

# **International Women's Day: Celebrating Women Leaders In Our Communities**

**Friday, March 6, 2015 @ 6.00 p.m.**

Host

**Hon. Jana Trnovcova, Consul General of Slovakia in New York**

## **Welcome**

The Society of Foreign Consuls in New York welcomes you to a Reception in celebration of International Women's Day. Initiated in 2011 by Consul General of the Republic of Kazakhstan Raushan Yesbulatova, the reception in celebration of Women's Day was so successful that it was established as an annual celebration. We use this occasion to celebrate the commitment of women throughout the many immigrant communities in New York that help to give this city its vibrancy and contribute to its diversity. The Society is proud to acknowledge the accomplishments and contributions of each of Recipient to her respective community.

## **About the Society**

Founded in 1925, the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York represents the world's largest consular corps, comprising 110 Consulates, Consulates General and Honorary Consulates based in New York City. Membership is open to current serving members of New York City-based consulates general and honorary consulates. The Society is steered by an Executive Committee made up of elected Vice Presidents and alternates who represent all regions of the world. Our mission is to safeguard the interests and rights of the members of the NYC-based Consular Corps and strive to promote cultural and economic relations with the city of New York and between our respective countries and our host, the United States of America. The Society works together with the US Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions and the NYC Mayor's Office for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol to arrange forums and seminars of mutual interest on issues such as diplomatic security, immigration, document fraud and airport protocol. The Society has regularly held fund-raising events and have a long and proud philanthropic record. Since November 1988 when the Society honored former US President Jimmy Carter and made a substantial contribution that year to Habitat For Humanity, other beneficiaries of the more than \$850,000 raised in recent years have included Special Olympics, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Paul Newman's Hole In The Wall Gang Camp, the children's programs of CARE International and the American Cancer Society.

## **Program**

6:00 pm **Performance of Filip Pogády Slovak violin player**

### **Awarding Ceremony**

Mistress of Ceremony **Magdaline Delany**

6:20 pm Welcome **Hon. Jana Trnovcova**, Consul General of Slovakia in New York

Opening Remarks & Acknowledgements

**Hon. Habib Baba Habu**, Consul General of Nigeria, President of the Society of Foreign Consuls

6:30 pm Introduction and awarding of Honorees (*2 minutes per person including taking pictures*)

7:30 pm Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks

**Hon. Raushan Yesbulatova** Consul General of the Republic of Kazakhstan

7:35 pm Taking of joint picture of head of Consulates and Honorees

This bulletin was assembled by materials supplied by respective participating countries.

## Honoree



**Barbados**



**Dr. Gale E. Gibson**

A transformative leader in higher education for more than 20 years, Dr. Gale E. Gibson was appointed as the seventh president of Essex County College and the second woman to lead the Newark-based community college. She was selected to the school's top position by the College's Board of Trustees on October 15, 2013, after serving an extremely successful period as the College's Interim President. During her tenure as Interim President, the College applied for and was awarded over \$24 million in grant funds which include \$19.1 million from the state's "Building Our Future Bond Act. Dr. Gibson previously served as Essex County College's Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Chief Academic Officer. As Senior Vice President, Dr. Gibson offered strategic vision and leadership for the development, implementation, staffing, assessment, and grant funding initiatives for academic programs of the College. She provided the College with direction and leadership in curricular affairs, planning, instruction, student and academic assessment, and the overall accreditation process.

A long-time advocate for implementing and integrating data-driven and evidence-based decision-making into an institution's infrastructure, Dr. Gibson led the charge to bring the College into compliance with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education's Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning); the compliance led the College to having the Commission reaffirm its accreditation in March 2013. As part of her strategy, she created a General Education Task Force to ensure that "Gen Ed" is properly assessed and integrated at both the course and program levels, and designed a curriculum mapping framework that received special commendation from Middle States. Dr. Gibson came to Essex in December 2011 after serving as founding Dean of the College of Freshman Studies, and Professor in the Department of Student Affairs and Services, at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. Throughout her career in higher education, Dr. Gibson's accomplishments have been recognized by numerous organizations; including the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Millennium Leadership Institute, Executive Women of New Jersey, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Lions Club International and, most recently, the Essex County Democratic Women. Dr. Gibson earned her Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration with a concentration in Adult and Community College Education from North Carolina State University

