WTS Greater New York 2013
Annual Gala Cocktail Reception

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Advancing Women in Transportation
Greater New York Chapter
WTS Greater New York
Board of Directors

Congratulates
Helena E. Williams
President of MTA Long Island Rail Road

2013 Woman of the Year
Welcome to the WTS Greater New York Chapter 2013 Annual Gala Cocktail Reception

October 17, 2013

PROGRAM

Welcoming Remarks Mary K. Murphy, President WTS-GNY Chapter

2013 Scholarship Ellen Zielinski, Chair
Recipients GNY Scholarship Committee
Winners Ci ’Jessie’ Yang and Smita Sharma

Special Guest Host Joan McDonald, Commissioner
New York State Department of Transportation

2013 Woman of the Year Helena E. Williams, President
Long Island Rail Road

Introduced by Mitchell L. Moss, Henry Hart Rice Professor of
Urban Policy and Planning, and Director of the
Rudin Center for Transportation

Lifetime Achievement Award Catherine Sweeney, Vice President, Staff
Services/Chief of Staff MTA Bridges & Tunnels

Silent Auction Auction Winners Announced

With gratitude to those who contributed so generously to the WTS Silent Auction:

AECOM Linda Travis
Daniella Bernett William Lulow Photography
Jenny Karpelian *as of print date
Lisa Pompei
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
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Graphic support: cover logo Erica DeCrescenzo, Linda Travis, Amy Geller; journal layout by Parsons Brinckerhoff
2013 Annual Gala Cocktail Reception

MENU SELECTIONS

Butlered Hors d’Oeuvres
~ Chef’s Selection of Six ~

Maple Glazed Roasted Bacon
Caramelized Apples, Molasses

Shrimp Cocktail
Cocktail Sauce

Guacamole Tostado

Strip Steak
Truffle Creamed Spinach, Toasted Crostini

Chicken Skewers
Mango Chili Sauce

Marinated Portobello Mushrooms Skewers
Balsamic Reduction

FOOD STATIONS

Steakhouse Station
Sliced New York Strip Steak
and
Sliced Filet

Chopped Caesar Salad, Herbed Croutons, Shaved Parmesan
Garlic Bread Sticks with Gorgonzola Dipping Sauce

Black Truffle Creamed Spinach

French Fries
Accompanied by
Horseradish Sour Cream, Caramelized Onion Jam
Parker House Rolls

Pasta Station
Pancetta, Wild Mushrooms, Peas, Porcini Broth

Ricotta Ravioli with Walnuts
Pesto Cream
Congratulations to our Greater New York Chapter! Your accomplishments continue to raise the bar for WTS around the globe. WTS Greater New York Chapter’s Transportation YOU initiative was just featured this month at our Navigator’s Award Dinner honoring former U.S. DOT Secretary Ray LaHood. Your achievements and dedication to attracting, retaining and advancing women in the transportation industry inspire us all. You make us proud and we are excited to watch you as you continue to grow and effect change. We are looking forward to working with you as you embark on another successful year.

Shine on GNY!
HELENA E. WILLIAMS, an attorney and experienced transportation executive, was appointed president of MTA Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) on June 18, 2007. She is the first woman to lead the nation’s largest commuter railroad.

Williams has won high marks for improving customer communication, driving down costs at the LIRR and moving ahead with modernization projects that will benefit customers via better on-time performance and service reliability. She recently oversaw a reorganization of key LIRR departments and functions as part of a MTA-wide effort to bolster efficiency.

Williams’ priorities for the LIRR include a focus on customer safety, security and service reliability while laying the groundwork for meeting future transportation demands including preparing the agency for new service to Grand Central Terminal (GCT). Williams refers to the $7 billion East Side Access project to connect to GCT as the LIRR’s “moon shot” because it will result in the most significant increase in LIRR service in 100 years.

Williams’ appointment as LIRR president followed a distinguished career in public service, including terms as president of MTA Long Island Bus and later as Nassau County deputy county executive.

Serving for five years in the administration of former Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, she worked on key commercial development issues, restructuring medical center finances and preservation of open space.

