



PO Box 1227, Riverhead, NY 11901 [www.eewn.org](http://www.eewn.org)

## WOMAN OF THE YEAR APPLICATION

**ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 03/31/2017**

Nominations must include this application and comments with background data to support nomination. Additional letters of recommendation or other supporting documentation may be added to this application.

*Please mail or email this application to:  
Judy McCleery, the East End Women's Network Vice President, before 3/31/2017.*

**Please submit completed application to:**

EEWN Vice President. Judy McCleery, [vividvisions@optonline.net](mailto:vividvisions@optonline.net)

**Criteria:**

1. Must currently be active in a field of commerce, education, government or the arts.
2. Must have received or be receiving monetary compensation for her efforts in her field and be recognized by her peers as a positive force in her profession.
3. Nominees must be living or working on the East End of Long Island.
4. Must have proven record of: DIRECT LEADERSHIP – Responsible for the duties of others in a business environment. INDIRECT LEADERSHIP – Due to current or past achievements, she has earned the respect of others.
5. SERVICE- Has helped colleagues and associated to grow, develop, and achieve goals and secondarily, given assistance to the community in general. COMMITMENT - Shows a high level of dedication to her goals and ability to achieve them. ACHIEVEMENT – Shows evidence of growth in her business or profession. CHARACTER – Meeting her responsibilities and being of good citizenry.

**Nominee Name:**

**NANCY KOURIS**

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## **PLEASE ANSWER AT LEAST THREE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

Based on the above mentioned criteria, how do you feel your nominee qualifies in the area of (attach additional pages as needed):

### **Direct Leadership**

As the Owner and President of The Blue Duck Bakery Café, which she co-founded with her husband in 1999, Nancy exemplifies the meaning of leadership. Her entrepreneurial spirit, her leadership qualities and her vision were the reason why a simple artisan bread store in Southampton grew to 5 locations, four stores on the North and South Forks of the East End, along with one wholesale business. She is responsible, depending on the season, for anywhere between 35 to 60 employees. This includes interviewing, hiring and training employees to ensure each individual understands the importance of working in an artisan bakery while providing a good experience for clients at the café. She also oversees the company's retail stores and acts as the marketing head.

### **Indirect Leadership**

Nancy serves as a great role model not only to women but all individuals. She has overcome adversity, being successful did not come easy. It took surviving the failure of several businesses for her indirect leadership skills to shine. She did not let failure take her down, her perseverance and courage kept her going. She has earned the respect of many through her hard work and dedication. Nancy sets an example for others to follow by encouraging family, friends and individuals to do the best they can under any circumstance.

### **Service**

Nancy's service to the community runs deep. For 12 years she coordinated The Red Dress Dinner raising awareness of heart disease. Getting the message out started with just 35 women dining together to discuss the seriousness of heart disease, the number one killer of women. It bloomed into partnering with the American Heart Association and at one event 330 people participated. Over the years Nancy helped raise in excess of \$10,000 for the cause.

Currently, Nancy serves on the Board of the Hampton Bays Chamber of Commerce as Secretary and has been a member for 16 years. She also is the Vice President for the Riverhead Business Improvement District.

On many occasions she can be found donating her talent throughout community, by contributing goods and services to many local charities. The bakery in Riverhead has been the home to "Poetry Street" for three years in June. She has hosted the Southold Mothers Club breakfast and has sponsored the cupcake and cookie decorating event for the children.

Nancy also created puzzle cookies, which she sells in April and donates a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Flying Point Foundation for Autism. And this year she is donating the wedding cake for the annual Breckneck Hall's free wedding for a Veteran.

### **Commitment**

The ability to achieve a goal has been demonstrated by Nancy in all aspects of her life. It started when she owned a Scottish deli and the baker called in sick, she directed her husband Keith to bake the goods for the day. It was exhibited when Hurricane Gloria wiped out her business leading her to changed course in life.

Nancy went back to school full time for her degree to become a Fitness Professional, while simultaneously working full time at World Gym/Planet Fitness. Working there for 21 years while working at the bakery for 16 years. Her passion to spread the word of heart disease resulted from her work as a fitness instructor, ultimately sharing her knowledge and educating other women. It was her dedication and drive to being an entrepreneur again which lead her to open an artisan bread company in Southampton when crusty bread was not very popular.

**Achievement**

Through genuine hard work, discipline and stamina Nancy has achieved meaningful business success along with her husband, Keith, the artisan baker and wholesale guy, and their three children. The Blue Duck Bakery Café now delivers artisan breads from Montauk to Manhattan. You can find their accolades in many publications. Some include:

1. Named by Dessert Professional Magazine as one of the top 10 bread makers in North America
2. Named Best Business by the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce in 2014
3. Recognized by Saveur Magazine in 2012 as Top 5 Breads for their Reslipea, a finnish rye.

Nancy holds an A.S. Fitness Specialist degree from SCCC. Although mostly self-taught, she has attended numerous conventions, classes and lectures and given some herself. She was the first woman to win the Joe Gold Award in 2005 and has successfully spread awareness of heart disease to women for over 12 years.

**Character**

Nancy's reputation precedes her. Her kindness and good citizenry coupled with her humble ways touches the lives around her and makes a positive difference in the world. Her love of family, her generosity and honesty are qualities we can all appreciate.

**COMMENTS:**

Nancy deserves recognition for the true success she is and the example she sets for women on the East End.

In case we have questions regarding the nominee, please provide the name and contact information for the person making the nomination:

Name: \_ Helen Minieri Stacy \_\_\_\_\_

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