a C-Suite Executive for over twenty years. As Urban League of Long Island President and CEO, Sanders has developed direct service programs that help infuse millions of dollars into the regional economy, by empowering individuals to become economically self-sufficient and socially conscience community members.

Sanders holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the State University of New York College at Old Westbury, a Master's of Science in Instructional Technology from the New York Institute of Technology and is currently completing her Doctorate in Education Leadership at St. John's University.

Sanders is an adjunct professor at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury and serves as Chair of the Board at Suffolk County Community College.

In addition, Sanders is the lead coordinator for the State of Black Long Island Equity Council and Research Initiative, a member of the Executive Committee for the Long Island Regional Planning Council, a member of the Hall of Fame for Long Island Business News' Top 50 Women, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and recently selected as one of Long Island's Power Fifty people.



CAROL SILVA

VETERAN NEWS ANCHOR

Carol Silva is the veteran, Emmy Award-winning news anchor from News 12 Long Island. For 33 years she shared life from the News 12 anchor desk and on the road. Silva reported from Ground Zero, Albany, Washington, New Orleans and Texas covering Popes and Presidential elections, State and Congressional hearings.

Silva's three Emmys are among her 40-plus journalism awards. She is a 2019 inductee into the prestigious Silver Circle of the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television, Arts & Sciences and the Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame. A New York Institute of Technology graduate, they awarded her their 2018 Honorary Doctorate. Silva is also a NYS "Woman of Distinction."

In 2019 Silva filled New York's Marriott Marquis Ballroom

leading the Executive Leadership panel for the global WICT Leadership Conference (Women in Cable Telecommunications.) In her hundreds of appearances Silva also speaks about motivation, working women, finding your power and coming back from defeat. (For 33 years Silva hung her first Cablevision rejection letter on the wall of her News 12/Cablevision/Altice office!) A Mexican American, Silva was named Hispanic of the Year by the Suffolk County Police Department and a Hispanic role model by the Nassau County Hispanic Cultural Association.

Silva says everyone has a story. Her next chapter is still being written.



JACI CLEMENT

CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • FAIR MEDIA COUNCIL

Jaci Clement earned her first byline in a daily paper when she was in the fourth grade. She's been working for and with the news media ever since. Today she is recognized as an American Media Scholar, serving as CEO and Executive Director of the Fair Media Council, a one-of-a-kind 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization advocating for quality news and working to create a media-savvy society.

In her career, Clement has been an award-winning journalist and marketer as well as an accomplished newspaper executive. Today she regularly writes and speaks on trends in media and its impact on culture and hosts the popular podcast, FMC Fast Chat.

She is a champion pro-am competitive ballroom dancer and is working on a novel based on her experiences as a reporter

and dancer.

Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, she earned a B.A. in Communications/Journalism from Hofstra University. Today she resides in Huntington, where she drives a small car and is owned by a large dog named Jive.

CONGRATULATIONS

to all of the inspiring women recognized as the
2020 **"Top 50 Women in Business"**.

Your leadership and passion for Long Island is what makes our
destination the ideal place to live, work and visit.



Discover Long Island is proud to be led by our own passionate and inspiring female President & CEO, **Kristen Jarnagin**, an inductee into this year's Top 50 Women in Business Hall of Fame. We are so proud of all of you!

[DiscoverLongIsland.com](https://www.DiscoverLongIsland.com)

DISCOVER
LONG ISLAND
NEW YORK

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Tracey Lange Krut

Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter and all your Islip Town colleagues, congratulate you on this well-deserved recognition.

Gina Coletti

FOUNDER, CO-CHAIR • SUFFOLK COUNTY ALLIANCE OF CHAMBERS, INC

Gina Coletti is a respected woman of accomplishment for her spirited leadership and significant contributions enhancing our region. Coletti is the Founder & Co-Chair of the Suffolk County Alliance of Chambers, Inc., undeniably dedicated to supporting and educating chambers of commerce and small businesses.

As chair of the Suffolk County Women's Advisory Commission, she creates subcommittees on issues impacting women for providing suggestions to the Suffolk County Executive and Legislature.

She is a realtor who utilizes her finance, banking, appraisal and property management experience to fully serve buyers, sellers and investors in public-private partnerships, and all aspects of commercial and residential real estate transactions.

During COVID-19, she hosted Weekly Chamber Zoom meetings providing critical updates on the Federal CARES Act, Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Paycheck Protection Program with collaborations from local officials.

She is a member of Suffolk County's Economic Development and Planning Downtown Revitalization Advisory Panel and the Ronkonkoma Advisory Board, Smithtown Executive Board Business Advisory Council, NYIT School of Management Business Advisory Board, ECNY/Career Map LI Executive Board and the LI Solar Roadmap Consortium.

Her endeavors are recognized as a role model locally, regionally and internationally. Her distinguished contributions, business leadership, and inspiring accomplishments include honors such as the Suffolk County "Woman of Distinction," Legislator Kennedy's "Women in Power," Vi-

sion Long Island's "Smart Growth Award, the Italian-American Museum's "Ambasciatore Award", the Lt. Detective Joseph Petrosino - Association in America "Outstanding Business Leader Award," International Association in Padula, Italy "Culture of Legality Award," and the Solunto Foundation of Palermo, Italy "Certificate of Merit."

Coletti earned a Bachelor's degree in business administration and finance from the New York Institute of Technology. Her greatest pride and joy are her husband Robert and daughters Lauren and Jaclyn.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Develop excellent listening skills. It is imperative to fully understand the needs and expectations of your managers, co-workers, clients and family to properly respond and exceed their expectations. Be genuine, stay true to yourself and never give up. Have faith in knowing that everything happens for a reason.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

COVID-19 has shown me the importance of adaptability in a fluid, ever-changing environment and pivoting to the critical needs of the chambers of commerce, small businesses and the members of the communities we serve. Resiliency and collaboration are the keys to success during these unprecedented times.



Hall of Fame

Kristen Jarnagin

PRESIDENT AND CEO • DISCOVER LONG ISLAND

With more than 20 years of experience in the tourism and hospitality industry, Kristen Jarnagin oversees the official regional organization charged with furthering Long Island's \$6.1 billion tourism economy.

A Long Island transplant from Arizona, Jarnagin's vast knowledge of the tourism industry spans from state tourism marketing, branding a luxury resort and serving as a lobbyist for tourism advocacy.

Jarnagin and her team at Discover Long Island work to promote a positive perception of Long Island across the globe, which draws lucrative visitors, stirs business attraction and drives economic development throughout the region.

She's been named to the Top 50 Women in Business on Long Island's Hall of Fame, and is a graduate from the acclaimed Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University.

Her favorite pastime is discovering Long Island with her two daughters and reigniting the passion for this place we call home for Long Island natives.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

Tourism is an industry that influences and impacts the greatest moments in life. It encapsulates the life experiences that we will remember as our fondest and most treasured memories: honeymoons, bucket list trips, visiting friends and relatives, celebrating milestones and commemorating achievements. And in doing so, it creates countless jobs, supports small business and generates

critical revenues utilized by our local governments to improve residential quality of life.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

I had the privilege of meeting and working alongside my idol, Sandra Day O'Connor, on her efforts to combat human trafficking. On one occasion, I was expressing doubt in my experience and ability on taking on a new and high level role and she held my hand and said, "As long as you lead with your heart, you'll be successful in whatever you do."

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

There is no other industry more negatively affected by COVID-19 than tourism, and 2020 has been an incredibly challenging year, with more challenges certainly to come. But with challenges, come opportunities, and this year has provided me the ability to connect with and serve hundreds of small local businesses that I might otherwise never have engaged. I've had the ability to utilize my position, my contacts and my industry to give back to my community and this crisis has showcased my ability to be agile and responsive in a time of need. I look forward to continuing to do my part in the economic recovery of our region.



Hall of Fame

Rita Acquafredda

PRESIDENT, GLOBAL LAB BUSINESS • ZAHN DENTAL, DIVISION OF HENRY SCHEIN, INC.

Rita Acquafredda has been the President of Global Lab Business, Zahn Dental, a division of Henry Schein, Inc., since 2017.

Acquafredda joined Henry Schein in 2006 as the Director of Operations for Zahn as part of the acquisition of Darby Dental.

Prior to this role, she served as the Vice President and General Manager of Zahn from 2010 until 2016, and before that, served as the Director of Operations and General Manager there from 2007 through 2010.

She is a founding member of Women in Dental Technology, which was rebranded Women in Dentistry (WID) in 2020.

The organization began as an informal networking group, and has since evolved into an industry forum convened each year at the Chicago Midwinter Dental Meeting. WID aims to raise industry leaders' awareness of women in dentistry, as well as highlight their roles as speakers at conferences and other industry events.

Acquafredda served on the Board of the National Dental Lab Association (NDLA) for four years. During her tenure, she helped build the Foundation for Dental Laboratory Technology and JDT Magazine by increasing marketing and advertising revenues.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I started as a part-time employee at Nordent as a high schooler. Because of the mentorship of Sidney and Erica Nordhauser, I decided to make the dental lab market my career.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

Personally, my mother has been my greatest inspiration. We immigrated to the U.S. from Italy when I was 13 years old. Her perseverance, determination and honesty made me the woman I am today. Professionally, Stan Bergman, our CEO, has taught me that nothing is unattainable. His leadership and commitment to social responsibility resonates throughout the entire company.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Be true to yourself and always work with pride and honor. Most importantly, learn from history.



Henry Schein applauds

Rita Acquafredda

President, Global Lab Business, Henry Schein, Inc.

for being named one of Long Island's
Top 50 Women in Business.

Thank you for your vision and leadership to enhance our efforts to offer end-to-end solutions for dental laboratories that are fully supported by best-in-class technical service, training, and education for laboratories of all sizes. In addition to making an impact on our Company and customers, we recognize your commitment to mentoring the next generation of leaders and supporting the programs that enable us to give back to society and the communities we serve.



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Valerie Anderson Campbell

PRESIDENT, CEO, SR. RECRUITER • ANDERSON CAMPBELL RECRUITING

Valerie Anderson Campbell is the president and CEO of Anderson Campbell Recruiting, where she provides human capital and consulting services to companies and individuals.

She is a human resources professional with expertise in strategic planning, developing human capital management systems and cross functional team building. Anderson Campbell has business partner experience in leading multi-disciplinary teams to successfully drive business objectives and the ability to establish long-term business relationships across geographies.

She also serves as the Nassau County Director for the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce. She is a Board Member of the Alumni Associations of Nassau Community College and serves on the Finance, Judiciary, Scholarship and Social Committees.

Additionally, Anderson Campbell serves as VP, Membership and Fundraising chair on the Uniondale Community Land Trust board, committee member for the Advisory Board for the LI Business Expo, committee member for the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, Committee, committee member for the Dream Foundation, committee member of the Nassau County District Attorney African American Advisory Council, committee member of the 2020 Nassau Complete Count Committee, where she serves on the Business, Communications, Education, Faith Based, Immigration, Local Government, and People of Color, sub-committees.

She recently completed the Citizens Police Academy Program, an additional outreach initiative she partakes in

to aid in strengthening relationships and communication in Nassau County communities. Lastly, she is a member of the Melville Diversity Council, where like-minded business owners and local government officials work together to promote diversity in our communities.

She graduated from Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus, where she double-majored in business and information systems and earned a B.S. She also earned a Certificate with Distinction, in Paralegal Studies from Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I am a problem-solver. I listen well. Lastly, I take action. Working in Corporate America in the human resources department prepared me well. When I became a stay-at-home mom, I became a recruiting consultant, providing full-life-cycle recruiting services. Today, 21 years later, I have grown my company into a human resources management firm. We provide recruiting services, executive search, outsourcing, onsite management, payroll services and consultant services.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice I have received in business is "Be Transparent" and "Do what you say you're going to do." That is, follow through on whatever you promised you said you will deliver. Building TRUST and being dependable is immeasurable.



Carline Beaubrun

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • PAJAMAS & A PURPOSE, INC.

Carline Beaubrun is the founder and creative director of Events By Carline, a full-service event production company located in Garden City. Beaubrun began her career in the event industry more than 17 years ago, creating custom decor and out-of-the-box experiences for social events.

Baubrun has planned and designed celebrations all over the world. Her passion for event design has led her to teach event design workshops to emerging event professionals nationwide, and her expertise has landed her speaking opportunities at many event industry conferences, expos and events.

As an event industry leader, she found her purpose for using her talents to make a difference in local communities as the founder and executive director of a nonprofit organization, Pajamas & A Purpose, Inc.

This organization empowers women and girls in our communities to find their life's purpose, share their purpose and serve a purpose through positive peer support, self-development and community involvement, one pajama party at a time!

She holds leadership roles in many event professional organizations, and is the President of the Wedding Association of Manhattan, the Vice President of the Young Event Professionals and is a Programs Committee Member of the International Live Events Association New York Metro Chapter.

Baubrun is a proud supporter and sponsor of Birthday Wishes, an organization that provides birthday parties to children experiencing homelessness, as well as, Wish

Upon a Wedding, an organization that grants weddings and vow renewals to couples facing serious illness or a life-altering circumstance.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Starting out I felt so hungry to find my 'purpose.' I didn't know what I wanted to do, but I always knew the woman I wanted to be. I was blessed with many talents and a mind that wouldn't let me rest, filled with grand ideas that always seemed impossible or misunderstood by most until they came to fruition. It took me some time to understand I wasn't crazy, weird or different. I was a visionary. Most people couldn't see what I was able to see. In times when I doubted myself, I turned to a quote from Maya Angelou, "If you're always trying to be normal, you'll never know how amazing you can be."

As women in business we have unique and powerful perspectives to offer every industry and walking in that power means walking with confidence – not arrogance or fear. Embrace who you are with every challenge. In every challenge you will discover something new about yourself that will help you propel forward so you can become who you are meant to be. Don't quit, never give up, follow your vision even if others can't see it.



