

Honoring Professional & Women in Business

*Featuring 17
Professional
& Business
Women
in Sullivan
County*



The nursing leaders of GHMC – Catskills

BY JOSEPH ABRAHAM

According to Suzanne Lange Ahmed, Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills (GHMC-C) Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services, GHMC-C nursing leaders understand that being a nurse is more than a career, it is a “calling” and, as such, it defines both their professional and personal lives.

“Their passion and dedication shapes their leadership style and helps them inspire staff to place the patient in the center of all we do,” she explained. “As leaders, their dedication to higher education, community involvement, and Nursing Governance position them to be

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Mary Kathryn Mooney, BSN, RN, Clinical Director of Critical Care and Dialysis; Emily Finelli, BSN, RN, Clinical Nurse Manager of Medical /Surgical and Telemetry; Ashley Miller, DNP, RN, Clinical Director of Medical /Surgical and Telemetry; Laura Northrup, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Nursing Administrator; Antonia Duncan, MSN, RN, Clinical Director of Obstetrics and Nursing Process Management; and Beth Ann Brodeur, BSN, RN, Clinical Director of Surgical Services and Sterile Processing.



Congratulations Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills Nurse Leaders.

Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills is proud that our Nursing Leadership team was recognized among *Sullivan County Democrat's* Professional Women & Women in Business for 2021. It's wonderful that their tireless dedication to keeping our community safe and healthy does not go unnoticed.



From left to right:

Mary Kathryn Mooney, BSN, RN
Clinical Director
Critical Care and Dialysis

Emily Finelli, BSN, RN
Clinical Nurse Manager
Medical /Surgical and
Telemetry

Ashley Miller, DNP, RN
Clinical Director
Medical/Surgical and
Telemetry

Laura Northrup, MSN, RN, NE-BC
Nursing Administrator

Antonia Duncan, MSN, RN
Clinical Director
Obstetrics and Nursing
Process Management

Beth Ann Brodeur, BSN, RN
Clinical Director
Surgical Services and
Sterile Processing

an invaluable resource to the nursing staff at large. They are motivated by helping others, healing, and seeing progress and advances in the medical field that can allow them to do what they do best.”

She added that as the sole community hospital, GHMC-C’s healthcare heroes, braved the battle – coming in each day not knowing what to expect or where exactly they would be working, with policies and protocols changing by the day, hour, and minute.

“They had to constantly find new and resourceful ways to do their work with limited time and supplies, and they did so without complaint and with unimaginable innovation,” she said. “Taking care of the community, which included their own loved ones, colleagues, and neighbors was their mission, and they did it with great dedication and empathy to all they served.”

Here are some of these exceptional nursing leaders!

Beth Ann Brodeur

Role during the pandemic: I just did my job. I had only been with GHMC-C for one week when the effects of the pandemic began to take a toll on operations and everything changed. During a time where the only thing you could count on seemed to be the fact that every new day brought new changes, the leadership team at Catskills banded together. We rolled up our sleeves and did whatever we needed to do to support the front-line staff and care for our patients, the community and each other. I am proud to be part of the excellent leadership team that put aside their individual needs and came together to navigate the ever changing landscape that has now become our “new normal”.

What motivates you each day? Nursing is my second career. When I was 43, I decided to leave a successful career in business and go back to school to become a registered nurse. I made that choice because I wanted to make a differ-

ence; I wanted what I did with my life to matter.

Today, 16 years later, the reasons behind that choice still motivates me every day. When I first started out I thought I would use my business background and my newly acquired medical knowledge to make huge sweeping changes to healthcare that would affect many. And then I accepted my first position as a pediatric emergency nurse in a busy NYC Emergency Department. I was humbled, and my focus quickly changed. I realized that it was the small things every day that made the difference for my patients and in turn for me. As a nurse we see so much pain and suffering and often times we cannot fix the whole problem. As much as we wish, and as hard as we try, we cannot always make everything “all better”. What we can always do, is care.

The same thing that motivated my choice then is what still motivates me each day here at Catskills. I want to care about what I do. I want to care for others and I want to end every day knowing that what

I did had a positive effect on someone else’s life.

What advice do you have to someone who wants to enter the medical field? Nursing is a very difficult but very rewarding profession. If you choose to pursue a career in nursing you will quickly realize it becomes more than just a career, it becomes part of your identity. You don’t stop being a nurse when you leave the building at the end of your shift. The best advice I can give to someone who wants to become a nurse is “never stop caring”. When it comes from the heart it will never stop driving you toward success.

Antonia Duncan

Role during the pandemic: I was redeployed from the obstetrical department to the emergency department to serve as one of two “COVID Champions” who began providing 24/7 on-site coordination and guiding staff. These “Captains COVID” also served as

CONTINUED ON 4W



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Women in Business

Honoring 17 women in a three-county region

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CONTINUED FROM 3W

Safety Officer at every Code and Rapid Response to serve as subject matter experts to maintain PPE discipline among the care team. I managed operations in a visible Command Post in the Emergency Department and fostered frequent multi-tiered huddles which promoted teamwork, safety, knowledge sharing, communication openness and staff well-being.

What motivates me each day? It is a privilege to work in our community hospital where each day I can see firsthand how the dedication of every employee helps to ensure our family, friends, and community members are receiving the highest quality healthcare.

Words of advice: If we have learned anything from healthcare in the past two years, it is that adaptability and teamwork can take us further than we ever thought possible.

