



Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins



Senator John J. Flanagan

Women of
DISTINCTION
HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

May 7, 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you for attending this year's Women of Distinction celebration. Each year, the New York State Senate honors a select group of exemplary women who make our world and our lives better.

These New York State citizens are remarkable in their contributions – enriching the quality of life in their communities and beyond. Today, we pay homage to the 2019 honorees who depict the ideals of competence, leadership and service in their chosen fields.

Over the past twenty years, our nominees have achieved extraordinary success in all fields, including civil rights, science, athletics, education, the arts and many other purpose-driven activities. These women are leaders and visionaries who open doors, break glass ceilings, and are an inspiration to us all.

This year's honorees continue in this tradition – they have overcome challenges and provided their communities with outstanding service and superior talents.

On behalf of the New York State Senate, we would like to offer our wholehearted congratulations to the 2019 Women of Distinction. We are humbled to be in the presence of these talented women, and we are inspired by their work showcased here today.

It is with great pride and pleasure that we honor your dedication, commitment and success.

Sincerely,

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Temporary President
and Majority Leader

Senator John J. Flanagan

Minority Leader





Women of
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HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE
2019 NEW YORK STATE SENATE WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge and celebrate Women of Distinction who significantly add inspiration and encouragement to the people of this great Empire State: and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Women of Distinction program was created in 1998 as part of our state celebration of Women's History Month to honor exemplary women from across New York State whose singular professional or personal achievements, commitment to excellence and accomplishments merit special recognition; honorees are selected from nominations submitted from across the state: and

WHEREAS, Women of every economic, ethnic and religious background have made significant contributions that are reflected across all aspects of society; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to individuals of remarkable character who have shown initiative and commitment in constantly pursuing higher goals for themselves, as well as acting as role models to all women in their community; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of the New York State Senate, I take this opportunity to congratulate La'Shawn Allen-Muhammad, Lorena Borjas, Deputy Kristy Botford, Carola Otero Bracco, Ischia Bravo, Maude Bruce, Gail Castellano, Heidi Harrison Chain, Monique Chandler-Waterman, Julie Schwietert Collazo, Jennifer O. D'Andrea-Terreri, Airman 1st Class Madison Daqueline, Nicole Dayka, Joan Dean, Bette Dewing, Randi Shubin Dresner, Roxanne Dueppengiesser, Bessie R. Edwards, Peg Ellsworth, Anne Erickson, Barbara Franco, Margaret Graham, Kathleen Graupman, Coralanne Griffith-Hunte, Psy.D., Lisa Ann Hermann, Pauline P. Holbrook, Carol Pingelski Hotaling, The Rev. Dr. Maria L. Hubbard, Irene Elizabeth Hylton, Ph.D., Sinforsa Tan Kaung, Ph.D., Linda Kemp, Nellie B. King, Linda Lee, Jane McCabe, Emily Monem, Haydee Morales, Michelle Neugebauer, Po-Ling Ng, Bishop LaVerne D. Owens-Larkins, Kelly Parsons, Colleen Pearce, Jo-Ann Raia, The Honorable Mary Lou Rath, Sophia L. Reid, Evelyn Rodriguez, Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, Carmen Rojas, Nicole Sheindlin, Marguerite A. Smith, Esq., Nancy Sutton, Holly Tanner, Stacey Tompkins, Marya Vande-Doyle, Grace VanderWaal, Evelyn Vollgraff, Kathleen Wagner, Tanya Asapansa-Johnson Walker, Loretta Z. Weiss, Kelly Willcox, Eva D. Williams, Stephanie Wong and Norma Zimmer as 2019 New York State Senate Women of Distinction, to be celebrated on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at the Annual Women of Distinction Awards ceremony in The Well of the Legislative Office Building; and

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WHEREAS, Women have become part of New York's lasting heritage by fighting against stereotypes, prejudice, and seemingly insurmountable obstacles; and

WHEREAS, From the women's suffrage movement just over 150 years ago to the present day, women have played and continue to play a crucial role in adding strength, understanding, and inspiration to the diversity and quality of life of the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, New York State has been, and continues to be, the home to many distinguished women who have made their mark in history as pioneers in their field, therefore laying the foundation for women after them to succeed; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes that New York State is the home to countless women who are strong and colorful threads, vital to the fabric of our rich heritage, who have contributed, and continue to add to the advancement of our culture through their traditional and non-traditional roles in society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the aforementioned Women of Distinction.





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Senator	Honoree
Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.	Heidi Harrison Chain
Frederick J. Akshar II	Deputy Kristy Botsford
George A. Amedore, Jr.	Margaret Graham
Robert E. Antonacci II	Kelly Willcox
Jamaal T. Bailey	Sophia L. Reid
Brian A. Benjamin	Tanya Asapansa-Johnson Walker
Alessandra Biaggi	Ischia Bravo
Phil Boyle	Evelyn Rodriguez
Neil D. Breslin	Anne Erickson
John E. Brooks	Emily Monem
David Carlucci	Grace VanderWaal
Leroy Comrie	The Rev. Dr. Maria L. Hubbard
Simcha Felder	Nancy Sutton
John J. Flanagan	Barbara Franco
Rich Funke	Kathleen Wagner
Patrick M. Gallivan	Roxanne Dueppengiesser
James F. Gaughran	Jo-Ann Raia
Michael Gianaris	Julie Schwietert Collazo
Andrew Gounardes	Stephanie Wong
Joseph A. Griffo	Kelly Parsons
Peter Harckham	Carola Otero Bracco
Pamela A. Helming	Marya Vande-Doyle
Brad Hoylman	Joan Dean
Robert Jackson	Carmen Rojas
Christopher L. Jacobs	Nicole Dayka
Daphne Jordan	Holly Tanner
Todd Kaminsky	Jane McCabe
Anna M. Kaplan	Irene Elizabeth Hylton, Ph.D.
Brian Kavanagh	Po-Ling Ng
Timothy M. Kennedy	Nellie B. King
Liz Krueger	Bette Dewing



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Senator

Andrew J. Lanza

Kenneth P. LaValle

Elizabeth O'C. Little

John C. Liu

Monica R. Martinez

Rachel May

Shelley B. Mayer

Jen Metzger

Velmanette Montgomery

Zellnor Y. Myrie

Thomas F. O'Mara

Robert G. Ortt

Kevin S. Parker

Roxanne J. Persaud

Jessica Ramos

Michael H. Ranzenhofer

Patty Ritchie

Gustavo Rivera

Joseph E. Robach

Julia Salazar

James Sanders Jr.

Diane J. Savino

Luis R. Sepúlveda

Sue Serino

José M. Serrano

James L. Seward

James Skoufis

Toby Ann Stavisky

Andrea Stewart-Cousins

James N. Tedisco

Kevin Thomas

Honoree

Gail Castellano

Marguerite A. Smith, Esq.

Airman 1st Class Madison Daquelente

Loretta Z. Weiss

Evelyn Vollgraff

Eva D. Williams

Nicole Sheindlin

Maude Bruce

Bessie R. Edwards

La'Shawn Allen-Muhammad

Pauline P. Holbrook

Jennifer O. D'Andrea-Terreri

Monique Chandler-Waterman

Lisa Ann Hermann

Lorena Borjas

The Honorable Mary Lou Rath

Norma Zimmer

Linda Kemp

Kathleen Graupman

Michelle Neugebauer

Coralanne Griffith-Hunte, Psy.D.

Bishop LaVerne D. Owens-Larkins

Haydee Morales

Stacey Tompkins

Iris Rodriguez-Rosa

Peg Ellsworth

Colleen Pearce

Linda Lee

Sinforosa Tan Kaung, Ph.D.

Carol Pingelski Hotaling

Randi Shubin Dresner

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NEW YORK STATE SENATE

Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

The New York State Senate
is taking special note of the enormous
contributions that women have
made throughout the state and nation.

The women honored in this program
have enriched the quality of life in the
Empire State and beyond.
Their achievements should be
a source of pride and inspiration
to all New Yorkers.





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

La'Shawn Allen-Muhammad

La'Shawn Allen-Muhammad has worked as a New York City public servant for more than two decades, establishing herself as a champion of people, economic empowerment and change. Ms. Allen-Muhammad has been responsible for a multitude of success stories through her work in healthcare, leading to successful outcomes that earned high regard from Mayor Bloomberg's Center for Economic Opportunity and the federal government.

A native of the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, Ms. Allen-Muhammad is committed to revitalizing her hometown and similar communities throughout the country. During the late nineties, she co-founded a not-for-profit organization, the Brownsville Youth Association (BYA). The organization offered free job training and employment for many community residents. In early 2000, she was appointed by former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz to serve on the newly established Community Education Council.

In 2010, Ms. Allen-Muhammad founded the Entrepreneurs of New York, with the goal of developing innovative strategies for small businesses and those seeking to become business owners. Using social media as a platform to engage, the ENY Facebook group has grown to nearly 10,000 members.

Presently, Ms. Allen-Muhammad has been on a fast track, building alliances and strategic partnerships to assist in the transformation of the place she holds dear to her heart: Brownsville. In 2015, she was installed as the Brooklyn Director of the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce and appointed Executive Director of Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation (CBEDC).

At the helm of CBEDC, Ms. Allen-Muhammad is determined to bring the agency back to its original mission, providing opportunities for community residents to achieve self-sufficiency.

Ms. Allen-Muhammad is thankful for her most important job – being a wife and mother. She is married to Student Minister Henry Muhammad and is Mom-in-Chief to four children, ages 6-12.

**La'Shawn Allen-Muhammad was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie.**





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Lorena Borjas

Lorena Borjas is a well-known activist and Latina transfeminist, an immigrant of Central American roots and proudly Mexican.

Ms. Borjas was born on May 29, 1960 and studied public accounting in Mexico City. On May 10, 1981, she made the decision to emigrate to the United States. Here, she explored new horizons, which gave way to new opportunities that allowed her to move forward with her life as a Translatina woman.

In September 1998, Ms. Borjas became actively involved as a volunteer with the following organizations: AIDS Center of Queens County – ACQC; Hispanic AIDS Forum; and the Latino Commission on AIDS, where she fights for the promotion and defense of human rights for LGBT communities (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual).

Dedicated to her cause, and as part of her ongoing commitment to the LGBT communities, Ms. Borjas began promoting and focusing aid on transgender women, Latina sex workers, and people co-dependent on alcohol and psychotropic substances. Since then, her efforts and leadership on these issues have impacted and influenced various spaces of the Latinx LGBT community.

On April 27, 2012, Ms. Borjas opened her own organization, The Lorena Borjas Community Fund. The Fund was created in order to alleviate the needs experienced by members of the Latinx LGBT community who had a legal case or who were imprisoned unjustly. The Fund covers the payment of a bond less than \$7,000.00.

Ms. Borjas continues to participate and represent the transgender community in local, national and international events.

**Lorena Borjas was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Jessica Ramos.**





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Deputy Kristy Botsford

Deputy Kristy Botsford began serving her community at age 18 as a volunteer EMS worker responding to emergencies in the Endwell community, while earning Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Psychology and Biology, at Binghamton University. After two years of volunteering, Ms. Botsford accepted her current paid position and achieved certification as a Nationally Registered Paramedic.

After ten years working in emergency services, Deputy Botsford desired a more proactive approach to serving her community and shifted careers to pursue her longtime dream of working as a law enforcement officer.

A graduate of the Broome County Law Enforcement Academy Class of 2015, Deputy Botsford served with distinction in both the Tioga County and Broome County Sheriff's offices, making many arrests ranging from DWI stops, to drugs, harassment and larcenies, while also enforcing vehicle and traffic laws.

Upon transferring to the Broome County Sheriff's Office in 2016, Deputy Botsford immediately engaged in the lives of the local community members she served. She frequently devoted her time at various community interaction events, many with The Children's Home of Wyoming Conference in Binghamton. There she worked with at-risk children and their families to cultivate healthy relationships between community and law enforcement. She read to children, provided career opportunity advice and mentorship to young women, and participated in events and community beautification projects with at-risk teens and children.

In the early hours of February 1, 2019, while responding to a vehicle traveling the wrong way on Route 17 West in Vestal, Deputy Botsford's vehicle was struck head on by an alleged drunk driver. Pinned inside her vehicle, she was freed by emergency personnel using the hydraulic "jaws of life" tool in sub-zero temperatures. Despite sustaining serious injuries, she was described by her colleagues as remaining "stoic and very brave" as emergency personnel worked to free her.

Deputy Botsford immediately underwent surgery to repair her broken femur and ankle. During her recovery, she received dozens of get well cards, letters, gift boxes and a large canvas sign from the children and staff at The Children's Home, as well as from well-wishers across the country.

Still in recovery, she plans to return to her post and continue serving and protecting the people of Broome County.

***Deputy Kristy Botsford was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Frederick J. Akshar II.***





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HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Carola Otero Bracco

Carola Otero Bracco, Executive Director of Neighbors Link, has a strong personal connection to the Neighbors Link mission of strengthening the whole community through the healthy integration of immigrants. As a first generation American born of immigrant parents from Bolivia, Ms. Bracco understands the challenges that accompany the immigrant experience in America and is dedicated to inspiring healthy integration in the community. Ms. Bracco is bilingual and bicultural and is driven by her passion for empowering immigrant families and advocating for personal growth through education and economic development.

During Ms. Bracco's tenure, Neighbors Link has become a leader in designing, implementing and directing community-based, bilingual educational and cultural awareness training programs. Furthermore, with her guidance and leadership, the organization has quadrupled in size in 10 years and is strategically scaling the Neighbors Link model in communities that are ready to embrace its mission.

Before becoming Executive Director of Neighbors Link in April 2004, Ms. Bracco spent 12 years gaining experience in financial management with General Electric Corporation, Ford Motor Company and Time Warner. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Duke University and currently serves on the boards of the National Council for Workforce Education, Nonprofit Westchester and the New York Immigration Coalition. She previously served on the board of Northern Westchester Hospital.

Ms. Bracco is recognized as an expert on immigration issues in the New York metropolitan area. She has received numerous awards and recognitions. Most recently, she was honored at the Pace Immigration Law Society's Persistence Dinner for being a warrior in the immigration field.

Providing leadership and vision for Neighbors Link is something Ms. Bracco sees as her life's work, and she often says it is a privilege to be in her position as Executive Director.

**Carola Otero Bracco was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Peter Harckham.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Ischia Bravo

Ischia Bravo serves as District Manager for Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7), which includes the communities of Bedford Park, Fordham, Jerome Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Moshulu Parkway, Norwood and University Heights. As the only Latina and woman of color serving as District Manager among the 12 Community Boards in the Bronx, one of her main priorities is to ensure that underrepresented and underserved groups in her community are informed of, and have access to, vital resources and services provided by local government and community-based organizations.

Through Ms. Bravo's partnership with CB7 leadership, the Board serves as a unique vehicle to organize and amplify the voice of community residents to weigh in on important issues impacting their neighborhoods, such as affordable housing, economic development, workforce investment, and City services.

Prior to her role as District Manager, Ms. Bravo served as Executive Director of the Bronx Democratic Party. Under the leadership of then - Chairman and now New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, she was charged with carrying out the organization's mission and managing the day-to-day operations of the office. Ms. Bravo led the organization for seven years, fulfilling its mission of doubling down on its commitment to Democratic values: increasing Bronxites' access to resources by connecting them to legal, financial, and other public services; participating in political activism initiatives; and serving as an inclusive facilitator between local community residents and party leaders.

Ms. Bravo was born and raised in the Bronx, growing up in public housing in the Kingsbridge neighborhood. She received a public education, earning a GED while working multiple jobs to help her grandmother meet the gaps that public assistance could not fill for her family. She continued her education at Hostos Community College, where she fought for increased investment in student resources and assistance, and was eventually elected as President of the Student Government. She went on to John Jay College, and remains committed to the advocacy and community organizing work that she fostered throughout her education and personal experience.

Among all of these roles and experiences, Ms. Bravo considers her most important role as that of the mother of two young boys. In addition to crediting her upbringing as the inspiration for her passion to serve others, she is also deeply moved to ensure that the neighborhood she calls home has good schools, clean parks, safe streets, and adequate access to quality healthcare – for her children and for generations to come.

***Ischia Bravo was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Alessandra Biaggi.***





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HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Maude Bruce

Maude Bruce was born in 1945 and grew up in Cuthbert, Georgia, in the segregated south. At the age of 16, while visiting with her grandmother in Albany, Georgia, Ms. Bruce and 19 other teenagers joined in a protest march led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was there in Albany that she first became involved with the NAACP - the oldest civil rights organization in the country - and the civil rights movement. As a teenager, Ms. Bruce was arrested during a peaceful march - an incident that she later recounted for the award-winning documentary *Eyes on the Prize*.

In 1962, Ms. Bruce married Jimmy Lee Bruce, and five years later, moved with him to Ellenville, where they raised their children and became active in the community. Ms. Bruce spent 36 years working as a timekeeper and doing payroll at Imperial Schrade. In 1986, she and her family suffered a terrible tragedy when her 20-year-old son, Jimmy Lee Jr., was killed by a chokehold, applied during what should have been a minor incident over alleged rowdy behavior, by two Middletown police officers who were moonlighting as security guards at a movie theater. The two officers involved were never indicted.

Ms. Bruce turned her worst personal tragedy into service to the community and advocacy for police reforms and accountability. She has served as President of the Ellenville Chapter of the NAACP since 1985. Under Ms. Bruce's leadership, the Ellenville Chapter of the NAACP has been an important anchor in the community, providing backpacks, school supplies and clothing for schoolchildren at their annual Back to School/Stay in School rally.

She hosts forums with local, state and federal candidates, honoring community members, organizations and businesses of distinction, and standing up for social, racial and economic justice. Ms. Bruce has been at the center of it all, making the fight for justice and service to community her priority for nearly 58 years.

