

*Celebrating this year's honorees who are from all walks of life and every kind of job.
They each serve and advance worthy concerns and causes and by doing so
are living up to the best traditions of the American Irish.*



Friday, October 11, 2024

Rosie O'Grady's, 148 W 51st Street, New York, NY 10019

2024 Community Champions



Michael Stamatis



William Lee



Rosemarie Byrne



Martina Curtin



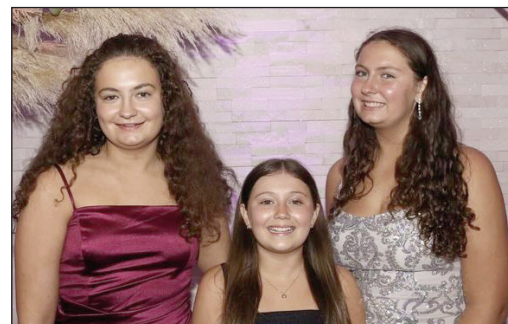
Heidi Cinquegrana



Catherine Mitchell
Miceli



Brian Miller



Team Happy Feet



Arthur Lanese

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Celebrating Our Community Champions

By Ray O'Hanlon

The idea of community is something that we all cherish, but sometimes, perhaps, take a little for granted. Much of the time we go about our daily lives as individuals, or as members of families.

The broader concept of community does enter our consideration of course, sometimes in a positive context, sometimes in a situation in which one or more of us might be under pressure or stress. It's in difficult times that we look for the headline about the community "coming together."

We all understand that if that line was nowhere to be seen we would be in, to say the least, a spot of bother. In the normal run of things our communities depend for their health and wellbeing on individuals and groups reaching out, taking an extra step, going that extra mile.

It's fair to say that most of the work undertaken by people we would recognize as being community champions goes largely unseen and unacknowledged. And that's as most would have it. But from time to time we like to see what is being done to make life easier and better for people. We like to acknowledge this work and reward it, if for no other reason than by holding unselfish acts up to the light we might inspire others to follow, to pitch in, to take that extra step for others.

Back in 1996, the Irish Echo held an awards event at the Irish Consulate in Manhattan to honor individuals who fell under the definition of "Unsung Hero." What we learned at the time, and as a result of

people nominating their unsung heroes, was both surprising and inspiring.

We're in the business of news and knowing things, but the unsung heroes who stepped into the light that evening twenty-seven years ago were as surprising to us as they were remarkable in their previous, mostly unsung, lives.

Unsung Heroes was a one-off event. But we never forgot the impression that it made on us. And in the intervening years we have not forgotten that there are people in the community who, every day, work to make the world a better place. Most of these efforts take place under the radar.

Regardless of the precise nature of the work, and drawing on the spirit of those unsung heroes from 1996, we held our inaugural Community Champions Awards event at Rosie O'Grady's in Manhattan in 2016. The awards were well received and, in truth, we were not surprised. People want to acknowledge the best in their fellows. The Echo simply provided an opportunity and venue. We did so again in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and we were planning a similar get together in the spring of 2020.

But of course we know what happened in the early months of 2020. Covid-19 was unleashed upon the world, and the constellation of definable communities in our world. So a physical gathering to celebrate community champions was a non-starter. Nevertheless, a new plan was

drawn up and it was decided to go ahead with the awards, though now with a particular focus on Covid-19 and honorees who were, in some way or another, working in the front lines on behalf of our Irish American community, and our broader American one.

And that we did in December of 2021 with a return to Rosie O'Grady's, all this helped by the wonders of vaccination. This would be the sixth celebration of Community Champions.

The emphasis in 2020 had been on honorees working in the fields of medicine and health care. Many of the 2021 honorees were also drawn from those same fields as Covid remained a daily challenge.

But the 2021 awards also cast an eye back to the 2019 event, bestowing honors on a range of individuals in a number of categories. The same was the case with the 2022 awards, the seventh gathering, and held in June of that year. The 2023 Awards were held downtown at The View at Battery Park.

