



2024

**Women of  
Distinction**

Awards Ceremony





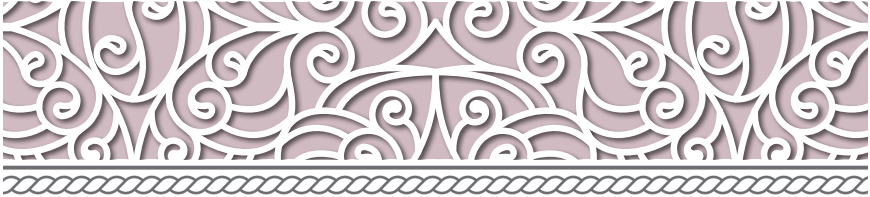
“The North Country is enriched by a multitude of courageous and industrious women who tirelessly enhance this community. The Women of Distinction Awards this year honors exceptional women who exemplify unwavering dedication in uplifting ways while empowering their neighbors.”

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– Assemblyman Billy Jones

*For more information on this or any other community issue, please contact my office at:*

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518-562-1986 | [JonesB@nyassembly.gov](mailto:JonesB@nyassembly.gov)



# Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony Honoring

Education Award  
Carey Goyette

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Community and Civic Affairs Award  
Louise McNally

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Healthcare Award  
Richelle Gregory

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Volunteerism Award  
Carol Arnold

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Business Award  
Kelly Gonyo

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Humanitarian Award  
Jackie Douglass

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North Country Neighbor Award  
Lamiaa Aly-Elshafay

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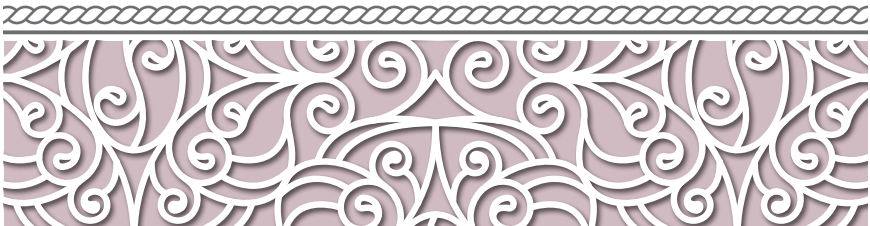
Service to Hometown Heroes Award  
Pauline Stone

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Law Enforcement Award  
Vivian Young Joo

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A special thank you to our Master of Ceremonies, Deena Glitz McCullough who graciously donated her time to help honor these amazing women of the North Country.





## EDUCATION AWARD

# Carey Goyette

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Carey has spent over two decades of her career in higher education, helping oversee the academic growth of many New Yorkers, and she now serves as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Clinton Community College. She grew up in Chazy, graduating from Chazy Central Rural School before continuing her education at SUNY Plattsburgh and Russell Sage College.

First serving as an instructor at Clinton Community College and SUNY Plattsburgh, Carey went on to become a professor at the former. Throughout her career, Carey assisted in numerous initiatives at Clinton Community College, including the Lake Champlain Summer Arts Institute, a summer camp for grades 7 through 12. For her various efforts, Carey was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. Outside of her work, she is a member of the American Legion and Clinton County Canine Club, and she and her dog, Auster, are a certified Love on a Leash therapy dog team, where they visit local nursing homes and schools.





COMMUNITY AND CIVIC AFFAIRS AWARD

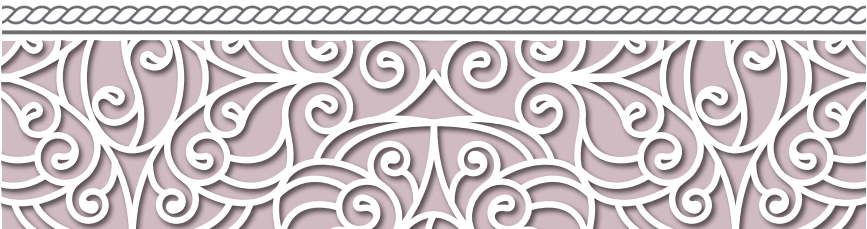
## Louise McNally

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After retiring from 25 years in the fashion and entertainment industries, Louise McNally stepped forward to take over Tupper Lake Arts Council when it was threatened with closing due to a lack of staff. Her passion for the arts and energetic community organizing have led to a cultural renaissance in the Adirondacks.