Williams holds a J.D. from St. John’s University School of Law and is admitted to practice law in New York. She has a B.A. with honors from the State University of New York at Oneonta.
Catherine Sweeney will retire this month after nearly 40 years in public service. For the last 25 years, she served at the MTA Bridges and Tunnels. She is retiring from the position of vice president, Staff Services/chief of staff. In this role, Sweeney was charged with managing external affairs, human resources and administration for the largest bridge and tunnel toll agency nationwide. As chief of staff, she assisted the president; coordinated and anticipated issues and interdepartmental efforts; resolved problems; mediated disputes; acted as internal customer advocate; and served as a liaison to MTA headquarters. Sweeney introduced E-ZPass to New York City and created large successful public events.

Introduction by Mitchell L. Moss

Mitchell L. Moss, Henry Hart Rice professor of Urban Policy and Planning, and director of the Rudin Center for Transportation, has been described as a “New Yorkologist” by The New York Times. Professor Moss has been on the faculty of New York University since 1973. He served as an adviser to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg during his first campaign in 2001. From 1988 to 2003, he was director of NYU’s Taub Urban Research Center and from 1983 to 2004 he was deputy to the chairman of the Governor’s Council on Fiscal and Economic Priorities.

Professor Moss has directed research projects for the National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and has been a consultant to leading corporations and government agencies. He has testified before the United States House of Representatives’ Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and has been an expert witness in litigation before the United States District Court, Southern District of New York. His essays have appeared in The New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, New York Post, The New York Observer and Politico.com, as well as in leading scholarly journals.
JOAN MCDONALD is the 11th Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation. An expert on transportation, infrastructure, economic development, policy and planning, McDonald serves as a key member of Governor Cuomo’s cabinet.

Commissioner McDonald’s vision for NYSDOT focuses on two core components: (1) operating and maintaining New York’s transportation system safely and efficiently; and (2) delivering a world-class capital program on time and on budget. During her first year, Commissioner McDonald launched the department’s new Capital Asset Management-Capital Investment (CAM-CI) program. This innovative program focuses on preservation, looking at New York’s transportation system in a sustainable way. She has received high marks for bringing transparency to NYSDOT and for her collaboration with the design and construction industry.

Commissioner McDonald serves as chair of the Northeast Corridor Commission; chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Capital Program Review Board; co-chair of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. She serves on the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), as well as the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO). She is a member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee.

From 2003-2007, she was the senior vice president of Transportation for the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Her private-sector experience includes five years as the vice president in charge of New York and New Jersey at Jacobs Engineering.

McDonald was deputy commissioner for Planning & Traffic Operations for the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) from 1995-1998 and served as the Director of Capital and Long Range Planning for the MTA Metro-North Railroad for the three years prior to that. She served as Special Assistant to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly from 1991-1992. She began her career in public service with the New York State Assembly in 1978, serving in various capacities on the Ways and Means and House Operations Committees, including Deputy Budget Director and Assistant Director of Research.

Commissioner McDonald was honored as the WTS-Greater New York chapter’s 2011 Woman of the Year. She is also the recipient of the New York March of Dimes’ Public Sector-Service to Humanity Award (2011), the Hartford Business Journal’s Remarkable Woman in Business Award (2009), and the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Woman of Merit Award.
CI ‘JESSIE’ YANG is a Ph.D. student in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rutgers University, specializing in transportation. She received her master of science in Environmental Engineering from Texas A & M University, Kingsville, and bachelor of science in Environmental Science from the People’s University of China. Yang is currently working with GPS data from taxis in New York City to study travel demand and mode choice. The results of this work will be useful to improve travelers’ experiences, as well as transportation forecasting and planning. While in China, Yang was actively involved in efforts to educate the people about public transportation problems associated with the environment, including traffic congestion, parking difficulties, and pollution caused by vehicular emissions. Yang was awarded a Rutgers School of Engineering Fellowship in 2010 and 2011, and she won the Student Poster Competition at the 2013 ITE Northeastern District Annual Meeting for her work on taxi demand modeling. After graduation, Yang plans to become a transportation researcher to help design an intelligent, efficient and sustainable transportation system worldwide.