Natalie Bowen

PRESIDENT • BOWEN MEDIA

Natalie Bowen is an award-winning designer, artist, President of Bowen Media and, most excitedly, a new mom.

Just weeks into her parenting career, but more than 11 years into her professional career, Bowen's trail of entrepreneurial and agency experience has impressed an uncommon blend of creative EQ and business IQ.

Equally, her uncompromised eye for growth has pushed her namesake company and their clients toward newer, more inventive ways to reach audiences, via digital platforms and web experiences.

Her team of designers, developers, strategists and marketers boasts some of the region's top talent, privileged and prized to work beside some of the nation's biggest brands in tech, apparel, manufacturing and real estate.

She is a graduate of Fordham University, and sits on both the Executive Leadership team for Ellevate's Long Island chapter, as well as an advisory committee for Family Residences.

Beyond her work at Bowen and local organizations, she is grateful to absorb inspiration from her world travels alongside her husband and by creating art of her own. Time spent with her loving family - and by simply listening - is often where she draws her best ideas... and as a new mom, she won't be planning for a shortage of either anytime soon.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

Right when we started hearing the news about COVID-

19, I found out that I was expecting my first child. These circumstances of badly wanting to continue growing my company, and be the best mother I can brought me more motivation to come out of this pandemic stronger and in a better place this year than anything before.

In the beginning of the year, we were in contract on a building for our next office space. Despite the risks, and rapid transformation of our professional lives, my partner and I made the decision to bet on ourselves and move forward with the investment. We're thrilled to begin this next chapter of our business, and COVID-19 is impacting the way in which we design our new space to maximize the safety, concentration, productivity, and collaboration of our team.

Rather than considering layoffs, we needed to hire quickly. Months of searching for and interviewing top talent for key positions finally paid off with four new additions to our team that would enhance our agency's capabilities and set our clients' up for success in my absence. We reopened our office over the summer so these new team members could experience that special environment and team dynamic that our company has. The previous experience of working efficiently virtually, however, was very reassuring that all would be ok as I approached my maternity leave...

The pandemic, and 2020 as a whole, has brought crossroads of transition personally and professionally that required leaps of faith and believing in oneself, and one's dreams. As a result, I have experienced so many consequential gifts, and could not have asked for a more incredible impact on my life this year.



Mayfair Privé congratulates the 2020 Top 50 Women in Business especially

Laurén Serrano

Spuntino Brick Oven Restaurant

Mayfair Privé is proud to celebrate Laurén's passion, professionalism, compassion, and commitment to the community, especially during these difficult times.

I am so proud to sponsor her efforts.

Thank you

Dan Kulchinsky, Business Owner

Over 50 Years, Long Island

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Erica Bradley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • NORTH SHORE TV

Erica Bradley has been working for North Shore TV for 19 years, starting as the Production Coordinator in 2001. In 2012, she was promoted to Director of Technical Operations and then in December of 2015 she became the Executive Director.

She received her B.A. in Communications from Marist College and is a member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS). She was nominated for two New York Emmys for the North Shore TV programs, "World War II: Our Veterans Stories" and "Welcome Home."

Bradley has won numerous Hometown Media Awards from the Alliance for Community Media for her roles in creating Community Access programs. In 2004, 2008, 2013 and 2016 through 2020, North Shore TV received the National Hometown Award for Overall Excellence in Public Access TV programming.

Before beginning her career at Public Access, Bradley worked in the independent film industry, working on award winning films such as "The Ballad of Ramblin' Jack," "L.I.E." and "Scotland, P.A."

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I have been interested in working in production since high school. I originally wanted to become a news anchor, which is ironic since I later developed a fear of public speaking. However, once I took my first television production class in college, I was hooked. I just loved the

process of creating programming behind the camera. I still do.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

"Do what you love and love what you do." There's nothing worse than having to wake up every morning dreading going into work. I love my job, I love my staff and our workplace is a happy one.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

Our organization played a vital role in providing a media outlet for a very large healthcare provider in New York. As the Executive Director, I had made the decision to work alone in our studio with the help of my staff from remote locations. I also had three children going to school remotely at home. Running our studio full-time while supporting my family and trying to stay safe and healthy was certainly a challenge, but one that I was confident could be done and excited to take on.



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Together We Heal

Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer (SPOHNC) salutes Executive Director, Mary Ann Caputo, for being selected as one of LIBN's 2020 Top 50 Women in Business on Long Island.

Her leadership, tireless efforts, compassion and positive force in this community help to empower and improve the lives of patients, survivors and their loved ones.

Mary Ann Caputo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • SPOHNC (SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH ORAL AND HEAD AND NECK CANCER)

Mary Ann Caputo is the Executive Director of Support For People With Oral and Head And Neck Cancer, SPOHNC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting oral, head and neck cancer patients and their loved ones.

Since 2005, she has been a tireless advocate for families during what is often the most challenging time in their lives, guiding them through a cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

Caputo's career at SPOHNC was inspired by its founder Nancy Leupold. Her diagnosis, determination and vision for the organization inspired everyone, including Caputo. Since her appointment as Executive Director, she has helped to develop new programs, published an array of resources for navigating this disease, grown funding by 20 percent, and expanded the number of support groups from 25 to over 100 throughout the country with a mentoring program of over 225 volunteers.

Her studies at City College and Pace University prepared her to pursue a career in social services. Despite ten years as a Finance Director at Revlon, Inc., her earlier residency as a social worker at Bellevue Hospital in New York City was the biggest game changer for her.

Prior to joining SPOHNC, she put her energy into her family, raising her twin boys, Frank and Larry, and her daughter, Christina. She resides in Bayville with her husband, Lawrence.

Today she is continuing her true calling. Helping others is

a gift that keeps on giving and she feels blessed to be doing what she loves. In addition to her work at SPOHNC, Caputo is on the editorial board of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and on the EAB SPORE for Head and Neck Cancer at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

Nancy Leupold, founder of SPOHNC, was an inspiration to me from the moment I met her. Her passion, work ethic and vision to help support cancer patients and their loved ones was incredibly inspiring and enriching. It is my privilege to be able to carry on her legacy and to develop and continue all of SPOHNC programs, resources and publications for this cancer patient community. Here at SPOHNC, we enable cancer patients to overcome their initial feelings of helplessness and adopt a proactive attitude of survivorship. Together, we can heal!

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Honesty, integrity and kindness have always been my model to emulate in my career, with my team, and staff members. Put simply, actions speak louder than words. I learned this watching my parents in their parenting skills, as well as their own careers. I was taught to make my own decisions, and learn from those decisions, challenging myself one day at a time.



Joy Chin

PRINCIPAL • JACKSON LEWIS P.C. JACKSON LEWIS P.C.

Joy Chin is a Principal in the Melville office of Jackson Lewis P.C.

She is a member of the firm's Board of Directors, co-leader of the firm's Affirmative Action Compliance and OFCCP Defense Practice Group and co-leader of the firm's Pay Equity Resource Group. She was recognized in the 2020 and 2021 Editions of Best Lawyers in America and the Lawyers of Color 2020 Power List.

Chin has more than 25 years of experience helping employers navigate EEO and affirmative action regulations. She regularly works with corporate counsel and human resources executives to develop practical approaches to EEO and affirmative action compliance.

Chin has successfully defended employers in litigation, OFCCP audits, and EEOC and OFCCP complaint investigations, including "glass ceiling" audits and claims of systemic discrimination in pay, hiring, promotion and termination.

She works with a team of affirmative action plan (AAP) analysts and data specialists in the preparation of AAPs and EEO-1 and VETS-4212 reports for the firm's government contractor clients. In addition, Chin and the firm's statisticians work closely with clients to design and conduct in-depth analyses of compensation and bonus award systems to identify and address potential problems before they arise.

Chin has lived on Long Island for nearly 30 years. Prior to joining Jackson Lewis, she was an assistant district attorney with the Kings County (Brooklyn) District Attorney's Office and the Nassau County District Attorney's Office. She has also served on the Society for Human Re-

source Management, Long Island Chapter, Diversity and Inclusion Council and as co-chair of the Suffolk County Bar Association's Labor and Employment Law committee.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

Fortunately, I find inspiration in a variety of people and things, but the people who have most greatly inspired me were my parents. They taught me that anything is achievable if you put your heart into it, and consistently encouraged me to push beyond my comfort zone.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Be true to yourself. Adhere to your values. Remain open-minded and listen to others who have different points of view, but always make up your own mind and stand up for what you believe in. If you don't, your work becomes meaningless.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

How hasn't it?! The COVID crisis has been a challenge for me as it has been for many, but I feel fortunate to work at a firm that has been supportive of the personal and professional changes its people are dealing with.



Lauren Corcoran-Doolin

VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • LGBT NETWORK

Lauren Corcoran-Doolin is a seasoned Long Island executive operative and regional leader for nearly two decades in the areas of communications, public policy, intergovernmental and labor in the public, private and not for profit sectors. She is Vice President of External Affairs at the LGBT Network.

She has led dozens of successful campaigns in the areas of human rights, animal rights, labor and workplace rights, women's rights, LGBTQ and gender identity in New York State and right here in Long Island.

Corcoran-Doolin is a self-identified "true believer" who has made it her mission to amplify the voices of Long Island and New York's most vulnerable communities. She believes it is her life's mission to be an advocate for equality for all and problem solver against inequity.

She proudly joined the LGBT Network's team in January of 2019 after being a fan and supporter of the organization for years. The LGBT Network has championed the delivery of effective advocacy, protection, awareness and services to hundreds of thousands of Long Island and Queens families for well more than 27 years.

As the Vice President of External Affairs, she leads the organization's intergovernmental, communications and public policy strategies as well as acts as the operational point person for all of the LGBT Network's famous and history-making PRIDE events.

Corcoran-Doolin has been a friend and ally to the LGBT Network and Long Island's LGBT community. She has lent her own voice and advocacy to the unique fight for LGBT families by marching alongside them.

She is a proud lifelong resident of Long Island, residing in Bellmore with her husband Kevin, son Finnegan and adorable cat Dolly.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I have always tried to chase a mission, not a career or industry. My mission has always been to amplify the voices of those not always heard and fight for equality and respect for all people. The LGBT Network and our CEO, David Kilmnick, has always been a place that encourages every person to "be themselves, stay healthy and change the world." I was attracted to that positive approach of taking action today to make for a better and safer tomorrow for LGBT and all people everywhere.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

While I'm inspired by many, I must admit that during my time at the LGBT Network my inspiration has often been fueled by our LGBTQ community members. From the brave young people who choose to be themselves regardless of adversity, or those who are targeted by hate still on the streets of their community, the fact that these heroes bravely share their story, continue their fight, and work with the LGBT Network to pave the way for a better future makes each of them my ultimate muse.



JacksonLewis

Congratulations to **Joy Chin** for being recognized as one of LIBN's "Top 50 Women in Business"

Joy Chin is a member of Jackson Lewis' Board of Directors. She is the Co-Leader of the Affirmative Action Compliance and OFCCP Defense Practice Group, as well as the Pay Equity Resource Practice Group. She has over 25 years' experience helping employers navigate EEO and affirmative action regulations.

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Joy Chin

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Yvonne R. Cort

PARTNER • CAPELL BARNETT MATALON & SCHOENFELD, LLP

Yvonne R. Cort is a Partner at Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld LLP, where she focuses her practice on resolving federal and New York State tax controversies.

For more than 20 years, Cort has assisted individuals and businesses with IRS and NYS tax matters, including New York State and New York City residency audits, IRS and NYS audits and appeals, unfiled returns, income tax, sales tax, withholding tax, responsible person assessments, liens and levies, innocent spouse, voluntary disclosure, installment agreements and offers in compromise.

Cort has been selected to New York Metro Super-Lawyers, a designation given to only five percent of the lawyers in the state. She has served as chair of the IRS Downstate New York Practitioner Liaison Group and chair of the Tax Law Committee of the Nassau County Bar Association.

She is a co-chair of the Attorneys and Accountants Joint Committee of the New York State Society of CPAs, Nassau Chapter. She is also a member of the New York State Bar Association Tax Section, where she has contributed to policy papers.

Cort's numerous articles on tax topics have been featured in accounting and legal publications such as the Journal of Multistate Taxation and Incentives, and the Tax Stringer, published by the New York State Society of CPAs.

She is a regular speaker for many professional groups in New York and Florida, and has been interviewed by vari-

ous media outlets, including several leading publications such as Bloomberg BNA and Newsday.

Cort received her B. A. Magna Cum Laude from the University of Rochester, and her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She is admitted to the Bar in New York and Pennsylvania, and is admitted to practice before the United States Tax Court.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

Initially, I was drawn to a profession that combined intellectual puzzles with the opportunity to help people who have real-life, serious problems. While I still enjoy the research and writing that comes with being a tax lawyer, the most satisfying part of my practice comes from working with my clients and the taxing authorities, so that the individual or business can move forward without the stress and financial issues they had before I was involved.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

When you know where you want to go, you can find a path to get there; being positive about colleagues and other professionals helps all of us succeed; there is enough business for everyone; and take the time to work on your business.



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Katharine Fallon

LIFE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM MANAGER • JEFFERSON'S FERRY

As Life Enrichment Program Manager at Jefferson's Ferry Life Plan Community, Kathy Fallon develops and facilitates programs and activities that engage and even enchant the community's residents. Getting to know the individuals, their backgrounds, and interests enables her to develop unique programs and activities that are fun, adventurous, educational, and appeal to a varied group whose individual ages span decades.

When COVID-19 limited the regular activities of Jefferson's Ferry residents, Fallon helped to lead a significant technological revolution among the senior population, coaching formerly technology-shy residents in the art of Zoom and FaceTime, setting up a Zoom Room that allowed the residents the opportunity to readily stay in touch with family and friends.

Fallon also designed a variety of socially distanced programs and compiled a vast library of streaming educational, cultural and entertainment programming that the community could access on demand.

