

*Center  
for the  
Women of New York*



**26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon**

**April 27, 2013**

**Douglaston Manor and Golf Club**



**CWNY's Resource, Conference and Career Exploration Center  
207 Totten Ave., Fort Totten, NY**

## Who We Are . . . . .

Since our founding in October of 1987, the Center for the Women of New York has shown that women working together can be an effective force. We are a voluntary, non-profit organization existing primarily on dues from our members and on the volunteer efforts of business, professional and community women. Our goal is to be a resource center for women and advocate for women's rights and full equality in our society.

Currently, we operate out of office and classroom space donated by Queens Borough President Helen Marshall at Queens Borough Hall in Kew Gardens, Queens during our renovation of a landmarked building at Fort Totten in Bayside, Queens.

The Center for the Women of New York, formerly the Queens Women's Center, is designed to be a research and conference center and "living" museum, dedicated to recording and aiding women's struggles to achieve full equality in our society. Through a Women's Studies Committee, we will record the history of the women's movement in the areas of economy, legal resources, culture, education, religion, art forms, sports, labor, business and all policies and practices that affect the lives of women and their families.

The first action of the CWNY was to spotlight domestic violence and spearhead the effort in the courts to overcome legal obstacles for providing adequate protection for women who live in crisis situations. Our efforts in this area continue. We are part of the Queens Borough President's Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Domestic Violence, as well as other groups working in this vital area to provide services to victims and for educational programs aimed at prevention of these crimes and improving the lives of women.

Our regular monthly meetings have included programs on pay equity, women and money, sex trafficking and domestic violence, education, women and health, and legislative issues. Along with our traditional services, we offer a weekly Job Readiness Workshop, career counseling, help line, Legal Assistance Clinic, Money Management Clinic and Support Groups for crisis situations and life issues. To help meet needs for job training, we have offered instruction in computers and basic career exploration courses. Our new location will enable us also to resume programs that had to be suspended during the renovation, such as additional training classes, cultural programs, and a Walking Club.

Our annual "World of Working Women" conference and Job Fair is co-sponsored with us by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Dept. of Labor, area colleges, businesses, governmental agencies and others. Also, we continue to run education programs on women's health and reproductive rights.

We work in coalition with other women's organizations that advocate for issues important to women both locally and globally. Our CWNY is joining the effort in Congress to renew the struggle for the Equal Rights Amendment. We are also leading the effort to focus on the problems of female soldiers and sexual harassment and are part of a coalition for pay equity and attaining full opportunities for economic self-sufficiency. We have a strong link with the colleges and universities in the area. They provide us with interns who are afforded the opportunity of working directly with clients. We also train young people who are enrolled in summer youth employment programs and provide work employment experience for women making career transitions.

***Join us at the Center for the Women of New York.  
We need and welcome everyone.  
Call (718) 793-0672 or email us at [centerwny@yahoo.com](mailto:centerwny@yahoo.com)***

# PROGRAM

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12 P.M. - 1 P.M.

## ❖❖ NETWORKING ❖❖

1 P.M. Welcome: Susan Salzberg, *President, CWNY*

Salute to the Flag: Jeanette Evans

Introduction of Special Guests:

Ann Juliano Jawin, *Founder & Chair, Board of Directors, CWNY*

Hon. Ann-Margaret Carrozza, *Former NYS Assemblywoman  
and Elder Law Attorney*

Susan Salsberg, *President, CWNY*

## ❖❖ LUNCHEON ❖❖

### Woman of Distinction

Hon. Catherine Nolan, *NYS Assemblywoman, Chair of Education Committee*

### Women in Leadership Awards

Susan Cohen, *Director of Community Relations, Brandywine Sr. Living at The Savoy*

Jeannie Doherty Benckwit, *RN, Director of Outreach & Enrollment, AgeWell NY MLTCP*

