36TH ANNUAL BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR AND LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

NASSAU COUNCIL of CHAMBERS of COMMERCE



October 29th, 2021 Crest Hollow Country Club

Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce P.O.Box 365, Bellmore, NY 11710 516-253-0124

info@ncchambers.org • www.ncchambers.org

NASSAU COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to represent the concerns of the Nassau County business community. We promote economic security and enhance economic growth. The Nassau Council is a strong united voice for commerce and an advocate for legislative issues that impact us. Promoting our "SHOP LOCAL" agenda is at the forefront of our efforts, to insure a positive future for our businesses and communities.

2021 CURRENT ISSUES

- Actively supports the growth and development of our membership
- Vigorously promotes our "SHOP LOCAL" campaign to increase consumer awareness and economic prosperity.
- Advocates for legislative issues and laws that affect and promote business interests
- Supports mixed use and downtown re-development
- Advances Chamber to Chamber networking events
- Identifies Main Street business needs to elected officials to ensure our voice be heard
- Conducts an annual legislative event to highlight current issues and efforts that promote business development and recognize outstanding chamber members
- Promotes efforts to develop and sustain a vital and strong workforce

In Memory of Sylvia Chertow



Thoughts from Francesca Carlow

Sylvia Chertow was a force to be reckoned with. She had a well-honed skill set and never backed away from fighting to provide a united voice to help the small business community of Nassau County. She communicated her message without using emails, text messages or Facebook posts.

Sylvia picked up the phone or paid you a visit to get the job done! Sylvia was trustworthy, loyal, and tenacious. Her dedication was unwavering, and her vision clear.

For 20 years I worked with Sylvia on the board of the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce and she set an example I tried to build upon. In 2010 when I was asked to run for the New York State Senate she

encouraged me as a friend but also cautioned of the many pitfalls and sacrifices I could face. She supported my decision and volunteered to help in my campaign.

I miss hearing her unmistakable voice on the phone and bringing rugalach to her house for afternoon tea. Her advice and our "agreeing to disagree" conversations will never be replaced. I was proud and honored to call Sylvia Chertow a mentor and my friend.

Thoughts from Ginny McClean

It is with deep sadness that I heard of the passing of our longtime member, Legislative Chair and Past President, Sylvia Chertow.

Sylvia was a major asset to the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce. Her wealth of knowledge of the business community and NCCC's history was amazing.

As I first met Sylvia in the 1990s, I cannot speak to her tenure as president but I can tell you that she was a staunch follower of rules, especially of our By-Laws. As the only Past President to religiously attend monthly meetings, she insisted in doing her part in heading the Nominating committee. It was her "duty" to insure that the NCCC was kept in trusting hands.

I had the pleasure of working with Sylvia when we co-chaired the annual breakfast. Being the senior member, she took charge...telling me to be sure to do this, don't forget to do that, and did I mention do it now?? She was a hoot and thank goodness I had plenty of patience. Something you needed especially when she had computer problems and wanted you to walk her through the process to correct issues with her nemesis, technology. She definitely preferred her pencil and paper where she kept notes on everything!

Stubborn in temperament, she refused to let her failing hearing, vision and age (which she'd never disclose) interfere with her involvement. She had a sharp mind; a force to be reckoned with. She definitely was a woman with a strong personality, tough as nails and never forgot a conversation she had with you and she'd remind you of that. Getting close to her was a challenge but if you were lucky enough to get past her steely exterior you were golden and had a friend for life. You'd see how kind, thoughtful, concerned and smart she was and she cared. She cared how your family was, how your business was faring and above all how you were doing.

I am proud and blessed to be called her friend and I will miss her but knowing she is with her beloved Jerry is comfort enough.

May you Rest in Peace dearest Sylvia.

Thoughts from Henry and Anne Stampfel

The cities, towns and villages of Nassau County lost someone special last week. The person I am speaking of is Sylvia Chertow. Sylvia brought class, intelligence, and persistence to every organization in which she participated. We had the pleasure of working with her on the Board of the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce of which she was a cofounder. She was a true advocate for small businesses and their local Chambers. Sylvia had enormous love for her community and showed it through all her efforts. As a mentor, she sometimes could be very tough but when she spoke to you, you knew she cared and spoke from her heart. She is irreplaceable!

2019-2021 Board of Directors

President

Dennis Grossman Great Neck Chamber of Commerce

1st Vice President

Franklin Camarano Jr.
East Meadow Chamber of Commerce

2nd Vice President

Margo K. Cargill Uniondale Chamber of Commerce

Treasurer

Joel Harris
Mineola Chamber of Commerce

Secretary

Susan Martin

Immediate Past President

Francesa Carlow
Plainview/Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Chairperson

Julie Marchesella Elmont Chamber of Commerce

Directors

Lois Howes, Freeport Chamber of Commerce Donald Patane, Levittown Chamber of Commerce Juan Vides, Oceanside Chamber of Commerce

Members At Large

Lionel Chitty Hicksville Chamber of Commerce

Cathy McGrory Powell Wantagh Chamber of Commerce

Of Counsel

Matthew Zangwill

Past Presidents

Francesca Carlow Julie Marchesella E. Christopher Murray Richard M. Bivone Gary A, Hudes David McDonough Roy Smitheimer Sylvia F. Chertow* Martin Halkin*

Jerome Leahy*
Armond D'Amato Sr.*
Daniel A. Lehner*

2021-2023 Incoming Board of Directors

President

Franklin Camarano Jr.
East Meadow Chamber of Commerce

1st Vice President

Margo K. Cargill Uniondale Chamber of Commerce,

2nd Vice President

Lois Howes
Freeport Chamber of Commerce

Treasurer

Joel Harris Mineola Chamber of Commerce

Secretary

Lisa DelliPizzi Franklin Square Chamber of Commerce

Immediate Past President

Dennis Grossman Great Neck Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Liaison

Francesa Carlow
Plainview/Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce

Directors

Jerry Elfassy, Westbury/Carle Place Chamber of Commerce
Jeanette Frisina, Greater New Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce
Julie Marchesella, Elmont Chamber of Commerce
Cathy McGrory- Powell, Wantagh Chamber of Commerce
Donald Patane, Levittown Chamber of Commerce
Patricia Schneider, Great Neck Chamber of Commerce
Gary Slavin, Chamber of Commerce of the Massapequas
Jim Spohrer, Chamber of Commerce of the Bellmores
Stephen Wangel, Lynbrook Chamber of Commerce
Belinda Watkins, Hempstead Chamber of Commerce

Members At Large

Lionel Chitty, Hicksville Chamber of Commerce

Of Counsel

Matthew Zangwill

HOW WE BEGAN

The council was established in 1979 when several chambers came together to discuss local issues affecting the business community. Present at the workshop were chamber officials from Great Neck, Hicksville, Merrick, Hempstead, Baldwin, Westbury, Long Beach, Levittown, Freeport, Garden City, Franklin Square, East Meadow, Massapequa, Rockville Centre, and a representative from the Spanish Chamber of Commerce of Long Island.

At a subsequent meeting, it was agreed that a non-structured council be formed to serve the various needs of all the Chambers of Nassau. Essential matters including concerted legislative action common community and county problems (parking, flea markets, etc.) strengthening membership and promoting positive community relationships were among the topics addressed. It was decided that the advisory council known as the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce would meet monthly. Ultimately, members agreed that to be most effective, that the Council would formalize its efforts and function as a resource for advisement, leadership, and support for the County's Chambers of Commerce.

We, as an organization continue to address business issues of importance and concern to all our local chamber membership. As we work together, we remain a powerful force in promoting and protecting business in Nassau County and ensuring prosperity for all.

Stay The Course:



I know this is not the usual opening visionary statement, I hope I didn't miss anyone, but given what we all went through this is what I have to say:

I have always viewed The Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce as a focal point that brings chambers together to share information and obtain information on important topics from each other's experiences and various other outside sources. Participating as President in the time of Covid-19 was beyond challenging to say the least and without the help & input of past presidents

(Francesca Carlow & Julie Marchesella) and ALL OUR COUNCIL & CHAMBER MEMBERS it would have been impossible. We focused on keeping our Finances & membership stable during the last 2 years. Credit must be given to ALL of the Chambers & their members for having the grit to keeping it together & having the fortitude to emerge and support their local Chambers & the NCCC Annual Business person of the year and Legislative Breakfast.

The Council is a team effort as well as your Chambers. The work as well as input from many are needed to be successful. We have been the Chamber's voice to Government and disperse the Information from Government & agencies to our member Chambers. We sit on the Nassau County Economic Advisory Council expressing strong input from Main Street businesses and have strong Liaisons with Mr. Andrew Mulvey of the Governor's office, County Executive's office, IDA, and SBA. i.e., We obtained our first batch of masks from IDA & Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Frank Camarano,lst VP (Pres. elect) picked up and distributed to our members while I coordinated all online. In addition, I was always in contact with our previous NCCC Presidents and Board Members for advice & council.

