

Women of
DISTINCTION
HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK
2022



NYS SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING



Women of **DISTINCTION** **HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK**

Across the 54th Senate District of New York State, there are amazing women doing extraordinary things for their communities, workplaces and families.

As the first woman elected to represent the 54th District, home to the birthplace of the women's rights movement, I feel a special responsibility to ensure we recognize and celebrate women for their contributions and achievements.

Women of all ages, backgrounds and talents play an integral role in shaping the future of our communities and state, and inspiring the next generation of leaders. This year, I am proud to honor 13 of them in my annual Women of Distinction program. Individually, their successes are unique. But collectively, they show that each of us can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

May we acknowledge, applaud, support and value one another, always.

Warmest Regards,



Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District



Women of **DISTINCTION**

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

2021 Woman of Distinction - Dina Stuck

2021 Women of Distinction Nominees

Mary Beer	Bonnie Hays	Suzanne Sokolowski
Tammy Bell	Mary Kelly	Dina Stuck
Jolene Bender	Shelly Lowe	Sherri Viggiano-Hipkens
Tami Cocuzzi	Jessica McDonald	Marita Wallace
Pamela Ferranti	Lori Miller	Linda Wyse
Lisa Finnegan	Pam Rapoza	
Dorothy French	Jennifer Scott	

2020 Woman of Distinction - Holly Anderson

2020 Women of Distinction Nominees

Holly Anderson	Nancy Gowan	Joell Murney-Karston
Laura Arrington	Joanne Greco	Tammy Orlopp
Essie Barnes	Susie Jacobs	Danielle Palermo-Jimenez
Valerie Bost	Mary Beth Leeson	Maureen Reynolds
Bonnie Cazer	Tyler MacNeal	Dr. Linda Ann Townsend
Mickey Freida	Nichole Malec	Lt. Col. Norma Weissend



2019 Woman of Distinction - Marya Vande-Doyle

2019 Women of Distinction Nominees

Elizabeth Becht	Jeanne Giovannini	Heidi Schwittek-Barnes
Lorene Benson	Lucille Hamlin	Mary Simpson Smart
Alice Bill	Christal Kent	Megan Thompson
Wanda Boughton	Kaitlyn Laskoski	Mary Ann Trickey
Surekha Chandak	Margaret Morse	Marya Vande-Doyle
Misty Currington	Melissa Nesbit	Jacqueline Vrooman
Carol Cuthbert	Julie Patterson	Wilma Young
Donna Dedee	Ethel Peters	
Tara Fricano	Dr. Jennifer Schneider	

2018 Woman of Distinction - Laurie Crane

2018 Women of Distinction Nominees

Julie Bellone	Sarah Lynn Grossman	Connie Patti
Cathleen Bement	Valerie Aarne Grossman	Cheri Roloson
Neetu Chandak	Ellen Hughes	Donna Besler Tatem
Laurie Crane	Tricia Kuntz	Patricia White
Michelle Fridley	Marie Milligan	
Oksana Fuller	Lauren Moore	

2017 Woman of Distinction - Donna Schaertl

2017 Women of Distinction Nominees

Marge Donhauser	Ellen Polimeni
Terrie Meyn	Donna Schaertl
Sue Underhill	





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Susan Ashline

Susan Ashline is a nationally-acclaimed author and Emmy-nominated investigative journalist from Ontario, NY. Her career spans more than 25 years as a journalist for print, radio and television, earning her numerous, prestigious awards in her profession.

With a B.S. in Mass Communications from the University of Massachusetts and having studied at the University of New Mexico and the State University of New York, Susan took her love of journalism from the classroom to the newsroom.

She has worked as a television and radio reporter, magazine editor, and staff newspaper columnist for publishing giant, Gannett. Her work has received major awards, including a New York Emmy nomination for a public broadcasting societal concerns program; multiple first place Associated Press awards for general excellence in individual reporting and general excellence in use of medium; an American Women in Radio and Television Commendation Award; and a Gold Medal Award for Democrat and Chronicle online excellence.