Fallon's background includes positions as varied as ballroom director and dance instructor, Program and Marketing Director at YMCA East Hampton RECenter and Director of Development and Outreach at Long Island Against Domestic Violence.

Fallon is an executive board member and recording secretary for the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce. She launched its Young Professionals group and is chair of its networking and nonprofit committees.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My parents, Peter and Olga Hrycak, continue to inspire me. Born in Ukraine, at a very young age my parents were sent to Germany to do forced labor during World War II. They came to America with nothing but perseverance and the desire to make a better life. People always say, "That Kathy can do anything." I believe I can because my parents taught me to work hard, give it 100 percent, and you can do anything. They taught me that there's no failing in trying.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

My supervisor at the YMCA East Hampton RECenter taught me that when there is an obstacle to overcome, step back, take a deep breath and think out of the box. To prove this theory, he kept throwing challenges at me to work out and master. He never gave me the solution - I had to search out the answers for myself. I grew tremendously in that position and have used those lessons and skills going forward. My jobs have required me to learn how to entertain an audience, run a party, coordinate an event, manage a budget and so on. In every position I would build on my knowledge and take it to the next level. At Jefferson's Ferry I use all my skills to present the residents with a variety of engaging, stimulating programs that are social, active and fun.



Congratulations

Kathy Fallon

Life Enrichment Program Manager

*And all of 2020 Long Island Business News
Top 50 Women in Business Honorees*



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**Jefferson's
Ferry**

Barbara Franco

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • SMITHTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Barbara Franco, the Executive Director of the Smithtown Chamber of Commerce, is celebrating her 14th year in the chamber.

With 300+ members, the Smithtown Chamber is a welcoming presence for businesses and visitors on Main Street. Franco coordinates several major community events, including Smithtown Festival Day, the 5K Running of the Bull, Smithtown Restaurant Week, and more.

Franco has been awarded "Woman of the Year" by the Times of Smithtown, and was honored at the Smithtown Historical Society, where she received the Anna Blydenburgh Award.

In 2019, she was nominated by Senator John Flanagan and honored at the award ceremony on the Senate floor in Albany, along with other distinguished women from New York's senate districts as a "Woman of Distinction."

A veteran of corporate experiences, Franco has shared her career with both national and international companies. She worked as an Administrator at Jones New York; was an editor and publisher of a monthly magazine with circulation of 40,000; was Director of Marketing at Huntington Terrace; oversaw the Setauket property at Sunrise Senior Living; and was the Vice President of Marketing for 14 offices with Coldwell Banker Sammis.

Aside from the chamber, Franco shares her time and energy with two separate community boards - St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center and the Smithtown High School Industry Advisory Board.

WHAT CAREER MOVE OR LIFE EXPERIENCE DO YOU CONSIDER TO HAVE THE MOST IMPACT ON YOUR SUCCESS?

I have been very fortunate in my life and career. My energy has taken me to many stages of wonderful opportunities. When I became the Executive Director at the Smithtown Chamber of Commerce, it certainly changed my life. Being an advocate for the Business Community and working closely with the Smithtown Leadership has been very rewarding. It has been a great pleasure to work with so many outstanding people, dignitaries and organizations, which has afforded me many unique and amazing experiences.

WHAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE FACING PROFESSIONAL WOMEN TODAY?

I was blessed to have two beautiful daughters. When they were young I had the opportunity to work my professional career around their needs. Years ago, working from my home office, I was able to work throughout the night to meet my deadlines while they slept.

Even with technology, I believe it is very difficult for women to manage their business obligations and home life, without a supportive partner or a firm foundation of either family or friends. Now with COVID-19 and alternating school schedules, it is almost impossible for women to manage their children's time and work schedule. Don't know how they do it!



Meredith Friedman, Esq.

MANAGING PARTNER • VAN HORN & FRIEDMAN, P.C.

Meredith Friedman, Esq., is a managing partner of Van Horn & Friedman, P.C. and provides dedicated legal representation to clients living in New York, Brooklyn, Queens and throughout Long Island. She focuses her practice on matrimonial and family law.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.S., Friedman went on to attend the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, where she received a Juris Doctor in 2006.

She is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York.

Divorce and its related legal matters can be among the most difficult times in a family's life. Friedman understands the unique challenges that these events can create. She also knows that a divorce may not be the end of the relationship for many families. For that reason, she strives to help her clients achieve amicable solutions to their legal issues.

While it is generally her goal to obtain harmonious resolutions, she aggressively advocates on behalf of her clients when the other side is uncooperative. She values clear communication with her clients about their goals and how the legal process works, and helps them to address their short- and long-term needs.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

When I first started my career, I began at a general practice law firm. During that experience I realized I really liked family law because I was helping clients going

through difficult and emotional times. I was able to speak to my clients and educate them on the law, so they could make the best decision for them and their families without letting their emotions interfere. My clients appreciate my approach, which I've continued through today. I just love helping people through this difficult process.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My husband and kids inspire me to work hard everyday. I want my kids to see that a strong, successful woman is raising them. I would love for them to be entrepreneurial and want to help people like their mom. My parents also inspire me because of the sacrifices they made for me and my brothers so that we could be successful. At a young age, I saw my mom go back to school to become a teacher and it made me want to be an independent woman. My dad ran his own business, so his work ethic inspired me to want to start my own firm and be in charge of my own career.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

No one manages your career except you. Work hard, play hard.



Donna Gehrlich

OPERATIONS MANAGER • BEB CAPITAL, LLC

Donna Gehrlich is the Operations Manager at BEB Capital, a Port Washington-based real estate owner and developer, management and lending firm. The firm's portfolio comprises multifamily, commercial and mixed-use assets, as well as interests in other businesses.

Gehrlich joined the company in 2014 as a paralegal and quickly rose through the ranks, taking on responsibilities of researching and overseeing implementation of new software systems that enabled broader efficiencies. Those efforts played a significant role in laying the groundwork to support BEB Capital's recent growth.

She holds a Juris Doctor degree from Albany Law School, and has had a career in law and operations management spanning more than 25 years. With time taken off to raise her family, she also created a private party hostess and service company.

At BEB Capital, Gehrlich is part of the legal team, although her primary focus is on improving the efficiency of the firm's operations. This includes meeting with all departments and researching and instituting forward looking software and policies. She also manages and coordinates investor opportunities and serves as a liaison between BEB Capital's investors and the executive team.

Born in Pennsylvania, but raised on Long Island in Northport, Gehrlich earned a B.A. degree from SUNY Oneonta, where she was on the Dean's List. After earning her Juris Doctor degree she was admitted to the New York State Bar Association in 1990.

Prior to joining BEB Capital, Gehrlich was a legal department manager for Long Island-based Systemax, a

Fortune 1000 provider of industrial products worldwide.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

Believe it or not, watching Perry Mason as a child was my initial inspiration for entering the legal field. I loved watching how he put all the pieces of the puzzle together, allowing him to win every case. Opportunity and forward thinking then guided me to the real estate industry.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

I am inspired most by the underdogs who achieve success - the men and women who may not have the opportunities provided to many others, yet still manage to rise through the ranks of their chosen field by hard work and perseverance. I believe if you work hard and strive to constantly learn and improve yourself, you can achieve most anything you desire.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

"Be adaptable and have an open mind." I believe most companies appreciate an employee who is willing to constantly learn and adapt to the needs of the company and/or their particular team. Technology is continually growing and improving and our way of working needs to adapt to the technology. COVID-19 has driven this home more than ever.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
OPERATIONS MANAGER

DONNA GEHRICH

AND ALL HONOREES OF TOP 50
WOMEN IN BUSINESS CLASS OF 2020!

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Halie Geller

CO-FOUNDER • LOCALI BRED

Halie Geller is the co-founder of localI bred, an e-commerce company founded in 2018 that showcases Long Island businesses and products through specially curated gift and seasonal subscription boxes.

A resident of Long Island for only seven years, Geller's passion for local business, and all things Long Island, inspired her to build a business that both celebrates the best of Long Island and introduces local products to a new audience in a fun and unique package.

LocalI bred was created to be a platform for small makers on Long Island, and to show and sell their goods to other Long Islanders or customers elsewhere. The company's boxes come in a variety of themes, from BBQ boxes, to snack boxes, spa boxes and more.

Together with co-founder (and fellow Top 50 Woman) Theresa Pinelli, Geller has overseen the growth and expansion of the company from a tiny, home based start-up to a flourishing business, which now supports nearly a hundred small businesses across Long Island.

Previously, Geller worked as an attorney, advising a wide range of clients from small, family-owned businesses to Fortune 500 companies on matters involving international trade and customs.

She is heavily involved in the local business community across Long Island and is a member of the New York State Bar, Huntington Chamber of Commerce and the Long Island Food Council.

Geller received her Bachelor's from Brandeis University and a Law Degree from St. John's University School of

Law. She resides in Huntington with her husband and two young children.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I was intrigued by the subscription space and e-commerce in general and the idea of introducing this at the local level to customers interested in both discovering Long Island made products and supporting businesses in their neighborhood. Not only is it an amazing marketing tool for small businesses to connect with interested local consumers, it has truly been a powerful way to build a loyal customer base. We are constantly meeting entrepreneurs and makers across the island to source our products which makes everyday different and exciting.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My children (a three-year-old boy and a five-year-old girl) inspire me. They are growing up watching their mother run her own business. My daughter is constantly brainstorming and thinking of ideas for the business she will start when she is older because she thinks that is what women and mothers do. I can't think of anything more inspirational than that.



Arianna Georgiadis

HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERVISOR • GRASSI ADVISORS & ACCOUNTANTS

Arianna Georgiadis brings over five years of public accounting experience to Grassi. She began her career working in taxation where she was involved in tax compliance, sales tax audits and tax projections.

Georgiadis recently had a career change and joined the human resources team. In her new position, she deals in internal HR matters, HR consulting with clients and prospects, along with various projects in taxation.

Prior to her career with Grassi, she worked at big four firm, Ernst & Young, as well as Mazars USA. In both roles, she prepared various state and federal tax returns for corporate and high-net worth individuals.

Upon arrival at Grassi, Georgiadis used her previous knowledge with learning and professional development to assist in the enhancement of Grassi's training programs. This involved providing "Train the Trainer" sessions, which push our professionals to become powerful instructors for internal staff. Along with training, she has proven strengths with internal programs. She most recently spearheaded the revival of the Grassi Women's Council initiative.

Georgiadis is a member of various professional organizations, including the NYSSCPA and the AICPA. She is also the Long Island Committee co-chair for the Financial Women's Association, and a member of the Moxxie Network. She works frequently with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

She received her Master's in accounting from Adelphi University, and is currently pursuing a certification in Professional Human Resources.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My mother is a natural inspiration to me in so many ways, as I have watched her maintain a career and take care of our whole family throughout my life. She has shown me it really is possible to do it all! I also have many professional inspirations, including Grassi's HR Director, Jessica VanRossem, and my FWA LI co-chairs Vivian Breier and Jill Schneider. These women are both wonderfully successful and incredibly brilliant in each of their chosen fields, and I have learned so much from them over the years!

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

COVID-19 has altered the way that everyone in every industry conducts business this year. During the quarantine period, it was truly difficult to find a balance between work and life, since we were all working and living in the same physical space! I have utilized two women's networks I am in, the Moxxie Network and FWA-LI, to gain perspective on how other women in business have been working through the pandemic. This has helped me more than anything! It was great to stay connected to other professional women, and also hear how everyone was adapting to this new world we are living in! It has also become increasingly important to find new ways to build and maintain my network of connections, as there are fewer live events to meet new people.



Clara Giustino

VICE PRESIDENT, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT • NATIONAL GRID

Clara Giustino is the Vice President of Project Development for National Grid, a Fortune 500 electric and natural gas utility serving about 20 million customers in the northeast. In this role, she oversees the development of complex electric and natural gas capital projects for the company. Her team strives to deliver efficient scopes of work, accurate cost estimates and schedules, and conducts critical external stakeholder outreach needed to secure major permits.

Giustino joined National Grid's management trainee program in 1991 as a young female engineer in a male-dominated industry. In her over 29-year career with National Grid, she has held leadership roles in U.S. Capital Delivery, Gas Asset Management, Construction, Gas Control Room Operations, and Process and Performance Excellence.

Giustino immigrated from the Dominican Republic as a child along with her family. Inspired by her aunt who is a Civil Engineer in the Dominican Republic, she obtained a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York.

She went on to achieve an MBA in finance from St. John's University in Queens. She is published in American Gas Association Operating Section Proceedings 1995 as a co-author of her work in vacuum technology. Giustino received the 2000 and 2007 National Hispanic Achiever Awards. She serves on the board of the Long Island Builders Institute. She is also participating in the 2020 cohort of The Energeia Partnership program at Molloy College.

Her favorite quote comes from Michelle Obama, "Choose people that lift you up." Giustino has taken that

quote to heart, and she strives to serve as a supporter for other women at National Grid over the last 30 years.

She is a mentor in National Grid's Employee Resource Group and "Grid For Good" mentoring programs. She is a frequent contributor to National Grid's and Junior Achievement Young Women's Leadership Conference and National Grid's Engineering our Future Pipeline program. Both programs support Giustino's and National Grid's mission to inspire and prepare young people to succeed.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

The utility industry was a natural fit for me to combine my passion for engineering and community service. I am proud to leverage my technical expertise to help deliver energy in a safe and reliable way.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice that I have received in business is to always maintain a customer focus. Business decisions should include a "voice of the customer" lens to ensure alignment with customer expectations.



GRASSI
ADVISORS & ACCOUNTANTS

Congratulations to Arianna Georgiadis
and all of the
Top 50 Women in Business



Arianna Georgiadis, CPA
Human Resources Supervisor

grassicpas.com

STRENGTH IN CERTAINTY

Dede Gotthelf Moan

CEO • CATCOVE CORP.

Dede Gotthelf Moan is the CEO of Catcove Corp. Her commitment and passion shows for her business success, and by how she serves the community. Gotthelf Moan's impact leads with purpose.