Special additional thanks to Mr. Juan Vides & Mr. Mitch Schwartz for providing a wide range of computer, systems & support and answering many of my learning curve questions.

In the early days of the pandemic Mr. Lionel Chitty, Susan Martin, CPA, myself & many others obtained valuable & helpful information from Government & other agencies, then disseminated the information to our member Chambers. We also directly contacted financial institutions; Government agencies & disseminated Main Street business needs to help businesses obtain funds (Some Banks were called directly & sent emails to push for businesses to obtain funds.)

When we approached "Social Media" a team with Mr. Frank Camarano, 1st VP (Pres. elect) kicked off the effort with Joel Harris, Treasure and Margo Cargill,2nd VP. Margo took the lead to negotiate & find qualified vendors and as President I stayed in background advising and always leaving a back door if needed.

Again, it was the team that did it. As President you're the band leader /coach and sounding board to promote a solid dialog and pull the group together. I must say throughout my entire term Mr. Joel Harris, Treasure was the financial backbone I always relied on & trusted for our financial information & as a financial sounding board.

Personally, I have started, built & sold several large, successful businesses. We observed our markets were shifting to overseas and with some diligence sold most of them and retired at early age & moved to Florida & then came back to Great Neck.

I always enjoyed advising customers & friends on how to improve their businesses, which in turn improved my businesses & relationships. Many called me in retirement for advice and I ended up consulting for the past 30 years.

I said in the very beginning we would probably have a "V" shaped type recovery. I still see a very bright, but in many cases a very different future & different set of strategies for business on Long Island. I see strong pent-up demand in many sectors and many businesses have developed new channels of sales during the pandemic which may continue & yield additional returns.

I wish you all well and have enjoyed the time you all have allowed me to serve as your Council President. "Keep it going!"

Dennis Grossman

Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce 36th Annual Awards Program Friday, October 29, 2021

PROGRAM

Vietnam Veterans of An	
Star Spangled Banner	Laura Schaefer County Legislator
Welcome and Introduction of DaisFran	aklin Camarano, Jr. 1st Vice President
Introduction of Nassau County ExecutiveFran	aklin Camarano, Jr. 1st Vice President
RemarksNassat	Laura Curran u County Executive
Introduction of Keynote Speakers	Julie Marchesella Legislative Liaison
Remarks	hn & Mark Cronin John's Crazy Socks
Introduction and thank you to Our Sponsors Secretary & Breakfast Co	
Announcement of NCCC Breakfast Charity LI CaresBreakfast Co	Jamie Bogenshutz ommittee Co-Chair
RemarksCEO	Paul Pachfer D Long Island Cares
Honorees	
Breakfast Co	Jamie Bogenshutz ommittee Co-Chair
Closing Remarks.	Julie Marchesella Legislative Liaison

NASSAU COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Thank you to all our Wonderful Sponsors and Supporters

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ENCORE LUXURY LIVING
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2021 NASSAU COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR & LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Participating Chamber's Honorees

Baldwin Chamber Of Commerce	
Chamber Of Commerce Of The Bellmores	Chrissa Schmerler, Ron & Peter Tsempelis
Chamber Of Commerce Of The Massapequas	
Chamber Of Commerce Of The Willistons	Nancy Zolezzi & Raymond Haller
East Meadow Chamber Of Commerce	1 0
Elmont Chamber Of Commerce	Anna & Vito Cortesiano
Farmingdale Chamber Of Commerce	Joseph Fortuna & Kenneth Marcus
Floral Park Chamber Of Commerce	
Franklin Square Chamber Of Commerce	Bart & Carmela Calia
Freeport Chamber Of Commerce	Greg Ingino
Glen Cove Chamber Of Commerce	Matt Nartowicz & Celeste Gullo
Great Neck Chamber Of Commerce	Roger Chizever & Lauren Desantolo
Greater New Hyde Park Chamber Of Commerc	eSaveeta Barnes
Hempstead Chamber of Commerce	Elder Reginald Benjamin
Hempstead Chamber Of Commerce	Deborah Polidore
Hicksville Chamber Of Commerce	Tim Browner
Levittown Chamber Of Commerce	Jon M Probstein & Rose Drummond
Long Beach Chamber Of Commerce	Megan Casey & Ian Danby
Long Island African American Chamber Of Con	mmerce Valerie Anderson Campbell & Elizabeth Wellington
Long Island Hispanic Chamber Of Commerce	Kenia Osorio Wellington & Samantha Oh
Lynbrook Chamber Of Commerce	Joseph Carusone & Kyung Wan Ryu
Malverne Chamber Of Commerce	Karen Bury
Merrick Chamber Of Commerce	Jaclyn & Evan Lerner
Mineola Chamber Of Commerce	Ross Levine & John Macavoy
Plainview-Old Bethpage Chamber Of Commerce	e Andrea Goldman & David Weinstein
Port Washington Chamber Of Commerce	Lisa Donatelli & William Gordon
Rockville Centre Chamber Of Commerce	Lisa Lowe
Roslyn Chamber Of Commerce	Richard Branciforte
Seaford Chamber Of Commerce	Laura Giacalone & Nicole Consi
Syosset-Woodbury Chamber Of Commerce	Alan Goldberg & Amanda Johnson
Uniondale Chamber Of Commerce	Jim Denburg & Joseph Gemma
Valley Stream Chamber Of Commerce	Glenore Anderson
Wantagh Chamber Of Commerce	Linda Rhoads
Wantagh Chamber Of Commerce	Mike And Valerie Kruter
West. Hempstead Chamber Of Commerce	Fred Sorrentino & Sagine Pierre Charles
Westbury- Carle Place Chamber Of Commerce.	Wendy Liotti & Richard Fiderer



Baldwin Chamber of Commerce 2020 Melanie Vaughan

Melanie Vaughan is the owner and director of Pat's Dance Studio, serving our community for over 40 years with dance instruction for children and teens. As a Chamber board member, Melanie was instrumental in the relaunch of the Chamber's social media presence, doubling the following on Facebook and Instagram. During the height of the pandemic, she also facilitated daily communication between local businesses and the community. This stream of

information was key in keeping the public informed about the status, hours of operation, new regulations and promotions of our local businesses. She also made sure local businesses were kept up-to-date on state and local pandemic grants, resources and the benefits of Chamber membership.

Providing this communication fostered hope and solidarity in the community during these uncertain times. Melanie continues to develop strong relationships between local businesses and our community, and her dance studio phrase "Welcome to our family" also extends to the entire community which she is a lifelong member of.



Baldwin Chamber of Commerce 2021 Erik C. Mahler

Wow. What else can we say. Erik Mahler has received this great honor twice in 14 years as Chamber President.

He has selflessly given of himself to better the Baldwin Community by instituting a Banner Program honoring all veterans and first responders, American flag displays, Welcome to Beautiful Baldwin signage, snowflake decorations, large landscaped gardens, the Annual Baldwin Day Fireworks celebration, and many, many more. As a third-generation Real Estate Broker he believes in giving back wholeheartedly.



Chamber of Commerce of the Bellmores 2020 Chrissa Schmerler

My earliest memories are with my grandmother cooking in her kitchen. Her love for food and people was larger than life. She cooked everything from scratch and I saw how it made people feel when they ate her food. I learned from my grandmother that having a passion and love for whatever you're doing is the key to success along with treating others the way you would want to be treated. That's how I live my life and that's how I run my business, The Big Cheese food truck. Business is challenging, life is challenging, and I have

always believed that if you do the right thing it will all work out. Maybe not in that moment, but in a larger picture it just seems to always work out for the most part. So, when Covid-19 happened it just seem natural for me to help. That's what I've always done. There was a show some years ago on FIOS called "Heroes of our Long Island" and I was chosen as one of their heroes. It is in my nature to love people and food and be helpful which I credit to the teachings of my grandmother and my family. It seems as if I am doing just what I was meant to do and I'm extremely honored for this recognition and award. I can't tell you what it means to know your being told by the universe you're doing something good even when things get hard. It was a challenge waiting online to get food and making all those meals while being scared of getting sick knowing people depended on me. Although it was scary and challenging I wouldn't go back and change it for anything. Thank you.



Chamber of Commerce of the Bellmores 2021 Ron & Peter Tsempelis

Brothers Peter and Chronis (Ron) Tsempelis have been operating the Mediterranean Diner since 2004. The diner was started by their father, Tom Tsempelis, in 1997. They have been members of the Chamber of Commerce of the Bellmores since 1997. Growing up in the restaurant business, they have over 30 years experience working and operating their family's various restaurants. Chronis received a Bachelors degree in Business

Administration from Hofstra University. Pete received a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from SUNY Albany. After working several years in the corporate world, they both returned to their roots and took over the family business. They have been actively involved in the Bellmore community and support various charities and youth sport leagues.



Chamber of Commerce of the Massapequas 2020 Howard Ritzer

Howard Ritzer has been an account Executive/Training Manager for over 15 years, where he is the top producer at southbaynewspapers in the Massapequas. He brings in many new accounts and also works with charity accounts.