## Honoree



**The Republic of Croatia**



**Neda Young**

Neda Young was born on the beautiful Croatian island of Korcula. She left Croatia at the age of 16, moved to USA, married and raised three children. She works in Direct Marketing, owning several companies in the USA. As her children started their college education, she made a remarkable decision to go to the University as well. Neda graduated History of Art and Psychology and this changed her life tremendously. The American dream came through. She fell in love with the art and actually devoted her life to it, as the collector of the art. During the aggression on Croatia, Mrs. Young established the "American Initiative for Croatia", collecting money, food, clothes and sending it to Croatia for those in need. As TV reporter, she went to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, making stories about raped women as victims of war, which moved her to number of organizations dealing with human rights and women issues. She donated personally, and through different organizations, funds for repairing historical monuments (like Trogir Cathedral, St. Dujice Church in Split, Diocletian Palace in Split), but also helped improving quality of Kindergarten care, buying medical equipment for numerous children hospitals. She is currently donating Master Degree scholarships for Croatian physicians, to improve and implement their skills when they return back to Croatia. Neda Young is on the Boards of numerous American museums and have one of well-known modern art collection, lending it to world museums, and giving the world audiences a chance to see the remarkable pieces. Among others, she is buying Croatian arts and promoting Croatian culture. As a member of MOMA Committee, she donated the works of Croatian artists, to be the part of MOMA collection. Neda Young loves Croatia and her Korcula very much, but at the same time, she loves United States, living here for the last 50 years. America gave her a chance to succeed, and she is the American-Croat in the full sense of the word. She is like a bridge between the two cultures, promoting the best from every each one of them.

## Honoree



### The Republic of Cyprus



**Joanna Savvides**

Joanna Savvides is a pioneer among women in the field of global business, has conducted business in close to 100 countries. Utilizing her vast business experience she is currently a visiting lecturer at Emirates Aviation University in Dubai, teaching Strategic Management, International Business, Engineering Strategy and Lean Operations in the MBA and Business Engineering programs. She has also taught International Marketing and Global Business Strategy at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. As the President of Transworld Ventures LLC. since 2001, she has assisted clients to strategically develop their international business in many countries.

Joanna was the president of the World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia (WTCGP) from 2002 to 2009. In the seven years of her tenure, the WTCGP assisted over 450 small and medium sized companies with their global business resulting in the creation of 3,800 new jobs. In 2011 she completed her assignment as the CEO of World Trade Center Holdings (Cyprus) Ltd, a cluster of 15 World Trade Centers in the Middle East and North Africa and in 2012 she organized the business services of a newly established World Trade Center in Accra, Ghana. Joanna has over the years held numerous board and committee positions: Advisory Board member of the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) at Temple University; The Mid-Atlantic District Export Council of the Department of Commerce, ATAC (Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee) from 1992 to 1998. ATAC provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on trade issues; Board of Visitors of the Haub School of Business of St. Joseph's University, United Nations Association of Philadelphia and others. Joanna Savvides received several awards and honors including "Women of Distinction Award" from the Philadelphia Business Journal (2006); "Global Leadership Award" from the Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia (2006); "Global Business Award" from the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia (2004); "Cyprus Culture and Heritage Preservation Award" from the Cyprus Society of Greater Philadelphia (2005); "Artemis Award" from the European American Business Council (2006); "Woman of the Year" Award from WIN (Women's Issues Network) in New York (2009). She established "The Cypriot Dancers of Greater Philadelphia" a folk dance group and taught traditional Cypriot dancing to the youth, was the president of the Cyprus Society of Greater Philadelphia, served on the Parish Council of St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church in Cherry Hill, NJ and was the President of the Education Committee of St. Thomas Greek School. She is an active member of many Cypriot, Greek and Greek Orthodox organizations.

## Honoree



### The Republic of Estonia



**Ms. Jaanika Peerna**

Jaanika Peerna is an Estonian-born artist, educator and curator living and working primarily in New York since 1998. Her work encompasses drawing, video, installation and performance, often dealing with the theme of transitions in light, air, water and other natural phenomena. She is often involved in collaborative projects working with designers, dancers and musicians creating multi-sensory and -disciplinary works of art.

She has exhibited her work extensively in the entire New York metropolitan area as well as in Berlin, Paris, Tallinn, Helsinki, Venice, Dubai, Honolulu, Moscow, Sydney and Rome. Her work is in numerous private collections in the US and Europe and was recently acquired by Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Paris. Her work is represented in the United States by Masters Projects in New York and ARC Fine Art in Connecticut.

As an art educator Peerna has worked for the Soros Foundation, State University of New York as well as Dia Art Foundation. She was the youngest head of art school at her native Estonia helping to create the new school and curriculum at Old Town Educational College.

**Her current solo exhibition Light Matter is open at Kentler International Drawing Space in Brooklyn until March 29, 2015.**

[www.jaanikapeerna.net](http://www.jaanikapeerna.net)

## Honoree



**Georgia**



**Lia Bakhturidze Sirelson**

Lia Bakhturidze Sirelson has been a senior member of the staff of the Dancing Crane Company since 1999 as well as one of the original members of the Board of Directors. Dancing Crane, Inc. is a New York State 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to provide opportunities for the growing Georgian immigrant community to establish healthy roots within New York City and American society through the study and practice of Georgian traditional performance arts.