This year's honorees will be from all walks of life and every kind of job. People serve and advance worthy concerns and causes and by doing so are living up to the best traditions of the American Irish. All have in common the drive and desire to help their families, friends, neighbors, and communities.

So now we are gathering to celebrate our champions once again for 2024 and for the ninth time - and this time at the new Rosie O'Grady's.

And during the event we will be making a presentation to our 2024 Irish American of the Year, John Dearie. It promises to be a full and joyful gathering.

We have much to be thankful for. We have our Community Champions to be thankful for. Congratulations to them, one and all.



And so, in November of 2020, the champions of our community were celebrated remotely by means of technology. It was a salute to a group of extraordinary individuals from around the United States who were battling the pandemic and its grim effects, and doing so in a multiplicity of ways. It was a splendid celebration, but of course we fervently hoped it would be a one off, that Covid-19 would be forced into retreat. Then we could return to honoring our community champions, in person and in a physical space.

We congratulate all our Champions!

Michael Stamatis

Heidi Conquegrana

William Lee

**Team Happy Feet - Siena, Stella
and Michaela O'Brien**

Martina Curtin

Catherine Mitchell Miceli

Rosemarie Byrne

Art Lanese, Jr

Brian Miller

Congratulations

to our CEO and owner

Michael Stamatīs

on his selection as an

Irish Echo Community Champion honoree for 2024

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IRISH ECHO COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Team Happy Feet

Place of birth: New York.

What motivated you get involved in your community?

Team Happy Feet consists of Siena, Stella and Michaela O'Brien from Yonkers, NY. Our parents have always encouraged us to volunteer and to play a role in our community. We learned from a young age that community is very important and is only successful if everyone gets involved. Our dad is from Co. Galway and mom is from Co. Monaghan.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? We think our "Thermal Sock Drive" for the homeless the New York is positive message to give back to the more vulnerable in our community. For the past eleven years, we have donated thousands of socks to the Aisling Irish Volunteers for the Homeless, Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald for the St. Barnabas community, and the YWCA of Yonkers, to distribute to those in most need. Socks are one of the most appreciated items by a homeless person and it is certainly rewarding to know that our small initiative helps people. A pair of socks can easily change your day by keeping your feet warm and cozy, as cozy makes you happy.

Team Happy Feet is also an annual social event for us, as our friends and loyal supporters in the community come along and donate socks, with us supplying a cup of tea, some treats and a warm smile for everyone.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Siena and Stella are high school students at Maria Regina High School, Hartsdale, NY, Siena and Stella have completed Foroige's Leadership for Life program offered at their school and have traveled to Maynooth College, Ireland to complete models of the program. Foroige, Ireland's largest youth organization,



offers an excellent program on community development. This has inspired us to expand our sock drive within our community, as we now accept many essential supplies, such as deodorant, hats, scarves, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Michaela attends Patricia A. DiChiaro school, Yonkers and is encouraged by her teachers to be involved in the community and support others. All three of us take part in many services focused clubs, all while volunteering and working with teams to help others through programs at our schools.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: We gift wrap hundreds of thermal socks for the homeless at Christmas time and visit the YWCA of Yonkers on Christmas Eve to deliver these donations so

that their service users have something to open on Christmas morning.

Team Happy Feet was started in 2012, when our youngest sister, Michaela O'Brien was celebrating her first birthday. Our parents decided against hosting a party laced with birthday gifts, but instead they would have us host a Thermal Sock Drive for the Homeless. And from there, Team Happy Feet was born. As we reluctantly kissed goodbye to our birthday parties eleven years ago, we are now so happy to celebrate meaningfully with all our friends at our annual get together. The idea is simple; instead of gifts, everyone brings a pair of thermal socks. Siena (17) is a senior, Stella (16) a junior at Maria Regina High School, and Michaela (12) is an eighth grader at Patricia A. DiChiaro, Yonkers.

The initiative has grown over the years and so have we. We no longer depend on our parents to organize our sock drive, as we realize how personally rewarding it is to each of us, and so we plan to continue as Team Happy Feet for many years to come.

