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2020
2021

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Southeastern Connecticut
WOMEN'S
NETWORK



The History of Southeastern Connecticut Women's NETWORK

The Southeastern Connecticut Women's Network was organized in early 1976 by Mildred Devine, then Trust Officer at Connecticut National Bank in New London. The group consisted of six or seven professional women in New London who wanted to meet once a month and share with each other their professional experiences, setbacks, goals, and hopes for the future.

The group grew to approximately 40 members by 1978 when discussion began as to the purpose and goals of the group. After some months of debate, the Network membership of 1978 concluded that:

The purpose of the Network shall be to provide its members the opportunity to meet business and professional people in our community, to communicate and exchange general and career information, to promote personal visibility and to develop a constituency for the purpose of examining and speaking out on issues of concern to the membership.

Today the Network has grown to over 150 members. It meets the third Wednesday of every month for lunch at Langley's at Great Neck Country Club in Waterford to network and hear guest speakers. The membership includes individuals from a diverse range of businesses and professions.

The Network provides support throughout the year to Safe Futures (formerly Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut) with donations of food and gifts for use by residents of both the Genesis House Women's Shelter and Phoenix House transitional housing.

The Network also awards annual scholarships to returning female students needing financial assistance to continue their education at each of the three local public colleges/universities: the University of Connecticut at Avery Point, Three Rivers Community College, and Eastern Connecticut State University.

The Network conducts a variety of special events, including Network @ Night, which provides networking opportunities to individuals who are

unable to attend the lunches. The Network's primary activity, however, remains the monthly luncheon meetings during which members take the opportunity to acquaint themselves with other professionals in an informal and congenial atmosphere. This regular occasion offers an effective way for members to assist one another in networking for professional and personal gain and enrichment.

The Network maintains a cooperative relationship with the Chambers of Commerce of Mystic, Norwich and Eastern Connecticut.

This directory is for the use of Network members only. Any reproduction or publishing of this directory for commercial advertising or mailing lists is strictly prohibited. The Network assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the directory's contents.

**For more information about the Network visit
www.sectwomensnetwork.org**

**Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/SECTWomensNetwork**



**YouTube link "HerStory"
<https://youtu.be/T0EKE4VfJc>**

**Southeastern Connecticut Women's Network
PO Box 921
Groton, CT 06340-0921**

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Southeastern Connecticut
**WOMEN'S
NETWORK**



Founded in 1976, we meet on the
third Wednesday of the month
for a luncheon at Langley's at
Great Neck Country Club in Waterford.

Inspiring talks are offered
by guest speakers.

Members and guests are welcome.

For reservations visit our website
anytime (24/7) before
midnight of the preceding Sunday.

For Powerful, Personal & Professional Relationships

www.sectwomensnetwork.org

Past Presidents

Denise Howard.....	2019-2020
Kate Lee Bellandese	2018-2019
Patti Rodgers-Longo.....	2017-2018
Kathy Greene	2016-2017
Phyllis Nelson	2015-2016
Deb McGrath	2014-2015
Susan Dombrowski.....	2013-2014
Leslie Karen Hammond.....	2012-2013
Denise Nott.....	2011-2012
D'mitra Gomez Waheed	2010-2011
Barbara "BB" Smith	2009-2010
Chris Lautz.....	2008-2009
Jill Adams	2007-2008
Kasey Goss	2006-2007
June Strunk.....	2005-2006
Susan Pochal	2004-2005
Cora Murphy.....	2003-2004
Trina McCandless.....	2002-2003
Connie Plessman	2001-2002
Ellen Bothamly-Fossum.....	2000-2001
Linda Mariani.....	1999-2000
Donna Kirby-Reynolds	1998-1999
Vicki Anderson.....	1997-1998
Kathleen O'Beirne	1996-1997
Joyce Schmidt.....	1995-1996
Marjorie Taggart Dedrick.....	1994-1995
Lois Palmer-Alderson.....	1993-1994
Linda Mariani.....	1991-1992, 1992-1993
Barbara Gager.....	1989-1990, 1990-1991
Nan Crowley.....	1987-1988, 1988-1989
Dr. Margaret Mummert	1986-1987
Faye Vathauer	1985-1986
Barbara Quinn.....	1983-1984, 1984-1985
Mildred Devine.....	1981-1982, 1982-1983

For our 30th Anniversary, in 2006, we created a DVD history of the Women's Network which is available for purchase at our luncheons. For our 40th Anniversary, in 2016, we celebrated with a special evening and recognized our founder, Millie Devine, with The Mildred E. Devine Lifetime Achievement Award. "The Millie" will be the SECT Women's Network most prestigious award to honor an individual who has reached the pinnacle of her career in the Network. It recognizes a current or former organization member who has made extraordinary contribution to the Network over a sustained period of time; therefore, it may not be awarded annually.

***Officers and Board of Directors for the
Southeastern Connecticut Women's Network
2020-2021***

Officers

Denise Howard, President - Best Wellness 4 You
Denise Ogden, Vice President - Dime Bank
Marielle Winkelman, Treasurer - Chelsea Groton Bank
Carol Burgess, Secretary - Primerica
Kate Lee Bellandese, Immediate Past President

Board Members

Three Year Terms

Kathy Greene - Kathy Greene LLC
Judy Jenks - Jenks Network LLC
Susan Hackett - Women's Business Development Center

Two Year Terms

Holly DePerry - Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Kathy Pooler - Publications Plus
Lisa Giordano - Emerson Theater Collaborative

One Year Term

Susan Dombrowski - CorePlus Federal Credit Union
Leah Goldenthal - Stifel
Ceseli Milstein - cOMe hOMe to OM

Members at Large

Sheree Wujtewicz - Sheree Wujtewicz Holistic Nutritionist
Judy Ricketts-White - Ricketts-White Design

Committees & Liaisons

Administration/Business Office	Kate Bellandese
Community Outreach	Kathy Greene
Directory	Kathy Pooler
Historian	Cora Murphy
Mastermind	Judy Ricketts-White
Membership	Kathy Pooler
Newsletter Editor	Judy Ricketts-White
Nominating Committee	Kate Bellandese
Photography	Sheree Wujtewicz
Program	Denise Ogden
Safe Futures Liaison	Connie Plessman
Scholarships	Denise Nott
Woman of the Year	Kathy Greene

Southeastern CT Women’s Network Mastermind Groups *Network Support for Achieving Your Dreams*

The concept of the *Mastermind Group* originated in the early 1900’s in Napoleon Hill’s book “Think and Grow Rich”. He defined the Mastermind principle as: “coordination of knowledge and effort by two or more people, who work toward a definite purpose in the spirit of harmony.”

