

Great Conversations Conversationalist Bios

Edward Adam, Psy.D. - Psychologist with expertise in the challenges facing men

Dr. Ed Adams is a psychologist who specializes in working with men impacted by life transitions such as divorce, loss, illness and career changes. His passion for expanding the lives of men began almost 30 years ago when he founded [Men Mentoring Men](#), a non-profit providing peer coaching. Over the years, he has led over 1,000 men's groups, workshops, and intensive retreats helping men live happier lives. In 2013, Ed received the Practitioner of the Year Award from Division 51 of the American Psychological Association. He has written two books about the male experience: [Reinventing Masculinity: The Liberating Power of Compassion and Connection](#) and [Becoming a Happier Man: A Man's Guide to Living a Full and Happier Life](#). Additionally, Ed is a professional visual artist with an art gallery of his paintings and sculpture, many of which have been placed in many private and public collections including Steven Spielberg's art collection, Hebrew University in Israel, Rutgers University and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital. Ed earned his Doctor of Psychology degree from Rutgers University and is currently in private practice in Lambertville (www.dredadams.net) where he lives with his wife, Marilee, and two dogs, Bodhi and Abby. Ed's son, Zak, is a federal prosecutor living in Washington, DC.

Watch Dr. Adams [here](#) in an interview with Michael Strahan on *Good Morning America*.

Tanya Silva Alcorn, Pfizer - VP, BioPharma Global Supply Chain

During the last almost two years of her two-decade Pfizer career, Tanya has guided, engineered and orchestrated the distribution of over 2 billion doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to human beings all over the globe. Tanya and her team are accountable for the global supply planning, management and delivery of the COVID-19 Vaccine. This includes the development of a new industry leading cold chain distribution process, the creation of the innovative thermal shipper (now a part of the Smithsonian collection) and 24/7 supply chain control tower. Beyond her impactful work on the COVID-19 Vaccine, this daughter of Portuguese immigrants oversees a team of 1,500 responsible for global demand, supply, logistics and inventory management for all Pfizer biopharmaceutical products, including over 600 medications and 15,000 SKUs across 175 markets. Tanya is a Jersey girl through and through - born, raised and living in New Jersey, earning her bachelor's degree at Rutgers and master's at Stevens Institute of Technology. This wife and mother of three enjoys traveling, spending time outdoors – and stays motivated, believing that the glass is always half full and anything is possible.

Susan Shapiro Barash - Author focusing on women's issues

[Susan Shapiro Barash](#) is an established writer of thirteen nonfiction books on women's issues, including [Tripping the Prom Queen](#), [Toxic Friends](#), and [You're Grounded Forever, But First Let's Go Shopping](#). Her fiction, [Between the Tides](#), [A Palm Beach Wife](#), and [A Palm Beach Scandal](#) are published under her pseudonym, Susannah Marren. Featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Elle* and *Marie Claire*, she has also appeared on *Today*, *Good Morning America*, CBS, CNN, and MSNBC, and been a guest on NPR and Sirius Radio. She holds degrees from Sarah Lawrence College and New York University and has taught for over twenty years in the Writing Department at Marymount Manhattan College focusing on gender studies, and guest taught at the Writing Institute/ Sarah Lawrence College. She has served as a literary panelist for the NYS Council on the Arts, as a judge for the International Emmys, and as Vice Chair of the Mentoring Committee of the Women's Leadership Board at the JFK School of Government, Harvard.

Adenah Bayoh – Restaurant and Real Estate Developer

[Adenah Bayoh](#) embodies the American Dream. After escaping civil war in her native country of Liberia, she immigrated to the United States where she has become one of the most successful entrepreneurs in her home state of New Jersey. After attending public high school in Newark, Adenah put herself through Fairleigh Dickinson University where she earned a degree in Business Management. Adenah, an IHOP multi-franchisee with 4

restaurants in northern NJ, opened her first in Irvington at the age of 27, making her one of the youngest franchisees in the country. In late 2017, Adenah launched Cornbread, her first independent fast casual, farm-to-table, soul food restaurant and recently opened her second in downtown Newark. Most recently, she launched her latest restaurant concept, Urban Vegan. In addition to her restaurants, Adenah is a successful real estate developer with a portfolio of several major residential and mixed-use urban redevelopment projects across northern NJ. Adenah is a fitness fanatic, reader, and podcast lover. Despite her numerous successes, her proudest achievement is being a mother to her two young children.