After receiving 501(c)(3) status in 2018, Tupper Arts has grown into a major local institution which purchased and restored an 8,000-square-foot building in town. The Tupper Arts Center serves as a nucleus for other businesses and nonprofit organizations to present a new face for downtown Tupper Lake. In January, McNally led Tupper Arts to a record-breaking fundraising drive that allowed them to purchase and restore the historic Adirondack State Theater. When she is not enriching Tupper Lake's cultural life for future generations, Louise spends time with her two daughters and five grandchildren.





## HEALTHCARE AWARD

# Richelle Gregory

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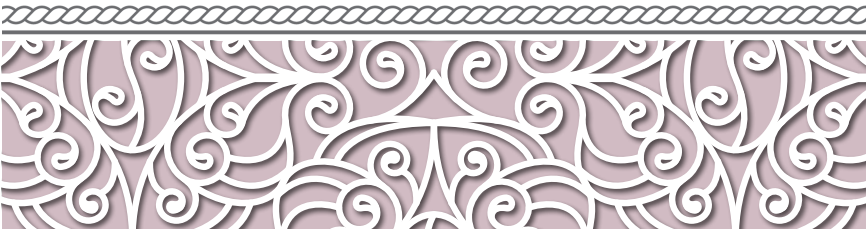
Richelle Gregory serves as the Director of Community Services for Clinton County and, throughout her career, has dedicated her working hours to improving the lives of vulnerable children, residents and families. In her current role, Richelle serves as the CEO of the Community Services Board, the Local Government Unit for the Office of Mental Health, Office of Addiction Services and Supports, and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

She is also the Director of Clinton County Mental Health and Addiction Services, an integrated mental health and addictions outpatient clinic. In addition, she serves in several leadership roles, such as co-chair of the Children and Families Committee for the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors and Chair of the Substance Abuse and Prevention and Recovery in Clinton County.

Earlier in her career, Richelle was the founding Executive Director of the Clinton County District Attorney's Child Advocacy Center, where she created multi-disciplinary teams to prevent and investigate child abuse, among other initiatives. Her work has resulted in improved systems for vulnerable populations through creating and managing systems of care for children and families while strengthening and supporting partnerships with behavioral health agencies and law enforcement through various programs.

Richelle is grateful for her partnership with her husband Kevin and for their combined five children. She enjoys spending time with her family at their camps or traveling; taking care of their two dogs, two cats and eight chickens; and gardening.

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## VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

# Carol Arnold

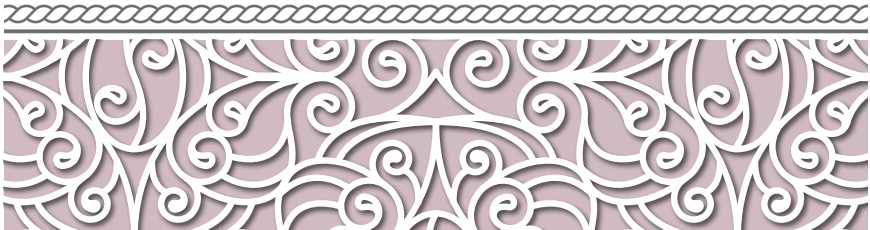
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Carol Arnold is a proud North Country native, who graduated from Keeseville Central School in 1970, Our Lady of Victory Secretarial School in 1971, Clinton Community College in 1973 and Wilmington University in Delaware in 1982. Carol worked at DuPont and retired in 2013 as an Engineering Knowledge Management Leader after almost 40 years.

She represented Delaware on the 1980 Olympic Torch Relay Team. Carol is a member of the Clinton Community College Alumni Board, the Clinton County Historical Association Board of Trustees, and the Oval West Home Owners Association Board of Directors. She is a member of the Joint Council for Economic Opportunity's (JCEO) Community Action Angels, a volunteer program that helps disadvantaged individuals, families, and communities.

Carol is the North Country New York Chapter Leader of Great Dames and has a chapter in the Great Dames book that was published in 2023. She is a docent at the Rockwell Kent Gallery at SUNY Plattsburgh. Carol is a program co-chair at the Plattsburgh Noon Rotary, is on the Environmental Committee and was named "Rotarian of the Year" in 2023.







