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**Celebrating
Our Members**
Featuring Jewish Geriatric
Services, PeoplesBank,
Western New England
University & more!
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Photo Gallery** P.12

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OCTOBER 2015

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Local Businesses Strengthen Regional Economy

The Springfield Regional Chamber has announced the honorees for its annual Super 60 award.

Now in its 26th year, the program celebrates the success of the fastest-growing and privately-owned businesses in the region which continue to make significant contributions to the strength of the regional economy.

To be considered, companies must be based in Hampden or Hampshire counties or be a member of the ACCGS, have revenues of at least \$1 million in the last fiscal year, be an independent and privately-owned

company, and be in business at least three full years. Companies are selected based on their percentage of revenue growth over a full three-year period or total revenues for the latest fiscal year.

This year's winners hail from 17 communities across the region and represent all sectors of the economy, including non-profit, energy, healthcare, technology, manufacturing, retail and service.

"Small business is the backbone of our region, and the success of this year's winners is a clear indication that our regional economy is strong," said Springfield

Regional Chamber President Jeffrey Ciuffreda. He noted that while all winners in the Total Revenue category had revenues in excess of \$4 million, one-third exceeded \$30 million. The Total Revenue winners

[continued on page 6](#)



Springfield Regional Chamber Merger Approved, Launches New Name, Logo

The Massachusetts Secretary of State has given final approval on the merger between the Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield (ACCGS) and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce to officially form the Springfield Regional Chamber.

At a special meeting of both the ACCGS and the Springfield Chamber, the membership of the ACCGS and the Springfield Chamber voted in person and by proxy to unanimously approve the merger and create the new organization. The creation of one

[continued on page 8](#)

Pull Up a Bar Stool With Harpoon Head Dan Kenary at Chamber Expo Breakfast

Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Harpoon Brewery will be the featured speaker at the Springfield Regional Chamber's Business@ Breakfast sponsored by United Personnel and presented at the Western Mass. Business Expo on November 4, 2015 from 7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield.

George O'Brien, editor of *BusinessWest* will pull up a bar stool for a casual conversation with Kenary. Kenary will also take questions from the audience.

[continued on page 10](#)

HNE Delivers Healthcare Solutions!

“...you’ve got to have trust and HNE makes that easy.”

- Jason Garand, Business Manager, Carpenters Union Local #108

“Health insurance is important to our membership. If they get sick and can’t work, they don’t get paid. HNE provides the best healthcare for our local members. At the end of the day you have to make a decision about who you’re going to get for your health insurance provider. You’ve got to have trust and that’s difficult, HNE makes that easy.”



Your Health Insurance Partner

Heidi, HNE Account Executive, reviews plan details with Jason Garand.



Find out more here!

Ask your insurance broker or call us at 413.233.3535 • hne.com/cu

HNE health plans are also available through the Massachusetts Health Connector. HEALTH CONNECTOR

ANNIVERSARY MEMBERS

Every month the Chamber honors those members who have continuously supported our mission throughout the years. The following members joined in the month of October. Happy Anniversary!

1 Year Anniversary

Allied Communications, LLC
Cathy Crosky
Clarion Hotel and Aqua Lagoon Water Park
Elizabeth G. Dineen
Farmington Bank
Laura Schmieding
Michelle Theroux
Miracle Ear
Palazzo Cafe
Patricia Hallberg
Suzanne Parker

5 Year Anniversary

Linda A. Metras
Julie Lopes
Pioneer Valley Local First
Wingate at Springfield
Springfield Dr. Dental
Janet Casey

10 Year Anniversary

Springfield Pediatrics, LLC

15 Year Anniversary

Weiner Law Firm, P.C.
Joseph Racco Roofing, Inc.
WEIB-106.3 Smooth FM Radio

20 Year Anniversary

King & Newton, LLC

25 Year Anniversary

Forish Construction Company, Inc.
Accounting & Tax Associates, Inc.

30 Year Anniversary

CB Property Management, Inc.
d/b/a Indian Orchard Mills

NEW MEMBERS

Companies and organizations listed here have made an important investment in their business and in the community by joining the Chamber. Do business with Chamber members--it's good business!

Colony Care at Home

74 Walnut Street
Springfield, MA 01105
Home Health Care

Smiles and Faces

1984 Boston Rd.
Wilbraham, MA 01095
Dentists

Goodwill Industries of the Pioneer Valley

570 Cottage St.
Springfield, MA 01104
Non-Profit Organizations



MISSION STATEMENT

The Springfield Regional Chamber represents the region and its geographic hub of Springfield and more than 500 businesses of all sizes, industry and profession, providing leadership to promote, support and enhance the economic health of the business community and the region.

CHAMBER STAFF & THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

President: Jeffrey Ciuffreda • 755-1312
Executive Assistant to the President: Kara Cavanaugh • 755-1310
Vice President, Marketing & Communications: Nancy F. Creed, IOM • 755-1309
Staff Accountant: Nancy Desmarais • 755-1308
Accounts Payable Clerk: Carrie Dzialo • 755-1307
Chief Financial Officer: Lynn Kucejko • 755-1306
Member Services Director: Sarah Mazzaferro • 755-1313
Send any staff member email: lastname@springfieldregionalchamber.com



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

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Vice Chair: Patricia Canavan, United Personnel
Treasurer: Barbara-Jean DeLoria, United Bank
Secretary: David Parke, Bulkley, Richardson

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Laurie Cassidy, West Springfield Council on Aging	David Martel, Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury & Murphy P.C.
Stacey Church, MassMutual Center	Joseph Marullo, Berkshire Bank
Ellen Cumming, Verizon	Judith Matt, Spirit of Springfield, Inc.
John Doleva, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame	Bill Miller, Friends of the Homeless, Inc.
Hayley Dunn, Eversource	Martin Miller, New England Public Radio
Jeffrey Fialky, Bacon & Wilson, P.C.	Timothy Murphy, Skoler, Abbott & Presser P.C.
Mark French, <i>The Republican</i>	William Pepin, WWLP-22 News
Ellen Freyman, Shatz, Schwartz and Fentin, P.C.	Evan Plotkin, NAI Plotkin
Nicholas Fyntrilakis, MassMutual Financial Group	Alan Popp, Mason-Wright / Colony Care
John Garvey, Garvey Communication Associates Inc.	Arlene Putnam, Putnam Associates
Daniel Glanville, Comcast Cable Communications, LLC	Dora Robinson, United Way of Pioneer Valley, Inc.
Michael Gold, Big Y Foods, Inc.	Jeffrey Sattler, NUVO Bank & Trust Company
James Goodwin, Center for Human Development, Inc.	Dr. Julie Siciliano, Western New England University
Melinda Graulau, Eastfield Mall	Meghan Sullivan, Sullivan, Hayes & Quinn, LLC
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Art Jasper, Johnstone Supply	William Trudeau, Insurance Center of New England
Joan Kagan, Square One	Nancy Urbschat, TSM Design Inc.
Donald Kozera, Human Resources Unlimited	Mary Walachy, Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation
Dennis Lopata, Life Care Center of Wilbraham	Glenn Welch, Berkshire Bank
Patrick Leary, Moriarty & Primack, P.C	
Mary MacInnes, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority	

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October Legislative Update



By Jeffrey S. Ciuffreda—President, Springfield Regional Chamber

While the members of our Legislative Steering Committee assist in our efforts to advocate for Chamber priorities and positions, we can be most successful with the support of our Chamber members. I encourage you to get involved in our legislative agenda. Please feel free to contact me at ciuffreda@springfieldregionalchamber.com or (413) 755-1312 for information on how you can support our efforts collectively.