**Maude Bruce was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Jen Metzger.**





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Gail Castellano

Gail Castellano, Senior Vice President and Regional Executive of Richmond County Savings Bank, a division of New York Community Bank, has achieved success through hard work, determination and the desire to give back to her community. As a highly motivated and results-oriented leader in her industry, Ms. Castellano began her career 25 years ago at an entry level position, and is parlaying her leadership skills to help those in her community.

One to always selflessly donate her time and energy to meaningful causes, Ms. Castellano is immediate past Board President of the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island and currently serves on its Executive Board. Ms. Castellano is humbled to share her time and expertise as a board member for the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, the St. George Theatre, and the South Shore Business Improvement District. She is an active member of the Advisory Committee for SCORE, a Cabinet member for the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation and is a co-chair of the Lucille & Jay Chazanoff Sunrise Day Camp Advisory Committee. Ms. Castellano co-chairs the Sunrise Walk campaign that sends children with cancer and their siblings to the day camp free of charge. She has co-chaired this walk since its inception in 2016, and plans to continue until there is no longer a need.

Ms. Castellano received numerous awards over her career. In just the past few years, she received the prestigious SIEDC's Executive Woman of the Year award, was honored at the Eger Foundation's Annual Golf and Bocce Classic and was named one of the 25 most influential people on Staten Island by *City & State* magazine. In addition, Ms. Castellano was named one of Staten Island's 100 Most Powerful People by *City & State, New York*. She has received the Community Impact award from the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island for her work with Sunrise Day Camp.

Ms. Castellano enjoys spending time with her family. She has been married to her husband, John Castellano, for 42 years and has three children and two grandchildren.

***Gail Castellano was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Andrew J. Lanza.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Heidi Harrison Chain

Heidi Harrison Chain, who serves as President of the 112th Precinct Community Council, is a lifelong resident of Queens who grew up in Rego Park and now lives in Forest Hills.

A dedicated community activist, Ms. Chain serves as a liaison between the New York Police Department and local residents to address safety issues and other problems. She organizes health and safety fairs, spearheads annual Night Out Against Crime events, and otherwise cultivates positive relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve. Ms. Chain also has undertaken efforts to involve children and adolescents in community projects designed to promote diversity and respect.

Ms. Chain gives her time and talents as a member of Community Board 6, where she chairs the Economic Development Committee and the Community Emergency Response Team Committee, and serves as Co-Chair of the Youth and Education Committee. She is President of the Rego Park/Forest Hills Lions Club, and served as President of the Citywide Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Ms. Chain played an integral role in coordinating New York City relief efforts with the NYPD and many volunteer organizations to provide materials and resources to the areas and residents hardest hit.

Ms. Chain completed Office of Emergency Management training, and helped create the Forest Hills/Rego Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which has been recognized as the best CERT in Queens and in all of New York City.

An attorney, Ms. Chain works as Executive Agency Counsel for the New York City Department of Finance. She is happily married to her husband, Herb. Her son, Bradley, and his wife, Katerina, have also blessed Heidi with Mia, her first grandchild.

**Heidi Harrison Chain was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Monique Chandler-Waterman

Monique Chandler-Waterman is a public servant, advocate and activist who believes in community. Her term as President of the East 29th Street and East 46th Street Block Association marked her foundational work in civic engagement, which is guided by her desire to improve lives by working with and within her community.

As an active, lifelong resident of East Flatbush, Ms. Chandler-Waterman works tirelessly for everyday families and residents. In 2005, she served on the Youth Committee and Block Association Committee for Brooklyn Community Board 17. She currently serves as a board member for Community Board 17, and had the privilege to serve as the Civilian Advisor for the New York Police Department 67th Precinct.

In 2008, Ms. Chandler-Waterman founded East Flatbush Village, Inc. in response to the lack of resources and programs in the community. East Flatbush Village, Inc. now provides wraparound services for youth, providing resources to families including mental health tools through S.T.A.N.D. (Self-care, Tender-love, Always, Needed, Daily) and solution-driven initiatives to eliminate violence in the community through the E.N.O.U.G.H. (Educating, Neighborhoods, Organizing, Underserved, Grassroots-organizing and Health Enrichment) anti-violence initiative. For the past six years, she has led "Occupy the Corners," where she mobilizes community leaders to engage various "hot spot" areas to have solution-driven conversations on how to reduce community violence.

With a Master of Business Administration degree, and as a Ph.D. candidate, Ms. Chandler-Waterman later served as Director of Community Outreach with New York City Council Member Jumaane D. Williams in 2012.

Ms. Chandler-Waterman is a recipient of the Caribbean Life Impact 40 Under 40 Award. She has also been recognized for her work in the community with the Brooklyn Distinction Award, Shirley Chisholm Woman of Distinction Award, Sesame Flyers International Community Award, Community Board 17 Women of Distinction Award, THRIVE NYC Community Partner of the Year, Assemblyman N. Nick Perry Community Service Award, Brooklyn United Federation of Teachers School Safety Community Service Award, and many more.

She currently resides in East Flatbush with her husband, Eric Waterman, and four children, Eynique, Erique, Eynee and Erynn.

**Monique Chandler-Waterman was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Kevin S. Parker.**





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

Julie Schwietert Collazo

Julie Schwietert Collazo is a creative arts therapist, writer, editor, and translator. Formerly, she was a social worker. Her work now mainly revolves around social activism and working towards bettering her community.

In June 2018, along with her husband, Francisco Collazo, Ms. Collazo founded what has evolved into Immigrant Families Together, an organization of rapid response volunteers who work against the Trump administration's immigration policies, including zero tolerance and family separation.

In six short months, and almost entirely through social media, Ms. Collazo and IFT raised nearly a million dollars, and to date they have posted bond for more than 65 parents, grandparents, and older siblings who were detained by Immigration and separated from their children and families.

IFT also provides ongoing support and services for many of these families so that they can build a healthy, stable life for themselves as they undergo their asylum proceedings.

She is a sought-after speaker and commentator on immigration policy, migration, and resettlement issues.

Ms. Schwietert Collazo has been a resident of Long Island City since 2003.

***Julie Schwietert Collazo was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Michael Gianaris.***





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Jennifer O. D'Andrea-Terreri

Jennifer O. D'Andrea-Terreri is best described as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, American patriot, and mother to four beautiful children. She has nearly 20 years experience in the legal field, has a real estate and property management company, and in her spare time, does what she can to improve the lives of others in her community.

On July 25, 2010, Ms. D'Andrea-Terreri lost her former husband, who had a long history of substance abuse, to an opiate overdose. As a result of her and her children's loss, her life experience growing up in a military family, and difficulty finding resources to help her family cope with all that encompasses loving someone who is struggling with addiction, Ms. D'Andrea-Terreri decided to create what was so desperately lacking in her community.

In 2012, Ms. D'Andrea-Terreri founded a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization called S.E.R.V. NIAGARA. Its mission is to S.E.R.V.: Support, Empower, Respect Veterans. S.E.R.V. Niagara is the first and only organization in Niagara County to provide housing exclusively for homeless and disabled veterans and their families. The organization also provides a uniquely structured program to support, employ, educate, empower, and promote healing, all of which foster the ultimate goals of self-sufficiency and keeping veterans and their families together.

Ms. D'Andrea-Terreri presents all S.E.R.V. Niagara programming to the treatment courts and Veterans' Courts, speaking on social issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, and their effects on children and families. She works closely with law enforcement agencies, the Veterans' Administration, Department of Social Services, as well as other agencies and organizations.

Since forming S.E.R.V. Niagara, Ms. D'Andrea-Terreri has shifted her area of practice from personal injury to veterans and military issues, and offers services pro bono to qualifying veterans.

Among her many honors and awards, she is the recipient of the 2017 New York National Guard, Family Programs Recognition & Youth Development Award, and the 2016 'Unsung Hero Award' by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Washington, D.C. She was a 2015 Congressional Medal of Honor Citizens Honors Top 10 National Finalist in the Service Act category.

While Ms. D'Andrea-Terreri has built her philanthropic work and career as a goal-driven, results-oriented executive, her true purpose is helping others.

***Jennifer O. D'Andrea-Terreri was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Robert G. Ortt.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Airman 1st Class Madison Daquelandte

Madison Daquelandte, Airman 1st Class (A1C), of Plattsburgh, selflessly serves our state and nation as a member of the New York Air National Guard/109th Airlift Wing. A1C Daquelandte is a graduate of Beekmantown Central School and a high academic achieving student who continues to better herself by pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the State University of New York (SUNY) Plattsburgh.

A1C Daquelandte has distinguished herself in numerous ways while assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing's Emergency Management Office. Most notable has been her work to lead 18 readiness-training sessions, ensuring 270 service members are well trained to survive and operate in a chemical environment. She was instrumental in the success of the Joint Task Force-3 Debris Clearing exercise, moving 16,000 pounds of debris and clearing 800 feet of roadway in just four hours. Furthermore, A1C Daquelandte configured two HUMVEEs in response to a damaging local storm, providing relief to residents in Washington County.

A1C Daquelandte's commitment to serving others is reflected in her involvement with leading a college tutoring program that works to enhance the careers of 32 fellow students. In addition, she volunteers at the Capital Region Expressive Arts (CREATE) program, inspiring inner-city youth through local art exhibits, dedicates her time to help special needs children, and has spearheaded a Toys for Tots program which delivered more than 5,000 gifts to children in need in less than seven hours.

A1C Daquelandte has been recognized numerous times as a superior performer in her unit. She twice received the Civil Engineer Squadron Airman of the Quarter Award, Mission Support Group Airman of the Year Award, Command Chief's Team Award, Air Mobility Command Superior Performer Award and the Colonel Frederick J. Reimer Award for the best Emergency Management Flight in the Air National Guard.

A1C Daquelandte's goal is to graduate college in May 2019 with a degree in Art Therapy. She intends to use her degree to assist veterans suffering due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

***Airman 1st Class Madison Daquelandte was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Nicole Dayka

Nicole Dayka is a Youth at Risk Coordinator for the Town of Hamburg and Hamburg Central School District, where she has positively affected the lives of hundreds of children and their families. As Co-President of the Parent-Child Connection, Coordinator of the Hamburg Youth Court and Chair of the Special Education PTSA for Hamburg Schools, Ms. Dayka has been instrumental in the school district, which is recognized as one of the most innovative in the country for its support of students who suffer from mental health issues.

As an intricate part of the community, Ms. Dayka is a volunteer shopper for the Warm the Children initiative, sponsored by the Hamburg Rotary, that provides new winter clothing for children in need. However, the impact of her commitment to serving the community extends beyond the borders of the Town of Hamburg. She is a member of the Family Advisory Council and active volunteer at Oishei Children's Hospital, and coordinates the Holiday Partnership for Southtown's Families, which provides gifts to children on Christmas morning. In addition, she is a board member of Colton's Journey to Liberation and serves on the Social Committee at St. Bernadette's Parish.

Ms. Dayka is no stranger to adversity, as her son, Carson, suffers from a chronic illness. The challenges associated with Carson's medical condition do not weigh them down. Instead, they inspired them to create the Carson Dayka Travel Fund, which supports the Ronald McDonald House and patients, as well as their families, traveling from out of town or to Oishei Children's Hospital for treatment.

Ms. Dayka serves on the Erie County Opioid Epidemic Task Force and the Rapid Evaluation Appropriate Placement (REAP) subcommittee, where she uses her experience as a mental health trainer to help combat the opioid crisis. As Vice-President of the Town of Hamburg Drug Free Community Coalition, Ms. Dayka runs the Helping Others Peacefully Endure (HOPE) support group for families who have lost loved ones due to addiction.

Ms. Dayka and her husband, Kevin, live in Hamburg with their two children, Alexa and Carson.

**Nicole Dayka was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Christopher L. Jacobs.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Joan Dean

Joan Dean began advocating for street safety after a speeding driver killed her 12-year-old grandson, Sammy Cohen Eckstein, on October 8, 2013. As a result, Ms. Dean is a member of Families for Safe Streets (FSS), an organization comprised of individuals who suffered a loss or injuries due to traffic violence. This tragedy motivated her to advocate for legislation that would influence law enforcement and street redesign to minimize future catastrophes.

In 2015, one year after its founding, Families for Safe Streets, through legislation, reduced the speed limit in New York City from 30 mph to 25 mph. Most recently, Ms. Dean, along with Families for Safe Streets, facilitated the passage of legislation for 750 speed safety cameras in New York City school zones. Through her advocacy for improved safety measures, she has had many meetings with the New York City Mayor, members of the New York City Council and the New York State Legislature. Ms. Dean has also participated in rallies, memorial vigils and organized protests with FSS members. Her efforts have resulted in significant changes on dangerous streets like the long stretch of Amsterdam Avenue in Harlem, where traffic crashes occur almost daily.

Ms. Dean's 35 years of government experience in New York and California has greatly cultivated her activism. She has held several political administrative posts in New York State at the Consumer Protection Board and the Department of Civil Service. In California, Ms. Dean served in the administration of Governor Gray Davis as Deputy Secretary of the Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency, and worked for Senator Dianne Feinstein as Deputy State Director. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master in Public Administration from the State University of New York at Albany.

Ultimately, Ms. Dean hopes the unwavering dedication to her community will promote a culture of safe driving in New York City. Her passion and determination to protect all generations from traffic violence truly makes her a Woman of Distinction.

***Joan Dean was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Brad Hoylman.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Bette Dewing

Bette Dewing began her long career as a writer while still a student in Minnesota, publishing poems in Edison High School's *Gleam* magazine. After graduation, Ms. Dewing sang part-time with a seven-piece orchestra and eventually moved to New York.

While singing was her first love, in New York, Ms. Dewing returned to writing. Her involvement in the women's movement led to writing in two grassroots publications, *New Direction for Women* and *Prime Time*. In 1977, she landed a column in the *Our Town* weekly newspaper in which she continues to write today.

Ms. Dewing writes about a variety of New York City issues and is especially known for her traffic safety activism. In her columns, she has also called for a return to extended family life whenever possible, recalling the invaluable help of her mother-in-law. Ms. Dewing advocates for neighbors to become more neighborly, not only because the population is aging, but also to encourage children and younger generations to be responsible to the elders in their lives.

In addition, Ms. Dewing wrote a column for several years for the *Manhattan Cooperator Monthly*. A long-time rent-controlled tenant, she served as a four-term board member of her co-op home after her building converted.

Ms. Dewing also served as chair of the Older Women's Media Committee, and produced a program to raise the consciousness for the Older Women's League. Her concern in much of her work has been that elderly people, especially the "old old" and homebound, are left out of society's mainstream even in their own apartment houses and neighborhoods. She is now pushing for the "elder orphans" movement to become a worldwide force whose purpose is to assist those who do not have children to help them in old age. Ms. Dewing believes people must learn to help one another much more than they do and, along with learning communication skills, learn basic home health care skills.

Ms. Dewing is the proud mother of two sons.

***Bette Dewing was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Liz Krueger.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Randi Shubin Dresner

Randi Shubin Dresner has been with Island Harvest Food Bank since 2001, serving as President and Chief Executive Officer for most of her tenure. Through her work at Island Harvest, she and her incredibly dedicated team have raised awareness of the insidious, yet often unrecognized problem of chronic hunger on Long Island. Under her direction, Island Harvest Food Bank has increased its income by more than 83% and its distribution of meals has increased by more than 75% in the past ten years. Their holistic approach to ending hunger has formed a unique partnership with major hospital systems, hundreds of community-based organizations, local and regional government, businesses and more.

Prior to joining Island Harvest Food Bank, Ms. Dresner was a partner in a successful development consulting firm and made her mark at several national and local nonprofit organizations, including the Heckscher Museum of Art, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, The Viscardi Center, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

For more than 25 years, Ms. Dresner served as adjunct faculty at LIU Post and Molloy College. She is a member of the Suffolk County Food Policy Council, and The Long Island Food Council, Co-Chair of the SUNY Task Force on Food Insecurity, and was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on the New York State Council on Hunger and Food Policy. Ms. Dresner is in her second term as a member of the Farmingdale State College Council and serves as the Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the New York State Food Bank Association. Ms. Dresner is also a long-term member of the Emergeia Partnership at Molloy College, a regional ethical-leadership academy. Her knowledge and experience in nonprofit management, food-insecurity, disability awareness and other related issues has established her as a "go to" source for national, local and regional media, government officials, and thought leaders.

Ms. Dresner's recognition, awards and honors include: Honorary Doctorate of Law from St. Joseph's College, 2013; Long Island's Top-50 Most Influential Women in Business; Outstanding CEO; Long Island Business Hall of Fame installation; Vision LI Leadership Award; 2013 New York State Senate Women of Distinction Award; 2010 New York State Assembly's Women of Distinction Award; Long Island Farm Bureau Citizen of the Year, 2012; The Herald Community Newspapers "Person of the Year, 2012"; keynote commencement addresses at SUNY Farmingdale State College and St. Joseph's College.

Ms. Dresner often acknowledges how the opportunity to participate in local volunteerism from age nine was perhaps the most impactful training for her lifelong career in the non-profit sector. As a result, she has enjoyed a rich career that has led to some of the most satisfying accomplishments - confirming her belief that one person can be part of important change in her community.

***Randi Shubin Dresner was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Kevin Thomas.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Roxanne Dueppengiesser

Roxanne Dueppengiesser is a lifelong resident of Wyoming County. She is a dynamic leader in the agriculture industry, a business so critically important to the Wyoming County community. For the past 23 years, Ms. Dueppengiesser has served as a 4-H family and consumer science educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension. In this position, she supports local agriculture by organizing educational activities and special events for area youth.

Ms. Dueppengiesser is active in creating engaging activities that help young people learn about agriculture and the important role the industry plays throughout the entire State of New York. She organizes the "Produced in New York Food Contest" which requires 4-H members to prepare a recipe made with New York grown products as the main ingredient. She also develops various youth activities for the annual Wyoming County Fair.

In addition, Ms. Dueppengiesser has worked to promote careers in agriculture. Using a grant from the New York State Agricultural Society, she spearheaded a tour of Western New York businesses as part of the 4-H Career Exploration Trip. The daylong event gave youth firsthand exposure to the many career paths associated with farming.