Heidi Evans, *Journalist, The Daily News*

Zenaida Mendez, *President, National Organization for Women – NYS*

Felicia Papert Lercari, *Director, Music and the Brain Program*

Anita Saunders, *Superintendent, District 26, Board of Education, New York City*

Damiana Testa, *Community Leader*

### CWNY “Good Guy” Awards

Larry Grubler, *CEO, Transitional Services for NY Inc.*

Beni Gutierrez, *Branch Manager, Astoria Federal Savings Bank*

Steven Israel, *United States Congressman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District of New York*

Thomas Suozzi, *Former Nassau County Executive*

## ❖❖ ENTERTAINMENT ❖❖

Musical selections by Bill Gati

## ❖❖ RAFFLES & SILENT AUCTION ❖❖

## HONOREES

### Hon. Catherine Nolan



Catherine Nolan represents the 37th Assembly District in Queens County, which includes the historic New York City neighborhoods of Sunnyside, Ridgewood, Long Island City, Queensbridge, Ravenswood, Astoria, Woodside, Maspeth, Dutch Kills and Blissville. She was first elected to the Assembly in 1984.

A resident of the district for most of her life, she is a graduate of St. Aloysius R.C. School and Grover Cleveland High School. Ms. Nolan graduated from New York University cum laude with a B.A. degree in Political Science.

Speaker Sheldon Silver appointed Ms. Nolan to Chair the Assembly's Committee on Education in 2006. She has spearheaded efforts to achieve class size reduction, universal pre-K, middle school initiatives, improve high school graduation rates and other measures that will ultimately mean success for the more than three million school children in New York State.

Previously Ms. Nolan chaired the Assembly's Committee on Banks and the Committee on Labor.

In addition, she serves on the Ways and Means Committee, the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee. She also serves on the Assembly Majority Steering Committee, and the Rules Committee. Assemblywoman Nolan is active in many civic associations in her district where she has been the recipient of numerous awards.

### Jeannie Doherty Benckwit, RN, QDCP



Susan Jeannie Doherty Benckwit is Director of Outreach and Enrollment at AgeWell New York MLTCP. A former medical-surgical nurse for the Long Island Jewish-North Shore Health System, and former Home Care Nurse Coordinator and Outreach Nurse for Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation, Jeannie is now at the vanguard of managed care as the Marketing Director of AgeWell New York, a dynamic, New York State authorized managed long-term care plan that covers Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan and Westchester County. Jeannie Doherty-Benckwit reaches out to senior citizens, their families and health care providers to explain how AgeWell delivers the level and scope of care needed to "feel well and live well" at home. Her critically important work helps link older

adults with the health plan, providers and services that will keep them in good health, and help them avoid hospitalizations and institutionalization. Her work and her personal philosophy reflect the highest levels of expertise and compassion. Jeannie's nursing background and thorough approach to needs assessment also gives her great insight as to what seniors' needs are.

Jeannie works as a volunteer for charitable causes that first motivated her to enter nursing, and as a member or officer of professional organizations dedicated to improving the quality of later life, such as the Senior Umbrella Network of Queens, for which she is Co-Chair.

### Susan Cohen



Susan Cohen has been in healthcare for 25 years, serving in many capacities. Her first position was as the Volunteer Coordinator, Outreach Worker, and Public Relations Director at Jewish Family Services in Atlantic County in New Jersey. For the next ten years, she served as the Director of Social Services in several nursing and rehab centers in New Jersey and was instrumental in the formation of the Ethics committees in New Jersey.

Ms. Cohen began working for Brandywine Senior Living at the flagship facility, Moorestown Estates in South Jersey, and began a long period of service for the next fifteen years in different locations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and now New York. She is currently working as the Director of Community Relations at Brandywine Senior Living at The Savoy, doing sales and marketing and enjoying cultivating community partnerships which can empower our seniors and meet community needs.

Susan Cohen earned a BA in Psychology from George Washington University. She received her Certified Assisted Living Administrator License in New Jersey, Assisted Living Administrator training in Pennsylvania and CSW, certified social worker training in New Jersey.