Emily Finelli

Role during the pandemic:

During the pandemic, I, alongside my Nursing Director, Ashley Miller, performed a variety of roles to support our staff. I found out I was pregnant shortly before and healthcare began to change in these unprecedented times. With so much unknown in our industry and rapid changes to best practice recommendations, much of my time was spent educating and supporting staff. Everyone has their own story or fears related to the pandemic. I hope I was a source of comfort and support to my peers.

One of our largest endeavors during the pandemic was on a Sunday in April 2020 when we opened the ROAD Surge Unit. This area was formerly a BOCES classroom. Along with other nursing leaders and ancillary staff, we turned this classroom into a 12-bed medical-surgical Covid positive unit. I helped ensure this unit was staffed appropriately, stocked with necessary equipment and worked with others in the organization to facilitate patient and family communication with Zoom meetings and other technologies.

What motivates me to do what I

do every day? I am driven every day by the incredible work of our staff. Their perseverance and the way they go above and beyond for our patients propels me to be as supportive to their success as I can be. Nothing brings me more joy than having happy patients and staff that feel they are supported and can be their best.

What advice do I have for someone going into the medical field? Seek out learning experiences. You are in the driver's seat of your education.

Ashley Miller

Role during the pandemic: During the pandemic, I played a variety of roles to support our team. I worked closely with my fellow nursing colleagues on a daily basis to make sure we had appropriate staffing to care for our patients. My nurse manager, Emily Finelli and I set up and managed a COVID surge unit (It was called ROAD Surge) in addition to our medical-surgical/telemetry units (2 West is a 19-bed unit and 5 East is a 34-bed unit). The ROAD surge unit was a classroom used for BOCES students that we transformed into a 12 bay COVID unit.

I worked with the staff to relieve them for breaks, helped make sure the supplies were stocked so the nursing staff had the essentials for their patients, and stocked patient medications. I cannot thank my staff enough for all that they did during this pandemic. I am also thankful for all of the ancillary departments that stepped up and supported us during the pandemic.

This was a challenging time for many in healthcare with the constantly changing practices and the fear of the unknown. Each and every one of them stepped up and did what needed to be done to care for our patients.

What motivates me to do what I do every day? I am motivated each day to do what I do because of our patients and staff members. I enjoy leading a team of nurses and working together in varying ways to make sure our patients get the care they deserve.

Advice for someone entering the

medical field? Make sure you take the time to care for yourself. It is essential to have a work life balance. "You can't pour from an empty cup."

Mary Kathryn Mooney

Role during the pandemic: My role in the pandemic was no different than any other time. I supported staff and leadership (CCU and otherwise) by communicating every little bit of info I can to aid them in their patient care and in maintaining safety

- Dissemination of (COVID) education, and updates as they came through in the care of the critically ill (and for ourselves)
- Continued updates on pandemic policy and process changes
- Frequent rounds of staff - provide emotional support - particularly during high stress times
- Making sure they had the equipment and supplies needed- CCU/PACU/ ROAD
- Solicitation of staff ideas and research into how other facilities came up with solutions to new challenges (CCU and dialysis)
- Staff scheduling and rescheduling
- Recruitment of additional staff to meet higher demands
- Assisting with COVID and other patient transports
- Assist with patient care
- Being present
- Liaison between staff and higher leadership to raise awareness to and address challenges with problem solving
- Support leader peers and upper leadership - rotating schedules/ collaboration between units
- Communication, communication, communication
- Creative/out of the box thinking

Laura Northrup

Role during the pandemic: There was a true example of dedication coupled with spirits of encouragement in a climate of an unknown never experienced pandemic. The roles played during the pandemic were many and diverse by the nurs-

PLEASE SEE NURSING ON 13W



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Moreen Landfish-Lerner

FILE PHOTO

Moreen Landfish-Lerner



My name is Moreen Landfish-Lerner and I live in the Town of Bethel, my happy place. It's a place where I spent a lifetime of happy summers with my family and now reside as a full-time resident.

As a full-time resident, I work on activities to preserve the charm of Bethel, while encouraging managed economic growth. My goal is to integrate my commitment to the town and county with skills that include finance, marketing and operations.

I engage in my community as an activist, looking to create positive change for those around me. I continue to seek out positions to help advocate for others and have tried to demonstrate a sustained commitment to providing service to the public.

My business qualifications include more than 20 years of hands-on experience in strategic planning, project and product management for a Fortune 500 company, and some smaller start-up organizations. I first entered the work-

force in the 1970s. It was a volatile time as the new social movement took center stage. Looking back, my biggest challenges were competing in a man's world and learning to play by their rules.

Currently, I am working for the Town of Bethel, as Manager for the Bethel Local Development Corp (BLDC), a not-for-profit corporation formed to assist the Town of Bethel in promoting economic activity and job creation.

I hold a BA degree in Mass Communications and Urban Studies from Queens College and an Executive Certification in Credit and Financial Management from Dartmouth College.

Over the years, I have been involved in the community in many different ways. I've volunteered to work with a number of organizations and community initiatives; including the Kauneonga Lake Fire District, Bethel Business Association, Professional Advisory Committee,

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Karen Holden

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Karen Holden



Age: 47

Place of employment: Sullivan County Public Health Services

Current title and duties: Director of Patient Services, (Manages Certified Home Healthcare Agency, including Longterm Home Care program and Maternal Child Health) Supervisor of Epidemiology (Manages Communicable Disease, including, of course, Covid, TB, Rabies, STI, Lead, Immunization, Medical Reserve Corps, Emergency Preparedness.)