Smita Sharma received her bachelor of technology in Civil Engineering with honors from Pant University, India, and her master’s in Transportation Engineering from Arizona State University (ASU) specializing in Pavement Materials and Design. Smita’s outstanding research efforts were awarded with a graduate fellowship and a graduate research grant at ASU and she is currently pursuing her research at the State University of New York (SUNY), Albany. At SUNY, she is working towards a Ph.D. in Information Science and a master’s in Transportation Planning specializing in Geographic Information Systems and its applications in public transportation. Apart from research, she enjoys traveling, music and spending time with her four-year-old daughter. After graduation, Smita will continue pursuing research in the field of transportation planning/engineering and sustainability.
WTS-GNY Event Photos

WTS-GNY ANNUAL MEETING
January 31, 2013

2013 Member of the Year Julia Kerson.

The Innovative Transport Solutions Award was given to the joint venture of NYCT Dept. of Buses and MTA Bus, Cambridge Systematics and OpenPlans for MTA Bus Time. From left: Jeff Maki, OpenPlans, Jennifer Strasser, Cambridge Systematics, MTA Bus Chief Darrell Irick, Craig Cipriano, MTA Bus Operations and WTS-GNY President Mary K. Murphy.

From left: Amy Peterson, president of the Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW), presented the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award to Flora Ramos of Tishman Construction Corp.

From left: NJT Executive Director James Weinstein; WTS-GNY Programs (NY) Co-Chair Elizabeth Hynes; LIRR President Helena Williams.

VHB received the Employer of the Year Award. From left: Susan O’Donnell; Janet Sharkey; Bob Dennison; Lisa DiTaranti; Marty Taub; Ruth Bonsignore; Colin Foley; Emmanuelle Humblet; and Lauren Wang.

From left: Deidre Taylor, a general superintendent NYCT’s Stations Environment division; Deborah Howes, a director of Community Planning for AECOM; and WTS-GNY Vice President (NY) Linda Travis.

WTS members exchanged ideas on coping with workplace challenges; the importance of networking; and the work/life balance.

FINDING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION WORKSHOP
March 13, 2013

WTS Greater New York Chapter 2013 Annual Gala Cocktail Reception
ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP: SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS STORIES
March 20, 2013

From left: WTS-GNY Programs (NY) Co-Chair Elizabeth Hynes; Kim Haas, Haas Media president, WTS-GNY Vice President (NY) Linda Travis.

From left: Suzanne Silverman, NJ Transit; WTS-GNY Membership Committee Chair Erica DeCrescenzo; Emily Gallo and Dawn Miller, Taxi & Limousine Commission; Maryann Stock, NJ Transit; Yelena Rayster, Jacobs.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS: MEETING NEW JERSEY’S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS
March 28, 2013

From left: WTS-GNY Programs (NJ) Chair Polina Knaster; WTS-GNY President Mary K. Murphy; Peter J. Garino, NJ Transit (NJT); Victoria Cross Kelly, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Jeffrey Parker, Ernst & Young Infrastructure; Deborah Brown-Davis, FHWA; WTS-GNY Vice President (NJ) Beth DeAngelo.

TRANSPORTATION YOU BARCLAYS CENTER TOUR
May 15, 2013

Transportation YOU students at the Barclays Center.

Transportation YOU students, who hailed from Brooklyn’s City Polytechnic High School of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology, enjoyed their tour of the Barclays Center.
SPRING FLING
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
June 12, 2013

From left: WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Ella McLeod; WTS-GNY Special Events Committee member Yvette Janniere-Houlder; and WTS-GNY Vice President (NY) Linda Travis.

WTS-GNY members taking a walking tour of the High Line.

From left: WTS-GNY Transportation YOU Co-Chair Nicole Bucich; WTS-GNY President Mary K. Murphy; and WTS-GNY Transportation YOU Co-Chair Deborah Hyman.

From left: WTS-GNY Programs Committee (NY) members Sandra Forte and Alexa Gangemi.

From left: Thalia Panton and Rhonda Hogan-Brock, both of NYCT; and WTS-GNY Special Events Committee Co-Chair Lisa Pompei.

From left: WTS-GNY Newsletter Committee Chair Daniella Bernet and new member Iroda Rubinova, STV.
SUMMER SOLSTICE HAPPY HOUR
June 28, 2013

From left: Meghan Myers and Colleen O’Neil, both of Arora and Associates; WTS-GNY Vice President (NJ) Beth DeAngelo.

From left: Rosanna Collars, Arup; Olu Akele and Patty Bookh, both of Maser Consulting; and Brian Short.

