FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Our Annual Dinner was a major success made possible by the hard work and dedication of our valued volunteers. We took this opportunity to honor Susan Kupferman as the WTS-GNY Women of the Year for her service to the industry and her tireless support and mentoring of women at all levels of our profession. Susan’s heartfelt acceptance of this award made the evening unforgettable. Surpassing all our expectations, the evening also marked record attendance and a new level of corporate partnership, which has again endowed our scholarship program. Events such as our annual dinners stand as a testament to the strength and purpose of the Greater New York Chapter of the WTS. Again, well done and thank you to all our volunteers.

As we move forward, we can proudly celebrate the achievements of the last few months: WTS International has revamped its website. While many of the changes appear seamless to members, they will make a significant difference in our organization’s administration, and hopefully someday will allow electronic registration for events.

WTS-GNY’s future shines as bright as ever with our efforts to expand programs and activities in New Jersey. To solidify our dedication to this expansion, the chapter has created two vice president positions.

WTS – A Strong Presence In The Industry

BY DANIILLA BERNETT

As Indian Summer swathed the city in its balmy warmth on a mid-October night, WTS Greater New York Chapter members and industry leaders came together at Bridgwater in Lower Manhattan to honor Susan Kupferman, the 2007 Woman of the Year, and this year’s two scholarship winners.

WTS-GNY President Felice Farber set the stage for the evening’s festivities by reinforcing WTS’ mission. She drew attention to the ever-growing presence of strong women in top management roles. “Now, more than at any time in the history of this country, women have secured a permanent and central place among the leaders of nearly every industry and at every level. In transportation, WTS serves as the collective mentor of the future of women in the industry.”

“This, throughout WTS, the three themes that continued on page 2

From left: WTS-GNY President Felice Farber with MTA Executive Director Elliot Sander and WTS 2007 Woman of the Year, Susan Kupferman.

From left: New Jersey Turnpike Authority attendees Jean Laird, Senior Project Engineer, and WTS Programs Co-Chair (NJ); Gail Anderson, ETC Customer Relations Manager and WTS member; Thomas Sobe, Operations Engineer; Nellia Shakhmina, Assistant Traffic Engineer; Ana Tatoris, Project Engineer.
on the board, one for New York and one for New Jersey.

2008 is looking more exciting every day. Votes are being tallied for the new board. Thanks for taking the time to vote on your 2008-2010 slate of officers. The rewards of actively sharing your time with WTS and volunteering are real and quantifiable. I implore each of you to come and participate to make 2008 the best year yet for the Greater New York Chapter.

We are thrilled to feature long-time WTS member and NYCDOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan as the keynote speaker at our Annual General Meeting on January 8th at Club 101. We will also recognize the Employer of the Year, Member of the Year, and Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership winners at this event. Come and join us to kick off 2008 right.

Have a great holiday!

Felice Farber
President GNY Chapter
(212) 687-3131 felice@gca.gcany.net

resonate are leadership, mentoring and involvement. Tonight, I am proud to recognize three outstanding women who lead by example, encourage the rest of us, and share a commitment to furthering the goals of WTS. Their success is a beacon for the industry. I am especially honored to pay tribute to Susan Kupferman, the Chief Operating Officer of the MTA, and to award her the 2007 Woman of the Year award.”

However, Felice said that while much has been accomplished, the advancement of women in transportation continues to be “a goal that will require a constant and vigilant daily focus. Tonight, we celebrate our achievements and look to our future for even greater returns.”

A beaming WTS Scholarship Committee Chair Betsi Nemeth recognized this year’s scholarship winners, Jeannie Kwon and Rima Zahalan. The proceeds from the evening’s Silent Auction went toward the Scholarship Fund.

Jeannie Kwon is a candidate for a Master in Public Administration degree, with a concentration in transportation and management, at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University (NYU). She is also the Special Assistant for Policy at the MTA. She has worked as an Urban Age Researcher for the London School of Economics, has led volunteer community forums with Sustainable Long Island, and has served as a graduate teaching assistant for Transportation Policy at NYU. Jeannie is a member of the Transportation Research Board’s Strategic Planning Committee, and is also the Founder and Co-Chair of the Wagner Transportation Association, the first official transportation club at NYU, with over 60 members.

Jeannie would like to shape transportation policy and improve transportation operations from a customer service perspective. She is also interested in sustainability and green design issues. To this end, she is currently working on the MTA’s Sustainability Commission. In addition to the WTS scholarship, Jeannie will receive a $1,000 scholarship from the Urban Transportation Research Center.

Rima Zahalan is an undergraduate student at Rutgers University pursuing a dual degree in Civil Engineering and Mathematics with a minor in Economics. Her concentration is in transportation and structural engineering. Her interests include mass transportation and bridge engineering.