Read more about Adenah's amazing journey and success story [here](#).

Lisa Borrromeo Checchio, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts – EVP & Chief Marketing Officer

If you've stayed at a Wyndham hotel or flown on JetBlue, chances are you've met Lisa. Lisa Borrromeo Checchio leads revenue generation and commercial strategy for Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, the world's largest hotel franchisor with nearly 9,000 hotels across 22 globally-recognized brands in 95 countries. As CMO, Lisa champions Wyndham's portfolio of iconic brands and its award-winning loyalty program, Wyndham Rewards. A passionate brand builder, Lisa delivers meaningful experiences for everyday travelers as her team delivers on Wyndham's mission to make hotel travel possible for all. Prior to joining Wyndham, Lisa spent 12 years at JetBlue growing the brand from "Jet-Who?" to one of the most admired. Her early role in professional tennis event management – a dream job after being a collegiate tennis player at The George Washington University – led to a distinguished career mixing memorable experiences and travel. Lisa serves on many industry Boards and has been recognized as Global Business Travel Association's "Top 50 Women in Travel", Ad Age's "40 Under 40", Hotel Management's Most Influential Women in Hospitality, and HSMAI's Top 25 Extraordinary Minds. As the daughter of an immigrant, she strives to inspire and advance diversity, equity and inclusion through her career and volunteerism. A New Jersey native, Lisa lives in Watchung with her husband, three sons under 10, and a French bulldog puppy.

Listen to Lisa discuss leading the marketing effort with a customer mindset [here](#).

Santiago Cohen - Cartoonist, illustrator, fine artist and children's book author

Santiago Cohen is a Mexican/American artist and author who has worked as a designer, illustrator and animator for HBO, the Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon and PBS. He designed the original logo for Comedy Central and 24 episodes of the *Troubles the Cat* for the Cartoon Network. Santiago has also written and illustrated more than 20 children's books and graphic novels. Reflecting a mixture of Mexican, American, and Sephardic cultures he has made a successful career in Fine Art as well, with shows in galleries and museums in New York, New Jersey and Mexico. In 2014 he had a solo show at the Hunterdon Art Museum with his Exvida project installation, with 1,150 oil paintings in the exvoto style. He painted a temporary mural in South Orange and has been the Artistic Director for the Day of the Dead Parade in Jersey City since 2014. His solo show at the Barret Art Center in Poughkeepsie, NY in 2018 was a National Juried competition curated by Natalie Bell from the New Museum. He was chosen as an artist in residency at UCROSS in Wyoming in the fall of 2019.

Check out Santiago's work at www.santiagocohen.com.

David Dietze, Peapack Private Wealth Management - Managing Principal, Senior Portfolio Strategist

David is Managing Principal, Senior Portfolio Strategist of Peapack Private Wealth Management, the wealth management division of Peapack-Gladstone Bank. Starting his own investment firm in 1993, Point View Wealth Management, which became part of Peapack-Gladstone Bank in 2019, David is a much sought out resource for the media, including Bloomberg, CNBC, *The NY Times*, *WSJ*, *LA Times*, *Forbes* and *The Star-Ledger*. Graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College, he pursued graduate studies at Yale University in Classical Studies and Political Philosophy, and received a law degree from The University of Chicago Law School. He has practiced corporate and finance law with New York based White & Case and Washington, D.C.'s Crowell & Moring. A local boy, David was named to the Inaugural Hall of Fame of his alma mater, Mountain Lakes High School, for his

community, charitable and professional accomplishments. Still active in the local community, he has served as President of Summit's Board of Education, Trustee of Overlook Hospital Foundation and Chair of the Service Committee of Dartmouth's Alumni Council. Residing in Summit with his wife Claire Toth, they have a daughter at American University and a son pursuing a finance career in Denver. David is an avid skier and golfer and serves on the Golf Committee of the Canoe Brook Country Club.