Earlier this year, Ms. Dueppengiesser was named the 2019 Wyoming County Friend of Agriculture by the Wyoming County Farm Bureau and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County. She is a member of the Wyoming County Business Education Council, the Perry Central School Shared Decision Making Team, the Warsaw Agricultural Youth Supporters Committee and the Wyoming County Agri-Palooza Committee. She is a past member of the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, the Wyoming County Tourist Promotion Agency and the Wyoming County Youth Board.

Ms. Dueppengiesser and her husband, Peter, are active participants in Farm Bureau and have served on the Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. Her enthusiasm for helping the youth of Wyoming County and her support of the local agriculture industry are truly unmatched.

Ms. Dueppengiesser attended Pavilion Central Schools and earned a Bachelor's degree in Consumer Economics and Business Management from Cornell University.

***Roxanne Dueppengiesser was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Patrick M. Gallivan.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Bessie R. Edwards

Bessie R. Edwards has always been committed to helping and inspiring others to achieve their goals. She believes that all things are possible and that the key to achieving any goal is to start by taking the first steps, and the rest falls into place.

With an interest in community issues, education and professional development, Ms. Edwards reinvented herself to match her evolving interests and workforce needs. She began her professional career as a clerical skills teacher for OIC, a jobs training program, and within just a few months, she saw how people's outlook on life turned from hopelessness to life with a future.

Armed with her OIC experience, Ms. Edwards went to work in the cable industry for Time, Inc. companies in Human Resource and Training Management. She simultaneously taught as an adjunct professor at Borough of Manhattan Community College in the Career Education Department. In 1988, she left the corporate world and co-founded Pizzazz Meeting and Events Planning Group, a special events management company that planned non-profit and corporate conferences and events throughout the United States. Ms. Edwards wanted to share her entrepreneurial experiences, so she created a course in Special Events Planning, serving as an adjunct at New York University and Kingsborough Community College.

Always committed to serving others, Ms. Edwards developed B.R. Edwards Associates Real Estate, a boutique real estate firm specializing in residential, condominiums, co-ops, and investment sales. She has been a real estate professional since 2000, and in 2010, became a full-time real estate broker.

Ms. Edwards is past president of the Bedford Stuyvesant Real Estate Board, where she served from 2011-2013. She also served as Chair of the Board of Directors and currently is an active member. Additionally, Ms. Edwards works as a consultant to educate community leaders and residents of the importance of home ownership in Black communities and the steps needed to purchase, maintain and keep a home.

Ms. Edwards is one of the founding board members and Executive Director of Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium, and is a member of the Age Friendly Advisory Council for CD 36, a Board member of Brooklyn Neighborhood Housing, president of the New York Club at Bridge Street AWME Church and is active in Bedford Stuyvesant community organizations.

Ms. Edwards is a lifetime resident of Brooklyn, raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, and attended PS 70 and Franklin K. Lane High School. She attended Brooklyn College and earned a Master of Science in Human Resource and Organizational Development from the New School of Social Research.

Ms. Edwards is the mother of two daughters, Monique and Marci, and proud grandmother of five grandchildren.

***Bessie R. Edwards was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Velmanette Montgomery.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Peg Ellsworth

Peg Ellsworth has lived by the words of Maya Angelou, "Life loves to be taken by the lapel and told: 'I'm with you kid. Let's go'" - grabbing the communities she loves by the lapels and helping them thrive. In a part of the Catskills filled with both rich possibilities and deep challenges, and with courage, a firm mind, and an enormous heart, Ms. Ellsworth has led one of the most innovative community foundations in the country, building an area in ways most did not know was possible.

Under Ms. Ellsworth's guidance, the MARK Project has attained funds totaling nearly \$14 million for community projects, programs, flood relief, homeowner assistance, small business development, and Main Street revitalization. These funds have leveraged additional private and public assets, translating to a \$64 million investment in the region. Additionally, in coordination with local municipalities, the MARK Project has assisted income-eligible homeowners make more than \$2 million in repairs, while addressing health and safety issues.

With this work, Ms. Ellsworth has parlayed a 25-year career directing and administering federal, state, and locally funded projects into an extraordinarily powerful set of impacts for the region, bringing hope and help to community members in need, support and resources to a growing small business community, and tireless championship for good ideas and ventures across the region.

When the area was devastated by Hurricane Irene flooding, Ms. Ellsworth and the MARK Project worked around the clock, even as her own house flooded. When the wedding industry needed quality food for a growing clientele, she and her husband created a cutting-edge catering business, providing professional career opportunities for young residents. When the new statewide vision for economic development emerged, Ms. Ellsworth stepped up to serve on the Executive Committee of the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council. She has unstinting energy, commitment, and belief in solutions – and she is making a difference.

If you attend a meeting in the area, chances are you will spot someone wearing a button that reads, "It's all Peg's fault." If there is a breakthrough idea to improve the community, a kind gesture to better lives, or an innovative proposal to grow the Catskills, it probably was.

**Peg Ellsworth was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator James L. Seward.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Anne Erickson

Anne Erickson is President and CEO of the Empire Justice Center, a multi-faceted legal services organization working to advance social and economic justice in New York. A powerhouse of litigation, legal assistance, policy analysis and legislative advocacy, Empire Justice has shaped the state's anti-poverty efforts for over four decades.

Focused on building Empire Justice, Ms. Erickson is dedicated to expanding the capacity of the legal services community to meet the ever-increasing need for access to justice. She helped position Empire Justice to lead in the creation of the State's foreclosure prevention services, working with the Office of the Attorney General to design the Home Ownership Protection Program. In addition, Ms. Erickson helped launch a joint project with the New York State Office of Victim Services to provide civil legal assistance to crime victims. She helped shape the early efforts to launch the Liberty Defense Project (LDP) with the New York State Office of New Americans.

Ms. Erickson continues to lead the annual state budget efforts to ensure that legal services are adequately funded; her work within the legal services community helped pave the way for the first allocation of general funding for civil legal services in New York in 1993. Ms. Erickson has provided support and leadership to the legal services community throughout her career and was named by then Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman to the State's Task Force on Expanded Access to Legal Services, now the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice.

Serving as Legislative Coordinator for the Greater Upstate Law Project (now Empire Justice) from 1989 to 1999, Ms. Erickson rose to the position of CEO in 2000. Prior to joining Empire Justice, she was Assistant Director of Statewide Youth Advocacy, running the Children's Collaborative, working on the first Child Health Plus legislation, helping to craft the first Prenatal Care Assistance Project and working to expand access to health care through Family Health Plus. Appointed by Governor Mario M. Cuomo to the State's Health Care Financing Agency in 1992, Ms. Erickson's was an early and steady voice for the uninsured in New York.

Born and raised on Long Island, Ms. Erickson is the sixth of 15 children born to Doris and Henry Erickson. She arrived in Albany as a student reporter for the *Legislative Gazette* in 1978, its inaugural year of publication. A legislative correspondent for WAMC Northeast Public radio in the early 1980s, Ms. Erickson now serves as Vice Chair of the WAMC Board of Trustees.

***Anne Erickson was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Neil D. Breslin.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Barbara Franco

Barbara Franco has been serving the residents of the Town of Smithtown as the Executive Director of the Smithtown Chamber of Commerce for the past 13 years. In this role, she has utilized her marketing skills and tireless energy to enrich the lives of all Smithtown residents.

A veteran of corporate marketing, Ms. Franco's experience in the business world has been an integral part of her efforts to highlight the Town of Smithtown. In her extensive background, she has worked with companies such as Jones New York, Intel Corporation, Arrow Electronics, Coldwell Banker Sammis, Huntington Terrace and Sunrise Senior Living.

Ms. Franco finds inspiration in the challenges and rewards that come with coordinating the many major events the Chamber undertakes. These include events like Smithtown Festival Day, the Annual Golf Outing, 5K Running of the Bull, Smithtown Restaurant Week, Arts & Music Night and the Annual Fashion Show. These fundraising events support local community groups such as the Smithtown Food Pantry, Angela's House and the 911 Responders Remembered Park.

She was also part of the team that launched the Young Professionals Group within the Chamber Membership to help foster the next generation. Additionally, she serves as a member of the Industry Advisory Board at Smithtown High Schools, where she dedicates her time to help prepare students for future business opportunities and careers.

In addition, Ms. Franco is also a member of the Community Advisory Council at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center.

For all her efforts, Ms. Franco was named *Times of Smithtown's* Woman of the Year in 2017 and was presented with the prestigious Anna Blydenburgh Award by the Smithtown Historical Society in 2013.

Ms. Franco and her husband, Ken, have been married for 34 years and have been blessed with a beautiful, loving family. Their daughter, Laura, and her husband, Frank, are the proud parents of the couple's first grandson, Giovanni. Her youngest daughter, Emily, recently married her husband, Daniel.

***Barbara Franco was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator John J. Flanagan.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Margaret Graham

Margaret "Maggie" Graham has dedicated her professional career to advocating for and advancing initiatives to help the most vulnerable members of our communities. She retired in December 2018 from her position as Greene County Director of Human Services and Director of Mental Health, a position she has served in since 2010.

Throughout her career, Ms. Graham worked tirelessly to keep Greene County at the forefront of services for vulnerable populations, including those battling mental health issues, addiction, and developmental disabilities. She coordinated crisis intervention training for law enforcement and first responders within the County to better equip them to recognize mental health symptoms, as well as how to react to individuals in crises and get them the services they need.

Ms. Graham was critical in the formation of the Columbia-Greene Controlled Substance Task Force, which works with stakeholders on all levels to advance measures to combat the opioid epidemic. She coordinated countless prevention events in the community and advocated to secure funding for substance abuse treatment within the Greene County Jail.

Ms. Graham was instrumental in securing funds for the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team to provide outreach services to the County's most vulnerable population, which proved to be extremely effective in preventing and diverting unnecessary hospitalizations. It has since expanded to include additional staff and longer hours.

For those who struggle with mental health issues, and their families, navigating the system and services available can be overwhelming. Ms. Graham implemented Family Peer Advocates to assist children and families in those situations.

Ms. Graham has served on the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Columbia and Greene Counties, the Rural Health Network Board, the Early Childhood Learning Center Board, the PAS it On (Prevention, Awareness, Solutions) Committee, and the Rural Planning Consortium, as well as many other boards and committees. In 2017, Columbia-Greene Community College honored her with the President's Award for her community leadership.

It is unlikely to find anyone who has not benefited from Ms. Graham's tremendous work and advocacy in Greene County.

Ms. Graham's motto is "We just keep pushing forward." Although she officially retired in December after a thriving 37 year career in the mental health field, she plans to remain an involved member of her community so that her contributions continue to have a lasting impact.

***Margaret Graham was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator George A. Amedore, Jr.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Kathleen Graupman

Kathleen Graupman is in her fifth year as Greece Central School District Superintendent, where she is committed to improving student achievement and closing equity gaps.

Ms. Graupman leads a team of more than 3,000 educators and support staff members who are committed to building a culture of high standards and engagement. With almost 11,000 students in 17 schools, Greece is the largest suburban district in Monroe County and one of the most diverse. Guided by the Envision Greece Strategic Plan, she and the executive leadership are motivated by a vision of equity and access for all.

Throughout her career, Ms. Graupman has maintained a relentless focus on building relationships to help students succeed. She is passionate about developing the capacity of all employees, building strong community connections, and promoting the good. She believes all Greece graduates should be actively involved in their communities and ready for success in college, career, and life.

A product of the Greece Central school system herself, Ms. Graupman is connected to the community and invested in its success. She is active in numerous community organizations, including Greece Rotary, Greece Chamber of Commerce, the Roc2Change Steering Committee, and the Monroe 2 BOCES Foundation Board.

Ms. Graupman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from SUNY Geneseo and earned her Master of Science in Education from SUNY Brockport. She holds New York State permanent certification as a school administrator and supervisor, and in school district leadership, as well as a New York State permanent teaching certification in elementary education.

She is the proud mother of two college-age daughters.

***Kathleen Graupman was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Joseph E. Robach.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Coralanne Griffith-Hunte, Psy.D.

Coralanne Griffith-Hunte, Psy.D. is a Human, Industrial and Trauma Psychologist, who is also the Founder and Chairwoman of Created for Greatness Leadership Group. Dr. Griffith-Hunte has over 25 years' experience as an orator, educator, humanitarian, mentor, political and organizational consultant, advocate and playwright. She has been a Queens community advocate since 2000.

Dr. Griffith-Hunte currently serves as a professor at The College of New Rochelle and Senior Training and Development Facilitator for The City University of New York.

She is also a Senior Legislative Advisor who works with key government officials and other organizations to advocate for legislation to create favorable changes in the areas of education, human rights, mental health, domestic violence, human trafficking, anti-gang measures and community engagement.

Dr. Griffith-Hunte is the Vice President of Training and Director of Anti-Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence for Not On My Watch (Queens and Long Island), an organization that aims to eradicate human trafficking and domestic violence nationwide and also rehabilitate survivors. She was instrumental in advocating for the End Child Sex Trafficking bill, which was signed into law in 2018.

Dr. Griffith-Hunte is a member of the African American Clergy and Elected Officials Organization and the New York Recovery Community Coalition. She is one of the key Trauma Psychologists for the Department of Probation in the Bronx, and executive board member for several other public and private schools and organizations.

Dr. Griffith-Hunte is the recipient of many public service, educational and religious organization awards, including the Citation of Honor from the Office of the President of the Borough of Queens, New York, The Department of Army Certificate of Appreciation, The Distinguished Alumni Award of 2014 and the Community Leader's Award.

Dr. Griffith-Hunte has hosted several summits empowering women, including Business & Professionalism, The Journey to Wholeness, Vision & Destiny and Created for Greatness. She is the creator of the A. T. T. model of life, which seeks to elevate women and families through an understanding of the purpose and promise that God has for their lives.

***Coralanne Griffith-Hunte, Psy.D. was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator James Sanders Jr.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Lisa Ann Hermann

Lisa Ann Hermann is currently the Principal of James P. Sinnott Magnet Middle School for Health and Health Professions. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Hunter College in 1998 and was the recipient of the Estelle S. Levy Award - most likely to succeed in education.

In 2002, Ms. Hermann earned her M.S.Ed in Administration from Bank Street College. After her 15-year career as a Department of Education teacher and Assistant Principal, she accepted the Principalship of James P. Sinnott in 2013.

In 2016, Ms. Hermann received the Beacon of Hope Award from the East New York United Concerned Citizens, Inc. She was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society, Brooklyn College, in 2017.

Ms. Hermann is also President of Brooklyn Reading Council since 2017. In addition to being a principal, she has also been an adjunct professor of Art Education and a fine artist. Ms. Hermann is a native of Brooklyn, currently resides in Brooklyn, and loves celebrating life with her three sons.

***Lisa Ann Hermann was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Roxanne J. Persaud.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Pauline P. Holbrook

Pauline "Polly" Holbrook has devoted her time, energy and talent to bettering the community of Hornell, New York and the entire Canisteo Valley for more than six decades.

Ms. Holbrook was born in Schenectady, the daughter of Irish immigrants. She and her older sister were featured Irish dancers who promoted war bonds for the United States government during World War II.

After graduating from Syracuse University, she married William J. Holbrook. The couple settled in Hornell and raised six children. To this day, the late Judge Holbrook is remembered as a longtime city attorney and City Court Judge, as well as a decorated U.S. Navy veteran and founder and past Commander of the local Naval Reserve, where Ms. Holbrook is a stalwart of civic affairs.

Ms. Holbrook's life focus has always been on caring for her family, including a son with special needs. In addition to that commitment, for over 30 years, Ms. Holbrook also served as a substitute teacher in the Hornell City School District, making an unforgettable difference in the lives of countless students.

A short list of Ms. Holbrook's many community associations, activities and achievements over the past six decades includes many with which she remains actively involved: the American Association of University Women/Alfred University Chapter (where she recently received the 65-Year Award), St. James Mercy Hospital, St. Gerard's Guild, Steuben ARC Board of Directors, Hornell Arts Council, the Ladies of Columbus, Fortnightly Women's Book Club, Meals on Wheels, and the Hornell American Legion Post 440.

A past recipient of the City of Hornell Republican of the Year Award, Ms. Holbrook is a revered member of the City of Hornell and Steuben County Republican Committees, where locally her tireless feats of petition carrying remain legendary to this day!

For over 60 years, Ms. Holbrook has attended daily Mass at Our Lady of the Valley Church in Hornell. She has also devoted many hours to the St. Ann's Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Ms. Holbrook is a welcome and beloved visitor at local hospitals and nursing homes, where her steady companionship to patients and residents is counted on to raise their spirits and let them know they are not forgotten.

***Pauline P. Holbrook was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Thomas F. O'Mara.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Carol Pingelski Hotaling

Carol Pingelski Hotaling, of Clifton Park, is a tremendous patriot and has been a fierce and tireless advocate for our active duty service men and women.

Ms. Hotaling is affectionately known as the "Yellow Ribbon Lady," having made tens of thousands of yellow ribbons with bows over the past 29 years to distribute to individuals, businesses, municipalities, and family members of United States service members stationed around the world. The yellow ribbons are reminders to keep our nation's active duty troops in people's minds, thoughts and prayers.

Yellow Ribbon Day honors the service and sacrifice of the American heroes who wear our nation's uniform and put their lives at risk for our safety and security; the day also recognizes and thanks the families these heroes leave behind.

Thanks to Ms. Hotaling's love of country and dedication to our troops, Yellow Ribbon Day is commemorated every year at Halfmoon Town Hall. In 2006, the New York State Legislature began to commemorate Yellow Ribbon Day on April 9 of each year to recognize that the freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military. The event was originally organized in honor of Matt Maupin, the first prisoner of war captured in the Iraq War.

Ms. Hotaling says she champions Yellow Ribbon Day and creates yellow ribbons to "make a difference in the world" so people will always "remember all our troops." She has been known to visit airports to present yellow ribbons to returning service members, and has made thousands of ribbons for patriotic parades and homecomings, as well as memorials and funerals for those who served.