Howard is a long-time Massapequa Chamber member, with over 13 years on the Chamber Board, and he is the Membership Committee Chairman, where he brings in many new Chamber members and coordinates their grand opening

ribbon cuttings. He also serves on many other committees as well.

Howard is devoted to the Massapequa community and enjoys working with all of the local officials, residents, and local merchants to help them brand their businesses.

Congratulations to Howard Ritzer for all of his hard work.

Chamber of Commerce of the Massapequas



2021
THE FUCHS FAMILY
Bernie Fuchs
Gerry Fuchs
Jonathan Fuchs
Joel Edelstein
Dave Freund

Massapequa Center Rehabilitation & Nursing is the premier Rehabilitation facility on Long Island. Since we are family-owned and operated, you are treated as an individual with a custom tailored plan of care with flexibility to address your specific variety of needs. Our core value is the belief that the care we provide to our residents should parallel the care we would want for our own loved ones. Let our family take care of yours.



Chamber of Commerce of the Willistons 2020 Nancy Zolezzi

Nancy Zolezzi has been nominated by her peers not once, but twice, for the honor of Williston Park Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year. Nancy has been an active member of the Chamber for over 43 years. She is a former President, and currently holds the position of Treasurer and sits on the Board of Directors. Additionally, Nancy was part of the group who started the Williston Day Street Fair in 1981. She continues to organize this community event that brings back generations of families each year to celebrate

the "Willistons", the businesses, service organizations, and volunteer and youth groups. Currently, Nancy owns and operates Albert Zolezzi Auto Body, a 3rd generation business in Williston Park that has proudly served the community since 1947.

As an advocate for local businesses, Nancy has always tried to instill the motto, "shop local, stay local and buy local". For over 12 years, Nancy served as the Mayor of East Williston. She is a three term Past President of the Williston Park Rotary Club, Co-Founder of the Wings of Winthrop, Co-Publisher of the Williston Post newspaper, Past President of the Mercy League and Treasurer of the Nassau County Council of Chambers of Commerce.

As a community and business role model, Nancy Zolezzi represents everything a Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year should be!nds to the entire community which she is a lifelong member of.



Chamber of Commerce of the Willistons 2021 Raymond Haller

I was overcome with gratitude when I learned that I was nominated by my colleagues and peers to be the Businessperson of the Year for 2021.

As the President and Owner of the Haller-Zaremba Insurance Agency, I have been an active member of the Chamber of Commerce of the Willistons' for the past 34 years. Over the course of my membership, I have been the Chamber President for three two-year terms, an active board member, and the Businessperson of the Year (1996). An honor that I greatly cherish.

Currently the Chamber Vice President, I am a firm believer in our hometown businesses. I promote local and independent shops and professionals through local networking events, our annual street fair, networking and putting our hometown businesses first.

Thank you for this great honor.



East Meadow Chamber of Commerce 2020 Roxanne Rose

A long-time resident of East Meadow, Roxanne Rose is dedicated to enhancing the lives of the people in her community. She was appointed Director of Marketing and Community Outreach for AFC Urgent Care Long Island in 2016, and since then she's implemented many programs to benefit businesses and families in East Meadow and the surrounding communities.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Roxanne has worked with many Long Island businesses to safely get employees back to work utilizing FDA/EUA approved

COVID-19 testing and workplace screenings for employees and their families. This has helped local businesses to ensure the safety and security of their employees as well as the health of their patrons, partners and their company's future.

Roxanne serves on the East Meadow Chamber Board of Directors, West Islip Chamber Board of Directors, and is a member of the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce. She is the recipient of the 2021 New York State 17th Assembly District's "Women of Distinction" award.

Roxanne and her husband Pete have raised two daughters, Victoria, 23 and Rachel, 20.



East Meadow Chamber of Commerce 2021 Mark Papagni

Mark Papagni CLU, CLTC is a Financial Professional with New York Life Insurance Company. Mark offers personal and business planning strategies for his clients which includes life, disability and long term care insurance as well as retirement planning. Mark provides individual needs-based advice and enjoys providing financial guidance to his clients.

Mark has lived in East Meadow for 23 years with his wife Sharon and two children, Stephen and Jessica. Mark is also the Guardian of a developmentally

disabled adult. He is involved in the community not only as a Board member of the Chamber of Commerce, but also a member of American Legion Post 1082 and Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

Mark is passionate about helping people including his clients and community. When he is not volunteering, he spends time with family and friends.



Elmont Chamber of Commerce 2021 Anna and Vito Cortesiano

Anna and Vito Cortesiano, Salvatore's of Elmont Pizzeria and Restaurant

Salvatore's of Elmont Pizzeria & Restaurant was established in 2017 owed and operated by Anna and Vito Cortesiano. This hidden gem is located in the heart of Elmont at 312 Meacham Avenue. Anna and Vito bring their love for authentic Italian cooking and family to every meal. All recipes are that of their family. Their venue includes catering, on or

off premises as well as take-out. Their Old World sense of family and community are exemplary.

During the pandemic, they sent food to many throughout the Elmont community. For those without internet service, they were invited in not just for wifi but for "coke and a slice!". Kindness is their middle name. Their generosity goes over and above. Anna and Vito are Elmont Chamber members as well as the Kiwanis of Elmont, Padre Pio Foundation of America and the St. Jude Foundation. They are the proud parents of Salvatore age 7 and Pia Maria age 4.



Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce 2020 Joseph Fortuna

Joe Fortuna was born and raised on Long island. Starting his career as a CPA, Joe has been involved in a number of successful companies in a CFO capacity. He has reserved that knowledge and began successfully owning different businesses and chairing many organizations.

In 2016, Joe entered into a new and very different venture and became part owner of The Nutty Irishman. His involvement in bar/restaurant ownership afforded him the experience to open 317 Main Street in September 2019.

He has been an active member of the Chamber of Commerce since day one, working in partnership with local business owners and officials to bring events to the Village of Farmingdale such as the "Winter Wonderland", "Halloween Parade" and "Music on Main".

The Nutty Irishman has hosted countless community fundraisers for both organizations and community members in need and is the proud host of one of the top yearly St. Baldrick's events on Long Island. During the pandemic, Joe secured a grant for St. Kilian's Church. In addition, 317 Main Street raised thousands of dollars for "Feeding Farmingdale", a program created and executed by 317 Main to help community members in need.

Being a father of 5, Joe has been coaching sports for over 20 years and always uses the team approach when running a business. Joe's motto has always been "there is no I in team", everything is a collaborative effort. Joe is honored to receive this award and grateful to be a part of this amazing community.



Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce 2021 Kenneth Marcus

Kenneth Marcus is the owner of the Marcus Family Agency with Allstate... a full-service insurance agency that covers the entire state of New York, while specializing in addressing the individual needs of local residents. He has a true passion for helping families in our Daler community better understand how to protect what's important to them.

Ken has been very active in the Farmingdale community since acquiring his office in 2013. He is a dedicated member of the Farmingdale Breakfast

Rotary Club and proudly serves on the Board of Directors of the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce. Ken strongly believes that it is important to give back. That is why he is also involved with sponsorships to the Farmingdale Community Summit Council, the Farmingdale Annual Comedy Night, Island Harvest, Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Foundation, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Blessings in a Backpack. "I love what I do and enjoy being a local business owner helping people in Farmingdale."

In response to his being recognized as Business Person of the Year, Ken said: "I can't express enough, how proud I am to serve alongside such an incredible group of people and for them to consider me as a contributing business owner in this awesome community."



Floral Park Chamber of Commerce 2021 Christos Vassiliou

Started in the restaurant business back in 1992 while studying Business Administration at Baruch College. From waiter/ manager to ownership had worked mostly on the Upper East Side Manhattan.

A Woodside resident that moved to Floral Park in 2015 when me and my partners created the Floral Park Diner. The idea was to bring a family friendly diner type restaurant right in the heart of Floral Park. Now a Floral Park resident with my wife (Angela) and two Kids (Dimitri and Cristina) both attending local schools.



Franklin Square Chamber of Commerce 2021 Bart & Carmela Calia

Carmela Calia was born in Castelvetrano, a town in the province of Trapani, Sicily and earned her economics degree there. In 1966, she boarded the Raffaello for her journey to her new life in America along with her mother and four siblings. In 1969, she got married and in 1971, Carmela and her husband Bart opened Carmela's Pizzeria.

Their children, Anthony and Joanne, attended John Street and Carey High School. Carmela and Bart continue to donate to the schools. They also donate

to the Franklin Square and Garden City South Little Leagues. The Restaurant opened in 1998. In 2004, after the passing of their

son, Bart and Carmela established the Anthony Calia Foundation.

In 2009, Carmela received Assemblyman Tom Alfano's Woman of Distinction Baroness Margaret Thatcher Award and Bart received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Associazione Castelvetranesi D'America for his dedication to the Italian-American community.