Time flies - or so it seems. The first year of the state Legislature's two-year session is coming towards its close on November 18, just weeks from now, and it seems like it just began.

As with most first years of a session, this one has been filled with hearings on many of the 6,000+ pieces of legislation filed as well as the fiscal year budget, all while the first year governor and the legislature feel each other out and find ways to work together.

The Springfield Regional Chamber continues to work hard through its Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) to set policy and take positions on those issues deemed important to our members. Here is a summary of what's happening within each of the LSC's five subcommittees:

Health Care Subcommittee

We continue to be concerned about some of the adverse effects the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) is having on Massachusetts. Among the ACS issues being followed: having employers of over 50 employees included in the small group market; having insurance rates set annually on January first rather than quarterly as Massachusetts now does; removing the ability for organizations such as the Chamber to form associations in order to form larger groups for better rates; and the establishment of a risk adjustment factor which forces insurers like Health New England to pay into a pool which then distributes those funds to other insurers throughout the state.

Budget and Tax Policy Subcommittee

This committee continues to monitor the revenues of the Commonwealth, which appear

to be coming in at a level of 5.5 % above last year - a healthy increase. We monitor these to be able to then advocate for spending areas we believe would be most helpful to our region. Currently, the committee is digging deeply into funding for "Gateway Cities" - which, in our area, are Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke and Westfield - to enable these cities, with higher unemployment and poverty than others in the valley, to better address these situations.

Workplace Issues Subcommittee

Last month, this Chamber was able to have the Office of Attorney General Maura Healy come out to explain to our members the regulations that are now in place for the new law mandating sick leave for all employees. We hope to have small business roundtables to further the discussion later this month. We are also reviewing other workplace issues such as the new federal regulations on exempt and nonexempt employees and the rules for overtime pay.

Energy Subcommittee

This is our newest subcommittee and is looking at many issues in the energy field with the common thread of reducing the region's already very high costs of energy. We are looking at net metering and the consumer-funded programs in the Commonwealth to encourage solar energy. We are following the Governor's efforts on bringing hydroelectric power into our region from Quebec, and we continue to encourage an increase in the supply of natural gas, a fuel source that has been increasingly important to our power plants and businesses alike. To aid us in our understanding, we hosted Senator Ben

Downing, Senate Chair of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy at our Pastries, Politics, and Policy roundtable last month.

Workforce Development and Education Subcommittee

One cannot talk about these subjects without linking them together. The "skills gap", that gap between filling our many job openings with people qualified for those jobs, is becoming larger and larger. While we clearly need to know how our students are being prepared to enter into the workforce and how that is progressing, the use of standardized testing continues to be debated at the Statehouse and in the public and in this subcommittee.

Your input as to how these issues impact you and your business is essential to us as we develop positions and articulate those to our legislators. Please be involved. Time flies. Don't let this legislative session end and have you saying....if I only knew, or I wish I had explained.....

FREE
SPEECH



OUR 80TH YEAR

CONVERSATIONS THAT
CHANGE MINDS,
CHANGE THE WORLD.

11.22.15

4:00 P.M. SPRINGFIELD SYMPHONY HALL
DINOSAUR HUNTER PAUL SERENO
A family-friendly event about adventures in paleontology
Quintessence Eastern States Exposition

12.9.15

7:30 P.M. SPRINGFIELD SYMPHONY HALL
AUTHOR AND YOUTH ADVOCATE WES MOORE
An engaging discussion of leadership through personal responsibility
Co-sponsors: Bay Path University, Elms College
Holyoke Community College and Springfield College

Event Sponsors
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Congratulations to our 2015 Super Sixty Award Winners

City Enterprise, Inc.
Named #1 in Revenue Growth

Baltazar Contractors, Inc.

Fletcher Sewer & Drain, Inc.

Grand Prix International, Inc.

Ludlow Heating & Cooling, Inc.

*Pioneer Valley Financial
Group, LLC*

— Nominated by —

Gomes, DaCruz & Tracy, P.C.

P.O. Box 588 · Chestnut Office Park
77 Winsor Street, Suite 303 · Ludlow, MA 01056
Phone (413) 589-7831 · www.gdtcpa.com

Engagement, Education and Entertainment at B2B Trade Show



Photo by Ed Cohen · Thousands attended the 2014 Expo.

Thousands of business professionals from western Massachusetts will gather at the MassMutual Center in downtown Springfield on November 4, 2015 for the region's fifth annual B2B trade show, the Western Mass. Business Expo, produced by *BusinessWest*.

Presented by Comcast Business, the Expo will feature more than 150 exhibitors, sixteen free educational seminars sponsored by Isenberg School of Management – UMass Amherst, business resources and must-attend networking events – all in one place for one day. The event provides businesses with the opportunity to showcase products and services in front of thousands of top-level executives, professionals and key decision makers to expand brand awareness, introduce new products and generate leads.

As well, for attendees, the Expo provides an opportunity to network with more than 2,500 other attendees, learn about what's happening in other industries and attend educational seminars at no charge to expand skill sets and grow business.

The Expo will have featured presentations on sales and marketing, entrepreneurship, workforce development and hottest trends; live demonstrations on the Show Floor Theater; lunch presented by the Professional Women's Chamber; a pitch competition and innovation panel featuring Valley Venture Mentors startup companies, and a day-ending social billed as "one of the best networking events of the year."

The Expo kicks off at 7:15 a.m. with the Springfield Regional Chamber Business@Breakfast featuring Harpoon Brewery Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder Dan Kenary, (see article on page 1). The Expo and Show Floor Theater programs will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and free educational seminars will be held between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Cash bar, light fare and entertainment at the social from 4 p.m. to 6:30 pm. will round out the day.

Exhibitor space is available. For more information on exhibiting your business, contact Donna Barrett at (413) 519-0259.

Admission to the Expo is complimentary. Reservations for the breakfast are \$30 in advance (\$35 at the door), and reservations for the lunch are \$40. Reservations for the Expo, breakfast or lunch may be made online at www.springfieldregionalchamber.com.

LOCAL BUSINESSES STRENGTHEN REGIONAL ECONOMY CONTINUED—

combined for more than \$1 billion in revenues. In the Revenue Growth category, Ciuffreda said that all winners had growth in excess of 20% while one-third had growth in excess of 65%. As well, 11 companies in the Total Revenue category also qualified for the Revenue Growth category, and 17 companies in the Revenue

Growth category also qualified for the Total Revenue category. This year's top honoree in Total Revenue is Nuvo Bank & Trust Company, a Springfield-based independent, locally-owned bank. The bank came in at number three in the same category in 2014. This year's number one in Revenue Growth



is Springfield's City Enterprise, a certified women and minority-owned prime general contractor. City Enterprise returns to this year's podium, keeping its top spot at number one.