Listen to David discuss the state of the current market [here](#).

Kieran Fagan, CVS Health - VP, Communications

Kieran Fagan has been communicating all his life, from his first cries as a newborn to a communications career that on most days involves a bit less crying and a lot more writing. As VP of Communications at CVS Health, he leads the teams responsible for the company's content strategy, digital and social media, and reputation research. Through two years of Covid, Kieran's worked with teams across CVS Health to communicate information about testing, vaccinations and other ways the company's been supporting millions across the country as we all navigate the challenges of the pandemic. He's spent most of his career helping companies like CVS, Aetna, Novartis and BNY Mellon get through to people. This requires a fluency in the written and spoken word, video and images, and digital and social media. But more than anything, it demands his skills in untangling, deciphering and translating corporate-speak into plain English. New Jersey born and raised, Kieran has left the Garden State on occasion, traveling extensively and living in locales including Switzerland and Colorado where he indulged his love of the outdoors and developed an appreciation for foods including leckerle and "not quite bagels." His decidedly unhandy day job keeps him looking for excuses to use his hands, which he finds as an amateur guitarist and even more amateur blacksmith.

Joseph Forgione, JMF Properties – Founder and Principal

With a passion for design, art, architecture and engineering, Joe Forgione is right at home in his role as one of New Jersey's pre-eminent real estate developers. With over 30 years of development experience, he has been responsible for the construction of more than 3,000 residential units and over one million square feet of commercial and retail spaces. Among his recent work is Morris Marketplace on the former site of Colgate-Palmolive and Clarus Maplewood, the first WELL-certified residential building in NJ, a distinction reserved for buildings that are so thoughtfully-designed they can actually improve the health and wellness of their occupants. As a founding board member of REED Academy School for Autistic Children in Oakland, NJ and a long-term fundraiser for Employment Horizons Corp, an organization that employs autistic, physically or mentally challenged people, Joe's focus on delivering the best to New Jersey extends to his charitable work. He constructed and donated five homes for Arc/Morris County chapter and recently constructed a group home for Cerebral Palsy of NJ, which he donated to the organization in 2020. His support of Don Bosco Prep has allowed the school to create the Forgione Family Engineering Center, a state-of-the-art science and engineering facility that will open this spring and partner with Joe's alma mater, NJIT, to further enhance its science curriculum and expand its programs in engineering and robotics.

John Gallucci Jr., JAG-ONE Physical Therapy - CEO

John Gallucci Jr., CEO of JAG-ONE Physical Therapy, is widely known for his expertise in sports medicine, rehabilitation, and injury prevention. Recognized by ROI-NJ as one of the top 20 influencers in healthcare, Gallucci's forward-thinking, entrepreneurial spirit is the driving force behind JAG-ONE Physical Therapy's success. He also sits on the governor-appointed NJ Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and is the Medical Coordinator for Major League Soccer (MLS). Prior to opening JAG Physical Therapy in 2005, Gallucci served as the Program Director of Barnabas Health's Sports Medicine Institute. He is the former Head Athletic Trainer of the NY Red Bulls MLS team and is a Sports Medicine consultant for professional athletes in the NHL, NFL, NBA and MLB. Most recently, John was honored by the American Physical Therapy Association of NJ as the Distinguished Professional of the Year. Gallucci is also a noted author of two books on sports injuries. In the local community, John's

philanthropic efforts have included a leading role in the fundraisers for The Valerie Fund, RWJBarnabas Health, The Arthritis Foundation, The American Cancer Society and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. He supports more than 200 high schools, college programs and athletic clubs throughout the tristate area.