Freeport Chamber of Commerce 2021 Greg Ingino

As the executive director of the Woodward Children's Center, I have strived to be a servant leader. Having been a special educator since 1979 and taking on the role of Executive Director of the Woodward Children's Center in 2010, I have had the privilege to lead a vision to be one of the most innovative educational programs in New York.

With a dedicated staff, in partnership with Principal Danielle Colucci and under the leadership of our Board of Directors, the Woodward Children's Center has

become one of best educational, therapeutic and family support facilities in the New York area.

All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without our principal, staff, our board, benefactors and the support of the members of the Freeport Chamber of Commerce and of course my family who has supported this mission for 42 years.

It is my honor to be nominated for the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce Business Person of the Year, and to represent the Woodward Children's Center's impact on our next generation.



Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce 2020 Matthew Nartowicz

Matthew Nartowicz is the Senior Vice President/ Chief Retail Officer of American Community Bank. Starting his career in retail banking nearly twenty years ago he learned through first-hand experience, holding at one time, each of the positions he oversees today. His perseverance led him to his current role where he is responsible for growing and managing all branches of American Community Bank, a Long Island Community Bank based out of Glen Cove, NY.

Matthew's contribution extends beyond his role inside the branches. He champions the organization of companywide food and clothing drives in support of local not for profits. Matthew is a former board member of the East Northport Chamber Of Commerce where he spent 9 years including past President and Chairman to two event committees. Matthew currently sits on the board of the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce.

Matt has been instrumental in helping businesses understand and secure SBA loans throughout the pandemic. He has made himself available to business owners offering his expertise and assistance which included video updates and speaking presentations.



Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce 2021 Celeste P. Gullo

Celeste was born in Queens, an only child. Her dad was raised in the Chelsea projects and he was the only one of his siblings that made it, by made it, we mean, lived the American Dream. Her mom grew up in the Philippines, came to America when she was 17 and got a job in a bank where she stayed for 40 years. Celeste grew up going to Manhattan with him, looking for her homeless uncle to bring him home for a bath, a fresh meal, and then to send him on his way. She grew up being taught how to give to others and how to save money. Both her parents were bankers in NYC and certainly

taught her the value of the dollar.

In 1997, Celeste started a job at a local Allstate agency in Roslyn, NY. She worked there for 13 years while putting herself through school, attending Nassau Community and SUNY Old Westbury at night and working during the day to achieve her degree in Finance. She went to work at other Allstate agencies and even for Farmers Insurance for a few years.

In 2007, she married Vincent Gullo, a Glen Cove native, and they bought their first house together in Glen Cove. The have 4 daughters together.

In 2016, she started a scratch insurance agency right here in Glen Head. Her main focus is maintaining a strong local presence, to give back to the community, sponsor local events, to hire local and stay local and always be open and available to her clients.

March 3rd 2021, she did one of many pop-up food drives. Her and her team picked up truck loads of food for the Porch Pantry, from neighbors, clients, local stores and store owners. She though it was very important to collect food, especially during the Covid19 outbreak, and especially for the families of the Glen Cove school district.

November 16, 2019, Celeste and her friends, did a food drive outside Stop n Shop and collected about 700 pounds of food which was collected and donated to Mommas House. She was honored by Mommas House at their 2019 Gala for this event and prior drives. She also won the Heralds distinctive woman of the year March of 2019 for these efforts.

April 18, 2018, she did a paper drive for Living Water for Women collecting all paper goods for this organization. October 2018, she won the Susan Kearns Award for exceptional social work. November 2018, she did another drive, this time a paper drive, for Living Water for Women, a local non-profit helping women in need.

June 5, 2018, Celeste had the time of her life ringing the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange. She was chosen to ring the bell to honor Allstate's 25 years on the exchange. Her name is on the wall of the stock exchange going up towards the bell.

Celeste is currently still living in Glen Cove and you can find her at her office, practically 6 days a week right here in Glen Head. She is open for business, seeing clients face to face. She never closed her office during covid, she remained open the entire time and even welcomed her twins, April 2020.



Great Neck Chamber of Commerce 2020 Roger Chizever

Roger Chizever has represented Allstate Insurance Company for over 25 years, specializing in auto and property insurance.

Roger, a Board Member of the Great Neck Chamber of Commerce, annually reviews the insurance coverage and makes recommendations. In 2018, Roger implemented a new phone program that resulted in substantial savings in telephone expense and he also monitors and distributes incoming phone messages.

Roger also serves as Co-President of the Great Neck Social Center and President of the Rotary Club of Great Neck, becoming President for a 3rd time in 2021, and as Chairman, Roger overseas the Rotary Club's Thanksgiving Project, where over 1200 families in need, are provided with complete Thanksgiving dinners.

Roger moved to Great Neck over 45 years ago and resides with his wife Linda and daughter Alycia. He is a lifelong New York Mets fan.



Great Neck Chamber of Commerce 2021 Lauren DeSantolo

With over 30 years of expertise in sales, Lauren DeSantolo has a deep understanding of both real estate and cultivating client relationships.

At Douglas Elliman Real Estate, Lauren is a Senior Real Estate Specialist and has been the recipient of the President's Circle and Leading Edge Awards.

Lauren has served on the Advisory Committee of the Great Neck Adult Education Center, organized block parties/fundraisers for the Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition, is a member of Toastmasters International and a member of

the Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA).

Lauren, a Board Member, is Membership Chair of the Great Neck Chamber of Commerce and has been instrumental in reviving interest in community involvement in the Chamber.

Since 1991, Lauren has resided in Great Neck with her husband, Michael. Outside of work, family, friends and community, Lauren enjoys entertaining at her home, where everyone seems to converge.



Greater New Hyde Park Chamber 2021 Saveeta Barnes

Saveeta Barnes is a Branch Manager, AVP at People's United Bank in Garden City. She has been in the Banking Industry for over 20+ years. Saveeta is also the 2nd VP and the Secretary of the NHP Chamber. She is also Co-Chair on the Beautification and Finance Committee.

Saveeta is active in our community where she volunteers throughout the year at local pantries, soup kitchens, clothing and toy drives, fundraisers, including other local charities.

Saveeta is married to Raymond W. Barnes III. She is the mother of Jaxon Raymond Barnes, the late Vanessa Zaman and the Stepmother of Leah M. Barnes. Saveeta loves to cook, travel to different places, enjoy life's simplicities and play poker whenever she can. She currently resides in Long Island and continues to work on Long Island.

You can reach Saveeta by emailing her at Saveeta.barnes@peoples.com



Hempstead Chamber of Commerce 2020 Elder Reginald Benjamin

Elder Reginald Benjamin is the founding Executive Director of ABBA (Able Body of Believer's Alliance Leadership Center, a not-for-profit, Faith-based organization located in Hempstead, For the last 17 years Evangelist Benjamin worked as a Chaplain in Nassau County Jail under the leadership of the Nassau County Council of Black clergy.

Elder Benjamin grew up on the streets of the South Bronx and was educated in the school of "Hard Knox." A former gang leader and an ex-felon steep in

the drugs culture, he ended up homeless living in a homeless mission called Mount Eden Rescue Mission. His life spiraling out of control, living in a homeless mission, Evangelist Benjamin heeded the clarion call of Sister Gena Huddleson, and, in 1986, turned his life over to God. From that humble beginning Evangelist Benjamin rose through the ranks of the Mission to become its Chief Operating Office.

In 1998 Evangelist Benjamin was hired as Outreach Coordinator for Long Island Youth Mentoring focusing on re-entry services for ex-youthful offenders transitioning back into communities after incarceration (in Nassau County jail). In 2002 He was appointed to the position of Director of Jail Ministry connecting local church ministries to at-risk youthful offenders. In his capacity as jail ministry Director Evangelist Benjamin facilitated several local churches involvement in mentoring Youth in Nassau County jail. He conducted numerous presentations and orientations training workshops for churches and faith-based organizations throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Over the years Evangelist Reginald Benjamin has received numerous Citations and special awards from government agencies, community-based organizations, educational institutions, and churches. In 2012, Evangelist Benjamin was appointed to the Board of the Advisory Council for Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs. In 2013 he was awarded a consultant contract with the Village of Hempstead. Reginald Benjamin has been recognized by Hofstra University and the Hempstead branch of the NAACP.



Hempstead Chamber of Commerce 2021 Deborah Polidore

Thank you for honoring me and recognizing the work that our organization does in the community. Your appreciation inspires me to keep working hard and adding value.

I am a proud member of the Hempstead Chambers of Commerce.

About Agape Ministries Inc.

Agape Ministries Inc. is a 501 (c)3 faith-based community organization. Agape is committed to the wellbeing of our community and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the people we serve. Agape Ministries inc. operates as a supplemental program working alongside our community partners through collaborative efforts to increase the positive statistics and bridge the gap between health disparities and food insecurity in our urban community. The services we provide are hunger relief, health literacy, Housing, crisis intervention, financial advisement, educational enrichment activities and workforce development.