Ms. Hotaling has received many accolades for her efforts to support our troops, including the prestigious Commander's Award for Public Service from the U.S. Department of the Navy for her work to establish the first family readiness group in support of a National Guard division deployed during wartime. She also earned the National Guard Community Purple Award for her service to overseas Guard members and their families.

Ms. Hotaling, a Shenendehowa High School graduate and Halfmoon native, has also helped Yellow Ribbon Day to be commemorated nationally by the U.S. House of Representatives.

***Carol Pingelski Hotaling was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator James N. Tedisco.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

The Rev. Dr. Maria L. Hubbard

Dr. Maria Hubbard has been a minister and advocate for the economically disadvantaged in Queens, New York for nearly 30 years. She is currently the CEO of Agape Community Development Corporation, formerly GBCDC. Agape's mission is inspired by President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty and Dr. Martin L. King's Poor Man's Campaign. The goal is to close the budget gap between the "haves" and "have-nots."

Agape provides new retail donations, educational-vocational classes, community outreach programs, and referrals. Their retail partners include the Gap, Walmart, Bed Bath & Beyond, Harmon Face Values, Disney, Aramark Clothing, Uggs, and other seasonal companies. Over the years, Agape/GBCDC has worked with a number of organizations to meet community needs, partnering with the New York State Workforce, ACS, Arbor, Goodwill, SQPA, New York Police Department, NOBLE, NAN, senior centers, police councils, elected officials, houses of worship and other nonprofits. Agape also provides emergency and disaster relief.

Dr. Hubbard is the product of strict parenting from a financially struggling yet loving mother (Barbara Murphy) and a supportive grandmother (Margaret Douglas). She is also the great granddaughter of Mary McLeod Bethune. The lives of these women shaped her mission to help disadvantaged families.

Dr. Hubbard is a graduate of Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science Degree. She has also earned degrees in Sacred Theology from United Christian College. Her educational background includes attending the Master's Psychology programs at Rutgers University, Hunter College and Queens College. She is a member of the National Council of Negro Women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, NAACP and the Interfaith Council for Community Development.

For 40 years, Dr. Hubbard has served in several large ministries and is known for her straightforward delivery of the Word of God. In 2017, she started Agape Faith Ministries, an evangelistic outreach to minister the word and provide for the needs in poor communities. Dr. Hubbard concurs with the Apostle Paul that she too was "made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power" - Ephesians 3:7.

***The Rev. Dr. Maria L. Hubbard was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Leroy Comrie.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Irene Elizabeth Hylton, Ph.D.

Dr. Irene "Betty" Hylton is a longtime educator, having taught in the Westbury School District for 22 years. She is most proud of going back to school in her mid-fifties to earn her Ph.D. in Educational Communication and Technology at New York University.

Dr. Hylton has taught at many local universities and was the Associate Dean of Teacher Education at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. She believes that we must make a difference in the lives of our youth and the community. As such, she has committed herself to volunteering her services to the Westbury-New Cassel community and has worked tirelessly as an advocate and activist within it.

Dr. Hylton is very active with the North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center and was a member of its board of directors. She serves as Chair of the Advisory Council of The Leeds Place, the Guidance Center's Westbury site. She has been instrumental in establishing services and partnerships at The Leeds Place that provide mental health and substance abuse services to children and families of Westbury and surrounding communities.

Dr. Hylton is a charter member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Pi Pi Omega Chapter (PPO), which has serviced the greater Westbury community since 1987. She fostered a partnership between PPO and The Leeds Place that provided supportive services to the community, and is part of the team that has directed the over 20-year collaboration between the Town of North Hempstead, The Leeds Place and PPO for the annual National Night Out Against Crime in August.

The NAACP Westbury-New Cassel Chapter was resurrected in 2006 under Dr. Hylton's leadership, and she has been an active member of the executive board. This chapter quickly grew to more than 100 members, with community members crossing many cultural groups, collaborating with several local organizations. Dr. Hylton has received recognition and many honors for her community service from numerous organizations.

Dr. Hylton is a 50-year resident of Westbury, where she and her husband, Dr. Robert Hylton, raised their three children.

***Irene Elizabeth Hylton, Ph.D. was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Anna M. Kaplan.***





Women of **DISTINCTION**

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Sinforosa Tan Kaung, Ph.D.

Sinforosa Tan Kaung, Ph.D., is an educator, mentor, trailblazer and fierce advocate for education and Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI), and we are proud to present her as Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousin's Woman of Distinction for Senate District 35.

Dr. Kaung was born and raised in the Philippines. She is a graduate of the University of San Carlos and came to the United States on a National Science Foundation Fellowship for her Master's degree at Cornell University. She earned a Ph.D. from Syracuse University. Dr. Kaung has received many accolades, including the OCA National Unsung Hero Award, and has published and presented papers and led workshops for mathematics teachers locally, nationally and internationally. Dr. Kaung is a Professor Emerita of Mathematics and a former holder of the Sophia & Joseph Abeles Endowed Chair for Mathematics at Westchester Community College. In 2018, she stepped down as Board Member Emerita of the Syracuse University School of Education Board of Visitors. She continues to serve on the Board of the Evergreen Club, an organization of Chinese Seniors.

Dr. Kaung has been involved with OCA-WHV (Asian Pacific American Advocates Westchester & Hudson Valley Chapter) for 24 years, is a lifetime member and has served on the Board in various positions including as past president. OCA-WHV is one of the 100 chapters and affiliates of the OCA Advocates, which is dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian American Pacific Islanders. She currently serves as the Co-Vice President of Communications and Public Relations.

It is Dr. Kaung's dedication and passion for education, her work as a mentor to students and advocate for AAPIs, as well as her volunteer work and involvement with the OCA, that makes her a woman of true distinction. We thank her for her unmatched commitment and lifetime of work serving the community of Westchester and the great State of New York.

***Sinforosa Tan Kaung, Ph.D. was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Linda Kemp

Linda Kemp has been a proud resident of the Bronx since 1967 when she moved there with her widowed mother and four siblings. For decades, she has devoted her efforts to creating and implementing several projects and initiatives to uplift the Claremont neighborhood community, where she proudly resides. Ms. Kemp's core values of love, respect, and pro-action are at the center of all of her efforts.

As a community advocate, Ms. Kemp has worked closely with residents and local leaders in the 79th Assembly and 16th Council Districts, which has allowed her to gain valuable experience and effectively address an array of issues affecting her community. She is also a proud member and second Vice-Chair to the Executive Board of Bronx Community Board Three. Ms. Kemp is an active member of her community board's Health and Human Services, Parks and Recreation, and Housing, Economic and Development committees.

As President of the Robert Fulton Terrace Houses, Ms. Kemp represents countless residents in her public housing development, where she engages them in projects focused on improving health, public safety, anti-violence and neighborhood beautification.

Ms. Kemp proudly established the "Bringing the Peace Initiatives," which focus on engaging youth and seniors around serious issues, including health and anti-violence. Through these initiatives, and in collaboration with a wide array of community organizations and city institutions, Ms. Kemp has made true inroads in building a strong sense of community amongst her neighbors. These programs have helped narrow her community's generational divide, as youths and seniors interact and foster meaningful relationships. Events organized have included sporting and social events between the New York City Police Department and teens, and summer family day celebrations.

As part of her "Bringing the Peace Initiatives," she recently launched "Sisters Supporting Sisters" to raise awareness, especially among women of color, about the importance of being proactive and diligent about their own health. Ms. Kemp has been a lifelong advocate for children's rights so that they have access to a quality education, civil rights, health and spiritual well-being.

***Linda Kemp was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Gustavo Rivera.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Nellie B. King

Nellie B. King was raised in a rural area of Mississippi called Foxworth, near Columbia. Her professional career of more than 35 years has centered on education, serving school communities as a teacher, elementary school principal, a principal of secondary curriculum and instruction, and as the first African American Superintendent of the Lackawanna City School District.

During a decade as Superintendent of the Lackawanna City School District, Mrs. King developed and initiated the Kids in Spotlight Program, Lackawanna Center for Family Achievement, and the District Model Aids Program. During the 1998-99 academic year, she researched selected school district strong arts education and humanities programs across the country for the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, which resulted in a published report, "Gaining the Arts Advantage."

On November 19, 1999, Mrs. King was one of the national participants selected by the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture to partake in a roundtable discussion with Shirley R. Watkins, Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. Under Mrs. King's leadership, the Lackawanna School District initiated new opportunities for student success such as early grade reduced class size, a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, extended day/school violence prevention, and the Gear-up program.

In the community, Mrs. King has provided civic and religious services throughout the nation. Focusing on youth and adult leadership, she holds mentorship in the highest regard, making it a priority to empower others to take on leadership roles. Since launching her girls mentoring program in 2008, Unlimited Possibilities Overcoming Poverty Ministry, Inc. has helped 75 young women pursue their college aspirations with scholarships totaling \$75,000. She is also the recipient of numerous awards, citations, and other honors. She believes in "doing what she can to serve mankind and do the work of the Lord."

Mrs. King earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Studies from Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College in Lorman, Mississippi, and a Master of Science degree in Education from Canisius College in Buffalo. She has a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from the University at Buffalo and is certified by Buffalo State College in social studies, school administration, and supervision.

***Nellie B. King was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Timothy M. Kennedy.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Linda Lee

Linda Lee is Executive Director of Korean Community Services (KCS) of Metropolitan New York, Inc., founded in 1973 as New York's first community-based, multi-social service organization focused on the Korean community.

Korean Community Services' mission is to be a bridge for Korean immigrants and the wider Asian community to fully integrate into American society and overcome any economic, health and social barriers so that they can become independent and thriving members of the community. The organization accomplishes this mission by providing culturally competent programs in the areas of aging, education, immigration, workforce development, public health, and mental health.

Under Ms. Lee's leadership, Korean Community Services has been named a "Champion of Change" by the White House in 2014 for its work regarding the Affordable Care Act. In addition, in 2015, Korean Community Services opened a New York State licensed Article 31 mental health clinic to serve the mental health needs of the Korean-American community. Ms. Lee has increased KCS' profile by creating dynamic partnerships with policy-makers, other organizations, coalitions, and city and statewide government agencies while strengthening KCS' internal structure and operations.

Prior to her position at KCS, Ms. Lee worked in operations and administration for the New York State Health Foundation and as a social work intern in the North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health System. She currently serves on Community Board 11, and is a board member of NAMI NYC-Metro.

Ms. Lee received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Barnard College and her Master of Social Work from Columbia University.

**Linda Lee was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Toby Ann Stavisky.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Jane McCabe

Jane McCabe serves as Co-Chair of the Resource Development Committee at Bethany House, a shelter for battered and homeless women and their children fleeing abusive situations. Her fundraising efforts have been instrumental in the overall mission of Bethany House, leaving a lasting, positive impact on the lives of the many women and children who have come to the organization in need of assistance.

Prior to joining Bethany House, Ms. McCabe worked in fundraising for eight years, as well as in the editing and publishing fields. She was editor of the *Tea & Coffee Trade Journal* for 30 years, leading various conferences for the *Journal*.

Through Bethany House's volunteer programs, Ms. McCabe helps coordinate annual drives, collecting toys, children's books, diapers, clothes, coats and other necessities. She partners with local schools, libraries, small businesses and other organizations to collect donations which benefit Bethany House's five residences in Baldwin, Roosevelt and Bellmore. Ms. McCabe's generosity has lifted many hearts and touched countless spirits, including the Bethany House family, who knows her for being thoughtful, kind and always getting the job done.

In her spare time, Ms. McCabe volunteered for many years in the Mercy League Thrift Shoppe. Also an active reader and secretary of her book club, Ms. McCabe has a great love of rabbits and is a member of the Long Island Rabbit Rescue Group. She enjoys traveling, and has done so extensively.

Ms. McCabe graduated from Queens College, earning a degree in English. Residing in Rockville Centre, she and her husband, Thomas, have called Long Island's South Shore their home for over 30 years. They have two children, Katherine and Thomas.

**Jane McCabe was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Todd Kaminsky.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Emily Monem

Emily Monem is a graduate of St. Joseph's College with dual Masters' degrees in Business Administration (MBA) and Management. She is an alumna of Long Island University, Southampton Campus with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a minor in Psychology.

Ms. Monem began her career working at the Lake Grove Residential School where she mentored and counseled emotionally challenged youth to become positive influences in their communities. She then joined the Boys and Girls Club where she spent 15 years, seven of those years serving as Executive Director, specializing in programs and activities for youth ages 5-18. The clubs offered after school programs, activities and a safe haven where kids had a "Positive Place to Go and Grow."

Always with the heart to serve, in 2006, Ms. Monem embraced the opportunity to work at Dominican Village, where she is the Director of Community Relations and Development. Dominican Village is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, New York, a not-for-profit, non-sectarian organization offering independent and an award-winning assisted living residence.

For 13 years, she has collaborated with all departments and staff at Dominican Village to ensure that residents and their families experience a smooth transition with compassion and ease, truly living up to Dominican Village's motto, "When You're Here, You're Home."

With over two decades in the not-for-profit industry, Ms. Monem diligently seeks ways to provide for the special needs of the residents by securing grants on the federal, state, and county levels, as well as through private foundations. She is mission-driven, compassionate and has dedicated herself to helping others.

Ms. Monem enjoys grant writing and creating ads for print, TV and radio commercials. She also loves to cook and entertain.

She is the wife of Aaron May, and proud mother of two beautiful children, son Nour Dean and daughter Jenna Nawal.

***Emily Monem was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator John E. Brooks.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Haydee Morales

Haydee Morales joined the staff of Casita Maria in December 2015. She brings more than 30 years' experience in grassroots, local, national and international nonprofit leadership and administration, as well as health education, including reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, advocacy, and cultural awareness/diversity initiatives. Ms. Morales oversees a team of almost 100 professionals who implement a robust menu of programs reaching over 1,000 community youth throughout the school year and summer, and another 40,000 community residents through public arts programs annually.

A veteran of community-based programming and management, Ms. Morales has worked in organizations including Planned Parenthood of NYC, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, and the Hispanic AIDS Forum. She has successfully leveraged her experience as visionary, founder and Executive Director of Casa Atabex Aché, a community-based women's health action organization based in the South Bronx. Ms. Morales previously served as Director of Latino Initiatives of the national office of the March of Dimes, where she managed educational and advocacy activities directed at Latina women nationwide and in Puerto Rico.

In recognition of her notable contributions as a grassroots activist who worked toward strengthening New York communities, Ms. Morales received the Fund for the City of New York Union Square Award in 1999 and was awarded the 2004 Groundbreaking Latina Award by the National Association of Latina Leaders, Volvo Cars and *Catalina* magazine. In 2004, she was recognized by the Honorable Senator Gilbert A. Cedillo for her outstanding contributions toward Latina advancement and empowerment. In 2006, Ms. Morales was recognized as a Mujer Destacada by *El Diario La Prensa* for her accomplishments as a Latina.

Ms. Morales led the development of two policy briefs titled, "A Reproductive Health Agenda for Women of Color" and "In the Eye of the Storm: A Latina Women's Health Action Agenda." She also co-produced a video documentary, *Sistersong: Women of Color Reproductive Health Initiative*, which describes a national grassroots women of color initiative that addressed sexual and reproductive health. Her work has appeared in various peer review journals.

Ms. Morales holds a Bachelor of Science in Community Health and a Master of Administration in Organizational Management. She is a former Ford Foundation Fellow of the Latino Leadership Opportunity Program, and a former 2004 Research Fellow of the Robert Bowne Foundation. She completed the We Are The Bronx Fellowship and Mujeres de HACE, a women's professional development and leadership program and was honored with the HACE Redefining Leadership Award in 2016.

Ms. Morales lives and works in the Bronx, New York.

**Haydee Morales was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Michelle Neugebauer

Michelle Neugebauer credits growing up in Bushwick, Brooklyn in the 1970s as the force behind her lifelong passion for community development and service, for it was there that she experienced incidences of neighborhood and community struggle first-hand.

Today, Ms. Neugebauer is proud to serve as Executive Director of Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC). With community residents leading the way, the mission of CHLDC is to build a strong, equitable East New York, where youth and adults achieve educational and economic success, secure and preserve affordable housing, and develop leadership skills to transform their lives and community.

Ms. Neugebauer began her career at CHLDC in October 1984 as the first full-time employee. There, she has led her dedicated team in planning and carrying out all the organization's major program initiatives, including CHLDC's work in public education reform, building affordable housing, community organizing, and supporting young people and their families.

A proud leader, Ms. Neugebauer is integral to Cypress Hills' mission, a grassroots and holistic community development approach that has resulted in new public schools, hundreds of units of affordable housing, a revitalized commercial corridor, a continuum of youth development supports from early childhood education to college graduation and a legion of very empowered community leaders.

Ms. Neugebauer attended Barnard College and holds Master of Science degrees in Social Work and Urban Planning from Columbia University. She is a member of the Boards of Directors of the United Neighborhood Houses and the Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development.

***Michelle Neugebauer was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Julia Salazar.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Po-Ling Ng

Po-Ling Ng's story reinforces to us all that anything is possible, regardless of your background. As Assistant Executive Director of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), the Director of Project Open Door, and a prior President as well as Vice President of Manhattan's Community School Board #2, Ms. Ng's many achievements to date have brought her a long way from her humble beginning.

Ms. Ng was born and raised in a poor family of eight in China. After migrating with her parents to Hong Kong in 1949, her childhood was marked by extreme poverty. Ms. Ng persevered and received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Chu Hoi College (1963), as well as a Teacher's Diploma in Education from the Sir Robert Black Teachers College (1967). She was widowed in 1975, left to raise four children as a single mother. With the support of her mother-in-law, Ms. Ng worked hard to provide for the needs and education of her children – all while working to earn a Master of Science in Bilingual Education from Long Island University (1975) and a Master of Social Work from Fordham University (1983).