In 2008 Lia organized a group of recent Georgian theater professional immigrants to create the Georgian Theater of New York (“GTNY”) as part of the growing program of the Dancing Crane Company. Besides her role of general director of GTNY she placed this company on the map with her contemporary adaptation of Otia Ioseliani’s “Six Spinsters and One Man” (“Ekvsi Shinaberi da erti mamakatsi”) and directed its performance at the Danny Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College September 14, 2008. This was possibly the first serious production of a Georgian play by immigrant Georgians in New York. Her original drama “Sarke” was performed by GTNY first at the Kaye Playhouse, November 28, 2010 and multiple times since, including a short run at the Midtown International Theater Festival in Manhattan and a performance in Toronto. In 2011 she received an Individual Artists grant from the New York State Council on the Arts to write “Spring Seen through the Window” for staging by the Georgian Theater of New York. When Dancing Crane established its Georgian Cultural Center in Brooklyn Lia became the studio director and was responsible for organizing a full schedule of classes for Georgian children. The program has included very creative classes such as “Short-films” and “Rainbow TV”. She has organized more than 100 different events, including meetings with very well-known Georgians when they visit New York.

Lia was an actress, director and playwright with the Theatre-studio Modinakhe and toured in many countries. She taught acting in the Humanitarian Technical University and was one of the creative writers as well as the General Director for the University radio station. Lia is always engaged with design and creative work. With her husband Victor she opened a gift shop and the Georgian Restaurant “Samaya” in Warwick, NY from 2001-2004. She established her jewelry design business “LS Designs”. Her work has been displayed in over 100 juried craft exhibitions throughout the North East of the United States.

## Honoree



**Irmintraud Jost**

As Executive Director of Heidelberg University Association, Irmintraud Jost represents Universität Heidelberg in the U.S. and Canada. Heidelberg is Germany’s oldest university and consistently ranked as one of the best universities in Germany and Europe. Heidelberg University Association, New York, focuses on Alumni relations, research and exchange co-operations between Heidelberg and universities in North America, as well as on marketing and fundraising. Ms. Jost is committed to advancing transatlantic relations and cultural understanding. As Chairwoman, she has successfully organized the annual white-tie Quadrille Ball, a fundraiser for the exchange of outstanding students between the U.S. and Germany. Since 1961, the all-volunteer organization has supported close to 600 undergraduate and graduate students. Ms. Jost believes it is important to offer young people and future leaders the opportunity to learn about a different culture, society and people first hand through their own experiences. In 2002, Irmintraud Jost founded Global Concept Consulting, serving American and international clients in strategic communications, public relations, marketing, intercultural management, event planning, and project management. Prior to founding her own company, Ms. Jost directed the U.S. Correspondent Office of the Axel Springer Verlag, Germany’s largest newspaper group. For ten years, as bureau chief and business writer, she reported headline news, researched and wrote feature articles and editorials, and covered major events, Wall Street and various industries. In addition, Ms. Jost conducted exclusive interviews with business experts, scientists, politicians, and artists. Irmintraud Jost also serves on the board of GermanyinNYC and is a member of the American Council on Germany. Born in Hamburg, Germany, she graduated from Freie Universität Berlin and has lived in New York for more than 20 years.

## Honoree



**The Republic of Indonesia**



**I'in Purwanti**

I'in Purwanti is the executive producer of Outpost ([www.lovethewoods.com](http://www.lovethewoods.com)), a full production company in the Berkshires that blends the art of storytelling and moving images for advertising industries, non-profits and community-based arts programs. She co-founded Outpost in 2010, after completing her MFA Program at the City University of New York (CCNY), where she majored in writing and directing documentary films. Ms. Purwanti has launched many artistic ventures, from an Indonesian Movie Club in New York to inspiring young people to make films. Her achievements express her passion to build cross-cultural understanding of Indonesia and to further human rights and social justice through art.

Ms. Purwanti graduated from the prestigious University of Indonesia with a BA in English literature. After college, she immediately entered the working world and acquired extensive experience in human rights works on both the national and international level. She dedicated four years to the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Indonesia), one of Indonesia's leading non-government organizations. At YLBHI, Ms. Purwanti played a crucial role in establishing working relationships between YLBHI and international NGOs such as Human Right Watch, Human Right First, Amnesty International, Interband of Japan, Forum Asia, International Center for Transitional Justice and many others.

Building on her YLBHI background, Ms. Purwanti has continued to focus on human rights through the lens of filmmaking. In 2000, she co-produced *Of Political Uncertainty*, a feature documentary on 1998 Indonesian Student Movement. In 2003, she served as assistant producer on *The Life of Ambon Children after the Conflict: Can the Wound Be Healed?*, a documentary by Asia Press International reporting on the social condition of children living in Ambon, an eastern province of Indonesia. These films were screened in America, Europe and Asia, giving YLBHI and the issue of human rights in Indonesia much-needed exposure.

