

SENATOR
SUE SERINO:

Adapting in a Time of Change





Dear Friends,

Although this year's Women Networking Event looks a little different, we still have the same goal in mind: to connect local women here in our community.

Throughout this unprecedented time, we have all had to adapt and evolve to face the challenges being presented and to move our community forward.

Tonight, we will hear from three dynamic speakers about how they have overcome obstacles and roadblocks in their own lives, and how their own networks have helped them along the way.

Adapting in times of change is never easy, but having a network you can count on can make all the difference.

I thank all of you here tonight for coming together to support one another and for your commitment and dedication to making our community an even better place to live and work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Serino".

Sue Serino
New York State Senator
41st District



Schedule of Events

**Welcoming Remarks
Senator Sue Serino**

***Bringing Hope*
Krista Jones
2020 NYS Woman of Distinction**

***Finding Your Calling:
Purpose, Passion and Plan*
Mecca (Santana) Mitchell**

***Seeing Beyond Who You Are Today:
Finding the Strength to Improvise,
Adapt and Overcome*
Filomena Fanelli**



Krista Jones

Krista Jones has lived in the Hudson Valley for over 20 years, brought to the area as a radio reporter on WDST and WKNY in Kingston. She later took a position as News Director/Morning Show Co-Host on WRNQ-FM/Clear Channel Radio of the Hudson Valley and served in this capacity for over 15 years.

After marrying and giving birth to three beautiful red heads, the local mom was looking to do something more. When her friend, a mother of three, was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer, Krista's immediate response was, "let me cook them dinner." Night after night, the Hopewell Junction resident left warm, homemade meals on the struggling family's doorstep and realized she was able to give her friend comfort during her cancer fight. Not long after, 4 other friends were diagnosed with various cancer and while cooking for all of their families, Krista knew this was something she could do for the masses.

In 2013, Sparrow's Nest took flight. In its inaugural year, the charity fed 16 people. Today, the charity feeds over 350 people each week, feeding more than 2,000 people since its inception. The charity originally made meals out of Krista's home but moved the Nest to a new location in 2017 at the Summerlin Plaza in Wappingers Falls, NY. Today, Sparrow's Nest serves 5 counties in the Hudson Valley., as well as families staying at the Ronald McDonald home, located on the grounds of Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

Krista serves as the Executive Director and sits on many of the board's committees. Under her passionate leadership, Sparrow's Nest has received countless awards including the 2019 Falcon Award for Business Excellence in Dutchess County and the Ronald McDonald House 2020 Charity of the Year Award, and has secured significant grants to help expand their reach throughout the community.

Through her work, Krista has touched countless lives throughout the Hudson Valley and exemplifies all that it means to be a NYS Senate 'Woman of Distinction.'



Mecca (Santana) Mitchell

Mecca Mitchell, Esq., is the Senior Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion & Community Engagement for the Westchester Medical Center Health Network, a ten hospital system located in the Hudson Valley. She is responsible for building and leveraging relationships with external stakeholders (i.e., community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, academic institutions, government entities, social service providers, and the business community) to explore new and innovative partnerships that create sustainable health and promote community vitality. Ms. Mitchell is also charged with ensuring that all internal organizational policies and procedures across the hospital network are aligned with diversity, inclusion, and equity best practices.

Prior to this position, Ms. Mitchell served as the Chief Diversity Officer for the State of New York. Appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo in September 2013, she was responsible for the creation and implementation of recruitment and retention initiatives designed to promote workforce diversity and inclusion, while also leading state-wide initiatives to increase Minority & Women Owned Business (MWBE) procurement opportunities.

Prior to joining the Cuomo administration, Ms. Mitchell was the Executive Director of Equal Employment Opportunity & Diversity Management for the New York City Department of Education and began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County (Manhattan) District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Mitchell holds certifications from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations in Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity Studies. Ms. Mitchell, who is licensed to practice law in both New York and New Jersey, graduated from Hofstra University's School of Law in June 2000 and is a graduate of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, where she double majored in Criminal Justice and Political Science.

Mecca Mitchell, Esq. is the Senior Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion & Community Engagement for the Westchester Medical Center Health Network. In her current role, she is responsible for building and fostering relationships with outside community stakeholders and ensures that all internal protocols are aligned with diversity, inclusion, and equity.

Mecca graduated from Hofstra University's School of Law and received her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science from SUNY Albany.



Filomena Fanelli

For nearly 22 years, Filomena Fanelli has enjoyed telling clients' stories through public relations and continues to apply that enthusiasm in her role as the CEO and founder of Impact PR & Communications, Ltd., an all-female, award-winning public relations and marketing agency based in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Fanelli has been lauded for her professional achievements and community involvement. She was named both an ATHENA International honoree and one of the top women in business by Hudson Valley magazine, a "Forty Under 40" by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, and "Provisional of the Year" by the Junior League of Poughkeepsie. Her firm was recognized as a "Top Women-Run Workplace of the Year" by the Stevie® Awards, an international recognition, won an Hermes Creative Award and has taken home more than 11 Mercury Awards in two years for outstanding client campaigns.

An involved community member, Fanelli enjoys volunteering with various Hudson Valley nonprofit organizations. She serves on the board of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, executive committees of the Women's Leadership Alliance and the Public Relations Society of America's Counselors Academy.

A proud lifelong Dutchess County resident, Fanelli lives in her childhood home with her husband and two daughters.



Notes



Notes



Notes



Senator Sue Serino
New York State Senate
41st District

Phone: (845) 229-0106
Email: serino@nysenate.gov
Website: serino.nysenate.gov