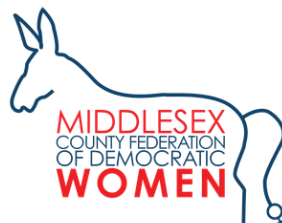




# *Hats On for Women*

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | Pines Manor, Edison

Presented by the Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women



[www.mcfdw.org](http://www.mcfdw.org)



# Mission



The Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women (MCFDW) is an organization created to inform, educate, and bring women and men closer together to ensure that Democratic Women are elected to and participate in all levels of government. Established in 2010, the Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women has been a pillar of political advocacy in New Jersey for over a decade. We were founded to ensure women had a seat at the table.

Since our inception, we have helped elect women across municipal, county, and state offices by building strong networks of mentorship, advocacy, and grassroots support. Through community engagement, we strive to foster new generations of women leaders while honoring the trailblazers who paved the way.

We hope you enjoy the program and continue to support the MCFDW. Funds raised through memberships, events, fundraisers, sponsorships, and donations directly support MCFDW operations and initiatives, including the election of candidates seeking office this November.

Thank you for joining us today as we come together to honor special women!

CONGRATULATIONS

# THANK YOU

*to*

MIDDLESEX COUNTY FEDERATION OF  
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

## CONGRATULATIONS

Blanquita B. Valenti Award Dorothy Giamboi

Spirit of Service Award Mary Porcello

# MCDO

MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

**KEVIN  
McCABE**  
Chairman

**BEATRICE  
MOSKOWITZ**  
Vice Chair

**RONALD  
RIOS**  
Commissioner Director

**SHANTI  
NARRA**  
Deputy Commissioner Director

**CLARY  
AZGONA-BARBER**  
County Commissioner

**CHARLES  
KENNY**  
County Commissioner

**LESLIE  
KOPPEL**  
County Commissioner

**CHANELLE  
SCOTT McCULLUM**  
County Commissioner

**CHARLES  
TOMARO**  
County Commissioner

**MILDRED  
SCOTT**  
County Sheriff

**NANCY  
PINKIN**  
County Clerk

**CLARIBEL  
CORTES**  
County Surrogate

Paid for by Middlesex County Democratic Organization, 266 Fernwood Ave, Edison NJ 08837

# MCFDW Community Awards

2026

## *Blanquita B. Valenti Honoree*



***Dorothy Giamboi***

**Dorothy** is a longtime Metuchen public servant whose steady commitment to her constituents has translated listening into action and partnerships into progress. As the borough's longest-serving Council member (2011–2025), she delivered tangible results—safer streets, enhanced senior programs, and a stronger local economy—guided by humility and accountability. An environmental leader since 2011, she chairs the Peter J. Barnes Wildlife Preserve Commission. Dorothy earned Sustainable Jersey's Sustainable Hero award in 2015. Her advocacy extended regionally, fostering cross-municipal cooperation on water resources, while her transparent, bipartisan leadership consistently put residents first. Dorothy embodies the spirit of the Blanquita B. Valenti Award through unwavering dedication and proven results for Metuchen.

# **MCFDW Community Awards**

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## ***Past Blanquita B. Valenti Honorees***



**Iris Rodriguez**  
2025



**Elaine Flynn**  
2024



**Zusette Dato**  
2023



**Beatrice Moskowitz**  
2022

Short bios of our past honorees are available online:  
[www.mcfdw.org/communityawards](http://www.mcfdw.org/communityawards)

# MCFDW Community Awards

2026

## *Spirit of Service Honoree*



**Mary Porcello**

**Mary Porcello** is a lifelong advocate for South Amboy and beyond, whose service spans disaster relief, affordable housing, and hunger relief.

As an Elder at the First Presbyterian Church and longtime Food Bank volunteer coordinator, she leads with compassion, guiding families to essential resources and supporting volunteers with unwavering dedication. Her work transforms crisis into stability, securing new food sources, repurposing a motel into affordable housing, helping establish a residential treatment facility, supporting the creation of an affordable church preschool and ensuring every family receives help. Mary's quiet, tireless leadership embodies the Spirit of Service Award.



# Guest Speaker



## *County Surrogate Claribel Cortes*

**Claribel Cortes** became the Middlesex County Surrogate on March 26, 2021. She is the first woman Surrogate and the first Latina Constitutional Officer in Middlesex County history.

A dedicated public servant before taking on the role of Surrogate for Middlesex County, Surrogate Cortes has served as a Councilperson and Communications Liaison for the North Brunswick Township Council since 2020. Since 2017, she has been vice-chair and a board member of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, which represents more than 119,000 Hispanic-owned businesses throughout the state. From 2017 to 2020, Surrogate Cortes was a member of the North Brunswick Township School Board, where she chaired the Board's Community Relations Committee. She is also a former member of the Board of Trustees for Middlesex College.

SENATOR PATRICK DIEGNAN, ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERT KARABINCHAK,  
ASSEMBLYMAN STERLEY STANLEY

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOREES

**DOROTHY GIAMBOI**

2026 BLANQUITA B. VALENTI RECIPIENT

**MARY PORCELLO**

2026 SPIRIT OF SERVICE RECIPIENT

Thank you for pouring your hearts into our communities.

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Hats off to the honorees and to the wonderful  
Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women!



Paid for by CTE Patrick Diegnan, P.O. Box 736, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; EPO Karabinchak for Assembly, 49 Voorhees Place, Metuchen, NJ 08840; and Stanley for Assembly, P.O. Box 895 East Brunswick, NJ 08850

Proud to support  
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC  
WOMEN



Senator  
Joseph F. Vitale

Assembly Speaker  
Craig J. Coughlin

Assemblywoman  
Yvonne Lopez

REPRESENTING THE 19TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

CARTERET • PERTH AMBOY • SOUTH AMBOY • SAYREVILLE • WOODBRIDGE

BEST WISHES TO ALL AT THE 2026  
HATS ON FOR WOMEN!

PAID FOR BY THE ELECTION FUND OF JOE VITALE, CRAIG COUGHLIN, YVONNE LOPEZ

# THANK YOU

MIDDLESEX COUNTY FEDERATION OF  
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

## CONGRATULATIONS

*Dorothy Giamboi*

*Blanquita B. Valenti Award*

**BRIAN  
TOBIN**

*Chairman*

**JONATHAN  
BUSCH**

*Mayor*

**JASON  
DELIA**

*Council President*

**BEATRICE  
MOSKOWITZ**

*Vice Chair*

**JOEL  
BRANCH**

*Council*

**LISA  
HYMAN**

*Council*

**JERRED  
COOK**

*Treasurer*

**VINITA  
JETHWANI**

*Council*

**TYLER  
KANDEL**

*Council*

**STEPHANIE  
MCALEARY**

*Recording Secretary*

**MEG  
LOFTUS SUCHAN**

*Council*



**METUCHEN  
DEMOCRATS**

# THANK YOU

# Mary Porcello

*for your service to the people of South Amboy*

---

FROM THE SOUTH AMBOY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

---

Mayor Fred Henry

Councilman Mickey Gross

Councilman Larry Lenahan

Councilman Thomas B. Reilly

*Councilman Anthony Conrad*

*Councilwoman Zusette Dato*

---

*For the Future of*

**SOUTH AMBOY**

---



# LOCAL LEADERSHIP MATTERS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS  
YEAR'S HONOREES FOR ALL  
YOUR LEADERSHIP ACROSS  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

**DOROTHY GIAMBOI  
&  
MARY PORCELLO**

**- ALL THE WOMEN RUNNING THIS ELECTION -**

## MAYOR BRAD COHEN

### MAYOR OF EAST BRUNSWICK

- **REVITALIZED** THE COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR
- KEPT MUNICIPAL TAXES **STABLE**

### PRACTICING DOCTOR

- **STOOD UP** TO INSURANCE COMPANIES
- PROTECTED **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**
- **ADVOCATED** FOR ACCESS TO **HEALTHCARE**



PAID FOR BY BRAD COHEN FOR MAYOR. 1 PINE MEADOW COURT, EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 08816.



**From the MCFDW**

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*With deep pride and admiration, the Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women celebrates the extraordinary honorees of Hats On for Women and all the exceptional women who continue to lead, serve, and enrich our communities.*

*Your strength, vision, and unwavering commitment to others embody the very spirit of this event. Through your leadership, you create meaningful change, open doors for future generations, and remind us all of the power of collective action and purpose-driven work.*

*We are honored to stand beside you in this work and to celebrate the impact you make each and every day. Your contributions do not go unnoticed, and your legacy continues to inspire.*

*With gratitude and appreciation,*

**MCFDW Executive Board**

**Monica Tarantino, Linda Massa, Erin Zirpolo & Quinnie Collins**

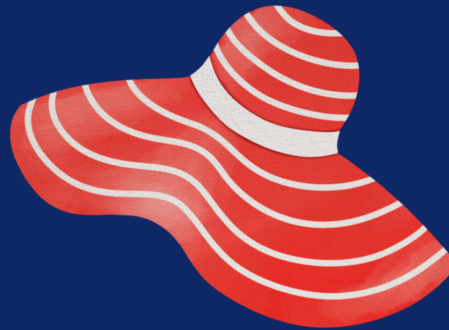


120 Ryders Ln, Milltown, NJ 08850

*We proudly celebrate Dorothy and Mary for their outstanding service and dedication to bettering our community! From all of us at Pasquale's, thank you!*

---

**Pasquale Parascandolo**



*Dorothy and Mary, it is wonderful to see you both recognized today. The dedication you bring to everything you do truly makes a difference. Your compassion, perseverance, and kindness inspire us all. Congratulations—you deserve this!*

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**Elaine Flynn**

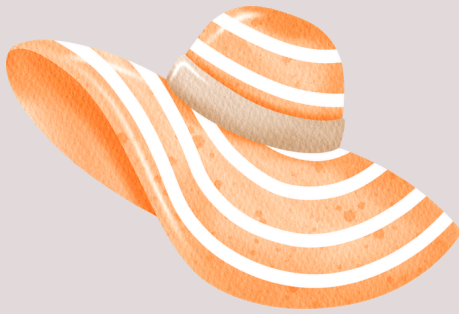


*Congratulations Mary on receiving the 1st Spirit of Service Award. Very well deserved! Thank you for all you do.*

*Congratulations Dorothy. We know the care, energy, and heart you bring to everything you do. You truly make a difference in so many lives. We love you.*

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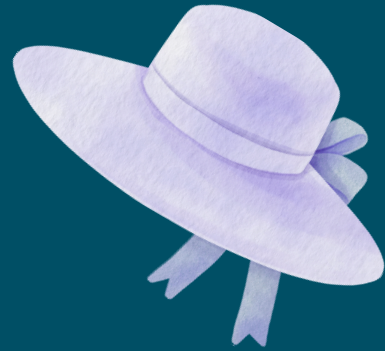
**Alex Giamboi, Roman Stefaniw & James Rasmussen  
Robert & Jennifer Giamboi & Grandkids Julian, Avery, Summer & Baby Rob  
James & Lauren Giamboi & Grandkids JJ, Nicky & McKenna  
Alex & Michele Giamboi and Grandkids AriaRose, Little Alex**



*Congratulations, Mary and Dorothy, on this well-deserved recognition. Your leadership and dedication inspire us all.*

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**Zusette Dato**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilwoman  
City of South Amboy



*Congratulations to Mary and Dorothy—two remarkable women whose leadership and service have strengthened our community.*

---

**Shanti Narra**  
Deputy Commissioner Director



*Congratulations, Mary and Dorothy! Thank you for all you do to make our community a better place.*

---

**Iris Rodriguez**  
Vice Chair  
Perth Amboy Democratic Org.



*Congratulations Dorothy! Your hard work and care for our community do not go unnoticed. We're proud to celebrate you today.*

---

**Amy Papi**  
Vice Chair  
East Brunswick Democratic Org.

# Messages of Appreciation

Congrats Dorothy and Mary (AKA District Office South) from your District 19 friends Laurie, Iris, Louisa, Ruth, Karen, Soranyelly, Amanda, and Krystal. Thank you both for your amazing contributions to our communities.

The Democrats from Concordia honor Dorothy Giamboi, recipient of the Blanquita B. Valenti Award, and Mary Porcello, recipient of the Spirit of Service Award. Thank you for all you do making the world a better place.

Congratulations Dorothy and Mary! Thank you for your service and dedication to the community. - Jill DeCaro, Old Bridge Democratic Committee Chair

Said simply! No other way to say it. Up front and atcha'! Monica Tarantino, you are amazing! Thank you for all you do!

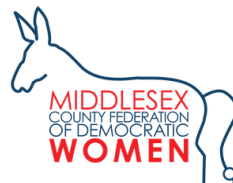


# Become An MCFDW Member!

- **A Seat at the Table:** Engage with local leaders and elected officials to keep issues affecting women front and center.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Build lasting connections with professional and grassroots women across the county.
- **Political Education:** Stay informed on key legislation and learn to advocate effectively.
- **Candidate Support:** Help recruit and elect Democratic women at every level, from School Board to Congress.
- **Community Impact:** Take part in initiatives that strengthen Middlesex County.

## Membership Dues \$25 per year

*Monies raised through memberships, events, fundraisers, sponsorships, and donations directly support MCFDW operations and initiatives, including the election of candidates seeking office this November.*



*For more information or to become a member today, visit: [www.mcfdw.org/membership](http://www.mcfdw.org/membership)*



# Thank You!

*Thank you for joining us today and for being part of this celebration! Your presence and support mean so much, and play a vital role in advancing the MCFDW mission. We are grateful for your commitment to uplifting and empowering women in our community, and we are honored to celebrate alongside you.*

*A special thank you to MCDO Vice Chair Beatrice Moskowitz and our exceptional guest speakers, sponsors, donors, and MCFDW members for making this incredible event possible!*

*With Gratitude,  
MCFDW Executive Board*



## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

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County Surrogate Claribel Cortes  
Senator Linda Greenstein

Commissioner Director Ron Rios

## **MCFDW HATS ON & WEBSITE COMMITTEES**

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Ellen Cleary  
Jill DeCaro  
Linda Massa  
Iris Rodriguez

Talia Akoh-Arrey  
Frank Masters  
Carol Singer  
Catherine Whitley

## **SPONSORS & DONORS**

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Ellen Cleary  
Mayor Brad Cohen  
Speaker Craig Coughlin  
Councilwoman Zusette Dato  
Jill DeCaro, Chair, Old Bridge  
Dem. Org.  
Democrats from Concordia  
Senator Patrick Diegnan  
Louisa Falk  
Elaine Flynn  
Alex Giamboi  
Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak  
Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez  
Linda Massa  
Metuchen Democrats

Middlesex County Dem. Org.  
Deputy Commissioner Director  
Shanti Narra  
Amy Papi, Vice Chair, East Brunswick  
Dem. Org.  
Pasquale's Brick Oven Pizza  
Iris Rodriguez, Vice Chair, Perth Amboy  
Dem. Org.  
John Ross  
Assemblyman Sterley Stanley  
South Amboy Dem. Org.  
Monica Tarantino  
Senator Joseph Vitale  
Council President Dana Zembicki