## Heidi Evans



Heidi Evans has been a New York Daily News reporter for 19 years covering medical, social and political issues. She has been the recipient of many local and national honors, including the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for compelling coverage of Ground Zero workers whose medical ailments were ignored for years by the city and the nation.

Evans' reporting in 1990 exposed how the New York City Health Department had endangered thousands of women's lives by letting their Pap smear tests languish in city clinic boxes for a year, and never alerting them that they were never analyzed, including several with pre-cancer. And in 2001, she uncovered child neglect and financial corruption at Hale House—the nationally celebrated Harlem charity for abandoned children. Both of those series led to serious reforms and were given the prestigious George Polk Award for Investigative Reporting.

In recent years, Ms. Evans has written political profiles of New York's first ladies Matilda Cuomo, Silda Spitzer, Donna Hanover and Mayor Bloomberg's right-hand woman and first deputy mayor, Patricia Harris. She has also written extensively about issues such as domestic violence, spearheading a Daily News campaign to raise NY's minimum wage up from \$5.25 an hour in 2004, and most recently focusing on three generations of women who experienced sexual trauma in the military which led to a law change by Senator Gillibrand.

Ms. Evans is a graduate of Jamaica High School, the University of Colorado, and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She is the author of *How To Hide Money from Your Husband...and Other Time-Honored Ways to Build a Nest Egg: The Best-Kept Secret of a Good Marriage*, with a foreword by Judge Judy Sheindlin.

## Lisha Papert Lercari



Lisha Papert Lercari is the creator and director of Music and the Brain. Ms. Lercari received her BA in Music Theory and an MA in Music Education from the Manhattan School of Music. She studied with Nadia Boulanger and went on to teach at Harlem School of the Arts and at Hunter College High School.

"We have always been aware of the beauty, mystery and power of music; neuroscientists now show its power is even greater than we supposed, reaching into the very neurons with which we reason, remember and learn." Music and the Brain (MATB) is a non-profit program developed by the 42nd Street Fund in New York City. MATB created and provides schools with a comprehensive, sequential music curriculum designed for all grade levels, particularly kindergarten through grade six. MATB supplies a piano keyboard lab, piano books, CDs, theory papers, rhythm cards, teachers' manuals (which have been translated into French, Spanish, Hebrew and Japanese) and invaluable training for teachers. The program is currently in 120 New York schools.

## Zenaida Mendez



Zenaida Mendez is President of the National Organization for Women NYS (NOW-NYS). Ms. Mendez has been involved in a variety of issues affecting women and children—from housing, to daycare to equal pay for equal work to educational, to women's right to choose, to health, economic and environmental justice issues.

Ms. Mendez earned a BA in Government and Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Graduate School of Public Affairs, CUNY. Ms. Mendez served as Director, Racial Diversity Programs at the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Washington, DC, where she successfully spearheaded a diversity and inclusion training program, a woman of color and allies summit, and the campaign to end the femicide of women of Juarez and Chihuahua Mexico among other initiatives.

Ms. Mendez served as a legislative assistant to NY Congressman Charles B. Rangel. In August 2001, Ms. Mendez was one of the Women of Color Resource Center's Delegates to the World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa. She is also Founder of the National Dominican Women's Caucus and a former member of the board of directors of the National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence.

Ms. Mendez was named Person of the Week by CNN International NotiMujer in March of 2013, received the National Hispanic Environmental Council Award, was featured as one of the Mothers Bearers of the Light Daily News Viva Magazine, received the Dominican Women's Development Center Community Service Award, and received the NYS Senate Woman of Distinction Award in 2012.

## **Anita E. Saunders**



Anita Saunders, Superintendent of Community School District 26, NYC Dept. of Education, has been a dedicated and caring New York City educator for over forty-four years. A product of the New York City public schools, her love of learning, high standards and expectations, work ethic, energy and innovative thinking have been evidenced in every position and earned many distinguished awards including: NYS Senate 2004 Woman of Distinction; New York Supervisor/Administrator of the Year, District 26; Educational Leadership Jewish Teachers Community Chest; Asian American Coalition for Education; the Bayside Hills Civic Association, William Caulfield Award; and Man of the Year Award, Korean American Association of Greater New York.