The Network Mastermind program began in 2004. Participation is voluntary and free as part of your Network membership. It is a growing, evolving program intended to give Network members an opportunity to connect and support each other even more intimately in achieving personal and professional objectives.

Network Mastermind Groups generally meet once a month and have numbered as few as three members and as many as fifteen. Each Group chooses a name for itself, its own agenda, time and place to meet. Participants support each other to achieve professional objectives and brainstorm ideas with total honesty, respect and compassion. A commitment is important.

Additional groups will be formed in different locations as demand and desire indicate. If you would like to visit a group, please call the host of the meeting to determine if that group is accepting visitors and to confirm place and time. Further information is on our website.

Woman of the Year

The Network's Woman of the Year is nominated from the membership at large, and selected by a committee made up of previous recipients. She must be an active member of the SECT Women's Network, attending luncheons and participating in other functions. She must be active in her community and within other professional organizations and must express an interest in helping other women and men achieve professional status and public exposure through networking in the community.

2020	Deb McGrath	2005	Elaine Bono
2019	Kathy Greene	2004	Lois Andrews
2018	Emma Palzere-Rae	2003	Marjorie Taggart Dedrick
2017	Susan Dombrowski	2002	Vicki Anderson
2016	Donna Yother	2001	Kathleen O'Beirne
2015	Louisa Ketron	2000	Millie Devine
2014	Connie Plessman	1999	Judy Woodman
2013	Camilla Ross	1998	Joyce Schmidt
2012	Chris Lautz	1997	Barbara Quinn
2011	Gail Weber	1996	Lois Palmer-Alderson
2010	Jane Moriarty	1995	Linda Mariani
2009	Kasey Goss	1994	Barbara Reed Collins
2008	Beth Glynn	1993	Barbara Gager
2007	Susan Pochal	1992	Nancy Hillery
2006	Cora Murphy	1991	Nan Crowley

Heron Award

The Heron Award was established in June of 1996 by Kathleen O'Beirne to honor women who have exemplified outstanding leadership skills. The Great Blue Heron is the hero/heroine of Kathleen's book, *Birds of a Feather: Lessons from the Sea*, which examines behavior patterns in the workplace, as well as in family and volunteer settings. Fishing in deeper waters than others, the Heron often has the company of many smaller birds, because she is not in competition for their food and they enjoy what she stirs up. Her patience and collegial bearing make her a metaphor for remarkable leadership.

Award Winners:

2019	Denise Howard
2018	JoAn Collins
2017	Kathy Greene
2016	Phyllis Nelson
2015	Deb McGrath
2014	Judy Ricketts-White
2013	Patti Rodgers-Longo
2012	Susan Dombrowski
2011	Marilyn Dayton
2009	Chris Lautz
2008	Susan Pochal
2007	Kasey Goss
2006	Jane Percy
2005	Marjorie Taggart Dedrick
2003	Connie Plessman
2002	Jean Caron
2001	Vicki Anderson
2000	Linda Mariani
1999	Barbara Ross
1998	Nan Crowley
1997	Joyce Schmidt
1996	Pam Griffin

A

ANDERSON, Karen C.L.

Writer and Master-Certified Life Coach

KCLAnderson.com

PO Box 899

Waterford, CT 06385

Cell: 860-912-8810

Email: Karen@KCLAnderson.com

www.KCLAnderson.com

ANN, Alexis

Editor & Publisher

Alexis Advertising / The Resident

PO Box 269

Stonington, CT 06378

Phone: 860-599-1221

Email: alexis@theresident.com

www.theresident.com

ATKINS, Rebecca

Special Education Teacher

The Light House

125 Shaw Street

New London, CT 06320

Phone: 860-445-7626 ext. 114

Email: ratkins@lvecenter.com

www.lhcampus.com

B

BARRON, Andrea L.

A.V.P./Branch Manager

Dime Bank

18 Chesterfield Road

East Lyme, CT 06333

Phone: 860-739-2192

Email: abarron@dime-bank.com

www.dime-bank.com

BLANCHARD, Cheryl A.

Financial Advisor

Norwich, CT 06360

Phone: 860-822-6961

Email: wblanchard02@snet.net

BROUSSEAU, Julie M., FSS, CLU

President

Hourglass Insurance Services, Inc.

1649 Route 12, Suite 2

Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Phone: 860-464-0121

Cell: 860-857-5752

Fax: 860-464-0773

Email: JulieB@HIS-biz.com

www.HIS-biz.com

Second Business:

Chairman of the Board

Community of Hope

Same address, fax & cell

Phone: 860-912-8983

Email: juliebcob@4coh.com

www.4coh.com

BROWN, Bridget

StoryMatters, LLC

135 Pennsylvania Avenue

Niantic, CT 06357

Phone: 314-221-1441

Email: bridget@storymatterscompany.com

www.storymatterscompany.com

BROWN, Roberta

JuicePlus+

268 Godfrey Road

Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: 970-290-7621

Email: robertabrown.juiceplus@gmail.com

www.robertabrown.juiceplus.com

BURGESS, Carol Jean

Primerica Financial Services

14-4 Masons Island Road, Suite 4A

Mystic, CT 06355

Cell: 860-303-7267

Fax: 860-311-8599

Email: cburgess0@snet.net

www.primerica.com/cburgess

BUTLER, Nancy D., CFP®, CDFP, CLTC

National Speaker/ Author/ Business Coach

Above All Else, Success In Life & Business

PO Box 494

Waterford, CT 06385

Phone: 860-444-0535

Fax: 860-444-0535

Email: nbutler@aboveallemore.org

www.aboveallemore.org

D

D'AMATO, Elizabeth

Vice President - Commercial Loan Officer

Dime Bank

131 Franklin Street

Westerly, RI 02891

Phone: 401-596-4742

Email: bdamato@dime-bank.com

www.dime-bank.com

DEMPSEY, Michelle

Owner

Title XIX Specialist, LLC

12 Roosevelt Avenue

Packer Business Suites 6

Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: 860-245-8165

Email: title19help@hotmail.com

www.title19help.com

DENNISON, Barbara

Senior Loan Officer

iServe Residential Lending LLC

23 Woodland Road, Suite A3

Madison, CT 06443

Phone: 877-486-2083

Cell: 860-304-3000

Fax: 203-680-9887

Email: bdennison@iservelending.com

www.barbaradennison.iservelending.com

DePERRY, Holly

Business Lender

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

1055 Hartford Turnpike

Waterford, CT 06385

Phone: 860-446-3313

Email: hdeperry@cofcu.com

www.charteroak.org

DEVINE, Mildred E.
Founder of the Women's Network
Retired Trust Advisor
Dime Bank
290 Salem Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360
Phone: 860-442-2030
Email: devine.planning@snet.net

DOMBROWSKI, Susan M.
Home Loan Specialist
CorePlus Federal Credit Union
202 Salem Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360
Phone: 860-886-0576 ext. 3171
Cell: 860-334-0943
Fax: 860-886-4812
Email: sdombrowski@coreplus.org
www.coreplus.org

G

GANNOTTI, Mary Lou
Public Relations and Communications Director
Coastal Connecticut Research, LLC
342 Montauk Avenue
New London, CT 06320
Phone: 860-437-7092
Fax: 860-442-7270
Email: marylou@ccrstudies.com
www.ccrstudies.com

GARLAND, Anne

Creative Director

Anne Garland Enterprises, LLC

303 Westchester Road

Colchester, CT 06415

Cell: 860-575-4970

Email: anneg@annegarlandenterprises.com

www.annegarlandenterprises.com

GAROFANO, Kerry, CFRE

Assistant Director of Development

Connecticut Humane Society

701 Russell Road

Newington, CT 06111

Phone: 860-594-4502 ext. 6328

Cell: 860-214-8224

Email: kgarofano@cthumane.org

www.cthumane.org

GEER, Teresa

Self-Employed

Norwich, CT 06320

Phone: 860-886-8296

Cell: 860-884-5458

Email: tlgeer@hotmail.com

GIORDANO, Lisa

Co-Founder and Co-Vice President, Resident Playwright

Emerson Theater Collaborative

PO Box 655

Mystic, CT 06355

Cell: 860-861-3743

Email: ldgldg7@gmail.com

GLASSMAN, Melissa

Volunteer Coordinator

Hartford HealthCare at Home Center for Hospice Care

227 Dunham Street

Norwich, CT 06360

Phone: 860-381-9235

Email: melissa.glassman@hhchealth.org

Second Business:

Licensed Massage Therapist

Haven Holistic Arts & Massage

Groton, CT 06340

Phone: 860-381-9235

Email: havenholisticartsandmassage@gmail.com

GLYNN, Beth A.

A.V.P./Mortgage Specialist

Chelsea Groton Bank

904 Poquonnock Road

Groton, CT 06340

Phone: 860-448-4177

Fax: 860-448-4173

Email: bglynn@chelseagroton.com

www.chelseagroton.com

GOLDENTHAL, Leah

Financial Advisor

Stifel

38 East Main Street

Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: 860-440-3373

Email: leah.goldenthal@stifel.com

www.goldenthalinvestmentgroup.com

GOLDSTEIN, Darlene

Tax Manager

Garvey, Steele & Bancroft, LLP

86 Denison Avenue

Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: 860-536-1040 Ext. 108

Fax: 860-536-0716

Email: darlene@gsb-cpas.com

www.gsb-cpas.com

GREENE, Kathy

Non Profit Consultant

Kathy Greene LLC

294 New London Turnpike

Stonington, CT 06378

Phone: 860-367-4583

Email: kgreene@lhcampus.com

H

HACKETT, Susan

Program Coordinator

Women's Business Development Council

300 State Street

Suite 419

New London, CT 06320

Phone: 860-574-9246

Email: shackett@ctwbdc.org

www.ctwbdc.org

HAYES, Darlene

Retired

Philadelphia Police Department

Niantic, CT 06357

Phone: 215-294-0492

Email: dhayesaug10@gmail.com

HOWARD, Denise

Owner

Best Wellness 4 You

12 New London Turnpike, #188

Norwich, CT 06360

Phone: 860-222-9013

Email: bestwellness4you@gmail.com

www.ahealthyhome.org

Second Business:

Author

Jameela's Big Adventure

Same address & phone

J

JENCKS, Judy

Owner/ Collaborative Website Master

Jencks Network, LLC

155 Preston Allen Road

Lisbon, CT 06351

Phone: 860-822-8712

Cell: 860-884-4263

Email: jmjencks@yahoo.com

www.seniorcenterct.org

K

KERRIGAN, Saralyn

Executive Director

Guest House Retreat and Conference Center

318 West Main Street

Chester, CT 06412

Phone: 860-322-5770

Cell: 860-319-1479

Email: saralyn@guesthousecenter.org

www.guesthousecenter.org

KETRON, Louisa

Realtor

Berkshire Hathaway- New England Properties

15A Main Street

Essex, CT 06426

Phone: 860-767-2133 ext. 14

Cell: 860-395-7967

Fax: 860-767-2135

Email: louisaketron@bhhsNE.com

Second Business:

Property Manager

Schedule Masters, LLC

20 Brooks Lane

Ivoryton, CT 06442

Phone: 860-395-7967

Email: LouisaKet@comcast.net

KOPTONAK, Imelda

CEO

Koptonak Agency

184 Mile Creek Road

Old Lyme, CT 06371

Phone: 860-389-6610

Email: info@koptonakagency.com

www.kotonakagency.com

L

LaFORTE, Geri

Operations and

Project Management Professional

Quaker Hill, CT 06375

Phone: 201-981-3289

Email: gerilaforte@gmail.com

LAMSON-ROCKWELL, Judith

Business Counselor

Southeastern CT Enterprise Region

19-B Thames Street

Groton, CT 06340

Phone: 860-437-4659

Email: jrockwell@secter.org

www.secter.org

LEE, Kathryn

Founder, CEO

Mid Life Rising

Phone: 860-857-1925

Email: kateleeco@outlook.com

Second Business:

Owner

Riverly Handcraft Company

Same phone & email

LINDER, Deborah R.L.

Life & Health Insurance Agent

Linder Insurance Sales

16 Colonial Drive

Waterford, CT 06385

Phone: 860-444-0111

Cell: 860-877-4255

Email: deborahlinder29@yahoo.com

www.linderinsurancesales.com

Second Business:

Writer

Same address, phone & email

M

MALLETT, Jan

CEO

Mallett's Rings&BLING

52 Lakeview Drive

Preston, CT 06365

Phone: 860-884-1145

Fax: 860-536-3064

Email: janmallett01@gmail.com

www.Tocara.com/mallett

MARIANI, Linda L.

Attorney/ Owner

Mariani & Reck, LLC

83 Broad Street

New London, CT 06320

Phone: 860-443-5023

Fax: 860-443-8897

Email: l.mariani@marianireck.com

www.marianireck.com

MARKOWSKI-ROOP, Beth

Marketing Manager

ServiceMaster By Mason

12 Gavitt Avenue

Westerly, RI 02891

Phone: 860-455-1249

Cell: 401-640-8431

Fax: 401-709-0383

Email: office@servicemasterbymason.com

www.servicemasterbymason.com

Second Business:

PO Box 85

Hampton, CT 06247

McDONALD, Kate

Executive Director

**Girls on the Run
of Southeastern Connecticut**

PO Box 455

Waterford, CT 06385

Email:

kate.mcdonald@girlsontherun.org

McGRATH, Deborah

Northeast Regional Director

Spartyka Foundation

25 Olive Street

Waterford, CT 06385

Cell: 860-961-2814

Email: debbiegraff1@gmail.com

www.spartykafoundation.org

Second Business:

Administration

GEM Mechanical

35 Industrial Park D

Centerbrook, CT 06409

Cell: 860-961-2814

Email: debbiegraff1@gmail.com

www.askgem.com

MILSTEIN, Ceseli

Certified Health Coach

cOMe hOMe to OM

12 West Mystic Avenue

Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: 860-912-9411

Email: ceselililstein@gmail.com

www.comehome2om.com

MORIARTY, Jane M.

Vice President

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

1055 Hartford Turnpike

Waterford, CT 06385

Phone: 860-446-3381

Cell: 860-984-9821

Fax: 860-437-2360

Email: jmoriarty@cofcu.com

www.charteroak.org

MOSHIER-DUNN, Deb

Vice President

Soroptimist International CT Shoreline

PO Box 344

Groton, CT 06340

Phone: 914-456-3069

Email: debm0727@sbcglobal.net

Second Business:

Vice President

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc.

PO Box 505

Waterford, CT 06385

Email: vp@savetheriversavethehills.org

MURPHY, Cora

Travel Agent

Cora's Awesome Travel

Groton, CT 06340

Phone: 860-445-8458

Email: jmu1981@aol.com

www.ytbtravel.com/jmu1981

N

NAPIANY, Susan

Independent Consultant

Pampered Chef

7 Barone Road

Niantic, CT 06357

Cell: 860-460-3390

Email: suenapchef@gmail.com

www.pamperedchef.biz/suenapiany

Second Business:

Aquarium Assistant

Simply Aquariums

Niantic, CT 06357

Cell: 860-367-5700

Email: rnapman1@aol.com

NELSON, Phyllis

Independent Consultant

Arbonne International

282 High Street

Baltic, CT 06330

Phone: 860-917-0868

Email: balancedliving45@gmail.com

www.phyllisnelson.arbonne.com

NOTT, Denise M., CGR, CAPS

Owner, Certified Green Professional,

Certified Aging in Place Specialist

Nutmeg Building & Remodeling LLC

Construction & Remodeling

4 Blacksmith Drive

Ledyard, CT 06339

Phone: 860-449-4641

Email: dm.nott@gmail.com

www.nutmegbuildingremodeling.com

O

O'BEIRNE, Kathleen P.

Owner

Lifescape Enterprises

PO Box 218

West Mystic, CT 06388

Phone: 860-536-7179

Fax: 860-536-2288

Email: kathleenobeirne@aol.com

OGDEN, Denise

Corporate Office - Commercial Loan Officer

Dime Bank

290 Salem Turnpike

Norwich, CT 06360

Phone: 860-859-4381

Cell: 860-227-3035

Fax: 860-885-1468

Email: dogden@dime-bank.com

www.dime-bank.com

P

PALZERE-RAE, Emma

Associate Director

Artreach, Inc.

401 W. Thames Street

Unit 702

Norwich, CT 06360

Phone: 860-887-0014

Cell: 860-961-6067

Email: emmapalzererae@gmail.com

www.artreachheals.org

Second Business:

Be Well Productions

Theater Artist

Cell: 860-961-6067

PLESSMAN, Connie K., Ph.D.

Professor Emerita, SIU

Performance Improvement/Talent Development

Growth Dynamics

Mystic, CT 06355

Cell: 860-710-1373

Email: plessman@siu.edu

POCHAL, Susan B.

