

# POWER WOMEN

***H***insdale Living is proud to present the third annual “Power Women” feature honoring exceptional women who are community change-makers and mentors to the next generation of leaders. With positions ranging from executives, attorneys, and philanthropists to community leaders, couturiers, and creatives, these women inspire us, and we toast to their past achievements and continued successes.

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SHOT ON LOCATION AT HILTON CHICAGO/OAK BROOK HILLS RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER

*If you like what you see in these pages, please know that this feature was met with resounding enthusiasm and will be a recurring annual feature. Feel free to contact our team if you would like to recommend a Power Woman for our 2023 feature.*

Ingrid Razny  
and Christine  
Razny-Porter



*“Nothing is  
impossible, the  
word itself says,  
‘I’m possible!’”*

AUDREY HEPBURN

## DAZZLING SUCCESS

**F**or over 70 years, Razny Jewelers has been the leading family-owned and operated source for loose diamonds, bespoke jewelry, and Swiss timepieces in the Greater Chicago Area. Today, Power Women, **INGRID RAZNY** and **CHRISTINE RAZNY-PORTER**, along with Ingrid’s husband, Stan, and their sons, Michael and Eric, continue the family legacy.

### **What is your business style?**

Our business style is client-focused and providing 5-star customer service is our chief mission. Thanks to a cohesive culture of hospitality and inclusivity, we’ve grown our brand into four locations throughout the Greater Chicago Area without sacrificing our authentic family-owned feel.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Building genuine relationships will take you farther than any single transaction. We’ve achieved long-term, sustainable success by building a loyal network of devoted clients whose

families have been shopping with us for generations.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

We decided years ago to sell only natural diamonds sourced from locations that follow internationally recognized trade, labor, and ethics standards. This is because we are committed to environmental conservation. Our partners work with local governments and community leaders to nurture the reclamation process so that the land and sea that is mined returns to their natural state when work is complete. We visited an off-shore mining vessel personally this year to get eyes on the work environment, ensure it is to our standard, and to be of assistance to the people of this developing country where possible. Filled with gratitude for the people and land that give us these treasures, our family feels rewarded by this opportunity to give back and pay it forward.

*For more information, visit [razny.com](http://razny.com).*

*“The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.”*

BILLY GRAHAM

## STYLE SAVANT

**S**ONJA ZECEVIC has always had an eye for style. The founder and owner of Lepa Boutique in Hinsdale, remembers fondly restyling her closet as a teenager before turning it into a career in New York City, and now locally. Today, she curates a mix of classic closet staples, swimwear, and chic accessories in a range of price points at her boutique.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

Failure is part of the growth process. There have been plenty of times where I thought maybe I should just give up. Then I take the time to ground myself and realize that Rome truly wasn’t built in a day, and I can do this!

### **What tools do you use to reach clients effectively?**

My best networking device is definitely using Instagram. My out of state clients, especially, like the ease of knowing what size to order based on what size I am wearing in my posts. Everyone tells me how helpful it is to see pieces on a real body versus stock photos from the designers.

### **Who is your role model?**

My role model is my father. The hardest working human I know. He is an entrepreneur himself and has taught me to never give up. There will be fabulous days and there will be horrible days, just remember that “life is not a sprint, it’s a marathon.” Be consistent and just do you. I look at him in awe of all that he has accomplished and am honored to call him my dad.

*For more information, visit [lepaboutique.com](http://lepaboutique.com).*







*“In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.”*

ALBERT CAMUS

## DREAM BIG

**D**R. SHANTELE WHITEHEAD is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and founder of Dr. Shantelle and Associates, Ltd., a thriving mental health practice with locations in Naperville, Clarendon Hills, and Glen Ellyn. She received her B.A. from University of Michigan, her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Illinois School of Professional Psychology, and holds certification in both Sport Psychology and EMDR. With a passion for individualizing treatment for each patient, Dr. Shantelle leads a team of 15 therapists as they work to address the mental health needs of the communities.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

Although every client is unique, I've had many of them tell me that their journey with me has brought them several things: 1) a greater knowing of who they are and understanding of their patterns of behavior; 2) a healing of past and present wounds; 3) a greater trust in themselves through knowing that we have developed their ability to cope with both the easy and challenging things that life can bring; and 4) an appreciation of their strengths, acceptance of their weaknesses, and an overall sense of peace and contentment.

### **What are your greatest wins?**

To me, every time that I get to work with a client and witness them healing and growing is a win for me. I truly have the best job.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

I would say two things: dream big and never stop learning. I am always trying to improve on how I can become a better business owner and a better psychologist. I will always find new things to dream about and find new ways to grow—to me, that's what makes a Power Woman.

*For more information, visit [drshantelleandassociates.com](http://drshantelleandassociates.com).*

Green dress by Zara; necklace by AVASSI New York Jewelry.

# CULINARY CREATIVE

**D**ANIELLE WHEELER, an Oak Brook native and owner of Maison Cuisine found her passion in cooking at a young age. After attending Santa Clara University and a small design school in Los Angeles, the French-Italian descent moved back to the area, graduated from Le Cordon Bleu in Chicago, and started Maison Cuisine. The culinary company caters 150 to 200 events each year from weddings to fundraisers and has a special focus on guests with alternative diets.

## Who is your role model?

Definitely my parents. They worked extremely hard in their careers, but were still always there to watch every dance recital, band concert, and sporting event I participated in. My dad sold a company that he founded at a young age and my mom was a realtor in the area for many years.

## Which organizations do you enjoy contributing to?

I've been a member of Clarendon Hills Infant Welfare Society for five years. I was Benefit Chair last year and am currently the Social Co-chair.

## What is your business style?

I am a bit of a control freak, so I'm involved in all aspects of my business, but I think I have a pretty laid-back approach to managing my employees. I work with chefs, who are creative by nature, so I like to give them artistic license when creating recipes and designing food displays at events.

## What advice would you give to future Power Women?

Make sure you love what you do! It makes life so much more enjoyable when you're happy with your career. Choose something that allows you the flexibility to be present with your family.

*For more information, visit [maisoncuisine.com](http://maisoncuisine.com).*

*“Love the life you live; live the life you love.”*

BOB MARLEY



Sweater by Zara; skirt by Nanuska from Neiman Marcus Oak Brook.

*“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”*

JANE GOODALL

## TRANSCENDING TRENDS

**W**ith a marketing degree from Loyola University of Chicago and furthering her education at the School of the Art Institute, **DIANA WAGENBACH** began her own namesake company in 2020, Studio W Interiors. Studio W is a full-service residential design firm that works on new construction, renovations, and furnishing projects across the United States. From concept to completion, Studio W works collaboratively with its clients and trades to create a beautifully designed home that aims to transcend trends.

### **Who is your role model?**

My husband. He has successfully started, grown, and sold a company within a decade. He continues to grow and inspire me to do the same. He is my biggest supporter, and I am grateful for him!

### **Where do you draw inspiration from?**

I am constantly inspired by fellow designers. Chicago is such an amazing community for meeting and collaborating with other designers and all of the amazing trades. I also love traveling and seeing how other countries live and design. Nothing beats the amazing architecture of Europe—although Chicago is a close second!

### **What is your fashion style?**

My style follows my design aesthetic—simple, minimal, neutral, with a focus on materiality. Most days you will find me in some iteration of a black, white, or tan.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Go for it! I think as women, we often can be our own biggest impediment. I've learned to get out of my own way and go for the things that will help me succeed. Be confident in your skills, do a good job, and it will take you far ... but first ... go for it!

*For more information, visit [studiowchicago.com](http://studiowchicago.com)*







*“Beauty is being the best possible version of yourself, inside and out. Never regret anything that makes you smile.”*

AUDREY HEPBURN

## FAMILY AND PHILANTHROPY

**T**INA WELLER is a power woman of many talents. She has served as the leader of patient treatment coordination, public relations, and operations at Weller Dental Group for 20 years—having the pleasure of working with her husband, Dr. Jeffrey Weller, and Dr. Ayesha Sultan. In 2021, Tina founded Fumee Claire Candles—featuring luxury candles, reeds, and body products that smell great but use clean fragrances.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

For those who know me, they will tell you that my hope is to be remembered for my philanthropy work. Being a mother and wife are my top jobs; my work and being a philanthropist are my second loves. I am a member of The Service Club of Chicago, the Hinsdale Juniors Woman’s Club, the Hinsdale Historical Society, and the Hinsdale Hockey Board. This year I am serving as the wine chair for the Wellness Ball.


### **How do you impact your clients?**

In Dentistry, I feel it is most important to give patients options and educate them. We have patients that just want a great dentist that is offering comprehensive care and we also have the privilege of changing lives with smile enhancement. In the candle world, I am most proud of educating consumers and offering them products that take the next step in being safe.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Stay true to yourself; give back to those in need as much as life gives you. Don’t forget to balance your professional life and personal life. Travel and be inspired. Don’t be afraid to grow, change and take leaps if you fail, learn from your mistakes, and always smile!

*For more information, visit [fumeclair.com](http://fumeclair.com) and [wellerdental.com](http://wellerdental.com).*



*“The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.”*

OPRAH WINFREY

## ALL SMILES

**D**R. **AYESHA SULTAN** grew up in Naperville before graduating from the University of Illinois at Chicago with honors in Biology and receiving her Doctorate in Dental Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences. After several years of practice in Philadelphia where she primarily focused on Cosmetic and Comprehensive General Dentistry, she returned to the Midwest and joined Weller Dental Group. She is now an active member of the American Dental Association, Illinois Dental Society, and Chicago Dental Society. When she’s not practicing dentistry, she can be found spending time with family and friends, reading, or trying different cuisines.

### **Who is your role model?**

My mother. She initially stayed at home to raise my brother and me for many years before pursuing her goals of becoming a librarian. My passion for reading and love of learning grew stronger because of my mom. I see her as the definition of the perfect balance in successfully managing a career, family, and household.

### **How do you impact your clients?**


It has been shown in several studies that your smile impacts the success of your business and personal relationships more than any other aspect of your appearance. My focus is to help my patients achieve beautiful and healthy smiles. I dedicate time to understanding my patient’s dental history, needs, and goals prior to putting my gloves on. I strongly believe in the benefits of keeping an open dialogue of communication with my patients to help enhance their oral health.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Enjoy the moment now. This is a journey we all go through in life and will look back and wish we were living more in the present.