Stacey Harcum - Soul and jazz musician, recording artist and music educator

Stacey Harcum, a multi-talented musician, songwriter, recording artist and music educator has recorded and shared the stage with a wide range of musical artists from the legendary saxophonist Grover Washington Jr., to Stevie Wonder and Patti Labelle. As a professional musician, he is a member of the Philadelphia Chapter for NARAS (the National Recording Academy of Arts and Sciences). With over three decades of experience teaching, saxophone, piano and vocal arrangements, Stacey was part of a local group which became seven-time winners on the highly acclaimed TV show, *Star Search*. As the founder and creator of [Missionz In Music](#) (MIM), Stacey is passionate about working with underserved inner city youth and young adults to teach them about music. MIM is very excited about the partnerships that have been developed over the years to grow their network of musicians including Ad Prima Charter School in Philadelphia, PA and Christina Cultural Arts Center and Kuumba Academy Charter School, both in Wilmington, DE.

Lucy Antek Johnson - CBS & NBC TV Executive; Author of *This Was Toscanini: The Maestro, My Father, and Me*

Lucy Antek Johnson, daughter of co-author Samuel Antek, was born and raised in New York City. After studying music, fine art and ballet, she was drawn to the world of television production and spent her entire career in the entertainment industry, working with such award-winning producers as Martin Charnin (“Annie”), Harry Belafonte and Dick Clark. She moved to Los Angeles in 1978 and produced movies for television, then joined the ranks of NBC as a network programming executive. She soon worked her way up to senior vice president of daytime and children’s programs for CBS – the #1 schedule -- a position she held for fourteen years. [This Was Toscanini: The Maestro, My Father, and Me](#), Lucy’s first publication, is a father/daughter memoir chronicling the 17 years Sam Antek (virtuoso violinist and conductor) played first violin under the legendary baton of Arturo Toscanini for the NBC Symphony Orchestra and the lasting impact that the Maestro had on her family. Lucy and her husband, Bill Klein, live in Connecticut, where she was President, Friends of the Westport Library and served on the Westport Library’s Board of Trustees. She paints, writes, and—every so often—gets up the nerve to sit at the piano and play a favorite Bach or Chopin prelude.

Armond Kinsey, Atlantic Health System – VP & Chief Diversity Officer

Armond Kinsey is the VP & Chief Diversity Officer at Atlantic Health System, where he’s charged with leading a transformational agenda to infuse diversity and inclusion throughout the organization. In addition to diversity and inclusion, Mr. Kinsey oversees corporate social responsibility as well as learning and development for 18,000+ team members across 400+ sites of care. In partnership with leaders across AHS, he works on efforts such as strategy, diversity recruitment and retention, supplier diversity, health equity, learning and education aimed at reducing healthcare disparities, impacting communities and upskilling the workforce. These efforts have led to Atlantic Health System being named to *Fortune’s 100 Best Companies to Work For* as well as being honored as one of *Fortune’s 100 Best Workplaces for Diversity*. Mr. Kinsey has also spearheaded efforts that has led Atlantic Health System’s six hospitals to receive the top score of 100 on the Healthcare Equality Index from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation thus classifying them as a leader in LGBTQ+ healthcare. Prior to joining Atlantic Health System, Mr. Kinsey served as the Chief Diversity Officer at Kaiser Permanente, Mid-Atlantic States. Originating from Philadelphia, PA, Mr. Kinsey received his education from Millersville University and Villanova University. When not working Mr. Kinsey enjoys traveling, photography and spending time with his family.

Read about how Armond Kinsey believes diversity can make a difference [here](#).

Maria Kowroski - Acting Artistic Director of the New Jersey Ballet Company; former Principal Ballerina with the New York City Ballet

Maria Kowroski is a former principal ballerina with New York City Ballet. As well as gracing the stage at Lincoln Center for more than 25 years, Maria has also traveled globally, making principal guest appearances with world-class ballet companies along the way. In addition, she has worked with many of the dance world's leading choreographers, received the prestigious Princess Grace Award, and has been honored by the Jerome Robbins foundation for her excellence in performing his works. Maria has recently taken over as Acting Artistic Director of the New Jersey Ballet and hopes to bring her expertise to the table in order to help shape the arts scene in New Jersey. With her vast knowledge and wonderful connections, she plans to bring new exciting repertory to the company and make NJB the premier dance company of New Jersey. On top of her obvious penchant for the performing arts, Maria also loves to travel, with Europe being of particular interest. Her British husband mirrors her taste for good food and fine wine. Their six year-old son, Dylan, naturally takes center stage these days and is luckily a very happy traveler even if his palate hasn't yet extended past a chicken nugget. Maria is thrilled to be a part of Great Conversations 2022 and looks forward to connecting with others passionate about the arts.

