



## News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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*Somerset County, New Jersey • Celebrating 325 Years: 1688-2013*

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## Somerset County Honors 21 Outstanding Women

**FRANKLIN** – Twenty-one women will be honored March 22 at the 21st annual Outstanding Women in Somerset County awards dinner sponsored by the county Commission on the Status of Women.

“The 21 honorees represent a cross-section of backgrounds, abilities and endeavors,” said Freeholder Mark Caliguire, commission liaison. “It is our pleasure to recognize them for the many contributions they have made to their communities.”

The Commission on the Status of Women presents these awards annually in celebration of Women's History Month in March. Honorees are women who live or work in Somerset County. Recipients by category are:

**Business/Management – Carol Ann Winder of Bernardsville.** A longtime county resident, she has been executive director of the Somerset County Bar Association and Lawyer Referral Service since 2007. Under her leadership, Bar Association membership increased almost 50 percent in less than five years. She holds an MBA from Rutgers School of Management and a bachelor's degree in chemistry. From 1991 to 2006, she directed projects at Colgate-Palmolive Co., retiring after eight years as director of global quality/microbiology.

**Education – Lorrie Baumann of Branchburg.** As director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of New Jersey's school education programs since 2010, she has co-developed and coordinates a professional development program called “Educating the Educators” to help educators who work with children in grades K-12 who have psychiatric disorders; the program has educated more than 6,000 professionals in schools throughout New Jersey. She also is a private tutor for students in grades 5-12 and previously was a middle school science teacher in Branchburg, retiring in 2004.

**Education – Peggy Katzenberger of Lebanon.** She started as a teacher at the Palmer School of the Bernardsville Methodist Church in 1990 and became director in 1997. Under her direction, the school, which has children from 6 weeks old through kindergarten, was the first in the area to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She has created a loving, nurturing environment for parents and their children where they learn social, reading, math, science, arts, movement, language and life skills.

**Education – Viktoria Wargo of Hillsborough.** This Triangle Elementary School special-education teacher has worked for six years to spread awareness about autism. She produced a documentary, “Touched by Autism,” that premiered at Tusk Restaurant in April 2012 as part of National Autism Awareness Month. The film, which was made entirely in Hillsborough, shows how the community embraces autism through the eyes of family, friends and educators.

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**Entrepreneur – Dawn Kettling of Bedminster.** She has been in the florist trade for over 31 years and currently is owner and president of Blooms at the Hills Inc. in Bedminster, where she is known for her knowledge of flowers, her design skills and her personal attention to detail. Her community activities include serving as treasurer of Friends of the Shelter, which supports the Resource Center of Somerset County, and volunteering with the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP), which assists the poor and working poor with housing, advocacy, counseling and support services.

**Entrepreneur – Dianne Leoni of Hillsborough.** A math teacher and specialist at Amsterdam Elementary School with more than 25 years of teaching experience in the Hillsborough school system, she collaborated with a national educational company to create a Coin Tiles game to help kids identify coins and make change. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from William Paterson College and a master's of education degree from Seton Hall University. She received a 2000 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

**Environmental Initiatives – Kay Paragano of Bernardsville.** As civic improvement chair of the Bernardsville Garden Club, she organizes gardening projects around the borough and helps recruit new club members. Thanks to her tireless efforts, the library, the town circle and the window boxes at the train station are filled with gorgeous foliage year-round. Founded in 1930, the Bernardsville Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs Inc. and the Garden Club of New Jersey Inc.

**Government/Public Service – Debra S. Joren of Watchung.** She has served as chief of staff for State Sen. Kip Bateman in his 16th-District legislative office since 1994. She also has been assistant secretary for the New Jersey State Senate since 1992 and a member of the Watchung Borough Council since 2003, serving two years as council president. She also is a member of the Watchung Borough Youth Services Commission, the Watchung Republican Club and the Somerset County Federation of Republican Women.

**Government/Public Service – Marguerite (Peg) Schaffer, Esq., of Bedminster.** As chair of the Somerset County Democratic Party since 2007, she has strengthened the party's leadership, established a physical headquarters, worked to establish county committees and recruited candidates at all levels. Her efforts have resulted in bipartisan appointments to local boards and commissions. She has successfully juggled her political activities while maintaining her career as a partner with Shain, Schaffer & Rafanello, PC, in Bernardsville.

**Health Services – Alyce Brophy, RN, BSN, MPH, of Milford.** As president and CEO of Community VNA in Somerville, she ensures that the agency partners with physicians, county offices and others to tackle community-health issues. Under her leadership the VNA was recently awarded a Collaborative Approach to Reach Patient Empowerment (CARE) grant sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is known for her ability to weed through complicated and ever-changing government regulations and present them to staff in simple terms so they can be implemented promptly.

**Health Services – Dorothy J. DeMaio, RN, Ed.D., FAAN, of Far Hills.** She has been dean and professor of the Rutgers University School of Nursing for 14 years, as well as the founder of the first nurse practitioner program, the first mobile unit for child health care, the first nursing PhD. Program and the first international faculty/student exchange program with Middlesex University in London. She continues as a Ph.D. program lecturer at Rutgers. Locally she has served on the board of trustees of the Clarence Dillon Library and as member of the Far Hills Board of Health.