Over the past 47 years, Ms. Ng has been the first and only director of Open Door, CPC's model senior center. This pioneering center is the largest of its kind, serving more than 800 Asian-Americans daily. Under Ms. Ng's direction, the exemplary center established the first Meals-On-Wheels program, as well as other trailblazing programs in New York City.

Through Ms. Ng's advocacy and effectiveness in building relationships, Open Door secured over 20,000 square feet of additional space for impactful activities for her seniors. In recognition of the meaningful impact she has had on the lives of many generations – from children to seniors – Ms. Ng has received over one hundred awards in the United States and in China. What fuels her passion and commitment, though, are the tearful expressions of gratitude with which she is regularly greeted.

***Po-Ling Ng was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Brian Kavanagh.***





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

Bishop LaVerne D. Owens-Larkins

Bishop LaVerne D. Owens-Larkins is a native of Birmingham, Alabama, born to Samuel and Doris Duncan. She is one of seven siblings, five of whom are preachers. Bishop Owens-Larkins worked 30 years on Wall Street in Human Resources at the New York Stock Exchange; these experiences are essential to the positions she has held at the Mt. Sinai United Christian Church, and other places serving the glory of God.

Bishop Owens-Larkins graduated from St. John's University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. She received her Master of Arts degree in Clinical Christian Counseling from Cornerstone University, and is licensed as a Certified Temperament Counselor, and a Clinical Pastoral Counselor. Bishop Owens-Larkins is a member of the National Christian Counselors' Association of Sarasota, Florida and became a minister of the preaching gospel in 1994, fully ordained in 1998 by the Rev. Victor A. Brown.

Bishop Owens-Larkins has served as a volunteer chaplain in Pastoral Care for Sisters of Charity, volunteer minister at the Silver Lake Nursing Home, as a minister to those with HIV and AIDS at St. Elizabeth Ann's Rehabilitation Center (now the S.I. Richmond Center), and volunteer minister at the Office of Children and Family Services for 12 years.

A licensed Chaplain with the International Federation of Christian Chaplains, Inc., Bishop Owens-Larkins is the Executive Pastor of the Mt. Sinai United Christian Church, where WFICC International/Suffragan Bishop Dr. Victor A. Brown is the Senior Pastor. She served as Director of Social Concerns at Mt. Sinai United Christian Church, where she volunteered her services to Project Hospitality, Inc., helping feed the hungry for 22 years.

Recognized as one of New York City's Powerful and Influential Women Leaders by Women Taking Charge 2, a Division of the Community, Growth, and Opportunity, Inc., Bishop Owens-Larkins was presented with the Crystal Award in 2009. She also was recognized with the 2012 Angel of Hope Award, presented by the Mt. Sinai Center for Community Enrichment and the National Action Network; the Pastor of Influence Award from the Living Waters Ministries of Staten Island in 2013; the "Women of Influence" Award from Shiloh AME Zion Church in 2013; was consecrated as one of the first women Bishops in the Worldwide Fellowship of Independent Christian Churches (WFICC) in 2014, and is now the Director of Global Missions.

Bishop Owens-Larkins has two children, Richard III and Cheryl Owens-Minus; one son-in-law, Damon Minus; three grandchildren, Richard IV, Demetrius Izell, and Trinity Renee, and one great granddaughter, Promise Freye Owens.

Bishop Owens-Larkins has a heart for God, and for the people of God.

***Bishop LaVerne D. Owens-Larkins was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Diane J. Savino.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Kelly Parsons

Kelly Parsons has deep roots in the Mohawk Valley and has established herself as a community leader and advocate who strives to make the region a better place for all.

A graduate of Notre Dame High School, Mohawk Valley Community College and The College of Saint Rose, Ms. Parsons advanced her understanding of philanthropy at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. She has worked in a variety of fields that have allowed her to have a direct and positive impact on her community, including being a fourth grade and special education teacher. Other involvement includes serving as Senior Vice President of the United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area, Director of Development at The Stanley Center for the Arts and as Major Gifts Director at Upstate Cerebral Palsy.

When she is not busy working, Ms. Parsons is volunteering for a number of regional organizations, groups and events. She currently serves on the Slocum-Dickson Foundation Board and has previously served on the boards of the Family Advocacy Center, Mohawk Valley Child Care Center, Mohawk Valley Ballet, the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica, First Source Federal Credit Union, the ARC Oneida-Lewis Chapter and Upstate Cerebral Palsy.

Ms. Parsons has also chaired a variety of events, including the 75th Gala for Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, the 2012 CURE Gala and an Irish raffle to benefit the Compassion Coalition. Further, Ms. Parsons was on the Master Plan Launch Committee for the Utica Zoo and was a parent advocate for CSI Meetings in the Mohawk Valley.

Ms. Parsons and her husband, Mike, reside in Utica and have a son, Daniel.

***Kelly Parsons was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Joseph A. Griffó.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Colleen Pearce

Colleen Pearce was born in the Bronx, New York and moved to Woodbury in the mid-1970s after marrying her husband, Jay. Around a decade later, they opened Jay's Deli together. Jay's Deli, which started as a small Mom and Pop store for everyday needs, quickly became the community hub in Woodbury due to Ms. Pearce's compassionate leadership. The Deli is often described as Woodbury's own version of "Cheers," because of the uplifting and familial atmosphere.

Ms. Pearce, who describes her customers as part of her family, is known by the community as an individual of dedication. Whenever someone passes away, a house is damaged by a storm, or there is any unfortunate event causing sorrow in the community, she goes above and beyond to make sure the affected families are taken care of. She sends them platters of food to help get them through periods of hardship. Ms. Pearce, however, is never the face of her own philanthropy. She is the person behind-the-scenes doing the hands-on work needed to get the project done; she is the one preparing the food, setting up the platters, and organizing the deliveries. Her reputation has resulted in being the person families turn to when they need food for their most important events.

Ms. Pearce's commitment to her community does not stop there; she provides pizzas to the local sports teams, caters endless community events, and organizes extensive food drives and donation drops. Last year she was honored by the Woodbury Fire Department as Honorary Chief on "Colleen Pearce Day," for her selfless, comprehensive, and steadfast work for the elderly community.

Ms. Pearce is very much the glue of her community, bringing people together in an environment that only she is capable of fostering. Ms. Pearce, whose interests go beyond running the Deli, loves art, sculpture, and stained glass. She resides in Orange County, New York and has two children and five grandchildren.

**Colleen Pearce was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator James Skoufis.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Jo-Ann Raia

Jo-Ann Raia, Town Clerk of the Town of Huntington, was first elected in November 1981 and has the distinction of being the longest serving town clerk in the history of the Town of Huntington.

For many years, Ms. Raia has represented Nassau and Suffolk counties as District Director of the New York State Town Clerks Association (NYSTCA), and has been a liaison to the New York State Departments of Health (Division of Vital Statistics) and Motor Vehicles (Disability Parking Permit Division).

Ms. Raia has received many honors and awards, including: Recognition of Appreciation from the Cold Spring Harbor Fire Department; the Leadership Huntington's Lifetime Achievement Award; a Certificate of Appreciation from the Huntington Town Fire Police Association; recognition as Town Clerk of the Year by the New York State Town Clerks Association, and All Around Woman of the Year by the *Times of Huntington*.

Ms. Raia has donated her time to many non-profit organizations, including serving as a trustee of the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association. Since 1995, Ms. Raia has been conducting her Valentine's Day Wedding Ceremonies at Town Hall, where she hosts a reception for the couples and their guests.

One of Ms. Raia's most notable achievements as Town Clerk was developing a first class Records Management Program in 1986, which includes a records center and archives for the Town of Huntington. Her efforts have been recognized by the State of New York and by other professional organizations, including: a MARAC (Mid-Atlantic Region Archives Conference) Award for "The Guide to the Archival Records and Manuscripts of the Town of Huntington"; a New York State Archives & Records Administration "Archives Week Award for Excellence in Local Government Archival Program Development"; a "Certificate of Commendation for the Preservation and Access to Huntington, New York, History" from the American Association of State and Local History; and grant funding through Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grants and the Documentary Heritage Program Grant for the Town of Huntington.

A resident of Huntington since 1958 and Town Clerk since 1982, Ms. Raia stands alone as someone in tune with her community and its needs. Her two children, Diane and Andrew, were born and raised in Huntington and are graduates of the Town of Huntington schools.

**Jo-Ann Raia was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator James F. Gaughran.**





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

The Honorable Mary Lou Rath

The Honorable Mary Lou Rath is a lifelong resident of Erie County, growing up in Kenmore, graduating from Buffalo State College and now residing in Williamsville.

Senator Rath served in the Erie County Legislature from 1978 to 1993, when she was elected to the New York State Senate. She retired in 2008, after proudly serving 15 years in the State Senate and 30 years in public service. It is fitting to honor Senator Rath, as she was instrumental in starting the Women of Distinction program in the New York State Senate in 1998.

Senator Rath was also the first woman elected to the 15th District of the Erie County Legislature and to the 60th District of the New York State Senate. In 1997, she was inducted into the Western New York Women's Hall of Fame, recognized as a woman who has made a major positive influence on life in Western New York.

In the New York State Senate, Senator Rath served as Chair of the Local Government and Tourism Committees and as Chair of the Long Term Care Task Force of the Health Committee. She has also served on numerous boards and committees in her community, and her dedication to the betterment of New York State is widely recognized by her family, friends and colleagues across the state.

Senator Rath and her late husband, New York State Supreme Court Judge Edward A. Rath Jr., raised their three children, Allison Garvey, Melinda Sanderson and County Legislator Edward Rath III, in Williamsville. All now live in the Town of Amherst with their families.

***The Honorable Mary Lou Rath was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Sophia L. Reid

Sophia L. Reid has been Program Director of R.A.I.N. (Regional Aid for Interim Needs) Eastchester Senior Center in the Bronx since 2016. Prior to this, she was Program Director at R.A.I.N. Boston Secor Senior Center, also located in the Bronx.

As Program Director, one of Ms. Reid's many responsibilities is to implement program activities of interest to members, and to foster older adult healthy aging and well-being. She does this by making sure members are physically active, mentally stimulated and presented with numerous activity options.

Ms. Reid has more than 15 years of experience in the medical field, working as a medical assistant and medical biller; she was also the Office Manager for Cardiology and Geriatric Medicine at Boro Medical, P.C. and Our Lady of Mercy, Durso Pavilion in the Bronx. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The College of New Rochelle, a Medical Assistant Diploma from Blake Business School, and has earned many certificates of completion and training in the medical field.

In recognition of her hard work and dedication on behalf of seniors and her community, Ms. Reid has received numerous accolades including those from: the New York City Department for the Aging; the Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program; the Bronx Borough President; Live On New York; the Northeast Bronx community; Congress; the Senate of the State of New York, Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson; the NAACP; and Bridgefield Civic League, Inc.

Currently, Ms. Reid is attending the 2019 Citizen Police Academy, a ten-week program that began on March 12, 2019 and ends May 14, 2019. This is an accelerated civilian training program that provides members of the community with a background and understanding of the New York City Police Department's policies and activities.

Ms. Reid's proven dedication and selfless commitment to seniors and to her community is evident in her dedication and numerous good works. She works to provide an environment where "her seniors" feel safe, comfortable and happy to be there. They come from various ethnic backgrounds, and not all speak English, but Sophia says, "You don't have to love each other, but you must respect each other, and that's how it is!"

***Sophia L. Reid was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Jamaal T. Bailey.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Evelyn Rodriguez

Evelyn Rodriguez was born in Bronx, New York to natives of the island of Puerto Rico. In search of a better quality of life, Ms. Rodriguez's parents moved their family to Brentwood, New York, where Ms. Rodriguez graduated from Brentwood High School and attended Hunter College. She worked in the mortgage field, and shortly after, accepted a position at Good Samaritan Hospital as a medical assistant in the Intensive Care Unit. While working at the hospital, Ms. Rodriguez met Freddy Cuevas, who later became her lifelong partner. Together, they had three beautiful daughters, creating the family they forever desired.

As parents, they knew how important it was to play a role in their children's lives. Despite both working full time jobs, they managed to be involved in their daughters' school events, sports activities and family time.

On September 14, 2016, Ms. Rodriguez's life changed drastically when her daughter, Kayla, and her best friend, Nisa Mickens, were killed at the hands of the notorious gang MS-13. This tragedy transformed Ms. Rodriguez's anguish into a mission of advocacy, devoting her life to seeking justice for her beloved daughter, Kayla.

Driven to ensure that no mother would ever have to experience the loss of their child to brutal gang violence, Ms. Rodriguez scheduled meetings with political leaders, including local Legislator - now New York State Senator Monica Martinez, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Congressman Peter King, Community Advocate Barbara Medina and the Brentwood School Board. She wholeheartedly believed in the community working alongside law enforcement to make a difference. She became strongly allied with the Suffolk County Police Department and previous Suffolk County Police Commissioner, Tim Sini, who vowed to bring justice to those responsible for the deaths of Kayla and Nisa.

In 2017, Commissioner Sini won the District Attorney's seat and appointed Ms. Rodriguez to his transition team, where she met with community leaders, organizations, and the Suffolk County Legislature. As she advocated across New York State against gang violence, her voice reached as far as the White House. In January 2018, the President of the United States invited her as his personal guest to the State of the Union Address.

On September 14, 2018, the second year anniversary of Kayla's and Nisa's deaths, Ms. Rodriguez organized a memorial and press conference at Ray Court in Brentwood to continue spreading awareness of gang violence throughout the country.

While at this event, someone informed Ms. Rodriguez that her daughter's memorial shrine was being vandalized. On her way to address the issue, she was fatally struck by a vehicle following a dispute with the driver over the placement of Kayla's memorial.

Evelyn Rodriguez, a national voice against gang violence, will always be remembered as a fearless advocate who brought down MS-13 in her community. Today, hundreds of MS-13 members are behind bars, including those responsible for Kayla's and Nisa's deaths. Ms. Rodriguez's advocacy raised over \$30 million in funding for the Brentwood and Central Islip communities.

We will always honor Ms. Rodriguez for being a Brentwood Warrior.

**Evelyn Rodriguez was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Phil Boyle.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Iris Rodriguez-Rosa

Iris Rodriguez-Rosa was born in New York City and raised in Bushwick, Brooklyn. She began her public service career helping the disenfranchised, learning to advocate for tenant housing concerns, and eventually taking a position with the Greenpoint Williamsburg Coalitions of Community Concerns. There, she helped develop a districtwide convention where organizations could express and share community concerns. In only one year, Ms. Rodriguez-Rosa alone was able to have over 90 groups represented, including more than 600 residents.

In 1979, Ms. Rodriguez-Rosa became the youngest appointed Community Board District Manager at age 23. In 1986, she joined the New York City Parks Department, where she found her love of open spaces and how to maintain them. Ms. Rodriguez-Rosa served as Chief of Recreation in the Bronx and Queens for over 20 years, providing a host of recreational services to the public. She became the Bronx Parks Commissioner in June 2015, overseeing all county parks, which totals over 7,000 acres.

For more than 35 years, Ms. Rodriguez-Rosa has been dedicated to making an impact and inspiring individuals in the Latino community and beyond. In 1987, she and a group of "Parkies" started the Latino Society. In addition, she still serves on the Grand Council of Hispanic Societies, which encompasses other fraternal organizations including the Housing Authority Hispanic Society, Department of Sanitation Hispanic Society, New York City Transit and others. Ms. Rodriguez-Rosa has also served in Brooklyn and the Bronx on various hospital community advisory boards and on the Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre Board.

Overall, Ms. Rodriguez-Rosa derives the most pleasure out of her very loving family. Her anchor and best friend is her husband, Manuel Rosa, the children in their lives - Sylvia, Jasmine, Rosa, and Jason, and especially her grandchildren, Noel, Sophia, Annabel, and Rafael. Family means everything to her, and the traditions in her Puerto Rican heritage like "La Bendicion" are constant. Ms. Rodriguez-Rosa's desire is to continue to serve as an inspiration to others through mentorship, guidance and sheer love of life.

***Iris Rodriguez-Rosa was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator José M. Serrano.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Carmen Rojas

Carmen Rojas has lived the life and struggle of an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, and has been a resident of Washington Heights in the borough of Manhattan for more than 30 years. Graduated from the University of O&M in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, she was founder of the Women's Federation of Cibao, organizer for Laborers of the Franca de Santiago zone, producer of the radio spot called "The Morning's Magazine" in the city of Santiago, producer of a documentary denouncing worker rights violations, and has been a keynote speaker in seminars and workshops in many countries in the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Ms. Rojas became a voice for her community when her children began school; she became president of the parent association. After her children left, she mentored scores of incoming parent association presidents across the district, especially recently arrived immigrants. She has successfully fought off the closing of at least two schools.

As a volunteer, Ms. Rojas has taught GED courses at the school and Hostos Community College to Spanish speaking immigrants. She is president and founder of Parents Advocating for Children, an organization created in response to the need to unify parents, and is active on issues relating to the improvement of the education system. Her organization was responsible for organizing against a proposed halfway house for convicted felons on 182nd St., short blocks away from six public schools. She collected over 1,000 signatures in opposition to the siting of the correction facility.

Ms. Rojas was on the front lines in Washington Heights advocating for fairer treatment and protesting overcharges by Consolidated Edison. She led the fight in demanding the Department of Education clean up the asbestos contamination of a public school. Today she continues to advocate for the resolution of lead-contaminated water in schools.

Ms. Rojas has written hundreds of poems and had them published. Every summer she holds a community forum on poetry for all ages. Her home is lined with numerous awards and recognitions received for her three decades of service. In 2018, she was nominated by the General Consul to receive the International Oscar de La Renta Award for her community leadership. She received a Certificate of Merit for her outstanding contribution to the "All the Way" program by Manhattan Borough President Virginia Fields and received a certificate for her participation from the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

In May 2000, Ms. Rojas was awarded a City Council Citation by Council Member Guillermo Linares, the first Dominican to hold elected office in the United States.