Her longtime role as a court correspondent sparked a deep interest in law and the judicial process, leading Susan to write the 2019 true crime book, *Without a Prayer: The Death of Lucas Leonard and How One Church Became a Cult*, earning starred reviews from Publishers Weekly and Library Journal.

While published by Pegasus Books to national acclaim, it was important to Susan to share this recognition with her local community. She hosted a book launch celebration, free to residents and families, to shine a spotlight on her hometown.

Susan also worked as Communications Director for the National MS Society Upstate New York Chapter, securing high-placement stories in news outlets across the nation to raise awareness and action around multiple sclerosis.

Her remarkable career and many accomplishments have taken place while raising her children: son, Reed, and daughter, Ariel. Susan continually serves her community as well, volunteering her journalism skills to update and inform others, and acting as an unofficial media spokesperson for her hometown. Susan also created an Ontario community Facebook page that she manages, and works to keep the community aware of hometown news and events.

Susan is known to respond when there is a need. When law enforcement took on an animal welfare case in Ontario, Susan spent months helping to trap, rehabilitate, and rehome pet rabbits set loose by their owner. She and her son also volunteer regularly to help pick up trash from Ontario's streets.

Susan's nominator, Virginia Molino, said, "Susan is a role model. She never stopped serving her community, all while raising children and excelling in her career."

***Susan Ashline was nominated by
Virginia Molino.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Glenna Colaprete

The most successful businesses solve problems. For Glenna Colaprete of Webster, NY, it was discovering a remedy for her own problem that led her to entrepreneurship.

After successfully treating her chronic and painful neuralgia with CBD products for several years, Glenna decided to use her own innovation and passion to help others. She is a former engineer who holds five patents.

In 2015, Glenna founded Glenna's CBD & Spa, with retail locations in Brighton and Victor. Her products are natural and locally-farmed and have received numerous awards for quality, safety, and efficacy.

Glenna has quickly grown her business to distribution in 13 states. In 2022, Glenna & Co. (formerly Colorado's Brand Distributing) received one of the first adult-use cannabis cultivator licenses in New York State.

As a licensed hemp cultivator, processor and retailer, Glenna generously shares her knowledge and experience in seed-to-sale, business operations, and regulations and compliance in cannabis cultivation. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Regulations in Cannabis Cultivation at Finger Lakes Community College.

Glenna is a leader in the development of cannabis education and workforce development programs in the Finger Lakes region and across New York State. This year, she hosted cannabis business incubator symposiums in Rochester and at FLCC that attracted more than 300 attendees each. She serves on various committees across the state and provides mentorship and guidance to a number of organizations and civic leaders.

In recognition of her accomplishments as a female business owner, educator, mentor, and volunteer, Glenna was named an ATHENA International Award finalist and Victor Chamber of Commerce Woman of Excellence finalist.

Glenna is regarded as a generous volunteer, teacher, business leader, and social justice advocate. She is also a dedicated wife and mother of three children, Joe, Grace and Sam, all of whom help with the business in various ways.

Nominator Leslie Seltzer said, "Glenna works to mentor young women in the community to set and achieve their goals and help them lead their best lives. She has evolved this passion to also mentor those disadvantaged in the community who are seeking to get licensed in the cannabis field but do not have access to resources to do so. She has become their 'knight in shining armor.'"

Rachel Partington, another nominator, added, "Glenna is a strong advocate for health, well-being, and balanced living. She has transformed numerous lives through her products, mentorship, and support – including my own – and is one of the most involved and selfless entrepreneurs I have ever met."

**Glenna Colaprete was nominated by
Leslie Seltzer and Rachel Partington.**





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Amanda Cooney

*A*manda Cooney is a math teacher at Marcus Whitman High School. Just as central to her role as a teacher, she says, is modeling **empathy** and service.

Amanda has said that the most meaningful community service work she has accomplished is giving back to veterans and military service members.

About six years ago, Amanda took over Hearts for Heroes which was a project started by her mother where students and staff at Marcus Whitman Central Schools can purchase a heart to hang in the school hallways honoring members of the military. Proceeds are used to sponsor care packages for local soldiers serving overseas, many of whom are alumni.