Through her work as a compassionate and caring humanitarian, she demonstrates the application of development strategies to implement solutions for social, cultural or environmental issues.

She began her career as a banker with Chase Manhattan Bank, leading its Global Credit Training, Credit Audit Team in 26 countries worldwide. She also held the role as a Real Estate Lending and Advisor to the Chase Manhattan RealEstate Investment Trust (CMART).

She has been the Vice President of New York State Urban Development Corp., in charge

of urban renewal and planning in upstate New York towns and cities, and received a certificate of Special Achievement from Governor Carey. She was the Director of Investment Sales, Julien Studley in New York, and a Partner in Charge of the New York region for the Kaempfer Company.

In 1996, Gotthelf Moan purchased an old supermarket and seven other parcels, creating an assemblage for the first Southampton Town "PDD" known as Catcove Center. The site planned for a brand new King Kullen, and other retail and commercial spaces at the intersection of Montauk Highway and Ponquogue Avenue in Hampton Bays. In 1997, she assisted a Bridgehampton broker in putting together a sales packet for Southampton Inn and "international plaza" in Southampton village.

Gotthelf Moan became the General Manager of the Southampton Inn to oversee day-to-day operations, refinancing, guide and maintain its properties. She is on the Board of the Southampton History Museum, Pianofest of the Hamptons, Southampton Village Business Revitalization Committee, along with supporting other local environmental, arts, and cultural institutions, tourism groups, and economic development associations.

Every year, Gotthelf Moan opens up her business and her home to support



local charities, such as Peconic Land Trust, Southampton Cultural Center, Southampton History Museum, Southampton Pianofest and the Southampton Animal Shelter (where she adopted her Inn's new cat, Rupert Clyde).

During the early days of COVID-19, she closed the Inn to all outside guests to house essential workers for the Stony Brook Southampton Hospital.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

No matter what interests you, a successful endeavor begins with understanding the financial structure and creating meticulous profit and loss statements and projections. And then don't be afraid to try. Stretch it. Focus on things that fascinate you and figure out how to make them work (like a puzzle).

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

While this hideous surreal pandemic has affected men and women alike, I believe that it is the women in business who have been tasked with running the companies, while also being in the forefront of balancing safety and security and empathy to keep family, employees, customers and community members safe. It has been a sobering wake-up call with lessons that will carry into the future.

LONG ISLAND'S
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Top
Women



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Leslie Granger

PRESIDENT, CEO • BIDEAWEE



THE BOARD AND
STAFF AT BIDEAWEE
CONGRATULATE
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
LESLIE GRANGER,
ON BEING NAMED
ONE OF THE TOP 50
WOMEN IN BUSINESS
BY LONG ISLAND
BUSINESS NEWS.



bideawee.org

Leslie Granger was named President and CEO of Bideawee in 2017. She started there in 2010 as the Vice President of Development, and served most recently as the Chief External Relations Officer, overseeing marketing, development and the volunteer program for more than six years.

In 2016, Granger took a brief hiatus to help reestablish the New York City Opera, but after 14 months, she returned to lead the organization as President and CEO.

Under her leadership, Bideawee expanded partnerships with shelters across the country to transport high-risk animals to the organization, and nearly doubled Bideawee's adoption numbers.

In 2019, she presided over the decision to assume responsibility for the operations and management of the New York City Feral Cat Initiative (FCI), a seminal program that addresses the systemic problem of cat overpopulation by providing education, resources and support to the individuals working to humanely reduce the population of community cats in NYC.

Granger began her career in the arts at The Summer Opera Theatre Company in Washington D.C., and then held positions at The Metropolitan Opera Guild and Inside Broadway, before becoming the Senior Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving for North Shore Animal League.

A lifelong animal lover, she shares her Long Island home with two dogs, three cats and her human family – a husband and four boys. She serves on the board of the New York State Animal Protection Federation (NYSAPF).

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Seek out mentors early on in your career! I can't overestimate the value of having someone in your corner to help provide guidance, encouragement and support as you establish yourself, and move forward in your professional life. This is especially important for women, who have historically been undervalued at work and have unique challenges



related to office politics and work-life balance. Being both a mentor, and a mentee has been incredibly instrumental in my own career, and is something that I would encourage all women to explore.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

This past spring, as New York City quickly became ground zero for COVID-19, I was charged with learning how to keep an essential business up and running during a pandemic while ensuring the safety of my staff, our community and the animals we serve. Our organization quickly adapted by transitioning to a work-at-home model for all employees who could, and putting precautions and new procedures in place for essential workers who had to be on site. There have been so many lessons during this time - the importance of community, the value of surrounding yourself with the right people and the ever-present reminder during every crisis of "what's really important." I have learned that there is no challenge that cannot be overcome if we take the time to listen and learn, empower our community, and have the flexibility to adapt to any situation, and I am thrilled to say that we have not laid one person off, or had one person test positive for the virus.

LONG ISLAND'S
50
Top
Women

Nicole Grodner

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE • NORTH ATLANTIC STATES
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

Nicole Grodner is a Council Representative for the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters.

Grodner began her career with the Carpenters Union in 2007 as an apprentice. After finishing her apprenticeship in 2011, and prior to being hired as a Council Representative in 2016, she was a shop steward and mentor.

Grodner is chairwoman for the New York State Sisters in the Brotherhood and serves on the Oyster Bay-North Hempstead-Glen Cove Workforce Development board. She is a trustee on the North Atlantic States Carpenters Training Fund - which has a goal to increase the number of women and minorities in the union.

She facilitates a four-week Sisters in the Brotherhood Training Program designed to recruit women with little to no experience in carpentry. This training program gives women the skills, knowledge and confidence to start a career with the Carpenters Union.

Grodner has presented at state-wide information sessions with community organizations, at a "Women in the Trades" webinar hosted by New York State Senator Kaplan, and at a Sisters in the Brotherhood panel that focused on gender stereotypes in particular industries.

Nicole has volunteered on several projects including the National Wreaths Across America Day, which aims to cover all veterans' graves with a Christmas wreath in remembrance of our nation's heroes.

This state-wide volunteer effort was coordinated by the Sisters in the Brotherhood Committee at six national cemeteries across New York. She also volunteered in the

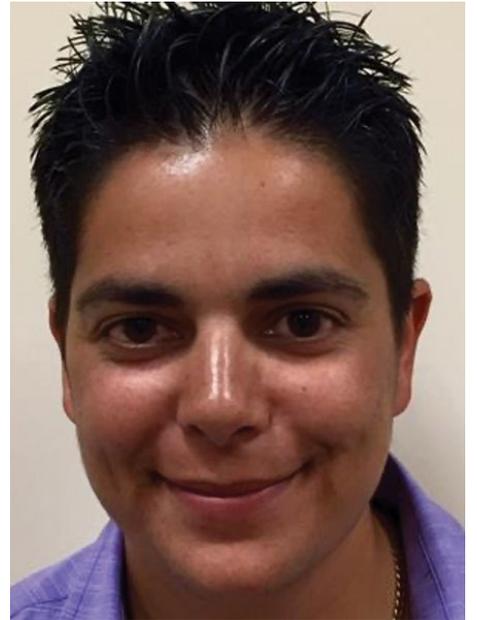
rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico after hurricane Maria devastated the island.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

Initially what attracted me to the Carpenters' Union were the wages, benefits and the ability to learn a trade. As I progressed in my career and became more involved with the union, I began to see the growth opportunities that existed within the organization. The Carpenters' Union not only provided me a career path for myself but has given me the chance to extend this possibility to other women seeking a career in the union.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My mother is my greatest inspiration in life. For as long as I can remember she worked two jobs to provide for her children. She has taught me the values of hard work and dedication, and that there are no limitations to the goals I strive to achieve. As a mother, her love, support, guidance and compassion, has made me the person I am today. As a woman, her courage, strength, integrity and confidence has made me the leader I aspire to become.



Congratulations, Nicole Grodner!

Construction is hard work. But building an industry where equity and fairness are the standard is even harder. The work you're doing to create better lives for your union--and nonunion--Brothers and Sisters is essential.

We thank you for putting your best into making us the best.



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Deborah Hauser

REAL ESTATE BROKER, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER • DANIEL GALE
SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Deborah Hauser serves as Chief Operating Officer for Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty where she supports the marketing and business development teams to deliver leading marketing and technology initiatives.

Hauser is also responsible for co-managing the relationship with sales managers and agents, and works closely with the Sotheby's International Realty brand.

Previously, she was Regional Sales Manager for five years with responsibility for 14 sales offices, supporting over 350 sales agents. Hauser also served as Sales Manager in the Cold Spring Harbor office for several years, and began her real estate career as a top agent in that office. She was instrumental in creating a coaching and mentoring program for agents in 2009, which contributed to its success through difficult market conditions.

Prior to joining Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty, Hauser ran two successful restaurants with her husband, and spent her early career at various Wall Street firms in both sales and marketing rolls.

Hauser attended Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, where she majored in English literature and history.

She resides in Cold Spring Harbor with her husband and two college-age children. She currently serves on the board of the Hamptons Real Estate Association and the Cold Spring Harbor Education Foundation.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE INDUSTRY?

I am a second-generation realtor. Both of my parents spent time doing residential real estate, my father in the

Hamptons and my mother right here at Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty. Beyond that, real estate is a career where you are your own boss. As a self-motivated person, the attraction came from the unlimited financial potential coupled with a flexible schedule. Secondly, I love new things and as a realtor you get to meet new people all the time. I've made some lifelong friendships with people who started out as customers.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN THE BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

"Always do the right thing because it will come back to you tenfold," Pat Petersen, Chairman of the Board and President, Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

When COVID put us on pause, my son returned from college to online classes, my daughter was a high school senior, and my husband had two restaurants. There was a lot of anxiety and uncertainty in our household. I needed to help my family set up for success at home so that I could continue with my own business. As the COO of a large brokerage and head of the marketing and business development departments, I needed to provide guidance and encouragement to my staff. The pressure to keep everyone moving forward, while maintaining a calm voice was enormous. It was a challenge to find balance and maintain calm during that time, but I learned that it could be done, and done well.



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Congratulations

Deborah Hauser

Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty

Chief Operating Officer

on being named

Long Island Business News

"Top 50 Women in Business"

honoree.



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Gale

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Wendy Hoey Sheinberg

PARTNER • RIVKIN RADLER LLP

Wendy Hoey Sheinberg is a partner at Rivkin Radler LLP, concentrating in the areas of guardianship, elder law, special needs planning, trust and estate planning, and trust and estate administration.

She is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and was selected as a fellow.

The National Elder Law Foundation named Hoey Sheinberg as a Certified Elder Law Attorney, and she has published articles in the New York State Bar Association Law Journal, the University of South Dakota Law Review, the NAELA Quarterly, Senior News and more.

Hoey Sheinberg has repeatedly been named as one of the top elder law attorneys, and as one of the top women attorneys in the New York Metro area by Super Lawyers. She was named to Hofstra Law's Outstanding Women in Law Awards in 2018 and Long Island Pulse Magazine Top Ten Legal Eagles of 2014.

She has been named to Best Lawyers in America® for Elder Law and Trusts and Estates from 2013 to 2021. In addition, she was named a 2021 Lawyer of the Year. This recognition is awarded to individual lawyers with the highest overall peer-feedback for a specific practice area and geographic region.

Hoey Sheinberg was appointed to serve as the Chair of the Elder Law Committee for the New York County Lawyers Association, and serves as Vice President of the Long Beach Lawyers Association.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I was inspired to become an elder law attorney by my

grandfather. When my grandmother's mental faculties were failing, he called in an elder law attorney upon my suggestion. I saw how much that attorney made everything easier so that we could all enjoy my grandmother's remaining days without worry about how we would care for her or what would become of my grandfather once she passed away.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My daughter, who is an emergency room RN, and the late Ruth Bader Ginsberg are my inspirations. Both of these women inspire me because they show strength, kindness and compassion. Everything they do/did improves the lives of everyone they interact with.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Don't lose time on useless emotions like anger, resentment, remorse and envy. Don't let other people define you; asserting yourself is neither rude nor un-lady like.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

It has raised new challenges such as finding ways to have human connections with safe physical distancing. I am not sure that this health care crisis has had a gender specific impact on me from a business perspective.



Tessa Hultz, RCE, CAE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER • LONG ISLAND BOARD OF REALTORS®

Tessa Hultz, RCE, CAE began her career in not-for-profit association management in 2005 when she joined the Columbia Board of REALTORS® as Director of its Education Department, charged with also leading its advocacy efforts.

At the time she joined the organization, Hultz was also aspiring to be a first-time homebuyer, as well. The experience of helping to make the dream of homeownership possible for others, while saving up for her own home, had a profound impact on her. She has since become an industry advocate for fair access to safe, affordable housing.

Hultz's dedication has earned her notable achievements and honors including being named by her peers as an inaugural recipient of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) Association Executives YPN Leaders of Tomorrow Award, and her induction in the Bud Smith Leadership Society, whose members play an active, ongoing role as leading contributors to the industry and innovative mentors for the AE community. Hultz has also earned the REALTOR® Association Certified Executive (RCE) and the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designations.

In 2018, she pioneered a first-of-its-kind local REALTOR® Association affordable housing study. Using MLS data, this study measured the impact of habitat homes on surrounding properties compared to homes in similar neighborhoods without habitat-built homes in proximity. The study measured nine metrics, and found neither the control nor study group was consistently favored, and

that study subdivisions with sizeable habitat-built homes continued to draw for-profit builders.

She is a nationally sought-after speaker and presenter on topics from new association executive training, women in leadership, and how the 30-year mortgage creates household wealth. She also serves as a mentor both within and outside of the industry for personal and professional development and accomplishing goals.