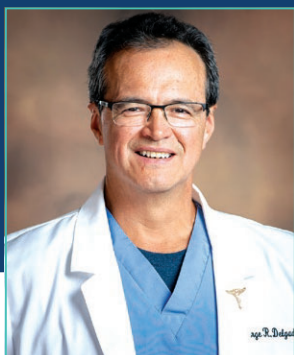
Years of experience: 25 years as a Registered Nurse.

Why did you choose this career? Simply, I wanted to help people and make a positive difference in the lives of those in my community.

Favorite part of your job: Any and all successes, which can be defined in so many different ways. Hearing from patients and their families how their lives have been improved by the care provided, and for me, it's always the best, but it can also be the positive outcome of a conversation. Seeing personal and professional growth in staff and being part of positive change at the agency and community.

Most challenging part of your job: Hmm, I do enjoy challenges! I would say that it is managing expectations, both my own and everyone I interact with.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer, or memory: There are so many, as I have been fortunate enough to work in a variety of



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nursing positions and with so many wonderful people. But the one that stands out is a young woman, a new mom, whom I cared for who was a victim of domestic violence. I had the opportunity to sit and talk with her for quite a while, offering support as well as an empathetic ear. She returned to the facility I was working in several months later for a different reason and had made many positive changes in her life. She took the time to seek me out and let me know that our conversation had changed her life for the better. It was incredibly impactful to me, and I did not doubt that my goal of making a positive difference had been achieved after that moment. Nursing is the Art of Caring, and I try not to lose sight of that amongst all of the changes and challenges we face in Healthcare.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Make certain this is your passion, and never stop learning!

Education: Bachelors of Science, Nursing

Professional certifications: Legal Nurse Consultant

Favorite movie: Shawshank Redemption-“get busy living or get busy dying”-need I say more? This pandemic has emphasized our need to take a deeply introspective look into how we want to spend our time living.

Favorite actor and/or actress: I don't really have one.

How do you spend your spare time: Besides time with my children-I am very devoted to self-care. The past two years have highlighted to me that the old adage “Put your own oxygen mask on first” is essential to living a healthy life. Most weekday mornings at 5:50 am, you can find me doing CrossFit with a great group of like-minded people; besides that, I enjoy running, yoga, mindful meditation, spending with my nose in a book and a dog on my lap, and both reading and writing poetry.

Favorite vacation spot: I am always happier at the beach, and though I do prefer the Caribbean and Gulf waters, any day that my toes are in the sand or surf is a great day for me.

Family: Very proud to be the mom/step-mom with four teenagers ages 14-19. They are the brightest lights in my life and my happiest personal moments are when my home is filled with their energy and presence.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: I have been inactive for a bit due to Covid, and also, work has kept me busy, so I don't want to take credit for anything I have not been active in for the past 18 months or so.

Dream job: Besides being a best-selling author? I am currently living it!

MOREEN LANDFISH-LERNER

FROM PAGE 5W

Common Ground/Health Equity, Drug Task Force, Hope Not Handcuffs, Bethel Council of the Arts, county and local political committee, Bethel Lakeside Music, Nourish your Neighbor, Kauneonga Lake Farmers Market and Bethel Healthy.

In addition to local involvement, one of my most purposeful volunteer activities was in Rabat, Morocco at Centre Lalla Meriem, working at the children's welfare center.

In all that I do, I try to build relationships based on genuine

engagement, real listening, and shared values. With humor, a humble demeanor, and a “let's roll up our sleeves” attitude, I provide an infectious tenacity upon others to tackle issues head-on.

I've viewed all of these traits as a gift. If I were to offer words of wisdom they would include teamwork, determination, perseverance, and most importantly trying to find a work-life balance.

When I am not working I enjoy spending time with friends and family, including my dog Layla, being outdoors and traveling to exotic places.

Dear Karen,

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We are very grateful to be your colleagues and friends!



Meagan K. Galligan

BY JOSEPH ABRAHAM

Age: 40

Place of employment: Sullivan County District Attorney

Current title and duties: As District Attorney, I am the chief law enforcement official of Sullivan County, responsible for the oversight and prosecution of criminal offenses throughout the County.

Years of experience: 13

Why did you choose this career? My family has deep roots in public service in Sullivan County. As a young lawyer, I found that doing my part to keep our community the kind of place

where people want to live, work and raise their families aligned well with the work of the District Attorney's Office.

Favorite part of your job: I enjoy working together with law enforcement across the County to do the right thing, bring closure to the victims of crime and improve the quality of life for our entire community.

Most challenging part of your job: There is never a dull moment in the DA's Office. Hard decisions and tough calls have to be made on the facts and the law.

Favorite on-the-job moment or memory: I have been fortunate to have many moments and memo-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sullivan County District Attorney Meagan K. Galligan

ries that remind me why this job is so important. One of those occurred after a child victim testified. Prior to her testimony, I told this witness that the only thing I needed from her was for her to tell the truth, because I took an oath to only present honest witnesses. After her testimony, she told me that my job was safe because she made sure every word she said was absolutely true. Securing a conviction and sentence of 32 years to life for the person who committed awful acts against this child was deeply meaningful both to that child and to me.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Prosecutors are the kind of lawyers who promise to do the right thing. This means showing up late at night, early in the morning, on holidays or whenever else a serious incident requires attention. We don't do this job for the money or the lifestyle. We do it because it needs to be done by lawyers with a serious and lasting commitment to justice.

