

## Welcome To Women Who Lunch

### **TODAY'S PROGRAM:**

12 PM – 2 PM: LUNCH AND FACILITATED INSTRUCTIONS

2PM – 3 PM: OPEN NETWORKING

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### *Chef*

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### **MARIA SIVORI**

Born into a family of Neapolitan restaurateurs, Maria developed a love for cooking as a child and as a teenager worked alongside her mother and grandmother at Icumani, the family restaurant. Coming to America in 2000, she quickly broke into the New York culinary world, establishing a reputation for creativity and quality which led to posts as Chef at Caffe Pompei, Cinema Paradiso (Astoria), and a brief return to Italy as Sous Chef at Milan's Princi. Maria's strong personality and passion for her art puts a unique stamp on her dishes. She currently has her own catering business and is exploring opening her own restaurant. She also has a weakness for Martinis and can drink any three Northern Italians under the table with one hand tied behind her back, blindfolded, and standing on her head.

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### *Attendees*

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### **CHRISTINA BARK**

Christina Bark is a trusted business advisor with expertise in strategy, risk management, operational optimization, leadership development and change implementation.

Christina's diverse experience as a corporate leader, attorney and entrepreneur has honed her ability to design and promote achievable solutions, even when the odds are against a favorable outcome. Her results-oriented approach is well-suited to accelerate growth, optimize operations, manage risk and introduce new business models. Whether you are considering starting a venture, expanding a business, energizing teams and leaders,

managing change or exiting a business successfully, Christina serves as a catalyst for breakthrough results.

Previously, Christina was Global Leader of Business Affairs for Oliver Wyman, a leading international management consulting firm and \$1.2 billion subsidiary of Marsh & McLennan companies [NYSE:MMC]. While at Oliver Wyman, Christina was responsible for business process optimization, operational risk mitigation and leading a global team. She focused on enhancing the firm's ability to win projects, increase client loyalty and maximize revenue while minimizing risk exposure. She also led programs that enhanced the business through innovative training and organizational transformation.

Christina's legal expertise has fueled her business success. She served as Chief Legal Counsel for Oliver Wyman prior to its acquisition by Marsh & McLennan, as General Counsel of Scient, Inc. and as a Senior Attorney for IBM. She practiced law with Porter Simon, a California- and Nevada-based firm, and in the San Francisco office of Proskauer Rose LLP, a New York-based firm. She has represented private, public and governmental clients in the areas of general commercial transactions, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, real estate and land use, employment law, traditional labor law, complex litigation, trust and estate administration and bankruptcy from the creditor's perspective. Christina is admitted to practice in California and Nevada.

Christina's "hands-on" experience building businesses fortifies her effectiveness as an advisor. Oliver Wyman has been one of the fastest growing top-tier, strategy-consulting firms with an annual growth rate exceeding 20%. Scient was one of the fastest growing consulting and technology services start-ups during the dot-com era. Christina was also co-owner of a retail business in the San Francisco Bay Area founded with limited capital and an abundance of sweat equity. Armed with a shrewd business plan, talent for capitalizing on free marketing and publicity, a healthy dose of optimism, a fondness for simple solutions and relentless perseverance, the business expanded into four locations in five years and was successfully sold at a competitive price. Christina understands the challenges and accountability of driving business growth. Christina graduated from Vassar College (A.B., Sociology) and Stanford Law School (J.D.).