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**Hometown Hero – Morgan Dluhy of Branchburg.** A 14-year-old honors student at Somerville High School, she founded “Kids 4 Callum” to raise money to help a now 2-year-old neighbor, Callum Benderoth, who has a rare spinal disease – Thoracic Insufficiency Syndrome, or TIS – as well as a blood disorder. To date she has raised close to \$10,000 for the Benderoth family by organizing sales of pizza, baked goods and T-shirts. She also is donating teddy bears to be given out Christmas Eve to children with pediatric cancer at New York Presbyterian Hospital. The Benderoths describe her as “a special person, a true leader, and excellent role model with a heart of gold.”

**Hometown Hero – Donna Dourney-York of Hillsborough.** After losing her father to ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, she founded the nonprofit Healthy, Active, Responsible Kids (HARK) in his memory. One half of HARK is dedicated to aiding, nurturing and educating children through athletic programs such as Girls on the Run. The other half is devoted to ALS assistance and awareness. She co-founded and launched Hope on the Horizon, an ALS awareness campaign. She is executive director of Girls on the Run of Central New Jersey and started an Adopt A Child For Christmas program benefiting homeless families in Elizabeth.

**Law – Annmarie Simeone, Esq., of Woodbridge.** A labor and employment attorney with the Bridgewater-based law firm of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A., she has received Martindale-Hubbell’s® highest peer-review rating in recognition of her high ethical standards, analytical capabilities, legal knowledge and experience. She is a frequent author and lecturer and also co-edits the firm’s Employment Law Blog. She has served in leadership roles in the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association since 2008 and currently is second vice president of the Resource Center of Somerset’s board of trustees.

**Medicine/Health Services – Vedrana Ivana Gjivoje, DVM, of Bernardsville.** She is co-owner of the Bernardsville Animal Hospital, LLC, who is recognized for the care and compassion that she brings both to her veterinary practice and to her community endeavors. A longtime member and supporter of the ASPCA/Humane Society of the United States, she is involved locally with NJ Heartworks, the Morristown Community Soup Kitchen and Project Vets. She holds degree in veterinary medicine from Michigan State University and is a member of Phi Zeta Professional Veterinary Honor Society.

**Medicine/Health Services – Alieta R. Eck, MD, of Franklin.** She was a registered pharmacist before attending medical school. Today she and her husband practice internal medicine from their joint office in Piscataway. She co-founded the Zarephath Health Center, a volunteer clinic for the poor in Zarephath, NJ. In May 2011, she testified before the U.S. Senate about the cost of medical care for the poor. Dr. Eck is board certified in internal medicine and graduated in 1980 from St. Louis University School of Medicine. She is past president of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons.

**Public Service – Judith A. Sullivan of Bedminster.** A lifelong resident of Bedminster, she has a distinguished career of more than 30 years of public service for the township. She began in 1975 as secretary for the Police Department and later was office manager for the Department of Public Works and the Sewer Utility. In 2004 she became Deputy Clerk and two years later, Township Clerk. In 2009 she assumed the duties of Township Administrator while continuing as Clerk. She most recently was credited with helping the township to run smoothly during and after Hurricane Sandy.

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**Social Services – Nicole DeSario of Montgomery.** A Montgomery High School senior, she is a volunteer at the Resource Center of Somerset who started MASK Theater – Montgomery Advocates for Solidarity and Kindness – at her high school. MASK seeks to educate students about the signs of unhealthy relationships as well as healthy ones. Nicole also is in her second year as a volunteer on the National Youth Advisory Board of LoveisRespect. A lifelong Girl Scout, she currently is an Ambassador Scout and helps put together workshops for younger Scouts.

**Volunteerism – Nancy Buck Pyne of Peapack-Gladstone.** Now an octogenarian, she has spent her life promoting community projects and causes. During the past 15 years she has been an advocate and honorary trustee for the Jacobus Vanderveer House of Bedminster, chairing the restoration project's first fundraiser in the late 1990s. She helped the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills launch its capital campaign in the early 2000s. She also has volunteered over the years with the Matheny Medical and Educational Center, Bonnie Brae and the Leonard J. Buck Garden, which was her childhood home. She received an award in December 2012 for her work on behalf of the Newark Museum.

**Volunteerism – Jane R. Fidacaro of Raritan.** Her many volunteer endeavors include serving as a reader and an Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion at St. Ann's Church in Raritan; facilitating and acting in productions by Magic Mirrors, an improvisational group that performs "Slices of Life" skits for community, health and church organizations; serving as a member of the Raritan Historical and Cultural Committee and the Somerset Historical Society; and active participation as a founding member and current vice president of the Raritan Garden Club. A retired elementary school teacher in the Bridgewater-Raritan district, she still teaches a drug and alcohol program, "Babes," for elementary school children.

**Volunteerism – Bev Glockler of Montgomery.** In 2012 she celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an EMT-B with the Montgomery Emergency Medical Services squad, of which she is a lifetime member. During her years with the all-volunteer squad, she has responded to over 4,000 calls. She has been a crew chief for 22 years and serves as both a trainer and mentor to many new EMTs and cadets. She has been the squad's treasurer since 1989 and has coordinated the annual fund drive since 1995. She assists the Montgomery Health Department at its annual flu clinics and performs monthly free blood-pressure checks for seniors. She also is a church deacon and elder and regularly makes hospital visits in this capacity.