*For more information, visit [wellerdental.com](http://wellerdental.com).*





*“Nothing has meaning except  
for the meaning you give it.”*

T. HARV EKER

## FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE & CHIROPRACTIC

**D**R. CARA VANWORMER-HARTMAN has been helping Hinsdale families through functional medicine and chiropractic care for nearly 15 years. She graduated magna cum laude from the National University of Health Sciences with a doctorate in chiropractic medicine before opening the doors to Therapeutic Health Associates, which has a new location coming soon. Therapeutic Health offers expert experience in functional medicine, IV Therapy, peptides and bioidentical hormones, chiropractic care, spinal decompression, radiofrequency, cupping, acupuncture, and massage therapy. The new location will also offer an ozone sauna, oxygen therapy, light therapy, and a sensory deprivation float studio.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I strive to improve the quality of life for anyone that walks through my clinic doors. I love providing patients the answers they've been looking for by running the proper diagnostics to tell the story of how their body is working. I know they leave with clarity and motivation to get started with their healing journey.

### **What influenced your success?**

I got to where I am today by sheer passion, integrity, grit, sacrifice, and a desire to help as many people as I can. My family has been behind me the whole way and nothing I do would be possible without them. I couldn't be more grateful to be in this profession where I have an opportunity to impact and change lives.

### **What organizations do you enjoy promoting?**

I love supporting the Hinsdale Juniors Woman's Club, a community service organization that strives to enrich our community by supporting local charities and educational scholarships. I'm an annual sponsor of many events throughout the year with Juniors and am proud to call them friends as well.

*For more information, visit [therapeutic-health.com](http://therapeutic-health.com).*

*“Trust, but verify.”*

SUZANNE MASSIE

## HUMBLE LEADER

**T**EANNA TRAN has dedicated herself to exquisite nail care for over 15 years. She has mentored her team members on professionalism and proper techniques for the very best in nail care. After opening Elysian Nail Spa in Hinsdale in 2017, she hasn't looked back. Known for her drive and humble nature, Teanna not only exudes the qualities of a power woman but works to help the next generation of power women.

### **What is your business style?**

I value my employees immensely! We work side-by-side through our shared vision of client satisfaction, and I feel proud to have many former and current employees as friends, today. At Elysian, our modern, fashionable style mixed with a fresh and pure environment translates into an elevated experience for our clients and creates a wonderful setting for our team to work in every day.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I think my staff and I make an impact on our clients lives at each service we provide by giving them a safe space to relax, open-up, and recharge while receiving expert care with attention to detail. I want my clients to walk away feeling refreshed and happy they spent that time with us. This year I am excited to celebrate our 5th Anniversary! We have the most amazing supporters, and I am just thrilled with the people who make Elysian Nail Spa extraordinary.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

The hardest lesson I've had to learn is to embrace setbacks as they come and work to push forward in business to be successful. Many times, at first, I resisted and fought setbacks only to the detriment of my time and business.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

You need to keep pushing in order to be successful. Yes, life will get in the way whether it's our families, children, or our spouses, but be resilient and disciplined.

*For more information, visit [elysiannailspa.com](http://elysiannailspa.com).*

Teanna has a manicure with Gel-X Extensions in “Love is in the Bare” and “I Couldn't Bareless” by OPI. She has an Elysian pedicure in “Light Pink Perfecto” by Givenchy.



*“All dreams are within reach. All you have to do is keep moving towards them.”*

VIOLA DAVIS

Dr. Krishna Tikiwala  
and Dr. Ashley Lee



Dress by  
Zara

## CARING WITH CONFIDENCE

**A**SHLEY LEE, DPM, FACFAS, is a double board-certified foot and ankle surgeon and has been in practice for 12 years and specializes in adult and pediatric sports medicine. KRISHNA TIKIWALA, DPM, recently graduated from residency and joined Dr. Lee's Hinsdale location at Northern Illinois Foot & Ankle Specialists.

### Where do you draw inspiration from?

**Dr. Lee:** I draw inspiration from my patients. I am amazed by the motivation my patients have to return to their activity or sport after an injury or surgery. Their determination and drive inspire me to be just as determined to find the fastest, most innovative path for their recovery.

### Who is your role model?

**Dr. Tikiwala:** As a child of immigrants, my role models are my parents. They left their comfortable lifestyle to come to another country for the chance at better opportunities for their children. They motivate me to work hard and be the best version of myself, especially for my patients.

### What type of leader are you?

**Dr. Lee:** I am confident, but not arrogant, which is so important in the medical world. I show confidence in my ability, but humility, and respect that I have been chosen to care for a patient.

### What leadership opportunities have you experienced in your career and at Northern Illinois Foot & Ankle Specialists?

**Dr. Lee:** I am currently the President of the Illinois Podiatric Medical Association. Prior to that, I served as Chief of Podiatric Surgery at Northwest Community Hospital and sat on various medical committees within the hospital.

### What leadership skills do you find most helpful in the medical setting?

**Dr. Tikiwala:** In a medical setting, it is important to build a trusting patient-doctor relationship but also develop inter-professional relationships with other specialties and healthcare workers in order to ensure your patients are taken care of as a whole.

*For more information, visit [illinoisfoot.com](http://illinoisfoot.com).*



*“The ability to learn is the most important quality a leader can have.”*

PADMASREE WARRIOR

## LIVING HER BEST SMILE

**D**R. CARRIE THANGAMANI began practicing orthodontics in 2007 and opened Hinsdale-based CHT Orthodontics in 2011. Before opening her own practice, Dr. Thangamani graduated from the University of Notre Dame as an undergraduate, the Dental School at University of Michigan, and completed her residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago. When she isn't in the office creating confident smiles for her patients, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Vijay, and two amazing children—Caroline and Nathan.

### **What is your business style?**

My business style is driven and detail oriented, but still empathetic and kind. I'm involved in the big picture as well as the everyday little details. I have a wonderful associate (Dr. Ami) and a team of fantastic women who are the backbone of CHT. I am thankful every day to have them on this journey with me.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

Our motto at CHT Orthodontics is “Live Your Best Smile” and that is what we are helping our patients achieve. We want them to be the best versions of themselves by being fully confident in who and what they are—having a gorgeous and healthy smile plays a small role in that.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

CHT is known for its continued involvement and philanthropy in our community, especially with the local schools and the D181 Foundation. This year I will serve on board of the Wellness House Ball—an amazing organization right in our backyard.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Define who and what you are personally and professionally and go for it! Allow yourself grace as you navigate through this ever-changing world, but never lose sight of yourself in the process.

*For more information, visit [chtortho.com](http://chtortho.com).*



*“A girl should be two things, classy and fabulous.”*

COCO CHANEL

## DRESS FOR SUCCESS!

**G**INNY STEWART is the Senior Vice President of Sales and Founding Member for Jameson Sotheby's in Hinsdale. With more than \$1 billion in real estate transactions closed, she has the experience and the knowledge to open all the right doors as a trusted confidant and real estate advisor. A resident of Hinsdale for more than 30 years, Ginny experiences the pleasure of living and working in a place she loves.

### **What is your business style?**

My clients appreciate my authenticity, my perspective, and my flexibility to work with them to achieve their goals.

### **Who is your role model?**

My mother is my role model because she was incredibly entrepreneurial but always glamorous too. I credit much of my success to the style, humor, and integrity that I learned from my mother.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

Real estate is the most personal business. As a result, my business often comes from referrals from my past clients, as well as repeat customers. I am helping clients' children find their homes. I love that aspect of my job because I get to see these families change and grow through the years.

### **What is your fashion style?**

I believe you must always be dressed for success. My clients feel my professionalism from the moment we meet. Oftentimes, that will be heels and a dress, but I also love a power blazer. My favorite place to shop is local, Sweet William in Hinsdale.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women**

Just like in real estate, first impressions stick with you. Your professionalism and consideration for your clients is everlasting!

*For more information, visit [ginnyhomes.com](http://ginnyhomes.com).*





*“It does not matter  
how much we give,  
but how much love  
we put into our giving.”*

MOTHER TERESA

## POWER VOLUNTEER

**M**INNIE SANDSTEDT recognized the importance of giving back when she was just 26 years old. In 1958, she joined the LaGrange Chapter of the IWS Auxiliary, and later became a Founding Member of the Oak Brook Chapter. Fittingly, this year she celebrated her 90th birthday as the Chapter marks its 50th Anniversary! A wonderful mother, grandmother, and great grandmother Minnie gives her all to family, friends ... and the Infant Welfare Society.

### **How have you impacted others?**

As a volunteer, it's heartwarming to know that you are helping those in need. In the early days, our Chapter's fundraising was about bake sales and card parties. Now, we devote our time and energy to Mistletoe Medley, a holiday tradition. I'm proud of the fact that we have raised over \$4.8 million to date. Whenever I visit the Angel Harvey Family Health Center, I'm reminded of why we work so hard to support it. Making a difference isn't merely a phrase for us ... it's our mission.

### **What is your most memorable moment?**

My favorite memories involve Lollipops and Roses, Auxiliary benefits that were held in the 1980s. Fundraising took center stage, as Auxiliary members like me brought Broadway to Chicago. We acted, sang, and danced in professional-caliber productions of stage favorites. They were the talk of the town!

### **What are your greatest wins?**

I'll always treasure the IWS "Champion for Children" award I received in 2018. But I have to say my volunteer experience is a "win" in and of itself. I've worked with so many outstanding women over the years who share my commitment and have become lifelong friends in the process.

*For more information, visit  
[oakbrookchapterinfant-welfare.org](http://oakbrookchapterinfant-welfare.org)*



*“You begin by always expecting good things to happen...”*

TOM HOPKINS

## POSITIVITY AND BALANCE

**C**COURTNEY BOHNEN STACH started in real estate 22 years ago. As a real estate professional and a top salesperson with County Line Properties, her goal is to tirelessly work to build, innovate, and hone her skills and stay ahead of the industry. She is focused on constantly improving what she does, while balancing time with family.

### **Who is your role model?**

Penny Bohnen, my mom and mentor, is an amazing real estate agent and anything and everything she does is done to perfection!

### **What is your business style?**

Creative and out of box thinking; unmatched service, fabulous first and last impressions; ongoing outreach and 100 percent retention.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

I love giving to my local schools, Bernie's Book Drive, Hinsdale Community Service, and my church. I am an avid member of the Garden Club of Hinsdale and enjoy participating in Collector's Club.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

There is a fine line in balancing work life and home life, but I feel very fortunate to have such a supportive husband, immediate family and two beautiful sons whom I adore. We are very close, and that matters to me.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Internal drive is key, but not at the expense of others, yourself, your family, your marriage, or your children's well-being. Keep the focus on how you would like to be treated, put family first, and work as hard as you can to keep positivity and balance in all that you do!