Education: New York University, magna cum laude, 2003.

Georgetown University Law Center, 2006

Professional certifications: Member of the National District Attorney's Association, District Attorney's Association of the State of New York, Sullivan County Bar Association, and Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties

Favorite movie: I always stop channel-surfing when The Blind Side is on.

Favorite actor and/or actress: Rebel Wilson always makes me laugh.

How do you spend your spare time: I spend most of my non-work time with my family, which these days means a lot of sports games and school projects.

Favorite vacation spot: St. Martin, in the Caribbean.

Family: I have a large family in and around Forestburgh, with siblings and cousins throughout the State. My son is 13 years old.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: Board Member, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance

Dream job: I am lucky to have my dream job, serving Sullivan County as District Attorney.

Congratulations!

*Meaghan Mullally-Gorr, Marisa Heisler, Meagan Galligan,
Kristin Emmett, BJ Gettel, Karen Holden
& all of the Business and Professional Women*

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Kristin Emmett

BY ANTHONY MORGANO

Age: 39

Place of employment: Garden Creations

Current title and duties: Self-employed, owner.

Years of experience: 20

Why did you choose this career? I've always liked hands-on work, gardening and being outdoors. In college I loved propagation and design class.

Favorite part of your job: Seeing the outcome of a finished project and the client's gratitude for help in executing the job. I am grateful for all the relationships I have built with clients and other local businesses over the years and for everyone who has helped me out and believed in me.

Most challenging part of your job: Keeping up with the paper-

work and behind the scenes work.

Education: Associates Degree in Landscape Nursery Technology from Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport P.A.

Favorite singers: Miranda Lambert and Chris Stapleton.

How do you spend your spare time: I enjoy being home and working on my own gardens. I also enjoy tubing on the river in the summer and snowmobiling in the winter. I enjoy slowing down for a cup of coffee or glass of wine with friends and family. My two daughters Karleigh and Riley also keep me busy with all kinds of activities.

Favorite vacation spot: Karleigh, Riley and I visited Jackson, Wyoming this past August, and enjoyed every second of it. From horseback riding in the mountains to white water rafting,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kristin Emmett

watching a live rodeo, exploring the Teton Mountains and Yellowstone National Park. It was a beautiful and memorable vacation.

Dream job: If I wasn't doing this as a career, I would love to work in a greenhouse propagating and

growing plants. There is a garden at my parents' house full of plants that I took cuttings from in college and we propagated them in the greenhouse at the time, 20 years later and they are still in the front garden.

Congratulations Kristin Emmett!

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Meaghan Mullally-Gorr

STORY AND PHOTO
BY JOSEPH ABRAHAM



Meaghan Mullally-Gorr

community Health Champions and Sullivan Club 180 programs, and Coach to 5k. I am also responsible for researching and recommending action plans, and community partnerships, for new initiatives related to promoting health and wellness.

Years of experience: About 12 years

Why did you choose this career? It was a very happy accident. I have always been interested in physical fitness and that evolved into a more well-rounded interest of overall wellness. I became a personal trainer during my early years at The Center for Discovery where

leadership embraced the opportunity to offer staff wellness and the rest is history.

Favorite part of your job: The incredible people I meet, colleagues and community members alike.

Most challenging part of your job: I am an instant gratification person. I have patience but not when it comes to change.

Favorite on-the-job moment: There are many and they always revolve around community and human engagement.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Become an active community member through volunteerism, it will help to guide your interests, connect you with community champions, push you to become resourceful and bring to light your community's highest needs.

Education: BA from SUNY Binghamton.

Professional certifications: ACE Certified Personal Trainer, Cardio Kickboxing Instructor.

Favorite movie: Life is Beautiful

How do you spend your spare time: I love to be outside with family, doing something active, walking, running, kayaking, hiking... just moving in general.

Favorite vacation spot: I love to travel, especially to new places so no real favorite spot. I love it all.

Family: I am very lucky to have a large, close knit extended family. I've been married to my favorite human, Jim, for 16 years. We have three very kind and very entertaining children, Grace 15, Anna 14 and James 11.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: Lake Jeff Conservation Association

Dream job: My current job.

Congratulations Meaghan Mullally-Gorr



Your enthusiasm and winning attitude are inspiring a community to make healthy changes... one degree at a time!

We applaud you and all those being recognized as outstanding Business & Professional Women



*Meaghan,
you are an inspiration!*



Your enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism is helping to build a healthy community and empower a healthier generation.

We wish you many congratulations on your well-deserved recognition.

*We are proud of you!
Your friends at Sullivan 180*

Tanja McKerrell



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tanja McKerrell

Name: Tanja McKerrell
Age: 55
Place of employment: Jeff Bank, Jeffersonville Office.
Current title and duties: VP / Senior Loan Officer. In addition to assisting consumer and commercial borrowers my duties include overseeing the mortgage origination and servicing departments to ensure we are complying with all appropriate NYS laws and Federal regulations, helping train and act as a mentor for new loan officers and collaborate on strategic planning for the lending division as a member of the Senior Management Team.
Years of experience: 33
Why did you choose this career? I have to say I stumbled into my career in banking. I moved to Sullivan County in my early 20s and started a "temporary" job as a teller in the Eldred office of Jeff Bank. Working in a smaller branch, I was given the opportunity to learn duties beyond those of a traditional teller like lending and opening new accounts. Over time I was able to advance

to the position of Branch Manager and Loan Origination Manger until reaching my current position.
Favorite part of your job: My favorite part of the job is being able to solve a problem. Sometimes it's a customer who had their mortgage loan cancelled by another bank at the last minute, someone that is trying to finance a unique property or it may be a question from a new lender about a difficult application, it is always satisfying to be able to work through the issue and reach a favorable resolution.
Most challenging part of your job: I would have to say there are two areas of my job that are most challenging. The first is the never-ending regulatory requirements that face banks. It seems that as soon as you become comfortable with the current rules the regulators change things up again. The second, and often more difficult, is being unable to help a customer. Unfortunately, there are some situations where I am unable to accommodate a customer's request and there is often a difficult



Tanja McKerrell
Vice President
Senior Loan Officer

Congratulations

*to all the Business & Professional Women
and a special congratulations to our very
own Tanja McKerrell!*



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conversation when I must break the news.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: One of my favorite things is to have a mortgage customer call the bank years after their original closing, still be able to reach me and often I can recall the details of their transaction. Longevity with an employer is not as common as it once was, and I think the customers are often pleasantly surprised to be able to contact someone that is familiar with their account.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? I would encourage more people to investigate the different careers available in banking. Honestly, it was something I had never considered as a student but there are many different opportunities available. Banks employ accountants, IT professionals and credit analysts, just to name a few. What you see in a branch is only the beginning.

Education: Fairport High School and Rochester Institute of Technology. Graduated from the New England School of Financial Studies.

Professional certifications: N/A

Favorite movie: Goodfellas

Favorite actor and/or actress: I don't really have a favorite, but Leonardo DiCaprio is excellent in all his films

How do you spend your spare time: I enjoy walking my dogs, reading, and spending time with my family and friends.

Favorite vacation spot: My best vacation was a Mediterranean cruise. The history and architecture are amazing, the views are stunning, and the food was unbelievable. I would love to go back again.

Family: I have been married to my husband, Bill, for 32 years. We have 2 grown children, Bill and Andrea. We currently share our home with our 2 dogs, Peyton and Paisley, and recently added two cats, Casper and Stevie.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: I am the treasurer of the Lumberland Lions Club, treasurer and board member of the Port Jervis Soap Box Derby and a board member of the Town of Wallkill Boys and Girls Club.

Dream job: I would love to share my banking knowledge with others and be a loan trainer.

NURSING: Leaders of GHMC

CONTINUED FROM 4W

ing leadership team. Nursing leadership in the normal day-to-day operations requires a level of knowledge, dedication and calmness to ensure safe, quality patient care and promotion of a work environment that supports the direct care nurses for our patients. During the pandemic these role requirements were compounded as the often felt minute-by-minute changes of the needs of patients, staff, and the geography of the organization to identify specific care areas or remodel to further foster safety and provide care. The entire nursing leadership team worked diligently and tirelessly to fulfill all that was needed to support the mission and vision to provide exceptional nursing care.

What motivates me to do what I do each day? The commitment made nearly 30 years ago to use the skills, God given talents and education I have acquired to be that light of care and compassion to those

who are in need. As a nursing leader for the past 20 years, this care and compassion is focused on patients and their families. In my nursing leadership role I recognize that I have the opportunity to impact far more patients, families and direct care nurses' lives by being mindful of why I do what I do each day and through sharing of knowledge and experience. My prayer is to always stay humble to this calling.

Advice that I would give for someone entering the medical field today? Ensure that they understand the selfless spirit you must have to be in this field. I often say this to direct care nurses and to nursing students that I have the privilege of educating also "that whatever kind of day you are having, the day your patient in that bed is having is worse and to focus on that." The profession of nursing and being in healthcare is more rewarding than any other, and you must continue to celebrate the differences that you make each day.

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Bridget Smith

BY JOSEPH ABRAHAM



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bridget Smith

Age: 27

Place of employment: Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

Current title and duties: Marketing Manager. I work to raise awareness about our non-profit organization in all its wonderful facets: fundraising, festivals, concerts, programs, and of course, The Museum, throughout all of our organic channels – social media, website, press releases, email.

Years of experience: 6

Why did you choose this career? I'd like to think this career chose me! I started my job at

Bethel Woods as an intern in the development department when I graduated from college and just as that was about to conclude, a position in marketing opened up. Talk about timing!

Favorite part of your job: The people, easily. I feel so lucky that I get to work with the hardest working, most inspiring and dedicated group of individuals day in and out.

Most challenging part of your job: As you can see there's so much going on, and there truly just is not enough time in a day!

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: I think it's too easy to cite our Anniversary



Bridget Smith,

We thank you for your hard work and dedication. You are an inspiration to us all!

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*"You'll never do a whole lot unless you're brave enough to try."
-Dolly Parton*

BethelWoodsCenter.org

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit cultural organization that inspires, educates, and empowers individuals through the arts and humanities.

Weekend celebrations in 2019, even though that was such a magical time for us as an organization, a region, and in terms of music history. More recently, I had the pleasure of sitting in during a session of our summer program P.L.A.Y. Rock Camp and got to watch the young participants learn how to play instruments as individuals and as a group – many of them for the first time. It was really special to see the direct impact our nonprofit creates, especially knowing how important music is to so many and what kind of a difference it can make in someone's life.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Don't be afraid to ask questions! And don't be too self-critical if you make a mistake. Both are learning opportunities, whether they feel like it in the moment or not.

Education: I have a Bachelors in English and Creative Writing from SUNY New Paltz.

Favorite movie: Jaws. I had a deep obsession with sharks growing up and habitually watched this movie.

Favorite actor and/or actress: I'm a big fan of anything Aubrey Plaza does.

How do you spend your spare time: I'm an avid reader, writer, and collager (if that's even a word). I also have an expensive coffee habit and can usually be found doing a combination of those things while sitting in a coffee shop.

Favorite vacation spot: A couple years ago, a big group of friends and I ventured to Bar Harbor, Maine to enjoy the fall foliage and hike throughout Acadia National Park. I'd love to go back and explore more!

Family: I've got lots of it! I'm the fourth child of six (five girls and one boy).

Dream job: It's hard to imagine wanting to do anything other than what I do now.



Elizabeth Clancy-DiBartolo

going through.

Favorite movie: Too many to name.

How do you spend your spare time: Spare moments are spent with my family.

Favorite vacation spot: Anywhere, as long as I'm with my family.

Family: The love of my life, my husband Stephen, my three incredible sons, Derek, Christopher and Patrick, and my two adorable fur babies Pickles and Lily.

Dream job: I'd have to say I'm living it. I could not ask for anything that could fulfill me more.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Elizabeth Clancy-DiBartolo

BY ANTHONY MORGANO

Age: 48

Place of employment: Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Current title and duties: Program Coordinator for Sullivan Fresh. (Sullivan Fresh includes two programs.) The Sullivan Fresh Mobile Market, a mobile farmers market that has five locations throughout Sullivan County. The other program is the Community Cupboard, a mobile food pantry that delivers at least ten meals every week to each of our 500 neighbors.

Years of experience: 2

Why did you choose this career? I did not choose this career, you can say that it chose me.

Favorite part of your job: Getting to know, and truly care for, my customers at the farmers markets along with all the wonderful folks I've been blessed with getting to know through the Community Cupboard. I am blessed to be supported by my amazing volunteers, Barbara, Lynn, and Theresa.

Most challenging part of your job: The situations that you can't control. Folks that are experiencing misfortunes, financial trouble and illness. It's difficult to see another human being, a neighbor, going through tough times. I wish there was more I could do to help, but I'm grateful that our folks trust me enough to share their stories and let me into their lives. Another challenge is the weather, we are out there rain or shine and there have been storms, like Tropical Storm Mel, that destroyed our tents.

Favorite on-the-job moment or memory: For the Community Cupboard, it is all of the kids along the route that can't wait to see us. Their smiles make the day. For the Mobile Market, I enjoy swapping recipes with customers and sharing in their excitement for what's new each week at the market.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Be kind. Work hard and be kind to people because you never know what someone else might be

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sullivan County

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Congratulations
Elizabeth
Clancy-
DiBartolo

Sullivan Fresh
Program Coordinator



Your hard work, dedication to your community, and commitment doesn't go unnoticed. You are an inspiration to us all!

Rev. Shannon Dee Bailey



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Rev. Shannon Dee Bailey

Age: 49

Place of employment: Fremont Center Community Church and The United States Postal Service in Smallwood.

Current title and duties: Senior Pastor at Fremont Center Community Church and Non-Traditional Full Time Employee at the Smallwood Post Office.

Years of experience: I've been a Pastor for 27 years but only 3 years at my current position as Senior Pastor of Fremont Center Community Church. I was the Youth/Children's pastor at Harvest Church of Mount Vernon in Alexandria, Virginia, Youth and Children's Pastor at Lighthouse Assembly of God Church in Brookpark, Ohio, Children's Pastor at a Mennonite Church in Schwenksville, PA, Herrick Center Baptist Church in Herrick Center, PA, Starrucca Baptist Church in Thompson, PA Assistant Pastor and Women's Ministries Coordinator at Hankins Assembly of God in Hankins, NY, Senior Pastor at Rushing Wind Church Online in Mileses, NY. Over the years I've filled the Pulpits of Hellertown Assembly of God Church in Hellertown, PA, Cold Spring-Rileyville Presbyterian Church in Rileyville, PA, Jeffersonville First Presbyterian Church in Jeffersonville, NY, The Reformed Church in Youngsville, NY, Word of Life Church in Youngsville, NY, The North Branch United Methodist Church in North Branch, NY.

I started my career in the Fremont Center Post Office as the Postmaster Relief back in 1999. Then I transferred to the Callicoon Center Post Office as the Postmaster Relief. From there I transferred to the Kiamesha Lake Post Office as a Part-Time Flexible Clerk. I spent several years as an Officer In Charge of the following offices: Fremont Center, North Branch, Callicoon Center, Bethel, Barryville, Kiamesha Lake, and Hankins Post Offices. In 2017 I

transferred to the White Lake Post Office as a Part-Time Flexible Clerk.

From there I transferred to the Mongaup Valley post office as the Non-Traditional Full-Time Employee. And from there I transferred to my current position in Smallwood Post Office as a Non-Traditional Full-Time Employee. I have basically worked in every office in Sullivan County at one time or another as well as the New Paltz, Port Jervis and Roscoe post offices.

Why did you choose this career?

I chose being a pastor because as a twelve year old girl the Lord spoke to me clearly while visiting my grandmother in Mileses. God said, 'I am calling you to the town of Mileses and 50 miles out. I am calling you to love and speak to them as I lead.' And then he said, 'You are a Pastor, when the timing is right you'll know.'

I chose being a postal clerk because one day while living in Ohio I got a call letting me know the bad news that my mother had inoperable lung and throat cancer and had been given a very short time to live, and I needed to come to NY and get her affairs in order. I moved my husband and three small children to NY to figure out what to do. I went to mail something out of the Fremont Center Post Office and heard that the clerk who was working there had cancer, and there was a vacancy that needed to be filled. I took the job because it was close to home and part time. I thought I could be helpful in relieving the stress of the postmaster who was working 6 days a week and taking care of her aging mother and in desperate need of a break.

Favorite part of your job: As a Pastor, loving and serving people and as a postal employee, sorting the mail

Most challenging part of your job: Resting as needed

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: The post

office and church ministry collided for me in a single unforgettable moment in time. It was just another ordinary day at work when Rev. James O'Rourke walked into the Bethel Post Office one morning needing a stamp on his letter while I was filling in there. I didn't know him at all. And he didn't know me at all. When I looked down at the envelope I noted it had the title Rev. before his name and I wondered what Church he was Pastoring. But before I could ask him, he said to me, 'Do you think it's possible that a person can hear God?' And I thought to myself, 'Are you kidding me? Is this a joke?! What sort of pastor are you if you're asking me a question like that?!' And then I looked up at him and smiled and calmly said, 'Well I am no theological expert but I sure hope you know that it's not only possible, it's absolutely expected and essential that people hear God!'

He smiled and then he proceeded to ask me if my name was Shannon because God had sent him to the Bethel post office to find 'Shannon' and ask her to take over his church in Fremont Center.

And then he said, 'Does that make sense to you?' I looked at him strangely and said, 'Umm, well perhaps, my name does happen to be Shannon but why would God send you here to ask me (a complete stranger who works at the post office) to take over your church and where is your church anyway and why exactly do you need me to take it over?' And he said, 'hold that thought I'll be right back in a minute,' and he hobbled out of the office, jumped in his car and drove away. Little did I know his house was just around the corner on Perry Road and he was going to get some stuff to show me.

Easter Sunday was that weekend. He came back very quickly with the

organizational constitution and bylaws of Fremont Community Church and an old bulletin from a service there. He started sliding the bulletin face down on my counter as he began to tell me all about his church and why he needed me to come take it over. As the bulletin came across my counter, I read the names of the church officers on the back (many of them my neighbors in the town of Mileses) and I heard the voice of the Lord say, 'When the timing is right you'll know.'

Immediately I realized this would be the fulfillment of the prophetic word of God about the ministry He had called me to as a 12-year-old girl visiting my grandmother at her house in Mileses. The timing was right and I knew. About three weeks later after a Sunday morning service, Pastor Jim had a major stroke and could no longer read or write. God sent me there just in time.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? If you're entering the ministry then learn how to Love people, learn how to hear God and follow Him. He is trustworthy and so much smarter.

If you are entering the Postal Service remember to always love people and treat others the way you yourself would want to be treated.

Education: I graduated High School at Deposit Christian

Academy in June of 1990 while simultaneously taking four years of correspondence courses at Liberty University for Counseling and Pastoral Studies. Graduated from Valley Forge Christian College in Phoenixville, PA in May of 1994 with a Bachelors in Pastoral Ministries Biblical Studies with a major in Elementary Education, Psychology/Counseling.

Professional certifications: Barbizon School of Female Modeling, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Certified (CPR).

Favorite movie: War Room

Favorite actor and/or actress: My son Josiah

How do you spend your spare time: I enjoy encouraging people on Facebook, writing letters to friends and family around the world, sitting outside enjoying the sun, birds, butterflies and flowers in the summer, hanging out with friends, family and members of my congregation.

Favorite vacation spot: Niagara Falls, anywhere with a river, a waterfall, beautiful sunsets, beautiful trees and colorful flowers.

Family: I have two sons, Shawn Colin Bailey and Josiah David Bailey. My daughter Kiersten Joelle Bailey was born October 30, 1997 (Passed away by drowning in a pool while in the care of a babysitter and good family friend 8 days before her 2nd birthday in October of 1999).

My husband Rev. Shawn Colin Bailey Sr. We've been married since May 23, 1992.

My black cat Tibs.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: I have been the Secretary of the Upper Delaware Volunteer Ambulance Corp since 2009. I lead a women's ministry called "Friends of Esther Fellowship Ladies Night Out" which is a Christian Fellowship that meets monthly for dinner, scripture and networking, I am a current member of the Callicoon Kiwanis and a current member of the Callicoon Hospital Auxiliary.

Dream job: I am living my two dream jobs. Pastoring the people God sends my way and sorting people's mail. I love my life and what I do. I wouldn't change a thing!



The Ordination Ceremony of Shannon Dee Bailey at Fremont Center Community Church.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Kristen Pignatelli

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Kristen Pignatelli

BY PATRICIO ROBAYO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kristen Pignatelli

Age: 40

Place of employment: New Hope Community

Current title and duties: I am the Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement. In my role, I am responsible for oversight of the agency's Corporate Compliance Program and all functions of Quality Assurance and Improvement. I ensure the agency is in compliance with all regulatory requirements and that there are consistent systems in place within the organization that uphold the highest standard of care and services for the people supported in our programs. I oversee a team of dedicated professionals who are committed to the organization's mission and the department's goals.

Years of experience: I have been working in the human service field since the age of 18, with the past 15 years specifically providing services in some capacity to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. I am quickly approaching four years with New Hope Community.

Why did you choose this career? I know this is a total cliché, but I really feel like this career chose me. I applied to become a direct support professional on a whim as I was working on my bachelor's degree and felt the job and field lined up well with my area of study. The more experience and knowledge I gained, the more I gravitated towards the area of compliance and quality improvement.

Favorite part of your job: My favorite part of my job is when I have an opportunity to spend time and talk with the people we support in our programs. It is always a welcomed reminder of why we are all here doing what we do.

Most challenging part of your job: The most challenging part of my job is also what makes it most interesting and exciting. At NHC we have several state and federal oversight agencies, and we are required to be in compliance with all of their regulations and guidance. I am responsible for ensuring that this is done in an efficient and systemic manner with often a short time frame for implementation. Luckily we have great teams that really work together which makes my part much easier.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer, or memory: When you work in this field, there are a lot of "favorite" moments and memories, making it hard to pick just one. So...I'll go with my most recent. Prior to COVID one of the people we supported would spend some time in the evenings visiting staff. Once COVID hit, he could no longer do this, and I missed our evening visits. Just recently, I had a knock on my door. This happens quite frequently throughout the day so I didn't think anything of it. That knock was followed by this person popping his head in to say hi. I never smiled so big, and I could tell that he was smiling under his mask as well. Not only

did I get to see him again, but I felt elated that he was happy being able to visit everyone again.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Do everything with kindness and good intentions and even on your worse day smile and laugh. Success and advancement will follow.

Education: I received my Bachelors of Science in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, New York.

Professional certifications: I am currently working on obtaining my Certification in Healthcare Compliance.

Favorite movie: Hands down, my favorite movie is 12 Angry Men (the 1957 version). It really speaks to group processes and how dynamic and unique personalities can successfully come together for a common goal and outcome. It's a movie that can positively impact someone as a leader if they take the time to dissect the underlying themes and messages.

Favorite actor and/or actress: Steve Carell (cue the theme to The Office)

How do you spend your spare time: I most enjoy spending spare time with family and friends. I also

enjoy reading, baking, crafting, playing board and card games and doing puzzles.

Favorite vacation spot: I can't say I have one specific favorite spot. To me vacations are not about location but more about spending time with loved ones and exploring new places and activities.

Family: My fiancé and I will be getting married in December of this year, and I am honored to become a stepmom to his two children, ages 14 and 10.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: I am a 2020 Leadership Sullivan graduate and look forward to becoming more involved within the Sullivan County community.

Dream job: I am doing it! I truly love what I do and am proud to be able to do it as part of the New Hope Community team!



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Dr. Joyce Conroy

STORY AND PHOTO
BY ANTHONY MORGANO

Age: 80

Place of employment: Roscoe Free Library, Town of Rockland Historian

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Roscoe Free Library - we want to recognize *our Director* for her outstanding leadership and management.

The Library not only serves the community with book loans, books on tape, copy and fax service, and research resources – it is the hub of our community for local information. Pre-Covid it was a meeting place for local groups and activities.

Thank you
Dr. Joyce
for all you do.



Current title and duties: As the Library Director, I maintain a budget, supervise staff, order materials and write an annual report.

Years of experience: 14 years as Library Director.

Why did you choose this career? These different paths chose me. I started at the library because I like to read, Will Sipple chose me to take over as the Town Historian, and I have always liked history. I started volunteering for the ambulance because I was able to use my experience to help.

Favorite part of your job: Being able to read and recommend books to people at the library. As a historian, visiting historical places and learning something new. Being able to help my neighbors is my favorite part of being an EMT.

Most challenging part of your job: At the library, keeping up with technology and the new things that libraries are doing. As a historian, figuring out where to put things and how to disseminate the information before I forget it. As an EMT, it has been getting older and having a harder time getting up in the middle of the night.

Favorite on-the-job moment or memory: There are a lot of different things to choose from. One of them has to be giving a kid their



Dr. Joyce Conroy

first library card. I have also delivered children in the ambulance before. I guess any time that someone comes in the door and thanks me for helping.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? You have to love reading and books, and enjoy working with people. As an EMT, the advice would be to remember that you are part of a team when you go out in the ambulance.

Education: Associates degree in EMT, BS and MS in social work. PhD un Liberal Arts/Mental Health.

Professional certifications: NAEMT, ARL (Association of Rural Librarians), ARM (Association of

Rural Historians).

Favorite movie: Going Postal, Good Omens.

Favorite actor and/or actress: Robert Redford or Paul Neuman.

How do you spend your spare time: I preview new DVDs before I put them out in the library, and I read a lot as well.

Favorite vacation spot: New Jersey to see my sister and my son.

Family: My sister and my son.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: Roscoe-Rockland Volunteer Ambulance Company (RRVAC) for years.

Dream job: I used to be a Camp EMT. I would love to go back to working for Camp Homeward Bound.

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