Under Ms. Purwanti's leadership, Outpost has created numerous programs aimed at young people such as: "See the Invisible: Celebrating Indonesian Youth Accomplishment;" "Indonesian Youth's Video Diary Film Screening" as part of the Youth International Day; PSA Workshop with the Young People's Project in Boston, and Indonesia's Night in the Berkshire. Ms. Purwanti also co-produced an Indonesian film shot in Indonesia and New York, *9 Summers 10 Autumns*, a story about dreams, success and the pull of home. In 2015, Ms. Purwanti co-founded the Indonesian-American Cine Club, which aims to bring Indonesia's best cinema to America in order to promote Indonesian young talents and foster better understanding between Americans and Indonesians through cinema.

## Honoree



**The Republic of Italy**



**Monica M. Mandelli**

Monica is a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs in New York. She is Global Head of the Family Office Coverage and Strategic Relationship Management (SRM) Group within the Investment Banking Division. In this role, she focuses on developing the firm's relationships with significant families and their corporate interests on a cross-divisional basis. Previously, Monica was Head of the Publishing and Information Services sector and the Theatrical Exhibition sector, within the Technology, Media and Telecom (TMT) Group, having broad coverage responsibility for many media clients.

Monica is also Co-Head of the Firmwide's Women Network and has served in leadership roles in the firm's recruiting, training and mentoring programs. Monica joined Goldman Sachs in 1998.

Prior to joining Goldman Sachs, Monica worked at Merrill Lynch International in London in the Mergers & Acquisitions group and at McKinsey & Company in New York. Monica serves on the Harvard Business School Alumni Board, the Women's Leadership Board at the Harvard Kennedy School, the Board of Trustees of Horace Mann School and the Board of Directors of Good Shepherd Services. She is also a member of the Brookings Council. Monica earned a BS and an MS, summa cum laude, in Economics and Social Sciences from Universita' Bocconi (Milan, Italy) in 1994 and an MBA, with Distinction, from Harvard Business School in 1998

#### Honoree



**Aiya Tulemaganbetova**

Aiya Tulemaganbetova is Vice President at Alfa Consulting Group, Inc., a strategic advisory firm located in New York City. Alfa Consulting provides real estate, wealth management, investment as well as legal consulting to its American and Central Asian clients. The diversity of the firm's portfolio can be attributed to various interests and endeavors Aiya has pursued in her life and career. Prior to investing into her own firm in the United States, Aiya has successfully developed her expertise in real estate and legal consulting by being a managing partner at legal advisory Rian Consult LLC as well as a founder of design and construction firm in Kazakhstan.

Aiya has spent a significant amount of her life in fashion industry. For over a decade she was the president of Kazakh company named "Triumph," where she worked with high-end European couturier. Aiya is a dedicated advocate for women and children rights and gender politics. She has participated and organized numerous forums on the protection of the rights of the vulnerable populations in Geneva, Barcelona, as well as Kazakhstan and USA. Since she moved to the United States in 2010, Aiya has participated and organized concerts, cultural shows and conferences with the Kazakh General Consulate in New York and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United States. She has also organized charitable events and has led fundraising campaigns to help better the basic education, protection of children's rights, and campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse and violence against women. Aiya has received her law degree from Moscow Institute for International Relations in Moscow, Russia. She also holds an MBA degree in economics and management from International Business Academy in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Aiya is fluent in Kazakh, Russian, English and Italian languages. She is mother to four children and has a grandson. She loves tennis and snowboarding, her hobbies also include travelling, cinematography, listening to classical music, watching opera and ballet.

#### Honoree



**Mexico**



**Marcela Orvañanos de Rovzar**

Marcela Orvañanos de Rovzar is a Mexican philanthropist with particular expertise in institutional development and capacity building for non-profits, foundations, and other civil society institutions. Mrs. Rovzar is the Founder and currently Chairman of the Board at Qualitas of Life Foundation.

She holds a certificate from the Fund Raising School at Indiana University as a specialist in Administrative Management for Fundraising, a certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility from the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain, and completed a degree in Liberal Arts at New School University. Mrs. Rovzar was President of the Advisory Board of UNICEF Mexico, nominated for the Eisenhower Fellowship Award, and awarded

second place for AVON's Sacil Award for women in business. In November 2008 she was honored with the Henry A. Rosso Medal, a Lifetime Achievement Award in Fundraising, by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. Mrs. Rovzar co-authored with Thomas A. Upton "Case Study of the American Cowdray School of Nursing (ABCSN)" and was a contributor to "Hank Rosso's Achieving Excellence in Fund Raising, Second Edition." Qualitas of Life Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides basic financial education to Hispanic individuals and their families in New York, in order to foster their financial security and improve their standard of living. Lack of information and access to basic financial services is a pressing issue for Hispanic individuals, a rapidly growing community in New York. This problem deprives Hispanic families of economic opportunities, prevents them from establishing financial security and stability, and makes them targets for scams and abuses.