Hearts for Heroes has transformed to Treats for Troops, and to date has shipped over 100 care packages all over the world. In 2022, Amanda assisted the district in launching a searchable electronic database featuring photos of the community's veterans.

In 2017, Amanda decided she wanted to do more for veterans and began leading a group of family and friends to "Adopt a Floor" for Christmas at the Canandaigua VA Hospital. This group has delivered gifts and personal care packages to residents in addition to stockings for outpatients. Under Amanda's leadership, and with the support of many in the community, this project continues to grow each year.

Last year, Amanda organized participation in Operation Making Spirits Bright, gathering community members to purchase gifts for 15 veteran family members and filling stockings for 14 local veterans in temporary housing.

In addition to her support for local veterans, several years ago, Amanda was inspired by a news story to start Cinderella's Closet. She collected donations of prom and homecoming formal wear to support Marcus Whitman students and help ensure each one has the opportunity to enjoy this milestone high school occasion.

The closet, now run by a separate group, has expanded to include accessories and male clothing items.

Amanda is a mom to daughter, Madilynn Gill, and son, Declan Cooney. She is married to Mike Cooney and lives in Canandaigua. Over the years as a mom, Amanda has volunteered her time as a Girl Scout troop leader, concession stand coordinator, and team treasurer.

For her exemplary volunteer service, Amanda was recognized in May by Professional Women of the Finger Lakes with the 2022 Women of Distinction Volunteer Service Award.

Her nominator, Karen Lahue, said Amanda is always among the first to step up and help, adding that her most recent act of service is joining Lasagna for Love and delivering home-cooked meals to local families.

Karen said, "Amanda is very involved in making this world a better place. She always goes above and beyond. I am proud to be her colleague!"

***Amanda Cooney was nominated by
Karen Lahue.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Amanda Cusson

*A*manda Cusson is a clinical social worker at Villa of Hope School in Rochester, NY.

Villa of Hope School is a year-round program incorporating academic, vocational, and remedial services for youth in Villa of Hope's Residential Treatment Center and Residential Treatment Facility, and is a specialized day school offering education and therapeutic services to youth ages 12 to 21 who live at home.

Students who attend Villa of Hope School receive assistance in addressing their academic, social, behavioral, and emotional needs. The goal is for each student to achieve the knowledge and skills necessary to live independent, successful lives.

Amanda works hard to ensure that the young people she serves always feel supported and cared for. She is known for her hard work and dedication, and the extraordinary effort she puts into everything she does.

Her husband and nominator, Robert said, "Amanda is always the first person to work and the last to leave, especially if a child needs her attention. Amanda has influenced countless lives at Villa of Hope School. I have never seen someone else who is so dedicated to what they do. The community is very lucky to have such a special person fighting for the future of our youth."

Amanda and her husband, Robert have two sons, Colin and Monroe, and a daughter, Olivia. The family lives in Seneca Falls, NY.

***Amanda Cusson was nominated by
Robert Cusson.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Christine LoDestro

As President of Wayne Central Education Foundation, and a mom to two sons, Daniel and Thomas, Christine is always focused on children and community. She understands the value of education and is a leader in bringing the community together to do good.

The Wayne Central Education Foundation is dedicated to supporting staff, teachers, and students of the Wayne Central School District. In the last four years, the Foundation has provided scholarships for 20 students, with the goal of eventually giving every graduating student a scholarship.

Christine is regarded as the driving force behind the success and growth of the Foundation. As President, Christine has worked many fundraisers that have brought a spark to the Town of Ontario through food truck rodeos, beer and bacon tastings, flamingo flockings, and more. She has raised over \$10,000 in funds that have gone directly to teachers in the Wayne Central School District to buy supplies that would normally be outside their budgets. These include butterfly gardens for the Primary level, puppets for special education students to better communicate, and binoculars for a biology class to study birds.

The Foundation also hosts the Golden Flamingo Awards recognizing teachers and staff members for their extraordinary contributions.