Hultz's volunteer efforts have been largely focused on expanding housing opportunities, first serving as a consultant with the Wichita Habitat for Humanity, and then as a Director for the Wake Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. She has also served in the roles of Director and Secretary for the North Carolina REALTORS® Housing Foundation.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

The REALTOR® Association gives me the opportunity to work on improving something fundamental to all people, a place to call home.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

I am most inspired by everyday heroes, the people all around us and that we only learn by chance that they are quietly doing amazing things to help those in need around them.



Congratulations to our Colleague

Wendy Sheinberg

and all of
Long Island's
Top 50 Women



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Janeen Yavonne Johnson

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION MANAGER • PSEG LONG ISLAND

Janeen Yavonne Johnson is a certified Diversity and Inclusion professional with over 10 years of proven experience, engaging C-level executives, employee resource groups and external supplier diversity vendors.

Johnson was promoted to her current position at PSEG Long Island in December 2018. Previously, she served in a dual-role as senior executive assistant to the president and COO, and to the vice president of construction and operations services, while functioning as the co-developer and fiscal manager of PSEG Long Island's fourteen employee business resource groups (EBRGs).

Recognizing a business need to enhance employee engagement and community outreach within the Native American community on Long Island, Johnson founded Miquanak Native American EBRG in 2014.

The vision of Miquanak Native American EBRG is to create a network of employees who positively influence the entire PSEG Long Island business enterprise and all of its stakeholders toward an appreciation of and sensitivity toward the needs of the Native American community on Long Island.

Since its inception, Miquanak EBRG has served as a valued community ambassador to both senior leadership and the company's customer experience group in helping to build a better experience for electric service customers living in the Shinnecock and Unkechaug Indian Nations located in the utilities' eastern long island territory.

Johnson is a devoted mother of three and a native of Los Angeles, California.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

I am inspired by the opportunity to help others fulfill their full potential, in particular women in business. Women do not become successful in business because they were physically stronger than someone else or more powerful than their competition. In business, in order for a woman to succeed, she had to train her mind to withstand defeat. She had to toughen her emotional being to remain strong no matter how many times she was told, "you can't do that" or "that's not for you."

And yet we – women - tirelessly fight for the needs, wants and desires of others. We nurture ourselves and those around us, and build businesses and inspire innovation along the way!

However, women cannot nurture from a place of emptiness... we need a seed – a seed of hope, a seed of creativity, a seed of encouragement, a seed of being valued and respected where we invest our time and talents.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

"Only be thou strong and very courageous" [Joshua 1:7]. Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the inner strength to press forward in spite of one's fear. Success in business requires a "press" or an inner strength in order to manifest the future that you desire to see.



DawnMarie Kuhn

CHIEF OF STAFF • SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR ANTHONY A. PICCIRILLO

DawnMarie Kuhn is a 33-year-old who is committed to breaking down barriers for women in government and politics. Born and raised in Bohemia, she has always had a passion for government, politics and elections - volunteering for her first political campaign when she was a senior in high school.

Throughout her life, Kuhn has put an emphasis on being educated in her field. In 2009 she received her undergraduate degree from St. Joseph's College in social sciences, and then went on to obtain a dual Master's degree from Brooklyn College in public administration and urban development.

Kuhn went on to receive her second Master's degree from Fordham University in campaign and election management, and is currently studying for her third Master's degree at Columbia University in quantitative methods in social science.

She has worked in both town and county government, working in the Town of Islip DEC, and then moving on to become Chief of Staff to Islip Town Councilman James O'Connor.

More recently, she serves Suffolk County Legislator Anthony Piccirillo as his Chief of Staff, where she has helped to lead his team and response efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.

She is deeply involved in the Republican Party. Kuhn is the current president of the Suffolk County Young Republicans, and is the Eastern Regional Chair for the New York State Young Republicans. She serves as an Islip Town Republican Committeeman, and is secretary to the East

End Republican Club in Sayville.

In addition to working a full-time government job, she is a proud small business owner. Right View Strategies LLC is a full-service campaign consulting and digital marketing firm, serving clients from across Long Island and beyond.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

The American Dream.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Some of the best advice I have ever received was to read one chapter of a book, once a day, about a subject or passion you are the most interested about. If you do that every day for seven years you, will become a self-taught expert. Also, to keep learning and expanding your knowledge and passion, you never know what it might lead you.

My dad, a small business owner, also taught me that hard work and a smile goes a long way. Working side by side with him for years at his deli, B&G Deli in Westbury, he instilled in me my hard work ethic and to never stop dreaming.



Monica LaCroix-Rubin

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF RISK OFFICER • BNB BANK

Monica LaCroix-Rubin is Chief Risk Officer of BNB Bank. She is responsible for the bank's Enterprise Risk Management Program, overseeing regulatory and BSA Compliance, operational risk management, and information security. Her team is responsible for developing the bank's risk governance framework, recommending its risk appetite and ensuring that all risks generated by the business are measured, reviewed and monitored on an ongoing basis.

LaCroix-Rubin has over 15 years of banking compliance experience, including compliance and BSA Officer roles at New York regional and community banks. She began her banking career at New York Community Bank, where she worked as a teller and customer service representative. She was later recruited into the bank's anti-money laundering compliance department.

LaCroix-Rubin went on to become a BSA investigator for North Fork Bank, and later a compliance consultant for Integrated Compliance Solutions. In that role, she performed consulting engagements including independent testing and BSA transaction monitoring for several New York- and New Jersey-based institutions. She also worked as a BSA Officer for Carver Federal Savings Bank, where she developed a compliance program for the bank's new check cashing program for the unbanked and under-banked.

In her role as Chief Risk Officer at BNB Bank, LaCroix-Rubin reports to the bank's CEO, Kevin O'Connor, and is a member of BNB's senior management team.

She has served on the steering committee for the

bank's Women's Internal Networking (WIN) group, whose mission is to empower and support women within BNB to achieve their full potential.

She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, where she received a Bachelor's degree in psychology. When she is not measuring and monitoring bank risks, she is mom to her twin 6-year-old boys, Max and Tyler.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I have always loved the image of a bank: Professional, dignified, a source of security... Bankers are able to help their local communities grow and thrive. From helping a neighbor balance a checkbook, to funding a new expansion for an up-and-coming business, I am proud to be a community banker.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Find a mentor at every place you work. Make those connections and maintain them even after you leave. I have been very fortunate to find excellent mentors at each job I've held. Mentors can help you learn the ropes in a way that no formal training can.



LONG ISLAND BUSINESSNEWS

Long Island Business News is working tirelessly to keep our communities informed as the effects of COVID-19 continue to impact Long Island and our world.

However, no one works harder than the men and women on the front lines — our doctors, nurses, medical staff and first responders who risk their lives each day to protect our society. Thank you for your dedication to your craft and your community.

You are our heroes.

LIBN salutes those employees operating under essential business guidelines from restaurant staff, to mail couriers, to grocery employees, and every worker in between.

#LIBNCARES

PSEG Long Island
congratulates



Janeen Y. Johnson

*Manager
Diversity Equity & Inclusion*

along with all the Top 50
Women in Business
honorees



PSEG LONG ISLAND

We make things work for you.

Tracey Lange Krut

CHIEF OF STAFF • TOWN OF ISLIP

Upon graduating from Saint Bonaventure University with a dual B.A. in Marketing and Management Sciences, Tracey Lange Krut began working as a sales rep for a Long Island based head-hunting agency.

She went on to open the company's second office in Manhattan, eventually accepting a position with Prudential Securities, which began her more than 20 year career on Wall Street.

Krut moved to UBS Financial to focus on their wealth management division, and then accepted an opportunity to join the OppenheimerFunds team to create their internal Investment Management Division for the company. She spent the following decade growing OFI Private Investments and its High Net Worth offerings.

Krut moved back to Long Island and into a new career with the Town of Islip, where she has spent the last nine years. Krut came to Islip to be the Executive Director of the Foreign Trade Zone, where she worked for over two years before being asked to assume the role of Chief of Staff.

She has enjoyed this new aspect of her life, living and working in the town she has always called home, with her husband John, her son Jack and her large extended family. Working directly for the first female supervisor in the town's history, Supervisor Angie Carpenter, gives her hope for the future.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

I continue to be inspired by my parents, who have been married for over 50 years, and have created our large terrific family that is and will always be our greatest

friends and supporters. They are both truly amazing people, separately and together who have always put family first. They have always shown kindness and respect to everyone who crosses their path and truly care about this world and want to help others whenever possible. I respect and admire their hard work ethic while they continue to be there for each other and our family while we are blessed to continue to spend time creating memories that last a lifetime – nothing but love and laughs.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice, continues to hold true all these years later, listen more than you speak and soak up all the knowledge you can. Ask questions, for the most part, people love to talk about what they do and they will share with you - find those people and listen and try to learn anything that you can. It may not be in your area of expertise, but you will learn something new or perhaps obtain a trait that may help you in your career. Always, offer to help if you see a need, you may just learn a new skill or build up your resume or find a new area of interest for future endeavors.



Christina Lentini

AGENT • STATE FARM

Christina Lentini sees every obstacle as a learning opportunity and every learning opportunity as a chance to hone her problem-solving skills. She then puts those to good use with great enthusiasm on behalf of her State Farm clients, and the myriad Long Island-based charities she's involved with.

It's that sort of drive that enabled her to become one of the youngest members of the State Farm's Chairman's Circle - the top award bestowed upon State Farm agents. She has been a top commercial insurance producer since becoming a State Farm agent, earning distinctions as a State Farm Small Business Premier Agent and Ambassador Travel Qualifier for three consecutive years.

Lentini became an agent in 2017, and achieved her Life Underwriting Training Council Fellow designation in 2015.

She serves on two nonprofit executive boards, including the Specialized Autism Support and Information organization and the Equity First Foundation, which strives to enhance fiscal literacy throughout Long Island.

Lentini earned a Bachelor's degree in business finance from St. Josephs College in Patchogue, and lives in Miller Place with her son, Dominik.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Keep Your Cool. While there may be lots of things happening both in business and personally, clients do not need to know what happens behind the scenes. Whether someone drops the ball or a mistake is made, I feel it's

best to stay composed. I'll take an extra hour or two to get back to emails or texts to make sure I have a plan in order. I call upon my mentors to mitigate situations that can catastrophic. When I have a clear understanding and approach, I then tackle the issue. Clear heads problem solve better than panic.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

There are two women who inspire me and I keep them very close: Rhonda Klch (Equity First Foundation) and Karin Murphy (The Mutual Growth). From these two relationships, I've learned to build trusting connections, take responsibility, adapt to any situation and make impact through my success. These women are here in our community, making a difference... both tremendously successful and yet take the time to mentor me and develop my individual success. I am living proof that you're a product of the people you are closest to. I am truly grateful.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

Many women are balancing careers, family, school, side hustle, relationships, healthy eating, social lives and self care and let's face it - all those things are harder during COVID. I have found that my close female connections have become more important to me during these turbulent times. The support in business and emotionally is crucial. I feel everyone needs to build a close support circle and with support, guidance and inspiration, you can get through anything.



Rose Liu

LOAN PORTFOLIO ASSET MANAGER • WINTHROP CAPITAL ADVISORS

Rose Liu achieved her MBA in Finance from Stony Brook University, and has completed some coursework in the M.S. in real estate at Schack Institute of Real Estate at New York University.

Liu joined Winthrop Capital Advisors in August 2020 as a Loan Portfolio Asset Manager, providing comprehensive asset management services for a large New York based real estate investment company, and their debt investment vehicles.

She is responsible for being an active member of the asset management team for the multi-billion dollar loan portfolio that is comprised of complex assets within a series of CRE debt-oriented investment vehicles, including first mortgage loans, mezzanine loans, preferred equity, real estate debt and equity securities, and other varied sophisticated credit investments.

Prior to joining Winthrop, Liu was Director of Finance and Research Analyst at Colliers International, one of the largest global real estate professional services and investment management companies.

Her career had focused on performing financial analysis for commercial real estate leasing, acquisition and disposition, and investment transactions in office, industrial, retail and multi-family markets.

In addition, she provided market research to clients and colleagues and produced over 50 quarterly Long Island Office and Industrial market reports. During her tenure at Colliers, she generated a number of large leads and engaged various Colliers service lines globally including the exclusive Landlord Agency of the former Source Mall

in Westbury.

Liu coached Harvard and MIT students and professionals at the annual Harvard Real Estate Development Workshop, with her team being awarded as one of the top-winning teams in March 2018.

She works with and contributes to UJA- Federation of New York and the Every Woman Matters Walk hosted by Northwell Health. Liu volunteers at Habitat for Humanity and Dream to End Hunger, Sid Jacobson JCC's MLK Day of Service.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My former boss at Colliers, who recently retired, inspired me to do real estate business. He saw great potential in me and always encouraged me and taught me how to do business. He was a great role model and true leader who had an impactful influence on me in my career.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Everyone has a great potential and many times we might underestimate ourselves. My suggestion is always to be positive and think the best of yourselves and do not be afraid to try new things and make new connections in the business. The more people you know and more wisely utilize the relationships, the better off you will be.



Julie A. Manteria

PRINCIPAL, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING • UHY ADVISORS NY, INC.

As Director of Marketing for UHY Advisors NY, Inc., Julie Manteria provides marketing leadership to all of UHY's Northeast Region offices, including the China Group practice.

Manteria has more than 20 years of varied marketing experience across several industries, including retail, accounting, legal and consumer products.

Coming from a consumer marketing background, she brings a unique perspective to professional services marketing by focusing on the end-user and client experience.

In guiding marketing efforts for the Northeast Region, Manteria leads overall marketing strategy, industry and practice-specific campaigns, digital marketing efforts that drive significant traffic to the UHY-US website, promoting the firm across various internal and external platforms, managing media opportunities and working proactively with the public relations firm, providing necessary support to partners and principals in their business development needs, and marketing efforts associated with M&A activities.