*For more information, visit [courtneystach.com](http://courtneystach.com).*





*“Above all, be the heroine of your life, not the victim.”*

NORA EPHRON

## ESTATE EXPERT

**A**LLYSON RUSSO founded Russo Law Offices LLC in 2014 to provide professional, experienced, and personalized estate planning representation in the Western Suburbs. The firm has grown to include three lawyers and two paralegals and offers a full range of services relating to estate planning and administration. Allyson, who has practiced law for more than 20 years, holds a B.A. from Boston College, a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, and an LL.M. from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

My job is to provide my clients with peace of mind in connection with difficult topics. The estate planning process is aimed at giving the client control over their assets and decisions. It is rewarding when I have a client who feels well prepared and relieved to have finished this project.

### **What are your greatest wins?**

I am proud of the way my business is run. We really try to provide the most effective and efficient experience for each client. I am also very grateful that I have built a practice that allows me to enjoy time with my family. Running a business takes a lot of time in and out of the office, but I cherish the flexibility of being an entrepreneur.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Most of my best connections have not been made in formal networking settings. My advice is to nurture relationships over the course of time without an eye on generating business. Trustworthiness, integrity, and competence sell themselves.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Stay true to yourself, find a career you enjoy, but don't be afraid to make changes as your life evolves—and have a little fun.

*For more information, visit [arussolaw.com](http://arussolaw.com).*

Skirt by Nanuska from Neiman Marcus in Oak Brook; necklace by AVASSI New York Jewelry; bracelet J.Crew



*“If you are brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello.”*

PAUL COEHLO

## BOUTIQUE SERVICE

**C**oldwell Banker’s BRIDGET SMAGALA has been in the home buying, selling, and developing business for more than 25 years. First, earning her degree in Accounting and CPA in 1991, followed by years of buying, developing, rehabbing, converting, and renting single and multi-family homes with her husband, Bridget has become an expert in the field of real estate. Having personally moved from the Midwest to Florida, she hones her skills, helping local buyers find their next home in Naples, Florida.

### **What is your business style?**

I offer an award-winning experience in an approachable and personalized style for each of my clients. I personally understand what it takes to move from another state to Naples, Florida and what a fabulous lifestyle Southwest Florida offers. When people buy for the first time in Florida, they often need a painter, cleaning service, electrician, and other trades. I am intentional about maintaining relationships with trusted associates. I stage my listings prior to professional photography so the features of the home are properly marketed for my clients.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Deepen your ties with your community. As a boutique realtor with a great group of associates and an experienced broker, I surround myself with positive people that I can learn from and expand my sphere of influence. I am constantly learning about all the new developments, golf course availability and fees, restaurants, and improvements in the community.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Invest in your relationships with your clients and treat transactions as if they are your own. Relationships do not end at the closing table. If you see a great business opportunity, reach out to an old client.

*For more information, visit [linktr.ee/bridgetsmagala](http://linktr.ee/bridgetsmagala) and on Instagram at @bridgetsmagala.*





*“The pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow. For every challenge encountered, there is an opportunity for growth.”*

UNKNOWN

## CLIENT CHAMPIONS

**W**ith more than 33 years of experience between them, Kimberly O’Gorman, the first female partner at Professional Wealth Advisors, LLC, and Sarah Deskovich, an LPL Registered Client Service Associate, have worked hard to build success in a male dominated industry. Both Kimberly, a graduate of Lewis University, who received her CFP designation from DePaul University, and Sarah, a graduate of Benedictine University, are passionate about developing long lasting relationships with clients, while delivering white glove service.

### **Who is your role model?**

**Kimberly:** My mother. She told me I can do anything I put my mind to and to always work hard. She taught me to always be strong and confident, and to be able to walk away from any situation with my head held high.

**Sarah:** My dad. He has always been a hard worker and instilled a work ethic within me that has helped me drive my career and reach my professional goals.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

**Kimberly:** My clients know they always have someone there for them—not just from a financial standpoint, but someone to guide them through the important, emotional, and life changing decisions they are faced with.


**Sarah:** As the advisor’s right hand, I strive to provide the best client experience.

### **What are your greatest wins?**

**Kimberly:** My greatest win was graduating from Lewis University with high honors and walking across the stage to accept my diploma while my two young children sat in the audience.

**Sarah:** About 10 years ago, I overcame one of my biggest fears, and started on a career path to a successful future. I took a leap of faith and now I get to work with the best advisors, and I continue to learn and grow each day.

*For more information, visit [professionalwealthadvisors.com](http://professionalwealthadvisors.com).*



*“The price we pay for being ourselves is worth it.”*

EARTHA KITT

## SOLID SKILLSET

**S**HELLY PERKOWSKI is an award-winning broker with @properties Christie’s International Real Estate. For more than 18 years, Shelly has served clients in the Hinsdale and Oak Brook areas, as well as Chicago’s Gold Coast neighborhood. Shelly has cemented her reputation as a passionate negotiator that provides the highest level of concierge services for each of her clients. Shelly grew up in a real estate family, with her father, a well-known home builder in Oak Brook and Hinsdale, influencing her decision to go into the business. She learned to hone not only her negotiating and sales skills, but also to truly understand what goes into building luxury homes and portfolios for signature clients—something that gives her an advantage in the everchanging real estate market.

### **Who is your role model?**

My father because of his strong work ethic and incredible focus. At a very young age I learned the real estate business from him. Perhaps the best thing I learned from him was to never look back, just keep moving forward.

### **What is your fashion style?**

I love a good blazer; it instantly elevates any look. I love bold colors; they keep me happy and motivated.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

I like to focus my efforts on local nonprofits like The Community House in Hinsdale, the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, the Face the Future Foundation, Bridge Communities, Girl Scouts, and The Service Club of Chicago.

*For more information, visit [shellyperkowsky.com](http://shellyperkowsky.com).*



*“If you’re always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be.”*

MAYA ANGELOU

## WELL-TRAVELED

**C**YNTHIA MARAGOS is a luxury travel expert who has mastered the art of the ultimate Mediterranean luxury experience. Cynthia created LemonLime Travel, a successful luxury travel business more than sixteen years ago—combining her knowledge and experience in Greece and Italy, her cultural background as a Greek-American, and her entrepreneurial mindset. Designing a fabulous experience whether it’s a honeymoon or destination wedding in Santorini, a family reunion at a Tuscan villa, or corporate event on a yacht, Cynthia loves sharing her expertise of the Mediterranean and fulfilling her clients’ dreams!

### **What made you want to pursue running your own business?**

Growing up in New York State in a Greek-American home, both of my parents were successful entrepreneurs. I experienced first-hand the value of a strong work ethic and personal reward of building a business. Creating a business that allows me to incorporate my Greek background with my expertise of the Mediterranean while spending summers in Greece with my family is an ideal scenario!

### **What influenced your path to success?**

Following graduation from Boston College, I bought a one-way ticket to the island of Crete, Greece, for an opportunity to spend the summer learning the resort business. I enjoyed the opportunity so much that I returned home three years later, gaining invaluable hospitality experience on the Greek Islands.

### **How do you support women-owned companies into your business?**

I personally meet with each of our suppliers and conduct on-site inspections for each hotel, villa, and yacht that I recommend for our clientele. Over seventy-percent of the suppliers contracted with LemonLime are woman-owned and I collaborate with Greek-based women designers to offer my clients special access to private shopping tours.

*For more information, visit [lemonlimetravel.com](http://lemonlimetravel.com).*

Dress by Zeus+Dione; necklace by CM Jewelry Design Athens; bracelet by LaLAoUNIS



*“Believe you can, and  
you are halfway there.”*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

## EXPERIENCE MATTERS

**W**ith more than 30 years of success in real estate, **CHRIS PEQUET** is dedicated to the ultimate service experience for her clients. Her awards include the No. 1 Agent Award for the Hinsdale office and Top 10 rank at Jameson Sotheby’s International Realty, and the Legend Recipient of the 5 Star National Service Award. She has also been featured as one of *Crain’s* Most Notable Real Estate Agents and *Chicago Magazine’s* Top 100 Agents.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

Buying or selling a house can be one of the biggest events both financially and emotionally in someone’s life. I try to leverage my experience and compassion to be the very best advocate and negotiator during the entire buy/sell process. My clients thank me in the end making the whole journey very rewarding,

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

As a 40-year resident, I believe in giving back to the community. Being involved in many charitable organizations including the Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce and the School District Foundation has been very rewarding. In addition to community service, I am co-Founder of a Veterans support charity event, Red White and Blues, which will be held again this November.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

There are so many details and roadblocks. I have learned it is essential to stay on top of every little detail.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Always be yourself. Everyone can spot a phony sooner or later.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Protect your integrity and manage your time. You can only earn integrity and you can never replace wasted time.

*For more information, visit [chrispequet.com](http://chrispequet.com).*



*“Life-fulfilling work is never about the money. When you feel true passion for something, you instinctively find ways to nurture it.”*

EILEEN FISHER

## RAISING THE BAR

**H**aving grown up in both Chicago and Arandas Jalisco, Mexico, **LIZZY LOPEZ** has spent much of her life around tequila and the plants that make it. Following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather, the Founder of Tequila 1349 planted her first crop in 2016 as an investment, starting with a total of 1,349 blue webber agave plants. In 2022 she founded Tequila 1349, debuting with a double distilled premium silver tequila.

### **What is your business style?**

Visionary with a touch of perfectionist. I dive into tasks with high expectations and absolute optimism. I'm addicted to working under pressure, the stress that comes from wanting to outperform myself is when I am at my most creative.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

Celebrating too early. When building a brand, there will be a lot of people that verbally promise you something, but nothing is set in stone until it's in writing. Also, every little thing takes twice as long and costs twice as much.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Invite people into your life that don't look or think like you. Their success and failure stories are the best to learn from. I have benefited greatly from the advice I have received, and it has taught what NOT to do.


### **What is your fashion style?**

As I've gotten older, I am more practical. I need to get out the door fast but still be ready for any setting. Sleek hair with bold lipstick is my go-to look. I always keep a blazer and pair of heels in my car. One of those items can quickly transform you.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Stay enthusiastic about your work; accept that ambition and aspirations come with a little uncertainty but taking those risks are necessary and it will help you identify areas of improvement.