## BUSINESS AWARD

# Kelly Gonyo

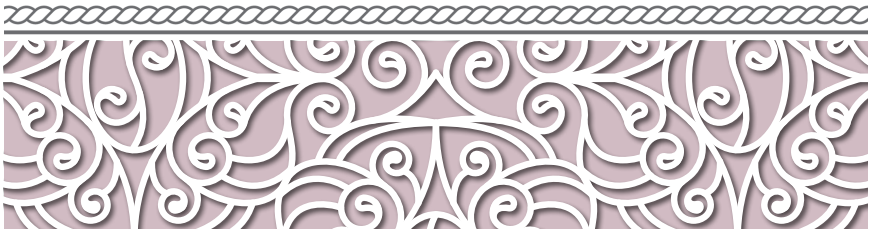
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Kelly Gonyo is a North County native from Mooers and graduated from Northeastern Clinton Central High School in 1996. Kelly began her first insurance job as a receptionist for a local agency in 2001, and spent the next decade growing and learning about the insurance industry. After this pivotal work experience, Kelly started her own business, Blue Line Insurance Agency, in Lake Placid in 2011, followed by a second location in Champlain in 2017. With Kelly at the helm, Blue Line Insurance Agency acquired and combined two local insurance agencies in 2019, and in recent years, opened two

additional locations in Tupper Lake and Ellenburg Depot.

Kelly is on the Board of Directors for Big I NY, the Adirondack Economic Development Corp, and the Lake Placid Olympic Museum, the Treasurer and former President of the Saranac Lake Woman's Softball Fast Pitch League, and a member of the Lion's Club and the Tri-Lakes Business and Networking Group. Kelly and her team at Blue Line Insurance Agency have been recognized with various awards for their great work and success, and give back to their community through dinners, sporting events, fundraisers, and supporting local booster clubs.





## HUMANITARIAN AWARD

# Jackie Douglass

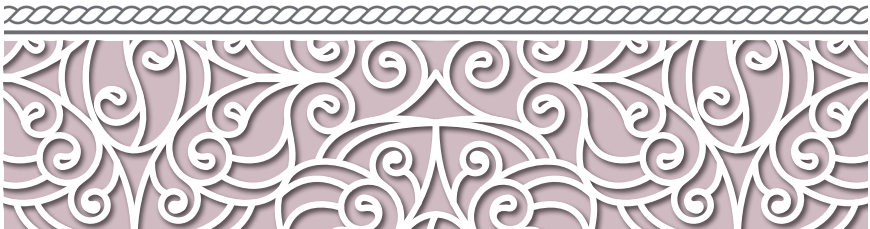
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Jackie Douglass, of the Town of Peru, has dedicated her life to volunteering and bettering the lives of those around her. Jackie has worked at Hannaford Supermarket and been involved in many of their charitable initiatives, like delivering food and clothing for families in need and assisting in the support of United Way.

Jackie is heavily involved in Peru Central School District, volunteering with the Music and Arts Booster Club, Parent's Night Out, the Anti-Bullying Program and the PTA, where she is the Assistant President. She also participates in many activities with the Peru Community Church, such as supporting those experiencing sickness or grief, outreach missions, helping the less fortunate and teaching vacation Bible school. Jackie is one of the founders of the Peru Soup Kitchen, a Brownies co-leader and a soccer coach for the Town of Peru.

Jackie is a volunteer for the Peru Lion's Club, where she assists in roadside trash pickup, tree planting and the Turkey Trot. Jackie has taken part in many other initiatives as well, including local elderly support, the Boobie Sisters, Donkey and Friends, Thera-Pets, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, Make-a-Wish, Honor Flight and Home Town Heroes. When she is not volunteering, Jackie can be found crafting, camping, hiking or kayaking and spending time with her husband, children and grandchildren.





## NORTH COUNTRY NEIGHBOR AWARD

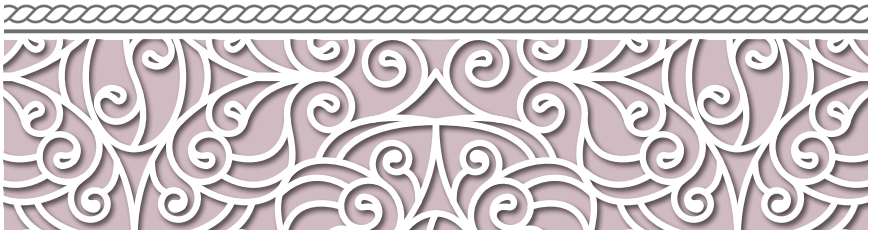
# Lamiaa Aly-Elshafay

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Lamiaa Aly-Elshafay is an accomplished business leader and community advocate, dedicated to keeping North Country residents better informed through her work at the Press-Republican newspaper. Born in Cairo, Egypt, Lamiaa moved to the U.S. in 1997, settling in New York City. After emigrating, Lamiaa worked in accounting and human resources before once again moving to the North Country in 2001, where she continued to work in related fields until 2006, when she picked her first job in media.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Lamiaa helped lead the Press-Republican newspaper, working to ensure that the community had a reliable and trusted news source during a difficult and trying time. It was during those years that she took on more responsibilities, including advertising, production and delivery oversight. Outside of work, Lamiaa is a member of the North Country Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and the Clinton County Historical Association. Lamiaa is also a mother of three children: Zana, Adam and Alex.