To be homeless is one of the saddest and most despairing situations in life, so by Team Happy playing a small part by offering essential supplies, we can at least help in the short-term.

Team Happy Feet welcomes all support from the community to help us continue our mission. Numerous people ship socks to our home if they cannot attend our event, as we never turn down a pair of socks.

Siena, Stella and Michaela reside in Yonkers and all three girls are involved in the community including Project Children, St. Brigid's GAA Club, The Riverdale Children's Theater, Bridget Flynn Dance School, Team Aisling and other community organizations.

To contact Team Happy Feet regarding Thermal Socks email obriensm3@gmail.com



Catherine Mitchell Miceli

Place of birth: Cloone, Co Leitrim.

What motivated you get involved in your community? I first joined the Co Leitrim Society of NY almost 40 years ago and immediately became active as an officer. From there I became a delegate to the United Irish Counties Association, The NYC St Patrick's Day Parade, and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. I am also an active member of the Cardinal Stritch Columbiettes in Brooklyn.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? I believe that with the help of all of our members working together we kept the Irish organizations alive and active. We helped our Irish community having Fundraisers for those in need and kept the organizations alive with the funds from the Annual Dances. The annual dances brought the County people together once a year.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? All of the Irish Organizations are strictly Volunteer. I was a volunteer in all of the organizations and enjoyed working with all the other volunteers.

Catherine left Cloone, Co Leitrim and worked in Lloyds Bank in London before immigrating to New York in 1962. She worked in the business world in NYC and is now retired from her position as CFO.

She is presently Director of the UICA of NY, having served as President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and Auditor. She is a dedicated member of The County Leitrim Society of NY, having served in every elected office including President. She is presently a Director of the NYC St Patrick's Day Parade, having served as Recording Secretary for more than 20 years. She is presently President of the LAOH Div. 29 NY. and active in her parish of St. Simon and Jude Church in Brooklyn.

In recognition of her work in the Irish Community, Cathy has been the recipient of many awards, from the County Leitrim Society, The Queens County St Patrick's Parade, The NYC St Patrick's Day Parade, The United Irish Counties, The Brooklyn Irish American Parade and the Queens County LAOH.

William Lee

Place of birth: Mineola, NY.

What motivated you get involved in your community? My passion and pride for being an Irish-American New Yorker motivated me to be an active member of the community.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? My community work has largely been to be actively involved with some of the many great Irish organizations along with taking leadership roles in the different organizations to help further their success. I actively look to network and help grow the community as a whole with my participation. I believe this has led to positive results in strengthening our community. At the very least, I believe being present and participating

brings positive impact to the community.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? As a Financial Advisor, who operates as a small business, I utilize my planning and operational skillsets to add value through the organizations I participate in and the community members I interact with. Further, I look to give honest advice whether it's for an organization, someone looking for work, or someone seeking my professional services.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I am an amateur blueberry farmer.

I am an active member of the Irish Community involved in many of their organizations. I am the current president of AOH Division 1 New York

County (The Founding Division of the AOH in America) as well as the Recording Secretary and Vice President of the AOH New York County Board. I am a Marching Unit Judge for the NYC St Patrick's Day Parade, Unit Chairman for the Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk and Queens St Patrick's Parade, and a Formation Worker for the Bayside St Patrick's Parade. I had the honor of being an escort in the International Rose of Tralee in 2011 in Tralee, County Kerry, escorting the Germany Rose. I grew up in Mineola, NY and my Irish Roots are from Counties Mayo and Tipperary. For the last seven years I have been a Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual. For more information and to view disclosures, please go to williamlee.nm.com





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The Grand Council recognizes the contributions of the 2024 Irish Echo Community Champion Awardees to the Irish-American community.

With special acknowledgment to Heidi Cinquegrana Con Ed Emerald Society

Fraternally,

Martin Bellew

Martin Bellew

President



IRISH ECHO COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Rosemarie Byrne

Place of birth: Bronx, NY.