Aside from her studies, Rima will be working on a two-year project with the Rutgers Transportation Department called The Global Logistics Chain—A 21st Century Change Agent for the National Science Foundation that integrates new technologies with transportation systems to improve port development. Rima has been a member of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars since 2003 and Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honors Society, since 2005.
She has also been a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Society of Women Engineers at Rutgers since 2005. In 2006, she received the Ernest R. Schultz 1930 Scholarship and the Donald J. Butler Award for structural engineering. She has also participated in the ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition and Steel Bridge Competition since 2006. In addition, Rima is a member of Chi Epsilon, the Civil Engineering Honor Society, where she serves as treasurer.

Rima’s long-term goal is to reduce the effects of global warming through widespread use of mass transportation and transportation engineering.

From transportation’s future, the evening turned toward the industry’s current leaders as Felice welcomed keynote speaker Elliot Sander, MTA Executive Director and CEO, who presented the Woman of the Year award.

“This is a special evening for me to introduce Susan, as well as to present the scholarship to Jeannie,” Sander said. [Jeannie works for him at the MTA.]

“It is truly an honor for me to be here. Susan is a dear friend, colleague and co-pilot at the MTA. We’ve known each other for many years. The MTA would not be where it is today without Susan. She became president of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority (TBTA) in 2005 and acting Chief Operating Officer in January 2007. She was made full COO in October 2007. Susan made a commitment to lead the MTA through the transition when I came into the agency.

“Four words come to mind when I think of Susan: intelligence, integrity, loyalty and courage.”

Finally, the humble honoree herself stepped into the spotlight. “What an incredible, unexpected honor,” Susan said. “I’m so happy to see that so many people I’ve worked with over the years are here tonight.”

“Transportation is in my genes,” she noted. Her father started out as civil engineer and left to pursue a career in policy. Susan went on to discuss her own career, which involved her in “just about every organization and every mode of transportation in New York State.” She said that it was a privilege to advise former Governor Mario Cuomo and Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and to work with Senator Moynihan on several pieces of transportation legislation.

“Early in my career, I learned how important a network is. WTS has provided me with transportation colleagues, professional values and my strong work ethic of honesty and integrity. I’m so appreciative to be honored in such a public way, especially by WTS, an organization that has done so much for women.”

“Making this list is the biggest honor that I have received and I would like to thank [WTS] for [its] ongoing support and friendship,” Flora said.

Hispanic Business magazine provides current business-related news. It covers the U.S. Hispanic market growth; economic trends within the Americas; best business practices; and career development opportunities. The magazine’s goal is to provide research-driven content to the nation’s top policymakers and powerbrokers. Its circulation is about 265,000 and it has a total audience of over one million readers. Visit the Hispanic Business magazine’s 100 Influential List 2007 website: [http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/news/news_print.asp?id=77083](http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/news/news_print.asp?id=77083).
Skanska USA Civil has worked for nearly every major transportation, environmental and energy supplier in the greater New York area. Our client list includes New York City Transit, New York City DOT, NJ Transit, New York Power Authority, Consolidated Edison, Metro-North Railroad, the Port Authority of NY and NJ and New York City DEP.

Projects that our business units completed have resulted in more efficient transportation systems, cleaner waterways and cleaner power production for residents of the communities in which we live and operate. Our portfolio of projects also includes reconstruction of New York City’s famed bridges, such as the Williamsburg, Manhattan and Triborough. We are proud of being the driving force behind some of the most complex infrastructure projects in the area and look forward to continued opportunities to serve our clients and community by providing quality construction projects delivered on-time, within budget and safely.

As one of the largest general contractors nationwide, we are constantly taking proactive steps to recruit and retain some of the brightest female engineers in the field. By offering training programs, career development and the opportunity to work on some of the most exciting projects, we are confident that Skanska USA Civil will be the employer of choice for tomorrow’s field of female engineers.

WTS Greater New York Joins Multi-Chapter AltWheels Effort

BY FELICE FARBER

WTS had an impressive presence at the AltWheels Festival in Boston. The fifth annual festival featured exhibitors who celebrated and raised awareness of alternative transportation and energy use. WTS Boston, Greater New York, Oregon, Connecticut and Rhode Island chapters collaborated to promote WTS’ mission and its relationship with AltWheels.