Beginning as a teacher and moving on as a Staff Developer, Coordinator, Grant Writer, Adjunct Professor, National/International Presenter, Director of Funded Programs, District Director of Instruction and Professional Development, Deputy Superintendent, and finally Superintendent, her constant quest for excellence is known to all. She attributes much of her success to principals who encouraged her innovative teaching, and wonderful parents who provided a strong model for leadership interpersonal skills.

## **Damiana Testa**



Damiana Testa is a wonderful example of the tremendous contribution of many immigrant women who come to the United States and encounter numerous challenges. Her endurance enabled her to grow and develop a character dedicated to helping others. She has established and maintains a strong leadership role in the Italian-American Community. Among the many organizations with which she was actively involved, she was a founding member of the Italian American Women's Center (IAWC).

Ms. Testa's love for the Italian language and culture has been a guiding force in her life. It has inspired her to pursue higher levels of education. After raising and providing for the education of her four children, she obtained Bachelor of Arts degrees in Italian and Spanish as well as, a Master's degree of Art in Secondary Education from Queens College, where she also served as an adjunct professor for many years. Through the Italian American Committee on Education (IACE), she organized citizenship drives for members of the community. A citizenship drive, held in the spring of 1999, helped more than 500 people attain their dual citizenships.

Throughout the years, Ms. Testa has organized numerous fundraisers which raised financial support for various groups in her community. Among the many awards she has received is the Leadership and Heritage Award from the Association of Italian Educators.

## **“Good Guys”**

### **Larry S. Grubler, Psy. D.**



Dr. Larry Grubler is the Chief Executive Officer of Transitional Services for New York, Inc. (TSINY), a comprehensive not-for-profit mental health agency with unique clinical and rehabilitative programming and vocational training. The agency now serves 3,000 people each year with outpatient services such as a clinic, a day program, and outreach and vocational services. Dr. Grubler hopes to replicate TSINY rehabilitation services through the state and country because they are so unique and effective.

Dr. Grubler received his Bachelor's degree from SUNY Binghamton, a Master's degree from St. John's University in General and Experimental Psychology and a Doctorate in Psychology from Southern California University for Professional Studies. He began his career working with individuals with mental illness as a day counselor at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center. He was promoted to be an administrator and subsequently worked under Mayors Koch and Dinkins as a Senior Consultant for the NYC Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services. In 1992 Dr. Grubler was named Associate Director of Residential Services at Whitestone-based TSINY. He has made his staff a family, frequently conducting teas where they can problem solve and streamline processes.

## Beni Gutierrez



Beni Gutierrez is Vice President, Banking Division/Whitestone Branch Manager, Astoria Federal Savings. Mr. Gutierrez began his career as a teller in the Whitestone Branch, quickly moved up the ranks and entered into Astoria's Management Associate Program, which prepared him for his role as branch manager of several Queens and Nassau locations. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree in Corporate Finance from Queens College, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Mr. Gutierrez enjoys sharing his expertise to help enrich the neighborhood he serves. He works closely with local businesses to understand and identify needs, challenges and concerns and offer individualized solutions to help them manage their cash flow or access capital to grow their businesses. He and his team provide customize solutions to help customers reach their financial goals, whether they are thinking about how to pay for college, buy a home, create a secure financial future or simplify their everyday banking needs. He is currently a member of the Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association and is always eager to give back to his community, through Astoria Federal's Education First financial literacy programs and the annual Kids Tools for School supply collection drives.

## Hon. Steve Israel



Congressman Steve Israel represents New York's 3rd Congressional District, including the communities of Huntington, North Hempstead, Queens, Oyster Bay, and Smithtown. He was first sworn into Congress in 2001.

Mr. Israel is a member of the House Leadership, serving as the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. In March of 2012, he was appointed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, serving with seven other members of Congress. In March 2013, Mr. Israel was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) Board of Visitors, which provides the President independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the USMA.