*For more information, visit [tequila1349.com](http://tequila1349.com).*



*“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

## FAMILY MATTERS

**E**LAINE SWEENEY PAGELS earned her real estate license in the early 2000s after relocating with her family numerous times and after determining that she could leverage her experience to help others. Elaine also grew up in the business—her mother, Lucy Hilt, owned a boutique Hinsdale-based brokerage and her great aunt also owned a brokerage. Her two daughters, Brita and Cara built careers in real estate.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

Dedicated to my clients' goals, I am a partner in their journey and make the process fun—resulting in a memorable experience. This is one reason why so many of my clients become friends and are repeat customers. By leveraging my background in the arts, I can assist clients with staging by envisioning property transformation while showcasing individual rooms at their highest potential.

### **What is your fashion style?**

Wearing clothes designed by my son, Jon, a women's wear designer, makes me smile. The aesthetics tastefully vary from casual, business, or formal depending on the occasion.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

Organizations that benefit civic, arts, nature, animal welfare, Be the Match, and breast cancer awareness captivate me the most. Having been a previous board member of the Hinsdale Center for the Arts, I recognize and understand the critical development that happens when children are involved with the arts.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Be kind, creative, optimistic, courteous, humble, ethical; invest in deepening your skill set; celebrate who you are!

*For more information, visit [elainepagels.bhhschicago.com](http://elainepagels.bhhschicago.com).*



*“The woman who does not require validation from anyone is the most feared individual on the planet.”*

MOHADESA NAJUMI

Black jumpsuit by AKRIS; black booties Zara; Vintage Kenneth Jay Lane black and gold necklace; blue skirt Alice & Olivia from Neiman Marcus in Oak Brook; tweed jacket by L'Agance from Sweet William; black lucite chain necklace from [cotivision.com](http://cotivision.com).



## CHAMPIONS OF CONFIDENCE

**L**INNEA LONES and JACKIE ERRICO opened the doors to Just Lift Fitness in 2020 despite the unknowns from the pandemic. Both co-owners bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Clarendon Hills-based training studio. Both Linnea and Jackie graduated from North Central College with degrees in exercise science. Linnea also holds a NSCA personal training certification and Jackie earned her M.B.A. with an emphasis in management.

### How do you impact your clients?

**Linnea:** My goal is to leave each of my clients feeling empowered and confident in their skin. There is no greater gift than seeing a mother take back her body after she has had a baby—feeling and looking like herself again.

**Jackie:** Our clients are not just coming in for a traditional workout. They are seeking a holistic approach to better themselves—physically and mentally. After working with our team, they are stronger, healthier, and more confident in all aspects of their lives.

### What are your greatest wins?

**Linnea:** My greatest win in life will forever be leaving my salaried, corporate fitness management position during the start of the pandemic to partner with my best friend and business partner, Jackie Errico. With the faith and unwavering support that our partners and families had in us, we were able to create a business that grew significantly in just three short months.

**Jackie:** My greatest win as a business owner is seeing the relationships that we have worked so hard to create between coaches and clients. Our clients have truly become our family, showing mutual respect and care for one another.

### What advice would you give to future Power Women?

**Linnea:** Lead by example, no matter how big your business may get.

**Jackie:** Always give to the people around you and don't be afraid to take big risks.

*For more information, visit [jlfitnesstraining.com](http://jlfitnesstraining.com).*

*“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”*

MAYA ANGELOU



## LOCAL EXPERT

**W**ith a master's in advertising, **BRIANA BRANDT MURRAY** spent many years in agency advertising before transitioning to a real estate broker and Certified Staging specialist in 2014. After growing up in Hinsdale and continuing to raise her family there, this @properties Christie's International Real Estate broker knows all things Hinsdale. She was recently Recognized by Mainstreet Organization of Realtors in the Class of 2022, 20 under 40 recipients.

### **Who is your role model?**

My mother and father. My dad ran a very successful business, all while making sure to make it to everything his kids did, and my mom was a stay-at-home mom. Both gave my brother and I the most beautiful life.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

I am currently on the Board of Directors for Wellness House. It has been one of the most humbling and enriching parts of my life. My mom passed away from cancer at 58, and my father was diagnosed a little more than a year ago. Although we may never find a cure, I know that I can help cancer patients, survivors, and their family and friends navigate the road in some small way.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

My favorite part of this job is the impact I have on finding people a place to call home, to build memories in, build families in, and build a life in. It's truly humbling. I also hope that the impact of friendship is a close second. I feel blessed to call so many clients close friends now.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Just say yes! Say yes to that dinner, to that meeting, to that event. You never know who you'll meet along the way, and meeting people is what life is all about anyway.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Be unapologetically yourself and follow your dreams!

*For more information, visit [atproperties.com/site/brianabrandt](https://atproperties.com/site/brianabrandt).*

*“Live large, dream big,  
and follow your passion.”*

JEANNETTE LOMA

## FASHION STATEMENT

**N**ATHALIE LOMA is a designer with passion and a love for transforming lives through her designs. As a young child she learned to sew from her mother in Cameroon and fell in love with fashion before moving to the United States to pursue her education. Eventually Nathalie's love of fashion became her career. She believes that every fabric has a voice, and it is her calling to listen and design the right garment for each woman.

### **Who is your role model?**

My mother is my role model because I saw her determination to succeed against all odds. With all her responsibilities she never let anything demean her spirit and instilled confidence in her loved ones. Watching her sew was magical and she showed me what it means to have fabric fall in love with my hands.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I know my clients understand my love for fashion and when they put their trust in me to design for them, I know they feel empowered and confident. I can only hope that they maintain that feeling of empowerment and allow their authentic selves to navigate life with faith.

### **What is your fashion style?**

I don't have a specific style. I dress according to the feeling of expression. I may wake up feeling the color pink and that would decide my choice for that day.


### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Don't follow the trends. Make your own statement and stick by it. It's so easy to fall into the trap or copy what others are doing. Just remember YOU are unique and there is no one like you in the world.

*For more information, visit [nathalieloma.com](http://nathalieloma.com).*







*“If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader.”*

DOLLY PARTON

## LUXURY EXPERT

**D**AWN MCKENNA is one of America’s most successful, creative, and sought-after luxury real estate agents. She is not only the No. 1 Coldwell Banker agent in Illinois for the past decade, but she is also the No. 1 agent in Hinsdale, and a member of the Coldwell Banker President’s Elite top 1 percent of agents. When her clients demanded her help in new markets, Dawn formed the Dawn McKenna Group, now with 22 team members operating out of six offices: Hinsdale; Chicago; Lake Forest; Winnetka; New Buffalo, Michigan; and Naples, Florida.

### **What is your business style?**

My style is to combine style, service, and hard work, and then insist that everyone on the team does the same. I am the most visible, individually successful member of the Dawn McKenna Group (DMG), and that gives me the credibility to insist that the rest of the team do it the “DMG Way.”

### **What are your greatest wins?**

I will never forget the first person to trust me to sell their home. That first transaction was all I needed to prove to myself and a lot of other people that I can succeed.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Everyone is a potential contact for new business or references, so always put your best foot forward. Then remember those people and stay in contact.

### **What is your fashion style?**

I strive to be classy, not-too-trendy, but interesting. First impressions are critical in my business, and our whole team cannot afford to waste them.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Highly value hard work. Have a poor short-term memory when it comes to setbacks, failures, or embarrassment. Place your clients’ and employees’ interests above your own.

*For more information, visit [dawnmckennagroup.com](http://dawnmckennagroup.com).*

*“The secret of elegance is elimination.”*

BALENCIAGA

## ART OF DESIGN

**I**nterior designer, **MICHELLE LINN**, started her namesake company, Michelle Linn Design Co., in 2005 after attending Harrington Design institute in Chicago.

While studying, she honed her talents at the Merchandise Mart, designing a showroom for five years which allowed her to not only perfect the art of design, but also learn how the industry works.

### **Where do you draw inspiration?**

To me, really good design showcases two essential skills—knowing how to mix and knowing when to edit. I am absolutely inspired by designers who can pair the old and the new, the rustic and the clean, in a way that feels inventive and fresh. It’s the ability to pull a room together in a way that is both completely unexpected and yet absolutely perfect, as if it could not possibly be done better any other way. That’s the mix. But then, there’s knowing when to scale back just a touch, to highlight the beauty that exists in simplicity. When you can do that effectively, you give the truly special pieces in a space the room to shine. That’s the edit. The brilliant design that inspires me from greats like Rose Uniacke and John Saladino shows a mastery of these two skills.

### **What is your fashion style?**

There is nothing a beautiful, well-tailored blazer can’t fix.

### **How do you impact your clients??**

The impact I strive to have on my clients’ lives is joy, comfort, and beauty. To have your space—whether it’s your home or your place of business—be functional, comfortable, and beautiful brings a sense of calm. When I achieve these goals for a family, it’s a huge sense of accomplishment.

*For more information, visit [michellelinndesign.com](http://michellelinndesign.com).*



*“The only way to do great work is to love what you do ... if you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle.”*

STEVE JOBS

## NEGOTIATOR IN CHIEF

**M**EGAN MCCLEARY, the No. 1 Hinsdale real estate broker for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago, has a reputation for top-tier service and exceeding client expectations. As a top performer in the Western Suburbs, Megan has been among the top 1 percent of brokers in the nation for over a decade. Her background in multi-media advertising sales, connections, and dedication have resulted in her award-winning career.

### **What is your business style?**

Professional, driven, and compassionate. Residential real estate is an emotional business. I remain calm and focus on details to make my clients experiences the very best possible, while achieving desired results.

### **Where do you draw inspiration from?**

My late husband, Tom McCleary. He has always been my biggest champion both professionally and personally. He lived his life with an incredibly positive attitude and integrity and continues to give me strength and drive to succeed every day.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

Buying or selling a home can be very stressful. I am fortunate to have an exceptional team and outstanding clients. My clients know they are my absolute priority and I work extremely hard to secure the very best results for them, whether it's getting them the best price for their home sale or winning a bidding war for their dream home.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Never assume who will do business with you and who won't. Focus on developing positive relationships in every aspect of your life.

### **What is your fashion style?**

My style is classic with a modern twist. My favorite clothing shops in town are Sweet William, Alixandra Collections, and Stockholm Objects.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Stay true to your core values. Build your business with integrity and confidence. Never stop learning and growing both personally and professionally.