In 2004, Qualitas founder Marcela Orvañanos de Rovzar moved to New York City. As a Mexican philanthropist with a background in capacity building and fundraising, Marcela was startled by the critical living conditions of Hispanics and was determined to find the means to support this community. After consulting with financial education experts and working closely with community members, Marcela founded Qualitas of Life Foundation. Qualitas financial education workshops began in 2007 and, thanks to the continued support its' Board, our committed volunteer base, sponsors and strategic alliances, we have expanded to teach workshops in community centers in all 5 boroughs of New York City.

#### Honoree



**The Republic of the Philippines**



**Connie Somera Uy, MD**

Dr. Connie Uy is Professor of Pediatrics, Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs and Director of Pediatric Nephrology at the Rutgers- New Jersey Medical School. She has received its University Master Educator award and was inducted into the Stuart Cook Master Educators Guild. The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Foundation has bestowed upon her the "Excellence in Teaching" Award, and the students at New Jersey Medical School honored her with 11 "Golden Apple" Awards. She served as the Acting Associate Dean for Student Affairs at NJMS in July 2005 to June 2006.

She is board-certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and Sub-Board of Pediatric Nephrology. Dr. Uy is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She served as Interim Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of New Jersey - United Hospitals Medical Center and was also the President-Elect of its Medical Staff before it closed its doors in 1997.

Dr. Uy was the first Filipino President of the Nephrology Society of New Jersey, and she raised funds for scholarship awards to renal fellows in training. She was the first Filipino to be an officer of the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey, where she served as its Secretary for 3 years. She was the President of the Federation of Philippine Societies in New Jersey, a coalition of 44 member organizations. She founded the first chapter of the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America (UPMASA) New York/New Jersey in the mid-80's and was its first female National President. Now, UPMASA has 15 chapters with assets of \$5.4 M, \$3.0M of which is in a permanent endowment fund.

She held offices as Vice-President of the Asian American Heritage Council, Chairperson of the Delbarton Arts Council, Vice-Chair of the Philippine Independence Parade committee in New York City, and Vice-President for Internal Affairs of *Handang Tumulong Foundation, Inc.* She is currently Chairperson of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee of the Philippine American Friendship Committee, Inc.

She was counted among the 100 Most Influential Filipino Women in America (Founders & Pioneers) in 2007 by Filipino Women's Network. Then Philippine President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, presented her with the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Presidential Award for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas for Excellence and Distinction in Pediatric Nephrology and Service to the Filipino Community in 2004.

She was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in 2013. Other awards that she has received include the National Award for Nephrology by the National Kidney Foundation and the American Medical Women's Association Community Service for New Jersey. Her name has been added to the roster of distinguished past honorees including former Governor Christine Todd Whitman, Althea Gibson, and Millicent Fenwick.

## Honoree



**Romania**



**Princess Marina Sturdza**

Princess Marina Sturdza, a descendant of several of Romania's oldest royal families, is an internationally renowned journalist and patron of many charities and foundations, as well as host of charity events that have raised millions of euro for Romanian children and cancer patients, and education for some of Europe's most vulnerable constituents.

She is patron of the international charity «Hope and Homes for Children», patron of “The Hospices of Hope”, the international hospice and palliative care centre organization, patron of “Medical Support in Romania”, a U.K.-based charity which provides medical equipment, professional expertise and funding to medical institutions in Romania, a member of the board of “Pro Patrimonio”, a Romanian Foundation to promote the preservation of Romanian lands and the built heritage of historical value, patron of the “SfantulDumitru” Children’s Day Care Centre, and patron of “FARA”, the Romanian Children Fund, and acts as a consultant to several child protection agencies, working internationally.

Her outstanding career includes many senior editorial positions in print and broadcast media in Canada and abroad, senior industry posts such as Director of Public Relations, J. Walter Thompson, Canada; Vice President of Development for Oscar de la Renta Ltd.; senior manager at the United Nations, Geneva, as Chief of Product Line Development for UNICEF's Card and Product Operation; Regional Adviser for the International Herald Tribune and organizer of major international investment summits. She was Deputy Chair of the British-Romanian Chamber of Commerce for several years, and is now Patron for Corporate Social Responsibility of the BRCC.

With extensive editorial, external affairs, strategic planning, marketing and industry experience, Marina Sturdza is a frequent guest speaker to consumer and charity groups and professional organisations, and a guest lecturer at many community colleges and design schools, and universities. She also frequently chairs and moderates industry and multilateral conferences and seminars, and is editor-at-large for a number of Eastern European business publications.

Marina Sturdza is winner of the EU's 2005 European Women of Achievement Humanitarian Award, and of the 2009 Avon Award for Humanitarian work in Romania, and Save The Children, Romania's 2010 special achievement award for her work in child protection.