Manteria has proven to be a firm-wide asset by positioning herself as a leader on the national marketing team. She provides oversight and guidance on the UHY-US website redesign project, leads the development of all national tax marketing materials, serves as a mentor to new marketing team members across the U.S., and represents the U.S. on the UHY International Ambassadors Committee.

She is a member of the Association for Accounting Marketing, the New York State Society of CPAs, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the Public Relations

Professionals of Long Island.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My mom inspires me! She reinvented herself in her 30s and started a successful calligraphy business that put me and my sister through college. I am inspired by her creativity, dedication and passion for what she does.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

I had a supervisor that would ask me for help with things that I had experience with that she didn't, and she would ask me with such excitement because I would get to teach her something instead of the other way around. This not only empowered me, but it also inspired me to give that opportunity to the people that work for me – to be humble and acknowledge that you are only as strong as your team is.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

I get the opportunity to be more creative in my approach to marketing! Most conventional wisdom I had about how to do implement marketing efforts went out the window in March. Replicating the in-person touch points in a virtual way has been exceptionally challenging, but I am embracing it and enjoying the opportunity to get creative and find innovative ways to keep our business growing.



Jennifer Marks

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF LONG ISLAND • J.P. MORGAN PRIVATE BANK

Jennifer Marks is an Executive Director, Client Banker and Market Team Lead for the Long Island office of J.P. Morgan Private Bank. In her role, she develops and implements strategies for the region, while providing wealth planning, banking, investing, lending and trust services to the area's prominent families and individuals.

In 2018 she was selected to be the new driving force behind the growth of J.P. Morgan across Long Island. Since taking on the leadership role, she has grown the size of the Long Island business by 32 percent, and now oversees more than \$3.17 billion in client assets.

Knowing that better input leads to better outcomes, Marks partners with her clients to understand their complex lives from all angles. She then draws upon J.P. Morgan's global resources to develop the strategies that will propel them toward the long-term objectives they have for themselves, their loved ones and their communities.

Marks joined J.P. Morgan in 2006 and has remained with the private bank ever since. She began her career as an Investment Business Analyst and became an Investment Advisor in 2010. Jennifer's natural intelligence and problem-solving abilities have led her to a seat on J.P. Morgan's U.S. Advisory Council, where she works with a select group of leaders to develop initiatives that shape experiences for employees and clients alike.

She earned a B.S. in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University. Marks is involved with the Henry Viscardi School, a private, non-profit organization for children with disabilities.

When not in the office, she enjoys spending time at the beach, exercising and exploring the area's parks and museums with her husband and two children.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice I've ever received is to be authentic – to be you. People do business with people who they like and trust, and that isn't something you can teach people.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

Like with all challenges, this too, has only showed all of us how resilient we are. As a working mom to two little boys, I had to learn how to juggle working from home during one of the most volatile and stressful markets, while maintaining structure, engagement and a safe environment for my family. Never has "rolling with the punches" rang more true and this has taught me to trust my instinct, to accept the unknown and in turn, it's brought me closer to my clients and to our business.



**CONGRATULATIONS
JULIE MANTERIA
AND ALL OF THE HONOREES OF
LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS'
TOP 50 WOMEN IN BUSINESS**

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Christina Mathieson

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM • LEAP EDU

Christina Mathieson is a results-oriented business strategist and lifelong entrepreneur who proudly encourages those around her to dream big and motivated by an unwavering social responsibility.

She is a realtor who utilizes her business expertise in the marketing and pricing of residential real estate, with a specialty in high-performing and solar-powered homes. Mathieson is proud to be a part of the team of educators at Leap EDU, and continues to develop the Green EDU programs for real estate professionals, as well as community education programs, as part of a newly-launched partnership with Hofstra University.

Her "Becoming A Solar Specialist" program is the first of its kind to educate on residential solar power and energy efficiency and how these upgrades affect a real estate transaction.

Mathieson has been awarded NAR's 2019 Ever Green Award, is a certified LEED Green Associate and a John Maxwell Certified Speaker, Coach and Trainer.

She holds a NYS Private Career School Teacher license in electrical technology, a NYS Department of State Real Estate Technical Instructor license, a NYS Real Estate Salesperson license and is a certified NAR Green Designer and Instructor, and holds a NAR Pricing Strategy Advisor Certification.

In 2019 Mathieson was appointed to the Suffolk County Women's Advisory Commission by her Legislator, Kevin McCaffrey, to advise on legislative issues regarding women and families in Suffolk County. In addition, she is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council is proud to

support Long Island-based non-profit, PinkTie.org,

When she's not engaged professionally, Mathieson devotes her time and spirit to her family with her children Robert, Sam, Elizabeth and Lauren, and grandchildren Katie, Michael and Ella.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My great inspiration is my children and their children. I want to make them proud. I want them to know they can be, do or have anything they want in this world.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice I've ever received is that you are the produce of the five people you spend the most time with. If you're the smartest person in the room, find a new room. We must be in an atmosphere where we're challenged to the point of discomfort in order to grow.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

I've gone back to my roots and I'm working from my home office, just like I did when my children were young. There is no greater productivity for me than having the flexibility to work whenever I want and with no distractions. If you can learn to tune out the noise of four little kids, you can do anything.



Joyce Mennella

BROKER/CO-OWNER • LUCKY TO LIVE HERE REALTY

Joyce Mennella, a licensed real estate broker, is the founder and co-owner of Lucky to Live Here Realty.

Born and raised in the Township of Huntington, she brings a passion for real estate, knowledge of the area and technical skills to the table.

As a single mother, her kids inspire and push Mennella to always do better. They were her reason for living and supporting them was her soul mission. She moved from South Florida, where she had resided for five years, and delved back into the competitive real estate market on Long Island.

It was this work ethic that she and her business partner, Elena M. D'Agostino, opened their own boutique brokerage, Lucky To Live Here Realty in 2015.

Mennella pushed through the early obstacles of starting a business, especially a woman-owned business, with enthusiasm and energy. She looked to create a team that believed in making true partnerships with their clients and the community.

She has supported local foundations, as well as created community events with Lucky To Live Here Realty, including the popular "Witches Night Out," which has brought thousands to Main Street in Cold Spring Harbor.

Mennella is currently on the board of directors for the Huntington YMCA.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

As a single mother, nothing could possibly inspire me more to push myself to the core than my kids. They are

my reason for living... supporting them is my soul mission; what gets me out of bed in the morning to ensure they survive. This, tied with my competitive nature, made me want to set myself apart from most real estate brokers... so I went on a full real-estate diet, consisting of work, work, and guess what: more work!

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

Due to the pandemic, I have not only had to rethink my strategy in terms of working, but my entire outlook on life has shifted in order to persevere from home. Working from home in real estate meant thinking out of the box. Real estate agents were initially prohibited from conducting their business as they traditionally had, such as in-person showings and open houses. Consequently, I shifted my thinking to provide these services virtually through Zoom, Facebook, Instagram and FaceTime. What came of this unique situation was an opportunity to connect with more people than traditional situations.



Linda Merenguelli

VICE PRESIDENT AND PROPERTY PRACTICE LEADER • HUB INTERNATIONAL NORTHEAST

Linda Merenguelli currently serves as Vice President and Property Practice Leader with HUB International Northeast. In this role, she works with carriers to negotiate the best possible offerings for all commercial lines of coverage, with extensive expertise in real estate and large property deals.

Based out of the New York City office, Merenguelli holds over 16 years of insurance marketing experience. Prior to joining HUB in 2006, she began her insurance career with CBS Coverage Group in Plainview, New York, where she served as a Marketing Executive for five years.

Merenguelli holds a Bachelor's in business administration from Hofstra University. She also received training from the Lloyd's of London Andrew Beazley Broker Academy, with a concentration in marketing for property coverages.

She is an active member of the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) associate board, and is a licensed property and casualty insurance broker in New York state.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

I am inspired most by those that overcome adversity. It requires great character to handle life's curveballs with resilience and poise. I've watched a terminally-ill co-worker work every day until the very end with strength and determination. Seeing how actor Chadwick Boseman left such a mark on the entertainment world in his short time, while privately battling cancer, reminds me that you are truly capable of anything you set your mind to.

Any time I feel like quitting when the going gets tough, I reflect on those who overcame obstacles through perseverance. I use this as motivation to push through whatever challenges life has in store for me. No story is too small or too great to learn from. I believe that being aware of inspirational stories like these has helped keep me humble and open-minded. It keeps me from judging as I never know anyone's secret struggle. It has shaped the woman I am today and allows me to come from a place of understanding when working with others.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice received in business was to let things go and not take everything personally. This helps me follow a second great piece of advice: don't take a bad work day home with you. It seems like simple advice, but I'm confident it's a struggle we all have. As a perfectionist, I have a hard time with failure. It took years to realize that I couldn't win every deal or avoid every mistake. This undermined my confidence in my work. Now, rather than harp on my mistakes, I learn from them. It is so important to find the balance of developing strategies for improvement instead of beating yourself up for mistakes. This helps me focus on growth not previous mistakes. I'm still a work in progress.



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Paul Collins, President & CEO - HUB International Northeast



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Marianna Mooney

PARTNER • PRAGER METIS CPAS

Marianna Mooney is a partner at Prager Metis CPAs, a member of Prager Metis International at the firm's Woodbury office.

Mooney is a team leader for the firm's mergers and acquisitions for internal mergers. She also trains and develops new team members.

She has more than 20 years of experience within the accounting profession after receiving her Bachelor's in accounting from St. John's University.

Originally an employee of Mayer CPAs LLP (where she joined in 1995), she became part of the Prager Metis team upon the merger of Mayer CPAs in 2016.

Mooney is very proactive in handling all aspects of her client's needs. In addition to providing specialized advice in the areas of tax planning, she also consults with her clients on business management, financial statements as well as their business and personal tax returns.

She works closely with her clients in several industries, and her accounting expertise in medical and professional practices has led to many financial success stories.

Mooney specializes in practice areas, including audit and accounting and tax services. Her service specialties involve tax for business and tax for individuals. She has industry expertise in entrepreneurial services, healthcare, hospitality and professional services.

Throughout her time at Prager Metis, she has implemented training and mentoring programs within the firm to increase the quality of service provided to clients.

She was the recipient of the Profitability and Client Service award during Prager Metis' Excellence Awards

in 2019. This award recognizes continued excellence in serving client needs and internally managing engagement economics.

Richer Communications also honored Mooney in 2019 for the Premier Business Women of Long Island awards, and in 2014, she was named one of the Top 50 Most Influential Women by Long Island Business News. In 2012, CPA Practice Advisor awarded her Most Powerful Women in Accounting.

Mooney is a member of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

As an accountant you will always be challenged with different industries and the different types of clients.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Know your worth - never let anyone tell you different.



Hilary Moreira

PARTNER, MANAGEMENT SIDE LABOR & EMPLOYMENT • BOND, SCHOENECK & KING PLLC

Hilary Moreira is a management side labor and employment law partner who represents and counsels employers in the public and private sectors in all areas of labor and employment law.

She specializes in discrimination and workplace harassment, workplace investigations, employee discipline and discharge, layoffs, personnel policies, employment contracts and severance agreements, union grievances, labor arbitrations, unfair labor practice charges and disciplinary proceedings.

Moreira regularly negotiates collective bargaining agreements and represents public employers in Civil Service Law Section 75 hearings, Education Law Section 3020-a disciplinary hearings, discrimination claims, employment litigation and unfair labor practice proceedings before Federal and State agencies and courts.

She is well-versed in Title VII, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Americans with Disability Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the National Labor Relations Act, the Taylor Law and the New York State Human Rights Law.

Moreira has been listed in the New York Metro Super Lawyers, New York Metro Rising Star from 2015-2020, in the area of employment and labor law, she was selected by Hofstra University as one of the outstanding women in Law for 2020, and was an honoree for the 2016 Millennial Awards, honoring outstanding young professionals.

SHE IS A REGULAR SPEAKER AND AUTHOR ON INDUSTRY SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW.

Hilary received her law degree from Hofstra University School of Law and her undergraduate degree from the University of San Diego.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

In the area of Labor and Employment law, when dealing with personnel, each day brings a different challenge or issue that needs to be addressed. I have the opportunity to interface closely with clients to solve the myriad of issues that arise – many of which, you would never believe would actually occur in the workplace.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice that I have received is to always be the most prepared person in the room. Knowing the background of those you are meeting with and all the underlying details of the particular issue that is being discussed, automatically gives you an advantage over the others in the room.



Congratulations!

2020 LIBN Top 50 Women in Business



Marianna Mooney, CPA
Partner

*On behalf of Prager Metis, our warmest
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Olga J. Mubarak

VICE PRESIDENT • D&B ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS, P.C.

Olga J. Mubarak serves as a Vice President at D&B Engineers and Architects, P.C. in Woodbury. In her role, she serves as Project Manager for the firm's Wastewater Collection and Treatment Division.

In a career spanning nearly 25 years, she has established herself as one of Long Island's most respected engineers and as an experienced, visionary leader in the engineering community on Long Island.

Mubarak began her professional career as a regulator for the Westchester County Department of Health, and subsequently entered the environmental consulting field working for D&B with the priority of keeping Long Island's wastewater regulated and drinking water pristine.

In addition to wastewater, storm water and related permitting activities, her experience includes technical engineering for project planning, design, municipal projects compliance and complete construction management services, as well as representing clients with wastewater treatment plant Discharge Monitoring Report/State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (DMR/SPDES) operating permits.

She is an active member of several engineering societies, including the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) and is a member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

As the daughter of two physicians in Puerto Rico, she embarked on her journey of becoming an engineer and succeeded.

Mubarak completed her undergraduate studies Cum Laude at Western New England University with a Bache-

lor's of Science in Biomedical Engineering and continued her education with a Master's in environmental engineering at Polytechnic University.