Attorney

Pochal & Pochal, LLC

Estate & Tax Planning/Probate/Real Estate

86 Denison Avenue

Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: 860-536-1632

Fax: 860-536-1724

Email: susan@pochallaw.com

POOLER, Kathy

Owner

Publications Plus

5 Melody Lane

Norwich, CT 06360

Phone: 860-889-2893

Cell: 860-961-8261

Email: kathy@publicationsplus.com

www.publicationsplus.com

PORTER ZAITCHIK, Melissa

Development Coordinator

Safe Futures, Inc.

16 Jay Street

New London, CT 06320

Phone: 860-447-0366 Ext. 220

Email: mzaitchik@safefuturesct.org

www.safefuturesct.org

R

RICKETTS-WHITE, Judy

Owner/Website Developer/Graphic Designer

Ricketts-White Design

103 Butlertown Road

Waterford, CT 06385

Phone: 860-439-1854

Cell: 860-912-0239

Email: jwhite5506@sbcglobal.net

www.rickettswhitedesign.com

Second Business:

Author/Publisher

Mecate Press

Email: mecatepress@gmail.com

www.mecatepress.com

Same address, phone & cell

ROSS, Camilla

President

Emerson Theater Collaborative

PO Box 633

Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: 860-705-9711

Email: cross@emersontheater.org

www.emersontheatercollaborative.org

Second Business:

President

Emerson Theater Collaborative

25 Long Shadows Court

Sedona, AZ 86351

S

SCHAEFER, Patricia M.

Principal

Front Porch History

8 Prospect Street

Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: 860-572-9081

Fax: 860-572-9081

Email: pmschaef@99main.com

STETLER, Laura

Program Manager

Women's Business Development Council

300 State Street, Suite 419

New London, CT 06320

Phone: 860-574-9246

Email: lstetler@ctwbdc.org

www.ctwbdc.org

STRUNK, June

Executive Vice President

Janney Montgomery Scott

60 Willow Street

Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: 860-245-2085

Cell: 860-235-0677

Fax: 860-245-3638

Email: jstrunk@janney.com

www.mysticharborgroup.com

T

TAVERNIER, Deb

Branch Manager

Putnam Bank

2 Chapman Lane, Unit #13

Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Phone: 860-464-2247

Cell: 860-428-0508

Email: debt@putnambank.com

www.putnambank.com

TODD, Patricia A.

President

Blu-Prints Unlimited Inc.

20 Howard Street

New London, CT 06320

Phone: 860-444-6564

Fax: 860-444-6089

Email: plots@bpurepro.com

www.bpusigns.com

V

VERANO, Katherine

Executive Director

Safe Futures

16 Jay Street

New London, CT 06320

Phone: 860-447-0366 ext. 242

Cell: 860-705-9756

Email: kverano@safefuturesct.org

www.safefuturesct.org

W

WAHEED, D'mitra Gomez

Independent Beauty Consultant

Mary Kay

Phone: 860-912-9057

Email: dmitrawaheed@yahoo.com

www.marykay.com/dwaheed

Second Business:

Notary Public of Connecticut

Same phone & email

WAKELY, Julie

President

Julie Wakely Enterprises, LLC

31 Bushnell Road

Lisbon, CT 06351

Phone: 860-334-3907

Email: jwakely@sbcglobal.net

www.juliewakelyauthor.com

WARSHAVSKY, Laurie

Realtor

LJ Team William Raveis Niantic

Niantic, CT 06357

Phone: 860-205-6321

Email: laurie.warshavsky@raveis.com

WHITWORTH, Mary

Owner

Whitworth Real Estate

4 Indian Hill Road

Norwich, CT 06360

Phone: 860-222-0797

Email: whitworthrealestate@gmail.com

WILCZYNSKI, Jean

Financial Advisor/Certified Financial Planner Professional

Exencial Wealth Advisors

PO Box 623

Old Lyme, CT 06371

Phone: 860-434-5999

Cell: 860-304-5725

Fax: 860-434-4075

Email: jwilczynski@exencialwealth.com

www.exencialwealth.com

WINKELMAN, Marielle

Customer Solutions Manager

Chelsea Groton Bank

157 Boston Post Road

Waterford, CT 06385

Phone: 860-448-4256

Email: mwinkelman@chelseagroton.com

www.chelseagroton.com

WUJTEWICZ, Sheree

Owner/Practitioner

Sheree Wujtecwicz Holistic Nutritionist

Uncasville, CT 06382

Cell: 860-303-6090

Email: holisticsheree@gmail.com

www.holisticsheree.com

Y

YOTHER, Donna

President

Sava Insurance Group Inc.s

750 Broad Street

Waterford, CT 06385

Phone: 860-437-7282

Cell: 860-625-1396

Fax: 860-447-5656

Email: dyother@savainsurance.com

www.savainsurance.com

Z

ZACCHEO, Shirley

Image Consultant

You & Improved

Waterford, CT 06385

Cell: 860-514-1012

Email: info.you.m.improved@gmail.com

Second Business:

Owner

True Colors Image Consulting

Same cell

Email: sazzac68@gmail.com

www.colormedirect.com/tcic

Business Categories

For more complete information refer to the alphabetical listing of member's names.

ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING

GOLDSTEIN, Darlene

Tax Manager

Garvey, Steele & Bancroft, LLP

Phone: 860-536-1040 Ext. 108

ANIMALS

GAROFANO, Kerry, CFRE

Stewardship Manager

Connecticut Humane Society

Phone: 860-594-4502 ext. 6328

Cell: 860-214-8224

ADVERTISING

JENCKS, Judy

President/ Owner

Jencks Network, LLC

Phone: 860-822-8712

AQUARIUMS

NAPIANY, Susan

Aquarium Assistant

Simply Aquariums

Cell: 860-367-5700

TODD, Patricia A.

President

Blu-Prints Unlimited Inc.

