BCS Group Newsletter - March 2017

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2017 OUR LOCAL HEROES



The Purpose of Women's History Month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history. To take one month out of the year to remember the contributions of notable and ordinary women. These women paved the way for us to have the rights and freedom that we wouldn't have if it wasn't for their strength and resilience.

I would like to honor these admirable women that have been part of my life journey in their own quiet way. **Dr Nicoletta Pallotta**.

Jeanine Ramirez - NY1 Reporter/Anchor

Jeanine Ramirez joined NY1 News in October 1996. She is the Brooklyn reporter primarily responsible for covering the borough's 2.5 million people as well as its schools, politics, religions and neighborhoods. She also is the lead reporter on many Latino issues.

Hon. Theresa Ciccotto - Civil Court Judge

Judge Theresa Ciccotto is a role model to many women. She did not give up until she accomplished her lifelong dream. Such an inspiration. She has received awards for her contributions to the legal community as well as the community at large.

Josephine Beckmann - Community Board 10 Manager

Josephine became District Manager of Community Board Ten in November 2003. She has been a staunch advocate for community residents working diligently on all city service delivery concerns brought to the District Office and coordinates these efforts with local community/merchant organizations.

Anna Tota - Registered Nurse at Coney Island Hospital

For almost three decades, Anna Tota has been caring for the Brooklyn community as a NYS Registered Professional Nurse for NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation at Coney Island Hospital. Anna has touched many lives during her career.

Frances T. Vella-Marrone - Dyker Civic President and Assistant to Congressman Dan Donovan

A lifelong resident of the Bay Ridge/Dyker Heights Community, Fran has been a civic and political activist for over 35 years. She strengthens our community with her help and advocacy.

Ilene Sacco - Attorney, NYS Office of People with Disabilities

Ilene is best known for being the President of the 68th Precinct Community Council for ten years. She is an attorney and currently works for the NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities as the Director of the NYC Waiver Unit. She helps empower people with disabilities.

Danielle Bullock - Visual Artist/Activist

Co-founder, Empty Bowls Bay Ridge; core organizer with Bay Ridge for Social Justice; volunteer art instructor for the Brooklyn Public Library (Bay Ridge branch) and the Children's Chorus of Bay Ridge; founding member of the Unnamed Women Art Collective (Bay Ridge). Current candidate for graduate certificate in Art Education at Brooklyn College. Danielle is an advocate for the LGBT community.

P.O. Susan Porcello - 68th Precinct Police Officer

July 1, 1998, Susan became a proud member of New York's Finest, a New York City Police Officer. She has been serving our community proudly for 18 years. Susan also helps develop community youth groups.

Audrey Anastasi - Tabla Rosa Art Gallery Owner & Artist

A curator, gallery owner/director, educator and arts advocate. Audrey Frank Anastasi is, above all, a prolific and dedicated visual artist.

Camille Loccisano - Founder of Frankie's Mission

Frankie's Mission is a nonprofit Childhood Cancer Foundation in memory of her son Frankie that provides financial assistance to families during the life-altering and overwhelming journey of enduring cancer treatments that are critical to the children's care and survival.

Paula Katinas - Brooklyn Daily Reporter/Writer. Brooklyn Eagle Managing Editor

Paula began her journalism career in the mid-1980s at the Home Reporter and Sunset News, a weekly newspaper covering Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst and Sunset Park. She spends her career in journalism to provide the community with education and awareness.

Jovan Santopietro - Mixologist and Personal Trainer

A mixologist and Personal Trainer. Jovan teaches women personal strength and perserverance. She plans to take the test for the FDNY (Fireman) in September, and join the team of New York's Bravest.

Cathy Santopietro - Fort Hamilton Community Relations Officer

Cathy serves as the Chief of Public Affairs/Community Relations for USAG Fort Hamilton, in Brooklyn, NY, the only active installation in NYC, bringing awareness of Fort Hamilton and the Army's story to the community outside the gate and throughout the five boroughs. Her career in Community and Public Relations has spanned over 40 years.