*For more information, visit [mcclearygroup.com](http://mcclearygroup.com).*



*“The real things haven’t changed. It is still best to be honest and truthful; to make the most of what we have; to be happy with simple pleasures; and have courage when things go wrong.”*

LAURA INGALLS WILDER

## SENIOR CONCIERGE

**G**INA KNIGHT began her career working in real estate management and has over 30 years’ experience in residential and commercial contracting. Throughout her career Gina, President of Kastle Keeper, discovered countless families with demanding transitional needs for their parents and relatives. Kastle Keeper was created in 2018 and designed to provide families a single point of contact for all aspects of what they call “Senior Crisis Management,” working closely with seniors to Age-In-Place or transition to Senior Living. Additionally, Gina is the founder and chairman of the National Aging In Place Council Chicagoland Chapter.

### **Who is your role model?**

My parents are my role models and influences behind Kastle Keeper. Persistence as an advocate and taking care of loved ones is the motivation that drives the company.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

Kastle Keeper exists most importantly to enrich the lives of seniors with a positive life-long impact. Our senior friends provide us the greatest gift following an engagement with the simple paraphrase “Thank you so much. I honestly don’t know what I would have done without you.” The type of impact that makes us successful is straight forward and consistent. Making lives easier with empathetic attention resulting in safety, security, and happiness for seniors.

### **What influenced your path to success?**

Enrolling my son in a specialized grammar school with a graduating class of under 10 students. Regardless of the size of the school, I felt strong in my convictions that my son would receive the best education possible. This allowed me to have confidence in myself creating a business that is uniquely specialized and successful.

*For more information, visit [kastlekeeperllc.com](http://kastlekeeperllc.com).*



Dress by Armani from Neiman Marcus in Oak Brook; black patent pumps by Christian Dior.

*“A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey, but a woman of strength knows it is in the journey where she will become strong.”*

UNKNOWN

## SUCCESSFUL SECOND ACT

**JANET MARINIS** began her real estate career in 2004 and has yet to look back! Although she took an unconventional path, switching from a career in dental hygiene to real estate, she has found success in helping families in both Illinois and Florida find their next home. She has earned the Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist, Pricing Strategy Advisor, and Certified Staging Consultant designations, as well as the Road to Rolex Award from @properties in 2020 and has been named a Five Star award winner since 2018. Affiliated with @properties Christie’s International Real Estate (Hinsdale) and William Raveis Real Estate (Naples, Florida) as a Managing Broker Licensee. Janet also is a strong supporter as co-founder of Olsen Motorsports alongside her husband, Tim Olsen.

### **What is your business style?**

I pride myself on eliminating hassle and stress from the transaction, and being responsive and attentive to my client’s needs.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

My clients are at ease during the transaction knowing they have an advocate, whom they can trust, looking out for their best interests.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Try to meet as many people as possible, as you never know where your next client will come from. Referrals are everything in this business!

### **What is your best advice for success?**

To succeed you must bring 110 percent hustle to work each and every day.

### **What is your fashion style?**

Trendy, professional, and it must be comfortable.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Be an innovator; learn what work-life balance works for you to avoid burnout and really truly love what you do!

*For more information, visit [janetmarinisgroup.com](http://janetmarinisgroup.com).*





*“Stay hungry, stay foolish.”*

STEVE JOBS



## FLOWER POWER

**YI GUO**, CEO of Hinsdale-based Petal Station (formerly Bouq Box), was born and raised in Tianjin, China before life took her across the globe. She has travelled and lived across many countries including the United Kingdom, Azerbaijan, Australia, and to now the United States. Before starting her floral business, she worked at various energy companies, focusing on merger and acquisitions, helping her gain leadership skill that translate to work today. When she’s not honing her creative talents at Petal Station, she spends time with her two wonderful girls and new puppy, QQ.

**What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

Learning to adapt and being able to make hundreds (if not thousands) of decisions is the hardest lesson I’ve learned as an entrepreneur.

**What are your greatest wins?**

My best win is obviously my two wonderful girls. No matter how exhausted I am after a whole day of work, my energy immediately comes back seeing my girls greeting me and hugging me. My second-best win is probably when I cold called the CEO at my first company around 10 years ago. That cold call resulted in me moving to the United States and building my career.

**What is your best networking advice?**


Be persistent and disciplined. Learn to make it a habitual process to reach out to people on a daily basis. Also, be authentic and be playing forward.

**What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Success is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perseverance. I genuinely believe that you should do what you love because success requires hard work, so you might as well spend the hard work doing something you wholeheartedly enjoy.

*For more information, visit [petalstation.com](http://petalstation.com).*





*“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”*

WALT DISNEY

## POWER PRODUCERS

**F**or SYLVIA KOS, real estate was a passion from a young age, and grew from watching her father build homes in Hinsdale and Burr Ridge. Today, she specializes in the Western Suburbs, inspired by the community where she grew up. Her partner at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago in Hinsdale, **JULIE BOUCHARD**, is also extremely passionate about her work and she shares her enthusiasm with customers and clients without adding pressure or stress to their real estate experience. As a repeat and experience homeowner herself, Julie has first-hand knowledge of the buying and selling process and educates her clients so they can make confident, informed decisions.

### Who is your role model?

We find so much inspiration in our community, from the friends and family that give back in their daily lives to the moms that balance raising families with bringing their passion to work.

### What is your best networking advice?

Everyone you meet in this community has a story of value, and you never know where that first conversation will lead. Be open to it and wear a smile on your face, always.

### What is your fashion style?

**Julie:** Classic with an edge.

**Sylvia:** I'm all about looking sharp while working hard. Comfort is a big part of my style. I love rocking a trendy dress or blazer and pairing it with designer sneakers.

### What advice would you give to future Power Women?

We've only just begun! There are so many inspirational women in the Western Suburbs, and we're honored to call many of them friends and peers. I think we should build each other up, and our advice is to support a friend in need, even when it takes time out of your busy day. And of course, never be afraid to ask for help!

*For more information on Julie, visit [juliebouchard.bhhschicago.com](http://juliebouchard.bhhschicago.com).*

*For more information on Sylvia, visit [sylviakkos.com](http://sylviakkos.com).*

*“Don’t stop until you’re proud.”*

UNKNOWN

## ENGAGED CONNECTOR

**L**AUREN KAVANAUGH, an attorney handling commercial real estate transactions for 13 years and founder of LK Law, LLC, is a trusted local legal source. Developers and privately held companies and investors rely on Lauren’s counsel for acquisitions and dispositions involving office and condominium buildings, residential rental buildings, single family homes, and other properties in a broad range of buys and sells. Prior to starting LK Law in 2020, she practiced in-house as Real Estate Counsel in the automotive industry, partnered at a notable Chicago boutique law firm, and launched her career as In-House Counsel for a local Chicago real estate developer.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

Being the current President of the Board of Directors of Salt Creek Ballet (SCB), a local nonprofit, SCB is a passion of mine and philanthropic focus. SCB offers the highest quality of dance and ballet instruction for all ages, and its highly anticipated production of *The Nutcracker*, a Chicago-area tradition for many, is returning this fall!

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

One hard lesson I’ve learned through growing LK Law is that I’m not able to help everyone. As much as I want to say “yes” and help each potential client that walks through the door, I match those people who need legal assistance outside my expertise with an attorney within LK Law’s trusted network.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Get involved. Be a reliable and recognizable person in your community by joining philanthropic organizations, boards of directors, and professional and local networking groups. You may find that most new business will originate from those local connections and/or referrals from those connections.

*For more information, visit [lklarwoffices.com](http://lklarwoffices.com) and @lklarwoffices on Facebook and Instagram.*





*“Always better,  
always more,  
always with  
love.”*

MOTHER  
MARIA  
KAUPAS

Carrie Kenna and  
Elizabeth Burke



## FAMILY BUSINESS

**C**ARRIE KENNA and ELIZABETH BURKE teamed up in 2014 to bring together Carrie’s 25 years of real estate and home building experience with Elizabeth’s lifelong passion for education. Together, they bring their clients a wellspring of positive energy, financial know-how, and complete dedication through Kenna Homes with @properties Christie’s International Real Estate.

### **What is your business style?**

We’re extremely client focused. We don’t run an exceedingly huge business to ensure that we have time to give personal attention to each client.

### **How do you impact you clients?**

We hope our biggest impact is helping people find the next right home for each stage in life. Additionally, we’re always striving to do what’s right for our clients in volatile markets and ensure they don’t make emotional decisions by overpaying or making a purchase that won’t be long-term enough to be a good financial decision.

### **What are your greatest wins?**

The greatest wins have been over this past season. We often felt like hamsters on a wheel but kept our motto up of ‘the right thing always works out’ and—as we’re going into a softer market—we genuinely feel like all of our clients have found the right home for their family’s needs.

### **What influenced your path to success?**

**Elizabeth:** As a child, I loved going to open houses with my mom. There would be many summer days spent driving around looking at houses and those were the best days for both of us—we do the same thing 25 years later!

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Lean on other women when they offer support and always support your fellow women. When we lift each other up, we will all go further.

*For more information, visit [atproperties.com/site/carriekenna](http://atproperties.com/site/carriekenna) or [atproperties.com/site/elizabethburke](http://atproperties.com/site/elizabethburke).*

ELIZABETH STYLED BY MARJORIE STRIEBEL, READY TO WEAR





*“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

## VIP TREATMENT

**W**ith a degree in design and 20 years of leadership experience in the home fashion industry, **RACHEL GREGERSEN** started Beyond Shades, a Hunter Douglas Gallery and Showroom. Rachel and her team offer top brands that meet the commitment that they make to clients every day in their Oak Brook-based showroom. She feels strongly that every client is a VIP and deserves quality high-performance goods.

**What is your business style?**

My business style is 100 percent can-do. I have full faith that a small team of A players can do great things.

**How do you impact your clients?**

We are in the home comfort business. We want our clients thrilled with their decisions and work to that goal.

**What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

You must respect and meet people where they are and appreciate them for who they uniquely are. Know that the only duplicate of yourself is in your mirror.

**What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

My late grandmother is my greatest giving inspiration. She taught me to give often and give where it counts. We like local places where the hard work is being done and the work is visible. A few favorites are the Elmhurst Food Pantry, The Cradle adoption agency, and My Block, My Hood, My City. I am professionally and personally very motivated to make small differences wherever I can. I have a soft spot for anything youth related.

**What is your best networking advice?**

Give freely of your knowledge and connections. You’ll meet amazing people who do the same for you.

**What is your fashion style?**

Full fashionista in my mind and practical uniforms in my day-to-day. I love color and glam.