Phone: 860-444-6564

ARTS, MUSIC, & THEATER

ADVOCATE

PORTER ZAITCHIK, Melissa

Development Coordinator

Safe Futures, Inc.

Phone: 860-447-0366 Ext. 220

GIORDANO, Lisa

Co-Founder and Co-Vice President, Resident Playwright

Emerson Theater Collaborative

Cell: 860-861-3743

Email: ldgldg7@gmail.com

LEE, Kathryn

Owner

Riverly Handcraft Company

Phone: 860-857-1925

PALZERE-RAE, Emma

Associate Director

Artreach, Inc.

Cell: 860-961-6067

Second Business:

Provincetown Tennessee Williams

Theater Festival

Development Manager

Cell: 860-961-6067

www.twptown.org

ROSS, Camilla

President

Emerson Theater Collaborative

Phone: 860-705-9711

D'AMATO, Elizabeth

Vice President - Commercial Loan Officer

Dime Bank

Phone: 401-596-4742

DePERRY, Holly

Business Lender

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Phone: 860-446-3313

DOMBROWSKI, Susan M.

Home Loan Specialist

CorePlus Federal Credit Union

Phone: 860-886-0576 ext. 3171

Cell: 860-334-0943

GLYNN, Beth A.

A.V.P./Mortgage Specialist

Chelsea Groton Bank

Phone: 860-448-4177

MORIARTY, Jane M.

Vice President

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Phone: 860-446-3381

Cell: 860-984-9821

OGDEN, Denise

Corporate Office - Commercial Loan Officer

Dime Bank

Phone: 860-859-4381

Cell: 860-227-3035

TAVERNIER, Deb

Branch Manager

Putnam Bank

Phone: 860-464-2247

Cell: 860-428-0508

ATTORNEYS

MARIANI, Linda L.

Attorney/Owner

Mariani & Reck, LLC

Phone: 860-443-5023

POCHAL, Susan B.

Attorney

Pochal & Pochal, LLC

Phone: 860-536-1632

BANKING

BARRON, Andrea

A.V.P./Branch Manager

Dime Bank

Phone: 860-739-2192

WINKELMAN, Marielle
Customer Solutions Manager
Chelsea Groton Bank
Phone: 860-448-4256

LAMSON-ROCKWELL, Judith
Business Counselor
Southeastrn CT Enterprise Region
Phone: 860-437-4659

BEAUTY

ZACCHEO, Shirley
Owner
True Colors Image Consulting
Cell: 860-514-1012

PALZERE-RAE, Emma
Nonprofit Consultant
Phone: 860-961-6067

PORTER ZAITCHIK, Melissa
Development Coordinator
Safe Futures, Inc.
Phone: 860-447-0366 Ext. 220

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

DePERRY, Holly
Business Lender
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Phone: 860-446-3313

STETLER, Laura
Program Manager
**Women's Business Development
Council**
Phone: 860-574-9246

DOMBROWSKI, Susan M.
Home Loan Specialist
CorePlus Federal Credit Union
Phone: 860-886-0576 ext. 3171
Cell: 860-334-0943

CARPET CLEANING & FLOORCARE SERVICES

HACKETT, Susan
Program Coordinator
**Women's Business Development
Council**
Phone: 860-574-9246

MARKOWSKI-ROOP, Beth
Marketing Manager
ServiceMaster By Mason
Phone: 860-455-1249
Cell: 401-640-8431

CLINICAL RESEARCH

GANNOTTI, Mary Lou

Public Relations and Communications

Director

Coastal Connecticut Research, LLC

Phone: 860-437-7092

DISASTER RESTORATION

MARKOWSKI-ROOP, Beth

Marketing Manager

ServiceMaster By Mason

Phone: 860-455-1249

Cell: 401-640-8431

CONSULTING

BROWN, Bridget

StoryMatters, LLC

Phone: 314-221-1441

DEMPSEY, Michelle

Owner

Title XIX Specialist, LLC

Phone: 860-245-8165

ZACCHEO, Shirley

Image Consultant

You & Improved

Cell: 860-514-1012

Second Business:

Owner

True Colors Image Consulting

Same cell

EDUCATION

ATKINS, Rebecca

Special Education Teacher

The Light House

Phone: 860-445-7626 ext. 114

O'BEIRNE, Kathleen P.

Owner

Lifescape Enterprises

Phone: 860-536-7179

PALZERE-RAE, Emma

Be Well Productions

Theater Artist

Cell: 860-961-6067

PLESSMAN, Connie K., Ph.D.

Professor Emerita, SIU

Growth Dynamics

Cell: 860-710-1373

SCHAEFER, Patricia M.

Principal

Front Porch History

Phone: 860-572-9081

WAKELY, Julie

President

Julie Wakely Enterprises, LLC

Phone: 860-334-3907

**FASHION &
CLOTHING**

MALLETT, Jan

CEO

Mallett's Rings&BLING

Phone: 860-884-1145

ZACCHEO, Shirley

Image Consultant

You & Improved

Cell: 860-514-1012

Second Business:

Owner

True Colors Image Consulting

Same cell

**FINANCIAL
PLANNING**

BLANCHARD, Cheryl A.

Financial Advisor

Dime Investment Services

Phone: 860-859-4308

BROUSSEAU, Julie M., FSS, CLU

Owner

Hourglass Insurance Services

Phone: 860-464-0121

Cell: 860-857-5752

DEVINE, Mildred E.