He is known as a relentless advocate for veterans and middle class families. Mr. Israel is considered a leader on U.S. energy security, reducing our national dependence on foreign oil, lowering energy costs, and creating an innovative clean technology economy.

Among Mr. Israel's local accomplishments are securing record-level federal investments to protect the Long Island Sound; seeking to protect Long Island taxpayers by changing the federal tax code to reflect the local cost-of-living; and supporting local women's health initiatives—a priority in his role as Co-Chair of the House Cancer Caucus.

Mr. Israel helped author the Tax Equity Act. In the 111th Congress, he voted to extend the payroll tax cut for working families. He also called for an extension of pre-tax commuter benefits in December 2011, a critical benefit for New York commuters.

## Thomas R. Suozzi, Esq., CPA



Thomas R. Suozzi, an attorney and certified public accountant, currently serves as Of Counsel to Harris Beach PLLC. Mr. Suozzi served from 1994 to 2001 as Mayor of the City of Glen Cove, where he restored financial stability, created a national model for environmental cleanup and brought about a new era of civic pride. He then served from 2002 to 2009 as County Executive of Nassau County, New York, a county with a population and budget larger than 11 states.

In January 2008 the Governor named Mr. Suozzi Chair of the bipartisan NYS Commission on Property Tax Relief. That same year he was named "Environmentalist of the Year" by the NYS League of Conservation Voters. In 2010 he was appointed as a member of Governor Cuomo's Transition team for State and Local Government Reform, he is currently on the Board of Directors for the Fordham Law School Alumni Association, and a member of the U.S. Department of State's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy. In 2012, Tom and his wife, Helene, were honored by the Interfaith Nutrition Network as "Humanitarians of the Year."

Mr. Suozzi recently completed a three-year term as a Senior Advisor to Lazard, one of the world's preeminent financial advisory firms. Prior to holding public office, Mr. Suozzi was an attorney at Shearman & Sterling, an auditor at Arthur Andersen & Company, and a clerk to Judge Thomas C. Platt, chief judge of the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Mr. Suozzi received a Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law and a BS from Boston College, School of Management.

In recognition of her accomplishments...

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On behalf of the children and the members of the District 26 community, we would like to thank you for your dedication, guidance and leadership.

## **Congratulations**

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from the Center for the Women of New York

Fondly,

Your District 26 Family of Administrators



Thanks to everyone  
at the

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of New York*

and

congratulations to the  
honorees!

**Tom and Helene Suozzi**



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**On Their**

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and

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THE WOMEN OF NEW YORK ON THEIR 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LUNCHEON



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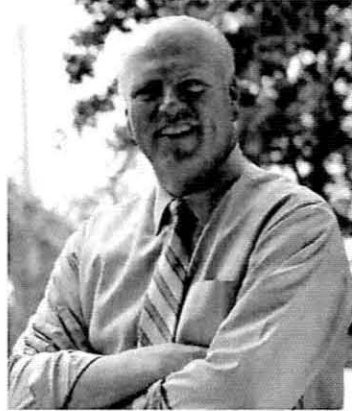
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*and*