What motivated you get involved in your community? From a young age, my parents were involved in the Irish American Society in Mineola, and I joined as a member as well when I was old enough to be eligible. When I had my children, I wanted to make sure they had as much access as I had had to the Irish side of their heritage, and I became even more involved in the Irish community through their activities. Irish Dancing lessons with Donny Golden and starting the Long Island Gaels Gaelic Football Club expanded our network in the area. In addition to my roles at the Irish American Society and my husband's involvement in the AOH with the activities we were able to provide our children a culturally rich environment and an appreciation for their Irish roots.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? Even though my children have outgrown their own feisanna days and their Gaelic football games, we have not outgrown our involvement in the organizations themselves. The Irish American Society is still a thriving organization here on Long Island that provides a venue for the promotion and preservation of Irish music, dancing, and culture and I have been proud to serve on the Board of Directors for more years than I can count. My family and I enjoy

seeing the next generation of dancers, musicians, and athletes learning about and appreciating what their Irish heritage has to offer them and doing our part to help ensure that these avenues exist for many years to come.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? I have held quite a few different jobs over the course of my career. Initially, being more computer-focused, my knowledge of computers helped with organization of many of the groups I was involved in. I have always been interested in, and had an aptitude for, photography, and often took photos to document and promote the events we hosted. Having to be adaptable in many different roles professionally has allowed me to fill many different roles within my organizations, depending on their needs at the time.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I tend to be an open book and people aren't usually surprised by anything I do at this point.

Rosemarie was born in the Bronx to James and Sheila Horohoe, who were born in Roscommon and Mayo respectively. Upon moving to Long Island, her parents become involved in the Irish American Society in Mineola, and Rosemarie followed in their footsteps.

She married a Roscommon man, Michael Byrne, and had four children, in whom they sought to instill the same love of Irish culture they had grown up with. While her children may have outgrown the constant

rotation of Irish Dance classes and Gaelic Football games, she is excited to introduce these to the next generation, starting with her granddaughter.



Heidi Cinquegrana

Place of birth: Long Island, NY.

What motivated you get involved in your community? I grew up watching Saint Mother Teresa on television performing acts of kindness and inspiring many to do good on a local and international scale. I was touched and moved by her quote "Love cannot remain by itself - it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service." With that and through the example of my parents volunteering to help the homeless growing up, I love spending my free time serving others and feel immense joy seeing a smile on a person's face.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? My volunteering spans from serving food on the streets of New York City, building homes in Peru, tutoring children in Nicaragua, and constructing beautification projects and caring for the mentally and/or physically disabled in Jamaica. Some key memories include:

- In Peru we built a home for a woman that just had a child and wasn't permitted to bring her newborn home due its unsafe conditions. We built them a simple home and witnessed the beauty of the mother bringing her child to their new little oasis for the first time with pride in her eyes and love for her child.

- Each Tuesday Sant'Edigo volunteers come together to distribute delicious homemade meals person to person in Grand Central station and surrounding areas. We share our smiles and build relationships with those who otherwise may not be called by name in a day. It is a gift to build authentic relationships with these individuals and treat them with dignity. As a team we help our new

friends in any way we can, either with connecting them with necessary services or by listening to their adventures of the day.

- Each January, I head to Kingston, Jamaica, with a mission team to volunteer with Mustard Seed. This organization cares for children and adults who society have forgotten and gives them a home a place where they are cherished. These individuals who have severe mental and physical limitations live a life of joy and reach their full potential. Year to year we visit and assist the residence with feeding them in the morning, preparing them for their day ahead, assisting with construction projects, and spending time with older residence at other campuses. These

children and adults shine with their genuine love and appreciation of your true presence. It is an incredible gift to contribute to the safety and thriving of these beautiful individuals.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? I am a third generation Con Edison employee and grateful to work for a company that safely and reliably provides NYC with energy for over 200 years. One of my proudest moments was supporting the company's response during Super Storm Sandy. The company came together, as one family, to get customer lights back on for the over million customers that lost power.