Listen and watch [here](#) as Maria performs George Balanchine's Mozartiana and narrates her experience.

Joseph Lee, NJ PBS - General Manager

Joseph (Joe) Lee, General Manager of NJ PBS is an experienced public media leader, an accomplished fundraiser and a pioneer in community engagement. A Baltimore native, Lee ran non-commercial radio station WAER-FM and its digital platforms at Syracuse University for 28 years, first as Program Director and then Director & General Manager. Prior to that, he led content development and management for Morgan State University public radio WEAA FM in Baltimore. Under his leadership WAER transformed from a music-oriented radio station to a public media organization focused on multi-media journalism, storytelling and community impact. Lee also served as Executive Producer of Syracuse Speaks, WAER's public affairs show focusing on issues of concern to Central New Yorkers, and as producer of WAER's Afro Futures and Pop Life podcasts. Follow @jblee883.

Meet Joe in this [short video clip](#), shortly after he was appointed GM of NJ PBS, and learn a little more about his background.

Andrea Lekberg - Founder, owner and pastry chef at The Artist Baker

Trained in fine art/painting at the Art Institute of Chicago and at the pastry school of the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago, Andrea Lekberg honed her cooking skills at Mark Miller's Coyote Café in New Mexico and at The Magnolia Grill in North Carolina before coming to the tristate area. A fan of locally sourced food, she studied with pastry chef Biagio Settepani at the French Pastry School in Chicago and worked at Sweet Melissa's Patisserie in Brooklyn before opening The Artist Baker in 2009. She has also joined forces with fellow pastry chef Erica Leahy at Jockey Hollow Bar & Kitchen at the Vail Mansion and has been a three-time guest chef for the James Beard House. When not in the kitchen, Lekberg honors her heritage as a member of the Oglala Sioux tribe from South Dakota, along with her German and Swedish roots, by creating studio art reflecting all of these cultures. An advocate for the arts, Lekberg has played a major role in fostering the arts in Morristown and connecting artists to their audience to help them be valued. A few years back she hosted the "Backyard Ceramic Atelier" in her courtyard, a week-long outdoor ceramic studio for artists and amateurs alike. Since then, Lekberg's Artist Baker has become an informal gathering place for artists to regularly meet and exchange ideas. She has also shared her space with new, local business ventures including the Bike Shop, Kori and Colly Flowers and ESO Pasta.

Wendy Lund, Organon – Chief Communications Officer

As Chief Communications Officer at Organon, the largest women's healthcare company of its kind, Wendy Lund is responsible for overseeing global communications and related advocacy to build corporate reputation, drive growth and help advance the health of women. Throughout her career, Wendy has maintained a focus on women and their health, educating and advocating for women around the world. Before joining Organon, Wendy was CEO

of GCI Health, a full-service, integrated healthcare communications agency. In that role, she set and carried out a vision of excellence, growing the agency 1,000% to solidify GCI Health as a best-in-class agency. She began her career in the non-profit sector, serving as VP of Marketing of Planned Parenthood and before that, as VP of Marketing of the National League for Nursing. Wendy is passionate in her pursuit to improve the lives of women and has been recognized for her efforts including being named Entrepreneur of the Year by MM&M, a leading industry publication. She is a member of the Page Society and active in other communications organizations and initiatives. Wendy earned a Master's degree in Women's History from NYU and lives in the metro New York area.

Watch Wendy [here](#) as she discusses managing from the heart, especially during stressful times, such as post-Covid.