In addition, Christine has given her time as a class mom, teacher's aide, Cub Scout Pack Leader and committee chairperson, President of the Friends of Music, and member of the high school PTO. Christine is an active member of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. Through her volunteer initiatives, she has hosted food drives for local pantries and supported local mobile mammography screenings. In 2022, she was nominated for the prestigious ESL Jefferson Award and was featured as one of The Faces of Rochester.

Christine is well respected by her peers and friends for her thoughtfulness, selflessness, and care for others, always striving to make someone else's life better. She always finds ways to add an extra special touch to everything she is involved in.

Her son Daniel said, "My mom is an amazing and caring individual who looks out not just for her own kids, but all the kids in the Wayne district." Her husband, Steven, added, "Christine likes to say 'without the school, there is no community.' She is always thinking about our children's education and new ways to support the school and community."

Her third nominator and friend Sylvia A. Ryndock said, "Christine always looks for ways to help, give, and improve others' lives. She is an amazing woman with an amazing heart who keeps on giving and giving."

***Christine LoDestro was nominated
by Steven and Daniel LoDestro and
Sylvia A. Ryndock.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Joyce Mader

*J*oyce Mader dedicates her time to serving veterans, "24/7." The wife of a U.S. Army veteran and the mother of a U.S. Army veteran, Joyce is the beloved matriarch of a military family.

Born in Buffalo, Joyce was raised by parents who devoted 39 years of their lives to fostering children. Joyce is the oldest of her six siblings and three adopted siblings. Her early family life helped instill in her the importance of helping other people.

In 1973, Joyce married her husband, Brian, a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. They lived several years in Europe during Brian's service and returned to the U.S. in 1978.

In June 2005, Joyce and Brian moved to Canandaigua, NY and she joined Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., New York Chapter #1. She served as President Pro Tempore in 2006. One year later, she became President of the Chapter, a role she continues to serve in today.

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., New York Chapter #1 operates the only Blue Star Canteen in the nation, which supports deployed service members and veterans, as well as families on the home front. The Canteen opened in 2009 on the grounds of the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and in 2020, moved to its current location at 17 Foster Street in Canandaigua. It was modeled after the canteens of World War II that offered veterans, troops and their families a place to relax and socialize.

The Blue Star Canteen, which includes a working garden, gives active military, veterans, and their families a welcoming place to gather – for friendship, family-style meals, and social events. The Canteen also provides food and clothing, and other resources and support.

Among their many activities, Joyce and the Blue Star Mothers have organized Thanksgiving meals and an annual "Holidays for Heroes" Christmas project.

Joyce is highly respected by her peers for her leadership of the Chapter and for going above and beyond for the people they serve. She is a source of comfort and support for Blue Star Sisters planning for deployment and the needs of their families. She is always available to give veterans rides to their appointments and take them shopping.

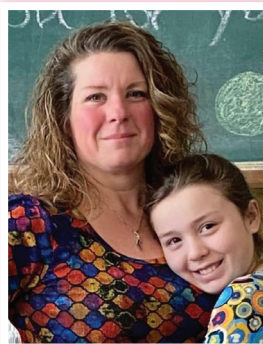
Joyce is known as a compassionate listener and a trusted friend to other mothers and all those she helps.

Joyce and her husband, Brian have three children, Andrew, Jeanne, and Stephen. Andrew works for an international company that serves countries in need of medical personnel and lives with his family in Saudi Arabia. Jeanne is a communications director living in California. Stephen is a disabled veteran who served 17 years in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, also a disabled veteran, live with their family in Texas where they own an herbal supply store.

Her nominator, Bobbie Metcalfe, said, "Joyce has a heart of gold when it comes to our military and veterans. She wants every one of them to be healthy and happy."

***Joyce Mader was nominated by
Bobbie Metcalfe.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Chrissy Nelson

Chrissy Nelson is the owner of Lollypops & Polkadots in Marion, NY, a retail store that sells new and gently-used children's clothing, shoes, toys, and accessories, as well as maternity items.