In her leisure time she enjoys golfing, biking, hiking and spending time with her three daughters, Juliana, Mariana and Luisa.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

Since my younger years I loved math and sciences and loved challenges. My mother tells me that as a young child I would disassemble everything that fell into my hands. I have a feeling I didn't put anything back together afterwards... Nevertheless, I think as these traits were part of my essence, I was drawn to the engineering profession to create solutions and contribute to society in that manner.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My mother has been an incredible source of inspiration throughout my life. She is 86 years young, and became a medical doctor at a time when it was not the norm for women to engage in this type of training for the pursuit to become a doctor in medicine. She became a successful doctor and practiced in hospitals, performed night duty and had her own private practice. She taught me that you can do anything you set your mind to.



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congratulates Olga J. Mubarak

Vice President at D&B Engineers and Architects, P.C.



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Lynn R. Najman

PERSONAL FINANCIAL STRATEGIST • EAGLE RIDGE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Lynn R. Najman, CFP® has devoted her professional life to helping people understand the financial world. She considers educating her clients and collaborating with them the most essential part of her work.

With a particular interest in empowering women through financial knowledge, Najman ran her own investment advisory firm for 20 years. Recently, she joined Eagle Ridge Investment Management headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut as a Personal Financial Strategist.

Najman began her career in institutional research. At mid-career she pivoted toward working with individuals and families to help them create and work toward their financial goals.

She often found that women were skeptical of one-size fits all advice and wanted to have more input and control in financial conversations. Najman is a former head of the Certified Financial Planning Board's Council on Examinations. The CFP® board is the standard-setting body for the financial planning profession.

Over the years, Najman has dedicated her spare time to participate in numerous community and nonprofit organizations. Her involvement in the investment committee for Planned Parenthood helped to achieve goals set by the organization.

She was featured on the cover of the Barnard College Alumnae Association's Winter magazine for her role in developing the college's successful financial literacy program for alumni and undergraduates.

Najman was until recently a long-serving trustee in the Village of Sands Point, and one of the developers of Bar-

nard College's Financial Fluency Program.

She holds a Master's in economics from Stony Brook University, a Bachelor's degree from Barnard College and graduated from New York's Hunter High School.

She lives in Sands Point with her husband Lee. She has two grown children.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

Getting my first Wall Street job was like unlocking the door to a mystery kingdom. I didn't know anyone who had ever worked in finance and had no idea what it was about. I didn't know how to dress, I didn't know how to act. I knew, however, that everyone needed to know something about money and finance!

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

People who try to leave the world a little better, a little wiser, a little kinder than when they were born.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

I always liked Ruth Bader Ginsberg's advice that women CAN have it all, just not at the same time. It applies to business and life in general.



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and all honorees for being recognized as one of

Long Island's Top 50 Women in Business 2020

Lauren Nichols

PRESIDENT • 3G WAREHOUSE

Lauren Nichols is the owner of 3G Warehouse, a leading e-commerce fulfillment company. She left her teaching position in 2005 to join her father's business where she learned the ins and outs of the warehousing and transportation business.

In 2009, Nichols opened her own company with the goal of bringing more of a female presence to a strongly male dominated industry.

Today her company is WBE and DBE certified, and operates 300,000-square-feet of warehouse space in Long Island and New Jersey. Her goal has always been to provide companies reliable and cost-effective e-commerce fulfillment and storage solutions.

Nichols' company has leveraged its relationships through the years to procure items at cost effective rates, and also utilizes their infrastructure to ensure on-time shipping.

Her company stands out because they value honesty, transparency and efficiency. Each client knows they will receive superior service, which focuses on the little details that make a big impact. Nichols' goal is to become a leader in the industry while keeping honesty and transparency at the forefront.

Nichols was born, raised and educated on Long Island, attended Hofstra University and was an elementary school teacher prior to entering the business world.

She is now raising two children, Jake and Leah, with her supportive husband, Kevin. She intends to inspire more women to follow their dreams, and hopes her third-generation-owned business serves as recognition to her

family for all their hard work and support.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My family and my team inspire me... I have the pleasure of working alongside a team of incredibly dedicated employees. They pour everything into their work, and really work to provide our customers with that next level of service that makes us unique in the industry. They inspire me every day to be better and work smarter. I am also blessed to have an extremely supportive family who is there at every turn. They inspire me on the hardest days because I know they will always be in my corner rooting me on through the highs and lows of growing a business.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

My father always reminds me that, "Work is a means to an end." The end being the ability to provide the life I desire for my family. This advice reminds me that even in the toughest moments the outcome is worth the extra effort. The key is to remember your end... if you are not there to take care of your family was the "means" worth it? This advice always reminds me to focus on a good work life balance!



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*Lauren
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ON BEING NAMED
TOP 50 WOMEN IN BUSINESS



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Carol O'Neill

SENIOR DIRECTOR SENIOR & NUTRITION SERVICES • EAC NETWORK

Carol O'Neill, LMSW, is the director of senior and nutritional services at EAC Network.

She is a dynamic and visionary leader with more than 33 years of experience in developing and administering programs that offer solutions for older Nassau County residents, family caregivers and people living with HIV/AIDS in the Long Island region.

A strategic planner, she focuses on solutions to address the unmet needs of the most vulnerable, and develops and administers cutting edge programs to meet those needs. Her creative and innovative ideas resulted in major marketing and public relations opportunities that expanded EAC's funding partnerships and shined the spotlight on the critical need to expand services.

Under her stewardship, EAC Network senior and nutrition programs flourished and expanded to include the largest Meals on Wheels Program in Nassau County, multiple senior centers, senior case management program in the Long Beach peninsula, Geriatric social work service in the town of North Hempstead, in-home respite services for family caregivers, and nutrition services and food pantry for people living with HIV/AIDS in both counties.

During COVID-19, she developed a strategic plan that double the capacity to provide food for the most vulnerable of Nassau County's older population. Within two months, the delivery of food and emotional support increased by 117 percent.

She led EAC Network's Meals on Wheels response to the pandemic, and made emergency adaptations to revamp Meals on Wheels operations, allowing program

staff and committed volunteers to more than double their capacity in delivering life-sustaining meals to Nassau County seniors.

Today, O'Neill oversees delivery to 45 Nassau County towns to often invisible and sometimes forgotten hungry and frightened seniors, many of whom are COVID positive.

A prolific grant writer, she secured over \$200,000 in funding for COVID-19 relief efforts.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

One of the lessons learned from my first mentor was regardless of a title, we need everyone to roll up their sleeves to get the job done. Opportunities are rarely offered - they are seized. At a time when non-profits are facing unprecedented challenges, it is critical for leaders to instill pride in a job well done through example.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

COVID-19 changed the way we do business on Long Island. Through the early months, women led the way. We reimaged our business, became industry changers and at the same time, nurtured our families, and broke down barriers to social justice.



Amaka Oweazim Muir

MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR • BROADWAY COMMONS

Amaka Oweazim Muir is an energetic and versatile marketing leader with over 13 years of professional experience exceeding strategic business and marketing-specific initiatives within the retail real estate industry.

Oweazim Muir specializes in strategic B2B and B2C marketing, events, business development, retailer relationships and community programming.

In her role as Marketing and Business Development Director at Broadway Commons located in Hicksville, she created, developed and implemented the overall vision and marketing strategy of the shopping center to exceed both ownership and community objectives.

With a special emphasis on community-based initiatives, she launched the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, Learn with Me Program, Community Day Out, and Coffee With a Cop.

She has given back to the community by facilitating donations of school supplies to the Hicksville Boys and Girls Club, provided nearly 800 lbs. of canned goods for Long Island Cares, collected over 1,000 articles of clothing for the Salvation Army, and with the 'Support One Another Program' at the center, provides organizations and groups a free opportunity for education and outreach at the center.

A proud graduate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, she received her B.A. in forensic psychology, and a Master's in public administration, with a specialization in human resource management.

She has a strong appetite for volunteering her ser-

vices and is the current board president of the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce, and the board president for her Cooperative Association in Westbury.

Oweazim Muir is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers, Ancillary Retail Network and the American Society for Public Administration New York Metro Chapter, and also volunteers her time at the Tribe Council, St. Brigid Catholic Church and Catechist at S. Boniface Catholic Church.

With a passion for marketing, she has applied the valuable skills she learned from her college experiences and honed them into a fulfilling career in the retail real estate industry.

For fun, she enjoys working out, globetrotting, trying out new restaurants and watching her favorite show, Judge Judy.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My parents are my biggest inspiration. They taught me the value of being proud of who I am, where I come from and what I stand for. They instilled in me the importance of having an education and working hard for everything you want in life.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

If there isn't a seat at the table for you, then make sure you bring your own.



Constantina Papageorgiou

PARTNER • VISHNICK MCGOVERN MILIZIO LLP

Constantina Papageorgiou is a partner in Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP's Wills, Trusts, and Estates Practice. Her work focuses on elder law, and trust & estates planning and administration.

Papageorgiou assists individuals and families with asset protection and long-term care planning with the use of advance directives and various planning techniques. She also facilitates the administration of estates and the liquidation of assets after one's death.

Her passionate advocacy for her clients and sharp business acumen has made her the youngest partner in the firm's history.

Papageorgiou is a board member of the Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee (HANAC), the Hellenic Lawyers Association and the St. Demetrios of Astoria Alumni Association. She is an active member of the Queens County Women's Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association's (NYSBA) Trust and Estates and Elder Law Sections.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I fell in love with the trusts, estates and elder law fields during my time as an extern in St. John's Law School Elder Law Clinic while I was working on cases defending the elderly who were defrauded by people who targeted them because of their age and trusting manner. I have spent my career assisting clients prepare their estate plan, and put in safeguards to ensure that their wishes are followed in the event that they become ill and to protect themselves and their assets.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My parents are my greatest inspiration. They both became refugees from Northern Cyprus as teenagers, and they came to America without money, without speaking the language and without knowing anyone. They worked long hours in our family's restaurant, sometimes sleeping only a couple of hours a night. They've always motivated me and my sisters to work hard, and to help people whenever and however we can. It's through the work ethic and compassion they instilled in me that I've been able to accomplish what I have.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Do it because you LOVE it, not because you want to make money. Your knowledge and compassion show through your work when you enjoy it, and your clients and colleagues are a lot more appreciative of it.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

COVID-19 has brought to the forefront the struggle that working moms have had to deal with on a daily basis, balancing work, children and the household. It was extremely challenging working from home, while also parenting two active toddlers - they made a cameo in almost every videoconference I had. But the silver lining is that people seem to have become more understanding of the work-life balance that working mothers faced.



Theresa Pinelli

CO-FOUNDER • ILOCALI BRED

Theresa Pinelli is the co-founder of localI bred, an e-commerce business showcasing goods made on Long Island within curated gift and seasonal subscription boxes.

An expert in small business, Pinelli has more than 16 years of experience across the retail, advertising, and marketing industries. Most recently, she was the Director of Influencer Marketing on the Brand and Small Business Marketing team at American Express, and was a recipient of the President's Achievement Award.

At American Express, Pinelli proudly worked as part of the Shop Small team, focusing on how to bolster small business on the "Main Streets" of America through movements such as Small Business Saturday.

Pinelli met Halie Geller in 2015 as new moms, bonding over their Brooklyn transplant status and marriage to native Long Islanders. While exploring the island they now called home, it became clear that Long Island hosted a wealth of talented makers and artisans who deserved more notoriety.

In 2018, localI bred was founded to be a platform for small makers on Long Island to showcase their goods to a larger audience. Pinelli is proud to be part of a duo that has supported over 100 local businesses in the past two years and looks forward to working with hundreds more in the future.

She also holds a Pastry Arts degree from the Institute of Culinary Education in New York City, and ran her own online based-bakery business while living in Washington, D.C.

She is originally from Tucson, Arizona, and now lives

in Centerport with her husband, two young children, her parents (transplants from Arizona), a dog, and a cat - yes, it's a very full house... and she wouldn't have it any other way.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I've always been intrigued by the retail industry and the psychology behind why people buy. E-commerce complicates the art of retail sales a bit - as you do not have the ability to observe people shopping in-person. The best part of localI bred (and what makes us so unique) is we've found a way to keep the personality of the small brands we carry (from Farmer's Markets, co-op kitchens, Instagram, etc.), while amplifying them digitally to a broader audience online. Essentially, we've made it easier to support widely dispersed small local businesses from the convenience of your home - and I find that thrilling!

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

At a young age, I found myself at a marketing agency in NYC leading presentations to big-name entertainment clients. On my way into my first major pitch, my first female boss, Sam Skey, turned to me and said "You ARE the expert in the room. No matter what comes out of your mouth, feel confident that you know what you are talking about and the rest will follow. And always feel comfortable admitting when you don't know something. They will respect you more for your honesty."



Barbara Prignano

PRESIDENT/COUNCIL • MAGNOLIA ABSTRACT SERVICES, INC.

Barbara Prignano is an attorney and small business owner in East Islip, New York.

She is the president and counsel of Magnolia Abstract Services, Inc., where she issues title insurance and related products for residential and commercial transactions throughout the state.

Prignano has over 30 years experience in the title industry. Prior to forming Magnolia Abstract in 2007, she was president and counsel for Great Oak Abstract Corporation from 1998 to 2007.

She received her B.S. from SUNY Old Westbury and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Touro Law School in 2000.

Prignano was admitted to practice law in New York State in 2001, and was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Suffolk County Bar Association and the New York State Land Title Association.

Together with her title underwriters, she hosts an annual Continuing Legal Education program for her clients and attorneys. She has also been a guest lecturer at Touro Law School on Real Estate Transactions.

In addition to her full-time career, she has successfully authored four internationally recognized and awarded children's books, including her first successful book "How Bunnies Got Their Cottontails."

