



Volunteer
New York
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LOCAL LEADERS WITH **IMPACT**

A PANEL DISCUSSION

WITH LEADERSHIP WESTCHESTER ALUMNI

APRIL 18, 2024 8:30-10:30 AM

SPEAKER BIOS



Karen Cheeks-Lomax, Esq., CEO - Brownie & Co, and Former Chief Executive Officer of My Sisters' Place (LW 2013)

Karen Cheeks-Lomax, Esq. is the former Chief Executive Officer of My Sisters' Place, an organization that has worked since 1978 to end violence in intimate relationships and combat the effects of domestic violence and human trafficking on women, men, and children. During her leadership over the past 22 years, MSP has evolved from a grassroots task force and drop-in center into a cutting-edge leader and resource in the field of domestic violence advocacy, residential shelter, legal services, education, and prevention in New York State. Karen's legacy will continue to live on at MSP through her anti-racism work and having the Center for Legal Services named after her.

Karen has a long and rich history in providing legal services for survivors of domestic violence including a decade as Director of General Litigation at Harlem Legal Services in New York City. Prior to her work in Harlem, she served as an Assistant General Counsel with the Massachusetts Department of Social Services, and was an Assistant Attorney General in the Torts Division for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She is a graduate of the City College of New York, has a master's degree in criminal justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and received her JD Degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

Karen is a graduate of Leadership Westchester, Class of 2013. In 2012, she founded Brownie & Co, a virtual bakery specializing in delectable brownies and blondies, along with classic chocolate chip cookies.



**Rosemary Byrnes, Vice President, Patient Experience, WMCHealth
(LW 2019)**

Rosemary Byrnes is a mission-driven executive driving impact through her expertise in patient experience, philanthropy, external affairs, and employee engagement. Rosemary is currently Vice President, Patient Experience at Westchester Medical Center Health Network, a 10-hospital, 1,700-bed healthcare network. In this role, Rosemary transformed the network's patient advocacy and experience. She spearheaded some of the network's COVID-19 pandemic resiliency strategies, leading to hundreds of thousands of vaccinations, meals donated to frontline healthcare workers, and funds generated into the local economy.

Prior, Rosemary held multiple roles at the Citi Foundation, the philanthropic entity of the global bank Citi. Through grant making strategies and partnerships with non-profits providing college, career, and economic opportunities, Rosemary expanded the foundation's reach to hundreds of thousands of youth in low-income communities across the nation. Rosemary also led Citi's employee volunteerism, including launching Citi's Global Community Day, which has grown to over 100,000 participants around the world annually. She contributed to Citi's receiving the Points of Light Corporate Engagement Award of Excellence presented by President George H. W. Bush in 2007.

Rosemary brings her passion for service to deliver innovative programs that drive social impact. She has an established reputation for mobilizing diverse stakeholders around clear visions for impact. She is the Vice Chair of the VolunteerNY! board and a proud member of the Leadership Westchester Class of 2019. Rosemary has a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration and a Master of Arts in Counseling from Bowling Green State University. She has a Bachelor of Science in Applied Social Science from Binghamton University.



Rob Caluori, Chief Financial Officer, Westchester Library System (LW 2019)

Rob Caluori graduated from Leadership Westchester (LW) in 2019. Rob is currently the Chief Financial Officer at Westchester Library System where he has served in various roles over his 17 years of service to empower lives and communities by connecting people in Westchester County with the resources, services and programs available through WLS and the member libraries. He is also a Senior Adjunct Instructor at Mercy University.

Rob enjoys taking on volunteer leadership roles that embrace his mission of helping others build relationships so they can realize positive impacts in their lives and communities. As proud graduate of LW, he seeks out opportunities to help develop successful teams and mentor future leaders, while helping enhance community engagement and fostering youth development. Rob lives his mission through work as Little League volunteer where he is the Assistant District Administrator for NY District 20. In this role he serves the 12 central Westchester Little League programs to provide competitive opportunities for youth and mentorship for their coaches and league officials. He is also a Coach himself working with both baseball and softball players to build confidence and skills on and off the field through positive coaching.

Rob also realizes his mission through his work as the co-chair of the Leadership Westchester Alumni Association (LWAA) Events Team. Working with his friend and co-chair, Rob plans and executes events to bring LW alumni together to further their learning and connection to the program and each other.

Rob is a proud graduate of Mercy University where he earned his undergraduate degree, works as a Senior Adjunct Instructor, and serves on the STEM Advisory Board. He also holds Master of Science degrees from Pace University (Information Systems) and SUNY Albany (Information Science / Library Science), and an Advanced Certificate of Study from Long Island University (Library Administration). He is also a NYS Licensed Librarian and FCC Licensed Amateur Radio Operator. Rob lives in Greenburgh, with his wife and two children.



**Kristine A. Stallone, Senior Consultant at Stallone Consulting & BDO
(LW 2012)**

Kristine A. Stallone is a senior financial and operations executive with more than 25 years of domestic and international experience in the corporate, philanthropic, and nonprofit sectors. Kristine currently consults with several organizations around issues of fiscal management and operations.

As the former Vice President for Finance and Administration at American Jewish World Service (AJWS), Kristine was responsible for leading and overseeing the organization's finance, information technology, human resources, risk management, and administrative operations.

Prior to AJWS, Kristine served as the Chief Financial Officer at the Arcus Foundation. After starting her career in public accounting, Kristine went on to serve as Controller of the Americas and Global Functional teams for Bloomberg L.P. and as Assistant Controller at World Color Press.



**Reverend Dr. J. Loren Russell, President, The JLR Company
(LW 2003)**

James 'Loren' Russell was born in Harlem, New York, and raised in the Bronx, where he and his wife (Evelyn) of thirty-five years currently reside.

Loren established The JLR Company/J Loren Consulting, LLC to provide financial planning services in general, "Biblical Economics" services to the religious community, and motivational and developmental seminars and workshops.

Loren earned the Master of Divinity degree from Drew Theological Seminary and received an Honorary Doctor of Ministry from the Virginia University of Lynchburg. Loren's spiritual and civic commitment keeps him busy. He provided pastoral leadership to both LaGree Baptist Church and the Evangelical Church of God (ECOG) through the COVID pandemic. He continues leading the ECOG. He is the President of the John L. Scott Associate Ministers Auxiliary of the United Missionary Baptist Association, is the Commissioned Chief Chaplain with New York State Chaplains Workers Task Force, Inc. which he founded. The Metropolitan Chapter credentialed 67 chaplains in less than 1 year, with a current class of 25. He is a Clergy Liaison and President of the Precinct Community Council (42nd Pct.), as well as the Moderator for the Ceasefire Initiative for the NYPD.

Dr. Russell is President of the Home/Simpson Homeowners Association and a Board member of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI).

Rev. Dr. Russell is a 3-time President of the Yonkers-East Yonkers Rotary Club, NY, and currently serves, and is the first African American District Governor for District 7230.

He also writes a weekly called "Matters of Faith" that is published in five publications, hosts a weekly internet radio talk show called "Matters of Faith: The Radio Show" on Facebook LIVE, and authored and self-published Matters of Faith: The Book. As a young man, he was profiled in the book, Children of the Dream - The Psychology of Black Success by Audrey Edwards and Dr. Craig Polite.

Loren's favorite quote is by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. which epitomizes his philosophy on life. It states, "We must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools."





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In-Person • 2024

Local Leaders with Impact

PANEL DISCUSSION

What Motivates Leaders,
How Leaders Inspire Others &
What That Means For An
Engaged Community

Thursday, April 18

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

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