I appreciate working for a company that truly cares about its customers and bringing forward a clean energy future.

Con Edison offers many volunteer opportunities that my team and I have been fortunate to participate, whether it be serving meals at the Bowery Mission or volunteering on Governors Island. I find joy in watching my team and others realize their full potential. This is made possible by being a mentor for the company's Corporate Mentoring Program, the Finance Mentoring Program and in the recent past with the Arts and Business Council of New York. Also, for the several years I have been a Captain at the company's volunteer supported 10K Elite Water Station for the NYC Marathon.

Lastly, it has been wonderful to intertwine my Irish heritage with work by being part of the Con Edison Emerald Society. Currently, I am the 3rd Vice President of the organization and assist with fundraising and supporting the coordination of corporate and community events promoting Irish culture.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I am passionate about traveling and dancing. I have traveled to over 40 countries across six continents and I have trained, competed, and performed many years Irish step dancing and swing dancing.

I was born and raised in New York and live by the motto "Carpe Diem." My graduate and undergraduate degree are in Finance and my career has spanned many diverse roles at financial institutions and Con Edison. My core values, particularly of service, stem from my beautiful upbringing. When I was four, my parents would take me and my sister to volunteer at a local homeless shelter in Queens. I would set the table, make beds and welcome the guests when they arrived. My parents instilled in my heart a mindset of gratitude and to always give to those in need.



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PRESIDENT

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IRISH ECHO COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Brian Miller

Place of birth: Fridley, Minnesota.

What motivated you get involved in your community? I fell in love with Irish traditional music as a teenager in northern Minnesota. From the beginning, I was drawn to the community of musicians and fans and the value placed on community by the culture of Irish traditional music. When I began playing gigs and sessions in the Twin Cities, I got to know so many people who volunteered at the local festivals, threw social events and just generally helped each other out and I loved all of that and decided it was how I wanted to live my life.

The Center for Irish Music started in 2004 and I joined as a teacher and volunteer soon after. When the Celtic Junction opened in 2009, I got involved there as well. Through touring the US and Canada with music groups I saw many other Irish cultural centers and was further inspired to help build that type of infrastructure here in Minnesota.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? I'm extremely proud of the impact the Center for Irish Music has had on the music I love. For my part there, I have taught hundreds of musicians of all ages over the past 18 years. I have former students who are world class players living in Cork, Dublin, Boston and all-around Minnesota and Wisconsin. They are all helping to promote and invigorate Irish traditional music. Minnesota is on the map as a wellspring of Irish musicians, a good place to live for Irish musicians and a place to visit for musicians on tour. That growth has fed the growth of the Celtic Junction's concert and class audiences. Since I started working at the

Junction's Eoin McKiernan Library in 2016, my work has further built-up Minnesota's Irish cultural bonafides by unearthing and preserving the history of Irish cultural expression in Minnesota over the past 150 years. This work has drawn international attention



and helped build a historical foundation for further Irish cultural expression in Minnesota.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? My professional life has been intertwined with my community work all along and the two are constantly feeding each other. As a professional performer, music teacher, researcher and librarian I am always engaged with the Irish cultural community. This work brings me outside the Twin Cities and gives me valuable perspectives ranging from those in Ireland itself to small towns in northern Minnesota to Irish-American meccas like Boston and Chicago.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I have very little Irish ancestry. My Millers did likely immigrate from Ireland in the early 1700s but most of my family background is a German, English and Scottish mix. My life-long love of Irish music and culture has been fed by the beauty and depth of the music, the vibrant cultural community in Irish-America and Ireland and wonderful friendships and fond memories from dozens of visits to Ireland itself.

Brian's deep involvement with Irish music began when he was a high-schooler in Bemidji, Minnesota in the 1990s. He toured nationally for 14 years with the band Bua and performs now with Danny Diamond, the Lost Forty and Two Tap Trio. He has taught at the Center for Irish Music since 2006 and at music camps and workshops around the US and Canada. Brian directs the Eoin McKiernan Library at Celtic Junction Arts Center. His research into Irish music in the Great Lakes region has earned him several grants and a Parsons Award from the American Folklife Center. evergreentrad.com

Martina Curtin

Place of birth: Co. Clare, Ireland.