## **LISA GOLD**

Lisa Gold comes from a show business background growing up with a comedian father and fortunate to be encouraged every step of the way during her 30 year career. A graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts, she also attended the acclaimed Cincinnati Conservatory of Music before leaving to study acting privately with renown teachers Gordon Hunt and

Darryl Hickman. She began working professionally at age 16 and has made an income from acting or singing every year since, performing for Presidents, Astronauts (the 20th anniversary of the first lunar landing) and audiences worldwide. Her musical theater credits include a long list of well known shows as well as some groundbreaking new works headed for Broadway. Currently working in television (most recently the Emmy Award winning daytime drama All My Children), commercials, print and independent film, she has turned her attention to leading seminars on the Business of the Business as a way to contribute to others from experience she has gained both as a performer and as one of the owners of Actors Connection. A small mom and pop networking facility in the 90's, Actors Connection has grown into the #1 Networking/Educational studio in New York. The studio today, with over 120 networking events monthly, is a testament to the need and desire of actors needing vital connections that will ultimately lead to their desired success. Lisa's underlying purpose in everything she does is to end the "Starving Artist" syndrome by aligning with like-minded individuals and entities who believe creative artists deserve to make a great living at their chosen profession.

### **AMY GOLDBERG**

Amy has spent the last 16 years in residential real estate sales and management. Prior to that 10 years of experience at WNBC-TV, New York in broadcast journalism. No matter what my vocation over the last 25 years I have found that people are at the heart of every transaction and they should be treated with care, patience and respect.

My affiliations: Currently a member of the Real Estate Board of New York.- and a former member of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and New York State Association of Realtors (NYSAR) I participated on the Committee for Professional Standards and Ethics on the state level, and the Committee for Realtor Education in Ulster County NY. (1996-2004)

In my present position as the Director of Sales for Shares of New York Marketing LLC, I, specialize in the sale of "unsold" shares in existing cooperative buildings and condominium of conversions. Shares offers a diverse selection of renovated and un-renovated apartments on Manhattan's Upper Westside and Whitestone, Queens.

### **PHYLISS ERLICH GREENE**

Studio Production/Layout Artist

Phyliss Erlich Greene works in the graphic industry as a studio production artist. Presently, she is freelancing and has her own company PEGSolutions. Prior to this, she has worked in varied fields, such as pharmaceutical, marketing and advertising, and retail. Before

switching to the graphics world, I was in the garment/retail world for several years. Being a buyer and working in the fashion office of major retail firms, as well as a fashion consultant at Here & There.

Graduated from Dickinson College in 1974. Have lived and travel around the world. And have done work within the non-profit venue.

### **VICKI KOENIG**

Vicki is a Masters level Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. She has maintained a private counseling practice and consulting business since 1987. As consulting Nutritionist to the national Stonyfield Farm yogurt company, she develops print and web copy on specified nutrition, health or wellness topics, answers consumer questions and helps with new product development.

As Co-President of Natural Affinity Ventures, Inc. with Dan Schneider, Vicki and Dan are creating a network and virtual community of like-minded business and health consumers by creating A Discount Card with a Conscience.

Vicki has worked with people of all ages promoting nutrition for wellness while addressing diverse chronic health conditions. Vicki has finally found a successful weight loss program with safe and great results for her clients. She offers onsite Corporate Wellness programs to create a healthier workplace. With personalized goals and group incentives, businesses can have a healthier bottom line. Working as a consultant to clients, food companies, businesses, schools and organizations, Vicki communicates healthy nutrition guidelines that make it easy to move towards health.

Drawing on her comprehensive knowledge of nutrition throughout the life cycle provides Vicki with a broad perspective when speaking, counseling, consulting and writing; allowing her to specialize in Nutrition for Wellness. Vicki lives in the Hudson Valley of New York State with her Green Architect husband, Rick Alfandre and twin daughters, Joy and Sonia.

### **MICHELE ALDIN KUSHNER**

Michelle is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her play, *ADVANCED WOMEN*, is the 2009 recipient of the Todd Mc Nerney Playwriting Award from the College of Charleston; her screenplay, *11 MONTHS*, is a winner of the Alfred P. Sloan Award. Michele's numerous plays have been presented in New York, New Jersey, Los Angeles and London; she has self-produced two of her plays for the New York International Fringe Festival in 2006 and 2007 for which Michele was named one of "three Fringe Festival playwrights to watch" in the Backstage article, "Breakout Talent - Writers on the Rise." Before leaving the workforce to write full-time, Michele enjoyed fifteen years in entertainment business. Highlights include overseeing the New York City office of Italy's RTI (Mediaset's television network) and being a Professional Licensing Agent for Music Theater International. Undergrad: Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, Dramatic Writing Program.