We are located at 281 Clinton Street, Hempstead, NY 11550 631-954-1416 office • 347-281-3514 cell • FB: Agape Ministries Inc. • IG: Agape Ministries Inc.



Hicksville Chamber of Commerce 2021 Tim Browner

AutoMat Co. has been in business in Hicksville for 65 years. In 1956, the company was founded by WWII Veteran, Eric Browner. In 1991, Eric retired and his son, Tim Browner become president. The company started by manufacturing replacement carpets and mats for automobiles and employed many Hicksville residents. Over the years, Tim has successfully expanded the business to offer complete ground up restoration and customizing.

Today, when you pull up to AutoMat, it looks like a car show, and when you take a tour of the back shop, it looks like a TV show. There are classic cars from every decade, especially the 60s and 70s. As a one stop shop, AutoMat offers, interiors, tops, mechanical, electrical, paint, body, audio, accessories, and more, for all types of cars.

The really nice thing is that many of the projects are driven by sentimental value like "It was my father's car, or it was my first car in high school."

Tim personally speaks to every customer and oversees a large talented crew in getting the work done.



Levittown Chamber of Commerce 2020 Jon Avner/Jon M. Probstein

As film, stage and TV actor Jon Avner, he is the owner and director of New York's leading comedy murder mystery dinner theater "The Killing Kompany" which has been performing for public and private events throughout the country since 1993. As Jon Michael Probstein, since 1977, he has been assisting individuals and businesses in all matters as an attorney, mediator and arbitrator, with offices in Levittown, Garden City and Massachusetts.



Levittown Chamber of Commerce 2021 Rose Drummond

Rose Drummond is one of the cornerstones of the Levittown community as she manages Pat's Barbershop. The shop is celebrated as an over 50 year old family owned and operated business which is owned by Rose's father, Pasquale Palumbo. As the patriarch of a traditional Italian family, Pasquale taught Rose and her brother Charles that being grateful and working hard for what you are, are non-negotiable values. Being in the beauty industry her whole life, she knew how to make people beautiful on the outside, but values were taught to make her a leader in the community.

Rose's leadership in the barbershop continues with the numerous fundraisers and events she organizes - annual customer appreciation days, participation in various fundraising events such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, community efforts with Toys for Tots working with John Theissen Children's Foundation, Breakfast with Santa, and food giveaways which show that Pat's Barbershop is committed to keeping family traditions alive. Rose feels truly blessed to have had the opportunity to watch generations of families who have been coming to Pat's barbershop for decades. "It's an amazing and truly beautiful journey. It's not just a barbershop where you come in and get your haircut, it's one big family in our Levittown community."



Long Beach Chamber of Commerce 2020 Megan Casey

Megan Casey is a co-proprietor of Shine's Bar, a Copywriter at BBDO NY, a LB Chamber volunteer, mentor, and a dedicated member of her community.

After Sandy, Megan and her husband turned Shine's into a soup kitchen, serving free food/drinks and supplies to a neighborhood that lost everything. Megan welcomed Pride to LB, organizing a West End event to honor LGBTQ+patrons, neighbors, and out-of-towners.

A local beer lover, she's hosted a series of delicious "Drink Local" tastings and dedicates half of Shine's draft lines to NY breweries.

During Covid, Megan lost her mind, but again found her role supporting her community. She made Bingo cards to promote LB eateries, created family-friendly games, helped neighbors with shopping/shoveling/repairing storm-damaged roofs – you name it – and was implemental with the vaccine effort, sharing critical info with businesses and customers, and booking and shuttling people to appointments.

This summer, when two local businesses tragically burnt to the ground, Megan helped raise over \$50,000 to get them back on their feet.

And of course, her @shinesbar FB/IG feed is fire.



Long Beach Chamber of Commerce 2021 Ian Danby

Ian is being honored for his tireless work over the last 4 years as Chairman of the LBCOC, recruiting and leading a team of volunteer board members, bringing the chamber from near bankruptcy and a dwindling reputation among local businesses to a place of revered prominence in the community, advocating for local businesses and producing events that bring thousands of visitors to Long Beach. Ian has forged a non-political relationship with the City of Long Beach and created a supportive working relationship with both City Council and the economic development department.

Ian is also partner with Cybernet LLC, a leading web development and hosting company in it's 21st year in business, providing businesses with a top web presence and helping them succeed in the digital world. Ian created and implemented a very effective Chamber of Commerce CRM and integrated website to manage both members and events, currently being used by several Nassau County Chambers. Cybernet specializes in SEO, web apps and helping small businesses succeed. Ian says to their customers "Your success is our business!"



Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce 2020 Valerie Anderson Campbell

Anderson Campbell Enterprises, provides consulting services in the areas of HRM, PR, contract management, and advisory services.

In 2021, appointed to the LIPA Trustee Board and Queens Underground Board. Currently serves as the Nassau County Director for the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce. She is a Board Member of the Alumni Association of Nassau Community. She serves as Membership Chair,

Fundraising Chair, and Board Member for the Uniondale Community Land Trust, member for the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, committee member of the Nassau County District Attorney African American Advisory Council, and a member of the Baldwin Civic Association and sits on the Economic Development committee.

Valerie was named, "Long Island Top 50 Women in Business 2020" from Long Island Business News. 2019, named one of the "Top Influential Long Island Women", from Long Island Weekly, received the "Diversity In Business Award", from Long Island Business News, "2019 Visionary Entrepreneurship Award", from Long Island Girl Talk, and a "Citation for Exemplary Service to the Community and State" from Senator Brooks in 2018.



Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce 2021 Elizabeth Wellington

Wellie the Transporter, in business since 2004. They provide quality cost saving services through timely movement of freight. For over 10 years, the company has held multiple contracts with Town Airway Freight (TAF), Forward Air Freight (FAF), Express Logistics, Amazon, and currently, M.G.R Freight Systems, Inc. Elizabeth is an accomplished business and civic professional with a broad spectrum of knowledge in both private and public sector in the

field of advertising, corporate finance, investigation, transportation logistics, community advocacy, and campaigns.

She is the Deputy Director for the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce Inc. Elizabeth represents and advocates for minority business owners and individuals in the community. She is also the Vice-President of Fundraising and Social Events representing the Women Center for Personal Development (WCPD); whose mission and vision is to "Transcending Barriers, and Transforming Lives" for women, who live in shelters looking to regain their dignity and to focus on a career.

In 2021, she received the Caribbean Impact Award and in 2020 the Top 50 Women in Business on Long Island Award.



Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 2020

Kenia Osorio-Wellington

Kenia Osorio-Wellington is the Owner and CEO of Kear Solutions. Inc. a Commercial and Residential Cleaning Company serving Nassau, and Suffolk. She holds a B.S in Human services. She worked in the Human Services sector for over 10 years and gained the management experience she needed to operate and run her business.

After a year of operating Kear Solutions and seeing the growth and the potential of the business, Kenia realized that she needed more help and decided

to enlist the help of her husband. As her husband stepped in, his extensive experience in hotel management (front office & housekeeping), helped to set a high standard of cleanliness in her company. Additionally, his knowledge of sales and marketing has aided the growth of the company yet keeps the intimacy of a momand-pop cleaning company for their friends also known as clients.

Currently, Kenia and her entire staff is working together to grow Kear Solutions into a well-known brand, and accomplish the original mission for the company, which is to impact the communities and families they serve one toilet at a time!



Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 2021 Samantha Oh

A daughter of first-generation Korean immigrants, Samantha has always been passionate about entrepreneurship and small businesses. After graduating from Dartmouth College, she created Credit Repair Boss — a credit consultancy — because she saw the real need for people to have financial freedom to fully pursue their dreams. Since beginning the company with her family, she's helped thousands of clients not only obtain a 700 credit score but become financially independent, rebuild their lives after hardship, purchase their 1st homes, start their own businesses, and rediscover their sense of purpose. CRB

has recently partnered with Sanders Law Firm, PLLC to provide free legal counseling and services to our clients should there be any inaccuracies on the credit report or violations of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act or Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Credit Repair Boss now has an office in Garden City, NY, Flushing NY, and has expanded to Seattle, WA to service the west coast.



Lynbrook Chamber of Commerce 2020 Joseph Carusone

The Carusone family and their business Vincent's pizzeria has been a staple of the Lynbrook community since 1978. Joseph is a second-generation owner of this Lynbrook institution. Vincent's is located in the heart of Lynbrook's downtown at 14 Atlantic Avenue. On top of their delicious pizza and homemade Italian food, they are an integral part of the Lynbrook community. Joseph has kept Vincent's the same local, family friendly, neighborhood joint feel that we all love. This family run business is very family oriented. You'll

always get a warm welcome and they love mingling with their loyal customers. The Carusone are very active in their community and part of the Lynbrook Chamber of Commerce. They are always willing to make a donation, host events, and help out the community in any way possible. We can not think of anyone more qualified than Joseph Carusone for this honor.