THE 2015 SUPER 60 WINNERS ARE:

TOTAL REVENUE

* Indicates qualified in both categories

- (1) **Nuvo Bank & Trust Company***
Nominated by: Wolf & Company, P.C.
- (2) **Whalley Computer Associates, Inc.***
Nominated by: Aaron Smith, P.C.
- (3) **Sarat Ford-Lincoln**
Nominated By: Westfield Bank
- Associated Electro-Mechanics***
Nominated by: Moriarty & Primack, P.C.
- The Association for Community Living**
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.
- Baltazar Contractors, Inc.***
Nominated by: Gomes DaCruz & Tracy, P.C.
- Bay State Elevator Company**
Nominated by: CohnReznick, LLP

Braman Termite & Pest Elimination
Nominated by: CohnReznick, LLP

Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services Co.*
Nominated by: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

Community Enterprises, Inc.
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.

Con-Test Analytical Laboratory
Nominated by: Burgess, Schultz & Robb, P.C.

Cutchins Programs for Children and Families, Inc.
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.

The Dennis Group*
Nominated By: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

Environmental Compliance Services, Inc.*
Nominated By: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C. and Westfield Bank

Gandara Mental Health, Inc.*
Nominated By: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.

Holyoke Pediatric Associates, LLP
Nominated By: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

Kittredge Equipment Co., Inc.*
Nominated by: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

Marcotte Ford
Nominated By: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C. and Westfield Bank

Maybury Material Handling
Nominated By: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

Poly-Metal Finishing, Inc.
Nominated by J.M. O'Brien & Company, P.C.

Rediker Software, Inc.
Nominated By: People's United Bank

Riverside Industries, Inc.
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.

Specialty Bolt & Screw, Inc.
Nominated By: Moriarty & Primack, P.C. and Westfield Bank

Tighe & Bond, Inc.
Nominated By: DiCicco, Gulman & Company, LLP

Troy Industries, Inc.
Nominated by: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

United Personnel Services, Inc.*
Nominated By: J.M. O'Brien & Company, P.C.

Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.

WestMass ElderCare, Inc.*
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.

W.F. Young, Inc.
Nominated by: J.M. O'Brien & Company, P.C.

Westside Finishing Co.
Nominated by: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

REVENUE GROWTH

* Indicates qualified in both categories

- (1) **City Enterprise, Inc.***
Nominated by: Westfield Bank and Gomes, DaCruz & Tracy, P.C.
- (2) **Aegenco, Inc.***
Nominated by: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.
- (3) **Holyoke Community College Foundation**
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.
- Advanced Welding**
Nominated by: Burkhart Pizzanelli, P.C.
- Aegis Energy Services, Inc.***
Nominated by Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.
- Can Am Fibers***
Nominated by: Burgess, Schultz & Robb, P.C.
- CareerPoint**
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.

Chemex Corporation*
Nominated by: S. Reichelt & Co., LLC

Detector Technology, Inc.*
Nominated by: Farmington Bank

The Dowd Insurance Agencies*
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.

East Baking Company, Inc.*
Nominated by: S. Reichelt & Co., LLC

Entré Computer *
Nominated By: S. Reichelt & Co., LLC

Fletcher Sewer & Drain, Inc.
Nominated by: Gomes, DaCruz & Tracy, P.C.

The Gaudreau Group
Nominated by: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

Grand Prix International, Inc.*
Nominated by: Gomes, DaCruz & Tracy, P.C.

Hayden Corporation*
Nominated by: Moriarty & Primack, P.C. and Berkshire Bank

Human Resources Unlimited, Inc.*
Nominated by: Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.

Lancer Transportation & Logistics, Inc.*
Nominated by: Burgess, Schultz & Robb, P.C.

Ludlow Heating & Cooling, Inc.
Nominated by: Gomes, DaCruz & Tracy, P.C.

Market Mentors, LLC*
Nominated by: Aaron Smith, P.C.

Northeast IT Systems, Inc.
Nominated By: Jill A. Kopka, CPA

O'Connell Care at Home*
Nominated By: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

Onsite Mammography, LLC*
Nominated by: Farmington Bank

Orthotics and Prosthetics Laboratories, Inc.
Nominated by: S. Reichelt & Co., LLC

Paragus Strategic IT, Inc.*
Nominated by: Farmington Bank and Burgess, Schultz & Robb, P.C.

Powervestors II, LLC
Nominated by: Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

PV Financial Group
Nominated by: Gomes, DaCruz & Tracy, P.C.

Squier Lumber and Hardware, Inc.*
Nominated by: Burkhart Pizzanelli, P.C.

Universal Plastics Corporation*
Nominated By: Burgess, Schultz & Robb, P.C.

V&F Auto, Inc.
Nominated by: Elaine R. Korhonen, CPA

Socialize in Style at PWC Ladies Night

Kate Gray Boutique, specialty clothing store, will play hostess to the Professional Women's Chamber (PWC) bi-monthly "Ladies Night" on October 20, 2015 from 5-7 p.m.

The event will be held at the boutique's new location at 398 Longmeadow Street in Longmeadow. The boutique opened 10 years ago by Kate Vishnyakov who learned the fine art of dressing people well at the iconic Yale Genton in West Springfield, MA and features clothing that can be "combined for a unique expression of who you are."

Ladies Nights provide members with opportunities to meet socially with other PWC members after hours. Themed nights are incorporated adding another element to the event. What a better way to feel good about yourself than with a night out while building relationships!

Reservations are complimentary but required and include beverages and refreshments. For reservations, contact Debra Chamberland at smdchamberland@yahoo.com.



Professional Women's Chamber



Board of Directors 2015-2016

President: Janet Casey, Marketing Doctor

Vice President: Laurie Cassidy,
West Springfield Council on Aging

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Insurance products are provided by Berkshire Insurance Group, Inc., a Berkshire Bank affiliate, and in New York by Berkshire Insurance Agency, a registered trade name for Berkshire Insurance Group, Inc., a Berkshire Bank affiliate. Insurance and investment products are not FDIC-insured, are not a bank deposit, "NOT GUARANTEED BY THE BANK," "NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY" and may lose value.

of Tea Guys Emily and Oliver Rich will be the featured speakers. Reservations are required for the event at \$50 for members, \$70 for general admission. Deadline for reservations is October 14, 2015. No cancellations are accepted after that date

and no walk-ins will be accepted. Reservations must be made in writing and may be made online at www.springfieldregionalchamber.com or by email to Sarah Mazzaferro at mazzaferro@springfieldregionalchamber.com.

SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL CHAMBER MERGER APPROVED, LAUNCHES NEW NAME, LOGO CONTINUED—

unified organization was the result of more than two years of discussions, comprehensive analyses, reviews of best practices and benchmarking against chambers across the country.

In May of 2015, the board of the Springfield Chamber and the board of the ACCGS, including its representatives from the ERC5 and PWC, voted without opposition to merge and to create the Springfield Regional Chamber. That recommendation then needed to be voted upon by the membership of both entities and then approved by the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office.

The transition to the new entity is underway. Members of the Springfield Chamber will be transitioned into full membership of the Springfield Regional Chamber and members of the Professional Women's Chamber will remain as such. Both will receive the same benefits and services as it did under the affiliation model.