**What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

See yourself at the finish line, then get there. You can get there.

*For more information, visit [bshades.com](http://bshades.com).*

*“Create the highest, grandest vision possible for your life, because you become what you believe.”*

OPRAH WINFREY

## FIERCELY FOCUSED

**F**or **KATHERINE KARVELAS**, an @properties Christie’s International Real Estate broker with notable accolades, the path to luxury buying and selling was winding. Holding two master’s degrees, she began her career in education as a high school teacher and educational leader teaching graduate school and serving as a school district administrator. However, her life took a dramatic turn—a pivotal moment that inspired her to pursue luxury real estate and further develop what she learned from her father, in real estate development. Katherine also dedicates her time to local nonprofits including serving as a member of the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation Board, and supporting the Hinsdale Junior Woman’s Club.

### **What influenced your path to success?**

I always taught my students that it was up to them to “grab the bull by the horns” and do with their lives as they’ve wished. That same philosophy holds true today, for myself and my own children. Years ago, my life drastically changed, and I needed to take back control. Out of that came so much for me. I knew what I was capable of and had accomplished in the past and knew that I was the only one who could make my life what I had always dreamed it could be. Inspired by my children and the life I desired, I took one giant, terrifying step forward, and never looked back.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I am a solid communicator with strong interpersonal skills, and a master networker. My approach is collaborative, research based, and data driven; I’m creative and innovative. My clients also benefit from my strong network—even outside of real estate, I take pride in connecting clients and associates who have in turn supported one another or joined forces on alternative business and philanthropic endeavors. Most importantly, we have so much fun together. It rarely feels like work.


### **What is your fashion style?**

Smart casual. I prefer a dress or comfortable jeans with a blazer paired with a fabulous pair of heels. I love classic jewelry—almost always fine jewelry over fashion.

*For more information, visit [katherinekarvelas.com](http://katherinekarvelas.com)*



Jacket by Veronica Beard from Neiman Marcus in Oak Brook; shoes by VALENTINO.



*“You must be the  
change you wish to  
see in the world.”*

MAHATMA GANDHI

## COMPASSIONATE CARE

**D**R. MANIKA GIRDHAR, owner of Hinsdale Asthma and Allergy Center, has been in the medical field from the beginning. Growing up, she watched her mother treat patients at the practice that has now become her own. She’s been a practicing physician for 13 years and an allergist for 10 years.

### **Who is your role model?**

My mother. She is phenomenal, strong, and so intelligent and she has been my inspiration with everything in my life.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I love what I do, and I love helping people! When I look for a physician for myself and my family, I look for someone I can implicitly trust to care for us—that’s what I strive to be for my patients. I aim to treat my patients like I would my family because at the end of the day, I took an oath to take care of them to the best of my ability, and that is what I want for them. It is my goal to help my patients understand their conditions the best they can, so they are not afraid, and they feel empowered. I always spend as much time answering my patient’s questions that they need and never want them to feel rushed. They are putting their trust in me to get them to a healthier place.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Try your best and the rest will come. Do the right thing, treat people well, don’t judge, and the rest will follow.

*For more information, visit [hinsdaleallergy.com](http://hinsdaleallergy.com).*





*“Your optimism will never be as powerful as it is in that exact moment when you want to give it up.”*

AMANDA GORMAN

## DEVELOPMENT MAVEN

**H**EATHER GUSTAFSON, a graduate of University of Illinois, worked in corporate sales for Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts before shifting her focus to residential real estate in 2002. As the current Managing Director at Compass, the No. 1 real estate brokerage in the country, she is one of the nation’s most sought-after advisors for new construction residential developments.

### **What is your business style?**

I believe that creating meaningful relationships and deep connections with the people I work with is critical. One of our Compass Entrepreneurship Principles is to Collaborate without Ego—I live by that every day.

### **What influenced your path to success?**

In the male-dominated world of real estate development, I am accustomed to being the only woman at the table. If I continue to deliver invaluable guidance, I don’t believe our clients or those I collaborate with will see a man or a woman. Rather, they will see an indispensable resource and trusted partner.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

I have led the planning and design, marketing, and sales of some of the nation’s most successful new construction residential developments. It took me a while to strike balance between my career and personal life, but I have learned to create a pretty rigid structure. When my family is gone during the day at school and activities, it is grind time without breaks. At night and on the weekends, I am laser focused on my husband Brent, our family, our incredible friends, and my philanthropic work. I have carved out a life where I am intentional with my time and feel incredibly fulfilled by my work and relationships.

*For more information, visit [compass.com/development](https://compass.com/development).*



*“We need women who are so strong they can be gentle, so educated they can be humble, so fierce they can be compassionate, so passionate they can be rational, and so disciplined they can be free.”*

KAVITA RAMDAS

## FOR FAMILY AND FAITH

**P**rior to coming to The Geldner Center **JULIANNY. GELDNER, J.D., L.L.M.**, practiced law, specializing in medical malpractice defense. She became COO and CFO of The Geldner Center, a renowned plastic surgery practice with centers in Hinsdale and Chicago, in 2003 and continues to dedicate her time to her family, faith, and the patients at The Geldner Center.

### **Who is your role model?**

My husband, Dr. Peter Geldner, is my role model. He is completely devoted to his patients as well as his staff. His work ethic is incredible, not only does he try to always do the right thing for his patients and staff, but he devotes 60 to 70 hours per week working with his patients and staff. He works that much to ensure that all patients get the very best care from their first appointment to their last post operative visit.

### **Where do you draw your inspiration from?**

I draw my inspiration from my sons, Nathan and Aaron. They are compassionate, intelligent, ethical, hardworking. I speak to them almost every day and always feel lighter and happier after our conversations.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

I am currently in my third year as the President of the Board of Directors of West Suburban Temple Har Zion in River Forest. I am also on the Board of Governors of the Chicago Service Club. Previously, I have been President of the Willard School District 90 PTO, a Member of River Forest District 90 School Board, and President of the River Forest District 90 School Board. My volunteerism revolves around my family and my faith.

*For more information, visit [mygeldnercenter.com](http://mygeldnercenter.com).*

Blouse and jacket by Alice & Olivia from Neiman Marcus in Oak Brook.



*“I am like the Goddess—never not broken. I am completely shattered, yet I am fearless, I am beautiful, and ready to stand up.”*

SHIVALI BHAMMER

## AUTHENTIC INNOVATOR

**J**ENNIFER FROEMEL, MA, LCPC, Reiki Master, has been in private practice as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) since 1999. She received her master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Roosevelt University and founded Innovative Counseling Partners, LLC in 2014. She operates in consultative ways with medical, alternative, and spiritual practitioners to ensure a holistic approach to impact improved client wellness.

### **What is your business style?**

My business style is always looking for a win-win-win. I am willing to try something new and see how it supports things, but I am also willing to stop it just as quickly.

### **Who is your role model?**

I see myself somewhat like a Brené Brown or Betty White, in that I am always authentic and always striving to improve myself.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

My clients say that the support we provide them in looking at the whole self, including body, mind, and spirit, helps give them the openness to find their true selves.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

You are not going to find perfection and trying to get to perfection is unrealistic. I have instead learned that when we fail, we win, because we find something we weren't looking for. That insight gives us greater perspective and we end up finding something greater than what we sought out.

### **What is your fashion style?**

I always pick out my outfit and jewelry the night before my next day. In addition, I feel naked without mascara.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Be yourself and be willing to lean in to the discomfort. If something is feeling off, it is because it is off—sometimes it is you.

*For more information, visit [innovativecounselingpartners.com](http://innovativecounselingpartners.com).*





*“A positive attitude causes a chain of reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, and it sparks extraordinary results.”*

WADE BOGGS

## BALANCING ACT

**T**ERRIDONEY, Vice President and Managing Broker at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago’s Hinsdale, Downers Grove, and LaGrange offices started her career in real estate 22 years ago at the advice of her mother. Looking for a career that was flexible enough to balance both family life and work, Terri has leveraged her experience with her passion and enthusiasm for real estate creating an amazing culture in her offices.

### **What is fashion style?**

I tend to lean towards dresses as they are professional and feminine at the same time. Heels are a must!

### **Who is your role model?**

My mother is the most amazing person. Everyone who meets her loves her. She gave up her career in real estate to help raise my children and is very close to all of them. She inspires me every day!

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Everyone you meet has the potential to need your services, so you should be networking with everyone you meet—from your neighbors to your dry cleaner. Leave no stone unturned!


### **What influenced your path to success?**

I was trying to think of a career that would be flexible enough to raise our kids and my mom, who was a realtor at the time, said, ‘you should do what I do.’ That’s how my wonderful career got started.

### **What advice would you give to future Power women?**

Go for it. If you want it—take it. Don’t let words stop you and be your own best cheerleader.

*For more information, visit [terridoney.bbbschicago.com](http://terridoney.bbbschicago.com).*



*“Life itself is the proper binge.”*

JULIA CHILD

## DREAM CHASER

**L**ARYSA DOMINO, team lead and a real estate broker with @properties Christie’s International Real Estate, knows numbers. Recognized as the No. 2 Team in Hinsdale, Larysa’s clients confidently attribute her results to her background in corporate finance and her roll up her sleeves attitude. The Northwestern University alum, with a B.A. in economics, CPA, and an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management, enjoys helping clients make sound investments in the place they call home.

### **What is your business style?**

Gratitude and grit. My clients know that I am fully committed to their goals and will work tirelessly to achieve them.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I believe my finance background and commitment to an analytical, data-driven business style has created incredible results for my clients. I guide my clients in an overall advisory capacity when making their purchase or sale decisions. I want them to think with a macro lens and not just about the single transaction. This ongoing client partnership continues well past the transaction closing.

### **What shift is in the real estate market are you seeing?**

The real estate market is still extremely strong. While higher mortgage interest rates and stock market volatility has softened buyer demand, housing inventory is still very low. This presents sellers an incredible opportunity to cash out at current high market values. Buyers also are seeing less competition and are able to lock in interest rates, which are still very low on a historical basis.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Be a dream chaser. Pour all your heart into your business and set aspirational goals. The road may be bumpy at times, but stay focused and most importantly, have FUN and enjoy the ride.

*For more information, visit [atproperties.com/site/larysadorino](http://atproperties.com/site/larysadorino).*

Jumpsuit by Alice & Olivia; silver pumps by Christian Louboutin from Neiman Marcus in Oak Brook; necklace by AVASSI New York Jewelry



“Creativity takes courage.”

