

# Long Island Leaders Offer Their Tips For Success



**Mark Renton**

**Director of Museum of American Armor at Old Bethpage Village Restoration**

Mark Renton is the director of the Museum of American Armor at Old Bethpage Village Restoration, using his professional skills as an auto mechanic and nationally recognized repair expert to restore and present over 30 vintage vehicles worth in excess of \$2.5 million. His advice and counsel is sought out by armor collectors across the country and he is legendary for his ability to literally install tank engines without depending on long-lost instruction manuals. A prior partner in a Freeport auto repair company, his skills now keep a chapter of America's military history on the road.

"I work in a different century," he said. "I am responsible for maintaining, repairing and presenting 70-year-old weapons of war used by your grandfathers to defend our nation during World War II. And what I see from these artifacts is an attention to workmanship that seems misplaced today. Sad but true; the work ethic that built the nation has been converted into something disposable by too many people now entering the job market. Good enough seems to be the standard for far too many people and indifferent performance is an accepted criteria for success. Those who are committed to breaking through that kind of mindset will succeed beyond their imagination. People who bring energy, expertise and a genuine commitment to doing their best every single day will wind up standing out in a sea of mediocrity."

**Ronald J. Rosenberg**

**Rosenberg, Calica & Birney, LLP**

Ronald J. Rosenberg's practice in Garden City includes commercial real estate, commercial transactions and all areas of commercial litigation. He began his career as an

associate with a Manhattan law firm and later started his own firm before forming Rosenberg Calica & Birney LLP. Rosenberg has successfully litigated numerous cases in both state and federal court and represents a diverse group of developers, corporations and high net-worth individuals. A graduate of Hofstra University in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in accounting he graduated from St. John's University School of Law in 1978. Rosenberg frequently appears throughout media as a commentator on a wide range of legal issues.

"We always speak about upholding the highest professional ethics when one is sworn in as an attorney. It is the keystone by which our entire legal system depends upon. In truth, the effective functioning of our entire democracy is dependent on the integrity of the public servants who are sworn to uphold the law—and that ranges from the President and Congress to the cop on the beat to the attorney who is deemed an 'officer of the court,'" he said.



"But I would argue that every citizen has an obligation to uphold those same standards of personal integrity and ethical behavior as they pursue their individual careers," Rosenberg continued. "My thought for those searching for a career path would have little to do with specific areas of expertise and everything to do with one's general approach to life—as an empathic and compassionate human being with an unshakable moral compass. That will ensure that whatever path you take it will invariably lead to success."

**Michael Polimeni**

**President and CEO of Polimeni International**

Michael Polimeni leads the Garden City company's strategic planning efforts. Polimeni began his career by launching a logging firm before arriving at Polimeni International where he worked in literally every capacity within the company before being appointed to his current position.

As democracy came to Eastern Europe Polimeni assumed an on-site leadership role in Poland where Polimeni International built millions of square feet of retail space, allowing the company to become one of the primary commercial developers. Redirecting the firm's overseas profits into American real estate opportunities, today, Polimeni is responsible for identifying new growth opportunities that allow for strategic partnerships and innovative land use.



He said his advice is to have a specific focus. "I lead an executive team whose focus is to recognize and benefit from real estate opportunities here and abroad for the purpose of creating maximum return on investment. But our second focus is equally important: contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by the communities where we develop. We believe it's not sufficient to simply say 'it's a good deal for us' if it's not a good deal for the surrounding community. So in pursuing a career being prepared to define success through a variety of 'metrics.'"



**Linda Armyn**

**Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Bethpage Federal Credit Union**

Linda Armyn began her tenure in 2001. In her current role she leads corporate communications, public relations, business development, new market expansion, community development and government relations.

During Armyn's years at Bethpage,

assets have grown from \$1.1 billion to nearly \$6 billion. Along with Bethpage's CEO and its leadership team, Armyn has spearheaded efforts to make Bethpage the premier community financial institution on Long Island and the largest credit union in New York State. Central to attaining these standings is Bethpage's extraordinary service model, which was developed by a corporate strategy team, which she headed.

"My two tips for success include, first, follow your passions in life and you will be led to a fulfilling career. While in college, I developed a strong passion for government and communications, which ultimately led to my current career at Bethpage, but really could have also been applied to many different industries. Second, when you're young and starting out, don't be afraid to change career paths along the way. It's very hard to choose a lifelong career at 18 or even in your 20s. Take internships to get exposed to as many industries as you can, and make your career decisions based on what makes you happy, not others."



**Randi Shubin Dresner**

**President and CEO, Island Harvest**

Shubin Dresner has served as president and CEO of Island Harvest, Long Island's largest hunger relief organization, since 2001 and continues to be the area's most prominent advocate for people who are hungry. Under her guidance, Island Harvest has grown to become the largest hunger relief organization in the region, feeding and supporting 316,000 Long Islanders annually and helping to change the lives of millions. Dresner has pioneered innovative programs through Centers of Excellence that go above and beyond standard feeding initiatives and include holistic, day-to-day assistance to people living with