Chrissy bought the store in February 2020, right before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, which greatly impacted 'Main Street' small businesses. Chrissy credits the support and loyalty of her customers and the community for keeping her business going.

Best known for its selection of the popular, collectible Squishmallows plush toys, Lollypops & Polkadots is much more than a storefront. Chrissy has embedded her business into the community, and her community into the business.

Last fall, Chrissy raffled off an extremely rare and hard-to-find Axolotl Squishmallow, raising \$394 for the Marion Angel Tree program.

When asked for ideas to help a local student raise funds for an overseas school trip, Chrissy put together a basket of cow Squishmallows and raffled it off, raising \$500 for the young woman.

Early on in the pandemic, to support the community through a challenging time, she created and sponsored Marion's Easter Egg Hunt. Chrissy cut and sanded 50 wooden eggs from scrap wood. She distributed the eggs to local families who painted and decorated them. The eggs were then hidden around town for families to find and prizes were awarded to those who found the most.

Chrissy is also a U.S. military veteran, serving as a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic in the Army Reserves. She proudly supports local veterans by sponsoring Hometown Hero Banners in the community.

Prior to running her own business, Chrissy spent many years as a local day care provider. She volunteered for over a decade for Meals on Wheels and for several years organized and oversaw the Marion summer soccer program.

Chrissy and her husband, David, have been married for 22 years. She has a stepson, David, son, Zachary, and daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth and dog, Chopper, are Chrissy's daily running partners. Chrissy's mom, Marsha, helps her daughter at the store on Saturdays, and whenever needed.

Her nominator, Jennifer Williams, cited Chrissy's kindness and compassion toward everyone she meets.

Chrissy said, "To me, success is not measured by the money in the bank. Success is measured by being able to give back to those who have supported our little store. It's the free freeze pops for the kiddos and veterans who stop by. It's supporting the graduating seniors and decorating Main Street for them every year. It's putting a float in our little hometown parades. It's sponsoring the summer reading programs with frozen treats and prizes. It's helping raise money for the Angel Tree, or a student going overseas for a school trip, and so much more. This is all made possible because we have amazing customers who come from all over and support our store. My sincere thanks to each and every one!"

***Chrissy Nelson was nominated by
Jennifer Williams.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Erica Paolicelli

Erica Paolicelli is partner and President/COO at Three Brothers Wineries and Estates and War Horse Brewing Company in Geneva, NY.

A highly respected young professional born and raised in the Finger Lakes, Erica is regarded by her peers as a consummate learner and a hard worker who is passionate about growing the wine industry regionally and statewide, and establishing the Finger Lakes as one of the finest winemaking regions in the world.

After earning a bachelor's degree in nutrition from SUNY Oneonta, Erica returned to the Finger Lakes where she met Dave Mansfield and learned of his plans to purchase a winery and vineyards along Seneca Lake. Erica became the first employee at Three Brothers Winery when it opened in 2007. She turned what was intended to be a summer job into a successful career as partner of a popular and thriving small business.

Over the last 15 years, Erica has helped grow Three Brothers to three wineries, a microbrewery, and a café, which collectively employ 150 people. The business has expanded its regional distribution to over 300 locations and continues to innovate with a wide selection of handcrafted wines, beers, hard ciders, and craft sodas. Erica and her partners, Dave and Luanne Mansfield, pride themselves on creating a unique destination with an exceptional customer experience. This has earned Three Brothers a loyal following, attracting more than 150,000 visitors annually.

With Erica's leadership, Three Brothers has been recognized as a five-time Top 100 fastest-growing, privately-owned company in the Finger Lakes region; a 2022 Top Workplace; Business of the Year and Winery of the Year; and among the best wineries to visit in America.

A resident of Geneva, with a home nearby the winery, Erica takes great pride in seeing her community flourish as well. She founded Geneva Rosé Soirée and her tireless work on this event over the last several years has raised \$45,000 to support local non-profit organizations. Erica also spearheads numerous charitable events at the winery that benefit important causes throughout the region.