From left: Pat Malleus Roma, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Dan LaMunyon, Maser Consulting; Lynn LaMunyon, Maser Consulting; Johanna Heine, NJ Transit; and Benjamin Freid, Amtrak.

From left: Kavita Dave, Kirstin Leendecker and Lyly Lau, all of Parsons Brinckerhoff; and Hannah Cheng, NJDOT.

METS GAME MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT
July 22, 2013

From left: WTS-GNY Young Professionals Committee member Leah Flax; Marilyn Shazor, FTA Region 2 administrator; WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Ella McLeod; Laura Azziz-Singh, NYCT; Ramona Dinkins-Pryce, NYCT; Deborah Chin, NYCT; Elizabeth Paul, NYCT; WTS-GNY Vice President (NY) Linda Travis; Taylor Reiss, NYCDOT; and WTS-GNY Special Events Committee member Juliet Williams.
Each year, at the chapter annual meeting, WTS-GNY sponsors an EXPO featuring our W/M/DBE corporate partners. If you are interested in meeting potential project partners, please make sure to clear your calendar for our annual meeting to meet and see work of our exhibitors. Our 2014 EXPO is planned for Thursday, January 16 at Club 101. For further details, visit the WTS-GNY website: www.wtsinternational.org/greaternewyork.
In Memoriam Susan Kupferman

WTS and the transportation industry lost a dear friend and champion when Susan Kupferman passed away earlier this year. WTS-GNY recognized Susan’s unique leadership qualities by bestowing the Woman of the Year Award on her in 2007. Now, WTS-GNY is proud to help Susan’s family establish a scholarship in her name. However, the chapter would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to a great woman.

Susan Kupferman, a senior adviser to the MTA chairman, held several top posts over the course of her career at the agency. She served as chief operating officer; a president of MTA Bridges and Tunnels (B&T); deputy executive director for policy, planning and capital programs; and a MTA board member.

Previously, Susan served as director of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Operations for Mayor Michael Bloomberg, where she is credited with completely overhauling the City’s performance management and reporting system. In addition, Susan was the mayor’s advisor and lead representative on the MTA board.

Susan was the first full-time co-director of the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management, an arm of New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She also served as the executive director of the National Association of City Transportation Officials.

During her 20-year career in New York State government, she held a variety of senior-level positions, including assistant secretary for Transportation. While at the Thruway Authority, she was the recipient of the Chairman’s Medal for Outstanding Service. Her work has been recognized nationally by several renowned planning and architectural organizations.

Susan Kupferman (far right) was the 2007 Woman of the Year.

TRIBUTES

“The MTA has lost a true professional in our industry, and her wisdom and counsel will be sorely missed. Susan brought to the MTA not just her expertise in mass transit, which was substantial, but a clear understanding of the political and social environments in which we operate, making her an invaluable advisor on many different policy issues.”

Thomas Prendergast, Chairman and CEO, MTA

“Susan was what everyone wants to be — smart, kind, funny and very, very effective. She could get to the core of a policy issue faster than anyone I’ve ever seen and she made everyone want to do their best.”

Catherine Sweeney, vice president, Staff Services/chief of staff, MTA Bridges & Tunnels

“Susan Kupferman was a loyal friend and tireless advocate for the New York she loved, the people she worked with and the family she adored. Her calm, courageous — and overwhelmingly kind — approach to life was truly inspiring. It was [reflected] in not only her mentorship at WTS, but in the way she offered a helping hand to colleagues and friends. Susan embodied the finest values of WTS, which made her recognition as WTS Woman of the Year in 2007 all the more fitting. Remembering Susan Kupferman will never be difficult. Living by her example will always be challenging.”

Felice Farber, WTS-GNY past president and director External Affairs, General Contractors Association of New York

“I met Susan when I was the chair of the Special Events Committee the year that Susan was honored as woman of the year. She was immensely intelligent and knowledgeable, cared deeply about public transit and was a terrific mentor; in other words a great asset to the MTA and WTS. She is missed!”

Amy Kaufman, WTS-GNY Communications Committee chair and senior director, Program Management & Analysis Department of Subways, Capital Programs, NYCT
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We congratulate Helena E. Williams, President, MTA Long Island Rail Road, on being honored as this year’s Woman of the Year.
HAKS Congratulates 2013 WTS-GNY Woman of the Year

Helena Williams
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