Lynbook Chamber of Commerce 2021 Kyung Wan Ryu

Kyung Wan Ryu is the owner and operator of Ryu's Martial Arts. He has been teaching Taekwondo to students of all ages in Lynbrook for almost 22 years. Kyung Wan Ryu is a grandmaster and a 7th degree black belt in Taekwondo, 4th degree black belt in Kumdo and a Certified Taekwondo Instructor. His life goal is to help students build a strong mind and body through the teaching of Taekwondo.

Kyung has been an active member of the Lynbrook community for as long as they have been in Lynbrook. Ryu participates in numerous Lynbrook sponsored events, they sponsor a Little League team each year. Always willing to donate memberships to the local school fundraising events and offering free classes for local Girl and Boy Scouts troops. Ryu's students have been a staple on the annual Lynbrook Memorial Day parade, performing for the veterans and supporting local businesses. Kyung is a huge asset to the Lynbrook community and is part of what makes Lynbrook such a great place to live and work.



Malverne Chamber of Commerce 2021 Karen Bury

Karen Bury has been with Allstate, The Bruce Ferber Agency in Malverne since 2006, but her community involvement stretches back way before then. She was involved with the Malverne Merchants as far back as the 1990s.

She is currently the secretary to the Malverne Chamber of Commerce handling all correspondence, recording of meetings and keeping the group on track. Karen is the first to enthusiastically volunteer for all events and is invaluable to the organization. She brought our mascot "CHAMBER CHAMP" to life. He

now participates at all Chamber events and is widely recognized through our village.

Aside from her membership in the Chamber of Commerce, Karen volunteers tirelessly for Fur Babies Rescue and fosters many dogs and puppies herself. She volunteers for, and helps run all the fundraisers and events for this organization.

If you ask anyone in Malverne, Karen is The go to person.



Merrick Chamber of Commerce 2021 Evan & Jaclyn Lerner

Evan & Jaciyn Lemer

Evan & Jaclyn Lerner, a husband-and-wife team, met in 2008 in law school. They married 2 years later and opened a law firm, but they soon realized that they wanted to open a real estate brokerage because of their passion for real estate. As professionals practicing in Long Island, the Lerners realized the need for a brokerage that has local presence with specialized knowledge of the market. Graystone Properties Inc. was founded in 2015.

With an unequaled level of discretion and personalized attention, our clients enjoy the best of both worlds: a company that is small and nimble enough to

meet a seller's needs, with the essential infrastructure and resources of a large firm.

Graystone is committed to investing in the latest technologies to deliver a superior customer experience and provide a professional growth platform for real estate agents. Within a very short span, Graystone has acquired and sold multi-million exclusive listings. This is a testimony to its well-grounded founding principles.

It's this culture of providing unparalleled service coupled with the vision and foresight to merge the latest photography, video, and marketing advancements, while enhancing the old-world focus of concierge service that allows Graystone to showcase each home in its best light.

Evan and Jaclyn continue to dedicate their time and expertise to the success and growth of a local, familyowned business in the dynamic field of real estate.



Mineola Chamber of Commerce 2020 Ross Levine

Ross Levine is one of the principals of L&L Painting Co., Inc. working with his brother Michael Levine and sister Marni Sivin. A third generation family paint contracting firm that focuses on heavy commercial, heavy civil projects. Since 1949 the Levine family has been running L&L Painting Co.

Approximately ten plus years ago, in the effort to diversity the family business and interests, Ross spearheaded the diversification initiative both vertically within the construction industry and horizontally into periphery fields.

The organization now consists of, in addition to L&L Painting Co., the following construction related endeavors:

VMR Civil – a full service civil infrastructure company aimed at building the bridges, roads, and transit projects this region has such a need for.

L&L Stone & Tile – a full service stone, marble and tile commercial contracting company providing procurement, fabrication, and installation of stone marble and tile slabs and tiles.

L&L Specialty Flooring – a full service company providing specialty coatings and flooring solutions like Terrazzo, and Epoxy Flooring systems

Outside of construction:

Ross is a founder and a principal of Third St. Associates / Bridge Ventures – a real estate investment and development firm that has been involved with over a dozen real estate projects/ventures/investments either as a principal, GP or LP.

Ross is a founder and a principal of Cuse Capital – a private equity / venture capital firm that has provided equity to and or participated in the funding of over two dozen companies / interests.

Personal

Ross lives in Syosset, New York (Long Island) with wife Jill and sons Justin (age 22) and Brandon (19). Ross and Jill are high school sweet hearts, having gone to the Jericho High School prom together. Ross attended Syracuse University (Economics – '95)

When not working or looking at deals or opportunities Ross enjoys Golf and forcing his now grown sons to spend time with him.



Mineola Chamber of Commerce 2021 John F. MacAvoy

Mr. MacAvoy possesses over 25 years of experience in the Financial Services industry, primarily focused on building and expanding client relationships.

John joined Hanover in December of 2015 to help drive retail expansion, lead business development, assist in marketing efforts, head up community outreach and manage multiple branch locations.

Hanover Bank, whose headquarters is in Mineola, has grown from 300 million in assets and a single location to a bank that has seven locations and is in excess of 1 billion in assets.

Prior to coming to Hanover, Mr. MacAvoy spent 14 years at Bank of America in Market Management, Branch Management and Business Banking where he built sales teams to region leading success in market share expansion and customer satisfaction.

Prior to his time at Bank of America, John was a Series 7 registered Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter where he specialized in wealth building and retirement strategies for his clients.

Mr. MacAvoy is currently a Board Member of the Mineola Chamber of Commerce, having been sworn in this June for a 2nd two-year term. John is also an active member of the New Hyde Park and Forest Hills Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. MacAvoy is a two-decade resident of Massapequa Park where he resides with his wife of 27 years, Madelyn and their son Jake. John has volunteered for many community activities in the Greater Massapequa area, including a 10-year run as a Board Member and 2 term President of St Rose of Lima CYO, the largest youth sports program on Long Island.



Plainview-Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce 2020 Andrea Goldman

Andrea Goldman is currently the Second Vice President of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce and the founder of The Family College Experience, LLC. She works with students and families to reduce the stress associated with navigating the college process and is especially gratified to watch the growth in self-confidence of each student. She works with those having all types of educational aspirations and mentors first-generation students.

Andrea has been volunteering with the Chamber for many years and became a

board member in May 2017. She has had several key roles, including Membership Secretary, helping select the chamber's charity partners, co-chairing the Women's Group and overseeing the bylaws.

As a member of numerous counseling organizations, Andrea visits college campuses and enjoys meeting in person or virtually with admissions officers to understand the nuanced differences of each school. She enjoys exploring opportunities with students to help them find their "fit" and adjust to college life.

A Plainview, New York resident, Andrea enjoys spending time with her family—husband Michael Goldman of Plainview's Str8 Smiles Orthodontics, and sons Jon and Matt.



Plainview-Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce 2021 David Weinstein

David's love of marketing began during a college internship with WFAN, working closely with large radio heads such as Don Imus and Mike Francesa.

After 20 years in the industry, David decided to start his own agency, Straight Forward Media, to provide top-quality marketing services that are transparent and straightforward. SFM prides itself in offering cost-effective marketing solutions to grow big and small businesses, no matter what their budget or desired results are. It is crucial to all SFM staff to increase their clients'

business as if it is their own. "When they win, we win. It is only when our clients' businesses are successful that we consider ourselves, and the endeavors we took on to get there, successful."

Over the past six years, David has dedicated his time to serving his community. He is currently the Executive VP of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce, holds a position on the Board of Trustees for his synagogue, and offers his company's services to various charities.



Port Washington Chamber of Commerce 2020 Lisa Donatelli

While 2020, the year of Covid -19, brought rapid adjustments to every business in Port Washington, Lisa worked hard to survive and thrive in a new virtual real estate environment. She also serves on the executive board of the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce. Knowing that Port's business community will be stronger with a healthy Chamber, her efforts led to a successful SOUPer Bowl and a strong launch of the new Try Port First app, which has "Everything Port Washington." She also works hard to make Port Outdoors a great success.

Lisa and her family have lived in and loved Port Washington since 1991. Her prior careers include financial planning, mortgage brokerage, public school French teacher and real estate agent since 2013 with Douglas Elliman. She was the founder of the NYC Women's Life Underwriter Conference and past President of the Manhattan Life Underwriter Conference. Lisa believes that community is our strength and she has seen how each person's efforts can be vitally important in improving local businesses and towns. Lisa loves spending time with her family, singing in a band and sailing.



Port Washington Chamber of Commerce 2021 William L. Gordon

Mr. Gordon is an entrepreneurial business executive with over 40 years' experience, half of that focused on founding and growing his own businesses. After selling the investment firm he founded, he has focused on personal investment and small business consulting. He is currently President of the Greater Port Washington Business Improvement District, a Port Washington Chamber of Commerce Board Member, and assists his son Christian, who owns Long Island Boat Rentals, LLC. He has focused on developing new strategies for both organizations to help grow Port Washington's business

community. These include *Try Port First*, Port's new phone app and Port's inclusion in Discover Long Island's "*Downtown Deals*".