In addition, Erica is actively involved in local boards and organizations. She is an Advisory Board member at Lyons National Bank and Finger Lakes Community College; a Board member of Geneva Community Projects; Secretary of the Seneca Lake Wine Trail Association; Chair of the New York Wine Policy Institute; a member of the Farm Credit East Marketing Council; and has been a strong voice and advocate on local beautification and economic development committees. She previously served as Chair of the Finger Lakes Wine Alliance and is the former treasurer of the Seneca County IDA.

Erica and her husband, Justin Paolicelli, partner in life and business. Justin is also co-owner of Three Brothers and VP of Operations.

Her nominator and business partner Luanne Mansfield said, "Three Brothers would not be the industry leader it is without Erica's fingerprint on nearly every aspect of it. Geneva is lucky to have such a formidable advocate on their side. Erica has such a passion for the region and striving to bring out the best in her employees."

***Erica Paolicelli was nominated by
Luanne Mansfield.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Judy Rachow

*J*udy Rachow has spent her life and career serving others.

After graduating with honors from the United States Naval Training Center in 1978, Judy served for six years in the U.S. Navy. Following her service, she taught in a Christian school in Guam, where she found a passion for education and teaching.

In 1993, Judy received a B.S. in elementary education from Summit Christian College, which subsequently became Taylor University. During this time, she was named an Outstanding Student Teacher of the Year. In 2004, she earned an M.S. from SUNY Brockport.

In May 1994, Judy accepted an offer from East Palmyra Christian School and moved to Marion, NY. For nearly three decades, she has been making a difference in the lives of her students and colleagues, as evidenced by the multiple nominations she received for the Women of Distinction program.

Nominator and student Ella Morgan called Mrs. Rachow “very special,” and “an amazing math teacher.”

Judy is widely respected as patient, steadfast, and encouraging, with a unique gift for guiding the hearts and minds of young people.

Her former student, Meredith Kellogg, credits Judy with inspiring her as a teacher. “I have always known Judy to be encouraging, patient, wise, and above all, loving. Her advice and encouragement have been an immense blessing to me as I am now diving into the wonderful challenge of teaching. Perhaps one of the most important things she has helped me to learn is that the value of a person should not be measured in a list of accolades, even if there are many, but in the people they have impacted and the lives they have touched.”

Another teacher and nominator, Linda Selby, said, “Judy is a selfless educator, not only to her students, but also to new teachers, like myself.”

Nominator Kathleen Cornwell said, “Mrs. Rachow knows how each student learns best, and works with struggling students one-on-one, on her own time if needed. Her patient, consistent manner endears her to her students and colleagues. She has a generous spirit and has devoted her life to teaching young people and caring for those in her community.”

Jill Lovell, another nominator, agreed. “Judy has a passion for educating the next generation and does so with patience and excellence.”

Nominator Shelley Morgan added, “Mrs. Rachow pulls the best qualities out of each student in her classroom. She is an amazing math teacher and is to this day my son’s favorite teacher.”

In addition to her contributions as an educator and mentor, Judy is an active member and volunteer at Second Reformed Church of Marion.

Judy Rachow was nominated by Shelley and Ella Morgan, Kathleen Cornwell, Linda Selby, Meredith Kellogg, and Jill Lovell.





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Caroline Shipley

Caroline "Tarry" Shipley was born and raised in Canandaigua, NY and has contributed much to her community over the last 50 years.

In 1973, Tarry was part of the early grassroots effort to restore Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion and ultimately achieve its designation as a State Historic Park. She served as Sonnenberg's treasurer and financial manager from 1973-1984.

In 1984, Tarry was the first woman named to the Board of Directors of Canandaigua National Bank, a position she continues to hold today. She received the ATHENA Award in recognition of her work supporting the full potential and advancement of women in the community, and was also named Mrs. Canandaigua by the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Tarry was a devoted volunteer and treasurer for the Ontario Children's Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping local children experiencing financial, physical, emotional, and educational challenges.