HENRI MATISSE

## HEARTFELT CREATIVITY

**C**larendon Hills based artist **DIANE CRITES** is best known for her contemporary paintings and drawings. She works predominantly with oil, acrylic, natural elements, charcoal, graphite, and ink in her third-floor studio. You can find her most recent work at Virgil Catherine Gallery in Hinsdale, Anecdote in La Grange, and on her Instagram [@dianecritesart](#).

### **Who is your role model?**

My Mom. She always supported my artistic talent and pushed me to foster it. I grew up surrounded by her art—the sounds of her sewing machine, her paint and pencils, her beautiful interior designs, her hydrangea and peony gardens, her *Architectural Digest* magazine collection, and hand-painted Christmas cards. She taught me how to draw (“this is how you make the eyes look real”), paint, and how to carve out time for creating, all while being a mom.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

One of the biggest compliments I receive from clients is that my work makes them happy every day.

### **Where do you draw inspiration from?**

My kids, my family, travel, and nature.

### **What organizations do you enjoy promoting?**

Hinsdale Juniors Woman’s Club, Clarendon Hills Infant Welfare Society, Chicago Boys and Girls Club, Simply From the Heart, and Hinsdale Historic Society.

### **What is your fashion style?**

Favorite jeans (current: Agolde) and a favorite white tee—no aprons over here, bring on the mess!

### **What is your advice to future power women?**

Let your passion be your work.

*For more information follow Diane on Instagram at [@dianecritesart](#).*



*“Make no small plans. They have no power to stir men’s blood.”*

DANIEL BURNHAM

## MIRACULOUS WORKS

**A**rtist, educator, and entrepreneur **MAUREEN CLAFFY** has turned her love of art into an expansive career. The creator of Maureen Claffy Art Academy, she teaches the joy of creation at studio space inside Union Church, Hinsdale and in her “Draw and Paint for Life” programs in District 181 enrichment. In essence a watercolorist, Maureen also creates in oil following an artist residency at Ghost Ranch near Santa Fe, New Mexico. A member of The County Line Home Design Center, she creates and licenses original work art and specializes in commissions. Maureen has plans to create an artist co-op and offer destination classes for adults.

### **Who is your role model?**

Georgia O’Keeffe. She remained untamed.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I think art collectors who commission my work have a better understanding of who they are and what they value, and a work of art that speaks that truth continually.

### **What are the greatest wins that you will forever treasure?**

In almost every art class I have the opportunity to counsel a child who believes they made a “mistake” in their artwork. They are often in tears. This is a pivotal moment to teach that mistakes, as we perceive them, are truly best seen as opportunities to decide again and create in a new direction. This is the great lesson art teaches about life. My soul is deeply grateful each time I can share this.

### **What influenced your path to success?**

I am where I am today because I got divorced in my 40s. I was terrified. It turns out that all of that fear and loss was a portal where I learned to transcend fear through love to stand in the power of my own life. Art has become my vehicle to teach others to do the same.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Take the time to remember what you love—that is the beginning of a vision for your life. Vision is essential to creation.

*For more information, visit [maureenclaffy.com](http://maureenclaffy.com).*

Blouse by Nanuska from Neiman Marcus in Oak Brook; fringe accessory by AVASSI New York Jewelry

*“I don’t like to gamble, but if there’s one thing I’m willing to bet on, it’s myself.”*

BEYONCÉ

## FLUID DESIGN

**H**aving spent the first decade of her career at some of the world’s most iconic fashion brands such as *ELLE*, *Marie Claire*, and *Glamour*, **COURTNEY CASEY’S** approach to styling a home is very similar to how one would curate their wardrobe—seamlessly mixing high and low, vintage and seasonal, and always with an emphasis on personal style. Her namesake brand, Courtney Casey Interiors is dedicated to creating elevated, inspiring spaces that serve as life’s beautiful stage.

### **Who is your role model?**

My mom is my role model both in business and in life. She taught me to prioritize my education, always be financially independent, and to never stop pursuing my passions and talents.

### **What is your business style?**

I’ve always been someone who questioned the way things were “supposed to be done.” I operate under a business model that is rooted in fluid creativity and efficiency, and whenever the time comes that something is no longer serving my needs, I fix it. The recent supply chain crisis was a perfect example of this—we learned to pivot and work more closely with local vendors and companies that kept stock and provided reliable delivery dates to help expedite lead times for our clients.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

At the surface level, we are making spaces more beautiful but what that ultimately translates into is providing the unique backdrops of our clients’ lives. We create spaces that exude a feeling of home where memories can be made and that set the tone for our clients’ lives. Beautiful design can elevate your mood, usher a feeling of calm, and stimulate your senses in so many different ways! Never underestimate the transformative power of interior design.

*For more information, visit [courtneycaseyinteriors.com](http://courtneycaseyinteriors.com).*





*“We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give.”*

WINSTON CHURCHILL

## THE ART OF MEDICINE

**J**ORDAN C. CARQUEVILLE, M.D. is triple board-certified in Dermatology, Dermatopathology, and Mohs Micrographic Surgery. With 15 years of dermatology practice and a mentorship with one of the best injectors in the United States under her belt, the Founder and Medical Director of the Derm Institute of Chicago is proud to bring patients the latest innovations and highest quality, personalized care to its three Chicago area locations.

### **What does a typical day look like for you?**

I balance being a Medical Director, a surgeon, a clinician, a teacher, a mother, and a wife. I get the kids ready for school; take phone calls in the car; perform surgery, skin exams, and aesthetics all day while teaching residents; go to the gym with my longtime workout friend; and get home for family time in the evenings.

### **What about your career motivates you?**

I love dermatologic surgery and the artistic and intellectual engagement of surgical facial reconstruction and aesthetic rejuvenation with fillers, radiofrequency, and lasers. Surgery and aesthetics go hand in hand.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

In 2021-2022, I served as President of the Chicago Dermatological Society. During my tenure, I created the inaugural Art of Skin Gala, which is a celebration that all skin is beautiful. Six hundred people attended, and we raised \$1.1 million that benefited organizations which support STEM education in Chicago's underserved communities. I also created a new mentorship program, providing opportunities for medical students to learn from and network with established dermatologists in the Chicago area, in an effort to increase opportunities in dermatology for students from diverse backgrounds.

*For more information, visit [dermic.com](http://dermic.com) and Instagram @carqueville.md.*

Dress by ACL; blazer by Brunello Cucinelli from Neiman Marcus in Oak Brook





# HINSDALE TREASURE

**RACHEL BROWNING** is the President of Browning & Sons Fine Jewelry in the heart of Hinsdale, a bespoke business that offers a selection of fine jewelry including in-house one-of-a-kind custom pieces, custom collections exclusive to the brand, and the redesign and repurpose of client pieces. Rachel developed her love for jewelry as a child, when she delighted in the piles of fashion costume jewelry her neighbors dropped off in paper bags. Today, she is excited to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Browning & Sons Fine Jewelry.

## **What is your business style?**

In honor of our 35th year in Hinsdale, we decided to completely transform our space for our customers. Our new interior design complements our continuous fresh, yet classic style—the same approach we take while collecting and curating our pieces for clients across the board. Our welcoming design promotes an environment when friends and clients can come and stay as long as they'd like, shop, and visit with each other. Our passion is in the design of true jewelry pieces in the quality that we believe precious metals and stones should be represented. We believe our clients keep coming back as a result of our time in the community, the proven quality and selection of our pieces, and of course, our exceptional client services.

## **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

We strongly believe in our neighborhood and as consumers ourselves, we shop all local businesses. That thought also goes into supporting local schools, fundraisers, and organizations like Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club, among others.

## **The best part of being an entrepreneur?**

It's never over!

*For more information, visit [browningandsons.com](http://browningandsons.com).*



*“Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.”*

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

## AUTHENTIC INDUSTRY LEADER

**B**ETTY BRANDOLINO is a thought leader in the home design industry. Quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *Business of Home*, she has used her intuitive design skills and business background to curate a luxury furniture and window treatment boutique, Fresh Twist, in Elmhurst. Established in 2010, Fresh Twist is a customer-oriented studio that provides unique expertise in window treatments—featuring a Hunter Douglas Gallery—as well as a home furniture showroom. Betty has developed a lifestyle brand that respects classic details—and adds a modern “fresh twist” to every project. The Elmhurst studio showcases window treatments, furniture, rugs, wallpaper, lighting, art, and décor. When not at work you can find Betty attending live music venues and taking weekend trips with her family.

### **What is your fashion style?**

I LOVE fashion and my closet is similar to my brand—timeless and classic with a twist of modern and fun.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I run my business from a relationship vs. transactional viewpoint. My clients receive a luxury experience that is authentic and insightful. Being in the industry for over a decade, I have fine-tuned my curated product lines. My showroom gives customers a great visual during presentations where they can touch and feel all products.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

Working hard and having a passion are a must, as being an entrepreneur is not for the faint of heart. I have learned that hiring the right team is everything. It's not always about looking at the resume for a skillset, but more importantly looking at personality characteristics.

*For more information, visit [freshtwiststudio.com](http://freshtwiststudio.com) or [fwindowtreatments.com](http://fwindowtreatments.com).*



*“What do we live for, if not to make life less difficult for each other?”*

GEORGE ELIOT



## TRAILBLAZERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

**W**ith more than 35 years of experience between them, **DR. GRETCHENA. BOULES** and **DR. BRANDI K. BOAN** have joined forces to open Optimal Vitality, LLC: Concierge Psychology Services in 2023. Dr. Boules, who is also the Founder, President, and CEO of Boules Clinical Psychology Group, PLLC in Burr Ridge, and Dr. Boan, Founder of The Brain Clinic, LLC, were within the first cohort of Prescribing Psychologists training together in Illinois. Their new self-pay concierge practice is designed to provide tailored treatment plans for individuals, while also offering increased flexibility and privacy.

### **What is your business style?**

**Gretchen:** Collaborative, supportive, personalized, and empowering.

**Brandi:** Communication and collaboration. Whether working with a colleague or a patient, the relationship should be a partnership that thrives on open communication and collaboration.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

**Gretchen:** I offer a private and compassionate setting where

individuals learn new ways to create positive changes in their lives and promote their own natural ability to heal.

**Brandi:** My hope is a patient leaves the office having learned something about himself/herself, confident, and increasingly capable to be successful in life.

### **What influenced your path to success?**

**Gretchen:** My study of classical piano and love for history inspired me to become a psychologist. Understanding my own patterns and history empowered me to become the architect of my own life.