Vice President & Trust Officer

Dime Bank

Phone: 860-859-4308

Cell: 860-823-7223

GOLDENTHAL, Leah

Financial Advisor

Stifel

Phone: 860-440-3373

HACKETT, Susan

Program Coordinator

**Women's Business Development
Council**

Phone: 860-574-9246

STETLER, Laura

Program Manager

**Women's Business Development
Council**

Phone: 860-574-9246

STRUNK, June

Executive Vice President

Janney Montgomery Scott

Phone: 860-245-2085

WILCZYNSKI, Jean

Financial Advisor

Exencial Wealth Adisors

Phone: 860-434-5999

Cell: 860-304-5725

FOOD & NUTRITION

NAPIANY, Susan
Independent Consultant
The Pampered Chef
Phone: 860-460-3390

WUJTEWICZ, Sheree
Owner/Practitioner
Sheree Wujtewic Holistic Nutritionist
Cell: 860-303-6090
Email: holisticsheree@gmail.com
www.holisticsheree.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN

POOLER, Kathy
Owner
Publications Plus
Phone: 860-889-2893
Cell: 860-961-8261

RICKETTS-WHITE, Judy
Owner/Graphic Designer
Ricketts-White Design
Phone: 860-439-1854
Cell: 860-912-0239

TODD, Patricia A.
President
Blu-Prints Unlimited Inc.
Phone: 860-444-6564

HEALTH & WELLNESS

BROUSSEAU, Julie M., FSS, CLU
Chairman of the Board
Community of Hope
Phone: 860-912-8983
Cell: 860-857-5752

BROWN, Roberta
JuicePlus+
Phone: 970-290-7621

GLASSMAN, Melissa
Licensed Massage Therapist
Haven Holistic Arts & Massage
Phone: 860-381-9235

HOWARD, Denise
Owner
Best Wellness 4 You
Phone: 860-222-9013

LEE, Kathryn
Founder, CEO
Mid Life Rising
Phone: 860-857-1925

MILSTEIN, Ceseli
Certified Health Coach
cOMe hOMe to OM
Phone: 860-912-9411

NAPIANY, Susan
Independent Consultant
The Pampered Chef
Phone: 860-460-3390

NELSON, Phyllis
Independent Consultant
Arbonne International
Phone: 860-822-6416

HOLISTIC PRACTITIONERS

WUJTEWICZ, Sheree
Owner/Practitioner
**Sheree Wujtecwicz Holistic
Nutritionist**
Cell: 860-303-6090
Email: holisticsheree@gmail.com
www.holisticsheree.com

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

MARKOWSKI-ROOP, Beth
Marketing Manager
ServiceMaster By Mason
Phone: 860-455-1249
Cell: 401-640-8431

HOMEBUILDING

NOTT, Denise M., CGR, CAPS
*Owner, Certified Green Professional,
Certified Aging in Place Specialist*
Nutmeg Building & Remodeling LLC
Phone: 860-449-4641

HUMAN SERVICES

DEMPSEY, Michelle
Owner
Title XIX Specialist, LLC
Phone: 860-245-8165

PALZERE-RAE, Emma
Associate Director
Artreach, Inc.
Cell: 860-961-6067

VERANO, Katherine
Executive Director
Safe Futures
Phone: 860-447-0366 ext. 242
Cell: 860-705-9756

IMAGE CONSULTING

ZACCHEO, Shirley
Owner
True Colors Image Consulting
Cell: 860-514-1012

INSURANCE

BLANCHARD, Cheryl A.
Financial Advisor
Dime Investment Services
Phone: 860-859-4308

BROUSSEAU, Julie M., FSS, CLU

Owner

Hourglass Insurance Services

Phone: 860-464-0121

Cell: 860-857-5752

GARLAND, Anne

Creative Director

Anne Garland Enterprises, LLC

Cell: 860-575-4970

BURGESS, Carol Jean

Primerica

Phone: 860-245-0027

Cell: 860-303-7267

LEE, Kathryn

Founder, CEO

Mid Life Rising

Phone: 860-857-1925

KOPTONAK, Imelda

CEO

Koptonak Agency

Phone: 860-389-6610

PALZERE-RAE, Emma

Nonprofit Consultant

Phone: 860-961-6067

LINDER, Deborah R.L.

Life & Health Insurance Agent

Linder Insurance Sales

Phone: 860-444-0111

Cell: 860-877-425

MARKETING & SALES

GARLAND, Anne

Creative Director

Anne Garland Enterprises, LLC

Cell: 860-575-4970

YOTHER, Donna

President

Sava Insurance Group Inc.

Phone: 860-437-7282

Cell: 860-625-1396

WHITWORTH, Mary

Owner

Whitworth Real Estate

Phone: 860-222-0797

LIFE COACHING

ANDERSON, Karen C.L.

Writer and Master Certified Life Coach

KCLAnderson.com

Cell: 860-912-8810

MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

McGRATH, Deborah

Northeast Regional Director

Spartyka Foundation

Cell: 860-961-2814

MORTGAGES

DENNISON, Barbara

Sr. Loan Officer

iServe Residential Lending LLC

Phone: 877-486-2083

Cell: 860-304-3000

DOMBROWSKI, Susan M.

Home Loan Specialist

CorePlus Federal Credit Union

Phone: 860-886-0576 ext. 3171

Cell: 860-334-0943

GLYNN, Beth A.

A.V.P./Mortgage Specialist

Chelsea Groton Bank

Phone: 860-448-4177

NON-PROFIT

BROUSSEAU, Julie M.

Chairman of the Board

Community of Hope

Phone: 860-912-8983

Cell: 860-857-5752

GAROFANO, Kerry, CFRE

Stewardship Manager

Connecticut Humane Society

Phone: 860-594-4502 ext. 6328

Cell: 860-214-8224

GLASSMAN, Melissa

Volunteer Coordinator

**Hartford HealthCare at Home
Center for Hospice Care**

Phone: 860-381-9235

GREENE, Kathy

Non Profit Consultant

Kathy Greene LLC

Cell: 860-367-4583

HACKETT, Susan

Program Coordinator

**Women's Business Development
Council**

Phone: 860-574-9246

KERRIGAN, Saralyn

Executive Director

**Guest House Retreat and
Conference Center**

Phone: 860-322-5770

Cell: 860-319-1479

McDONALD, Kate

Executive Director

**Girls on the Run
of Southeastern Connecticut**

McGRATH, Deborah

Northeast Regional Director

Spartyka Foundation

Cell: 860-961-2814

MOSHIER-DUNN, Deb

Vice President

**Seroptimist International CT
Shoreline**

Phone: 860-456-3069

MOSHIER-DUNN, Deb

Vice President

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc.