Deeply committed to education, Tarry served for 30 years on the Canandaigua City School District Board of Education and led the Board as President for 10 of those years. For eight years, she was also a member of the New York State Association of School Boards. In 1999, Tarry was named a Canandaigua Academy Graduate of Distinction for being an educational advocate and civic leader.

A lifetime member of First Congregational Church of Canandaigua, Tarry served as co-treasurer for five years with her husband, Mike and then went on to serve as treasurer for another 24 years. She also led the children's choir for 12 years.

Always thinking about the future, Tarry realized the church needed a plan to preserve the historic building, so she created a historic preservation fund for its future needs

In 2022, First Congregational Church awarded Tarry its highest honor, the Ogden Award, saying, "We honor an individual who is not just a church pillar, but a Canandaigua icon, someone who has been highly active in our church and community all her life."

A graduate of Syracuse University with a degree in education, Tarry taught in public schools in the Liverpool and Canandaigua school districts. Later, she worked with her husband in his business, Hamlin-Shipley Associates, and as financial manager for Dell Broadcasting, WCGR/WLKA.

Tarry is the mother of two children, Katherine and Scott, and has four grandchildren. Her husband, Mike, who shared a deep commitment to the community, passed away in 2016.

Her nominator Barbara Kutner said, "Tarry loves Canandaigua, its people and her church. She has given a lifetime to the betterment of her community. No one is more deserving."

***Caroline Shipley was nominated by
Barbara Kutner.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Carol M. Verbridge

Carol Verbridge is a lifelong citizen of Williamson, NY. A dedicated and accomplished real estate professional, she is an Associate Broker with Howard Hanna. Carol is a multimillion-dollar producer and has won numerous awards for her work including several Howard Hanna Platinum and Greater Rochester Association of Realtors Gold Master Awards.

Prior to her work in real estate, Carol was the Williamson Central School District Asset Coordinator/Community Service Coordinator. During this time, she received the Monroe County Outstanding Asset Builder Award for her work not only in Williamson but throughout the region. She also received the Wayne County Reach Committee Chair Recognition and the Wayne County Rural Ministries Come-Unity Center Award.

Carol and her husband, Alan have two sons, Justin and Mason, and love spending time with their grandchildren and supporting their lives. Their daughter, Morgan, who had microcephaly, passed away at the age of 4. Turning grief into advocacy, Carol and Alan started the Morgan Elizabeth Verbridge Scholarship Fund, awarded annually to graduates of Williamson Central School District who have successfully overcome adversity. Over 25 students have received scholarships.

Empathetic to families who endure great challenge and suffering, Carol also established a fund at The Arc Wayne's Roosevelt Children's Center to provide respite for families of children with special needs. She coordinated the Williamson Reach Assets program promoting healthy youth and healthy communities, and the impact of her work on the region received recognition from the Monroe County Executive.

Carol is a member of the Williamson Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Council of Realtors, as well as the New York State and National Association of Realtors. She has volunteered her time with the Wayne County Rural Ministries Community Center, the Wayne County Crop Walk, and supported local breast cancer walks.

An avid landscaper, Carol's gardens have been recognized and awarded in the community. She enjoys music and theatre, and flying with her husband in his plane.

Her nominator, Charles Morgan, shared Carol's quieter achievements in helping others. Charles credits Carol with getting him lifesaving treatment for opioid addiction in 1981 and inspiring him to devote 40 years of his life to treating others with addiction.

He said, "Carol repeatedly turns adversity into strength and then shares that gift with others. If you ask her what is important to her, she will say, 'My children, and many things, but the most important things have been helping people.'"

***Carol M. Verbridge was nominated by
Charles W. Morgan.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Barbara A. Years

*B*arbara Years may have retired after more than 35 years with the United States Postal Service, but her work hasn't stopped. She continues to volunteer and serve her community.

Her philosophy is, "Whether one has five minutes or five hours, any little thing that can help someone out is a good thing." And she lives by it.

In 1972, Barb started her career as a rural postal carrier. She advanced to clerk, Supervisor, and Officer in Charge before becoming Postmaster in Lima, Victor, and Penfield and finishing her USPS career as Postmaster in Canandaigua, NY.