While the East of the River Five Town Chamber (ERC5) voted not to merge, the Springfield Regional Chamber will continue to provide services to these members through the remainder of their membership term.

New Logo

The Springfield Regional Chamber has debuted its new logo. According to Nancy Creed, the Chamber's vice president of marketing and communications, the new logo has a more modern look. "We wanted the logo to better reflect what we do rather than who we are," said Creed. "Many still don't understand what a Chamber does but this logo, specifically, the words 'Connect to Commerce' clearly reflects our purpose," she added.

The logo, designed by Creed with assistance from consultant Gary Czelusniak, centers around the number two because, as Creed noted, "partnerships take two for success – the Chamber and a business, the Chamber and the region, the Chamber and its members, not to mention the businesses and consumers, businesses and employees, and the list goes on," she said. "Success is all about working together and building relationships."

She said the choice of colors also are significant. She said that orange represents enthusiasm, creativity, success, strength and endurance and is a color highly accepted among the younger generations. "Believe it or not, seeing the color orange actually increases the oxygen supply to the brain and stimulates mental activity and," she added, "people associate orange with good value."

She said grey, on the other hand, is associated with power, strength, authority, prestige without being overly formal, reliability, and stability. "Grey is also perceived as long-lasting and classic," she said. "That holds true for us since we have been connecting people to commerce for more than a century."

Chamber members in good-standing can use the new logo on their Web site as a means of communicating to consumers their commitment and investment in the Chamber.

Creed said the Chamber is also working on a new Web site, www.springfieldregionalchamber.com, and Chamber staff have all transitioned to this new domain name for their email addresses. She said members can contact the staff using lastname@springfieldregionalchamber.com and asked people to update their contact lists to reflect the new name and ensure staff emails will pass through corporate spam filters.



REB

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT BOARD OF HAMPDEN COUNTY, INC.

Your Connection to Workforce Development



Congratulations to the 2015 Super Sixty Honorees!!

The REB is proud of your collective success and proud to be your partner for innovative workforce development solutions!

To learn more about how we can help you build a better workforce, visit us at www.rebhc.org or contact us at 413-755-1362

ACCGS Super 60 Celebration to Feature Tea Guys' Emily and Oliver Rich

Emily and Oliver Rich, co-founders of the Whately-based Tea Guys, will headline the Springfield Regional Chamber's 26th annual Super 60 celebration on October 23, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Chez Josef, 176 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, presented by Health New England with sponsors Berkshire Bank, Zasco Productions and WWLP-TV22.

The program celebrates the success of the fastest-growing and privately-owned businesses in the region which continue to make significant contributions to the strength of the regional economy. (See related cover article about the winners.)

Founded by Emily and Oliver Rich, the female majority-owned company Tea Guys is based in Whately, MA and is a manufacturer and retailer of tea products. Emily and Oliver met in Boston while Emily was working as a server and Oliver a bartender. According to the company's online biography, "they both fancied tea, and soon realized they fancied each other, too. And the rest as they say, was history."

According to the Tea Association, in 2014, Americans consumed more than 3.6 billion gallons of tea and four in five consumers drink



tea. After establishing the brand in 2002, the pair have steadily expanded, tapping into this strong consumer demand for superior tea products.

Originally located in a small Eastworks space in Easthampton, MA, the company has expanded its online platform to include a brick and mortar location in a 10,000-square foot retail store and production facility in Whately, MA. With more than 120 blends from Earl Grey to Hibiscus Pomegranate Pear, the company offers its blends as loose teas, "K" style cups, and a tea beverage concentrate product for the hospitality industry and are sold nationwide through the Web, consumer-direct and wholesale through a growing network

of regional distributors, including local cafes, restaurants and supermarkets. The company has international distributors in Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands and Canada, and has created Tea for the Las Vegas Hilton, among other companies. Emily focuses on the business elements and Oliver designs the tea blends.

Reservations are required for the event at \$50 for members, \$70 for general admission. Deadline for reservations is October 14, 2015. No cancellations are accepted after that date and no walk-ins will be accepted. Reservations must be made in writing and may be made online at www.springfieldregionalchamber.com or by email to Sarah Mazzaferro at mazzaferro@springfieldregionalchamber.com.

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PULL UP A BAR STOOL WITH HARPOON HEAD DAN KENARY AT CHAMBER EXPO BREAKFAST CONTINUED—

About Harpoon

Harpoon Brewery was founded by Kenary and fellow Harvard College graduate Rich Doyle in 1986 as a way to expand upon their love of the rich beer culture they experienced when traveling Europe.

It was the first brewery to commercially brew and bottle beer in the Commonwealth in more than 25 years. It is the fifteenth largest craft brewery in the United States and twenty-first overall in the country, producing more than 200,000 barrels of beer in 2014, and sold in 24 states and Puerto Rico.

While best known for its gold medalist flagship beer, Harpoon India Pale Ale, Harpoon brews other year-round ales, including its award-winning Dark, and its Boston Irish Stout, its latest full-time offering. Harpoon also brews four seasonal selections; its 100 Barrel Series, a number of one-of-a-kind batches; its Leviathan Series of specialty beers, and a Harpoon Cider. The brewery also brews several house beers at Boston bars, including Sevens Ale for The Seven's Ale House in Beacon Hill. It maintains two brewing locations: Boston, MA and Windsor, VT.

Harpoon has also become famous for its annual festivals. It's St. Patrick's Day, Harpoonfest and Octoberfest festivals have become a staple in the Boston party scene. Its philanthropic arm, Harpoon Helps, supports local charities throughout New England with donations of fresh beer, volunteer hours and its funds raised through its annual events.



Dan Kenary

About Dan Kenary

Upon graduating from the College in 1982 with a degree in American history, Kenary earned his master's in business administration from the University of Chicago in 1985 while working at the First National Bank of Chicago in Chicago and Paris. He left the bank in 1986 to co-found the Harpoon Brewery with Doyle.

During a six-year hiatus from the brewery from 1990 until 1996, Kenary worked as chief financial officer at two biotechnology firms in the Boston area while remaining active on the board of Harpoon. He has served on the Institute of Brewing Studies Board of Advisors; as a director and treasurer of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, a local environmental advocacy organization; president of the Boston Marine Park Business Association, and president of the Massachusetts Brewer's Guild.

He also serves as the chair of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts Board of Directors and is the [continued on page 11](#)

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PULL UP A BAR STOOL WITH HARPOON HEAD DAN KENARY AT CHAMBER EXPO BREAKFAST CONTINUED—

Vice President North America of the newly-formed Global Association of Craft Beer Brewers. In August 2014, Kenary oversaw Harpoon Brewery's transition to employee ownership with the establishment of an Employee Stock Ownership Program.

Originally from Worcester, Dan lives in Wellesley, MA with his wife and four children.

Reservations for the breakfast are \$30 per person in advance, \$35 at the door. **This breakfast is not included with the Business@Breakfast Season Pass.** Reservations may be made online at www.springfieldregionalchamber.com or by contacting Sarah Mazzaferro at mazzaferro@springfieldregionalchamber.com.