In 2018, the Community Education Council awarded its first-ever Legacy Award to Carmen Rojas for her years and commitment to bettering public education for every child.

***Carmen Rojas was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Robert Jackson.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Nicole Sheindlin

Nicole Sheindlin is a graduate of New York Law School ('93) and the co-founder, CEO and driving force behind Her Honor Mentoring, a Westchester County-based empowerment program that pairs female high school seniors with women who are leaders in their respective careers.

Her Honor Mentoring was co-founded with her stepmother, The Honorable Judith Sheindlin, star of the syndicated television program, "Judge Judy," former Supervising Judge of Manhattan's Family Court as well as a New York Law School alumna.

Ms. Sheindlin's inspiration for Her Honor Mentoring came from a desire to work proactively in her own community. She started Her Honor Mentoring while simultaneously working as a senior staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Defense Division in Bronx County, handling all phases of criminal litigation for indigent and low income individuals accused of felonies and misdemeanors from arraignment through plea bargain or trial. During her 15-year tenure at Legal Aid, Ms. Sheindlin conducted jury and bench trials in cases involving charges of robbery, rape, attempted murder, assault, burglary, and sale and possession of controlled substances.

In addition to her Juris Doctor degree from New York Law School, Ms. Sheindlin also holds a Bachelor's degree from the University at Buffalo. She is a partner at Mentzer and Sheindlin, LLP, a private practice law firm that handles all aspects of criminal and civil litigation at the trial and appellate levels. Ms. Sheindlin is a sought out speaker and has presented on topics including "Perspectives in Philanthropy," "Supporting Women and Girls" at Morgan Stanley, and "Maximizing Mentoring Impact" for the Texas Women's Bar Association.

She has received numerous accolades such as the Champion of Human Rights Award from the Westchester County Human Rights Commission and The Community Champion Award in Education and Literacy from Volunteer New York of the United Way.

Ms. Sheindlin resides with her husband, three children, dog and cat in Larchmont.

**Nicole Sheindlin was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Shelley B. Mayer.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Marguerite A. Smith, Esq.

Marguerite A. Smith, Esq. is an enrolled Shinnecock – an attorney, educator, dispute resolution professional, and advocate for health and justice – especially in the areas of racial/ethnic and gender bias prevention and intervention, and economic and environmental justice. Ms. Smith has been instrumental in advancing various Native rights, economic development, cultural preservation and health promotion efforts for her Native nation and others.

Ms. Smith is Vice President and long time member of the Board of Directors of the First Nations Development Institute, also serving its subsidiary, First Nations Oweesta Corporation. In addition to work on tribal governance and recognition, she has been an advocate for resource rights, supporting health care, Indian family wellness and economic development on her reservation.

Ms. Smith dedicates much of her free time to community groups on and off reservation, including SAMP (the Shinnecock Substance Abuse Mobilization Project), Alternatives Counselling Services, Inc., STAR, the Suffolk County Bar Association, WEDLI (Women Economic Developers of Long Island), the College of Advisors of Erase Racism, the Shinnecock Presbyterian Church, the Long Island Presbytery, South Fork Community Health Initiative, the Cornell University Cooperative Extension Association of Suffolk County, and the Shinnecock Powwow Committee.

Born on the East End of Long Island, Ms. Smith resides on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation. She currently leads her Native nation's participation in a CDC initiative called Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country, designed to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities. Her work history includes government service, corporate employment, not-for-profit program operations, and private law practitioner based in Suffolk County.

Ms. Smith's "family times" are most important to her, as wife, "stepmom and grandma," sister, and to many – "auntie" and "cousin." Her civic-minded contributions have positively affected her community, establishing a legacy for this and future generations.

***Marguerite A. Smith, Esq. was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Kenneth P. LaValle.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Nancy Sutton

Nancy Sutton of Brooklyn is a pillar in the lives of so many who are bravely battling cancer. Since founding the New York Cancer Center in 2009, she has been committed to addressing the needs of cancer patients and their families.

As President of the New York Cancer Center, Ms. Sutton and her dedicated staff provide patients with the knowledge, hope and support that empowers them to take an active role in their treatment and healing options. She and her staff work to integrate the very latest information and expertise in cancer research while embracing patients and family members with warm and caring attention.

Ms. Sutton has a long and storied history of enhancing the lives of her community members. In 1992, in perhaps one of the most monumental days in the history of the social services infrastructure in South Brooklyn, she founded and created Medstar, a division under the Sephardic Bikkur Holim Community Service Network. Ms. Sutton's efforts in compiling a network of over 4,000 top doctors nationwide were essential to Medstar's mission of providing high quality medical referrals to patients in the local community. In addition, she and her staff oversee extensive programming in health education and disease prevention to provide clients with the knowledge and resources to lead healthy lives.

Educated right in the heart of South Brooklyn, Ms. Sutton received her Bachelor of Arts from Brooklyn College in 1973. Her other activities include founding and leading the Sephardic Hospital Fund, where she helped raise over \$1 million to help local community hospitals.

Ms. Sutton serves as a tour guide and educator at the Museum of Jewish Heritage and is a recipient of the New York City Comptroller's Leadership Award.

**Nancy Sutton was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Simcha Felder.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Holly Tanner

Holly Tanner is known for her professional service, efficiency and dedicated community service, hallmarks of her successful tenure as Columbia County Clerk. Elected in 2002, Ms. Tanner has faithfully served Columbia County taxpayers for 17 years.

Born and raised in Ghent, Ms. Tanner is the proud daughter of dairy farmers Walt and Jean Nyfeler. Growing up, Ms. Tanner was very involved in the family farm and agricultural organizations. In 1986, she was named Columbia County Dairy Princess and was a member of the Milkmen and Buccaneers 4H Clubs, showing registered Jersey cows and her horse, Lady.

Ms. Tanner has saved Columbia County taxpayers millions of dollars through efficient operations, transitioning to computerized records, launching successful marketing and revenue campaigns and an inactive records center. Ms. Tanner implemented the popular FAVOR (Find and Assist Vets on Record) Program for Columbia County veterans and the KISS (Keep Identities of Seniors Safe) Program for Columbia County seniors.

Ms. Tanner served as President of the New York State Association of County Clerks (NYSACC). She is NYSACC's Hudson Valley Regional Co-Chair, is a member of New York State Local Government Records Advisory Committee Region 3, NYSACC's Courts Committee, Legislative Committee, SAFE Act Committee, and is current Co-Chair of the New York State DMV Committee.

Ms. Tanner serves as President of the Hudson Lions Club, is past Chairperson of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program's Advisory Committee, the United Way of Columbia and Greene Counties, and the Columbia County Honor-a-Vet Committee. She sits on the Hudson Flag Day Committee and is a member of the Columbia County Honor-a-Vet Committee.

Ms. Tanner was named NYSACC's Clerk of the Year in 2011 and, in 2012, she received NYSACC's Achievement Award. She received the Lincoln Award and the Columbia County Sportsmen Federation Recognition Award in 2011, and the Columbia County Conservative Party Recognition Award and the Columbia County Good Scouting Award in 2015, respectively. In 2018, Ms. Tanner was honored with NYSACC's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ms. Tanner resides in West Ghent with her husband, Ron, and their two children, Lauren and W. Gavin, along with a number of pets.

**Holly Tanner was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Daphne Jordan.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Stacey Tompkins

Stacey Tompkins, President of Tompkins Excavating in Putnam Valley, New York, is a true trailblazer and inspiration for women in business in her local community and well beyond.

Tompkins Excavating began as a small lawn mowing service company over 30 years ago. Ms. Tompkins joined the company in 1991 and worked her way up to become President and majority owner of the firm, which now specializes in commercial site development. Under her leadership, the company has cultivated a business culture that retains top-quality employees by emphasizing cohesive teamwork and quality craftsmanship. Since taking the helm in 2013, Ms. Tompkins has overseen every aspect of the business, quadrupling revenues and fostering extensive community outreach and service initiatives.

A leader in the local community, Tompkins Excavating is involved in many charitable endeavors, including Support Connection, Habitat for Humanity, Putnam Valley Central School District, Jan Peek House, Community Cares of Mahopac, the Community Center of Northern Westchester, Project Yellow Light and the Lustgarten Foundation.

An active member of regional business councils, chambers of commerce and business groups, Ms. Tompkins has leveraged her experience to help empower other women in business, local entrepreneurs and area students interested in pursuing careers in the local community.

Under her management, Tompkins Excavating has received a number of prestigious awards, including the Women in Leadership Award from the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce (2018); Business of the Year from the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce (2017); New York and New Jersey Brava Award Honoree (2017); *914Inc.* magazine's Women in Business Award (2016); a Family-Owned Business Award from Westfair Communications (2016); a Cornerstone Award from Habitat for Humanity (2015); and a Mature Trailblazer Award from Putnam County Chamber of Commerce (2013).

Ms. Tompkins earned a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Oneonta and lives in Putnam Valley with her husband and three sons, all of whom play an instrumental role in the family business.

***Stacey Tompkins was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Sue Serino.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Marya Vande-Doyle

Marya Vande-Doyle and her husband used a bonus check in 2008 to create The Green Angels. Focused on helping children live healthier, happier, safer lives, they wrote a business plan and filed for nonprofit status. Ms. Vande-Doyle independently studied grant writing so she could grow the organization. The Green Angels have helped serve more than 1,000 children per year in the community. In fact, many of those the organization helped in the past have returned as volunteers to support the program, exemplifying the group's motto of "Giving Forward and Back."

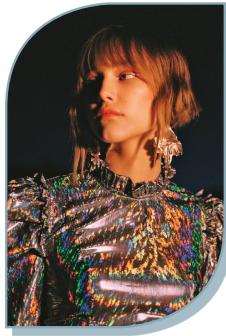
Today, The Green Angels is a vibrant volunteer organization that helps children by collecting and delivering gently used items such as blankets, clothing, and toys. Partnership referrals come from schools and county offices. The organization also prints a community resource guide. When a young mom shared that she did not know where to go for help and that she would scrape soiled diapers and reuse them wet, Ms. Vande-Doyle was so moved that she created the free health and human services directory. With support from the Wayne County Rural Health Network and Rochester Area Community Foundation, more than 65,000 copies have been distributed since 2009. Ms. Vande-Doyle has built a solid foundation and positioned The Green Angels for future growth and success and is now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization that employs a part-time associate and is led by an active and involved board of directors.

With remarkable compassion, Ms. Vande-Doyle dedicates countless hours along with her family to help community members, while also creating a powerful volunteer opportunity for hundreds. She is known to work tirelessly, sometimes driving late at night to rural homes with diapers and formula to help a mom in need.

Ms. Vande-Doyle grew up in Palmyra, moved away as an adult, and returned with her husband, Bill, and sons, Liam and Cylas, to be closer to family. She is a graduate of Palmyra-Macedon High School, has earned a Master of Health Administration degree, and is Director of Medical Services Program Development, Wellness, and Telemedicine at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield.

***Marya Vande-Doyle was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Pamela A. Helming.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Grace VanderWaal

Grace VanderWaal is a singer-songwriter from Suffern, New York who has loved music from an early age. She began singing and making up songs at the age of three, originally finding inspiration by watching movies and imagining what a character was feeling. At 11, she purchased a ukulele and taught herself to play watching YouTube. As a creative outlet for her original songs and covers, Ms. VanderWaal started her own YouTube channel and performed at open mics.

Ms. VanderWaal skyrocketed to stardom when she received the Golden Buzzer on NBC's *America's Got Talent* (AGT), advancing directly to the live shows. In 2016, at age 12, she won AGT's million-dollar prize by singing her original songs accompanied by her ukulele.

In December 2016, Ms. VanderWaal released her first EP, *Perfectly Imperfect*. She has performed in Las Vegas, Madison Square Garden, The Special Olympics World Winter Games, benefit concerts, music festivals and talk shows. She won the 2017 Radio Disney Music Award for Best New Artist, a Teen Choice Award, Billboard's 21 Under 21 (2016–2018), received the 2017 Billboard Women in Music Rising Star Award, and is the youngest person ever included in Forbes' 30 Under 30 Music List.

Despite Ms. VanderWaal's early success, she has never forgotten the importance of giving back to the community. When she learned of music program cuts to the East Ramapo School District, she contacted Senator David Carlucci and asked how she could help. With funding secured by Senator Carlucci and Ms. VanderWaal's AGT winnings, they worked with Superintendent Dr. Deborah Wortham to form The Little Miracles Choir. Ms. VanderWaal was able to collaborate with companies to get donations of instruments, amplifiers, microphones, and even her signature ukulele. From this local start, "Little Miracles" will expand to other school districts across the country to ensure the gift of music for all.

In addition to equipment, Ms. VanderWaal is providing two college scholarships in affected districts for high school seniors who want to pursue music at the next level. She lives by the motto that "to not have those opportunities to explore the creative side of yourself... it's not fair for the kids to grow up like that."

**Grace VanderWaal was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator David Carlucci.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Evelyn Vollgraff

Evelyn Vollgraff's parents moved her family to Lake Ronkonkoma when she was just two years old. Growing up in a family that was very community-focused, the Lake and the surrounding pristine area was her playground.

With deep roots in the Lake community, Ms. Vollgraff became a member of the Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization that relies strictly on fundraisers, dues and donations. A volunteer organization with a paid membership of approximately 125 members, Ms. Vollgraff was voted in as President in 2008. Today, she oversees the everyday operations of the Historical Society's Museum, which is housed in the 1916 building that originally served as the Lake Ronkonkoma Free Library. She also oversees maintenance of The Fitz-Greene Hallock House, built in 1888, which contains the Hallock family's original furnishings.

In 2016, Ms. Vollgraff collaborated with two other people to start a group called the Lake Ronkonkoma Improvement Group (LRIG). LRIG took on the task of cleaning the shoreline so that people could once again enjoy the beauty of the Lake. Over the next two years, the Group's volunteers and interested parties, now almost 2,000 people strong, removed hundreds of tons of debris from the shoreline. Ms. Vollgraff collaborates with various agencies with interests in the Lake, coordinates the group's volunteers and oversees cleanups.

Not long after cleanups began, LRIG's efforts were noticed by elected officials in the three townships and Suffolk County. With their help, Ms. Vollgraff and LRIG have been able to clean and preserve historic areas surrounding the Lake, including the 100-year-old bridge that is now part of the Suffolk County Parks System, and the site of Larry Holzapfel's Used Paperback Bookstore, which had burned and was left to tumble down onto the beach. Through the group's efforts, the decaying and decrepit building once known as the "Bavarian Inn" was razed and the area was cleaned and remediated. It is now a beautiful addition to the Suffolk County Park System.

Ms. Vollgraff selflessly dedicates her time to the Lake Ronkonkoma Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (IO), is Vice President of the Lake Ronkonkoma Cemetery, Inc., and is Membership Director for the Vanderbilt Cup Car Club.

Married to a man with deep roots in Lake Ronkonkoma and Lake Grove, volunteering has always been a family endeavor. Ms. Vollgraff began volunteering as a Girl Scout Leader when her daughter was young. She later became a Sunday School teacher, and while working for the Association of Retarded Children (AHRC), she was so impressed with the courage and love that the clients possessed that she volunteered her time to organize their Candlelight Balls, car shows, client holiday parties and vacations.

***Evelyn Vollgraff was selected as
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Monica R. Martinez.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Kathleen Wagner

Kathleen Wagner works tirelessly to tackle the problem of family homelessness in Ontario County, and the inability to turn her down is born of her infectious passion, compassion, and can-do attitude. In fact, at September's Grand Opening of Family Promise® of Ontario County (FPOC), the question was raised by Jack Marren, Chairman of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors, "How many of you have tried to tell Kathleen Wagner 'No'?"

FPOC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to unite the faith community, volunteer organizations, and agencies to provide a pathway for homeless Ontario County children and their families to secure reliable housing and self-sufficiency. Ms. Wagner is a former partner of WGT Performance Consulting and is an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Victor. She has pursued many community volunteer activities over the years that support her mission to improve the lives of others and engage others to do the same, including Volunteer NOW, Field Trips to Futures, Maggie's Kids Summer Camp, and the Victor/Farmington Food Cupboard.

Ms. Wagner has seen firsthand the growing problem of family homelessness. Through research, she determined that Family Promise® was an innovative model that would work in Ontario County. She held an open forum in May 2016 to share what she had learned, built a team and continues to do what she does best: listen, lead, encourage, and have faith in others.

A true collaborator, Ms. Wagner draws many to the fold. They, under her leadership, worked tirelessly to open FPOC's doors in September, and her influence is inspiring. FPOC Vice President Lauren Lamb has stated that, "With love, she matches (or exceeds) our work, step for step...she brings the best out in me."

To date, 738 volunteers have provided more than 600 bed-nights of safety for homeless families in Ontario County. That is 4,605 hours of service to the community, all because Ms. Wagner believed that she could galvanize her neighbors to end homelessness with love and compassion. She was right. When Executive Director Bill Burns joined FPOC and witnessed the progress made in two short years, he marveled that in his 25 years of working with the homeless population he never saw such a commitment to making sure people are safe.

Ms. Wagner will tell you that she and her organization have only just begun. The hundreds of FPOC volunteers committed to its mission and Kathleen's vision agree. Family Promise of Ontario County is honored that Ms. Wagner was selected for the New York State Women of Distinction Award.

***Kathleen Wagner was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Rich Funke.***





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

Tanya Asapansa-Johnson Walker

Tanya Asapansa-Johnson Walker is a 55-year-old United States Army veteran, and co-founder and policy liaison of New York Transgender Advocacy Group (NYTAG). She helped with the expansion of LGBTQ rights in New York, lobbying the New York State Assembly and Senate in Albany for 17 years to help add gender identity to existing human rights law, to stop trans and gender non-conforming individuals (TGNC) from being discriminated against through community violence, housing, healthcare, accommodations, credit, and education.

From 1991-1994, Ms. Walker was head of the LGB organization at the College of Staten Island where she studied social work. While there, she organized a rally in support of the rights of an out lesbian judge running for Attorney General of New York State. After that event, and after three years at the college, she was harassed and threatened to the point of not being able to return to school.