## Honoree



**The Russian Federation**



**Larissa Saveliev**

Ms. Saveliev was born in Moscow, Russia, and trained at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy, becoming a member of Bolshoi Ballet. Ms. Saveliev continued her dance career with the Los Angeles Classical Ballet, The New Jersey Ballet, and Tulsa Ballet. Her choreography was featured at the 1999 Princess Grace Awards Ceremony. A respected dance educator, Ms. Saveliev appears as a master teacher in Europe, Brazil, Japan, China, and throughout the United States.

Ms. Saveliev founded Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP), with her husband, American Ballet Theatre soloist Gennadi Saveliev. Driven by a mission to support and develop world-class dancers of all ethnic, economic, and geographic backgrounds, YAGP provides scholarship auditions, educational and performance opportunities to dance students aged 9 to 19. Now in its sixteenth successful season, YAGP has grown into the world's largest dance network, connecting students, teachers, schools, dancers, dance companies, and audiences around the globe. Over 300 YAGP alumni are currently dancing in the top 80 dance companies around the world, including American Ballet Theatre, Ballet de Monte Carlo, and the Mariinsky Ballet, among others. With Ms. Saveliev as Artistic Director, YAGP's Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow Gala annually features the competition finalists alongside some of the biggest ballet stars, many of whom are YAGP alumni. This year's Gala will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the David H. Koch Theatre in New York's Lincoln Center. YAGP produces additional stage performances in major US cities, and annual ballet events in Brazil, Japan, Italy, Mexico and Paraguay. YAGP was chosen by Lukoil to produce the company's exclusive 15th Anniversary celebration in New York's Carnegie Hall, featuring the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra with Metropolitan Opera star Samuel Ramey and Russian pianist Denis Matsuev. Ms. Saveliev is the recipient of the 2014 Dance Magazine Award for her contribution to the dance community, and the 2014 Russian-American Educator of the Year.

## Honoree



**The Slovak Republic**



**Katarina Storfer Racek**

### Professional Career:

A veteran of emerging markets, quantitative and macroeconomic research, Katarina Storfer Racek in more recent years has been the driving force behind an exclusive research platform for the world's 3,000+ largest institutional investors. Katarina is a key part of Institutional Investor's executive management as a head of all research and institutional relations. Her total transformation of the investor relations effort at Institutional Investor has boosted the success of the entire division and as a result provided a significant contribution to the overall growth of her company and development of the economy.

Prior to that, Katarina was the head Euromoney Institutional Investor emerging markets group in New York. Previously Katarina was a researcher at Governance Metrics International (GMI), a division of State Street Global Advisors. GMI focused on risk management and corporate governance. Katarina worked in the corporate governance area following the well-publicized corporate scandals and business failures of the early 2000s and the issuance of new government regulations, such as Sarbanes Oxley.

Katarina holds a Master's in Business from University of Economics in Bratislava and a Diploma in International Business and Finance from New York University. She is accredited in Valuation and Financial Modeling by the Investment Banking Institute in New York.

### Contribution to the Slovak community:

Katarina was involved with the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency, the investment arm of the Ministry of Economy of Slovak Republic, focused on investments. She has been actively promoting investment opportunities of start-up companies in Slovakia to US investors and vice-versa. She also served on the board of the Plus421 Foundation, a non-profit organization that operates under the Consulate General of Slovakia in New York to help foster a more robust economic and cultural cross-exchange between Slovakia and the USA.

Katarina has been an integral part of numerous fundraising activities throughout her career benefiting charitable causes. Katarina is married to Martin Racek, originally from Slovakia and a partner at Deloitte & Touche. Recently, Katarina launched a few entrepreneurial projects of her own -- all while raising the couple's new born son, Michael, who just turned one, and older son, eleven-year-old Daniel.

**Honoree**



The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



Carol Jagdeo, M.D.

Dr. Carol C Jagdeo is a Trinidadian and Tobagonian medical physician and consultant in Internal medicine specializing in cardiovascular medicine, adult medicine and women’s health. With thirty-one years of healthcare experience, she is committed to the practice of quality primary care, patient advocacy and empowerment and the practice of holistic and integrative medicine.

Born and raised in San Juan, Trinidad, Dr. Jagdeo attended Bishop Anstey High School in Port of Spain. She received her B.S. in Biology from Cornell University in Ithaca NY, her medical degree at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed her medical residency at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. She is currently a senior attending physician at The Washington Hospital Center and Georgetown University Hospital. She is in private practice in Washington, DC and Bon Accord, Tobago. She is the co-founder of Health Care Professionals of Metro DC, a collective of medical professionals and healthcare community advocates, who are focused on addressing gaps in healthcare delivery and health disparities in vulnerable, at risk populations, including women, the elderly and immigrant communities.