Phone: 860-456-3069

PALZERE-RAE, Emma

Associate Director

Artreach, Inc.

Cell: 860-961-6067

Second Business:

Be Well Productions

Theater Artist

Cell: 860-961-6067

ROSS, Camilla

President

Emerson Theater Collaborative

Phone: 860-705-9711

STETLER, Laura

Program Manager

Women's Business Development

Council

Phone: 860-574-9246

NOTARY

WAHEED, D'mitra Gomez

Notary Public of Connecticut

Phone: 860-912-9057

McGRATH, Deborah

Notary Public of Connecticut

Phone: 860-961-2814

OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES

POOLER, Kathy

Owner

Publications Plus

Phone: 860-889-2893

Cell: 860-961-8261

PRINTING & PUBLISHING

ANN, Alexis

Editor & Publisher

Alexis Advertising / The Resident

Phone: 860-599-1221

POOLER, Kathy

Owner

Publications Plus

Phone: 860-889-2893

Cell: 860-961-8261

RICKETTS-WHITE, Judy

Owner/Graphic Designer

Ricketts-White Design

Phone: 860-439-1854

Cell: 860-912-0239

RICKETTS-WHITE, Judy

Author/Publisher

Mecate Press

Phone: 860-439-1854

Cell: 860-912-0239

TODD, Patricia A.

President

Blu-Prints Unlimited Inc.

Phone: 860-444-6564

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

KETRON, Louisa

Property Manager

Schedule Masters, LLC

Phone: 860-395-7967

REAL ESTATE

KETRON, Louisa

Realtor

**Berkshire Hathaway-
New England Properties**

Phone: 860-767-2133 ext. 14

Cell: 860-395-7967

WARSHAVSKY, Laurie

Realtor

LJ Team William Raveis Niantic

Niantic, CT 06357

Phone: 860-205-6321

WHITWORTH, Mary

Owner

Whitworth Real Estate

Phone: 860-222-0797

SENIOR SERVICES

BROUSSEAU, Julie M., FSS, CLU

Owner

Hourglass Insurance Services

Phone: 860-464-0121

Cell: 860-857-5752

DEMPSEY, Michelle

Owner

Title XIX Specialist, LLC

Phone: 860-245-8165

JENCKS, Judy

President/Owner

Jencks Network, LLC

Phone: 860-822-8712

Cell: 860-884-4263

NOTT, Denise M., CGR, CAPS

Owner, Certified Green Professional,

Certified Aging in Place Specialist

Nutmeg Building & Remodeling LLC

Phone: 860-449-4641

SKIN CARE

NELSON, Phyllis

Independent Consultant

Arbonne International

Phone: 860-822-6416

WAHEED, D'mitra Gomez

Independent Beauty Consultant

Mary Kay

Phone: 860-912-9057

**TRAINING,
DEVELOPMENT,
& COACHING**

BROWN, Bridget
StoryMatters, LLC
Phone: 314-221-1441

LEE, Kathryn
Founder, CEO
Mid Life Rising
Phone: 860-857-1925

PLESSMAN, Connie K.
Professor Emerita, SIU
Performance Improvement/Talent
Development
Growth Dynamics
Cell: 860-710-1373

**TRAVEL, TOURISM,
LODGING & DINING**

KERRIGAN, Saralyn
Executive Director
Guest House Retreat and
Conference Center
Phone: 860-322-5770

MURPHY, Cora
Travel Agent
Cora's Awesome Travel
Phone: 860-445-8458

**WEALTH
MANAGEMENT**

GOLDENTHAL, Leah
Financial Advisor
Stifel
Phone: 860-440-3373

WILCZYNSKI, Jean
Financial Advisor
Exencial Wealth Advisors
Phone: 860-434-5999
Cell: 860-304-5725

**WEBSITE
DEVELOPMENT**

JENCKS, Judy
President/ Owner
Jencks Network, LLC
Phone: 860-822-8712

RICKETTS-WHITE, Judy
Owner/ Website Developer
Ricketts-White Design
Phone: 860-439-1854
Cell: 860-912-0239

WOMEN'S EVENTS

HACKETT, Susan

Program Coordinator

**Women's Business Development
Council**

Phone: 860-574-9246

STETLER, Laura

Program Manager

**Women's Business Development
Council**

Phone: 860-574-9246

GARLAND, Anne

Creative Director

Anne Garland Enterprises, LLC

Cell: 860-575-4970

PALZERE-RAE, Emma

Producer/ Actor/ Playwright

Be Well Productions

Phone: 860-961-6067

WRITERS, AUTHORS & SPEAKERS

ANDERSON, Karen C.L.

Writer and Master-Certified Life Coach

KCLAnderson.com

Cell: 860-912-8810

**BUTLER, Nancy D., CFP®, CDFA,
CLTC**

National Speaker/ Author/ Business Coach

**Above All Else, Success In Life &
Business**

Phone: 860-444-0535

GIORDANO, Lisa

Co-Founder and Co-Vice President, Resident

Playwright

Emerson Theater Collaborative

Cell: 860-861-3743

Email: ldgldg7@gmail.com

HOWARD, Denise

Author

Jameela's Big Adventure

Phone: 860-222-9013

LINDER, Deborah R.L.

Writer

Phone: 860-444-0111

Cell: 860-877-4255

O'BEIRNE, Kathleen P.

Owner

Lifescape Enterprises

Writer-Consultant: Education and Military

Families

Phone: 860-536-7179

RICKETTS-WHITE, Judy

Author/ Publisher

Mecate Press

Phone: 860-439-1854

Cell: 860-912-0239

SCHAEFER, Patricia M.

Principal

Front Porch History

Phone: 860-572-9081

WAKELY, Julie

President

Julie Wakely Enterprises, LLC

Phone: 860-334-3907

NOTES