Sam Maddali, United Pharmacy Network – CEO

Sam Maddali, a pharmacist by trade, is an entrepreneur with a diverse portfolio of businesses ranging from small business ownership, group purchasing organizations focused on independent pharmacies, and real estate development. He began his real estate experience with the purchase of Valley Pharmacy in Roxbury in 2003, the longest-operating business in the town. He bought additional pharmacies and in an effort to help other independent pharmacy owners compete against large corporations, formed United Pharmacy Network, of which Sam is CEO. Born and raised in Vijaywada, India, Sam was looking to connect with other local businesses when he first arrived in NJ and joined the Roxbury Rotary Club, where he has held many positions and is still an active member. Coming to this country with basically nothing and finding success, Sam is always looking for a way to pay back his good fortune. The cause dearest to Sam, which he has served as a Trustee for fifteen years, is Gift of Life International, an organization that saves the lives of overseas children with heart disease by bringing them to the US for treatment. Sam is a frequent guest speaker and panelist at various business events throughout the country. He and his wife live in Roxbury where he raised his two grown daughters, one pursuing a career in pharmacy and the other in medicine.

Jim McGreevey - Former Governor of New Jersey; Chairman of New Jersey ReEntry Corporation

Former governor of New Jersey, Jim McGreevey now serves as Chairman of the [New Jersey Reentry Corporation](#) which provides persons returning from incarceration with critically-needed services such as employment and training, identification and legal assistance, and links to medical and behavioral healthcare. Jim previously served as Executive Director of the Jersey City Employment and Training Program and also directed spiritual counseling for the women of the Integrity House Program at Hudson County Correctional Center. Having pursued seminary education and training at the General Theological Seminary, Jim conducted his field work with formerly incarcerated women and men at Exodus Transitional Ministry in Harlem. In addition to serving as NJ governor, Jim also served as State Senator, State Assemblyman, Mayor of Woodbridge, Assistant Prosecutor in Middlesex County and with the NJ Assembly Majority Office. McGreevey received his bachelor's degree from Columbia University, graduated from Georgetown University Law Center and holds a Master's of Education from Harvard University. He is also the author of a memoir, *The Confession*.

Linda McHugh, Hackensack Meridian Health - EVP, Chief Experience & People Officer

Linda McHugh, M.T., MBA, is a healthcare executive with extensive Human Resources experience in developing strategies to optimize an organization's culture and support change management. As Chief Experience and People Officer for Hackensack Meridian Health, New Jersey's largest and most comprehensive health network with more than 35,000 team members, Linda is responsible for the strategic management and delivery of all experience,

hospitality and people programs, policies, processes and practices in support of the network's mission, vision and strategic priorities. Prior to joining Hackensack Meridian Health, Linda spent 35 years at the Cleveland Clinic, most recently as Chief Human Resources Officer spearheading an overarching transformation in the HR shared services function. As a passionate advocate for the value of art in medicine, Linda was instrumental in formalizing the [Arts & Medicine Institute](#) at the Cleveland Clinic with the purpose of integrating the visual and performing arts, and music to promote healing and enhance the lives of patients, employees and visitors. The visual arts program anchors spaces throughout the facilities with 3,500 pieces of modern and contemporary art (there is art in every room), the art and music therapy programs provide patients with a therapeutic respite during their healing process, and several musicians-in-residence perform almost daily to enhance the environment. Linda received her Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Bowling Green University, and a Master of Business Administration from Case Western Reserve University.

To learn more about the groundbreaking Arts & Medicine Institute at the Cleveland Clinic, a passionate endeavor of Linda's, check out this [video](#) that details the program and this [article](#) from the New Yorker that highlights some of the artwork.

Justin Parnell, Mondelēz International – VP, U.S. Marketing & Strategy

Justin Parnell is an accomplished business and marketing leader with a strong track record of building some of the world's most iconic food and snack brands. As VP of Marketing and Strategy for the U.S. business, he is responsible for brand portfolio growth strategy and marketing, building new digital marketing capabilities and driving growth through licensing and retail experiences. Prior to his current role, Parnell led the \$1.7 billion U.S. OREO cookie business. He assumed those responsibilities after having spent three years leading OREO globally, driving significant growth across developed and emerging markets including China, India and Brazil. While leading OREO, the brand was widely recognized for marketing excellence, earning more than 100 industry awards, including six Cannes Lions and two Nielsen Breakthrough Innovation Awards. Before joining Mondelēz in 2012, Parnell worked for Kellogg's, where he led the Mini-Wheats brand. Parnell earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Stetson University and received his MBA from Emory University. In his free time, Justin enjoys being outdoors, spending time with his family and experiencing the array of arts & entertainment in the area. He is a member of New Jersey's only professional ski show team, the Lake Mohawk Ski Hawks, and enjoys snow skiing, running, working out and camping.

