



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

# *“IN THE NEWS”*

JULY TO AUGUST 2018

Prepared by  
The Office of Public and Media Relations  
SUNY Old Westbury

## SUNY College at Old Westbury is #354 on MONEY's 2018-19 #BestColleges List

August 13, 2018



◀ Rank: 354 ▶

### SUNY College at Old Westbury

Old Westbury, NY [www.oldwestbury.edu](http://www.oldwestbury.edu)



#### COSTS

Est. Full Price 2018-2019	\$23,900
% of students who get any grants	61%
Est. price for students who receive aid	\$10,800
Average price for low-income students	\$5,800

[Net Price Calculator](#)

#### ADMISSIONS

Acceptance rate	69%
Median SAT/ACT Score	970/22
SAT/ACT required?	Yes
Enrollment	5,335

#### FINANCIAL AID

% of students with need who get grants	86%
% of need met	60%
% of students who get merit* grants	1%
Average merit grant	\$5,636

#### STUDENT SUCCESS

Graduation rate	43%
Average time to a degree	4.6 years
Average student debt	\$16,200
Average salary within 3 years	\$45,400
% of low-income students who become upper middle class	24%

#### KEY DEADLINES

Early decision application	Nov 1
Regular application	rolling

\* Share of full-time undergraduates who had no financial need and were awarded grants.

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Peterson's, PayScale.com, MONEY/College Measures calculations, Equality of Opportunity Project.



LONG ISLAND

# Hands-on lessons in rebuilding

## College students volunteering in Puerto Rico

BY KESHIA CLUKEY  
keshia.clukey@newsday.com

Nearly 50 Long Island college students are spending part of their summer break in Puerto Rico, rebuilding the communities devastated by Hurricane Maria last September.

Maryah Desir, a Nassau Community College student studying adolescent education, is one of the 46 students from the five SUNY schools on Long Island heading there to help. She leaves next week.

"For me, as a human being, it's my duty to respond when there's a crisis," said Desir, 19, of Westbury, who hopes to work with families with younger children while she's there.

She visited Puerto Rico on a cruise a few years ago, long before the Category 4 storm hit the island on Sept. 20, 2017. The hurricane displaced hundreds of thousands of people, and many of them lacked the resources to rebuild.

"When I heard what happened, I was devastated because it was literally one of the most beautiful places I've ever been in my life," she said.

Some 250 SUNY students statewide and 250 City University students were selected to participate in Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's summerlong NY Stands with Puerto Rico Recover and Rebuilding Initiative. There were more than 1,500 applicants within the SUNY system.

The students and dozens of skilled labor volunteers are partnering with nonprofit organizations to clean, restore and rebuild homes, according to a news release from the governor's office.

There are five waves of volunteers going for two-week spans, which began in June and end in August.

Francis Gomera of Copiague, who attends Farmingdale State College, was in the first group of students that went in June.

Gomera, 20, moved to the United States from the Dominican Republic when he was 8 years old, so the hurricane in Puerto Rico hit close to home.

"When I read what was going on and how many people were not being helped almost a year



SUNY and CUNY students, volunteering in two-week shifts, repair a storm-damaged roof in Puerto Rico.

after the hurricane, that kind of impacted me," said Gomera, a senior bioscience major. "You can still see houses destroyed, people still being displaced by it."

During the two-week trip, he and his group fixed the roofs of about 30 houses, as well as some of the interiors, he said.

"I feel like my life changed a lot, because at one point I didn't want to leave," he said, adding that he feels like he still "should be back there helping."

The students are working in tandem with the nonprofit rebuilding organizations All Hands and Hearts, Heart 9/11, and NECHAMA. UNICEF USA committed funding to support the effort.

Participating students receive

a stipend, and can earn up to three college credits for their work.

It's a service learning opportunity, said Pascale Jones, an international programs coordinator who is coleading the effort at Stony Brook University and will be accompanying students on the trip.

The students will be keeping a journal and have to write a reflective piece about their experience, Jones said. They also are being encouraged to share different strategies and ideas to help with the recovery efforts based on their studies, she said.

"Ideally every student would be able to bring something to the table and emerge as a leader in some capacity," she added.

Jessica Naissant, 24, of Elmont, said she feels lucky to be one of 11 students from SUNY Old Westbury selected to go in August.

"I hope to volunteer and maybe work in a hospital and help rebuild houses," said Naissant, who graduated this spring with a bachelor's degree in biology and plans to go to medical school.

She was in Puerto Rico last year for vacation a few months before the hurricane. To prepare physically and mentally for her trip, she's been trying to hike and exercise, Naissant said.

"It was crazy to me that I was just there and now the country was in absolute ruin," she said. "I wanted to go back and help out."

FRANCIS GOMERA

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ELLIE KEMPER



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FULL RUN

## Putting STEM Within Reach

Area programs increase exposure to new careers, opportunities

BY KELLY MARTIN

EDITORIAL@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

Recently, there has been a trend in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields to encourage young women to pursue these types of careers professionally during and after college. While the numbers of women joining the STEM field has risen, it seems as though there are still groups that lack the encouragement and resources necessary to be able to choose to pursue that as well.

Underrepresented and economically disadvantaged populations tend not to choose to pursue careers in the STEM fields due to general lack of access to the proper education or programs that encourage exploring these career options. Programs like the Long Island STEM Hub, We Connect the Dots, and the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) look to influence minority populations like women and people of color by



showing how STEM is important in real life, and how careers in such fields are obtainable.

We Connect the Dots (WCTD) is a program that encourages students into STEAM—science, technology, engineering, art and math—fields through facilitating engagement

with other students, and working to change the perception of what STEAM is. They also try to show how technology is changing jobs, and what skills will be needed in the future to keep up with these changes.

"It's all about learning how to embrace technology in positive ways, and learning how to be a lifelong learner," Laurie Carey, the executive director of WCTD said. "Encouraging students to pursue STEAM fields can only have positive impacts on our future and the future of these students."

WCTD is sponsoring a summer program called CreatingSTEAM, where students learn how to build a 3-D printer, and create blueprints to print devices that will help solve a problem they have noticed. Amanda, a high school student from Long Island, loves the program.

"It helps me meet people that I can stay in contact with and we can help support each other," Amanda said. "I want to work in social media and learning about how to code and work with others is valuable experience."

Rhaming, a middle school student from the Bronx, aspires to be in the business sphere, and knows that technology is an ever-growing part of it. "It is good to know as much as possible about technology, because the more you know the more successful you can become," Rhaming said. "We all know what a big part technology plays in life so I am trying to take advantage of programs like these and learn everything I can so I can be successful after school."

The Long Island STEM Hub is also involved in encouraging youth, from

elementary school ages all the way to university students, into STEM fields. The Hub holds events that help teachers and students understand jobs in STEM, how academics are related to them, and what opportunities are available to them.

"There are young people who are starting to understand and feel the excitement of the types of jobs, kids doing research and finding new opportunities they didn't previously know about," said Ken White, co-steward of the Long Island STEM Hub.

The Hub holds four-week programs for underrepresented minorities in the ninth and tenth grade to encourage their involvement in STEM, and give them a better idea of what jobs and industries are benefited through having STEM knowledge. In these programs, students meet with scientists and watch and participate in work with the experts. Through these programs, the Hub hopes to "align and make sure that as the industries grow, [they] are preparing young people to keep students on the island and help make businesses successful."

The Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) is a statewide program that is funded by the New York State Education Department, with the overall goal of increasing the number of underrepresented students in STEM fields by introducing and exposing college students to gateway math and science programs. Freshmen orientation programs, workshops for upperclassmen about how to apply for graduate school, and research opportunities at the Brookhaven National Laboratory help get students involved in the programs offered at the SUNY College at Old Westbury and beyond. CSTEP serves around 7,900 students throughout New York State, and 328 participants in the Old Westbury program.

"The support that the program provides [the students] is like a family and they stick together and encourage each other," said Monique Clark, the program's co-director.

These programs have been influential in bringing minorities to STEM fields, and students have responded well in the previous years. The programs all hope to be able to continue to grow and influence minorities and economically disadvantaged young adults into STEM fields in coming years as successfully as they have been.

ADVERTORIAL

 **Winston Preparatory School**  
education for the individual



The Winston Preparatory School (WPS) has announced the launch of Winston Prep Long Island, its fifth campus, opening in Dix Hills this September. WPS is excited to bring the same essence, expertise and methods to the Long Island community that have been successfully applied to each of its campuses in Manhattan and the tristate area.

Winston Prep is a highly individualized and responsive setting for students in grades 3 through 12 with specific learning differences, such as dyslexia, nonverbal learning disorders, and executive functioning difficulties (i.e. ADHD).

Its unique model of education for the individual provides intense skill remediation while encouraging students to build

independence, resilience, responsibility, self-awareness, and self-advocacy. Key to the development of each student is the focus on assessment-based remediation, the daily one-to-one Focus Program, a skill-based curriculum, small homogenous class groupings, an expert faculty, an emphasis on social-emotional development, and a supportive community.

The opening of Winston Prep Long Island marks the logical next step for an organization that has experienced consistent growth over the years. WPS now reaches eight times the number of lives it did just two decades ago and continues to replicate its model in order to meaningfully impact the field.

Winston Prep Long Island is currently accepting applications. For more information, or to sign up for an open house, contact Karen Preston, WPSLI Admissions Director at [liadmissions@winstonprep.edu](mailto:liadmissions@winstonprep.edu), or visit [www.winstonprep.edu](http://www.winstonprep.edu).

The Winston Preparatory School does not discriminate against applicants and students on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin. The WPSLI campus is not associated with the Half Hollow Central School District.

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FRIDAY, AUG. 31, 2018

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COVERSTORY

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# When college students

## The pros, the cons and the compromises

BY LARA EWEN  
Special to Newsday

College marks a big transition in the lives of students.

However, financial and familial considerations mean that many choose to live at home. For some, it's a temporary arrangement borne of necessity. For others, it's a considered decision made to ensure that college years — and life afterward — provide the best possible foundation for a solid future. We spoke to three families on Long Island about how they make this arrangement work for them.



"I was not ready to leave," says Ayshawna Baldwin, left, shown with her daughter, Skylar, and her mother, Kesia Humphrey.

**Ayshawna Baldwin, 24**  
Senior criminology major at SUNY Old Westbury

**HOME** Lives in a three-story, three-bedroom, three-bath home in Deer Park with daughter, Skylar, 3, and mother, Kesia Humphrey, 42, who works in medical records at the Suffolk County Department of Health.

The decision to stay at home during college wasn't something Kesia Humphrey and her daughter, Ayshawna Baldwin, were enthusiastic about. "It was my hope that she would go away, but as long as she attended school, I supported her decision," says Humphrey.

Baldwin says she was, frankly, scared to go out on her own. "Even though my mother and I often bumped heads, I was not ready to leave," she says. "And none of my close friends went away."

Still, Baldwin, who started SUNY Old Westbury when she was 18, says she has some regrets. "Being much older and wiser now, I wish I went away for the experience," she says. "But don't get me wrong, I'm extremely proud and excited about my upcoming accomplishment, especially with the cards I was dealt with in my life, like becoming a mother."

The on-campus housing cost for a typical student was \$7,300 in 2016-2017, and the cost of a typical dining plan was \$3,720. Baldwin pays her mother rent — an amount that's changed over time as her jobs have improved (she was a customer service rep at GEICO; now she's a legal secretary). "My rent started at \$50 or \$75 a month — something very small," says Baldwin. "Then it went to \$100, and then \$150, and now I'm currently paying \$250." Even though the rent is due monthly, she says she finds it easier to break it down into manageable increments — every two

weeks, when she is paid. For that, she and Skylar each get their own bedrooms. And Baldwin has no student loan debt. She is paying for her tuition from her wages.

"My biggest qualm is that she really doesn't help out a lot because of her work schedule, school schedule, and Skylar," says Humphrey. "I ask her to clean the bathroom, and sometimes she cleans it, but I think because she lives at home it's easier for her not to."

Baldwin admits that it's not always easy for her to balance everything. "But being a full-time college student, employee and mother, it can be overwhelming at times," she says. "I get up, drop Skylar at school, go to work, go straight from work to class, and then straight home. Then I cook and get Skylar in bed, and she gets homework, too."

She says she wants to move out when she graduates in 2019. But, Humphrey says, "I'd like her to be able to buy a home. So if she has to stay here until she's financially ready, that's OK."

NEWSDAY, FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018 newsday.com

JEFF BACHNER

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## 12 Women In Academia Are Named ACS Fellows For 2018

By Chemical Processing Staff

Aug 03, 2018

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The American Chemical Society (ACS) names the 2018 class of ACS Fellows, a prestigious honor bestowed upon distinguished chemists who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in chemistry and have made important contributions to ACS.

Twenty-one women were named ACS Fellows in the 2018 class. Of those, 12 are in academia:

- Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, University of Toledo
- Janine Cossy, ESPCI Paris
- Carmen Valdez Gauthier, Florida Southern College
- Lynn G. Hartshorn, University of St. Thomas
- Teresa Head-Gordon, University of California, Berkeley
- Barbara R. Hillery, SUNY Old Westbury
- Elizabeth M. Howson, Chatham High School
- Malika Jeffries-EL, Boston University
- Kerry K. Karukstis, Harvey Mudd College
- Judy E. Kim, University of California, San Diego
- Melissa Pasquinelli, North Carolina State University
- Doris Zimmerman, Thiel College (retired)

The American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, is a not-for-profit organization chartered by the U.S. Congress. ACS provides access to chemistry-related information and research through its multiple databases, peer-reviewed journals and scientific conferences. ACS does not conduct research, but publishes and publicizes peer-reviewed scientific studies. Its main offices are in Washington, D.C., and Columbus, Ohio.

For more information, visit: [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)

## 2018 ACS Fellows

by *Linda Wang*

JULY 14, 2018 | APPEARED IN **VOLUME 96, ISSUE 29**

The American Chemical Society has named 51 members as ACS Fellows. The new fellows will be feted at the society's fall national meeting in Boston this August.

The fellows program began in 2009 as a way to recognize and honor ACS members for outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the profession, and ACS.

Nominations for the 2019 class of ACS Fellows will open in the first quarter of next year. Additional information about the program, including a list of fellows named in earlier years, is available at [www.acs.org/fellows](http://www.acs.org/fellows).

Souhail R. Al-Abed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Kara M. Allen Aegis Sciences  
Peter R. Bernstein PharmaB  
Amanda Bryant-Friedrich University of Toledo  
Susan Beda Butts Dow Chemical  
William F. Carroll Jr. Indiana University  
Hongyu Chen Dow Chemical  
Pat N. Confalone Confalone Consulting  
Janine Cossy ESPCI Paris  
E. Bryan Coughlin University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Paul J. Fagan DuPont  
Andrew L. Feig Wayne State University  
Neil K. Garg University of California, Los Angeles  
Carmen Valdez Gauthier Florida Southern College  
Brian R. Gibney Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York  
Cathleen Hapeman Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Lynn G. Hartshorn University of St. Thomas  
Teresa Head-Gordon University of California, Berkeley  
Barbara R. Hillery **SUNY Old Westbury**  
Elizabeth M. Howson Chatham High School  
Malika Jeffries-EL Boston University  
Kimberly Begley Jeskie Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Kerry K. Karukstis Harvey Mudd College  
Michelle K. Kidder Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Judy E. Kim University of California, San Diego  
Jaqueline L. Kiplinger Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Louise M. Lawter Degussa (retired)  
Eric K. Lin National Institute of Standards & Technology  
John M. Long JM Long Rubber Consultants  
Walter D. Loveland Oregon State University  
Ripudaman Malhotra SRI International  
Stephen F. Martin University of Texas, Austin  
Andrew W. Maverick Louisiana State University  
Scott J. Miller Yale University  
Burnaby Munson University of Delaware  
Roger Alan Parker Xavier University  
Melissa A. Pasquinelli North Carolina State University  
Sarma V. Pisupati Pennsylvania State University  
Michael A. Reynolds Shell Exploration & Production  
Stuart Rowan University of Chicago  
Martin D. Rudd University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh  
Joseph Sabol Joseph E. Sabol Consulting  
Daniel A. Savin University of Florida  
Dawn A. Shaughnessy Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  
Jay S. Siegel Tianjin University  
Paris Svoronos Queensborough Community College  
Richard P. Van Duyne Northwestern University  
Dujin Wang Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Michael S. Wong Rice University  
Wendy B. Young Genentech  
Doris Zimmerman Thiel College (retired)



## Foundation of SUNY Old Westbury appoints trustee

🕒 July 2, 2018    💬 Comments Off



Terri Elkowitz

Terri Elkowitz, senior vice president and Northeast regional manager for VHB, was appointed as trustee of the Foundation of the [State University of New York at Old Westbury](#).

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2018 | NORTH HEMPSTEAD-OYSTER BAY



## OURTOWNS

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E17

### WINNERS Compiled by Michael R. Ebert

#### **RACHEL LITTENBERG**

Transfer articulation  
manager

**R**achel Littenberg of Huntington has received the New Professionals Award from the New York State Transfer and Articulation Association in recognition of her service as a new member. Littenberg, a transfer articulation manager at SUNY Old Westbury who leads the college's Transfer Services Office, has presented at annual conferences for the association in 2016 and 2018. She also has served as chairwoman of the association's Newsletter Committee and currently serves as co-chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee.



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## LI BUSINESS



To grow his business, Ian Linde, co-founder and CEO of Collectionzz.com, a Mineola-based collectors' platform, quit his day job last year after juggling both for two years.

### \$10,000

■ **REVENUE YOUR** business should be generating per founder per month, as a general rule of thumb, before you quit your day job  
**SOURCE:** Aaron Foss, founder of Nomorobo and entrepreneur-in-residence at Hofstra University

and salary workers in the United States in non-agricultural industries in 2017, about 1.1 million had a second job where they were self-employed.

Long Island statistics were unavailable, but according to the New York State Department of Labor, an estimated 81,800 state residents report they usually work 35 or more hours on their main job and have a second job where they're self-employed.

### 2 jobs for a stretch

Jeff Myers, president of Up In Smoke BBQ, did both for more than a decade.

Until June he worked full time in auto retail sales and ran the St. James-based mobile barbecue catering business. "I never had a day off," says Myers, 55.

His partner, Tommy Lawlor, still works full time in auto financing, while co-running the business. "I try to do it on my days off and in the mornings before I go to work," says Lawlor.

While Lawlor isn't ready to leave his day job for at least the next few years, Myers knew it was time to take the leap and leave his job when business really started ramping up.

"The phone is ringing off the hook," says Myers. "I didn't want to turn down the business."

Certain telltale signs point to the right time to consider ditching your day job.

One sign is if the business is gaining traction, says Aaron Foss, founder of Mount Sinai-based Nomorobo, a robocall blocking service, and an entrepreneur-in-residence at Hofstra University in Hempstead assisting students with their business ideas.

It's not necessarily so much the growth rate, he says, but the fact that you are seeing and feeling the business moving forward; for example, customer acquisition is getting easier.

And of course the financials have to make sense.

In general, it's advisable to have at least a year's worth of living expenses saved before

exiting your job, Foss says.

Also make sure you're quitting for the right reasons, says Shalei Simms, an associate professor in the management, marketing and finance department at SUNY Old Westbury.

Don't leave your job just because you hate it or don't like working for someone else, because then "you're motivated by the wrong reasons," she says.

Still, there's not necessarily a perfect time to take the leap. "It's not an exact science," Simms says. "You have to do your research and be ready."

At some point you may realize you can't move your business to the next level while keeping your day job, she says.

That's what prompted Ian Linde, co-founder and CEO of Mineola-based Collectionzz.com, an online platform for collectors to buy and sell items, to make the leap.

After two years of juggling the business and his day job as an equity trader, he knew he had to leave his job to grow the business. He quit in the spring of 2017.

"We had some sales when I left my job, but we were just scratching the surface with our revenues," says Linde, 39. "I had a decision to make."

If he didn't leave his full-time job, he knew raising capital would be difficult, and that was critical for the business to expand.

### Raising funds

Since leaving his job last year, he's raised close to \$1 million and continues to raise funds, which he's using for business development, hiring, etc.

For those not quite ready to make a leap, there are some key considerations to successfully juggle both your job and business.

"Time management is critical, and you're going to have to realize that you're actually taking on two jobs," says researcher Raffiee. "In the beginning you're going to be pretty tired and worn out."

Also check with your employer to make sure there's no conflict of interest or any restrictions on running a business while keeping your job, Foss says.

And make sure you have the right support system from potential partners and family.

"Having a partner was key, and communicating with him was key," says Myers, noting their families also were supportive. "We knew how to make it work."

# Keeping the day job

Budding entrepreneurs often fare better in business if they also have steady work



Jeff Myers, right, president of Up In Smoke BBQ, quit his day job in June; his partner Tommy Lawlor still works full time in auto financing.

**SMALL BUSINESS**  
Jamie Herzlich  
jherzlich@aol.com

**T**he road to entrepreneurship is a bumpy one, so for many budding business owners it pays to keep their day jobs while establishing their firms.

While this can present a host of challenges, it can also give them the freedom to test their ideas while they have some backup income if times get lean.

In fact, entrepreneurs who kept their day jobs had a 33 percent higher survival rate than those who didn't, according to researchers Joseph Raffiee and Jie Feng.

"They're able to test the waters and weed out bad business ideas," says Raffiee, an assistant business professor at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles who co-authored a widely cited study on so-called "hybrid entrepreneurship" with Feng. "They're able to play around with what's going to work."

It's a way to reduce the uncertainty and learn about the quality of the business idea, but also learn about your fit as an entrepreneur, Raffiee says. The study, published in 2014, tracked entrepreneurs from 1994 to 2008.

Fast-forward and according to the latest available data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the 142.1 million wage

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## This Art Rocks

Westbury resident sells vibrant, hand-painted stones

BY KELLY MARTIN

WESTBURY@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

It was grief and gardening that led Joanne Spadaro to start painting rocks. What most see as nothing more than part of the landscape, Spadaro saw as an outlet to mourn the loss of her mother one year prior, as well as a way to bring more beauty into her world.

Spadaro has always collected rocks, asking friends who traveled to other countries to bring her back a rock in lieu of any other souvenirs. So as the one-year anniversary of her mother's death approached in March, the jump to painting rocks in her collection seemed natural.

Not only was the rock painting a way to cope with the sadness caused by the loss of her mother, Spadaro considers the activity a stress reliever, and a way to cope in a politically divisive time.

"It is very relaxing to paint the rocks," Spadaro said. "There is a lot of bad stuff in the world, it is kind of an escape."

Spadaro is a lifelong resident of Westbury and works at SUNY Old Westbury, a self-described "librarian by day, stone painter by night." She uses acrylic paints to paint designs that range from ladybugs to mandalas. She then sprays them with a sealant so they can be used indoors or outdoors.

Spadaro is a member of Westbury Arts, an organization "committed to attracting, developing, and promoting art and culture throughout the community." Different artists that she sees in Facebook groups and around town, as well as random

rocks or colors she comes across inspire her works.

Mandalas are Spadaro's favorite design of rock to paint. The word mandala comes from the Sanskrit language of Ancient India, and it means circle. They symbolize the idea that life is never ending. Rather than using paintbrushes, Spadaro uses dotting tools to make more precise circles and designs.

She began to gift the stones to friends and family, and was given the idea of selling them at a booth at the Westbury Farmers and Artist Market. The mostly free-styled designs were well loved by the shoppers at the market, and it sparked an excitement in her.

"The reaction at the farmers market booth left me speechless, I didn't expect that reaction," Spadaro said. "To think somebody actually wants something that you created, to me that's new."

Spadaro moved her rock selling business onto her Facebook page, where her friends continuously encouraged and inspired her to open an online Etsy store.

"The Etsy shop is secondary to the fun I'm having," Spadaro said.

On her page, called ArtStones by Joanne, Spadaro sells rocks in a range of sizes and designs. Each listing has details specific to the rock, including weight and what specific types of paints were used.

The rocks that are currently for sale can be viewed and purchased at [www.artstonesbyjoanne.etsy.com](http://www.artstonesbyjoanne.etsy.com). Her products can also be purchased during the Westbury Farmers and Artist Market on Sundays, in the Ernesto Strada Piazza from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Joanne Spadaro recently began selling her rocks on Etsy and at the Westbury Artists and Farmers Market.



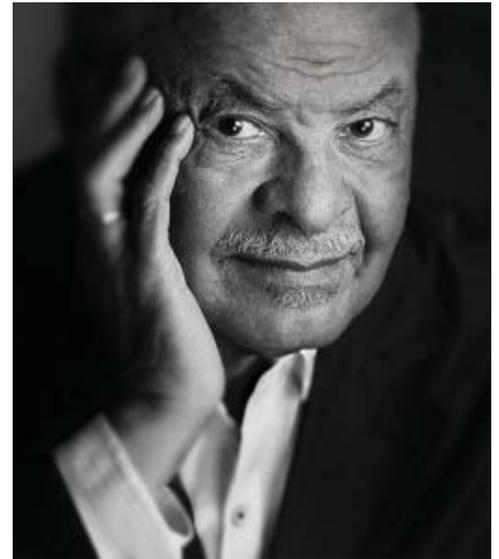
## Sterling Stuckey, Renowned Historian, Dies

August 17, 2018: by Walter Hudson

Dr. Sterling Stuckey, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California, Riverside and a prominent scholar of African-American history, has died.

An expert on American slavery and African-American intellectual and cultural history, Stuckey is the author of numerous books, including *Slave Culture: Nationalist Theory and the Foundations of Black America*.

A civil rights organizer in Chicago during the 1960s, Stuckey earned his Ph.D. in history from Northwestern University in 1972 and held teaching positions at numerous institutions before he was hired to teach at the University of California, Riverside in 1989 where he held the UC Presidential Chair.



*Dr. Sterling Stuckey*

Dr. Clayborne Carson, professor of American History and director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University said that Stuckey was a “pioneering historian whose writings provided provocative new insights about African-American history and culture,” said Carson. “I will miss his something biting wit as well as his generosity.”

In 2004, scholars from across the United States gathered at UC Riverside to celebrate Stuckey’s work on the occasion of his retirement.

“Not since W.E.B Du Bois has a scholar so brilliantly captured the spirit of African-American culture,” said Dr. Jermaine O. Archer, associate professor and chair of the American Studies/Media and Communications Department at the [State University of New York at Old Westbury](#).

Archer, who studied with Stuckey, said the historian’s scholarship expanded and broadened the intellectual field.

“His influence throughout the world on Black folklore, slave resistance, antebellum literature, Black intellectual history and so much more is of mammoth proportions and may be impossible to quantify,” said Archer. “Our beloved Dr. Stuckey, one of the greatest minds of our time, will be sorely missed. His voice will continue to be heard through the countless scholars he has nurtured and molded over the years.”

# What drove the Toronto shooter to unleash violence on the Danforth?

By KENYON WALLACE Investigative Reporter

Mon., July 23, 2018



In the aftermath of Sunday night's mass shooting on the Danforth that shattered the lives of so many, shell-shocked residents are seeking to make sense of this seemingly senseless act. Why, many are inevitably asking, would someone do such a thing?

In truth, we may never know. The Special Investigations Unit, which is probing the circumstances surrounding the death of the suspect, named him late on Monday as 29-year-old Faisal Hussain, of Toronto.

The fact that the alleged killer is dead means we cannot ask him about his motivations. Indeed, those who study mass shootings note that because many people who commit such crimes take their own lives, or are killed by police, research into what makes them tick is not as robust as that examining serial killers, for example, who are often questioned for years by law enforcement.

A statement from the alleged killer's family late Monday pointed to Hussain's lifelong struggle with "severe mental health challenges," including "psychosis and depression." The family wrote that the interventions of professionals were not successful.

But Hussain also shared a characteristic in common with many mass murderers, one that has received particular attention in the wake of a string of explicitly misogynistic attacks: he was male.

"Much of it is this idea that (men) are owed something, or that someone has taken something from them and they must reassert themselves by taking something back," said Rachel Kalish, a visiting professor of sociology at the [State University of New York at Old Westbury](#) and co-author of an article examining the relationship between masculinity and the concept of aggrieved entitlement.

"So for example, if a man is passed over for a job, say, and the job is given to a woman, he may feel like that woman 'stole his job,' but it was never actually even his to begin with."

She also points to the fact that some men feel they are entitled to women's attention or women's bodies.

Alek Minassian, the man police say intentionally mowed down pedestrians with a rented van on Yonge St. in April, allegedly posted a Facebook message before the rampage praising American mass murderer Elliot Rodger.

Rodger, 22, went on a killing spree in May 2014, in which he murdered six people and injured 14 others in Isla Vista, Calif. He then killed himself, but not before emailing a document and posting a video on YouTube explaining his rationale, including his desire to take "retribution" on women who he believed rejected him.

Rodger's message found a captive audience in a community of men known as "incels" who are "involuntarily celibate" and blame women for this, among other things.

There is nothing to suggest the Danforth shooter had any link to the incel community. But what we do know, said Michael Kaufman, the sole male member of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council and co-founder of the White Ribbon Campaign — a worldwide network engaging men to work to end violence against women — is that men who carry out such acts feel a sense of entitlement to take away the lives of others.

"Whatever his excuse or rationale, the way he justifies this act, whether it's his politics or individual hatred of women or something else, we see ... a man who feels that he can play God," said Kaufman, stressing that the overwhelming majority of men do not commit acts of physical or emotional violence.

He said this attitude stems from the way society tells boys from a young age that they need to be in control, to be the hero and never back down.

"We tell them that they will have all the answers, that they won't feel pain. But the world isn't like that. And so what happens is we set boys up for failure," said Kaufman. "When they can't live up to the armour-plated expectations of manhood, how do they prove to themselves and the world that they are real men? One solution in a minority of cases is to use violence."

Jooyoung Lee, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Toronto, says determining motivations for mass murders is a challenging task given that the reasons are varied and complex.

"There are layers of grievances or perceived grievances mixed with potential mental health history, mixed with access to firearms, mixed with both short-term and long-term traumatic experiences that kind of propel a person towards the rage that they feel before they commit a shooting like this," Lee said.

He added that those who have left manifestos, such as Rodger, the Columbine High School shooters Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, and the Virginia Tech shooter Seung-Hui Cho, provide some clues.

"Those manifestos at least allow us to peer inside the thought processes of these killers in the days, weeks and months leading up to the shooting, and you can see very much there is a sense that they're going to use violence as a way of taking revenge against a society or an institution or people in general who they feel as if they've been wronged by," said Lee.



# “Sorry to Bother You” Exposes the Danger of Bourgeois Integration

August 28, 2018

BY Nicholas Powers - Truthout

“Who uses a ‘white voice’ at work?” I asked my students at the college. The class was on Black Literature and nearly every Black, Latinx and Asian, raised their hands. Even a white male did too. We curiously eyed him as he turned and said, “It’s complicated.” Everyone laughed. An older Black man confessed, “I put it on extra thick, so when they come to the store, they’re shocked.”

Talking “white” is an old skill for people of color. It is part of a whiteface tradition that is a survival mechanism and a theme in Black Art. Whiteface is in slave narratives, comedy and has been updated by Hollywood in the films *Sorry to Bother You* and *BlackKKlansman*. Of the two, it is *Sorry to Bother You* (warning: spoilers ahead) that sets whiteface as part of a bourgeois, racial integration project that sacrificed working class solidarity in favor of tokenism. Integration widened the class divide in communities of color. The film heralds a socialist revolution led by a generation who know their real voices and can rebuild America.

## The Tradition of Whiteface

“Use your white voice,” Langston (played by Danny Glover) tells the new telemarketer, Cassius Green (a jittery Lakeith Stanfield) in an early scene from *Sorry to Bother You*. Langston points at his chest, “You have a white voice in there. You can use it ... it’s about sounding like you don’t have a care in the world. It’s what they wish they sounded like.”

Later, Green gives a toast at a bar with his white voice, hypnotizing everyone with the breezy carefree music of its privilege. At work, the voice boosts his career but at the cost of his real life. Green is faced with a question; can he use whiteness? Or will it use him?

Black culture has answered this question in three ways. One is using whiteface as camouflage to escape racial violence, as some runaway slaves did. Another is reverse minstrelsy, when people of color wear white makeup to mock racism. The last is passing, where people of color destroy themselves in order to become white.

In an 1860 memoir, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*, a former slave couple, William and Ellen Craft, explained how they used whiteness as camouflage. She was light-skinned. He was chestnut brown. She dressed as a plantation owner in pants and top hat. He dressed as her slave. They rode trains out of the South all the way North.

In the 20th century, we saw Black performers use whiteface to poke fun at racism. It goes from Bob Coles’s 1898 skit *A Trip to Coontown* to Jean Genet’s 1958 play *The Blacks* to Chappelle’s Show in 2003 and the Wayans brothers’ 2004 movie *White Chicks*. They dabbed on chalk-colored makeup as a way to mirror and ridicule white pretensions.

Beyond camouflage or comedy, whiteface was dangerous. Instead of using racism, one could be possessed by it. Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes warned in his essay *The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain* that Black artists must embrace their Blackness, not bleach it out to appeal to white America. Decades later, Malcolm X exhorted his audience, “You came from Africa black minded, now you’re white minded.... You’re not satisfied unless you can talk like white folks, eat like white folks.”

Black artists use whiteface to offer a powerful critique of white supremacy and internalized racism. These Black artists said to be careful of bourgeois, racial integration; it can deepen the divide in Black America. It can widen the split within one’s psyche. Whiteface, if worn too long, disfigures the person who wears it.

## Welcome to the Machine

*Sorry to Bother You* takes this Black Art tradition and adds a class analysis. Green at first uses whiteface in a tongue-in-cheek way to make money. He gets addicted to success and tries to “pass” not by looking white but passing into the white world. The film’s director, Boots Riley, is saying working class people of color use whiteness to get ahead. At the toxic extreme, some seek the closest proximity to whiteness they can achieve to experience as many of its benefits as possible.

The film’s scenes of dingy, telemarketer cubicles were taken from Riley’s life. They also reflect the working conditions of millennials. One of the largest generations in US history, they will surpass baby boomers in 2019. They also are one of the hardest hit, having graduated into the Great Recession; they lost years of earning only to face, decades from now, a collapsing Social Security and Medicare. Grinding through precarious work, day after day as baristas, waitresses, telemarketers, freelancers and Uber drivers — multiracial millennial workers look up and what do they see? Celebrities of color who become lighter the higher in class they go. Maybe it’s new white skin or a white zip code or a white hairstyle or white fashion.

What Hughes called “this urge within the race toward whiteness” begins in childhood. A 2010 episode of Anderson Cooper 360 recreated the 1950s doll test to measure anti-Black prejudice in children. One Black girl looked at her hand and said, “I don’t like the way brown looks ... it looks really nasty.” When that girl goes to school, she may be turned away because it could have rules against Black hairstyles. If she plays sports and her team goes to a white town, the crowd may yell racist slurs at her. Maybe she’ll see a video of one of her classmates making a racist prom proposal and cringe. By the time she’s graduated from the American machine, she may link whiteness to racism. She may also link it to beauty and professionalism. Racism creates a double reflex, sometimes subtle and sometimes vulgar, where one hates whiteness but also desires its privileges.

In *Sorry to Bother You*, we see this phenomenon in Green’s meeting with Steve Lift, the CEO of Worry Free, a company that offers slavery to desperate workers. At a party, Lift tells Green to rap since he assumes all Black people do. Green doesn’t like the racism but wants to fit in and yells, “Nigger shit.” The white partygoers roar in approval. His face contorts with rage, shame and also relief that he’s being accepted by them.

Sometimes, going from whiteface to passing is painfully visible. Dominican baseball player, Sammy Sosa became known for his bleached face. Rapper Lil’ Kim notoriously embarked on a quest for a “Barbie” look. Michael Jackson fried his hair, lightened his skin and had cosmetic surgeries. They are the visible ones, but below these celebrities, untold people in India, Africa, America and Asia slather on skin-lightening cream. Across the world, millions of consumers spend billions of dollars to look white.

On another, more subtle and insidious level, the double reflex of hating white racism but desiring its privileges deepens the class divide in Black America. The post Civil Rights era saw a ballooning Black middle class that became distant from the Black poor. In major cities, two worlds existed so that for every Baldwin Hills there is a Watts and for every Brownsville there is a Sag Harbor. Members of the Black middle class go to better schools, get better medical care and taste the American Dream. They also risk losing touch with the masses and fear being called Oreos — “Black on the outside, white on the inside.” The Black poor, meanwhile, can romanticize their own suffering and get played by corporate America to sell their pain via hip hop to mostly white audiences who enjoy a modern recycling of very old racist caricatures. In real life, they are often trapped within a cycle of intergenerational poverty whose revolving doors belong to the prison industrial complex.

The “urge toward whiteness” keeps the wheels of capitalism turning. Whether it is the Black middle class integrating into the mainstream or the Black poor exiled from it, people buy into this urge as the “good life” — except, maybe, radical millennial workers who are torn by the social strain and now are rebelling against this world. They are the first generation in the US since the Cold War who view socialism more favorably than capitalism. And it’s because they want their voices, bodies and futures back.

## Abandoning the White Voice

In the final scene in *Sorry to Bother You*, Green stares from a police van at a fiery street fight between protesters and cops. Flames throw light on angry faces. Debris floats. The van door is ripped off by protesters. They join together to overturn the call center where he worked and attack the Worry Free CEO in his home.

Riley’s over-the-top absurdity makes visible a generational shift. Bourgeois racial integration is dying. Rising in its place is a multiracial socialist America that is ready for change. Millennials and Generation Z are the first to reach maturity in a newly majority-minority nation. Climate change is going to wreak havoc on their world. America’s post-Cold-War superpower status is quickly evaporating as a fully multipolar world rises.

The question is, can they create a culture to seize the possibilities? Of course, racist millennials exist; a third are as anti-Black as any generation before it. The difference is that anti-capitalist radical millennials are building organizations, concepts and street-fighting skills. Seeing the struggle through an intersectional lens means Black Lives Matter joined the Fight for Fifteen and showed solidarity with Palestine. Antifa fought neo-Nazis in Berkeley. A Bronx Latina became one of the first socialists to win a Democratic primary. The #MeToo campaign exposed sexual violence in the halls of power. Transgender activists are more visible than any time in American history.

And yet, visibility isn’t enough. In *Sorry to Bother You*, Green finds out that Worry Free Corporation experiments on workers. He gets a video of disfigured men and women, takes it on live TV, and the political and business elite package it as a stunning scientific breakthrough. The audience cheers. He’s crestfallen. It’s left to the activists in the film to go beyond visibility and shut the institutions down. Again, the film is a funhouse mirror of the protests in the streets today.

In this ferment, a generation is finding itself. Less and less does it want to use its “white voice.” We are witnessing a youth struggling to name the chaotic reality around them. What they are discovering is how many languages they know and how it connects them to people on the other side of borders that the older generation built to keep their power safe.

I remember laughing with my students about their use of the “white voice.” Toward the end of that class, I asked them who knew a second language. Nearly all of them raised their hands. I asked them to talk to each other in it. “Doesn’t matter if you understand it, just talk and fill the room.”

A Puerto Rican woman began. Next, a West African man turned and talked in French with a Haitian. In the back, an Irish woman just began to recite Gaelic. More students joined, and languages from every land flowed into the room. Mandarin. Yiddish. Patois. It was loud. It was raucous. It was a kaleidoscope of sound, mixing and mixing.

We stopped. We were stunned at what we heard. “That was really beautiful,” the Puerto Rican woman said to everyone. “It’s like the world.”

Nicholas Powers

Nicholas Powers is the author of *The Ground Below Zero: 9/11 to Burning Man*, New Orleans to Darfur, Haiti to Occupy Wall Street, published by Upset Press. He is an associate professor of English at [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and has been writing for Truthout since 2011. His article, “Killing the Future: The Theft of Black Life” in the Truthout anthology *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect?* coalesces his years of reporting on police brutality.

# FAIR

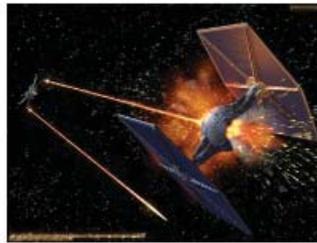
## Karl Grossman on Space Force, Evan Greer on Net Neutrality Cyber Fraud

AUGUST 24, 2018



### MP3 Link

This week on **CounterSpin**: A popular internet meme says, "I have a question about Space Force; when is Flint getting clean water?" But while social media reflect complaints that the Trump administration's plans to "address space as a developing war-fighting domain," as Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has it, will mean still more resources channeled away from social programs to Warmongering, Inc., that line of questioning has so far had little place in corporate media coverage.



We'll talk about the prospect of war in space with longtime FAIR associate Karl Grossman, journalism professor at [State University of New York/College at Old Westbury](#), and author of the books *Weapons in Space* and *The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet*, among others.



## Trump's Space Force: Military Profiteering's Final Frontier

by Harvey "Sluggo" Wasserman

JULY 20, 2018

America has this thing where it likes to change the slogans of social movements to The Commander-in-Chief, President Donald Trump, has announced a new mission into the realm of martial excess. It is one is that will surely enrich the aerospace industry while spreading the global battlefield to a new dimension.

Trump is calling for the creation of a new Space Force as a sixth branch of the U.S. military, to militarize the heavens.

"It is not enough to merely have an American presence in space," Trump told a meeting of the National Space Council in mid-June. "We must have American dominance in space."

To this end, the President has taken a page from Ronald Reagan's Star Wars play-book. Reagan's scheme, according to a recent article by Karl Grossman, was built around "nuclear reactors and plutonium systems on orbiting battle platforms providing the power for hypervelocity guns, particle beams and laser weapons."

The President has taken a page from Ronald Reagan's Star Wars playbook.

Grossman, a journalism professor at [State University of New York/College at Old Westbury](#) and author of the book *The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet*, has been reporting on the militarization of space for decades, says the move will likely spur a new international competition to weaponize space.

In an interview, Grossman told me that "the Russians and Chinese are hesitant because of the high cost. But if the Americans proceed with this, all bets are off. They're not going to sit for it. They're going to get up there before you know it."

"It will all be nuclear," Grossman adds. "It's the ultimate nightmare."

Trump's move contradicts the letter and spirit of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which was won after years of epic negotiations, mostly during the Vietnam War. The landmark United Nations accord brought the Soviet Union, China, the United States, and 120 other nations together in a monumental agreement to designate space as a global commons, reserved for peaceful purposes.

"States Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner," the treaty states.

"The Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used by all States Parties to the Treaty exclusively for peaceful purposes . . ."

"The Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used by all States Parties to the Treaty exclusively for peaceful purposes. The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military maneuvers on celestial bodies shall be forbidden."

Now Trump has instructed the Pentagon "to immediately begin the process necessary to establish a Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces; that is a big statement. We are going to have the Air Force and we are going to have the Space Force, separate but equal, it is going to be something."

The proposal for a Space Corps as part of the Air Force could likely pass in the House but faces tougher going in the Senate.

"There's a lot of resistance to this," says Grossman, "because a lot of the current work is located in Colorado Springs, and in Huntsville, Alabama. So there's geographical lobbying from the Pentagon because they thought a new Space Corps might be competition to some of the vested interest in those towns."

"It's hard to know how much this would cost," says Grossman. An article in *Roll Call* has estimated "\$500 billion or more in the coming decade."

"The real cost will depend on how greedy the aerospace companies are," Grossman says. "So much of space is now private business, with Elon Musk and Bezos and all kind of companies talking about making a buck out there."

Representative Trent Franks, Republican of Arizona, seems to agree, telling *Roll Call* that "a big payday is coming for programs aimed at developing weapons that can be deployed in space."

According to Franks, "It was a Democrat mindset that caused us to step back from space-based defense assets to ostensibly not 'weaponize space,' while our enemies proceeded to do just that, and now, we find ourselves in a grave deficit. In every area of warfare, within the Geneva Conventions, America should be second to none. That includes satellite warfare, if it's necessary. We cannot be victims of our own decency here."

The 1967 Outer Space Treaty was the result of worldwide recognition that war is incredibly costly in terms of lives and resources—and that more needed to be done.

"The U.S. led the effort to de-weaponize space in the wake of Sputnik," says Grossman. "I was told by Craig Eisendrath of the State Department that the U.S. feared the Soviet presence in space. As a model they used the Antarctic Treaty, which banned weapons down there."

"The heavens are going to be littered with radioactive debris."

Since the mid-1980s, key players at the United Nations have tried to expand the '67 accord. The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space Treaty, proposed in 1985, would have banned from space all weapons, nuclear and otherwise. Canada, Russia, and China pushed hard for its ratification. But no American president has been willing to sign it. The United Nations committee working on it was dissolved in 1994. In 2008, China and Russia submitted an updated draft to the U.N. General Assembly which the United States alone has continued to oppose (Israel has abstained). Even Putin, at their infamous Helsinki presser, chided Trump about it.

Now Trump is heading where no President since Reagan has gone before. "My new national strategy for space recognizes that space is a warfighting domain, just like the land, air, and sea," he says.

"Trump's plan, like Reagan's, involves laser beams, particle beams and hypervelocity guns, all of which will have to involve nuclear power," says Grossman. "If there's a shooting war it will be Chernobyls and Fukushimas in the sky. Some of it will come down, which will be catastrophic. And some will take millennia to fall, which means the heavens are going to be littered with radioactive debris."

As Grossman sees it, "Of all the many, many terrible things the Trump Administration is doing, opening space to war will be the most destructive."

But interaction among these groups has not been without conflict. At the beginning of the 20th century, West Indian Americans and African Americans held negative stereotypes of each other and rarely interacted socially. In the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s the children of some West Indian immigrants downplayed their ethnicity and attempted to integrate into the African American community, but both groups' images of each other changed slowly. Secretary Powell, in his autobiography, *"My American Journey"* (1995), recalls his African American father-in-law's reaction when he proposed marriage to his daughter Alma: "All my life I've tried to stay from those damn West Indians and now my daughter is going to marry one!"

The late 1960s, with its emphasis on racial solidarity and group identity, eroded much of the conflict between African Americans and West Indian Americans and supplanted it with Black Nationalist sentiments and identity. Since the 1990s, many West Indian Americans, who actually come from many racial/ethnic lineages—African, Chinese, East Indian, Portuguese, Amerindian for example—present multiple identity formations such as: West Indian, with a strong ethnic orientation; African American, with a focus on their racial identity; and West Indian American, with a more hybrid cultural identity as hyphenated Americans.

NEW YORK

## CARIBBEAT: Bikini Under the Bridge Swim Show's hot fashions fight cancer and raise awareness



By JARED MCCALLISTER JUL 15, 2018 | 4:00 AM |



### Activist Carlos Russell remembered

Carlos Russell — the influential long-time educator and activist who created Black Solidarity Day to highlight black economic power — died last week.

“We are sad to announce Brooklyn resident and Panamanian born activist Dr. Carlos E. Russell, founder of Black Solidarity Day, has passed at the age of 84 years old. Dr. Carlos Enrique Russell was a visionary activist, ambassador, historian, and literary artist,” read a Facebook post from the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College last week about Russell, who died in Brooklyn last Tuesday.

Born in Panama to parents from the Caribbean, Russell was a Renaissance man with a long list of accomplishments. He was heavily involved in the Caribbean and African-American communities in the U.S. as a valued political consultant and respected activist.

In 1969, Russell helped organize Black Solidarity Day — a holiday to show black America’s political and economic clout. Black Solidarity participants take part in a shopping boycott and don’t go to work on holiday, annually held the Monday before Election Day in November.

A longtime educator at Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn College, SUNY Old Westbury and other institutions, Russell was also a playwright, poet, author and once served as Panama’s ambassador to the United Nations.

# OUR TIME PRESS

*THE LOCAL PAPER WITH THE GLOBAL VIEW*

## WHAT'S GOING ON

By Victoria Horsford - July 28, 201

### NEWSMAKERS

RIP: Dr. Carlos Russell, 84, has passed. The Panamanian-born, Brooklyn-based trailblazer was an educator, historian, social justice advocate, community activist and ambassador. He began college studies in Panama before relocating to DePaul University in the US, where he earned advanced degrees. Panama Ambassador to the UN and to the OAS, Dr. Russell was a professor at **SUNY-Old Westbury**, Brooklyn College and BMCC. He was the founder of Black Solidarity Day, which calls for African-Americans to boycott school, work and white-owned businesses before US November elections.



## LONG ISLAND

A11

# A dream job on Fire Island

BY ELLEN YAN  
ellenyan@newsday.com

The blue skies, the water slapping the boat, the wooden walkways on the sliver of sand — former Long Islander Alexey Romero will never forget the moment, more than 25 years ago, when he first saw Fire Island National Seashore.

“I was mesmerized by the beauty of Fire Island, not knowing about Fire Island, even though I lived on Long Island,” said Romero, who once lived in Valley Stream and Long Beach. “I’ll never forget my first boss, looking at me as I started my career with the National Park Service. He said, ‘This is the life. This is what makes working for the national parks so great, managing these incredible resources.’”

Romero, 52, is the new superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore, a dream homecoming. After years of fantasizing about the National Park Service job, the 27-year veteran of the agency will take the helm Oct. 14, succeeding the retired Chris Soller. He is leaving the Washington, D.C., area, where he rose to become superintendent of two parks with iconic memorials, including the statue of World War II Marines planting the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima.

Not bad for a Brooklyn-born kid who was afraid of parks.

Like many urban kids, young Alex had never experienced the great outdoors, camping and wild animals in any deep way. As a grade schooler, he always skirted an urban park that was on his way to school because his parents had told him



Alexey Romero

DAVID L. FORBES

not to walk through it — he never knew why, so fear of the unknown in the park grew.

After graduating in environmental science at SUNY Old Westbury, Romero became a Nassau County public health sanitarian, inspecting food establishments. He then took a similar position at Gateway National Recreation Area in Jamaica Bay. There he oversaw health issues, from inspecting concessions to monitoring virus-carrying mosquitoes.

Over the years, Romero wanted to manage the nation’s natural resources — seeing places like Fire Island National Seashore as a sort of yoga, with its sunsets and its peace. He wanted to turn other “little Alexes” into private stewards of public lands. He encouraged schools to weave parks’ historic monuments into classroom lessons. He recognized that each visitor had his or her special con-

nection to a park, perhaps a certain seat or a jogging trail.

In 2010, he was promoted from deputy to superintendent of National Capitol Parks-East, which covers 15 park sites from Capitol Hill to the Maryland suburbs. A few years later, he was chosen as head of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Recently, as part of a multimillion-dollar rehabilitation of the Robert E. Lee Memorial in Virginia, he dove into the controversy over memorializing Confederate leaders by helping to set up a historian roundtable to discuss what new placards should say — basically the facts, including highlighting the general’s post-Civil War efforts to unite the country.

“Alex knows how to connect people to parks from historic communities and to inspire new audiences to find their park,” said Gay Vietzke, northeast regional director for the National Park Service.

These days Romero fears seeing what superstorm Sandy did to the barrier island. He says he knows he has a lot to learn, and he will take a low-key approach at first — listening to staff, reaching out to the community and catching up on what has happened since the park first wove itself into his dreams.

“Walking in flip-flops and having the sand between your toes, listening to the sound of waves, breathing in that salt air . . . I understand why parks are important,” the incoming superintendent said. “Those who are not familiar with it — I feel like that’s my job, to make that connection, so they can experience what I experience.”

## **GEICO Promotes Connor to Regional Vice President**

July 18, 2018 09:22 AM Eastern Daylight Time



**BUFFALO, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--**The GEICO Board of Directors has promoted Jeremy Connor to vice president of the company's regional office in Buffalo, New York, and claims office in Marlton, New Jersey.

Connor had served as assistant vice president of claims in Buffalo since 2016. He began his GEICO career in 1995 as a part-time claims information center associate at the company's Woodbury, New York, regional office. He then became a full-time claims service representative.

After progressing through all of the technical areas in liability claims, Connor was named a claims service representative supervisor and later a telephone claims representative supervisor at GEICO's Tucson, Arizona, office.

He next relocated to Buffalo to help establish its claims department and supervise telephone claims representatives. He later became a section manager. In 2007, Connor returned to Woodbury to manage planning and operations; he became regional liability director a year later. He was named director of personal injury protection for the region in 2010.

Connor was elected a GEICO officer in 2012, when he was named assistant vice president of claims at the Fredericksburg, Virginia, regional office. In 2014, he assumed that same title at GEICO's Lakeland, Florida, regional office.

Connor has a B.S. degree in finance from SUNY-Old Westbury and attended a management seminar program in 2008.



## Column: Waking from the nightmare

by Karl Grossman

Just three years ago, Lupita Gadeas was a student in my investigative reporting class at the [State University of New York/College at Old Westbury](#).

Following an internship at Adictivo, a TV program shot at studios in Hauppauge and Long Island City and aired on Telemundo, Lupita landed a job with Adictivo as a reporter.

In April, Lupita and two other journalists at Adictivo received an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

I was thinking of Lupita in recent days as the horror unfolded of more than 2,000 children being separated from their families who were seeking refuge in the United States, mostly from Central America, with many of the kids put in cages.

Lupita is from El Salvador. In 2008 she left the violence in her homeland for the promise of the United States. She is now, happily, a U.S. citizen.

She told me, proudly, on the phone last week of having just interviewed Nayib Bukele, a candidate for president of El Salvador, on a visit he made to Brentwood, historically a center for Latinos in Suffolk — Latinos are now in all parts of the county.

In addition to being an associate producer at Adictivo, Lupita is a banker at Chase Bank. She also worked at Chase while a student at Old Westbury.

Lupita's energy, as a student and today, is boundless. Since graduation, she told me, she's bought a house and gotten married to a young man from Guatemala.

"In the United States, you work hard and you can succeed," she said.

Watching the children in cages on TV was "heartbreaking," she said.

Lupita is an example of what immigrants now and since the founding of the United States have brought to this country. My late father used to say "hybrid vigor" was a key to how the U.S. won World War II against powerful enemies, how it built nearly 3,000 Liberty ships and 300,000 military aircraft, many of these on Long Island at the Grumman and Fairchild plants.

We overwhelmed the Nazis and Italian and Japanese fascists. Hybrids have great strength and the diversity of people in this nation have given it enormous strength.

Lupita doesn't want to go back to El Salvador. "Not even to visit," she said.

It isn't that she doesn't love her homeland. She told of interviewing Mr. Bukele, a former mayor of San Salvador, the nation's capital, and asking "what his plan is to help the country. He said he wanted to make El Salvador 'a better place so people would want to stay.'"

Crime in El Salvador is intense. "People are killed every hour, an average of 23 every day," Lupita said. The root cause: poverty and gangs and they connect. She told me about her aunt who works in a market two days a week and gets \$3 a day — "\$6 a week! You can't make ends meet on \$6 a week."

Poverty causes people to become gang members and "be pickpockets or get involved in the protection racket." And if you don't pay money for protection, "you or your children can get killed."

"You can get killed in El Salvador for \$20," said Lupita. If you want someone murdered, she said, you can go to a gang member and pay \$20. "It's a nightmare."

But she woke from the nightmare by getting out. She came to America with a Green Card because her father had come here earlier and became a U.S. citizen. Like many Latino newcomers, he has a landscaping business "and during the winter does snow removal," Lupita said.

I have many Latino students at SUNY Old Westbury. Indeed, the college in its now more than 50 years has been committed to diversity as a central part of the educational experience and it's proven by diversity on the student, faculty and administrative levels.

The story of Lupita isn't unique.

Newsday this month featured on the cover of its "Lilife" section a story headed: "Best in class. It's the first time East Hampton's valedictorian and salutatorian are both Latino."

It was about Nicolas Sigua Pintado, the valedictorian, and Christopher Gomez, the salutatorian, the top students in a class of 215 graduating from East Hampton High School this year.

"Sigua will be the first in his family to obtain a college degree and both will attend Ivy League institutions come fall — Sigua at Harvard University to major in political science and Gomez at Cornell University to study astronomy and physics."

The article quoted Adam Fine, the high school's principal, as saying: "These kids, whether Latino or not, are two of the best young men I've encountered in my career."

And, said the piece, "In addition to excelling academically, Gomez is senior class co-president and goal-keeper on the varsity soccer team. During his junior year, he traveled to Malawi with the BuildOn Club to help construct a school. Sigua is captain of the swim team ... and works during the summer as a lifeguard. This year he and students created a debate club."

"Sigua was born in East Hampton to parents who emigrated from Ecuador ... Gomez moved from Guatemala with his single mother when he was 7."

All these extraordinarily intelligent and highly active young people will bring great credit to the United States.



COURTESY PHOTO Lupita Gadeas



## Cowboy of the Week Tommy Ziegen

Posted: Thursday, June 28, 2018 10:24 am

By Matt Hagerman Sports Correspondent | 0 comments

“There’s not many mountains on Long Island,” o6 Cowboys shortstop and New York native Tommy Ziegen said after Monday’s win. “I’ve never seen desert like this. The furthest from home I’ve played prior to this was Florida, but I’m having a blast.”

Ziegen landed in West Texas after being released by another independent team in the Frontier League this spring. The 2017 [SUNY- Old Westbury](#) graduate has excelled for the Cowboys, starting almost every game at shortstop and primarily batting second in a talented lineup.

# It was always Cermeli's dream to wear blue

New 112th Precinct CO says he still loves chasing the bad guys himself

Posted: Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:30 am

by Christopher Barca, Editor

The NYPD is a family business in a number of ways, as many of the force's officers have siblings, parents and grandparents who also served.

But that isn't the case for Middle Village native Jonathan Cermeli, whose decorated grandfather and hero, Anthony, was a military man instead.

Even without that family influence that shepherds so many young adults toward the NYPD, however, protecting and serving were always the things a young Cermeli — now the newly promoted commanding officer of the 112th Precinct — wanted to do when he grew up.

"It has been a dream of mine all my life," the police captain said in a sitdown interview with the Chronicle at his office last Friday. "I just looked back at one of my yearbooks from eighth grade when I went to St. Margaret's in Middle Village and it says 'future occupation.' A lot of people put basketball player or baseball player, but I put police officer.

"It's cool that I'm living out my dream."

A Middle Village resident for more than 30 years, Cermeli so badly wanted to be a cop, he went through and passed the NYPD's vigorous testing process when he was just a 17-year-old student at Briarwood's Archbishop Molloy High School.

Applicants must be 21 or older to be hired, however, so Cermeli went off to college at **SUNY Old Westbury**, where he initially studied law.

"I know my family was worried about me being a police officer. They were kind of pushing me into criminal law," he said. "I thought I would have a knack for that, but after 9/11, my decision was made."

Cermeli was 20 when the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 killed nearly 3,000 people. And when he turned 21 in 2002, he officially cast his legal studies aside to join the NYPD.

"They called me right away and asked if I was still interested," he said. "There was no doubt in my mind. Yes, 100 percent."

After graduating from the Police Academy, Cermeli found himself assigned to the Midtown South Precinct, specifically to a patrol post in Times Square.

That position allowed Cermeli to experience the best of both worlds in policing — interacting with the countless tourists who visit the location on a daily basis and preventing potential terrorist plots aimed at Times Square in the months after Sept. 11.

And it was in that role where the captain discovered the leadership abilities he possessed and his love of simply chasing down the bad guy.

"Immediately, I realized I like doing speciality and plainclothes work," he said. "So I got into anti-crime and then pretty quickly I said, 'You know what, let me take the sergeant's test. I think I would be a good supervisor and I could help mentor new cops.'"

Not only did he take the test — just three years after joining the NYPD — he aced it.

Out of more than 620 people who took the exam along with him, Cermeli said he finished with the 20th-highest score.

And after waiting two more years — sergeants need a minimum of five years on the job — Cermeli was promoted on the fifth anniversary of his joining the NYPD.

"I really put in the time and effort to study for that. It was something I really wanted," he said. "So that was pretty cool."

His stint in Manhattan South would be the last time he served in a borough other than the one he was raised in, as Cermeli was soon transferred to the 105th Precinct in Queens Village to serve as the command's anti-crime sergeant.

Out of all the posts he's held and commands he's worked in, Cermeli said his five-year stint with the 105th Precinct was probably his favorite — that's where he found the perfect balance of being in a leadership position and still being out on the street chasing perpetrators himself.

"We took a lot of guns off the street, which was very rewarding," he said. "In those five years, we really did a great job in that area."

Asked about his most memorable arrest, Cermeli cited the bust of a man who had been allegedly selling guns out of his home.

In the early morning hours of April 5, 2013, he and other officers raided the residence of the supposed gang member and recovered a sawed-off shotgun, a Mac-10 machine pistol and eight other firearms.

But his many other less-shocking busts, whether they were of burglars caught in the act or assault suspects, never failed to give him that exhilarating rush of helping bring a criminal to justice.

"When you think about being a police officer, that's what you think about — vehicle pursuits and getting bad guys off the street," he said. "People breaking into houses and you get there and you're chasing them on foot and through backyards, that's why I wanted to be a police officer.

"I know my parents were always worried about me — fighting with a perpetrator, getting hurt, getting in car accidents. It was always something," he added, saying first responders once had to cut him out of a totaled police cruiser. "But if I was in the hospital, I always came back the next day because I didn't want to miss out on anything."

After his time in the 105th Precinct, Cermeli took and passed the lieutenant's test and was briefly



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER BARCA

A fast riser through the NYPD's ranks, 37-year-old Capt. Jonathan Cermeli was promoted to commanding officer of the 112th Precinct last month. He sat down with the Chronicle last Friday to discuss his career and his plans for the station and emphasize how much he still enjoys chasing down the bad guys himself.

assigned to the 114th Precinct before moving over to the 108th.

Two years ago, he took and passed the captain's test. Upon his promotion, he did his first stint in the 112th Precinct, serving as the executive officer under his eventual predecessor, Deputy Inspector Robert Ramos.

But it was his next assignment in the 109th Precinct under Inspector Judith Harrison — who herself preceded Ramos in the 112th — that Cermeli said was a career-changer.

"I learned so much. She was a mentor to me. She really took the time to help me out and explain to me about the executive rank," he said of Harrison. "I asked a million questions and she was always very helpful."

Upon leaving the Flushing command, he was sent to the 110th Precinct in Corona, where he served for two months before being promoted to commanding officer of the 112th Precinct last month.

Cermeli was very complimentary of Ramos, saying he left the Forest Hills-based command in great shape. But it's the arrival of the Neighborhood Coordination Officer program that has him believing crime rates in the precinct will continue to decline.

Part of that confidence stems from the officers picked to head up that program, like Sgt. Jerry LeClaire and Officer David Bleck — the latter of whom is a former Harbor Unit cop who once saved Cermeli from drowning in the East River while trying to save people struggling in the water.

"I remember Ramos saying, 'He's a good cop,'" Cermeli said. "Well, he's definitely a good cop. He saved my life."

The NCO program — which divides precincts into sectors, each with two officers whose sole job it is to patrol those districts to foster better cop-community relations — will be a major focus of Cermeli during his time in the precinct.

One way he wants to boost the perception of the police, he said, is to have his NCO cops visit neighborhood schools as often as possible. That way, children and teenagers at a young age can learn firsthand about the role of a cop instead of simply believing what they see in the movies, on television or in the media as they get older.

"I want to get more kids involved and give them an understanding of what we do. Growing up, I never had that," he said. "I want people to walk away with a positive perception of policing. There's a lot going on in the media, positive and negative, but I'm trying to let people know what we do is positive work."

"Kids are very impressionable," he added. "When they see a police officer come to them, it might change their ideas and their parents' ideas."

When the son of Community Board 5 member Bob Cermeli isn't on the job, he's home in Northport, LI — where he recently moved — either coaching his son's baseball team or watching his daughter's martial arts competitions.

"My family is my life," he said. "My son looks up to me as a police officer."

But even as he's gotten older and started a family, Cermeli still loves the thrill of the chase, finding any excuse to get out from behind his desk and jump in a cruiser.

"It's different now because I'm directing people to make arrests, but ... I don't just sit there and say, 'I hope my guys catch him,'" he said. "I'm never going to sit in the office when something major is going on. That's what I do best."

## Fighting and winning against US Psychological Cyber Warfare By Lauren Smith | Tortilla con Sal

Saturday, Aug 18, 2018

Social media and Google serve three strategic purposes for the United States government. First, they allow Washington to conduct espionage; second, they facilitate the spread of disinformation campaigns, and third, they serve as conduits for the transmission of social contagions. In deploying thought control against the users of social media and Google, the US government shapes and regulates voting outcomes and civil unrest. As such, social media and Google can best be understood as unconventional weapons (UW) for use in proxy wars to achieve regime change against non-compliant Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) governments, like currently, in Latin America, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

Through geopolitical manipulations to overcome opposition, the US government seeks to bring about the ruling elites' vision of a corporate controlled global economy without deploying troops. This "non-violent" or "soft-coup" model of unconventional warfare is organized through the efforts of US quasi Non Governmental Organizations like the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and others. Used in various so called Color Revolutions in Eastern European countries, the Middle East and now Latin America, the model's user-friendly packaging and features via social media and Google conceal their fundamentally military and security-oriented application. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), makes no secret of its advocacy of using social media to fight proxy wars.

At a minimum, NAM country governments should promote wide public awareness of that reality but also fight back by using commercially available software able to search, monitor, analyze and manage social media content. To counter US corporate and government manipulation of social media, NAM governments can and should integrate this software into their communications strategies. Concurrently, either unilaterally or together they should guard against cyber invasion by passing cyber laws with strong penalties as done by Germany with its groundbreaking Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG). NAM countries like the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) member states should perhaps follow Germany's example of robust laws and fines.

### Cambridge Analytica and Social Contagion

Two things are important so to understand the US governments offensive against unfavorable non aligned countries, first, the origin of Facebook and Google; and second, their collective influence over human motivation through coercion and the spread of social contagions through distorted reality. Facebook's influence can best be understood through the two scandals over Cambridge Analytica and the Social Contagion Study.

The Cambridge Analytica scandal revealed that Facebook exposed the personal data of 87 million users to a political consulting firm of which Trump adviser, Steve Bannon, was vice president and founder. They used personal data to influence Facebook users' votes in the 2016 US presidential election in favor of Trump. The main client of SCL, Cambridge Analytica's parent company, is NATO - as well as the defense departments of NATO member states. Another company involved in the scandal is Palantir whose chairman and founder, Peter Thiel, was a major contributor in Trump's presidential campaign. Palantir not only has numerous contracts with the US Intelligence Community and Department of Defense, but Thiel was Facebook's leading investor, remains on its board of directors and is also on the steering committee of the elite corporate strategy group Bilderberg.

Another scandal involving Facebook is the Social Contagion Study, in which, Facebook altered the news feed content of 700,000 unsuspecting users. The study controlled posts containing words with positive or negative charged emotions to spy on reactions. The team concluded its study by saying that emotions are spread via contagion through social networks. Facebook was publicly condemned for using Orwellian thought policing on its users. The DoD's Minerva

Research Initiative funded research by Cornell University for a similar study entitled "Modeling Discourse and Social Dynamics in Authoritarian Regimes". Cornell University also worked on a study funded through 2017 managed by the US Air Force Office of Scientific Research, which aimed to develop an empirical model of the dynamics of social movement mobilization and contagions. The project aimed to determine the "critical mass" (tipping point) of social contagions by studying their "digital traces".

### Facebook & Google origin and influence

The CIA has a non-profit venture capital corporation called In-Q-Tel (IQT). Top managers of IQT are founders or board members of Facebook. IQT is linked to Facebook through Palantir's Peter Thiel. In August of 2004, Thiel acquired a 10.2% stake in Facebook for \$500,000. The next two capital injections were \$12.7 million from Thiel and Accel Partners in May 2005 and then \$27.5 million from an Accel-led round of financing that included Thiel, Accel and Greylock Partners in April 2006. In 2012, Thiel sold the majority of his shares for over \$1 billion, but remains on Facebook's board of directors.

Google's founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin were both on the payroll of the National Science Foundation (NSF) while working on its Stanford Digital Library Project (SDLP). involved creating search algorithms to scan large quantities of data to find relationships. Funded by the US federal government, the NSF's mission statement includes intent to "secure the national defense". NSF has a longstanding relationship with the DoD's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Not only was Google's development nurtured by NSF/DARPA, but Google was also aided by the secretive Massive Digital Data Systems (MDDS) program, administered by private contractors for the CIA and NSA. In 2004 Google bought Keyhole from IQT. Keyhole's mapping technology software, EarthViewer, became Google Earth. Both IQT and Google funded the "threat intelligence" company Recorded Futures and have seats on its board.

Besides geographic and locational tracking, Google assists the US government in its efforts to write, and rewrite, history. According to its Google's transparency report, the US government has named 79,901 items for removal since 2009. In that same period, Venezuela named 10 items for removal, and Nicaragua just one. According to the authors, Olivia Solon and Sam Levin, Google's search and autocomplete algorithms prioritize sites with rightwing bias, and far-right groups trick it to boost propaganda and misinformation in search rankings. As explained by Robert Epstein, from the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology, Google has the power to rig elections through something he calls the search engine manipulation effect (SEME). Appearing on the first page of Google search results can give websites undue authority.

Besides taking proactive security measures, activists and non aligned countries can learn from the US government and control the technology posting supportive material on social media and Google. Most people using the Internet already know everything deviating from the prevailing imperialist narrative is automatically considered subversive and likely to get blocked. Social media mean our "friends" in the US government are watching, ready to control anything tactical we post on the Internet. One egregious example of that control is that Facebook has now removed Venezuela's teleSUR page twice [since restored with no meaningful explanation of the removal - prh, ed.]. But while the US government takes the lead in unconventional warfare technology, it also offers opportunities that can be exploited. What can't be appropriated can be protested. Their elaborate global surveillance system was devised because the ruling elite know they are outnumbered. Knowing that gives us power.

Lauren Smith, author of historical fiction, has a BA in Politics, Economics and Society from SUNY at Old Westbury and an MPA in International Development Administration from New York University. Her novel on Nicaragua's 1979 revolution is due out in 2019.



## Catherine Dorsa of Jericho Joins Syosset's Homes By Mara Realty

*Homes By Mara Realty of Syosset, NY is pleased to welcome Catherine Dorsa of Jericho, NY as its licensed salesperson*

By Allison Gayne, Patch Poster | Jul 12, 2018 2:34 pm ET



Syosset, NY/Jericho, NY; July 12, 2018 –Homes By Mara Realty of Syosset, NY is pleased to welcome Catherine Dorsa of Jericho, NY as its licensed salesperson. New to the residential real estate industry, Dorsa joins Homes By Mara while working as a licensed insurance specialist for life, health and disability with Premier Financial Network in Huntington Station NY. Prior to joining Homes By Mara, she was previously working as a realtor with Premier Realty Network, a sister affiliate to Premier Financial Network.

Dorsa, who has a Bachelor's Degree in Business from [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and an Associate of Arts Degree from Nassau Community College, says her experience and skills in insurance is a benefit to her focus in residential real estate. "There is a great correlation between my work in insurance and real estate," she explains. "Both involve responsibilities in meeting with clients, discussing their needs and finding a specific fit tailored to what they are looking for. Whether it's serving an insurance client, home buyer or home seller, I am always attentive to my clients' specific wants and needs and am dedicated to meeting their goals. While all my clients may be different with different goals, I make sure I deliver the utmost integrity to all my clients, which is a fiduciary rule in both real estate and insurance."

Beyond real estate and insurance, Dorsa has also worked in marketing, serving as marketing account executive of five years for Amsterdam Consulting in Jericho, NY. It was after this that she went on sabbatical to focus on raising her two children before getting licensed to work in the insurance industry and becoming a licensed insurance specialist with Premier Financial Network.

Homes By Mara Owner and President Mara Navaretta is happy to have Dorsa on her team. "Catherine's diverse experience in marketing, insurance and real estate provides her with a great understanding of customer needs, attention and service," explains Navaretta. "This triple perspective is a great complement to the hands-on, personalized quality representation we deliver to the many home buyers and sellers we work with, making Catherine a true asset to our operations and the clients we serve."

A Long Island native, Dorsa grew up in Syosset and graduated Syosset High School. She married her high school sweetheart, Anthony Dorsa, who also grew up in Syosset. They both live in Jericho today with their two children, five-year-old Caitlin and six-year-old Anthony, Jr. Beyond being a mother, wife, realtor and insurance specialist, Dorsa's hobbies and interests include singing and playing pool. She is also a captain of her billiards team within the American Pool Association of Long Island.

Homes By Mara is a boutique real estate agency spearheaded by licensed broker and real estate veteran Mara Navaretta. Featuring a team of highly-skilled and trained agents, Homes By Mara specializes in servicing North Shore's residential market on both the selling and buying sectors. Located at 30 Berry Hill Road in Syosset, NY, the agency offers convenience and a turn-key solution in accommodating all real estate needs by sharing its office space with the law firm, Navaretta & Howard LLP. Navaretta and Howard, LLP has a special focus in real estate law and provides counsel and representation for all Homes by Mara agents to assure the homeowner receives quick and accurate answers to legal questions that may arise in the course of today's real estate transaction. Also available is a concierge service that consists of recommendations for every trade associated with the real estate industry including movers and contractors. For more information about Homes By Mara, please call 516-364-2500 or visit [www.homesbymara.com](http://www.homesbymara.com).



## Spindle items

2018-07-04 / Editorial

ANNA DEROSA Associate Editor

• AN INTRO — After graduating from Williamsville South High School in 2007, I left the area to attend college near New York City.

I studied media and communications at SUNY Old Westbury, and then pursued a master's degree in publishing at Pace University.

I loved being able to meet professionals in the industry. But after eating vendor hot dogs for lunch every day and having a steady \$10 in my bank account, I moved back home and was able to finish my program online. Before graduating, I also landed an internship in Texas for a horse publication through the American Paint Horse Association. It offered me hands-on experience writing bylines and taking photographs in the field.

My path then led back to Williamsville, where I took my first job at Bee Group Newspapers as the Amherst Bee reporter.

While covering a musical story for the paper, I had the chance to revisit my high school and elementary school. I remember feeling nostalgic walking into the library and noticing how much I towered over the shelves.

For the past two years, I've been working as the Ken-Ton editor and now am returning to Amherst to fill the shoes of associate editor.

Since I grew up here, the people in the area have always been important to me. I'm excited to begin this journey and meet new faces.

Feel free to send me news or story ideas at [aderosa@beenews.com](mailto:aderosa@beenews.com). I'm looking forward to working with you.