What motivated you get involved in your community? My involvement in the community has always been driven by a deep commitment to service and connection. As the founder of CHC HomeCare, I've had the privilege of providing nursing services to



individuals who wish to remain safely at home, meeting families at their most vulnerable moments. Witnessing firsthand the positive impact that compassionate care can have on people's lives inspired me to extend that sense of community beyond healthcare.

Born and raised in Co. Clare, I have a strong bond with my Irish heritage. Boston's vibrant Irish Diaspora provided the perfect environment to foster that connection, and the Irish Cultural Centre has been a wonderful platform for me to support and celebrate our shared culture.

Additionally, growing up with six sisters and an incredibly strong mother instilled in me the values of resilience and community support. These values were the driving forces behind co-founding Mná Mheiriceá, a women's networking group founded by women for women. I wanted to create a space where women could connect, share experiences, and support one another, much like the supportive environment I grew up in.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? My community work has brought about positive change by fostering connections and inclusivity. As the first female president of the Irish Cultural Centre, I have been able to demonstrate the Centre's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have expanded our cultural programming, bridging the gap between the Centre and the greater Boston community.

Additionally, as the co-founder of Mná Mheiriceá, I have created opportunities for women from all backgrounds to come together, particularly in the wake of COVID-19, when many women felt isolated and alone. This initiative has been crucial in rebuilding a sense of community and support among women.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? My professional experience has enabled me to guide organizations in putting on impactful events. My background in home care, particularly through founding and growing CHC Home Care, has given me a deep understanding of healthcare needs and the importance of compassionate, individualized care, which informs my

approach to community work.

As the first female president of the Irish Cultural Centre of Greater Boston and the Co-founder of Mná Mheiriceá, I've had the opportunity to lead these organizations in creating meaningful community events, such as the Brian J. Donnelly Award in Boston and the St. Brigid's Day Celebration. For Mná Mheiriceá, we organize wellness retreats, business breakfasts, and networking walks to foster community engagement and provide mentorship opportunities, particularly for women entering the professional world and those looking to expand their networks.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I own a 1973 Volkswagen Super Beetle convertible. It's red with a black top and matching interior, and my vanity plate reads "MARBUG!"

Martina Curtin is the Founder of CHC Home Care, a boutique home care agency that enabled clients to receive nursing care in the comfort of their own homes. She grew the company into a multimillion-dollar business, which was acquired by a publicly traded corporation in October 2020. Currently serving as the Board Chairperson of the Irish Cultural Centre of Greater Boston, Martina is the first woman to hold this position.

In 2019, Martina was honored with the Care Ambassador Award at the Irish Echo Small Business Impact Awards, recognizing her achievements as an Irish American entrepreneur and business leader. A proud native of County Clare, she has a deep connection to her roots and is an avid outdoors enthusiast, having completed three Boston Marathons. She holds an Executive MBA from Suffolk University's Sawyer Business School and lives in the Back Bay with her husband, Craig.

Martina's motto is: "Goals are achieved through hard work, high standards, and surrounding yourself with good people." She is also the Co-Founder of Mná Mheiriceá, a women's networking group, and actively participates in the New England Council, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and Irish Network Boston. She supports organizations such as the Irish American Partnership and The Ireland Funds.



Congratulations to 2024 Community Champion Honorees



Rosemarie Byrne and William Lee

**We sincerely thank them for their steadfast dedication
and support to the Irish-American community and in particular to our Society -
The Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk and Queens**

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Congratulations to "Team Happy Feet"

Siena, Stella & Michaela O'Brien

in recognition of their 12th Annual Sock Drive for the Homeless in NY.
Keep up the good work, and well done with all your other community
volunteer programs! Wishing continued success to all the Award Recipients.

– Catherine & Linda –



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IRISH ECHO COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS



Arthur Lanese

Place of birth: Waterbury CT.