From 2000-2002, Ms. Walker worked as a community follow worker at Housing Works, helping homeless single adults, especially women, find medical services. She worked with homeless families with substance abuse issues and HIV/AIDS, and helped them find adequate healthcare, legal services, treatment facilities, and permanent housing.

From 2002-2008, Ms. Walker also served as a case manager at Housing Works, working mainly with homeless and sometimes drug addicted TGNC people in Brooklyn to secure permanent housing for them. She escorted clients to and from their medical and mental health appointments and helped with their life skills training.

Ms. Walker is a member of A Wider Bridge LGBTQ, which advocates for the rights of LGBTQ people living in Israel, as well as a member of the Stonewall Democrats. She is the recipient of several awards including the Legacy of Life Award and the Marsha P. Johnson Award.

**Tanya Asapansa-Johnson Walker was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Brian A. Benjamin.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Loretta Z. Weiss

Loretta Z. Weiss had great responsibilities at a time when women were not looked at with high regard. In a profession dominated by men, Ms. Weiss fought for her country and equal rights. She joined the United States Army at 20 years old, beginning her career as a mail clerk in Bloomfield, Illinois, in August 1942.

Ms. Weiss worked her way up to Supply Sergeant for the entire base, eventually becoming a Physical Training Sergeant for the marching unit. She was honorably discharged in 1945, and returned to serve in the Korean War and in Vietnam from September 1950, until her subsequent discharge in February 1975.

Ms. Weiss justly earned numerous commendations, ribbons, certificates of appreciation and medals, including the National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster World War II Victory Medal; the Good Conduct Medal with Silver Clasp-3 loops; the Army Commendation Medal with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster; the Army Occupation Medal (Germany); the American Campaign Ribbon; and finally, the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps Service Ribbon.

Since her discharge, Ms. Weiss has continued to serve her country and remains involved in many veterans organizations, including: the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the American Legion - Executive Member; the Disabled American Veterans; and the Jewish War Veterans.

Ms. Weiss has been active with local political organizations in an effort to help make people aware of veterans' issues, including the Holly Civic Association and the Democratic Organization of Flushing. She has been a highly valued member in the community, and has served two terms as State Democratic Committee person for her district.

In May 2008, Ms. Weiss was chosen to be the Grand Marshal for the Whitestone VFW Parade, one of the proudest moments of her life. She will continue to participate in these organizations and groups that share her love of her country.

Ms. Weiss will be turning 100 on June 2, 2019.

**Loretta Z. Weiss was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator John C. Liu.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Kelly Willcox

Kelly Willcox currently serves as a Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Marshal for the Syracuse Fire Department, after spending 11 years actively fighting fires and responding to emergencies throughout the City of Syracuse. Ms. Willcox continues to maintain her training so she can actively respond to emergencies when needed. She also recently completed the First Line Supervisor Training Program (FLSTP), and is currently eligible for a Lieutenant position in the Syracuse Fire Department.

Ms. Willcox graduated from APW High School in Parish, New York. She continued her education at the University of New Hampshire, where she graduated with a degree in Marine and Freshwater Biology. She put herself through college with grants, scholarships, student loans, and by working three or more jobs at a time.

After college, Ms. Willcox worked at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo as a summer employee. After just two months, she was asked to stay on as a permanent keeper. She, in fact, became the first penguin keeper at the Zoo. At the same time, she also worked with the local 4-H youth program.

In 2005, Ms. Willcox discovered her passion for fire service after she applied to the Fairmount Fire Department and became a member. Through her hard work and determination, she earned her Firefighter 1 certificate and also became an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). She accomplished all of this while training and fundraising for her first marathon.

In 2006, Ms. Willcox became the fifth female ever hired by the Syracuse Fire Department and the first female in the Department's history to pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) on the first try. Since then, Ms. Willcox has responded to emergencies as both a career and volunteer firefighter, as well as an EMT.

Ms. Willcox married her husband, John, in 2009, and in 2011, they welcomed their daughter, Keelyn. Together, they reside in Howlett Hill, New York, with their rescue dog, Bella. Ms. Willcox is a full-time mother with a full-time job who still finds time to volunteer with her local volunteer fire department, her church and her daughter's school.

***Kelly Willcox was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Robert E. Antonacci II.***





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Eva D. Williams

Eva D. Williams embodies the quote by Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The eldest of three daughters born to Liberian parents in New York City, Mrs. Williams was raised in both Liberia and America. Her father was the Ambassador of Liberia to the United States.

Mrs. Williams is the Principal of Van Duyn Elementary School in the Syracuse City School District, where she uses her position to help inspire, engage and empower her students. She embodies the essence of children reaching their potential through an environment of care and compassion embedded in high-quality instruction. In addition to her concentration on students, it is also her passion to engage their parents. Van Duyn Elementary School has hosted 55 family fun nights since 2013.

Mrs. Williams' service goes beyond Van Duyn Elementary School. She is dedicated to making a difference both locally and globally. She is a member of a number of local boards and organizations, including the Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, which supports and promotes causes of the community; Image Initiative, Inc., which aims to enlighten, engage and empower; and 10 Less, Inc., which promotes civic engagement of male minority middle-school age students.

Her past engagements include co-chairing the SUNY CAP Women's Forum and Minority Affairs and sitting on the Kirk Park Colts Board for Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading. Her recent local efforts include a fundraiser held in remembrance of two students of the school district who passed away in a house fire. Mrs. Williams also inspired her students and staff to scatter winter scarves around Syracuse with notes for the homeless.

Mrs. Williams studied African-American Studies at Binghamton University, Educational Leadership/Administration at SUNY Oswego, and Counselor Education at Syracuse University, where she earned a Master of Science degree in School Counseling. She and her husband of 35 years, Lawrence Williams, have three children and two grandchildren.

**Eva D. Williams was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Rachel May.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Stephanie Wong

Stephanie Wong is the Executive Director of the United Chinese Association (UCA). Born in Taipei, Taiwan, the Republic of China, she was raised with strong family values which still resonate with her today. Making the most important move of her life, she immigrated to the United States along with her two sisters, two brothers, and her mother.

Ms. Wong married George and gave birth to two children, Albert and Kim. She attended Brooklyn College to further develop her English and enhance her computer skills. By doing so, she hoped to meet her American goal of affording her children the opportunities she never had when she was their age.

From working as a server, a cashier, and, most importantly, being a full-time mom, Ms. Wong did all she could to help raise her family and to learn the English language. She also began volunteering in her co-op building and, when she became President of the co-op, she continued to work to help bridge the language barrier and cultural divide between Chinese Americans and other Americans.

When she worked for the New York State Assembly, Ms. Wong helped constituents every day who desperately needed services and was able to break down language barriers. She excels at educating people on the various programs offered by the city, state and federal governments.

Ms. Wong was instrumental in the development of the United Chinese Association of Brooklyn (UCA). She dedicates much of her time to ensuring quality of life and equality in the community. Whether it is an issue of safety in schools, immigration, available city/state/federal programs or community concerns, Ms. Wong is readily available with a loud voice and stronger heart. She has gone far beyond being a mother and wife; she has become an essential, honored and respected icon in her community.

**Stephanie Wong was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Andrew Gounardes.**





Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Norma Zimmer

Norma Zimmer has spent her entire life working to make a difference. Born in 1934, Ms. Zimmer grew up in the Cortland, New York area before moving to Clayton in 1961. It did not take her long to realize that she would never leave; she welcomed the tremendous opportunity to give of her time and talents to improve her new home.

Public service is extremely important to Ms. Zimmer, and she quickly became involved in the local planning board, library board and pre-school board. Perhaps the role that has allowed Ms. Zimmer to have the biggest impact is her position as Mayor of the Village of Clayton. She first served as a Village Trustee, and then more than a decade ago became Mayor, a position she still holds at the age of 84. The natural beauty of Clayton is what brings people back year after year. Ms. Zimmer's work to draw businesses, both large and small, to this Thousand Islands village is one of the major reasons it has truly flourished in recent years.

In addition to her work as Mayor, Ms. Zimmer, a mother of three and a grandmother, still holds a full-time job working for the world-renowned Antique Boat Museum.

Ms. Zimmer also serves as a volunteer with the Clayton Chamber of Commerce. In 2013, she was recognized by the Chamber as "Citizen of the Year." Ms. Zimmer is instrumental in organizing popular community events, such as the "Clayton Christmas Parade" and "Punkin Chunkin" festival.

Ms. Zimmer is never one to stop learning. In 1997, at the age of 61, she went back to school, earning a degree in the tourism field at Jefferson Community College. The education she received helps her to better promote Clayton and the wonderful tourism opportunities it offers to visitors.

Ms. Zimmer is a shining example of the impact one person can have when it comes to positively influencing people's lives and improving the community. Ms. Zimmer is proof that, at any age, you can make a difference.

**Norma Zimmer was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Patty Ritchie.**





PREVIOUS HONOREES 1998

Belinda Alvarez-Groneman	Natsue Kobayashi
Mary Anderson	Joy Levy
Lois Andrasick	Barbara A. Manwaring
Chris Bailey	Nancy Mariano
Susan Barbash	Margaret McCaughey
Geri Barish	Carmen Montanez
Joan Barkley	Dianne Sackett Nannery
Sister Mairead Barrett	Sr. George Aquin O'Connor
Jeanine Bondi-Steinman	Lorraine Pace
Susan K. Brustmann	Mary Jane Pauling
Marie Burghard	Mary Anne Pietrzykowski
Joan Cashon	Jeanie D. Roberts
Carol Cassell	Marie A. Russo
Sister Dolores Castellano	Theresa Santmann
Charlotte Conable	Christine Conniff Sheahan
Carol L. Constantino	Jean Sherlock
Margaret Dadd	Muriel Siebert
Jane D'Amico	Beverly Sills
Aline Euler	Laura Spalter
Ilene Flaum	Leontina Stern
Mary Jane Fox	Maria A. Thomson
Janice W. Gay	Stephanie Edith VanAuken
Eileen Gentilcore	Mary Ann Varvaro
Gloria Richardson Griffin	Janet Walsh
Jane Hamburger	Frederica Warner
Elizabeth Harvey	Charlotte Watson
Patricia A. Hickey	Elaine Wick
Pamela C. Johnston	Patricia Willsea
Loretta Jones	Doris Buckley Wolf
Katherine E. Keough	



PREVIOUS HONOREES 1999

Nan Ackerman	Dr. Linda Leest
Eileen "Tally" Almquist	Joan Hope MacNaughton
Jean Argetsinger	Margaret Magnus
Juanita Lorraine Bass	Takako J. Michii
Dorothy "Dot" Bavaro	Deborah Naybor
Sabina Rosemary Cardali	Chloe Ann R. O'Neil
Mary Ann Carey	Elizabeth Osborne
Maureen Clancy	Francis McMillan Parks
Sheila Cohen	Donna deLuca Periconi
Gayle Cratty	Irene M. Prazak
Ava Dorfman	Dorothy Reister
Nancy Duff	Anne Reyen
Barbara Edwardsen	Ann Marie Rossi
Josie Fernandez	Deborah Running
Geri Fessler	Carolyn Rush
Jo Ann Fiorentino	Lisa Marsh Ryerson
Carolyn Fish	Sandy Scaccia
Connell Frazer	Mildred Scharf-Ehrenfeld
Betty Slavicek Gastelua	Therese Schoeneck
Regina Keller Gil	Charlotte Smallwood-Cook
Jane Golub	Shari Hall Smith
Kathleen Granchelli	Frances Sodrick
Sister Audrey Harsen, O.P.	Geraldine Spinella
Eileen McKenna Hickey	Sheila Strassburg
Roni Horowitz	Alana Sweeny
Donna DiSunno Iorio	Terry Troia
Joan Johnson	Mary Kathleen Tucker
Vicki Jospe	Betty Cooper Wallerstein
Frances "Mickie" Kayne	Lynn Westbrook
Dr. Christine G. Khanna	Patricia Hill Williams
Naima Kradjian	Joanne Wisor
Nina Larrabee	Carolyn Wittreich



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2000

Laura Ahearn	Melissa Lahtinen-Penfield
Joie Anderson	Thelma P. Lally
Betty Angelino	Louise Levine
Lillian Barbash	Marlene Markoe-Boyd
Sarah Jane Bernhardt-Clifford	Eleanor McDonald
Judith S. Bloch	Karen Joy Miller
Patricia Brown	Marian Mullet, R. N.
Melina Carnicelli	Anne Paolucci
Tammy Carnrike	Madeline Patterson
Jacqueline Carway	Tillie Peck
Sister Marie R. Castagnaro, S.S. J.	Elizabeth Potts
Donna Chittenden	Frances Pratt
Nellie Coakley	Captain Priscilla "Chris"
Dr. Mary DeRose	Ramirez-Lynch
Tamara Denysenko	Gertrude Rieur
Carol Sue Detweiler	Jean Robbins
Lynda Distler	Wilma Rogalin
Noel Donohue	Lynn Rosen
Eve Fertig	Sharon Saunders
Sister M. Bethany Fitzgerald	Lisa Savyon
Angela Forte	Joan Schumaker
Florence B. Fuller	Paula Sharf
Geraldine Futrell	Linnea Shaver
Ruth Finnegan Garner	Claire Shulman
Norma Gorman	Arlene Sitterly
Barbara Hadel	Mary Jane Smith
Joy Hansen	Dawn Sullivan
Lucille Helfat	Alyson Sweetser
Nikki Henkin	Cathryn Thomas
Sister Elizabeth Hill, C.S. J.	Amy Torrey
Anne Humphrey	The Honorable Sandra L. Townes
Ann Irvin	Ellen Tuohey
Lisa Israel	Kathy Urschel
Arlene Johnston	Joanne VanZandt
Barbara Kearns	Georgia Verdier
Clara B. Kellner	Reba White Williams
Helen Kelly	Delores Cooper Kershaw



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2001

Crystal A. Abers	Dottie MacVean
A. Trudy Adell	Lucinda Sloan Mallen
Heather Ross Benedict	Susan Marino, RN
Phyllis Besch	Sister Theresa Martel
Dr. Helen Illick Breed	Rev. Colette Matthews
Margaret "Mugsie" Burch	Claire McIntee
Buhrmaster (Coolman)	Carol Naylor
Margaret Buzzell	Angie Miller
Elizabeth "Betty" Cochrane	Gertrude Hess Parker
Lucy F. Codella	Ann Petrus
Dr. Vivian Cody	Frances Pizzola
Barbara Cohen	Wendy Powers
Wendy Csoka	Annie Rabbitt
Victoria DeVantier	Chandler M. Ralph
Patricia C. Donnelly	Victoria Rosenberg
Pat Finnerty	Helene Donlan Sacco
Amy Fischetti	Irene Scheid
Miriam M. E. Garcia	Roberta C. Schofield
Sister Rose Vincent Gleason	Carol Silva
Dr. Lois Goldsmith	Bobbi Smith
Betsy Harrison	Cathy Stewart
Susan Helsinger	Vivian Street
Pat Hieronymus	Dolores Thompson
Doris Hunter	Dr. Mary Ridgway Tinker
Deborah S. Johnson	Belina Venuti
Jacqueline Keller	Dr. Nora Volkow
Abby Kenigsberg	Nancy Wackstein
Renee Krieger	Ethel L. Walker
Carole LaPlante	Shirley Waters
Margaret A. Leahy	Jill Way
Patricia Lindi Linekin	Harriet Weber
Catherine Linfoot	Sister Martha Winum, D.W.
Hon. Gaetan B. Lozito	



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2002

Kathleen Barton	Angela Koenig
Debbie Basile	Lorraine Krup
Nancy Bernheim, Esq.	Mary Anne Krupsak
Marilyn Bitterman	Ursula LaMotte
Patricia Bodnar	Gloria Lettow
Andrea Clark Brown	Carol Mahoney
Prudence Carabine	Nancy Manfredonia
Margaret Carroll	Marlene Marciniak
Fredrika Conway	Doreen Marks
Judy Dagostino	Ligia Mendoza
Margaret Requa DeFrancisco	Mary Holt Moore
Rita DiMartino	Nancy Naples
Kathryn R. Doolittle	Rosemary Nesbitt
Anne DuPrey	Theresa Pagano
Laura Elliot-Engel	Eve Pawelski
Peg Ellsworth	Judith Peckham
Madeleine Fitzgibbon	Dr. Jana Pulkabek
Marguerite Flood	Dr. Greta Rainsford
Maude Frank	Jean Raymond
Michelle Fratti	Zakia Robana
Dr. Anne DuVal Frost	Jill Rooney
Mimi Galgano	Dr. Stella Pandell Russell
Roberta Giordano	Janice L. Schaefer
Carol Gresser	Joanne Shenandoah
Rosemary Gunning	Susan Sherwood
Mary Pat Hancock	Rachel Spivey
Dr. Debra Handel	Dr. Susan Swain
Dr. Ruby Elinor Hare	Barbara Wilcox Thuesen
Violet Haufsk	Linda Laursen Toscano
Dr. Evelyn Blose Holman	Fanny Villarreal de Canavan
Donna A. Holt	Sister Vincent Marie Wilson
Mary Ellen Jones	Elizabeth L. Young
Patricia Knapp	