Dr. Jagdeo is a member of the Novartis Speaker’s Bureau, the Washington Hospital Center Speakers Bureau’s and the National Association of Free Clinics. In 2014, she initiated a free monthly outreach series to address the issues of obesity and chronic diseases. She has worked with the Tobago Regional Health Authority for two years and subsequently established an accessible, quality driven practice in Tobago. She is a founding member of the Tobago Continuing Care Rehab Facility (The Infinity Home) and the Tobago Multicultural Association and continues to be active in community outreach with several organizations, including the Bovell Foundation.

Dr. Jagdeo is committed to building strong primary healthcare systems, health mentoring, sensitizing and empowering people to take charge of their lives as well as working with all levels of the health sector to achieve global health equity. She is passionate about reducing pain and suffering, educating communities to make holistic choices to achieve better health outcomes and reduce preventable death. She is also the proud mother of two children, Captain Cheffren Canady of the U.S. Military Academy and Marjuan Canady.

**Honoree**



The Republic of Turkey



Hafize Gaye Erkan, Ph.D.

Hafize Gaye Erkan is the Senior Vice President, Chief Investment Officer and Co-Chief Risk Officer of First Republic Bank since 2014. With extensive expertise in quantitative risk modeling, stress testing and balance sheet optimization for financial services companies, she is responsible for overseeing the investment portfolio of First Republic and co-directing the enterprise risk management function.

Prior to joining First Republic, Erkan was the Managing Director and Head of Financial Institutions Group Strats for Goldman Sachs, focusing primarily on providing quantitative modeling and risk management solutions to financial institutions including banks, insurance companies, asset managers and other specialty finance firms. She developed balance sheet models to assist financial institutions with risk assessments and valuations in the context of M&A. Erkan worked closely with Boards of Directors and senior management of banks in the context of stress testing, and capital advisory, addressing clients' asset liability management, capital and liquidity adequacy assessment and balance sheet optimization decisions. She also provided clients with innovative financing, capital and risk management strategies in light of regulatory, accounting and market developments across a wide spectrum of products including equity and debt capital markets, asset side restructurings as well as equity, rate and FX derivatives. She joined Goldman Sachs in 2005 as an associate in IBD Strats and was named managing director in 2011.

Erkan earned a PhD in Operations Research and Financial Engineering from Princeton University and BSc from Boğaziçi University, Turkey, where she was valedictorian, in 2001. While working on her PhD, she received a National Science Foundation grant for her thesis and multiple Excellence in Teaching awards. Erkan is a member of the Sigma Xi Honor Society.

## Honoree



**Uruguay**



**Dr. Ana Natale-Pereira**

Ana Natale-Pereira, MD, MPH, is Associate Professor of Medicine, and Division Director for General Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine at Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School.

Dr. Natale received her MD degree in 1996 from New Jersey Medical School where she also completed her residency training in Internal Medicine Residency and served as Chief Resident in 2000. She has been a faculty member of Rutgers-NJMS since graduation, serving in different roles including medical director for the Focus Hispanic Center Clinic in Newark. In 2005, she received her Masters in Public Health in Urban Health Administration from the Rutgers-School of Public Health. She was also a junior faculty trainee of the National Hispanic/Latino Cancer Network, a fellow of the Cancer, Culture and Literacy Institute, at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Florida, and a leadership fellow of the National Hispanic Medical Association. In July 2012, Dr. Natale assumed the position of Division Chief for General Internal Medicine, responsible for both inpatient and outpatient general medical services provided at University Hospital.

In addition to her academic responsibilities, Dr. Natale serves as a member of the Advisory Panel for Outreach and Education for CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) charged with advising and providing recommendation for the outreach and education related to ACA implementation; as the regional chair for the National Hispanic Medical Association Northeast region; and in many other Hospital and University based committees.

Dr. Natale's research interest is in health disparities and the impact of culture and health literacy on cancer and chronic disease prevention among the underserved; increasing awareness and improving health outcomes through health services research, community collaborative intervention, and patient navigation.

She is the recipient of National Cancer Institute, Healthcare Foundation of NJ, and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services extramural funding. Dr. Natale has numerous publications and presentations at national and international meetings on topics related to cancer prevention among minorities, and the use of patient navigation as a model to reduce health disparities for patients with limited English proficiency, to name a few. She is also the proud mother of 7y/old Triplet girls, Sofia, Victoria and Lucia, and 11 y/old son Daniel.