**Brandi:** Being open to all possibilities of the future. While I always knew I wanted to go into a science-based field, the exact path was somewhat of a series of unforeseen events.

### **What advice would you give to future Power women?**

**Gretchen:** Always have a dream and work towards a goal.

**Brandi:** Believe in yourself.

*For more information, visit [optimalvitalityconcierge.com](http://optimalvitalityconcierge.com).*



*“Set your life on fire. Seek those who fan your flames.”*

RUMI



## WELLNESS WARRIOR

**B**ARBIE BOULES, RDN, is a private nutrition and health coach, corporate wellness programmer, meditation teacher, speaker, and respected dietetic intern preceptor for Loyola University Chicago. As the owner of Barbie Boules Longevity Wellness, Inc., she has had the privilege of creating vibrant programming for more than 50 corporations, and counseling more than a thousand women across the country on their journey to better health.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I specialize in the unique wellness needs of women over 40. My clients receive fad-free, science-based, customized guidance that encourages optimal cognitive and metabolic health. Your brain is your sexiest feature and most valuable asset no matter your age, and when you're focusing on your brain, you're targeting every facet of your wellbeing. I'm a cheerleader for women fully embracing their power in the second chapter with curiosity and genuine joy.

### **Where do you draw inspiration from?**

I'm inspired by every single other woman who's killing it in her profession. We make a huge mistake when we view other women as competition. It's a powerful mindset shift when we stop comparing ourselves, and instead use the successes of the people we admire as a roadmap.

### **What advice do you have for future Power Women?**

What radically changed my business for the better was adopting a "Say yes and figure it out" attitude towards opportunity. It meant the hard work of learning to trust myself and let go of fear. These days I'm a firm believer: if it's at all in your wheelhouse, don't be limited by the fact that you've never done it before; take that risk with heart and the universe will catch you.

*For more information, visit [barbieboules.com](http://barbieboules.com).*

*“What you think, you become.  
What you feel, you attract.  
What you imagine, you create.”*

BUDDHA



## THE PROBLEM SOLVER

**K**RIS BERGER, a luxury real estate broker with Compass and founder of the Kris Berger Group, has been in the real estate industry for 27 years. Based in Hinsdale, Kris has excelled in helping clients in all stages of home buying and selling find their perfect home.

### **Who is your role model?**

Robert Reffkin. He is an entrepreneur on a mission to help everyone find their place in the world.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

It runs the gamut. I work with a lot of first-time homebuyers which is so exciting to see these younger adults moving into the home of their dreams. I also have a lot of “downsizing” clients either staying here or going out of state, many are trying to figure out what may be that last and final home. It’s very rewarding to be a part of these big decisions in people’s lives. It makes me so happy to know that I’ve helped them with their next journey.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

Time management and learning to delegate. I’m a bit of a control freak and like to do everything myself. Compass has so many resources, so by making changes and using them, it has made my job easier.

### **What is your best networking advice?**


Always be honest and ethical, it’s carried through into everything. I think people can see that and will want to work with you.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Don’t ever give up on your dreams and your goals. As I always say to my husband and kids ‘there is always a solution for everything,’ especially when you get into a tough situation, whether it’s with family or work, there is always a solution, so never give up.

*For more information, visit [krisbergergroup.com](http://krisbergergroup.com).*

Shirt by VALENTINO;  
shoes by Christian  
Louboutin from Neiman  
Marcus in Oak Brook



*“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.”*

MOTHER THERESA

## COMMITTED CONCIERGE

**B**uying and selling a home can be complex, and finding a dedicated REALTOR® is key to making it a seamless, gratifying experience. This is where **LULJETA BAJRAKTARI** comes in. She is a trusted advisor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago, and knowledgeable about the diverse aspects of buying and selling. Luljeta’s top priority is committed to offering outstanding real estate services to every single one of her clients.

### **Who is your role model?**

My mother, always! She strong in the mind, kind to the heart, and never gives up!

### **What is your business style?**

My business style is centered around client satisfaction. I pride myself on being an all-encompassing agent—not just knowledgeable as a realtor but also in construction and interior design. I offer a tailored concierge approach based on each client’s specific wants and needs.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

No matter how hard it may seem in the moment, every experience is an opportunity to learn and grow. When you look back to see how far you’ve come, it will make you feel so grateful and accomplished. Never give up.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Get yourself out there! Be true to who you are. You never know when opportunities will strike.

### **What is your fashion style?**

Fashionable but always with class.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Own it!

*For more information, visit [facebook.com/luljetabajraktaribroker](https://www.facebook.com/luljetabajraktaribroker).*

Red pant by Alice & Olivia from Neiman Marcus in Oak Brook.



*“Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.”*

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

## PREMIER PET CARE

**D**R. JOYCE ASHAMALLA has a deep love of animals. As the Managing Partner at Hinsdale Animal Hospital, an organization she’s been with for 15 years, the veterinarian has dedicated her life to Hinsdale’s animals and the families who love them. She graduated from the University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana with a B.S. in Animal Sciences and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. She is an active member of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA), and Chicago Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) with USDA/APHIS accreditation. She is looking forward to seeing Hinsdale Animal Hospital’s recently built state-of-the-art facility continue to flourish.

### **Who is your role model?**

I have been blessed with amazing parents. I strive to be more like my father every day. As an immigrant, he came to the United States and created a life for his family with his amazing faith, work ethic, intelligence, and dedication. Everything he does is with his family in mind. He possesses so many admirable qualities including patience, loyalty, kindness, and discipline. The world would be a better place with more people like him.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I hope that my clients find a warm caring family-like feeling with clear, educated communication. I love establishing a rapport and understanding with clients and having them know that we have the same goals in mind—providing the best care possible for them and their pets.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

My advice would be to stay professional. Your demeanor, attitude, and the way in which you carry yourself speak volumes. Always put your best foot forward and be friendly and inclusive. What better way to build relationships than communication?

*For more information, visit [hinsdaleanimalhospital.com](http://hinsdaleanimalhospital.com).*



*“There is no passion to be found in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.”*

NELSON MANDELA

## HEALING TOUCH

**G**INA PONGETTI ANGELETTI, MPT, MA, CSCS, ART-Cert. has dedicated her life to the well-being of athletes and performers. As owner of Achieve Physical Therapy, Gina is world renowned for her work treating Broadway touring artists, gymnasts including World, Olympic, and NCAA champions, dancers, and skaters. She studied communications, theater, and Physical Therapy at Marquette University, and Health Communication at Michigan State University.

### **How do you impact your clients?**

I offer a unique balance of understanding how the body functions, the mechanics of sport, and solving mysteries of how injuries happened. Our team of medical professionals synthesize this information and get clients back to even better than previous function—in their mind and body. We spend time listening, researching, and connecting.

### **What are your greatest wins?**

There isn't just one. Watching others triumph, when you have been an intricate part of not only their success and glory, but their true happiness is like watching your own children. It is magical.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

I am blessed to be on the Board of Directors at Wellness House. Cancer has touched my life in a big way—my father lost his battle six years ago, I have two dear friends and an aunt who are currently fighting their hardest, and my husband was just recently diagnosed. Wellness House teaches you how to live and thrive while walking cancer's journey.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Believe in the product that you create, and in the team that produces it. Whether that is just you or your team, never settle for less than the hardest workers and the kindest people. You can teach a skill; you cannot teach integrity.

*For more information, visit [achieveorthosports.com](http://achieveorthosports.com).*



Dress by Zara; shoes by VALENTINO; jewelry by J/Crew



*“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”*

HELEN KELLER

## GOAL GETTER

**F**or **MIRA ALBERT**, DDS, MBA, MS, no goal is too high. An active member in the Hinsdale community and Founder of Brush Pediatric Dentistry, she achieved her latest accomplishment, graduating from Northwestern Kellogg School of Management with an M.B.A. in July 2022. The mother of two boys who also holds a B.A. and D.D.S from University of Michigan and an M.S. and Diploma in Pediatric Dentistry from University of Illinois-Chicago, prides herself on leading a team with compassionate care.

### **Who is your role model?**

My parents. I lost my dad earlier this year after a long battle with cancer. Hearing from all the people he touched throughout his long life was beyond comforting. His resilience, grit, and work ethic, along with my mom's dedication, inspire me every day.

### **What are the hardest lessons you have learned as an entrepreneur?**

Things will be ok as long as you work with integrity and do right by others.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Be authentic and spend your time with people who inspire you to be a better person.

### **What organizations do you enjoy contributing to?**

Brush serves a fortunate community in Hinsdale and it is one of my core values to help ensure that disadvantaged children receive the same level of care we provide to our patients at Brush. While I support many organizations both locally and beyond, I spend the majority of my philanthropic time and resources with the Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry whose mission is to ensure optimal oral care for all children regardless of ability to pay. I am thrilled to have been recently named a three-year Trustee and chair of the Marketing Committee. Exciting things are coming!

*For more information, visit [brushforkids.com](http://brushforkids.com).*



Dress by Marella from Sweet William; necklace by AVASSI New York Jewelry, earrings by J.Crew.





*“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.”*

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

## ARDENT ADVOCATE

**A** DEENA WEISS ORTIZ is a licensed attorney in Illinois and Florida for the past 20 years. As the founder of Weiss Ortiz PC and *abogadoMe.com*, which serves a diverse clientele in both states, she has appeared on network television, national public radio, and is a contributing author to *Lawyer Monthly*. She holds a Master of Laws and Juris Doctor from the John Marshall Law School, and a bachelor's degree from Simmons College. She practices in state, federal, and administrative courts in both states.

### **Who is your role model?**

My father, Jack J. Weiss. He was an attorney in Miami, Florida, who showed me how important the legal profession was to serve our community and how it is our responsibility to give back. As a child, I also remember watching attorney Gloria Allred on television. I was in awe of her. I thought she was a real trail blazing attorney, especially for women's rights.

### **What are your greatest wins?**

When my clients hug me, come by to drop off a gift, and call me on a holiday to wish me well. I know my team and I have left a mark on their lives, and that is the biggest win. We have a lot of wins that validate us, but the human heart-to-heart acknowledgment is what we treasure.

### **What is your best networking advice?**

Get out there and show your face! We all work hard, have families to attend to, and other responsibilities, but getting involved enriches your career, and the connections you make at an event will last forever.

### **What advice would you give to future Power Women?**

Follow your dreams, be strong, don't listen to naysayers, and never give up.

*For more information, visit [weissortizlaw.com](http://weissortizlaw.com).*