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2003

Beverly Anania	Harlene Holzschuh
Sheila Appel	Paula S. Hawk
Dr. Asma Barlas	Dolores Marie Hutton
Amalia V. Betanzo	Cindy Intschert
Cynthia Bianco	Carolyn James
Maggie Brooks	Stephanie Joyce Kahn
Francine Brown	Jean Kelly
Janet Madonia Calano	Susan Lacerte
Minerva Chinea	Gay Lenhard
Francine Cieri	Elizabeth Letterese
Karen Coleman	The Hon. Carol MacKenzie
Delaine Cook-Greene	Nancy Marr
Joan Correale	Milagros Martinez
Carol Crews	Virginia E. Maurer
Melissa A. Croke	Barbara B. Melvin
Elizabeth Currier	Lynn Millane
Lucille Cuttler	Rose V. Moroney
Eva de La O	Sister Margaret "Peggy" Murphy
Dr. Donna Denier	May Newburger
Lee Gridley Dibble	Sister Kathleen Osbelt
Maxine Dowler	Janet Ottman
The Hon. Sandra J. Feuerstein	Raquel Pachas
The Hon. Patricia M. Filiberto	Edith Palmer
Annette S. Foley	Vivian Papson
Jane Fox	Elizabeth Sanchez
Sister Monica Galligan	Gladys Serrano
Georgiana Gehret	Leslie Stolzenfels
Barbara L. Germain	Marianne Teta
Ann Marie Gianni	Cynthia Theiss
Bertha Governale	Terri Thomson
Priscilla Halagao	Sister Marguerite Torre
Grace Hausmann	Colleen Tyll
Nancy Henry	Vivian Warren
	Fran Weisberg



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2004

Margaret Pataki	Maud Haggstrom Kramer
Nancy L. E. Andrews	Deborah Kueber
Sarah Anker	Judith Lang
Joan Bachert	Ronnie W. Lawrence
Kathy Ballesteros	Marion Leonardo
Margaret C. Bandy	Mary E. Luckern
Frances Barbieri	Jacquelyn Maher-Brucia
Lisa Barile	Sister Regina McAuley
Marcella Beigel	Joanne Meyer-Jendras
Rochelle Berger	Joyce E. Mulleedy
Judi Bosworth	Susan Murray-Tetz
Mildred Browne	Marlene Norfolk
Sheila Burrell	RoseMarie Panio
Jacqueline P. Cady	Barbara Picard
Brigitte Castellano	The Hon. Maxine Postal
Sister Anne P. Clancy	Barbara Ernst Prey
Mary Ellen Clausen	Dawn Rafalski-VanName
Elizabeth Colon	Patti Call Riner
Desiree M. Croteau	Marcia Rocco
Edith Davey	Althea O. Roll
Dr. Tammie Lee Demler	The Hon. Lea Ruskin
Nora Detweiler	Gladys Santiago
June Douglas	Anita Saunders
The Hon. Karen A. Drago	Nancy Schwartz
Marcia Dugan	Eleanor Scott
Sherry Eaton	Carolyn Gifford Seymour
Barbara Ellenberger	Aileen Ortlip Shea
Denise Frangipane	Carolyn Short
Pearl "Pi" Gentile	Louise K. Sira
Roberta A. Gerold	Beth Strong
Gladys Goesch	Ann Toglia
Yvonne Goodhill	Barbara N. Webber
Katherine Heaviside	Gwendolyn Webber-McLeod



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2005

Senator Patricia K. McGee
Catherine T. Andrews
Mary Angerame
Jolene Bender
Dr. Helen Blanchard
Sister Elaine Bohrer
Diane Brown
Angie M. Carpenter
Eleanor Charwat
Judith J. Chin
Marilyn Ciancio
R. Carol Coltrain
Alice T. Cone
Phyllis Connelly
Mary L. Cotter
Elizabeth W. Cree
Angie M. Cullen
Debrah A. DeLuke
Carol L. Dunn
Elizabeth "Beth" Fipps
Roseann Gentile
Sandra Gerry
Roberta A. Goldenberg
Jo Greene
Rosalyn Haber
Sara Jean Hammel
Susan R. Holliday
Edith Hunter
Roberta Keller
Kate Kelly
Ruth Kempisty
Marianne Laine

Henrietta Magner
Donna Matteson
Dorothy M. McCloskey
Virginia M. Greene Meehan
Helen Meittinis
Mary Beth Murphy
Maxine Neal
Arlene O'Dell
Dr. Karen A. Oates
Diana W. Petrosky
Melissa Quimby
Jennifer Rimmer
Helen Woodward Rivas
Francine Roland-King
Rosemary E. Rose
Susan Gordon Ryan
Ruth Sayer
Mary Schilb
Dr. Ruth H. Scott
Constance Wilmsen Stafford
Patricia Standish
Nada Tannen
Marie N. Taver
Deborah Tascone
Sharen Trembath
Peggy Vergis
Donna M. Vitagliano
Gail Volk
Frances M. Walton
Mary Ellen Whitney
Karen B. Wolfson



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2006

Kathleen M. Balus
Stacey Branchini
Gertrude A. Butera
Rita Cleary
Shirley Connolly
Andria De Lisle-Heath
Benita "Be" Denemark
Leah S. Dunaief
Patricia Duo
Denise Ford
Joanna S. Fowler, Ph.D.
Janice Grieshaber
Lisa M. Heath
Audrey Jacullo
Carolina Minetto Lazzari
Judith Limpert
Maureen Lodes
Amy J. Maniscalco
Molly McMaster
Alyse Middendorf

Ann Muro
Marlene R. Papa
Dr. Regina S. Peruggi
Joyce Peisker Ratushny
Mary Holmes Reid
Cheryl Rogowski
Susan C. Rounds
Sister Ann Sakac
Jill Salerno
Michele Sedor
Deborah F. Stanley
Carolyn Stiffler
Barbara J. Stuchinski
Lana J. Taylor
Linda G. Toohey
Beverly Towers
Joan Vogt
Dorothy A. Wentland
Gale E. Wolfe



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2007

Renee J. Abdou-Malta
Neme Alperstein
Stephanie Bail
Corinne Brown
Linda L. Cellini
Maureen W. Chisholm
Mary Lou Cummins
Corinne DiSomma
Nancy Donohue
Irene Farley
Judge Polly A. Hoye
Rebecca P. Isseroff
Elise Johnson-Schmidt
Jessie Marvin Lazeroff
Mary McDonald Mascott
Karen Dawn McGuire, Esq.
Colonel Tracey E. Nicholson
Edna Northrup
Christine Pendergast
Patrice Prusmack
Nancy Timm-Bowen
Gladys Walker

Shirley Abigail Adams
Patricia Anthony
Barbara Bedell
Eleanor Brown
Mary Chapin
Katherine M. Clark
Ruth Del Col
Sr. Diana Dolce, S.S.J.
Nancy Duffy
Betti Ford
Paula Huntsman
Dr. Charlene Jaffie
Margaret Kiesel
Linda Manfredi
Donna M. McGregor
Florence Meiselbach
Angeline N. Joy Nielsen
Mary Beth Palo
Debbie Preston
Jane Shaffer
Suzanne Tingley



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2008

Ladan Alomar
Jamie E. Bogenhutz
Donna Boyle
Pamela Carroad
Lucinda Collier
Helen Crosson
Jeanne Donalty
Marie E. Ficano, Ed.D.
Linda M. Janczak
Dr. Debra Karnasiewicz
Dorine Kenney
Donna Long
Maureen Torrey Marshall
Lillian Vitanza Ney, M.D.
Mary Ellen Odell
Kathleen M. Reilly
Nancy Robbins
Brenda Siegal
Marcia White

Mary Lou Arangio
Maureen Borzacchiello
Patricia Burkhardt
Pauline Chu
Delores S. Cross
Cheryl Dinolfo
Audrey Edelman
Margaret Finnerty
Dorothy "Penny" Jennings
Catherine Kelly
Marion Blumenthal Lazan
Susan Lucci
Sandra Hays Mies
Aida Y. Nicolaou
Dr. Celine R. Paquette
Sandra Rich
Kathleen Roche
Judy Driscoll Skillen
Kristina M. Young



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2009

Inge Auerbacher

Maclain Berhaupt

Betty Braton

Cindy Campbell

Janice L. Charles

The Hon. Una S.T. Clarke

Betty Cooper Wallerstein

Julie Dent

Annette Esposito

Sister Marcella Marie Garus

Kathleen M. Jimino

Eileen Kavanagh

Victoria Langling

Flora B. Leamer

Joanne M. Mahoney

Maria Markovics

Valerie Muratori

Laurel Parker West

Barbara A. Poldino

Elder Vanessa Scott

Lois Taplin Bronz

Carmen R. Velasquez

Debbie Virga

Susan Barry Roden

Elenora P. Bernard

Connie Bruno

Lucy Cecere

Annie Chwiecko

Joanne Conrad

Gloria D'Amico

Joanne Dicob

Elizabeth Flynn

Jackie Hinckley

Ann Jones

Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly

Eileen La Ruffa

Jill Levine

Janet Malone

Charlotte Miles

Rosalie Norton

Roseann Pignatelli Carotenuto

Mary Rodgers Guettel

Joyce E. Skinner

Jacquiline Touba, Ph.D.

Catherine Videtto

Thomasina White



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2010

Muriel Allerton	Diane Arneth
JoAnn T. Atlas	Mary Walsh Boatfield
The Hon. Jacqueline Grace Boyce	Dolores Patterson Caldwell
Edie Carbone	Linda Chiarenza
Mary Carroll Clavin	Susan M. Cohen
Ilene Corina	Joy Cousminer
Rachel Lee Davis	Andrea L. DeMeo
Katherine M. Doherty	Dr. Janice Emanuel-Bunn
Alice J. Fiacco	Rena Finkelstein
Eileen Frey	Lisa A. Frisch
Ada Grabowski, Ph.D.	Corinna Grant
Dedra Grant-Wade	Aurelia Greene
Tricia Haggerty Wenz	Cheryl Anne Hall
Helen Ann Henkel	Catherine McVay Hughes
Dafny Joy Irizarry	Paloma Izquierdo-Hernandez
Mimi Pierre Johnson	Carrie Kahn
Lynn Kennison	Peggy Liuzzi
Anna Maria Lusins-McLachlan	Kathy Marchione
Mary-Howell Martens	Kathleen (Katie) Kilcommons McGowan
Ann Chambers Meagher	Stephanie A. Miner
Margaret B. "Mardy" Moore	Aissatou Ndao
Peg Overdorf	Jodie A. Perry
Jean Phelps, Ph.D.	Magaly Polo
Terri Pouymari	Carol Quirk
Chandler M. Ralph	Dr. Julie Ratner
Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez	Olga Rovt
Carol Ruane	Dr. Eileen Santiago
Victoria Schneps-Yunis	Mary Silver
Carol G. Simon	Dee G. Vandenburg
Helen R. Worth	



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2011

Lori Bahnik	Helen Baran
Nicole Behrens	Carol Berry
Susan Boudreau	Wanda Jean Burris
Christa Caldwell	Virginia Clark
Debbie Cuevas	Bonnie Daggett
Elaine Delaney	Gloria M. Dixon
Ann E. Ellsworth	Lindsay Farrell
Dr. Susan Fox	Mathylde Frontus
Virginia Gallagher	Diane C. Ganz
Mary Herlihy Gearan	Deirdre Glenn
Karen Gordon	Elizabeth Gulotta
Phyllis E. Gunther	Mary E. Holtz
Grace Johnson	Debra Markell Kleinert
Dr. Anne M. Kress	Frances-Ann Lightsy
Fredericka G. Mabon	Dr. Martha MacGuffie
Barbara Medina	Elizabeth Miller
Janet Miller	Kate Miller
Elissa Montanti	Mary Morse
Jeanne Mullgrav	Kelly Myers
Mary Nelson	Judy Pepenella
Christine P'Simer	JoAnn Pushkin
Karen Y. Richmond	Beverly Roberts
Rossana Rosado	Indi L. Shelby
Vicki Simons	Mary Spink
Gretchen Hurley Srock	Leslyn Stewart
Maria A. Thomson	Millie Tomidy-Pepper
Karen Washington	Judi Whittaker
Kathleen Wojtaszek-Gariano	



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2012

LaVonne E. Ansari	Roselyn A. Johnson
Angela Augugliaro	Catherine Kingsley
Erin Bentivegna	Deborah Slaner Larkin
Debra Brawley	Sheila Lewandowski
Randi Bregman	Mary D. Lindsay
Serena Brothers-Mohamed	Gaye Mallet
Jane Brown	The Honorable Patricia D. Marks
Patricia T. Cataldi	Susan K. McGiver
Dr. Mary Lane Cobb	Zenaida Mendez
Marie Colvin	Carol Meschkow
The Honorable Ann C. Crowell	Chandra S. Morgan
Norma Cummings	Major Jude B. Mulvey
Ida D'Angelo	Lorraine O'Donnell
Deirdre DeAngelis-D'Alessio	Siobhan O'Neill
Mary Elizabeth Delli-Pizzi	Diletta Pina
Toni DeMeo	Jeanne S. Poindexter
Colleen C. DiPirro	Jean-Marie Posner
Elizabeth A. Einstein	Jan Rebeor
Hilda Rosario Escher	Joanne Rosenberger
Sonia Valentin Fernandez	Ginny Salerno
Ivine Galarza	Lisa Williams Schary
Marie Goldstein	Reina Schiffrin
Ardeane Greene-Cook	Lorraine Sciulli
Bernell K. Grier	Sue Susman
Colleen Hassett-Mastine	Victoria Thomas-Ramos
Kathleen Henderson	Alice "Pat" Thorpe
Virginia "Ginny" Houseknecht	Katharine Tomasi
Carol Houwaart-Diez	Marolyn Piersma Wilson
Sister Yliana Hernandez	Denise Wright-Scott
Reverend Debra Jameson	



PREVIOUS HONOREES 2013

Karen Acompora	Ginger Lindner
Hazra Joanne Ali	Jennifer Mackie
Wanda Beck Antosh	Shannon Mancuso-Getzel
Kwayera Archer-Cunningham	Karen O'Hara
Judy Baron	Theresa Pirraglia
Donna L. Benson	Francie Potter
Kate Bialo	Mary Alice Price
Lea Bishop	Vienna Profeta
Sister Debbie Blow	Ingrid M. Richards
Dr. Kari W. Bovenzi	Rhonda Lyn Roethel
Erica Boynton	Taryn Sacramone
Beth A. Broadway	Jackie Schmid
Rosalie M. Burgher	Mary Jane Smith
Evelyn Cardona	Denise C. Soares
Palmira M. Cataliotti	Sofie Somoroff
Mary Chisholm	Beverly Stamp
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Mildred Collins	Emmlynn L. Taylor
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Randi Shubin Dresner	Grace Tillinghast
Leah Dunaief	Karen Torrone
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Meredith Festa	Marcia B. Tuohey
Jacqueline Gordon	Marie Valachovic
Sara Horowitz	Isabel E. Villar
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Nancy Kronen	Leslie Zemsky



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Jessica Allen	Hazel Miura
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Sister Marie Antoinette	Elizabeth R. OuYang
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Deanna Alterio Brennen	Marisa Redanty
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Fortuna Calvo-Roth	Mary Anne Sears
Bettye Canestaro	Shirley Seney
Andrea Curran	Esmeralda Simmons
Lakia T. Echols	Pat Singer
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Constance Glasgow, MD	Lauren R. Snyder
Carin Guarasci	Geri Spino
Adjoa Esinam Gzifa	Barbara Sush
Alyce Ingram	Alana Sweeny
Indu Jaiswal	Irma Waldo, MD
Diane Kuppermann	Rose Marie Walker
Sung Eun Grace Lee (posthumously)	Mary Whittier
Helene S. Leonardi	Patricia Williams
Cindy Abbott Letro	Judy Zangwill
Debra Liegl	



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Mary Ann Ashley
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Wendy Bleier-Mervis
Jacqueline Campbell
Master Sergeant Sue Clark
Deborah Coates
Christine Colligan
Kim Condon
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Amy Cram
Carrie Davis
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Peggy Marone
Randi Martos

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Missy Miller
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Libby Pataki
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Gail Reed-Barnett, Ed.D.
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Carmen G. Rivera
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Reverend Dr. Ernestine Sanders
Dream Shepherd
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Rachel Thieme
Linda A. Thomas
Aixa Torres
Marta Moreno Vega
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Cheryl Lynn Brannan	Jill Estabrook Morris
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Claudia Coger	Meghan Ortega
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Rosemary Durso	Inez Rodriguez
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Karen A. Heggen	Anita Seefried-Brown
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Jahmila K. Joseph	Wendy Tepfer
Reverend Ann Kansfield	Barbara Toborg
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Pauline Chu	Barbara R. Martinsons
Sarah Chu	Paula Miritello
Antonia Clemente	The Honorable Valerie Brathwaite Nelson
Crystal Collins	Monica Neuwirt
Miriam Colon (posthumously)	Jennifer O'Brien
Samantha M. Curtis	Paulette Ofrias
Annette Casper De Jesus	Carlene Pinto
Julie Dostal, Ph.D.	Amy Pollard
Antonia Figueroa	Mary K. Pluta
Betty Ann Filkins	Donna Raymond
Annette Finch	Eileen Reilly
Sherif Fraser	Kay Francis Richards
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Haney Ho	Nadine Whitted
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Florence E. Jackson-Frazier, M.S.W.	Ana Rodriguez Zurutuza
Pauline Copes Johnson	



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Amy Breedlove	Pat Matthews
Linda Brown-Robinson	Patricia J. McCabe
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Roberta Byron-Lockwood	Donna Mossman
Dr. Diane B. Call	Maritza Muñoz
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Lucy A. Candelario	Shannon Ozzella
Hope Coleman	Lin Pan
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Laurie Crane	Rhianna Quinn Roddy
Maria Cruz	Linda Romano
Doreen P. Cugno	Jacqueline Romano
Katie Davis	Samantha Ross
Mary Eileen Fitzgerald	Elizabeth Rowley, CFRE
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Wendy Genao	Shirley Ruch
Sister Gail Glenn, SSJ	Mary Lou Rupp
Cheryl Hage-Perez	Dr. Meera Shah
Sherene Hall	Dr. Renee Scialdo Shevat
Pamela Hardy-Lockley	Gail L. Smith
Norma Jimenez	Coleen Cole Spinello
June A. Johnson	Nell Stokes
Monique Johnson	Gina Vasquez
Tiesha C. Jones	Roxanne Watson
Virgie Jones	Alice Holloway Young
Leslie Kennedy	Janet Zinck