She has spent many years sharing her books with young children throughout Long Island, and promoting their lessons on manners, perseverance and respect for nature.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I started in the title insurance industry as a typist while I went to college in the evening. My career started typing descriptions of properties and was primarily just for the paycheck. I soon took an interest in the historical chain of title for each property.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My parents always inspired me to be my best and to be true to myself. My children continually inspire me to do better and to always remember to be my very best me.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice I received in business was to keep looking forward, to always be true to yourself and remember that success is not necessarily measured in dollars.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

The pandemic had forced me to reduce staff and learn new ways to conduct business. Trying to navigate through the many changes, stay informed and assist others with their transactions was, and continues, to be challenging. Throughout it all, I am still a mother of two school-age children and I had to find ways to keep them motivated and learning remotely. It has been exhausting.



Shawna Ruiz

SENIOR MANAGER • MAZARS USA LLP

Shawna Ruiz, CPA, is an audit senior manager at Mazars USA LLP. She has more than 14 years of experience in providing accounting, auditing, tax, and advisory services for manufacturing, distribution and retail companies, specializing in food and beverage, consumer products, apparel, as well as corporate taxes.

Her advisory specialties include forecasting, budgeting, inventory and gross margin analysis, and cash flow projections. She also has an extensive background in employee benefit plan audits, including consulting with plan design, representation under audit by the IRS or DOL, and plan errors and corrections.

Ruiz has been with Mazars USA LLP in their Long Island office since January 2012 and is one of its women@mazars champions, whose mission is to facilitate the advancement and retention of women at the firm.

She was part of the women@mazars sponsorship program, and mentored younger staff by helping navigate their career path - an aspects of her job that she found most fulfilling. Ruiz is a career coach for various employees at the firm.

Ruiz graduated from Binghamton University with a B.S. degree in accounting. She is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in New York, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA), Long Island Food Council, and is an active member of the NYSSCPA's employee benefits group.

When out of the office, Ruiz enjoys spending time with her husband and their two daughters, Emma and Bri-

anna. In non-COVID times, they enjoy traveling and exploring new places.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I was always very good at math in school and my mom is CPA. She always seemed to really enjoy her work. I thought accounting would be a perfect fit for me, as well. I also enjoy being around people and auditing in a team environment has worked for me. I find that I enjoy working on something new everyday, and I am deadline oriented, which is an excellent fit in the auditing and accounting industry.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

A wise woman I work with at Mazars USA LLP has said that her mentor always told her when it relates to confidence that "if you think you belong in the room, then act like you belong in the room." It's such a simple statement, but it as always resonated with me.



Elisa M. Santoro, Esq.

ATTORNEY • MEYER, SUOZZI, ENGLISH & KLEIN, P.C.

Elisa M. Santoro is an associate in the Wills, Trusts & Estates Law Department at Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. In her role, she focuses on estate planning for high net worth clients with the preparation of wills, and a multitude of trusts designed to minimize estate and gift taxes.

She handles all facets of estate and trust administration, including the preparation of estate tax returns, and estate and trust accountings, as well as will and accounting contests and guardianship proceedings. In addition, Santoro has extensive experience in residential and commercial real estate matters, and all aspects of land use and zoning proceedings.

Previously, she was an associate with John J. Randall, IV, Esq. in Locust Valley. Prior to that, she was a law clerk for the Law Offices of Christopher W. Newton in La Jolla, California.

Santoro received her B.A. in English literature from the University of Rhode Island, and earned her Juris Doctor, Cum Laude, from California Western School of Law, in San Diego, California, where she is also licensed to practice.

Santoro is a competitive rower and tennis player. She competed three times in the Head of Charles Regatta in Boston, and is a volunteer track and cross-country coach for Oak Neck Athletics, and the St. Dominic's CYO Swim Team.

She serves as a trustee for the Village of Bayville, Sagamore Rowing Association and The WaterFront Center in

Oyster Bay.

Santoro lives in Bayville with her husband, Stefan Witzenburg, and their two daughters, Solia (age 10) and Téa (age 6).

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I wanted to be an attorney since I was 10 years old because I was always intrigued with the law - mostly in the area of criminal law when I was younger. As I got older, I knew I wanted to be in an industry where I could help people and have a positive impact on their lives, and became most interested in trusts and estates.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My father inspires me every day. He always has a positive attitude and has what my husband describes as the "happy gene." Even when things are tough, he remains positive and happy. He built a successful business by himself and raised five successful children, who all want to be close with him every day. At 87 years old, he is still the "go-to" person for his children, family members and friends.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Learn from your peers. Listen to those who have experienced what you have not, and welcome advice from them. Always keep learning and growing.



Meyer Suozzi Proudly Congratulates Colleague

ELISA M. SANTORO

On Being Named One Of Long Island's

Top 50 Women In Business

And Joins Long Island Business News

In Celebrating This Year's Honorees



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Lauren Serrano

OWNER, MANAGER • SPUNTINO BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT

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Lauren Serrano

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From an early age Lauren Serrano had seen the remarkable way food brought people together, and instantly knew she wanted to be a part of that.

She began shadowing her mother in their kitchen and learning all the ins and outs, unknowingly beginning the building blocks for her accomplished career as a restaurateur.

At age 17, Serrano was hired as a hostess in a small Italian restaurant. The high-paced atmosphere and quick decision making quickly sparked her interest.

Attempting to grasp every ounce of the way the restaurant worked, Serrano quickly showed interest in exploring other facets of the business. In one short year she went from a hostess to floor manager, and slowly began her trip up the restaurant ladder.

After 18 years of circulating different positions in the restaurant world, she now owns three restaurants spanning Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk counties. Her latest venture, Spuntino Restaurant and Bar in Dix Hills, opened just a month before the COVID-19 pandemic.

All three restaurants have a unique and distinct similarity and difference from one another. All located in tight knit communities, each restaurant offers a delicious extensive menu that she helped create with her husband, and executive chef, Joe Serrano.

At the ripe age of just 35, her most prized possession is the time she gets to spend with her family. She also donates much of her time to local charities and fundraisers, and has used her position as a business owner to donate meals con-



tinuously to frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice I can give that I was given is take care of the little things and the big things will always fall into place.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

COVID-19 has impacted me as a woman in business by making me realize to not become comfortable, and that at any given time everything can change. Forcing you to constantly be thinking and attempting to continuously recreate yourself.

LONG ISLAND'S
50
Top
Women

Alysia Stern

NYS LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT • NORTSHORE PROPERTIES REALTY

Alysia Stern is a published children's book author. She often volunteers to help Veterans nationwide, and has been feeding the homeless for over 20 years.

Stern is a volunteer for SNARR Northeast Animal Rescue, and has fostered and adopted more than 20 dogs. She spends a few days each week entertaining seniors at an assisted living facility. She is a patron of her community.

Her love for real estate began while creating specific story details, characters and scenes for her books. She developed a love for antique homes, sprawling ranches and open floor plans. She has staged homes for photo shoots and movies.

Stern finally went to real estate school and earned her New York State license in December 2018. She chose a boutique company to work for because after years of dreaming about this, she wanted to have her broker's full attention - so she chose Northshore Properties Realty under Gina Lollo.

In less than two years, she has sold nine homes and currently has six in executed contract, along with her first commercial property deal in the works.

Now that her twins are seniors in high school, she will apply for licenses in other states and start traveling to fulfill her true dream of a being a nationally branded agent.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

I have always loved homes. I grew up in Levittown when all the homes were cookie cutter capes or ranches. Once I started high school (Sacred Heart Academy) and my circle of friends lived in older towns like Rockville Center, Lynbrook and West Hempstead, I found I was drawn to their unique, historic characteristics. I went back to these homes in my mind while writing my books and it set the stage for an even greater love and appreciation of real estate. It took me years to attain my license because I had to wait for my children to be older, but I got the ground running and I love this industry more and more every day.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My grandmother who just passed away at age 100 inspired me. She lived through The Great Depression, the death of her parents at an early age, WWII, the death of a son, sending three boys and one daughter off to war, and she never gave up or had a break down. She was a believer and had faith so great she inspired everyone who knew her.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Always go the extra mile. Always. Even when you don't want to, it will pay off.





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Michelle Tepper

NURSE PRACTITIONER - FORENSIC NURSE EXAMINER • SUFFOLK COUNTY

Michelle Tepper is an adult-gerontological Emergency room nurse practitioner. She holds a Master's of healthcare policy and management, and a Master's in nursing.

Tepper is New York State Department of Health certified as a DOH NY SAFE, and Nationally Certified as a SANE-A, SANE-P, and forensic nurse examiner.

In 2019, she spearheaded a countywide forensic nurse program designed to assess victims of intimate partner violence alongside the offices of the Suffolk County District Attorney, the Suffolk County Police Department, the Suffolk County Medical Examiner and Victim Advocacy Agency Long Island Against Domestic Violence.

She is part of a Human Trafficking Collaborative, partnered with Stony Brook University, who are actively creating curriculum on the topics of human trafficking and violence. She serves as a medical provider at the child advocacy center, performing medical forensic exams.

Tepper has been a nurse for more than 23 years and works in a level one-trauma center as a nurse practitioner. She has been a forensic examiner for 15 years and serves as the Clinical Supervisor of the Suffolk County SANE Program.

She qualifies as an expert witness for testimony for the grand jury, family and criminal courts on the subject matter of rape, sexual assault, intimate partner violence and strangulation. Tepper serves as a core member of the Suffolk County Elder Abuse EMDT.

Her goals are to bring more awareness to recognition, care and prevention to all victims of violence.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

There is a need for people to advocate for victims and prevent violence. It was a calling, and God gave me the ability.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

All of my team members, nurses, doctors, law enforcement, district attorney's, advocacy agencies – these people are always serving and putting others before themselves. They are who truly make the world a better place.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

The best advice I can give is always be willing to flex, change, create a Plan B. Bring out the best from people and look for the skills in the people around you. Most importantly – be kind.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

COVID created unique barriers to anyone receiving healthcare, but it was especially challenging for victims of violence. We often used the term "re-imagine" when developing policies and procedures to give care to victims of violence. COVID has taught me that there are many ways to accomplish the impossible. With amazing people beside me, anything is possible.



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on being honored in the
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Liz Uzzo

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER • H2M ARCHITECTS + ENGINEERS

Liz Uzzo is the Chief Human Resource Officer and a Senior Vice President at H2M architects + engineers, and has been with the firm since 1987.

Uzzo leads and directs the H2M human resources team to achieve excellence by planning, implementing and evaluating employee development, human resources policies, programs and practices.

Highly active within the A/E industry, she has worked closely with peer groups to bring H2M 'first-in-class' HR organizational clarity on operational structure, employee development, recruiting/retaining talent, risk mitigation, regulatory compliance, workforce and succession planning, and strategic planning.

She has spoken at national industry conferences on topics such as employee engagement and best practices in human resources.

Uzzo received her undergraduate degree from New York Institute of Technology in hospitality management, and received her Master's degree in human resources management and labor relations. She holds certifications from the Society of Human Resource Management, and the Human Resources Certification Institute.

Prior to joining H2M, she worked in the restaurant industry as a pastry chef and owned a commercial long-line fishing vessel.

She is active in charitable and civic organizations such as The Interfaith Nutrition Network, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Cycle for Survival, The NYIT Human Resource Management, Graduate Program Advisory Board and Alumni Board, Stony Brook University Women

in STEM Advisory Board, and is a member the Long Island Chapter of SHRM.

A lifelong resident of Huntington, she currently resides in Dix Hills with her son.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

My mother worked for H2M for many years as a corporate librarian. I came to H2M one day to help move the library and was offered a position in payroll, which led to my career in HR. Better known as "personnel" in the early 90's and it has been an amazing journey.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Ask for what you want. If you expect someone to know what you want, you will be disappointed all the time.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

I worked very closely with the CEO and I am responsible for leading the business through the pandemic. At the very beginning of the pandemic, Rich (our CEO) recognized he needed to designate one central point of contact. He asked me to take on that responsibility. We work very closely on every perspective of the pandemic. This created an environment, which allowed H2M to be nimble and take action, as things changed daily over the last six months.



Elizabeth Wellington

VICE PRESIDENT • WELLIE THE TRANSPORTER, LLC.

Elizabeth Wellington is the Vice President of Wellie the Transporter LLC, which serves clients regionally, and focuses on quality cost saving services that ensures adherence to external customer requirements through timely movement of freights.

Wellington has a broad spectrum of knowledge, in both private and public sectors, focusing in advertising, corporate finance, transportation logistics, investigation, trucking, community advocacy and campaigns.

She represents and advocates for business owners and individuals in the community by being a mentor for the Women Center for Personal Development (WCPD), and holds the role of Deputy Director for Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce Inc.

Wellington is the Director of Social Events for the Alumni Association of Nassau Community College. She is also an Alumni Board Member on the Finance, Judiciary, and Scholarship Committees.

She participates in several community service opportunities including Black History Art Exhibition planning, the Long Island Business Expo Advisory, Dream Foundation Scholarship, the Nassau Council Chambers of Commerce Planning (NCCC) and the Nassau Citizens Police Academy (NCPD).

Previously she served as a coordinator in Brooklyn, New York on the Board of Elections. In 2017, she served as the co-chair for the Nassau County Board of Election Campaign for Hempstead Justice Judge Maxine S. Broderick.

Wellington graduated from Nassau Community College and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She received

her Master's in public administration.

She is married to Antonio Wellington, CEO and President of Wellie the Transporter, LLC. Her son, Stephen Wellington, is also a graduate from John Jay College.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR INDUSTRY?

The trucking industry is an essential part of the America economy. While social attitudes change and modern science improves, there will always be a demand and supply of goods in every part of the world.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

My first source of inspiration is my immediate family, who encouraged me to accomplish my college education MPA-HR/MO.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN BUSINESS THAT YOU WISH TO PASS ON TO OUR READERS?

Trucking transportation is critical to the economy, commerce and to society. Every person working in this supply chain plays a big role. If you want to go to work knowing every day that what you do is having a real impact on real people, work in transportation.

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOU AS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS?

The impact it had on me is to think creatively, and innovate new ways to do business that meets needs such as pivoting for delivery with smaller trucks.



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Mazars congratulates
Shawna Ruiz on being
named one of LIBN's Top
50 Women in Business.



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