Are you Tough Enough to Attend the October Breakfast?

Mental toughness and confidence will be the focus of the Springfield Regional Chamber's October Business@Breakfast on October 7, 2015 from 7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at Crestview Country Club, 281 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, sponsored by United Personnel.



Duane Cashin

Sales growth strategist, motivational speaker, trainer, consultant, author and coach Duane Cashin will present "Mental Toughness and Confidence: Key Ingredients in Consistent and Predictable business Success." According to Cashin, to become a star performer, individuals must think like a star performer.

Through Cashin's unique blend of storytelling, humor, passion and straight talk, he will present the performance philosophies, thought processes and habits of some of the world's greatest performers; practical ideas and strategies to improve performance, and how to develop and strengthen a person's mental toughness skills to help them thrive in today's evolving business reality and give them a competitive edge.

With more than 20 years of experience as a top salesman and entrepreneur, Cashin has held multiple positions ranging from president & chief executive officer of XL-Color, a multi-million dollar specialty graphics company he founded in 2002, to executive sales leadership positions in several Fortune 500 companies. He managed the New England Sales Team for Brooks Fiber, was the director of sales for the *New York Times* best-selling author Tony Parinello, and serves in several sales capacities in the telecommunications industries.

His clients include LEGO, Sprint, MassMutual Financial Group, Liberty Mutual, American Lung Association, *The Hartford Business Journal*, Cigna, Boston Market, Young Presidents Organization and The Harvard CEO Club.

The breakfast will also honor Noonan Energy Corporation on its 125 years in business and Adam Quenneville Roofing, Siding and Windows on its 20th year in business.

Reservations for breakfast are \$20 for members in advance (\$25 at the door) and \$30 for general admission and may be made in advance online at www.springfieldregionalchamber.com or by contacting Sarah Mazzaferro at mazzaferro@springfieldregionalchamber.com.

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A packed house was on hand for the Chamber's kick-off breakfast

September Breakfast Photo Gallery

Photos by Michael Epaul Photography

A full house was on hand for the inaugural Business@Breakfast – the first as the Springfield Regional Chamber and the first of its 2015-16 season - at the Sheraton Springfield, sponsored by Breakfast Series Sponsor United Personnel and Speaker Sponsor *The Republican*. Kevin Kennedy walked the crowd through the exciting developments happening in the City of Springfield and more to come. As well, Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing was honored on its 20th anniversary and the REALTOR® Association of Pioneer Valley on its centennial.



Chamber Ambassador Meghan Fallon of FIT Staffing pulled the winning raffle ticket for Lisa Grenier of WWLP-TV22.



Samantha Rudd of Vista Home Improvement scores her first ever raffle prize as a new member from Chamber Ambassador Alan Stearley.



Claire Falcone of Rocky's Hardware is honored by the Chamber on the store's 50 years as a Chamber member with a certificate of congratulations from Chief Greeter George Arwady of *The Republican*.



Chamber members celebrate its third year in a row as Best Chamber of Commerce in the Reader Raves poll with a "happy" dance.

Chamber Lunch n Learn Program to Focus on Year-End Email Marketing

The Springfield Regional Chamber's first Lunch n Learn of its 2015-16 season will focus on holiday marketing campaigns on October 14, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at La Quinta Inn & Suites, 100 Congress Street, Springfield.



Liz Provo

Liz Provo, authorized local representative for Constant Contact, one of the leading email marketing service providers in the country, will return as a presenter with "Rock Your Holidays: Creating Marketing Campaigns That Are Perfect For The Holiday Season."

Geared towards companies of all industries, the workshop will provide simple, practical tips for closing out 2015 on a high note. Participants will learn:

- How to leverage social media to engage new and existing customers
- Which promotions and special offers work for business right now
- Best ways to drive response from emails and social posts
- Easy strategies to keep offers looking good on a cell phone or tablet
- How to create and manage a campaign for the holidays
- How to create a simple playbook to plan marketing activities all season long
- How to measure results

Provo has been involved in sales and



marketing throughout her career. A magazine publisher, blogger and early adopter of social media, she has taught small business owners throughout western Massachusetts how to effectively use today's marketing tools to grow their businesses. As an authorized local expert with Constant Contact, Provo joins a network of 200 professionals around the country who are available to associations, organizations and event planners, speaking on relationship marketing.

Reservations are \$25 for members and \$35 for general admission, which includes lunch, networking time and one-on-one discussions with Provo. Attendees will also receive a pre-pay discount up to 25% on an existing or new Constant Contact subscription to its Email Marketing, Online Survey and Event Marketing tools.

Reservations may be made online at www.springfieldregionalchamber.com or by contacting Sarah Mazzaferro at mazzaferro@springfieldregionalchamber.com.

PeoplesBank President and CEO Retirement, Succession Plans Announced

The PeoplesBank Board of Directors has announced the July 2016 retirement of its current president and chief executive officer Douglas A. Bowen and the appointment of Thomas W. Senecal as executive vice president and chief operating officer.



Douglas A. Bowen

Thomas W. Senecal

The Board also announced its succession plan, which calls for Senecal to become president at the bank's [continued on page 14](#)



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PEOPLESBANK PRESIDENT AND CEO RETIREMENT, SUCCESSION PLANS ANNOUNCED CONTINUED—

annual meeting in February 2016. Bowen will become chairman and chief executive officer at that time. Senecal will be named president and chief executive officer in July 2016 when Bowen retires. During this transition, Bowen will remain active in his position and the bank's management and strategy implementation.

Bowen joined PeoplesBank in 1975 as a teller in the management development program. He has since worked in almost every department at the bank. In 1986, he started the commercial lending Department and, in 2002, was named executive vice president and chief lending officer. He was named president and chief executive officer in 2007 and since that time has led the bank to its current position as the leading community bank in the market with more than \$2 billion in assets and a substantial track record of innovation, community support, environmental sustainability and employee engagement.

Under Bowen's tenure, PeoplesBank opened six branches, three of which are LEED® certified, has financed more than \$80 million in sustainable energy projects and has been named a "Top Place To Work" by *The Boston Globe* three years in a row. The bank was also named a "Top Charitable Contributor" by the *Boston Business Journal* seven years in a row. The American Bankers Association gave PeoplesBank a Community Commitment award for its environmental sustainability efforts in 2013. The *Boston Globe* also named Bowen a "Globe 100 Innovator" in 2011.

Senecal, who currently serves as executive vice president and chief financial officer at PeoplesBank, possesses over 25 years of progressive financial experience. In his current position, he has managed all accounting, financial reporting, and treasury and facility operations. Senecal has overseen asset growth of the bank from \$460 million to \$2.0 billion in 2015.

In addition to his responsibility for the Finance Department, as the chief operating officer, he will oversee the retail, operations, internal control and risk oversight functions. Early next year, he will also be responsible for the commercial and consumer lending, cash management and human resources functions.

Senecal holds a [continued on page 15](#)

Willie Ross School Names Assistant Director of Educational Services

Erika Kaftan has been appointed assistant director of educational services at the Willie Ross School for the Deaf, following the retirement of Linda Carfora.

In this role, Kaftan will oversee the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System Alternate Assessment portfolios and the School to Work program. She also will assist in supervising and evaluating staff, hiring new staff and reviewing and approving quarterly progress reports.