*Susan Cohen*

*For Their Recognition as "Women in Leadership"*

at the

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**Ann Jawin, Honorees and Members**  
Wishing you a successful 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon

~~~~~

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**Andrea R. Adams, MPA, CMA-AC**  
Consultant and Board Member



CONGRATULATIONS  
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*To all that are being honored.*

*The Savoy is proud to have "Women in Leadership" honoree,  
Susan Cohen, as part of our family!*



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**To Anita Saunders**

**Dear Anita:**

**We want to express our heartfelt  
congratulations to you on receiving  
this prestigious award. You are a very  
special caring person, whom we admire.**

**We are honored to work with you,  
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**Love, Karen & Lori**

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From your friend and colleague

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*Landair*

*Mash City*

*Melrose Credit Union*

*Meltzer Accounting & Tax Service*

*Music and the Brain*

*New York Hospital Queens*

*Page Ayres Cowley*

*Parker Jewish Institute*

*PS 46,*

*The Alley Pond School*

*Royal Health Care*

*Senior Umbrella Network of Brooklyn*

*UFT*

*Vallone & Vallone, LLP*

*Zonta*

# *Center for the Women of New York*

Looks Forward To  
Our 27th Successful Year

*“A Voice for Women”*

\* \* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

## **CENTER FOR THE WOMEN OF NEW YORK**

120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 325, Kew Gardens, New York 11424 • (718) 793-0672  
207 Totten Avenue, Fort Totten, Bayside, NY 11359

## DOING THE BUSINESS OF CWNY

### We Need You!

The Center helps women of all ages and keeps up with those in our society that are concerned with pay equity, domestic violence, sex trafficking and many legal issues to give women equal rights and opportunity in our society. There is work to be done in keeping our Center open and provide services. Therefore, donations are greatly appreciated. Even so, working on our Board of Directors or on a Committee is very valuable and necessary.

The value of intelligent, and dedicated members (which describes all of our paid-up members) is invaluable and very appreciated. Let us know if you have an interest or talent in PR, fundraising, writing, public speaking, teaching, etc. etc.

Remember that we are a non-profit, tax-deductible organization. Please complete the form below or click to our membership page at [cwny.org](http://cwny.org) to join / renew online and help us to continue our important work.

**These are the committees waiting for new members:** Membership, Education, Grant Writing, Fund Raising, Programs, Newsletter, Publicity, Internet/Social Media, Hospitality, Special Social Events, Monthly Programs.

We have a lot going on, especially looking forward to our new home at Ft. Totten, and we need and welcome everyone!

**Upcoming Events: Annual Walkathon – September 2013  
World of Working Women Conference – October 2013**

### Center for the Women of New York

Center for the Women of New York works hard to respond to women's needs. We currently offer a help line, monthly programs, a newsletter, and support groups. Please take part in our important work of helping women by sending us your membership contribution.

I am glad to support the Center for the Women of New York and enclose my check for

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (Income \$0 to \$10,000) \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 (Income \$10,000 to \$25,000)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 (Income \$25,000 and over) \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Friend \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Sponsor  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Business & Professional Women \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Corporations \_\_\_\_\_ Other Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$125 " - includes Web listing

Please make checks payable to Center for the Women of New York. Your contribution is tax deductible. Credit card payments accepted. Call (718) 793-0672. Membership is from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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I am particularly interested in:

|                                               |                   |           |                       |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Arts                                          | Domestic Violence | Education | Employment            | Fundraising & Grants |
| Health                                        | Hospitality       | Job Club  | Internet/Social Media | Membership           |
| Newsletter                                    | Political Action  | Programs  | Publicity             |                      |
| Sexual Harassment & Employment Discrimination |                   |           | Social Events         | Support Group        |

*Congratulations*

*to*

*Ann Juliano Jawin*

*Chair and Founder*

**26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*April 27, 2013*



*For her extraordinary leadership as Founder and Chair of the  
Center for the Women of New York*

*Your Family*

*Ronald and Wendy Jawin, Paul and Michele Jawin  
and grandchildren*

*Alixandra, Rachel, Erica and Tom*

*Congratulations to Ann Jawin  
&  
The Center for the Women of New York, Inc.  
On 26 Years of Service  
To the Women of Your Community*

Anna Tringle  
CRPC<sup>®</sup>, ChFC<sup>®</sup>, CLU<sup>®</sup>, CFS<sup>®</sup>  
Financial Advisor

**Ameriprise Financial**

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Your financial needs are unique, whether you want to provide for your loved ones, support the organizations that are important to you, or plan for your own comfortable retirement, I can help you plan for your goals. I will look at all aspects of your finances and then find solutions that are tailored to your unique needs. As your goals and needs change, I will be there to help you adjust your plan and help put your dreams within reach.