### **KIM LOCKETT**

Kim is an actress/entertainer. Originally from Springfield, MA, Kim worked for Big Y Foods, Inc. for a little over six years as a Learning Services Support and Media Support person. She recorded over 70 voice-overs for many of Big Y's computer based trainings and was also one of two news broadcasters for Big Y News—internal news broadcast highlighting Big Y's events and company culture. Kim graduated in 2006 from Springfield Technical Community College with an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts. Her theater performances there include Marshael Foster in *The Wake of Jamey Foster* and Cora in *Tom Walker*. She transferred to Rutgers University in 2009 to pursue a Journalism and Media Studies Degree but recently put her degree on hold to pursue an acting career. She will play Delilah in the original piece *Imperfect Women of the Bible*, written and directed by Marsha Trice.

### **REBECCA LOPEZ**

Rebecca Hoe Lopez, Esq. is a corporate attorney specializing in international commercial law, technology development and licensing, securities and financial services. Rebecca started her career with the Wall Street firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton and has since worked at MasterCard International, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, American Express Corporation and American International Group, Inc. She is currently building her own practice for a range of corporate clients. Rebecca is a graduate of the University of California at San Diego and the University of Michigan Law School. She is licensed to practice in New York and the District of Columbia.

### **JILLIAN MARKOWITZ**

Jillian Markowitz is a 2007 graduate of the prestigious Gallatin School of Independent Studies at New York University. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Ms. Markowitz created an interdisciplinary major combining business and film studies. This unique focus lead her to accept a full scholarship to Hofstra Law School where she is currently in her third and final year. Her professional resume includes credit as a producer for the unreleased film, *Elise*. She plans to use her education and skills as a lawyer producer.

### **SUE PANZER**

Sue Panzer is a sales and marketing executive with a successful track record leading and motivating national sales organizations to deliver exceptional top and bottom-line financial results. She is specifically skilled in solidifying long-term client relationships, negotiating challenging agreements and developing strategic affiliate marketing initiatives. Currently, she is advising companies on sales strategy, product positioning, marketing communications, sales training and website development.

Sue was the Vice President, Affiliate Ad Sales and Distribution Marketing for Lifetime Networks where she led a team to develop strategic local ad sales and affiliate marketing promotions. Previously, she was the Vice President, National Distribution where she was responsible for managing the affiliate sales team across the country with the goal of increasing the revenue and the distribution of Lifetime, Lifetime Movie Network and Lifetime Real Women among cable operators and other distributors.

Prior to Lifetime, Sue was a sales executive at Showtime Networks beginning as the Regional Sales Manager, followed by positions as Regional Operations Manager, Director of Field Operations, Regional Director, Area General Manager and finally as the Vice President, Area General Manager in the Northeast Region. Over her eleven-year tenure, Sue was responsible for increasing the revenue and the distribution of Showtime and The Movie Channel, running the regional operations and managing the department's sales training and incentive programs.

Sue graduated from the University of Richmond with a B.A. in Education. She taught gifted fifth graders in Richmond before entering graduate school to earn her MBA from The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. She has served on the Board of Directors of the MBA Alumni Association for the graduate business school.

Sue served as a National Board member of Women in Cable and Telecommunications (WICT) from 2003 – 2006 and as the President of the New York chapter of WICT in 2001 and 2002, where her chapter won the "Chapter of the Year Award" for 2002. She was selected to be a member of WICT's prestigious leadership program, the Betsy Magness Leadership Institute, for the class of 1996 – 1997. She served as a Board Member of the New York Chapter of Cable Television Association for Marketing (CTAM) from 1998 - 2006. From 2003 through 2006, she also served as President/Co-Founder of the "Fire Island Golden Wagon Film Festival" in Ocean Beach, NY.