Prior to joining Willie Ross in July 2015, Kaftan was the individualized education plan coordinator at EDCO Program for the Deaf and Hard of



Erika Kaftan

Hearing in Newton, MA. She also worked as a teacher for the deaf at the high school level at EDCO.

Kaftan began her career as a paraprofessional and substitute teacher for elementary school students at a charter school in California. She received her bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge in liberal studies with a focus in American Sign Language, and went on to earn two master of education degrees: from Boston University in deaf education and from Endicott College in organizational management.

Jewish Geriatric Services Announces New Name and Logo, Launches Rebranding Campaign



Jewish Geriatric Services, Inc. (JGS) has announced that it is launching a rebranding campaign featuring the new name JGS Lifecare, a redesigned logo, website and a refreshed brand identity.

The new brand reflects a broader range of services and programs for a diverse population of ages, income levels and health statuses. The new name encompasses the organization's senior care services and facilities, home health and hospice care, assisted living, independent living, and rehabilitation services, reinforcing our continued commitment of caring for our community.

The new name and redesigned logo indicate what JGS Lifecare is and what the organization stands for. The new logo updates the existing Jewish Geriatric Services' tree mark into a beautiful and modern menorah with 'flames' of leaves. It illustrates the

building of a refreshed, experiential brand, modernizing how the organization presents itself to existing and new consumers.

The tagline, "Guided by Jewish Values. Serving All Faiths" highlights the organization's heritage and the people it serves.

The new website, JGSLifecare.org, is fresh, modern, mobile and tablet-ready. Designed to showcase JGS Lifecare's mission, history, and comprehensive care and services, the site is organized to provide visitors with an easier way to learn about what JGS Lifecare does, why it does what it does, and how to get involved. The revamped site, the product of customer feedback and best practice research, features easier navigation, and expanded details about our history and our future.

Additional branding in action across all platforms and services will continue over the next several months.

CHD Programs Earn CARF Accreditation

CHD, the region's largest social service organization, has been awarded a three-year Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for CHD's adult mental health

programs in Springfield, Holyoke, Hartford and Waterbury; its Department of Disability Services programs (Meadows Home and Outreach Team); and all of its outpatient behavioral health [continued on page 15](#)

CHD PROGRAMS EARN CARF ACCREDITATION CONTINUED—

services clinics. Other CHD programs will be surveyed for CARF accreditation in time.

CARF is an independent, international, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on

enhancing the lives of the persons served. An organization receiving a CARF three-year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

Western New England University Receives National Science Foundation Funding

Western New England University has recently received a \$365,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation Program for a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer. The 400MHz NMR is one of the most important and powerful analytical tools available to chemists and biologists, and allows scientists to study the structure of molecules. The instrument, with its high-field superconducting magnet, can be used to identify unknown substances, determine arrangements of atoms within molecules, and study the interactions of molecules in solution. The NMR uses the same theory and similar technology as the common medical MRI spectrometers.

The research grant, entitled MRI: Acquisition of a 400 MHz NMR Spectrometer for the *Cooperating Colleges of Greater Springfield (CCGS)*, is under the direction of Dr. Matthew

Dintzner, assistant dean for assessment and accreditation, and Dr. Ronny Priefer, professor of medicinal chemistry, both in the College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Keri Lee, assistant professor of chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The new spectrometer will greatly enrich the research training of students and the collaborative scholarly endeavors of science faculty through shared use within the CCGS. Currently, the only NMR available in the CCGS consortium is a 90 MHz Anasazi spectrometer at Western New England University. Its use is already at capacity with increasing numbers of students enrolled in chemistry courses.

The high-field spectrometer will facilitate the research productivity of CCGS faculty and increase the training opportunities for hundreds of undergraduate science students annually.

The Big E Nominated for USA Today Best State Fair Contest

Eastern States Exposition (ESE) has been nominated in *USA Today's* 2015 10 Best Readers' Choice travel award contest. *USA Today's* expert panel selected ESE as a contender for Best State Fair. Winners will be announced this month. Others in contention are the state fairs in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, Western Idaho, Wisconsin, and Texas.



HUB International New England Employees' Hold Food Drive

Employees of HUB International New England, formerly FieldEddy Insurance, a division of HUB International Limited, a leading insurance brokerage firm, held a food drive to benefit the East Longmeadow Council on Aging. In addition to the employee donations, the agency itself will make a contribution. Pictured are (from left) Russell Denver, HUB International formerly FieldEddy's compliance attorney; Carolyn Brennan, director of the East Longmeadow Council on Aging, and Timm Marini, president of HUB International formerly FieldEddy Insurance.

PEOPLESBANK PRESIDENT AND CEO RETIREMENT, SUCCESSION PLANS ANNOUNCED CONTINUED—

bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He also attended the Tuck Executive Program at Dartmouth College. He is a Certified Public Accountant and is a United States Coast Guard veteran.

He currently serves on the boards of directors of Holyoke Community College, where he is chair of the Investment Committee; Loomis Communities, Inc.; and the Hampshire Regional Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the Advisory Council of the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank – Boston advisory panel.

All About You Home Care Appoints COO

All About You, LLC has announced that it has appointed Mary-Anne DiBlasio as chief operating officer of the home care company. DiBlasio comes to the position with years of health-care experience in both eldercare as well as staffing.



Mary-Anne DiBlasio

Springfield College Assistant Professor Awarded Grant

Springfield College Assistant Professor of Research and Statistics Elizabeth Mullin has been awarded a one-year grant by the Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP) for her research in developing the "Heterosexist Attitudes in Sport – Gay Male Scale." Funding will assist in the development of a questionnaire that will include national and regional samples from NCAA male athletes.

Grants from the AASP are intended to provide support to professionals and students for their research endeavors. Preference is given to proposals that integrate research and practice, are submitted by early professionals or students, and require money to conduct a worthy project and no other funding is available.

Springfield Museums Honors 2015 Uborá, Ahadi Winners

The African Hall Subcommittee of the Springfield Museums presents its 24th annual Uborá Award to Henry M. Thomas III and its 6th annual Ahadi Youth Award to Victor L. Adaji.



Henry Thomas

The Uborá Award, named after the Swahili word for "excellence," is presented to an African American who has made a significant contribution to the greater Springfield area. The Ahadi Youth Award is presented to an African American young person who demonstrates strong character, leadership, academic achievement, and future potential (Ahadi means "promise" in Swahili).



Victor Adaji

Uborá Award winner Thomas has served as president of the Urban League of Springfield for the past 39 years, where he has championed the causes of educational quality as well as workforce and economic development while also focused attention on the needs of Springfield's youth and senior populations. Thomas also serves as chief executive officer for the historic Camp Atwater, the oldest African American overnight youth camp in the United States.

continued on page 17

Springfield College Launches Community Chorus

Springfield College has announced it will begin a community chorus this fall, led by Associate Professor of Music Alexandra Ludwig, that will give members of the greater Springfield community an opportunity to sing music of all genres in a fun, learning environment.