For more than 20 years, Barb volunteered with the Victor-Farmington Volunteer Ambulance Corps serving in various positions, including dispatcher, medic, EMT, and instructor. For her service, she received a Lifetime Membership in the Ambulance Corps.

Barb is an active member of Farmington-Victor Kiwanis Club and past President. She currently serves as Vice President and will again take the position of President in October 2022.

Among her many efforts, Barb has chaired the Evening of Great Taste to raise money for local Kiwanis outreach programs for children and families. She has served as the Children's Christmas Breakfast Chair for the past two years. During the pandemic, she partnered with the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard, altering the program's format to a drive-thru which now serves 150 children, tripling the program's impact.

As a captain and participant in the Kiwanis All Stars Relay for Life Team, Barb and her team have raised over \$40,000 for the American Cancer Society.

For her exemplary dedication to Kiwanis, Barb received the Distinguished Kiwanis President Award and the Brittney Award presented by the Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation. In 2019, she was presented with the prestigious Anton Kaiser Fellowship Award from Kiwanis New York District.

Barb's commitment to helping others goes beyond Kiwanis as well. She is a member and past President and Board member of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and served as a committee member for the establishment of the Farmington Veterans Memorial.

For her compassionate volunteerism and selfless service, Barb was honored with the Victor Chamber of Commerce Lantern Award and the Ontario County Senior of the Year Award.

Barb's nominator, Farmington Town Supervisor Peter Ingalsbe, said, "Since Barb's retirement as Postmaster in 2008, she has not slowed down one bit. She volunteers for many causes dear to her, especially when it comes to children and people in need."

A Farmington resident for 34 years, Barb is the proud mother of two children, Colleen and John, and equally proud grandmother to three grandchildren, Elizabeth, Brandon, and Benjamin.

***Barbara A. Years was nominated by
Farmington Town Supervisor
Peter Ingalsbe.***





Women of **DISTINCTION** HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Cheryl Young

Cheryl Young joined G.W. Lisk in 2019 as its Chief Financial Officer. She had an immediate, positive impact on the business. Cheryl exemplifies how the CFO position can be integral to optimizing business performance. This was especially evident as G.W. Lisk navigated the challenges of doing business in the COVID-19 environment.

Cheryl combines deep financial experience in manufacturing with a very positive, can-do attitude. She fosters teamwork with all members of the G.W. Lisk team as well as the company's external partners. She is a dynamic speaker who effectively conveys complex financial concepts to the team in an effective, understandable manner.

Cheryl is an invaluable executive team member leadership can always count on to help deliver on Lisk's business commitments. As a key participant in the strategic planning process, Cheryl was instrumental in driving the recent acquisition of Island Components Group (ICG). ICG adds key capabilities to the Lisk product portfolio.

In recognition of her professional achievements, Cheryl received the 2020 RBJ Financial Leaders Award.

In addition, Cheryl supports the community through fundraising events at Warfield's Restaurant as well as her support of Lisk's downtown Clifton Springs retail businesses, and Finger Lakes Ambulance. Cheryl also volunteers with Guiding Eyes for the Blind helping with home socialization of future guide dog puppies.

Further, Cheryl is an excellent mentor who goes out of her way to help other women and teammates to succeed.

This year, Lisk donated two ambulances to Ukraine. Cheryl was among the employees who led this humanitarian effort in support of the local Ukrainian population and the citizens of Ukraine. The vehicles were filled with medical supplies, firefighting equipment, and other necessities.

Cheryl said, "Being able to support the world community is a true honor, especially when so many of us feel like there's nothing we can do."

Cheryl and her husband, Bill have a son, Thomas. The family lives in Clifton Springs, NY.

G.W. Lisk President and CEO Ed Maier nominated Cheryl for this recognition. He said, "Cheryl is a key member of the G.W. Lisk team who helps to make us a better company every day."

Cheryl Young was nominated by Ed Maier, G.W. Lisk President and CEO.



Women of
DISTINCTION
HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