### **CHARLOTTE PFAHL**

Charlotte received a B.A. cum laude from University of Denver in 1973 and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 1978. She also attended Oxford University, Oxford, U.K., the N.Y.U. School of Law, LL.M. in Taxation, and the World Trade Institute.

Ms. Pfahl specializes in private client matters (wills, trusts, family limited partnerships) and real estate law. She represents foreign and domestic clients – including individuals, trusts, partnerships and corporations in a number of jurisdictions – on a broad range of domestic and transnational business transactions, including organization of domestic and

off-shore entities and trusts, acquisitions of business interests and property, buy-outs and financing, as well as real estate matters, commercial and residential acquisitions, and leasing. Her real estate-related clients include cooperative corporations, developers, foreign banking institutions, and private investors.

Ms. Pfahl is admitted to practice in the States of New York and Florida and to the Bars of the U.S. Tax Court, the U.S. Court of Claims, and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. She is a member of the Financial Women's Association and The International Alliance.

### **FRANCINE PREWITT**

After obtaining a Masters degree in International Business Law from the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne in France, Francine Prewitt worked for a couple of years as an attorney in international law firms in Paris. A growing interest in human rights lead her to take a position with the Office of Prosecution of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) where she assisted in the conviction of some of the main perpetrators of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. In further pursuit of an international career, she decided to move to NYC to develop her legal knowledge by immersing herself in the one major aspect of law that she had not had the opportunity to study, the Common Law, and specifically American law. Presently, she is pursuing an international career as a corporate lawyer. Francine applied for and was accepted to the LLM (Masters of Law) Program of the University of Fordham as well as the Masters of Sciences in Global Affairs at New York University. She will be starting both programs in the fall.

### **WENDY R. WILLIAMS**

Wendy R. Williams is a Private Mortgage Banker with Wells Fargo. She has been in the mortgage business for twelve years. Wendy is also a licensed New York Real Estate Broker and a Texas licensed CPA.

In her "spare" time, Wendy edits and writes for [www.newyorkcool.com](http://www.newyorkcool.com), an online zine that covers "New York from every perspective."

### **INGRID WRIGHT**

As a native New Yorker I have just returned home after 11 years of living in the "countryside" of North Stamford, CT. I've had a practice as Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 1990 on 11th St and have recently expanded to the upper west side. I'm a graduate of Clark University and NYU for my Masters degree. My practice is a general one with an eclectic mix of theories. My clients have a range of issues; anxiety, depression, coping with

abuse, relationship issues as well as how to achieve balance....just to name a few. Please refer to my web site for more information. I am covered on most health insurance plans. Ingridwright.com

### **DR. JAN YAGER**

Inspiring and energetic, Dr. Jan Yager helps individuals, groups, and companies to achieve their potential as she shares her expertise on productivity, relationships, and other topics including how to write a book, promote, or sell it internationally, through her dynamic speeches, seminars/workshops, consulting, coaching, and writing.

Dr. Jan Yager, who has a Ph.D. in sociology (The City University of New York, 1983), is author of 26 highly-acclaimed and award-winning books including *Work Less, Do More*; *When Friendship Hurts*; *Friendshifts*; *125 Ways to Meet the Love of Your Life*, and *Business Protocol*, with translations into 24 languages. She also writes a weekly columnist on Boomers called "Boomerific" at [www.consumeraffairs.com](http://www.consumeraffairs.com).

Jan is regularly quoted in the media (the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Self, Dallas Morning News, USA Today, etc.) as well as interviewed on TV/cable and radio programs including The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Today Show, Good Morning, America, The View, CBS News' Sunday Morning Show, National Public Radio, BBC radio, ABC News' Nightline, and others.

For more on Jan, go to: [www.drjanyager.com](http://www.drjanyager.com)