This new community chorus will foster community engagement between the College and local community, and especially invites singers who possess a love of music. Many genres of music will be represented such as Motown, jazz standards, classical, world beat, and Broadway. The chorus also will perform with piano, jazz band, instrumentals, or a cappella.



Alexandra Ludwig

Florence Bank Pledges \$30,000 to Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity

Florence Bank, a mutually-owned savings bank serving the Pioneer Valley through nine branch locations, has pledged \$30,000 to the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity over the next three years.

The Bank's sponsorship of the Habitat projects begins this year with a donation of \$10,000 to assist with construction of a new, two-family home in Amherst, on the site of the former Hawthorne Farm. The Hawthorne Farm Project will represent the 38th and 39th homes that the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity has built in its 25 year history. Florence Bank has also committed an additional \$20,000, in annual increments of \$10,000 for additional work in the following years. These future projects include a matching challenge and possibly targeted volunteerism efforts.



Springfield Symphony Orchestra Performs at Pats Season Opener

The Springfield Symphony Orchestra (SSO) led by Music Director and Conductor Kevin Rhodes performed at the NFL 2015 season opener pre-game show at Gillette Stadium between the 2015 Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Maestro Rhodes and 50 members of the orchestra first provided the musical backdrop to the Patriots' traditional tunnel run onto the field for the start of the game, with "O Fortuna" from *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff. Next, the SSO switched gears & musical genres to perform a special two-minute segment from DJ Khaled's "All I Do Is Win" with hip-hop and R&B artist T. Pain.

Springfield Museums Announce Programming for Herencia Latina Project

The Springfield Museums, the Pioneer Valley History Network (PVHN) and partner organizations announce Herencia Latina 2015-16, a nine-month Pioneer-Valley-wide exploration of Latino history and culture in the Pioneer Valley and beyond to run through May, 2016.

The expansive project includes fourteen film-and-discussion events, four exhibits, and six cultural programs and festivals, as well as related events, in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Turners Falls. Programs include multiple screenings of the six episodes of the PBS documentary series, "Latino Americans," in libraries and museums in Holyoke, Northampton, Springfield, and Turners Falls, many followed by community discussions moderated by local scholars; art and culture exhibits at the Springfield Museums, Wistariahurst in Holyoke, and in Turners Falls; festivals and music at the Springfield Museums and in Turners Falls. The full schedule is available online at Herencia Latina 2015-16.

In conjunction with the series, the

Springfield Museums will host an exhibit of evocative photographs by William Hughes titled "Faces of the North End" (through March 20, 2016) and a display of beautifully crafted stringed instruments by luthier Will Cumpiano titled "A Commitment of a Lifetime" (Oct. 9 - Nov. 8, 2015). The Museums will also host a Family Fiesta Day on Saturday, Oct. 17, with performances of traditional music and folk tales from Puerto Rico.

The centerpiece of the project is the six-part, NEH-supported documentary film series "The Latino Americans," created for PBS in 2013 by the WETA public television station. The award-winning series chronicles the history of Latinos in the United States from the 16th century to present day. As part of Herencia Latina 2015-16, all six episodes will be screened with scholar-led discussions, each more than once, at different locations throughout the autumn and spring.

At the conclusion of the project, PVHN will donate DVDs of the documentary series to Holyoke Public Library and to Holyoke Community College.

Springfield Museums to Purchase Childhood Home of Dr. Seuss

The Springfield Museums are in the final stages of purchasing the childhood home of Theodor Geisel (a.k.a. Dr. Seuss), located at 74 Fairfield Street in Springfield, MA, through support provided by the Dr. Seuss Foundation.

Geisel was born in 1902 on Howard Street in Springfield's downtown and moved at age four to the Fairfield Street home in the city's Forest Park neighborhood, where he lived with his parents and sister Margaretha (or "Marnie"). It was during this time that Geisel first developed his love for drawing and storytelling, skills which he honed while serving on the staff of Springfield's Central High School newspaper. Later in life, Geisel drew heavily from his formative years spent in Springfield to create books like *And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, his first published work of children's literature. The 74 Fairfield Street home was sold following the death of Geisel's father in 1968.



Dr. Seuss Home

SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS HONORS 2015 UBORA, AHADI WINNERS CONTINUED—

He was the first African American to chair the Springfield Fire Commission, first to lead the Springfield Police Commission, and first African American chairman of the UMass Board of Trustees. His ability as an athlete has earned him induction into the Springfield High School Sports Hall of Fame (for football, track and gymnastics), and the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame (Henry Butova Award).

Thomas is the recipient of a number of other notable awards, including the University of Massachusetts Distinguished Service Award, the Leadership Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Distinguished Service Award from the National Urban League's Association of Executives.

Ahdadi winner Adaji finished in the top 5% of his class at Springfield's High School of Commerce. He is a member of the National Honor Society and has qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship due to his scores on the MCAS. Adaji recently emigrated from Kenya, and speaks both English and Swahili fluently. He participated in early college programs at STCC and Westfield State University while a senior at Commerce, and is attending UMass Dartmouth in the fall to study mechanical engineering with a focus on aeronautics.



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Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno and Governor Charlie Baker recently celebrated the groundbreaking of the CRRC's \$95 million rail car manufacturing facility on Page Boulevard in Springfield, MA.

A world leader in rail car manufacturing, CRRC, in 2015, was awarded a \$566 million contract from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to design and manufacture 284 Orange and Red Line vehicles. The contract includes the purchase of 152 new Orange Line vehicles and 132 new Red Line vehicles. Additionally, to assemble the rail cars locally, CRRC purchased the 40-acre industrial parcel on Page Boulevard, the former Westinghouse manufacturing center that once also housed the Stevens-Duryea automobile plant, the first mass produced auto plant in the United States.

Planned, designed and ready for construction start in 2016 is a first phase 220,000 SF rail car assembly facility and 2,240 linear foot test track.

Joining Sarno were Governor Charlie Baker, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash, MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack, New York Chinese Consulate General Commercial Counselor Yi Liu, CRRC USA Rail Corp. Chairman and President Chuanhe Zhou and CRRC Vice President Weiping Yu.

Springfield College on the Rise Again in Top Tier of U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Springfield College has once again moved up the list of highest ranked colleges in the influential *U.S. News & World Report's* latest edition of "Best Colleges." In the 2016 report, released today, Springfield College is ranked 29 in the first tier in the category of Best Regional Universities – North. There are 138 colleges in the first tier and 180 overall in the category. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Springfield College has moved up in the *U.S. News & World*

Report rankings. This year's ranking of the College is up two spots from last year, eight spots from two years ago, 26 spots from three years ago, 31 spots from four years ago, and 38 spots from five years ago.

The ratings are based on such variables as peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, student selectivity, class size, alumni giving, and student-faculty ratio.

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Former Standard & Poors CEO Kathleen Corbet to Headline PWC Lunch

Kathleen Corbet, former president of Standard & Poor's, lead director on the MassMutual Board of Directors and founder of Cross Ridge Capital, LLC, will keynote at the Professional Women's Chamber (PWC) Headline Luncheon on October 7, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Munich Haus, 13 Center Street, Chicopee.

Corbet has more than 30 years in global leadership experience in the financial services industry, and over a decade of experience in board governance for corporate, civic and philanthropic institutions. She is a frequent public speaker on women's issues including career development, entrepreneurship, elected office and poverty alleviation.