Check out this [video](#) from 2019, where Justin discusses Oreo's brand purpose and why it is important.

Alberti Popaj - QVC Program Host

Alberti Popaj, host of three top weekly show franchises - Gourmet Holiday, FriYay and Saturday Morning Q - on QVC, the world's #1 home shopping channel in annual dollar sales and reach, is ranked as one of the top three home shopping television hosts in the world. He has worked with the world's most influential inventors, entrepreneurs and brands including Katy Perry, The Kardashians, Martha Stewart, Lori Greiner, Kevin O'Leary, and Oprah Winfrey – just to name a few. With three decades of entertainment experience, Alberti has proven his ability to influence mass audiences with his personality and bombastic energy levels. Stepping onto stages across the globe since age 13, becoming an Albanian-American pop sensation in his early twenties, and graduating Summa Cum Laude from New York University with degrees in Finance and Information systems, this renaissance man has a wide breadth of education, experience and life in his pocket. A strong foundation in cosmetics sales led him to be an expert in the field, both as a marketer and as a spokesperson. Alberti has developed countless products and lines for QVC, ranging from beauty and apparel to food and housewares; adding not only to his

personal brand image but also to bottom line sales. You can connect with Alberti on his social platforms where you'll see images of his home, two adopted poodles, travels and a sneak peek behind the scenes of his daily life in front of the camera.

Catch a glimpse of Alberti's charm and charisma right [here](#).

Matt Rich, PwC - Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Cloud & Digital Services Leader

As a lifelong builder, Matt's passion is assembling great teams and inspiring them to solve the most challenging issues in healthcare. During his 20+ years in the Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences industry, he has had the privilege of building innovative technology solutions used to extend and enhance life. Matt's passion for team building goes back to his time on the US National Rowing Team where he and his teammates had success at all levels of national and international competition. Matt is raising the next generation of builders and great teammates, which are his three children, with his wife in the northern suburbs of Chicago. In addition, he serves with a team of inspiring leaders on the executive board of the Cures Within Reach organization, whose mission is to improve patient quality and length of life by supporting medical repurposing research which drives more treatments to more patients more quickly. Matt holds a Bachelor's of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering and Management of Technology from the University of Minnesota and continues to be a huge Gopher sports fan through the good times and the bad.

Mike Stanzilis, Morris County Chamber of Commerce- VP of Membership & Government Affairs

Mike Stanzilis has been a Morris County resident since 2002, when he and his family relocated from New York City to settle in the lake community of Mount Arlington, where he is now mayor and VP of the Morris County League of Municipalities. He has always had a strong sense of commitment to helping others and being involved in his community. While living in NYC he volunteered for the NYC Coalition for the Homeless, New Leash on Life Animal Rescue, and was as an NYPD Auxiliary Police Officer. Mike's college years were spent in Boston at Berklee College of Music. He and his electric bass have traveled around the world, working as a music director on cruise ships, playing with notable artists, including Chick Corea, Ben E. King and Tony Orlando, and opening for bands such as Tina Turner, Santana, The Bangles, the Kinks and Hall & Oates. He performed extensively on music recordings, and has performed on Broadway. After retiring from a fulltime profession in music, he entered into the business world with Securitas Security Services USA managing a multi-million dollar portfolio and overseeing a staff of 1,200 people. Mike is originally from Rumford Maine and enjoys skiing every chance he gets until the spring thaw! In the not so cold months he likes golfing, boating, and camping with his Eagle Scout son, Michael Jr.

Find out [here](#) what Mike thinks is the best part of his job at the Chamber.