## Acknowledgements

The Society of Foreign Consuls in New York thanks the following for their support:

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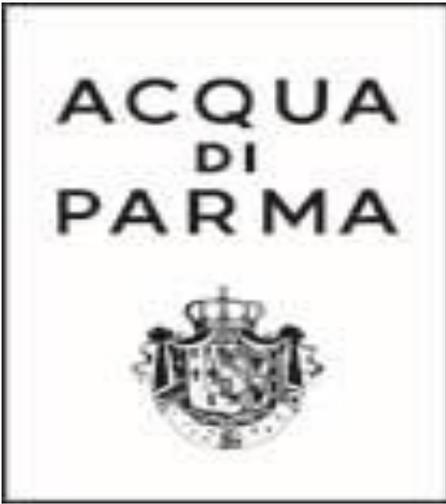


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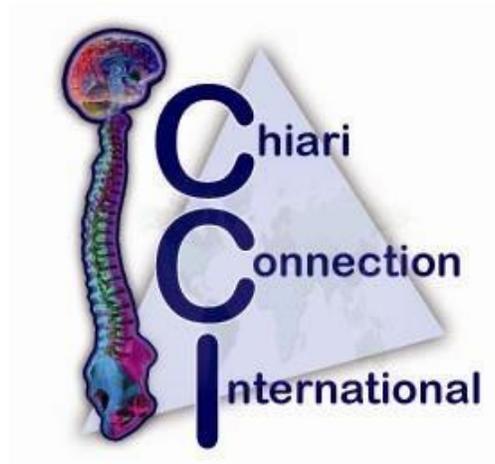


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## Special acknowledgements to Magdaline Delany Mistress of Ceremony



**Magdaline Delany** is a passionate, dynamic, visionary leader with a strong commitment to youth empowerment, education, women empowerment, and entrepreneurship. She demonstrates continuous dedication and excellence in all endeavors that she partakes. In 2010, Magdaline Delany and her husband Hubert Charles-Delany, founded Entrepreneurs and Professionals Network. A mega networking group designed to Empower, Connect, Inspire and Support Entrepreneurs and Professionals worldwide. Same year she also founded Oceanie Club, a floating Yacht/Sailing club created out of her desire to share her love of yachting with others who share her spirit of adventure. **In 2011, Magdaline Delany created WEPN, Women Entrepreneurs and Professionals Network, to provide women a forum to Empower and be Empowered.** At a very young age Maggie Delany wanted to be an Entrepreneur. Hence her earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance. Upon graduation, she accepted a position in the Banking industry for two years. However, her passion for Education brought her back to school to earn a Masters Degree in Elementary Education. Upon earning her first Master's degree, Maggie Delany started her career as an Elementary School teacher. As much as she enjoyed being in the classroom, Mrs. Delany wanted to have a broader impact as an Educator. It did not take her long to earn a second Masters Degree in School Administration and Supervision. Mrs. Delany served as an Assistant Principal for four years and is currently a dedicated Principal of an Elementary School. Throughout her career, Magdaline Delany never lost her zeal and entrepreneurial spirit. A trait that she credits to her dad. During a recent interview, Mrs. Delany stated that "Everyone, regardless of your profession, should think and make decisions as an Entrepreneur." Magdaline Delany believes in the amazing power of connecting people of diverse backgrounds and professions worldwide. She believes that everyone must be diligent and assertive in maintaining a global perspective.

### **Filip Pogády** Violinist



is one of the most promising violinists of his generation and praised by the press for the beauty of his tone and his "lightning-like virtuosity". He has earned a reputation for performing a wide range of music across the genres, from the classical violin repertoire to Rock and Electronic. Born in Bratislava (Slovakia), Filip moved with his family to Austria as a child and began his violin studies at age 7. Just one year later he was admitted to the Bruckner Conservatory Pre-college in Linz. Filip Pogády gave his solo debut with orchestra at the age of 11 at the Wiener Konzerthaus in Vienna after winning the 1st prize at the Tsusuki Violin Competition as the youngest contestant. He participated three times at Austria's nationwide music competition "Prima la Musica" and won the 1st prize each time. Since then he has performed in concert venues such as the Rudolphinum Prague, Wiener Konzerthaus, Slovak Philharmonic Hall, Tel Aviv Opera House, Brucknerhaus Linz, Ed Sullivan Theater and the Apollo Theater. Pogády gave his solo debut with the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra at age 17 and has played with this orchestra regularly since. Collaborations with other orchestras include the Prague Chamber Orchestra, Bohemia Symphony, Konzertverein Linz and Vienna Conservatory Orchestra. TV appearances include the "Late Show" with David Letterman and a guest appearance on Louis CK's popular TV-show "LOUIE" where he acted as a subway violinist. As a firm believer that music should be available to everyone, Filip Pogády joined Yehudi Menuhin's "Live Music NOW!" Foundation, which is dedicated to bring music to orphanages, nursing homes, prisons and hospitals. Pogády has played over 20 recitals for "Live Music NOW". Pogády's insatiable curiosity for music has led him beyond the borders of classical music. As a fan of Rock and Metal music, he decided to enjoy it not just as listener, but to play it on a 7 string electric violin himself. Filip's first electric performance took place at his Graduation Recital where he played his own "Metallica-Medley" as an encore. After being invited by Pinchas Zukerman personally to study with him, Filip Pogády followed his advice and earned his Master's Degree in Violin Performance at the Manhattan School of Music, where he was awarded a full scholarship.

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