Pamela Harris - Assembly Member, District 46

As a community advocate, Pamela has fought to revitalize our region by ensuring more opportunities for our children. One of Pamela's achievements includes founding the Coney Island Generation Gap, a non-profit organization aiming to educate and empower youth to get them off the streets and away from crime. She is also a breast cancer survivor.

Laurie Windsor - President District 20 Schools-Community Education Council

Since 2005, Laurie has been elected to serve on the Community Education Council for District 20. She has served as the CEC's Treasurer, Vice President and since 2008, as President. For the past 11 years, she has sat on the District Leadership Team who is responsible for developing the District Comprehensive Educational Plan which is the goals and objectives for the district. Laurie fights for parents voices to be heard.

Capri Djatismoro - Tri-Athlete, Project Manager

Capri is a project manager who co-ordinates outdoor national ad campaigns. She enjoys long distance marathon swimming in the Summer and cold water swimming in the Winter. Some of her accomplishements are:

2003 - swam a half mile in the Hudson River

2014 - swam around Manhattan Island (28.50) miles on my 63rd Birthday in 10:59:45 (11) hours. Amazing... Rawia Bishara - Owner of Tanoreen, Michelin Chef, Author

Rawia has received widespread acclaim for her Middle Eastern culinary creations from some of the most respected food critics and publications in NYC, nationally and internationally. She published Olives, Lemons and Za'atar, in 2014 and currently writing her second book.

Lisa Scherma - Singer/Songwriter/Guitarist

Her eclectic style has been compared to the likes of Melissa Etheridge, Bonnie Raitt, and Trisha Yearwood. She considers herself a musical storyteller and believes the most important thing is to tell the story right; musically, vocally and emotionally. She writes empowering songs for women.

Annette Fisher - Senior Advocate

Annette enjoys helping seniors and their families with mortgage financing and challenges associated with selling a home especially when it concerns a senior and a lifetime of memories in that home. She is a true advocate for seniors.

Violette Tonuzi - Owner of VT Salon & Spa, Realtor, Stribling & Associates

Violette continuously empowers women by means of her two career paths that she has chosen. Both have a tremendous impact on women.

Cookie Melendez - Martial Arts/Kickboxer/Fitness Professional

Cookie was one of the first community women kick boxers who gives the gift of teaching self-defense to women and provides empowerment.

Dr. Donna Marie Manasseh - Specializes in Breast Surgery, Breast Cancer & Surgical Oncology

Dr. Manasseh advocates education in prevention which is crucial in the medical field.

Eileen Guercio, MS - Founder, Divorce Coaching Step by Step

Eileen has overcome many obstacles in her life. She is now helping women get through some of those same difficulties.

Dr. Millicent Comrie - Specializes in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Comrie received a National Honors Award, the highest award in her native Jamaica, given by Parliament on October 17, 2017. Her constant mission is to help women physically and mentally.

Antonia Clemente - Co-Founder/Executive Director, The Healing Center, Founded in 2000

The Healing Center helps families affected by violence understand their options and how to take steps toward healing and self-sufficiency. Reaching out to different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds helps to reduce family violence in our community. Antonia is an integral part of this mission.

Rhoda Rabkin - Rhoda was a pioneer of the women's right movement. She was a true feminist and pioneer of the women's rights movement.

Kelly Steier - Kelly is a women's advocate. She educates and empowers women by informing them of their bureaucratic rights.



Brooklyn Counseling Services (718) 232 8600 www.bcsnygroup.com

Urgent Psych (718) 232 8600 www.bcsnygroup.com/urgent-psychotherapy

Brooklyn Women's Services (718) 748 1234 www.bwsnyc.com

Neighborhood Counseling Center (718) 232 1351 www.nccny.com

MARCH AWARENESS MONTH: Social Worker Awareness

Women's History