Benjamin Strauss, Ph.D., Climate Central - CEO and Chief Scientist

Dr. Benjamin Strauss serves as President, CEO and Chief Scientist at [Climate Central](#), an independent organization of leading scientists and journalists researching and reporting the facts about our changing climate and its impact on the public. He is an expert on sea level rise and the architect of the Surging Seas suite of maps, tools and visualizations. Strauss has testified before the U.S. Senate and his scientific research has been cited by the White House and two Secretaries-General of the United Nations. He has won coverage in U.S. and International publications, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, AP, Reuters, Bloomberg, and other international outlets in at least 110 countries and 29 languages. He has also appeared on national network news, nationally syndicated radio and documentary television. He holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University, an M.S. in Zoology from the University of Washington, and a B.A. in Biology from Yale University.

Rebecca Wessler, Quest Diagnostics - Executive Director of National Patient Services

Responsible for managing Quest's network of 2,200 Patient Service Centers and 4,000 In-Office Phlebotomist locations, Rebecca Wessler, as Executive Director of National Patient Services, has an established track record of driving strategy, innovation, and operational efficiencies. Previously she was a Senior Director leading the Advanced Diagnostics' Customer Operations function and the Corporate Strategy team, where she managed the Corporate Governance process. Prior to joining Quest Diagnostics in 2014, Rebecca was a management consultant for Booz & Company (now Strategy&) where she focused on healthcare operations and strategy. Rebecca earned her MBA from Columbia Business School and a bachelor's degree from Davidson College in Davidson, NC. She lives in NYC, is a mother to three children (ages 9-15), and loves to run, having completed the 2021 NYC Marathon.

Rev. Dr. Sidney S. Williams, Jr. - CEO of Crossing Capital Group

Recognized as a visionary and a transformational leader among community stakeholders and financial institutions, Rev. Dr. Sidney S. Williams, Jr., currently serves as CEO of the Crossing Capital Group, is an independent director for Valley Bank and the pastor at the Bethel Church of Morristown. He also advises several non-profit organizations, privately held middle-market companies and start-up ventures. With more than 30 years in corporate and community development, Rev. Dr. Williams has led diverse efforts to provide access to capital to marginalized communities. In 1990, he was the first graduate of Howard University to be recruited by Goldman Sachs. While employed on Wall Street, he advised c-suite level executives of Fortune 500 companies in a variety of industries. He has made a continuous effort of identifying where theological and marketplace frameworks interact — and more significantly, where they should interact. He has pastored churches in Cape Town, South Africa and the USA, trained pastors and church planters on three continents, holds two masters degrees and a doctorate in ministry, and has written dozens of articles and two books - *Morning Meditations:100 Days to Believing You're Successful*. Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams, Jr. and his wife Teresa have four children.

Learn more about Rev. Dr. Williams' impact on the Morristown community in this 2018 [article](#) from *Tap into Morristown*.

Ayo Sanderson Wilson - Founder, CEO & President of Empower The Village

Ayo Sanderson Wilson is a non-profit leader who founded and chairs the board of Empower The Village, a data-driven nonprofit focused on restoring prosperity, peace and power to the Black community. She previously served as COO and EVP for Cornerstone Family Programs & Morristown Neighborhood House. Before taking on leadership roles in the non-profit world, Ayo worked as a corporate senior executive. Most recently, she was VP of the Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation where she was responsible for completing the merger of the Comcast and NBCUniversal foundations. Before that, Ayo served as an Executive Director for the US Pharma Division of Novartis Pharmaceuticals. She began her professional career practicing law and serving in other corporate leadership roles for nearly 20 years at several Fortune 500 companies. In parallel with her professional career, Ayo currently serves as a Board Member for the Community Foundation of NJ, Better World Leadership Council, and the African-American Chamber of Commerce of NJ. Ayo has earned numerous awards and recognition for her professional and community-based work. She earned her JD from Columbia University, School of Law and BA from The Johns Hopkins University. Ayo resides in Morris Township with her husband and their two adult children. She enjoys reading, traveling, theatre, listening to Prince and spending time with family and friends.

Meet Ayo [here](#) and learn more about Empower the Village, her passion project.