What motivated you get involved in your community? My parents and Grandparents always instilled the importance of community service and the importance in carrying on our heritage and traditions.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? I've been a part of organizations that have given out over a million dollars in scholarships and money to families in crisis for the past 30 years.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? Yes, it has given me skills to run community organizations.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: How many organizations I'm involved in.

I've held all officer positions in the Waterbury Sportsmen's club scholarship program. I'm the treasurer of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Waterbury CT division. I am the president of the Friends of the Hibernians that is in charge of running the club. I have been award Hibernian of the year on 2 separate occasions.

Michael Stamatis

Place of birth: Elizabeth New Jersey.

What motivated you get involved in your community? I came from humble beginnings starting as a dock laborer in the early 1980's, I've risen to become CEO/Owner of Red Hook Terminals, with locations in NY, NJ, MD, and TX.

How do you think your community work has brought about positive change? My work with the Waterfront Alliance, Billion Oyster project, regular fixture and Red Hook Community Board meetings, tackling issues through the lens of equity, climate change, and resilience.

Has your job or profession helped in your community work? My career on the waterfront has given me a unique opportunity to tackle equity, climate change, and resilience in New York Harbor.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I play lead guitar in a Pat Benetar Cover band, called All Fired Up.

Michael Stamatis, president and CEO of Red Hook Terminals, began his career in the early 80s as a dock laborer handling break-bulk bananas for the global corporation Noboa. Working his way up through the company, he engaged in international trade, farming, commercial ocean transportation, chartering, terminal operations, break-bulk and container stevedoring, and vessel management. In 2000, he was promoted to senior vice president and asked to lead the company's operations in the U.S. In 2011, he left Noboa for the top post at Red Hook Terminals.

Mr. Stamatis has strengthened maritime activity at Red Hook Terminals and has instituted fruitful new partnerships with regional companies and agencies. In May 2018, Michael and Red Hook Terminals were named to develop and operate a new container and break-bulk terminal at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park.



Co. Leitrim Society
of New York



Margaret Taylor-Finucane,
President

Congratulations and Best Wishes to
Catherine Mitchell Miceli
on being selected as a 2024 Irish Echo Community Champion

The Society has had the benefit of Cathy's experience, knowledge and desire to keep both the Leitrim spirit and Irish culture alive and growing in New York and beyond. Her work for the LAOH, United Irish Counties, the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee demonstrates that commitment. This recognition is truly deserved.



DIVISION ONE, NEW YORK COUNTY ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS



CONGRATULATES OUR IRISH COMMUNITY CHAMPION

WILLIAM LEE

PRESIDENT, AOH DIVISION 1, NEW YORK COUNTY

AND ALL OF THE 2024 HONOREES

— OFFICERS OF DIVISION ONE —

PRESIDENT, **WILLIAM LEE**

VICE-PRESIDENT, **THOMAS WILKINSON**

MARSHAL, **TIM BRENNAN**

STANDING COMMITTEE, **FINIAN MCKIERNAN**

RECORDING SECRETARY, **STEPHEN ROSSLER**

TREASURER, **DAVID KILKENNY**

FINANCIAL SECRETARY, **JOHN DOWNING JR**

SENTINEL, **KEVIN SULLIVAN**

WWW.AOHNYS1.ORG



Congratulations Catherine Mitchell Miceli on being selected as a 2024 Irish Community Champion



Esteemed Past President of the
United Irish Counties Association of New York
and Cloone and Leitrim's Finest

Well-deserved in recognition of all you do
for the Irish and Irish-American communities

Enjoy your special night!



With love from the
Officers and Delegates
of the UICANY





Congratulations to our President, **Martina Curtin,** and all Honorees!

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to President Martina Curtin on receiving the Irish Echo Community Champion award! Your leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our community make this recognition so well-deserved.

We would also like to congratulate all the other honorees who have been recognized for their remarkable contributions. Together, you all represent the very best of community spirit, service, and passion for making a difference.

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Email: info@irishculture.org

Office hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm