



WDN RESOURCE CENTER

# ANNUAL REPORT

aka Women's Diversity  
Network

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

# Annual Meeting Agenda

1:00 - 2:00pm

Networking

2:00 - 3:30pm

Lunch & Program

- Welcome by Board Chair
- Election of Board Members
- WDN Updates by Shanequa & Others
- Self Care Presentation

3:30 - 4:00pm

Best Wishes to  
Shanequa

4:00 - 5:00pm

Networking



## WOMEN'S DIVERSITY NETWORK

The Women's Diversity Network (WDN) aka WDN Resource Center connects and mobilizes women and gender-expansive people of different backgrounds to create positive change through unity and collective work.

The goals of the WDN are:

- Educating our communities around issues and policies that challenge our unity
- Advocating collectively to break down barriers for improved inclusion and advocacy for all
- Celebrating our diverse backgrounds

In order for us to realize these goals, the WDN engage in activities, create events, and promote actions that:

- Identify and provide services needed by women and their families
- Investigate and research issues of concern to women and their families
- Advocate for public policies at all levels of government that address women's issues

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO & FOUNDER



This year we all have faced one of the most challenging times in all of our lives. This pandemic has affected us, traumatized us, tested our resilience, and challenged us to stand up for justice. No one has gone unscathed. WDN had to pivot the way we ran our programs and hosted our summit. With all the pain and suffering, we were able to have success this year. Let's take a moment to recap:

## Leaders & Supporters

- We transformed our in-person meetings into virtual ones and were able to stay connected. From now on, we will continue to meet virtually and in-person every quarter.

## Health Equity Task Force

- We received a one-year grant to hire a project manager who helped keep the Task Force moving throughout the pandemic.
- We worked with Suffolk County Legislator Richberg to create a county-based Task Force focused on Maternal Mortality. WDN Leader Pia Alexander serves on the Task Force as a WDN rep.
- We have been working with Nassau County Legislator Bynoe to create a Maternal Mortality Review Board for Nassau County.
- Members of WDN's Task Force collaborated with 100 community organizations to hold two public forums. Collectively solutions were identified on how to hold hospital systems accountable to best practices for combating maternal mortality.
- Workshops for providers, health care communities, and the general public were held to educate them about the maternal mortality disparity.

## Trainings & Courses

- Monthly we held skill-building and awareness workshops and discussions about societal issues.

## Youth Justice Team

- Virtual meet and greets were conducted via Facebook to introduce people to this leadership team. They created and executed a workshop around mental health.
- A new program was created for youth to explore social justice.
- Finances
- We received several grants this year and were onboarded to coalitions. and our leaders & youth were honored for their work with WDN.

WDN is all about teamwork. None of these things could have been accomplished without each and everyone of you supporting the organization. You each are doing your part to make this world a better place and I am so thankful we are doing it together. Thank you for all you do for WDN. The sisterhood that we all share is priceless.

Love You All,  
*Shanequa Levin*





## AFFIRMATIONS

- I WILL BE AN UP-STANDER WHEN PEOPLE ARE BEING TREATED POORLY AROUND ME.
- I WILL GIVE MEMBERS THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT KNOWING THAT THEY ARE HERE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE.
- I TREAT PEOPLE EQUITABLY.
- I WILL ASK FOR HELP KNOWING THERE'S ENDLESS TALENT AROUND ME AND PEOPLE WHO KNOW MY SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS.
- I CHOOSE MY WORDS CAREFULLY AND DELIVER WITH EASE.
- I WON'T COMPARE MY BEHIND THE SCENES REEL, TO SOMEONE'S HIGHLIGHT REEL.
- I WILL LOOK AT OTHERS AS INSPIRATION, NOT COMPETITORS.
- I WILL KEEP MY EYE ON THE PRIZE NO MATTER HOW SWEATY I MIGHT GET OVER THE SMALL STUFF, KNOWING I SHOULDN'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF.
- MY PLAYING SMALL DOES NOT SERVE THE WORLD.
- I WILL ALLOW MY LIGHT TO SHINE AND IN DOING SO, WILL GIVE PERMISSION FOR OTHERS TO SHINE TOO.
- I DON'T NEED TO BE THE LOUDEST PERSON IN THE ROOM TO MAKE AN IMPACT.
- I WILL BE A BETTER LISTENER.
- I HAVE A LOT OF VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE, EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE RIGHT NOW.
- I AM IN FULL EXPRESSION NOW. I EXPRESS ALL PARTS OF MY TRUE SELF INTO THE WORLD, INCLUDING AND ESPECIALLY MY KINDNESS FOR OTHERS AND MY EMPATHY FOR HUMANITY.
- AS MY SPIRIT FEELS INCREASINGLY SAFE AND LOVED, I AM SEEKING OUT NEW ROLES FOR MYSELF, TO HELP OTHERS ALSO FEEL SAFER AND MORE LOVED THAN THEY USED TO.

# Get Involved!

INDIVIDUALS	ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS, & BUSINESSES	WDN SPONSORS
<p><b>WDN Leader:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free entry to trainings &amp; Summit. Listed as a Summit co-host.</li> <li>• Serves on the leadership team as: a trainer, justice leader, event planner, youth mentor, and/or engagement specialist.</li> <li>• Must be Interviewed to be accepted.</li> <li>• Must attend 8 out of 12 in-person meetings a year.</li> <li>• Must donate \$65 (Seniors &amp; Students \$40) Fee Waivers Available</li> </ul> <p><b>-OR-</b></p> <p><b>WDN Supporter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free entry into two trainings.</li> <li>• Option to serve on the leadership team.</li> <li>• Must be Interviewed to be accepted.</li> <li>• Must donate \$100.</li> </ul> <p><b>-OR-</b></p> <p><b>Youth Justice Leader (Ages 12-18):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Justice Leadership Program consists of the following modules: Social Justice Book Club, Responding to Social Justice Issues, Critical Race Theory, Leadership Discovery, and a Community Service Project.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Plan and Participate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed as a Summit co-host.</li> <li>• Organization or group highlighted at Summit, on the website, on social media, and the option to have a table at the Summit.</li> <li>• Must get a WDN Leader Membership (\$50) and have a representative fulfill those responsibilities.</li> <li>• Must send a minimum of 5 people to attend the summit.</li> </ul> <p><b>-OR-</b></p> <p><b>Pay and Participate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed as a Summit co-host.</li> <li>• Organization or group highlighted at Summit, on the website, on social media, and the option to have a table at the Summit.</li> <li>• Option to receive a WDN Leader Membership to gift to someone.</li> <li>• Must donate \$500 or more</li> <li>• Free Summit ticket per \$500.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Friends of WDN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronze Friend \$200 donation.</li> <li>• Silver Friend \$300 donation.</li> <li>• Gold Friend \$400 donation.</li> <li>• Platinum Friend \$500 donation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free admission into all trainings (Platinum Friend receives a free ticket to the Summit).</li> <li>• Acknowledged on our website, newsletter, and summit program as a contributor to the sustainability of WDN.</li> </ul> <p><b>For Event Sponsorships &amp; Donations See Our Website</b></p> <div> <p><b>-DISCLAIMER-</b></p> <p>The Women's Diversity Network reserves the right to reject or terminate anyone or entity if their actions or views do not align with our mission and goals. All donations are for one calendar year.</p> </div>



# Workshops and Courses



## How To Manage Bias

### **We All Have Our Biases, It's What We Do With It That Impacts People.**

Explore what we don't think we think; How bias is reinforced and why it matters; How we see bias in the world, and How to manage your own implicit bias.



## A.R.T. (Anti Racism Training)

### **Understand how bias and racism influences our thinking and our relationships with others.**

Explore historical events, terminology, examine privilege, bias, intersectionality, racism and anti-racism. Participants will gain the knowledge and tools to foster a respectful, inclusive, and equitable environment where everyone can thrive.



## The Language of Cultural Awareness

### **What you say and how you make people feel matters.**

This panel discussion will illuminate how everyday language and methods of communication can either cultivate strong healthy relationships or create an atmosphere of divisiveness and resentment.



## Combating Maternal Mortality

### **U.S.A. Has The Worst Rate Of Maternal Deaths In The Developed World.**

Black women are disproportionately dying due to pregnancy complications. In this training you'll discuss the why, learn best practices, and how to advocate for change.



## Facts About LGBTQIA +

### **Strengthen Your Gender Equitable Attitude.**

This training explains what all the letters mean; what personal pronouns are and how to use them; and how you can be supportive.

## What Sex Education In Schools Looks Like

### **A Way To Prevent Gender Violence.**

Examine what's already being taught and view the current bill that is calling for statewide standardized sex education program that provides all students with comprehensive sexuality education that is age-appropriate, medically accurate, comprehensive, and inclusive and respectful of all pupils regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.



# Wealth Equity Fellowship

## Cause, Consequence, Cure

### Cause →

Black women are paid the lowest when compared to their white counterparts.

### Consequence →

Black women are often the heads of their households and are forced to work more than one job to make ends meet.

### Cure →

WDN's Wealthy Equity Fellowship will allow Black women and gender expansive people the ability to gain exposure and sponsorship in industries that are hiring and paying more equitable wages.

## Client Journey

1

### CAREER

*Exposure*

2

### PERSONAL

*Branding*

3

### INDIVIDUALIZED

*Coaching*

5

### ONGOING

*Support*

4

### DEDICATED

*Mentor*





WOMEN'S DIVERSITY  
NETWORK

**Black Women and Black  
Gender Expansive People,  
what careers are you  
interested in pursuing?**

**Join Our Focus Group!**



**\$25.00 gift card given for participation!**



**30 Black People Needed!!**

**Reserve Your Spot Go To:**

<https://tinyurl.com/wefocusgroup>

**For More Information Email:**

**.Program Manager Tanika Steele**



**GET  
INVOLVED**



**Tanika  
Steele**

**Program Manager**

**Wealth Equity Fellowship**



Tanika is The Women's Diversity Network's new Program Manager for the Wealth Equity Fellowship. She Holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education English from SUNY Empire state college and a Master's in Public Administration and not for profit leadership from Walden University. She has over 28 years of experience working with at risk children and families from communities all over Suffolk and Nassau county.

Ms. Steele over the past decade has worked as a Childcare Director and Educational consultant creating professional development trainings and workshops for Public schools, preschools and head start programs all over the United States as well literacy workshops at public libraries for children and adults throughout Long island and Queens. Tanika is a published author and was featured in O magazine for her community work with Every Child's Dream foundation.

# Health Equity Task Force

Purpose: Create an environment made up of diverse, complementary organizations, agencies, clinicians and individuals, as one cohesive force that is supportive of positive health outcomes for Black women and other vulnerable populations on Long Island.

## Goals:

- Build and sustain a Health Equity (HE) Network that creates a sense of community and support that supports best practices that promote and increase positive health outcomes for Black people and other vulnerable populations.
- Increase awareness of disparities and HE in maternal health outcomes among professionals, students, and the community
- Support women and other vulnerable populations in demanding a better standard of care when accessing health services
- Create an advocacy platform that brings about policy change on the local level in regards to poor health outcomes for women, infants and other vulnerable populations
- Hold health systems accountable to abide by recommendations/best practices and to provide respectful care to all patients

## Workgroups

### Advocacy/Action

1. Survey mothers to get their stories about access to transportation and its impact on their healthcare.
2. Meet with lawmakers to advocate for the importance of transportation for pregnant people so that access to health-related services can be increased.

### Organizations

1. Collaborate with stakeholders to develop a list of local organizations that work with or service the maternal population, to ensure community members have access to all available resources.
2. Partner with other organizations to organize resource kits for pregnant people.

### Providers & Health Systems

1. Compile a list of ongoing trainings focused on implicit bias and cultural humility, and promote this resource to providers, stakeholders, and other service providers.
2. Research and analyze curriculum available regarding Maternal and Health Equity so in the future, we can work on having them taught on a larger scale.

### Community Education

Educate community members about issues relating to maternal mortality, implicit bias in healthcare, their rights, and health disparities through public service announcements, town halls, etc.

### Research

1. Identify effective evidence-based solutions that positively impact pregnant Long Island residents.
2. Conduct an environmental scan of bills designed to impact Maternal Mortality on Long Island with the purpose of gaining support from local lawmakers.

**Join The Task Force: [www.bit.ly/hetfworkgroups](http://www.bit.ly/hetfworkgroups)**



## A STRATEGY FOR CHANGE



Led by Jacob Dixon, CEO & Founder of Choice for All

Building an effective social movement can be difficult to navigate in Long Island, given its political and social dynamics. Through a facilitated conversation and interactive presentation, the core steps of movement building will be covered as an effective strategy towards action and real change to impact our region. Attendees will walk away with a toolkit of six best practices that can be applied to the issue.

## SAFE SPACE CONVERSATIONS

Private discussions between members of the Black, Asian, Latinx, Muslim, Jewish, and LGBTQIA communities.



This is a safe space for members of your community to have a private conversation about issues you face internally and externally.

After the breakout rooms end, each facilitator will share the collective concerns of your community to the larger group.

Featuring facilitators (left to right): Theresa Sanders, Saniya Kahn, Sarika Kumar, Biana Depena, Irina Petersen, Aaron Lopez



**WOMEN'S DIVERSITY NETWORK SUMMIT**



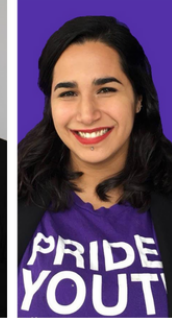
Get tickets at [www.womensdiversitynetwork.org](http://www.womensdiversitynetwork.org)

## THE GENDER SPECTRUM & HOW TO BE AN ALLY

This workshop will explain what personal pronouns are and how to use them. It will help you understand the gender spectrum and how you can be supportive.



Julie Grey-Owens



Maria Demauro



Jessica Potak

## IT'S OK TO NOT BE OK - YOUTH DISCUSS MENTAL HEALTH IN THE PANDEMIC AND BEYOND



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21ST**



Join the WDN Youth Justice Leadership Team as we discuss in a teens-only open forum the anxiety and stress we have gone through in the past year and beyond. What has been making you "not OK"? School, Social Injustice, Lack of Socialization, Missing Family & Friends, Losing Loved Ones, Parents Not Understanding? You are not alone. Let's come together with teens and mental health pros to find out.

## The People's Plan For Police Reform



SUSAN GOTTEHRER



Together, we'll discuss ways we are trying to collectively transform a public safety system rooted in violence and systemic racism into one that secures the liberation and healing of all members of our community.



## Destigmatizing Abortion



Lauren La Magna

Deena Hadhoud

Abortion stigma, as other reproductive stigmas, impacts our daily lives, whether or not we notice it. And all of us, whether intentional or not, have contributed to reproductive and abortion stigma. Join Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic to learn how to deconstruct abortion stigma in your everyday lives and communities.



[www.womensdiversitynetwork.org](http://www.womensdiversitynetwork.org) 7 PM, APRIL 19TH | 2021

Keynote Panel:

## CULTURAL TENSIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC

A Discussion With Asian, Muslim, Black, Latina, Transgender, Jewish, and Youth Community Members

April 19th, 2021  
at 7 pm Moderated by Nathalie Lilavois

Featuring (left to right): Rachel Hu, Farrah Mozawalla, Nia Adams, Lisa Equizabal Malachi Robinson, Emily Kaufman, Nathalie Lilavois, Myles Hollingsworth



**WOMEN'S DIVERSITY NETWORK SUMMIT**



## Restaurant Week

4/17/21 - 4/25/21



Show Your Receipt From The 2021 Annual Diversity Summit To Get Up To 25% Off Of Your Order

To Get Your Diversity Summit Ticket Go To: [www.womensdiversitynetwork.org](http://www.womensdiversitynetwork.org)



25% Off  
255 S. Broadway  
Hicksville, NY  
[www.shahkeen.com](http://www.shahkeen.com)  
(516) 581-2314



25% Off  
175 Bay Shore Rd.  
Deer Park, NY  
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(631) 654-9400



15% Off  
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[www.curryclubrestaurant.com](http://www.curryclubrestaurant.com)  
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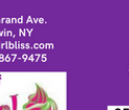
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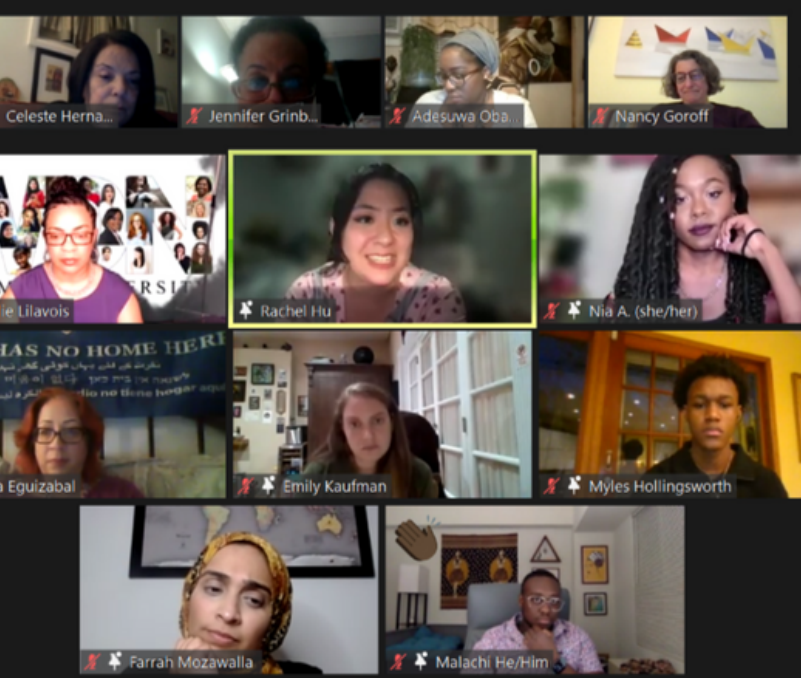


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**Wealth Equity Fellowship**

**WOMEN'S DIVERSITY NETWORK**

**WDN**  
WOMEN'S DIVERSITY NETWORK

**Responding to the Insurrection at the US Capitol**

AN INTERACTIVE CONVERSATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2021 7-9PM

"AMERICAN HISTORY IS LONGER, LARGER, MORE VARIOUS, MORE BEAUTIFUL, AND MORE TERRIBLE THAN ANYTHING ANYONE HAS EVER SAID ABOUT IT." ~ JAMES BALDWIN

CONVERSATION LED BY: JOSIE- A WDN SUPPORTER/TRAINER, EDUCATOR AND ANDREA, EDUCATOR

REGISTER AT:  
[WWW.WOMENS DIVERSITY NETWORK.ORG/EVENTS-1](http://WWW.WOMENS DIVERSITY NETWORK.ORG/EVENTS-1)

**WDN** The Women's Diversity Network Presents:  
**A COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION:**

**Spirituality vs Religion**  
Moderated By WDN Leaders:

**Vanessa Miller**

**Christine Keller**

Fri. August 14th, 7-9pm RSVP: [www.bit.ly/wdncc86](http://www.bit.ly/wdncc86)

**WDN** The Women's Diversity Network Presents:  
**A Conversation About:**

**SELF CARE FOR ACTIVISTS**  
Facilitated By WDN Friends:

**Dr. Rebecca Bonanno**

**Organizer Mimi Pierre Johnson**

Tuesday, July 21st, 7-8pm RSVP: [www.bit.ly/wdn721](http://www.bit.ly/wdn721)



*Virtual*

# 5th Annual Finding Balance Wellness Conference & Expo

"Meaningful Connections"

Sunday Dec. 6th, 10am-3pm

\*4 CE credits available for NYS Licensed Social Workers and Mental Health Counselors

Topics & Presenters:

*Morning Session*

1. Staying Connected to Ourselves  
Cindy Zabinski, LMHC, CRC, ACS
2. Staying Spiritually Connected  
Dr. Monica Bennett

-Break-

*Afternoon Session*

3. Staying Connected to Nature  
Manda Kalimian, Founder of CANA Foundation
4. Staying Connected to Community  
Aleisha Garvin, MSW and Donna Raphael MS  
The Women's Diversity Network

Workshops - Vendors - Raffles

Register by visiting:  
communitygrowthcenter.org/findingbalance

Questions? Call 631.240.3471 ext. 1




# JUNETEENTH

## 2ND ANNUAL MARCH + FESTIVAL

Sat., June 19, 2021

BLACK LEGACY PARTNERS, LLC

\*Register for the Festival at:  
<http://bit.ly/BLPJunteenth2021>

Cow Meadow Park, Freeport	1:30
Atlantic Ave + S. Main St. Corner	2:30
Cow Meadow Park, Freeport	3:15

more info: longislandunitymarch@gmail.com



## WOMENS DIVERSITY NETWORK ANNUAL SUMMIT

# How to Activate Your Courage

with Shanita Liu for this virtual session, where she will offer an expansive view of what courage can look like for each and every one of us beyond conventional opinions, and teach you how to leverage your inner resourcefulness to both access and activate courage from within.



Featuring Transformational Life Coach  
Shanita Liu, MPA, CPC

By the end of this, you'll not only strengthen your courage muscles, but you'll also have tools to keep your courage alive so that you can conquer any difficulties that try to disrupt your future flow.

Saturday, April 24th, 2021  
Get tickets at  
[www.womensdiversitynetwork.org](http://www.womensdiversitynetwork.org)



## Women's Diversity Network Annual Summit

# Warriors of Sunrise

## Shinnecock Nation



Led by Tela Troge

Hakame! This is an exclusive invitation to learn more about Shinnecock Legal History with Tela Troge, Esq., to get up to date on the current state of affairs in Shinnecock, and to ask any questions you may have. We will take action together on an issue currently facing the Nation. Learn about ways you can get involved in and connected to what is happening at Shinnecock.

Learn more about the Nation's work to protect the climate, water, the air, to preserve land to protect the natural environment for hunting and fishing, to Nation build, and engage in economic development to provide for the needs of the wider underse community.

Friday, April 22nd  
Get tickets at  
[womensdiversitynetwork.org](http://womensdiversitynetwork.org)



## WOMEN'S DIVERSITY NETWORK SUMMIT

# HOW TO RAISE A STRONG SMART BOLD GIRL

Led by Girls Inc. of Long Island, this workshop will discuss tips on how to support girls to become smart, bold, and resilient, and help them to navigate the issues they face on a daily basis.




APRIL 23RD, 2021

Daniel Flagler, Executive  
Girls Inc. Long Island

Get tickets at [www.womensdiversitynetwork.org](http://www.womensdiversitynetwork.org)







# Presents: The State of America

**An Interactive Discussion on**  
Maternal Mortality, Hyper Policing,  
Gender, Covid, Census, Elections & Advocacy

September 3, 2020 7pm - 9pm    RSVP AT: [www.bit.ly/wdnsoa93](http://www.bit.ly/wdnsoa93)




**Moderator**  
Vaniqua Levin  
Founder & CEO of the  
Women's Diversity  
Network



**Pia Alexander**  
Licensed  
Marriage & Family  
Therapist &  
WDN Leader



**Blair Baker**  
Protest Coordinator  
& Member of Li  
United to Transform  
Policing &  
Community Safety



**Juli Grey-Owens**  
Founder and ED  
of Gender  
Equality  
New York




**Dr. Alexea Gaffney**  
Infectious Disease  
Medicine




**Monique Powell**  
Census Partner  
Specialist &  
WDN Board  
Member-Elect




**Shoshana Hershkowitz**  
Founder of Suffolk  
Progressives




**Tracey Edwards**  
NAACP Regional Director



**Emily Kaufman**  
LINC Co-Founder




**Jackie Burbridge**  
LIBA Co-Founder



GAIN SKILLS TO BE A BETTER

# advocate for justice

Thursday 10/1/20 7:00 -9:00 pm  
RSVP at: [www.bit.ly/wdninjustice](http://www.bit.ly/wdninjustice)




**Erika Deans**




**Vincent Rodriguez**




**Farrah Mozawalla**



**Sarika Kumar**



**Vanessa Miller**



**Vincent Rodriguez**



## Training: How to Manage Bias



**Training Led By  
Vanessa Miller**

- Exploring what we don't think we think;
- How bias is reinforced and why it matters;
- How we see bias in the world;
- Looking at implicit bias in action;
- Exploring the language of implicit bias; and
- How to manage your own implicit bias.

**3 and 6 Hour Trainings Available**

Vanessa Miller is CTO (Chief Training Officer) for Change Trainers. She currently facilitates and designs professional development training for corporations, non-profit organizations, community colleges and New York City public schools.




**Impactful Workshops, Cultural Entertainment,  
Diversity Restaurant Week**  
Monday 4/19 - Friday 4/23 (7:00-9:30pm)  
Saturday 4/24 (10:00am-12:30pm)



# Long Island Virtual Maternal Mortality Forums

In New York, Black women are at risk of dying from maternal mortality **3 times more** than White women.



Together  
Let's Address This  
Disparity.



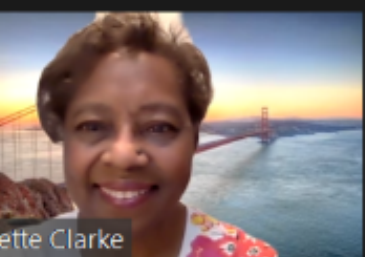
**Goal:** Collectively work to identify and develop strategies to reduce disparities in maternal health and ways to hold health systems accountable for meeting best practice standards for all.

## Date/Time:

Nassau County, May 15th 10am-12:30pm  
Suffolk County, June 12th 10am-12:30pm



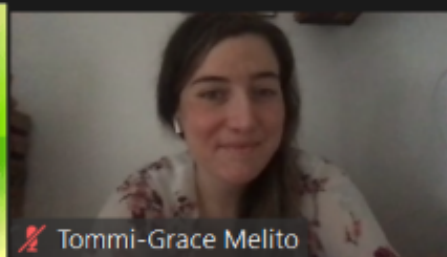
## CO-HOSTS



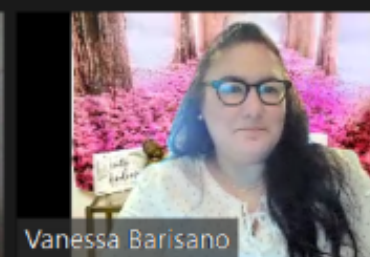
Lette Clarke



Womens Diversity Net...



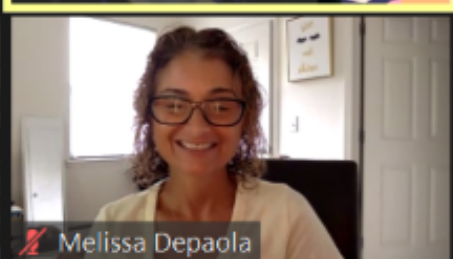
Tommi-Grace Melito



Vanessa Barisano



Lesuwa Watson (S...)



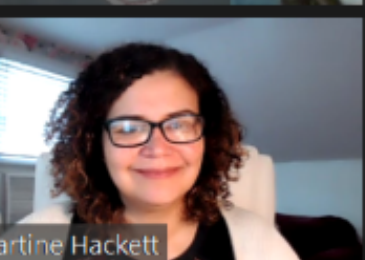
Melissa Depaola



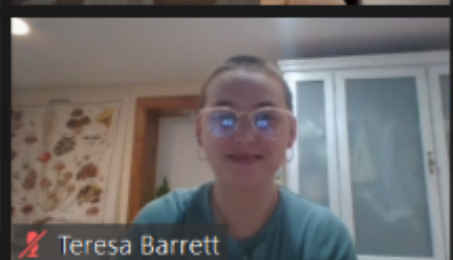
Sophie Mohnot (sh...)



Kerry Spooner



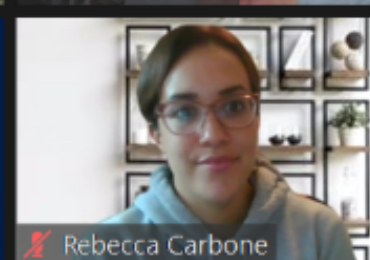
Martine Hackett



Teresa Barrett



Ana Figueroa



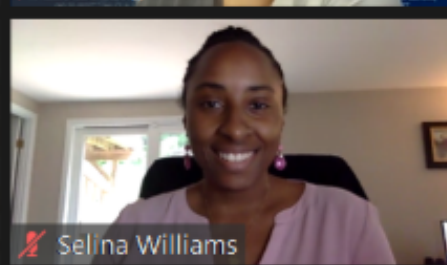
Rebecca Carbone



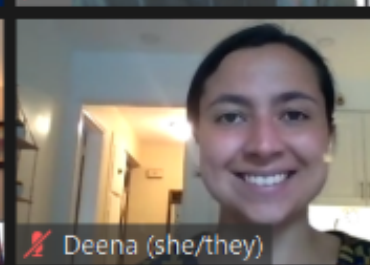
Birdre Gundy M.D....



Melissa Cintellus (s...)



Selina Williams



Deena (she/they)



# WDN IN THE NEWS

## LONG ISLAND

### \* Examining maternal mortality

Suffolk task force will focus on women of color

BY RACHEL REIMER

The Suffolk County Legislature Tuesday night approved the formation of a maternal mortality task force to examine why so many women, especially Black women, die from pregnancy, childbirth and labor complications.

The 15-person task force will recommend ways to reduce deaths and disparities for women of color as Long Island's maternal death rate exceeds the national average, and Black women in New York are three times more likely to die. The legislation passed unanimously.

"The terrible reality is the majority of deaths of African-American women are preventable," said Huguette Clarke, a member of the Women's Diversity Network. "This is a disgrace and must change."



Marlene Hockett, a Hofstra University professor, researches maternal and infant mortality.

On Long Island, 18 women died from pregnancy and labor complications between 2014 and 2016, according to the most recent state data available. That's more deaths than in the mid-Hudson region, which includes Westchester, which had nearly the same number of deaths but only eight women died.

Long Island's maternal mortality rate is 30 per 100,000 live births, just below the state average of 34.

Norfolk's rate is 25, and Suffolk's is 14.5. The death rate is even worse for Black women, regardless of their income or education level, even here.

In New York State, the Black maternal mortality rate was 34 per 100,000 live births, compared to 15 for white women for 2014 to 2016, according to

the most recently available state data. In New York City, Black women are 12 times more likely to die than white women. Legis Jason Richberg (D-Westchester) said he proposed the task force after seeing the mortality and morbidity statistics, which "brought home" the experience of friends and family who had labor complications. "There are real people behind these numbers," Richberg said.

Black women are more likely to suffer conditions that lead to maternal mortality, including worse health care access and chronic health conditions exacerbated by "toxic stress" from historical racism, said Marlene Hockett, a Hofstra University professor who researches maternal and infant mortality.

"They are also more likely to face medical racism, including the false belief that people of different races have biological differences and that Black women experience less pain," Hockett said.

"I hear from Black women all the time they've experienced racism, disrespect, implicit bias and microaggression from their doctors," said Shaniqua Levin, founder of the Women's Diversity Network, which launched its own infant and maternal mortality task force earlier this year. "They say to one another to doubt or believe them when they say something is wrong."

Long Island's own history plays a role in the disparities, too, Hockett said. "Racial residential segregation is a key factor" in disparate health outcomes, "which is why I would argue you see this in particular in a place like Long Island," Hockett said. Advocates said improving birth preparedness training more medical work on implicit bias.

## BRENTWOOD

### \* Alliance encourages voting

Get-out-the-vote effort will focus on minorities

BY OLIVIA WINGLOW



Advocate Shaniqua Levin

Several Long Island community advocates announced Thursday they are working together in a get-out-the-vote campaign targeting 80,000 Blacks, Latinos and immigrants through phone calls and texting with an urgent message: "Vote matters."

On the eve of this Friday's deadline for New Yorkers to register to vote, several speakers gathered outside of the Brentwood office of Make the Road New York, an advocacy group for immigrants and working-class communities, urging New Yorkers to vote, and to vote early. Early voting in New York begins Oct. 24 and ends Nov. 1, while Election Day is Nov. 3.

They also urged Long Islanders to not just cast ballots for the president, but for those

seeking congressional, state and local offices.

Those elected to office "are the people that are going to make decisions that affect our lives," said Shaniqua Levin, founder and chief executive of the Women's Diversity Network on Long Island. "You need to put people in office that align with your values."

"This is a time that it matters. We're not just voting for a president."

Edmar Serrano, field coordinator for the Long Island Civic Engagement Table, said of the get-out-the-vote campaign: "This is our effort to make sure our local residents on Long Island have the information that they need to vote safely and easily this year."

Serrano issued the election season comes during the COVID-19 pandemic that "has disproportionately harmed immigrants and Black communities. And at the same time we are seeing a national movement for Black lives and for racial justice and equity."

For us this is an opportunity to make sure that all community members on Long Island, including the ones that are most affected by the coronavirus and racial injustice — make our voices heard loud and clear at all levels of government."

The community groups involved in the campaign are Make the Road New York, Long Island Civic Engagement Table and New York Communities in Charge and Women's Diversity Network.

Edmar Serrano, field coordinator for the Long Island Civic Engagement Table, said in a statement: "With immigrants and working-class communities under attack, we are more committed than ever to make sure our people have a voice in their community and country."

Serrano said "dozens" of community members have been enlisted to contact voters via phone calls or texting. And as Election Day grows closer, he added, "We expect to get dozens more."

Peggy Perkins of Hempstead, a community leader for New York Communities in Charge, said on the sidelines in this election: "We are here to encourage our community, our family and our friends to go out and vote."

"2020 is an important year for our community to get involved and vote," she said. Perkins added: Black, brown and immigrant communities "have been disproportionately impacted by COVID, loss of jobs and housing. And it is time that these issues of concern for our communities are addressed."

## TOP STORIES

### Beaches, protests popular on Fourth

L.I.ers celebrate nation's founding and its future

In car parades, crowded parks and continued protests, Long Islanders found new ways to celebrate the country's founding 244 years ago and to commemorate the nation's future amid ongoing demonstrations that demand racial equality.

At Fourth of July celebrations were canceled or scaled back this year, some parade organizers reformatted the annual event to continue a tradition. Meanwhile, Black Lives Matter protesters marched on in New York City and on Long Island, challenging others to reconsider the holiday's meaning and calling for independence for all. Some in the city called for the holiday to be canceled altogether.

#### Protests continue

Shaniqua Levin, founder of the Women's Diversity Network and one of about 80 protesters in Hempstead, said she couldn't "be here and celebrate today." "We, when any people are being oppressed, when we're being beat over and over again," said Levin, 48, of Hempstead. "This is not our Independence Day! Flow can not celebrate today, knowing that we're not truly all free!"

Marlene Hockett of North Hempstead, an event organizer, said holding the protest on the fourth of July was particularly important.

"People have to know and be made aware that our supposed freedom was built on the backs of Black and brown people, stolen from their lands and forcibly brought to be enslaved in a stolen land," said Hockett.

Charlotte Forrester, 31, said it's hard to celebrate a day meant to represent freedom in an area as "highly segregated as Long Island."

"The racism here is so deeply rooted. The history of racism



Tractors and other vehicles parade down Port Jefferson's Main Street Saturday. © Video: newsday.com

The story was reported by Brandon Zula, David Calabrese, Catherine Corcoran, Matthew Chappas and The Associated Press. It was written by J.A.

on Long Island is so long and so dark," said Forrester, of East Meadow. "It's time to break that illusion of white suburban security. It's time for change."

With paintbrushes in hand, about six protesters knelt on patches of grass alongside the building's parking lot and wrote "we honor Black Lives" in red and blue paint and other mottos in support of the Black Lives Matter movement on a 25-foot-long banner.

Alex Sigales, 25, of Coram, was painting a colorful portrait of Bligh McClain, a 29-year-old man killed by police in Calverton, alongside the words "Say His Name" on it.

"Being here today is not just about honoring the lives that have been lost but to support the Black people in our communities who are still living," she said.

A group of speakers shared impassioned spoken-word poetry, songs, and speeches. "The darker you are, the more your cry will be ignored," intoned



A few friends get physical under the rays at Jones Beach.

one. Another shouted "Uplift the Fourth of July!" The group, which dwindled to about 30, marched to Suffolk County's Fourth Precinct just a few minutes away. There, they knelt in silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds — the amount of time Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin's knee was on George Floyd's neck, resulting in Floyd's death on May 25.

Car parades and more

In Port Jefferson, spectators dressed in patriotic clothing

wowed American flags in motorcycles and trucks went by during a vehicle parade.

Among them was Joe MacCollino of East Setauket, who said he had marched in the parade for 35 years as a volunteer fireman.

"This is the first year that I'm actually sitting in the parade watching. And it makes me very angry that we are not allowed to march as a whole group," said MacCollino, who wore a Trump 2000 cap and held a large American flag. "I am at least we are here today to support

## ABOUT TOWN

### Juneteenth Unity March propelled by L.I. youth

Black community celebrates new federal holiday

Posted June 24, 2021



Escorted by police, members of the Black community and its allies marched along the sidewalks of Freeport in the second annual Long Island Unity March.

CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ/HERALD

By Cristina Arroyo Rodriguez and Reine Bethany

In celebration of Juneteenth, the second Long Island Unity and Juneteenth March was held at 2 p.m. from Cow Meadow Park, at the foot of South Main Street in Freeport. The march was headed by 17-year-old Ariana Levin of South Huntington, who also organized the first LI Unity March in June 2020 after her school didn't address the George Floyd murder in a timely manner.

Shaniqua Levin, mother of Ariana Levin and founder and CEO of the Women's Diversity Network, said that Juneteenth "recognizes that Black people have a different independence day because this day represents all Black people becoming free. Independence Day didn't make us free."

Juneteenth is the name devised by African-Americans for June 19th, 1865, when Union troops rode into Galveston, Texas, to tell Black slaves — belatedly — that all slaves in Confederate states had been proclaimed free by President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863.



**WDN Resource Center**  
**Budget vs. Actual**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

	Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Revenue &amp; Support</b>				
Donations & Grants				
Donations - General	\$ 3,015	\$ 6,000	\$ (2,986)	50.24%
Donations - Leadership	10,366	2,000	8,366	518.30%
Donations - Board	1,736	4,500	(2,764)	38.58%
Grants - Foundations	60,000	91,000	(31,000)	65.93%
Total Donations & Grants	75,117	103,500	(28,384)	72.58%
Summit Revenue				
Summit - Sponsorships	6,116	6,000	116	101.93%
Summit - Ticket Sales	5,554	7,000	(1,446)	79.35%
Total Summit Revenue	11,670	13,000	(1,330)	89.77%
Program Revenue				
Program Revenue - Individuals	1,560	1,250	310	124.80%
Program Revenue - Sponsors	400	1,250	(850)	32.00%
Total Program Revenue	1,960	2,500	(540)	78.40%
Fundraising Revenue				
Silent Auction	1,103	-	1,103	
Facebook	2,410	-	2,410	
Total Fundraising Revenue	3,513	-	3,513	
T-Shirt Sales	116	200	(84)	58.00%
Fiscal Admin Fee	2,500	-	2,500	
Interest Income	66	-	66	
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Support</b>	<b>94,941</b>	<b>119,200</b>	<b>(24,259)</b>	<b>79.65%</b>

	Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Summit Expenditures	800	10,000	(9,200)	8.00%
Program Expenditures	2,111	50,000	(47,889)	4.22%
Fundraising Expenditures	-	-	-	
Special Events	-	5,000	(5,000)	0.00%
Payroll Expenditures	55,000	80,000	(25,000)	68.75%
Occupancy Expenditures	2,084	2,900	(816)	71.86%
Professional Services	5,645	27,000	(21,355)	20.91%
Advertising & Marketing	4,673	3,000	1,673	155.75%
Office Expense	1,855	2,261	(406)	82.04%
Technology Expenditures	1,118	2,000	(882)	55.90%
Insurance	1,397	1,200	197	116.42%
Grants to other charities	-	200	(200)	0.00%
Bank Charges & Fees	394	450	(56)	87.48%
Board Expenditures	298	-	298	
Training Expense	-	5,000	(5,000)	0.00%
<b>Other General and Administrative Expenditures</b>				
Local Travel	-	4,000	(4,000)	0.00%
Meeting Meals	1,773	1,000	773	177.34%
Repairs & Maintenance	-	300	(300)	0.00%
Miscellaneous Expense	-	3,000	(3,000)	0.00%
<b>Total General and Administrative Expenditures</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>(6,527)</b>	<b>21.37%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>77,147</b>	<b>197,311</b>	<b>(120,164)</b>	<b>39.10%</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>17,795</b>	<b>(78,111)</b>	<b>95,906</b>	<b>-22.78%</b>

# WDN Board Members

July 2020 - June 2021



## Erika Deans

is an enhancement focused Licensed Social Worker, earning her master's degree from Fordham University. She is currently studying for her Doctorate in Education, in Interdisciplinary Educational Studies at LIU researching the effects of racial trauma on pedagogy. Erika currently works on Juvenile Justice Reform, specifically policy changes to the racial and ethnic disparities, gender responsiveness, and creating detention alternatives.

*Board Chair*



## Kathryn Abbatiello

Kathryn has dedicated her life's work to championing the needs of children with disabilities and their families and has received her B.S. in Elementary Education N-6 with a minor in Sociology and her M.S. in Early Childhood Special Education.

*Board Secretary*

# Serena Liguori

is the executive director for New Hour for Women & Girls. She has 28 years of experience in the Social Welfare, Mental Health, and Criminal Justice field. She has spent her career working with the most vulnerable of people in our communities.

*Board Treasurer*

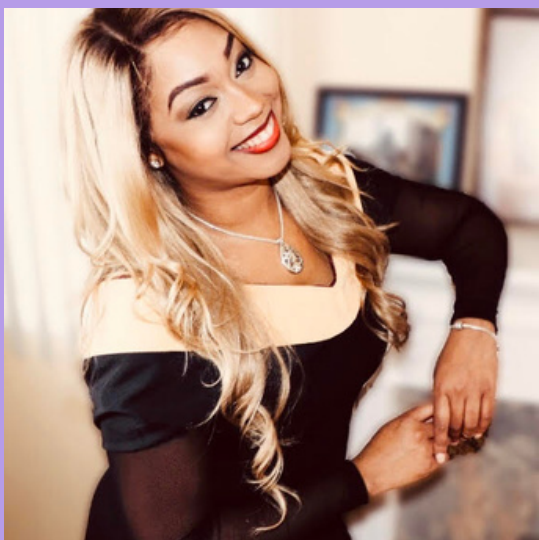


# Shanequa Levin

is a motivational speaker, social justice leader, a registered ordained wedding officiant, the author of memoir titled, Poverty's Phoenix. She is the Founder & CEO, of WDN, Co-Founder of the Long Island Black Alliance, and convenor of LI United to Transform Policing & Community Safety.

*Founder & CEO*





## **Aisha Alexis**

has a Masters in social work and specializes in art therapy with a passion to teach and empower youth and families to move in the direction they truly desire. She is a driven leader with a focus on coaching, motivating, and mentoring youth towards a better future.

## **Donna Raphael**

has a Masters in clinical psychology and 20+ years of managing high impact youth development and empowerment programs. She inspires positive social and community impact in the areas of: private and public partnerships and relationships in support of youth and at-risk populations.



## **El Schneider**

received their Masters of Social Work. They firmly embody the values of social justice, action, community, and service that guide both their profession and the WDN. Their breadth of experiences has prepared them to be an effective agent of change in their community.





## **Farrah Mozawalla**

has a Master's in Education. She is the Executive Director of The Office of Asian American Affairs of Nassau County, the first Muslim to be appointed as a department head in Nassau County. In addition to her accomplishments as a teacher and government liaison, she is committed to serving the community.

## **Jazmyne Archer**

has a Bachelors in Communication & Behavior and a double minor in Consumer Psychology and Spanish. Jazmyne helps Black, LatinX, and Native American students secure internships with fortune companies, corporate, and banking partners.



## **Irma Solis**

received her law degree. She has more than 15 years of experience leading campaigns to address issues affecting communities in upstate New York, Brooklyn, and Long Island.



## **Monique Powell**

has a Master's in Business Administration and Master's in Public Administration. She is a strong advocate for youth development in her community, economic equality, and quality education.

## **Pascale Jean-Noel**

holds a Clinical License in Social Work and has over twenty years' experience in social-service settings. Her interests are to push through barriers by influencing cultural shifts within the organizations, to hire and deliver services that are inclusive, equitable, and reflect the diversity of the people that are being served.

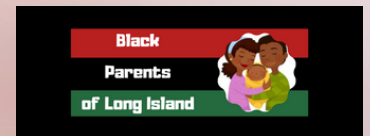


**We are looking for more board members to join WDN. Especially people with board experience, and those with ties to the Latinx and Asian communities. Email [boardchair@womensdiversitynetwork.org](mailto:boardchair@womensdiversitynetwork.org) if you or someone you know is interested.**



# Women's Diversity Network

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### SUMMIT