A passionate boater, he's spent much of his life with his wife Victoria and family on the water in Port Washington. He is also Co-Head of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior's Finance Committee and an Alumni Board Member at the Lally School of Management. He holds a Chemical Engineering Degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and an MBA from Harvard Business School.



Rockville Centre Chamber of Commerce 2021 Lisa Lowe

Lisa Lowe, owner of Vines and Branches RVC in Rockville Centre has always been passionate about food and family. Sunday dinners with family have always been about great food and Bringing people together around the table to create memories.

With a bachelors degree in Hospitality Management, lisa strives to bring a feeling of warmth and comfort in her small retail store. At the tender age of 56, Lisa decided to leave the corporate life in the Garment Center and open Vines and Branches RVC. Having a true passion for food and cooking w/ the best

ingredients was not just a hobby, but a way to realize a dream. Pre-Covid the store thrived with customers buying and taking away as well as shipping to friends and family. During Covid, Lisa was able to keep the store open by bringing her "Farmers Market" friends products into the store. The markets had been temporarily closed, and her friends were not able to sell their products any other way. Delivery also became a daily occurrence. the store remained open as a "grocery store" and gained new customers.

We ship everyday, and make custom gift baskets to send or take away. Wedding season is back and party favors are in high demand.

Being in the RVC Chamber of Commerce has been one of the highlights of being a small business owner. The support and mentorship of other business owners has been invaluable. 2022 will begin a sixth year in operation and we are happy to be OPEN and able to serve our customers and community.



Roslyn Chamber of Commerce 2021 Rich Branciforte

When Rich Branciforte turned down a job with Jimi Hendrix, he never suspected that 50 years later he would be publisher of America's oldest regional entertainment paper, Good Times Magazine.

Started in 1969 to get free record albums and Woodstock tickets, today it is an iconic publication that has chronicled the history of Long Island entertainment. The Allman Brothers **Eat A Peach** album was named after a Good Times Interview.

Rich Branciforte is a former President of the Roslyn Chamber of Commerce, former publisher of the Roslyn Herald and Antiques & Collectibles Magazine, and is an inductee to the Long Island Music Hall of Fame. He is also the Executive Director of the newly formed Long Island Music Business Organization (LIMBO). He has lived in Roslyn for forty years, and is active in the community.



Seaford Chamber of Commerce 2021

Laura Giacalone & Nicole Consi

Laura Giacalone and Nicole Consi are the owners of LaCole Salon, Inc. located in Seaford. They are sisters who were born and raised in Bethpage. Both now reside in Farmingdale. Nicole entered the world of entrepreneurship at age 19 owning her own mortgage company, which she still owns today. At age 25 Laura started her own mortgage processing company and became a licensed realtor. Leaving that all behind in 2008 they decided to start a new venture together into the world of beauty. They opened LaCole Salon in February 2009, where they grew their business for 9 years.

In 2018 they decided to downsize and move to a different location but wanted to stay in the community.... Their heart was in Seaford. Today they continue a successful partnership with a wonderful team of stylists, staff and clientele that have all grown to become a family.



Syosset-Woodbury Chamber of Commerce 2020

Alan I. Goldberg

Board member of the Syosset Woodbury Chamber of Commerce in April 2016. Since joining, he has, and continues to chair the organization's networking committee and its membership committee, and has organized both the extremely successful 2019 & 2021 Street Fairs. He was also Business Person of the Year for both 2018 and 2020.

Alan provides credit card processing services with Cardworks Merchant Services. His industry experience includes former VP of a NYC based Merchant Services Provider

Alan is also the president of Water Solutions of Long Island, a provider of bottle-less water coolers for offices, whole-house and under-sink water filtration systems to residences, and active air filtration units for all environments. Alan stands behind the company's focus on superior filtration solutions at a fair price.

Alan is an active member of several networking groups, volunteers for the American Kidney Fund's Annual NetWalk and participates on the MIY-JCC Community Partnership Program brainstorming group. He also serves as a board member of the Plainview Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce as its networking chairman, membership co-chair and holiday party committee chairman.

Alan enjoys spending time with his son Daniel, who is a Physical Education teacher and his daughter, Jessica, who teaches 4th grade at the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway.



Syosset-Woodbury Chamber of Commerce 2021

Amanda Johnson

Amanda Johnson discovered the joy of balloons twenty years ago, to elevate family events into truly special celebrations. Today, she is the owner and lead designer of Balloons by Amanda specializing in party and event decor.

In her second year on the board of SWCC she is actively involved on the Street Fair and Holiday Festival committees.

Amanda collaborated with local assisted living facilities to implement the #AdoptAGrandparent 'Balloon Buddy' project that connected the community with isolated seniors. Amanda was recognized by the Nassau Legislature as a 2021 Woman-Owned Business of Distinction.

A resident of Syosset, she and husband Ken enjoy playing golf, traveling and spending time with their grandchildren. Amanda deeply appreciates the local community that supports her business.



Uniondale Chamber of Commerce 2020 Jim Denburg

Jim Denburg is the owner of three Jersey Mike's locations in Nassau County (Uniondale, Carle Place and Garden City Park), and hopes to open additional stores in the county. Jim's mission and that of Jersey Mike's is to give back to others. Jim has been a Jersey Mike's franchise owner since 2017.

Prior to becoming a Jersey Mike's franchise owner, Jim was a three store Smashburger franchise owner in Brooklyn, and a 10 store Domino's Pizza franchise owner in Manhattan, NYC suburbs and Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Jim started his entrepreneurial career with Domino's Pizza in 1992, in Manhattan where Jim owned the busiest Domino's Pizza store in the US.

Jim currently lives in Manhattan with his wife Lisa.



Uniondale Chamber of Commerce 2021 Joseph Gemma

Gemma's Automotive is a family-owned business that was started in 1978 by my father Anthony Gemma. I worked with my dad during the summertime and after school by the Mid 80s we started with 1 Tow trucks year later 1 went to 2 and so on. Today the Gemma Fleet has grown to 14 tow trucks Heavy Duty to Light Duty along with a Full-service Gas station and Automotive repair facility. From 1978 to 2021 Gemma's Towing and Automotive is still going strong with my son being 3rd Generation in the business.



Valley Stream Chamber of Commerce 2021 Glenore M. Anderson

Glenore is an experience Branch Manager, with over 29 years of banking and leadership experience. She has worked within the financial industry leaving a footprint of superior client service and being known as a leader of choice by her peer members. Over her career as a branch manager she has taken her commercial and personal clients through many stages within their life cycles, as she is driven by the love of helping others and takes pride in her profession.

In her current position as Branch Manager at Dime Bank, location in Valley Stream New York, Glenore focus is on growing her commercial baseline, as she works with small, mid-size and large commercial companies to meet there banking needs, through guiding them to the right accounts, having the appropriate services needed for their business and meeting their lending requirements to continue their growth within today's market place.

With a knack for being a part of her community, and helping her team grow, Glenore is passionate about finding innovative ways to help others, even if it is just by giving her time. Stopping and reaching back to bring others forward and providing opportunities.

When she isn't busy meeting the needs of her clients you will find her in her free time spending quality time with her family, her love ones and traveling, which is her passion, her wish to see the world, on county at a time



Wantagh Chamber of Commerce 2021 Mike and Valene Kruter

Lifestyles Sports has been in business for over 40 years. Formally incorporated in 1979 we had humble beginnings selling fashion-oriented clothing out of trunks, flea markets, and our first 400 sqft store. Since then, we have expanded our retail offerings with Robinhood Work Wear and Long Island Scrubs; as well as offer in-house produced services such as embroidery and screen printing. After years of planning, we began our move into our current 5,000 sqft state of the art retail space, right as the pandemic struck. We wanted to support our local Wantagh community and extended Long Island community of

essential workers, so we applied for essential status ourselves. Thankfully we were approved and were able to stay open to support all essential workers through the pandemic shutdowns. Looking to support the local community further we partnered with our Chamber of Commerce and local charities to raise over \$10,000 for families and individuals impacted hardest by the pandemic. We are grateful for the support we receive from our community and look forward to the next 40+ years!



West Hempstead Chamber of Commerce 2020 Fred Sorrentino

I am proud to be a part of the West Hempstead business community, especially the Barnes-Sorrentino Funeral Home. My father, Alfred L. Sorrentino the founder, began here sixty years ago in the same location we are today. I would like this to be about the grief and heartache the families I served last year endured. In addition to the loss of a loved one, the COVID-19 pandemic presented unusual circumstances for these families. Most were not able to provide a traditional service for their loved one. Some were not able to travel here to be present for their immediate family's final committal services. All

this while trying to maintain their own and others health and wellbeing. We here at Barnes-Sorrentino Funeral Home did our heartfelt best to provide meaningful and dignified services with a paramount commitment to the highest level of service. Our continued prayers are with these families and friends we were honored to serve. Thank you.