**SERVICE TO HOMETOWN HEROES AWARD**

## Pauline Stone

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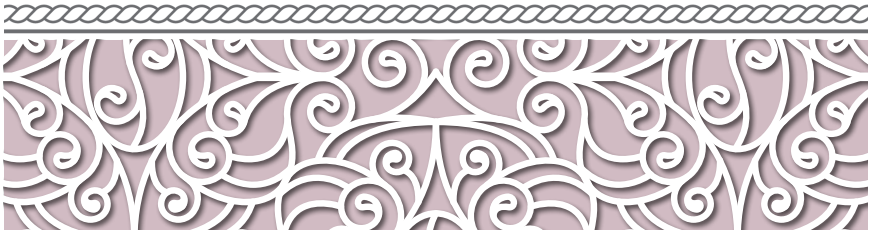


Pauline Stone is the Executive Secretary of North Country Honor Flight, a role she has served in for the past 10 years. North Country Honor Flight's mission is to honor World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans who have served our country by giving them the chance to go to Washington, DC, and experience the gratitude of a grateful nation.

Veterans of World War II played a crucial role in building the country we know today, but far too often their sacrifices go unnoticed.

Pauline's work has been instrumental in giving veterans the experiences they deserve, such as

leading a team of volunteers who assist her in organizing the veterans' school visits, personal appearances and their float for the veterans' parades. Outside of the work she does with Honor Flight, Pauline is a substitute teacher in the Plattsburgh City School District, a mother to three sons, and loves to spend time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.





**LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD**

## Vivian Young Joo

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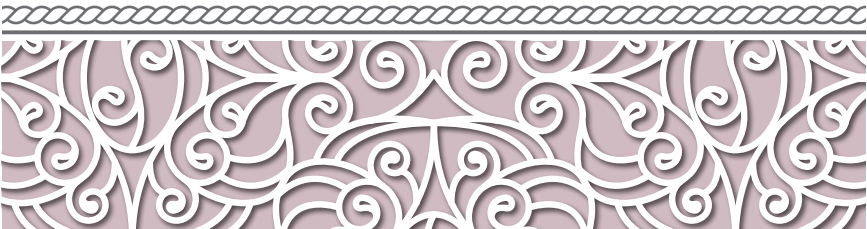


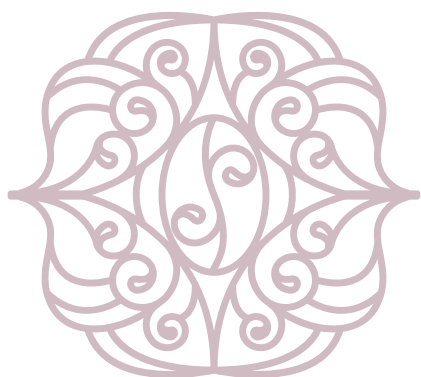
Vivian Young Joo is an accomplished legal professional with extensive experience in prosecution, legal investigations and trial advocacy. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Paralegal Studies from St. John's University before earning her Juris Doctor degree from Hofstra University School of Law in 2000. For over seven years, Vivian was a Senior Assistant District Attorney at the Rockland County District Attorney's Office.

Vivian has worked as an Associate Attorney at Scaring & Brissenden, PLLC, defending clients in misdemeanor and felony cases

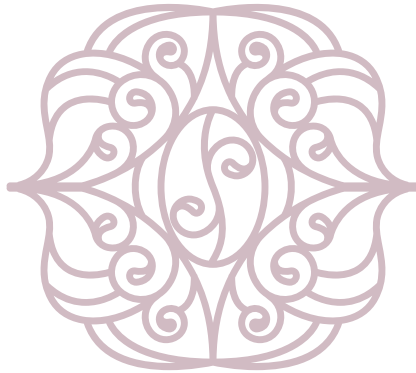
on the state and federal level. Vivian served as a Senior Assistant District Attorney at the Kings County District Attorney's Office, where she worked in the Fraud Bureau of the Investigations Division.

Since 2019, Vivian has been an Assistant District Attorney at the Clinton County District Attorney's Office and specializes in cases related to weapon and drug possession, official misconduct, corruption and violent crimes within state correctional facilities. In her role, Vivian frequently presents sealed cases to a grand jury, conducts investigations, and collaborates with various law enforcement agencies to investigate major crimes.









Presented by:

**Assemblyman Billy Jones**

May 9, 2024