A small business entrepreneur, Corbet founded Cross Ridge Capital, LLC, a firm specializing in private investing and strategic consulting in the financial information services industry. She is keenly interested in investments in women-owned and managed businesses that contribute to the advancement of our society through information transparency, efficiency and job growth.

She has served on the board of directors for MassMutual Financial Group – a Fortune 100 company – since 2008 and was elected to serve as Lead Director in 2015. Corbet was formerly president of Standard & Poor's from 2004-2007 and previously at asset-manager AllianceBernstein LP as executive vice president and chief executive officer of the firm's fixed income division.

Committed to her community, Corbet was appointed to the Board of Finance in New Canaan, CT and served from 2006 – 2010. In 2012, Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Corbet to serve on the board of directors of the CT Housing Finance Authority, a position she held until 2014. Inspired by the local and state-wide experience in politics, she ran for Town Council in 2013 and was elected to serve as councilman for a four-year term. She also serves as a Justice of the Peace for the State of Connecticut.

She serves on the board of trustees for The Jackson Laboratory – a non-profit bio-medical and genetics research institute and formerly as a director of Pro Mujer International – a non-profit organization dedicated to women's empowerment and breaking the cycle of poverty in Latin America – where she now serves as a senior advisor.

A member of the Boston College Board of Trustees, Corbet served as chair of the Advancement Committee and member of the Buildings & Properties and Nominations & Governance Committees over a 13-year tenure. She now serves as Trustee Associate for the university.

She is a graduate of Boston College and received her master's in business administration in finance (with distinction) from New York University's Stern School of Business. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Humanitarian of the Year Award from Pro Mujer International (2011); the James F. Cleary Master Fundraiser Award from Boston College (2008); the Nichols Award for integrity, enterprise and service from the NYU Stern School of Business (2006); and the Centenary Medal for service to Australian society in business leadership (2003).

Advance reservations for the luncheon are suggested and are \$30 for PWC members



Kathleen Corbet

and \$40 for general admission. Season passes to the PWC Headline Luncheon series are also available through October 6 and provide discounted access to the October Headline Luncheon, the November Western Mass Business Expo Luncheon, and the January and March 2016 luncheons. Season passes are \$99 for members and \$125 for general admission. Season pass holders must pre-register for the events.

Reservations and season passes may be made online at www.professionalwomenschamber.com or by emailing PWCevents@springfieldregionalchamber.com.

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CHAMBER EVENTS



October 2015

7

Business@Breakfast, 7:15-9 a.m., Crestview Country Club, 281 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam featuring motivational speaker and author Duane Cashin, "Mental Toughness and Confidence: Key Ingredients in Consistent and Predictable Business Success," \$20 members in advance (\$25 at the door), \$30 general admission

PWC Headline Luncheon, 11:30-1 p.m., Munich Haus, 13 Center Street, Chicopee, featuring Kathleen Corbet, former CEO of Standard & Poors, \$30 members, \$40 general admission

9

Legislative Steering Committee Meeting, 8-9 a.m., TD Bank Conference Center, 1441 Main Street, Springfield

12

Columbus Day, Chamber Offices Closed

13

"Rake in the Business," Table Top Expo and Business Networking, 4:30-7 p.m., Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, \$125 exhibitors, \$5 attendees in advance, \$10 at the door. **Presented in collaboration with Greater Chicopee, Holyoke and Westfield chambers of commerce**

14

Lunch 'n Learn, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., La Quinta Inn & Suites, 100 Congress Street, Springfield, "Rock Your Holidays: Creating Marketing Campaigns That Are Perfect for the Holiday Season," with local authorized representative for Constant Contact Liz Provo, \$25 members, \$35 general admission

Ambassadors Meeting, 4-5 P.M., Chamber Offices, College Room, 1441 Main Street, Springfield

Deadline for Super 60 reservations

19

Golf Tournament Committee Meeting, 8:30-10 a.m., Chamber Offices, EDC Conference Room, 1441 Main Street, Springfield

20

PWC Ladies Night, 5-7 p.m., Kate Gray, 398 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, complimentary but reservations required by contacting Debra Chamberland at smdchamberland@yahoo.com

23

Super 60, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Chez Josef, 176 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, featuring Tea Guys Co-Founders Emily and Oliver Rich, \$50 members, \$70 general admission. Reservation deadline October 14, 2015. **No cancellations after deadline; no walk-ins accepted**

November 2015

4

Business@Breakfast at the Western Mass Business Expo, 7:15-9 a.m., MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield featuring Harpoon Brewery CEO Dan Kenary, \$30 advance (\$35 at the door). **This breakfast is not included in the Season Pass.**

Western Mass. Business Expo, MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., cost: complimentary

PWC Headline Luncheon at the Western Mass Business Expo, 11:30-1 p.m., MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, \$40 person

Western Mass. Business Expo Social, MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., cost: complimentary

11

Veterans Day, Chamber Offices Closed

12

After 5, 5-7 p.m., Tech Foundry, 1391 Main Street, 9th Floor, Springfield, \$5 members, \$10 general admission

13

Legislative Steering Committee Meeting, 8-9 a.m., TD Bank Conference Center, 1441 Main Street, Springfield

18

Ambassadors Meeting, 4-5 p.m., Chamber Offices, College Room, 1441 Main Street, Springfield

19

Golf Tournament Committee Meeting, 8:30-10 a.m., Chamber Offices, EDC Conference Room, 1441 Main Street, Springfield

Government Reception, 5-7 p.m., Carriage House, Storowton Tavern, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, \$50 members, \$70 general admission

24

Pastries, Politics & Policy, 8-9 a.m. TD Bank Conference Center, 1441 Main Street, Springfield with Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni, \$15 members, \$25 general admission

26

Thanksgiving, Chamber Offices Closed

27

Chamber Offices Closed

We want to attend the following events:

OCTOBER 7 • Business@Breakfast

7:15-9 a.m., Crestview Country Club
"Mental Toughness and Confidence: Key Ingredients in Consistent and Predictable Business Success" with Duane Cashin
\$20 members in advance (\$25 at the door), \$30 general admission

OCTOBER 7 • PWC Headline Luncheon

1:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Munich Haus
Kathleen Corbet, former CEO of Standard & Poors
\$30 members, \$40 general admission

OCTOBER 13 • Table Top Expo and Business Networking

4:30-7 p.m., Castle of Knights
\$125 exhibitors, \$5 attendees in advance, \$10 at the door.
Presented in collaboration with Greater Chicopee, Holyoke and Westfield chambers of commerce

OCTOBER 14 • Lunch 'n Learn

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., La Quinta Inn & Suites
"Rock Your Holidays: Creating Marketing Campaigns That Are Perfect for the Holiday Season" with Liz Provo
\$25 members, \$35 general admission

OCTOBER 23 • Super 60

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Chez Josef
Featuring Tea Guys Co-Founders Emily and Oliver Rich
\$50 members, \$70 general admission

Registrant Name(s) _____

Company Name: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Address: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____

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Please return to Springfield Regional Chamber :
1441 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01103-1449 —or— FAX to (413) 755-1322