West Hempstead Chamber of Commerce 2021 Sagine Pierre Charles

Sagine Pierre Charles is an entrepreneur, a wife, and a mom to two ridiculously beautiful daughters Kayla Sage 12, and Angie 9. She is passionate about helping women and kids look their best.

Sagine created a store "Sage & Angie Boutique" so that every woman regardless of background, race or religion can feel connected. So, if you are looking for some Afrocentric pieces for Kwanza or modest wear for Rosh Hashanah Sage can help you feel, and look your best. Great styling and human

connection is a gift, and Sage possesses the talent.

Furthermore, Sagine is heavily involved in her community, through participating in numerous fundraising activities and serving on the board as VP of the West Hempstead Chambers of commerce. Recently in 2019, she rewarded her very First Sage & Angie scholarship to a young girl in Haiti! She is committed to making a difference in young people's lives one kid at a time.

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Westbury-Carle Place Chamber of Commerce 2020 Wendy Liotti

Wendy's previous brokerage started as a family business and has been an integral part of her life since it began in 1964. Her aunt Harriet Rowan founded the company and served as its Broker until her mother took over in 2018. With Carole Zeilman's impressive sales record and over 50 years of experience, she learned from the best. Wendy was raised in Carle Place, attended the Carle Place Schools, and graduated as salutatorian in 1972. After attending Duke University, she returned to Carle Place and received her Master's Degree from Pratt Institute. Soon after, she married her husband Tom, a prominent litigation

attorney who also serves as the Village Justice in Westbury. They have 3 children, Carole, Louis, and Francesca, and have lived in Westbury Gardens for over 40 Years. Wendy serves on the Board of Directors for the Westbury-Carle Place Chamber of Commerce, Westbury Arts and is a member of the Village of Westbury Planning Board. She is committed to improving her community and helping people throughout Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens with any and all of their needs.

Real Estate is more than a job to Wendy-it is her Passion! Since she became a Realtor® in 2002, she has had the privilege to be involved in hundreds of sales and rentals. Her credentials include New York State Certifications for real estate broker, Commercial and Investment Real Estate Certification (CIRE), and Short Sales and Foreclosure Resource® (SFR). To provide the best service possible, she keeps current with all real estate updates, market conditions, and the latest technology. Over the years, she has established relationships with mortgage bankers, home inspectors, building inspectors, attorneys, licensed plumbers and electricians, termite and mold remediation companies, expeditors, contractors, tag sale and removal experts, and other services that may be needed during the buying or selling process. Her success is based on hard work, knowledge of the Real Estate market, and her strong relationship with her clients-she treats them like Family!

Compass is the unmatched leader in the Real Estate industry in marketing, technology, and both agent and client support. Wendy is leading the Rowan Group of Compass so she can continue to provide the best possible service for her clients.

Wendy looks forward to the opportunities and challenges that real estate offers with every client, past, and present.



Westbury-Carle Place Chamber of Commerce 2021 Richard Fiderer

Richard Fiderer joined the Allied Wealth Partners team in June 2015, bringing 19 years of financial industry experience to the firm.

After earning his bachelors in accounting from the University of Albany, State University of New York, he became an associate accountant at Deutsche Bank Retirement Services Group. Richard successfully managed 401(k) plans with a total market value of \$1billion.

He then joined Progressive Credit Union in 2006 where he climbed the ranks to Senior Loan Specialist. There he led research, calculating market values to make sure his valued clients had the most up-to-date information possible.

Through his in depth knowledge of accounting, budgeting, research and management, Richard brings tailored, comprehensive financial strategies to the masses. In short, Richard strongly encourages individuals and businesses to "Plan with a purpose."

In his spare time Richard spends quality time with his wife Deborah and son, Matthew and daughter Adina. He is a resident of Carle Place, NY and is on the Board of Trustees with Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation as the VP of Fundraising and a Director on the Board of the Westbury Carle Place Chamber of Commerce.

Richard Fiderer is a Financial Advisor with Allied Wealth Partners and Registered Representative and Investment Advisor Representative of Securian Financial Services, Inc. He has earned his FINRA Series 7 & 66 registrations and holds his Life, Health, and Accident Insurance licenses in NY & NJ."



Keynote Speakers



John Cronin

John Cronin is a 24-year-old entrepreneur who happens to have Down syndrome. John is the co-founder and Chief Happiness Officer of John's Crazy Socks which has a mission to spread happiness and show what people with differing abilities can achieve.

As a business leader, John has created a business where more than half the employees have a differing ability. John's Crazy Socks has shipped over 270,000 orders to more than 80 different countries and earned over 27,000 5-star online reviews. John was the first person with Down syndrome to be named an EY Entrepreneur of the Year.

John is a fierce advocate for people of differing abilities and has testified twice before the U.S. Congress and spoken at the United Nations. He became "sock buddies" with former President George H.W. Bush and has been featured guest on national news programs. Speaking engagements that John performs with his father and co-founder Mark have taken them across Canada, the U.S. and Mexico and they are part of the U.S. State Department's Speakers Bureau.

John is a member of the Board for the National Down Syndrome Society and the Athlete's Congress for New York Special Olympics.



Mark X. Cronin

Mark X. Cronin is the co-founder, along with his son John, of John's Crazy Socks, a social enterprise with a mission to spread happiness. His leadership has demonstrated that pursuing social goals – demonstrating what people with differing abilities can achieve and giving back – makes for good business.

Mark advocates for the rights of differently abled people. His advocacy work has seen Mark testify before Congress twice, speak at the UN and make numerous trips to Capitol Hill. Mark is a sought-after speaker having spoken at events across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Mark is part of the U.S. State Department's Speakers' Bureau.

Mark served as the Chief Operating officer of multiple health care management and technology firms, founded a software company, organized political campaigns and worked as a Congressional aide. Mark began his career as a schoolteacher and has taught in graduate schools as well.

Mark has an undergraduate degree from Holy Cross and a Masters of Public Policy from the Kennedy School at Harvard University. He has been named an EY Entrepreneur of the Year and is a Board member for the Long Island Chapter of the Entrepreneurs Organization.

Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce – 2020-2021 Charity



Founded in 1980 by Long Island singer-songwriter Harry Chapin, Long Island Cares is one of 200 Feeding America food banks that distribute food to people affected by hunger across our country.

We distribute more than 10 million pounds of food annually to our 322 member agencies across Nassau and Suffolk counties to help the over 300,000 Long Islanders who are food-insecure.

While providing those in need with access to nutritious food will always be at the core of Long Island Cares' mission, we know that it takes more than just food to feed the hungry.

That's why at Long Island Cares we believe that it is essential to understand and address the root causes of hunger. We accomplish this through our 6 satellite locations, many direct service programs that assist a multitude of diverse groups, and with our brand-new facility the Center for Community Engagement (CCE).

The CCE was created to house our program staff and offer a community-facing facility for members of our community to utilize and investigate the root causes of hunger. We invite allied organizations to share office space, participate in workshops, host programs of their own, and much more all in the name of promoting inclusivity, diversity, equality, and access for those we serve.

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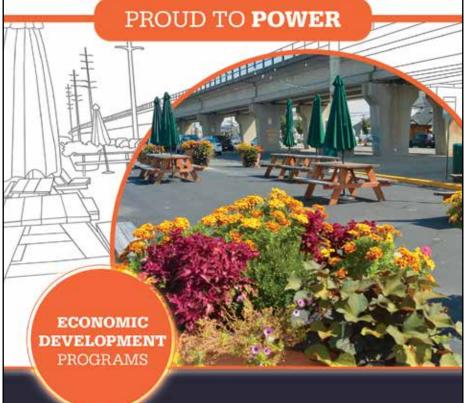
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Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce



Congratulations to this year's Small Business Honorees





PSEG Long Island is proud to work with local business districts and chambers of commerce to help transform communities. Our **Main Street Beautification** and **Outdoor Commerce** programs award grants to local organizations that enhance our downtowns and help small businesses adapt to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

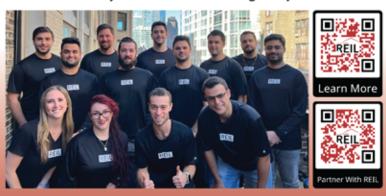
Helping small businesses helps Long Island.

Find out how to apply at **PSEGLINY.com/EcoDev**

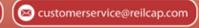


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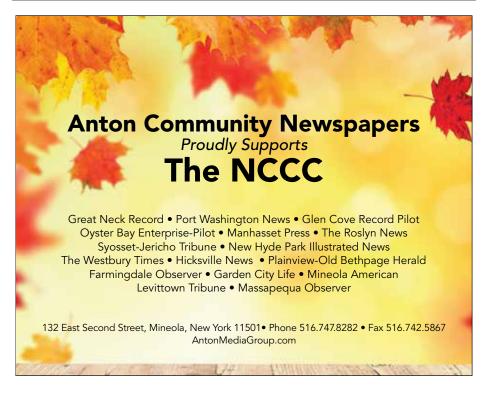
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Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce



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