

YWCA of Greenwich announces Brava Award winners for 2016

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Christine Georgopulo, owner of the Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich and 2016 Brava Award winner.

The YWCA of Greenwich will be honoring 11 women professionals for its 39th Brava Awards in February.

“The women honorees, especially this year, really demonstrate an ability to not just get ahead in their careers, to not just raise a family, but also to give back to the community and volunteer. That’s really amazing,” said **Sheilah Smith**, a Greenwich resident and co-chair for the Brava Awards committee at the YWCA.

Honored will be: **Ellen Adams**, managing principal of **Hanoi Capital Management**; **Nancy Altobello**, global vice chair of talent for EY, formerly Ernst and Young; Dr. **Anne Angevine**, an attending physician in the **Bennett Cancer**

Center at Stamford Hospital; Sheryl Battles, vice president of communications and diversity Strategy at **Pitney Bowes**;

Laura Beck, principal at Cummings and Lockwood; Paola **Garellick**, co-founder and owner of Garellick and Herbs; **Christine Georgopulo**, owner of the Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich; **Melissa Mulrooney**, executive director and CEO of the Stamford Museum and Nature Center;

Lindsay Sheehy, a partner at **Dickstein Shapiro**; Dr. Stacy Zarakiotis, diplomate of the **American Board of Pediatric Dentistry** for the **Greenwich Pediatric Dental Group**; and Dr. **Felice Zwas**, chief of gastroenterology and chairman of the **Medical Executive Committee** at **Greenwich Hospital**.

The women will be honored at the YWCA's Brava awards ceremony and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 5 at the **Hyatt Regency Greenwich, 1800 E. Putnam Ave.**

Those interested in purchasing tickets can e-mail **Aubrey Grodin** at a.grodin@ywcagreenwich.org or buy them online at www.ywcagreenwich.org/events/benefits/brava-awards/.

The 11 were chosen by the **YWCA Brava committee** from more than 60 nominees.

To get nominated for the award by a YWCA member, board member or staff, the women must either live or work in Stamford or Greenwich, must be accomplished in their careers and must show a demonstrated commitment to volunteer work.

"There are a lot of accomplished women in the world and a lot of amazing women volunteers, but to combine the two is pretty extraordinary. Especially because we all know that balancing work and life is a major challenge for working women," said Smith.

About 400 attendees are expected at this year's luncheon, which starts with a meal and ends with each honoree telling her story.

"It's so interesting as you listen to each woman who gets up and has a story to tell at lunch," she said. "You still hear these women honorees saying they were the first woman in their (field)," said Smith.

"We're still in the minority, it's not really recognized," said Smith, pointing out that of the 16 presidential candidates, only two are women.

The event is held as part of the YW's mission to "empower women." Smith said the women honorees can serve as role models.

"It's very exciting to see from the experiences of these women that anything is possible," she said.

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