The unique and eye-catching exhibit booth donated by the Portland Chapter featured sustainable and recycled materials. Signage was produced specifically for the event that depicted sustainable initiatives taking place within the participating chapters. The Greater New York Chapter highlighted some of the sustainability initiatives of the New York City Department of Transportation.
Although ominous clouds loomed overhead on a gray October morning, the rain bypassed the intrepid group of 24 WTS members and guests as they set out on an in-depth technical tour of the Rt. 52 Causeway project. The causeway is an evacuation route that connects Somers Point and the resort town of Ocean City, NJ. Ed Panuska and Chris Carter from George Harms Construction Co. outfitted the attendees with hard hats and safety vests before driving up onto the decked portion of the bridge under construction, which provided a wonderful view of the work. The group saw such aspects as the barge holding tightly stacked beams and barged in decks. Panuska and Carter explained that a number of environmental factors, which constrain the times when work can be done, must be taken into consideration. To mitigate these challenges, rebar and forming stations are among the interesting features being used on the construction site.

During the luncheon portion of the tour, Project Manager Joseph Romano, Project engineer for the design Wendy Haugeto and Cassandra Khazem, Project Engineer for the second phase, presented a slide show that detailed the unique (to New Jersey) design of “inverted T” structure and materials to withstand the salt water. Rt. 52 is located in highly visible, environmentally sensitive areas and serves thousands of tourists annually. The existing structure consists of a highway constructed over three islands. Rt. 52 also crosses waterways with four bridges, two of which are bascule type spanning Ship Channel and Beach Thorofare in Great Egg Harbor Bay. The other two bridges are in poor condition and require continuous maintenance.

The Rt. 52 Causeway was included in the state’s list of Hyper Build projects, which calls for performing the design and construction phases on an accelerated schedule. The project’s goal is to replace the older structures with a new one. The existing roadway and the two bridges over the three islands will be replaced in a new geometric pattern. The two movable bridges will be replaced with fixed high-level structures.

After gaining this rare perspective into this complex project, it was clear to the group that the replacement is well ahead of schedule thanks to the quality work being performed by the team of Michael Baker Engineering and George Harms Construction.
A WTS Members-Only Event with FTA Regional Administrator

By Joanne Pulver

A group of 35 WTS-GNY members attended a breakfast program on September 25th at Club 101 in Manhattan, at which Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Regional Administrator Brigid Hynes-Cherin was the featured speaker. To allow for more personal and greater interaction with the speaker, attendance was limited to WTS members only.

Brigid Hynes-Cherin, a WTS member herself, is the Regional Administrator for the FTA’s Region 2, which includes the Lower Manhattan Recovery Office. In this position, she directs the planning, grant-making and project management services that support the annual $1.5 billion federal transit program in New York and New Jersey, as well as the commuter rail programs in Connecticut.

Hynes-Cherin’s presentation discussed the FTA’s oversight of $4.5 billion worth of major construction projects being handled by the Lower Manhattan Recovery Office, particularly the World Trade Center PATH Hub; the Fulton Street Transit Center; the South Ferry Station; and the Vehicle Security Center. She also provided an overview of the largest New Starts project ever approved by FTA – the $7.4 billion East Side Access, which will bring Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) trains into a new concourse at Grand Central Terminal. The presentation also focused on the development of two other major New Starts projects: construction of the Second Avenue Subway line in Manhattan and construction of the Trans-Hudson Express (THE) tunnel under the Hudson River to increase NJ Transit capacity into Manhattan. Hynes-Cherin outlined the goals of each project, as well as the unique challenges they face, particularly those related to budget and time constraints. As evidenced by the detailed questions at the end of the presentation, the attendees were extremely interested in the work being funded by the FTA in the New York metropolitan area and found the program highly informative.

WTS-GNY hopes to provide other types of “members-only” programs in the future. If you have any suggestions for programs or speakers, please contact the WTS Programs Co-Chairs. Their contact information is listed at the end of the newsletter.

A Salute to Our 2007 Corporate Sponsors

Ocean Liner
DMJM Harris
Michael Baker Corporation
PB
Skanska USA Civil Northeast

Yacht
Amman & Whitney
General Contractors Association of New York, Inc.
Gilbert Tweed Associates Inc.
HDR
PBSh
STV Group, Inc.
Trueform

Motor Boat
AKRF, Inc.

Sailboat
ARCADIUS
Cambridge Systematics
New York Building Congress
Sam Schwartz PLLC
A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

The list reflects the new members that joined the chapter up until press time.

Olivia Ryan
ARUP

Cheryl McKissack
McKissack & McKissack

Joan Newbold
MTA New York City Transit

Stacey Sammy-Davis
MTA New York City Transit

Lourdes McMillan
MTA Bridges & Tunnels

Claire Bird
MTA New York City Transit

Yuqing Ding
Parsons

Suchitra Sanagauarapu
NYC Department of Transportation

Amit Aaron
Bloustein School, Rutgers University

Janine Farzin
MTA New York City Transit

William Fife
DMJM Harris/AECOM