

Voices of Courage & Change



MARCH 25, 2025

New Brunswick Performing Arts Center
11 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ



women aware
MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

Celebrating Women's History Month Voices of Courage & Change

Honoring

Regina Calcaterra

New York Times Best-Selling Author of *Etched in Sand, A True Story of Five Siblings Who Survived an Unspeakable Childhood on Long Island*

New Jersey Senator Linda R. Greenstein

Middlesex County Sheriff Mildred S. Scott

Program - NBPAC Arthur Laurents Theater

**Voices of Courage & Change Film Testimony from
Victim-Survivors of Domestic Violence**

Presented by students at Rutgers University's
Mason Gross School of the Arts, a short film by
Siobhan O'Hea with Miranda Haws and Dayan Bardales

Awards Program

Remarks by Regina Calcaterra

Connections & Conversation - NBPAC Lobby

LG&P

We proudly support

Women Aware in their mission to empower & protect victim-survivors of domestic violence in Middlesex County.

We honor

the Voices of Courage—the advocates, survivors & changemakers working to build a future free from violence.

Congratulations to this years honorees!



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PROUDLY SUPPORTS
Women Aware

IN THEIR MISSION TO
Provide refuge and resources for
survivors of domestic violence

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GARNIER

Regina Calcaterra

Regina Calcaterra's memoir *Etched in Sand, A True Story of Five Siblings Who Survived an Unspeakable Childhood on Long Island* (HarperCollins Publishing, 2013) is a #1 international best-seller and a New York Times best-seller. As a result of *Etched in Sand's* messages of resilience, optimism, the plight of foster children, that no child is a lost cause and how we can all positively impact the life of a child in need, it has been integrated into college and high school curricula throughout the U.S. She is also co-author of *Etched in Sand's* sequel which she wrote with her younger sister Rosie Maloney, *Girl Unbroken, A Sister's Harrowing Journey from the Streets of Long Island to the Farms of Idaho* (HarperCollins Publishing, 2016).



Overcoming a childhood of abuse, neglect and abandonment, Regina rose to serve in several high-profile public-sector roles including being appointed the first woman Chief Deputy County Executive of Suffolk County, the very county where she was in foster care. At the onset of the Covid pandemic, she founded a woman-owned boutique law firm. Calcaterra Law PC's practice areas included social justice, municipal representation, and complex federal and state litigation.

Regina has received numerous awards and honors in her legal career and on behalf of her advocacy efforts, including being honored at the annual fall gala of the Ronald McDonald Charities Metro NY for her philanthropic efforts towards children in need (November 2024): awarded the Suffolk County Civic Service Award and Medal issued by former Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone (December 2023); 2020 Trailblazer Award by the National Law Journal; New York's Top Municipal, State and County Superlawyers (2020-present) by Superlawyers, Inc.; Champion of Civil Rights & Social Justice Award (City & State NY, 2018); Woman of Substance Award (Seton Hall Law School, 2018); and Lifetime Achievement Award (Primi-Dieci Society, Italy-American Chamber of Commerce, 2015). Regina serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Suffolk County; as a board member for The Felix Organization, which provides inspiring opportunities and new experiences to enrich the lives of children who are growing up in the foster care system; and as a member of the Board of Believers for You Gotta Believe, an organization that works towards permanency for older foster youth. Through You Gotta Believe, Regina became a proud forever mom to Brezan and then a Gigi of two adorable grandchildren Amyra and Elijah James.

She resides in Southold, NY with her companion Todd Ciaravino and cocker spaniel Wilson.

Summit 65



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Senator Linda Greenstein

Senator Linda Greenstein has served as a member of the New Jersey Legislature for 25 years. She began her tenure in the New Jersey General Assembly in January 2000 and has been a member of the New Jersey Senate since November 2010. Linda is the first woman to represent the current 14th Legislative District in the Senate, which includes Cranbury, Jamesburg, Monroe, and Plainsboro in Middlesex County and East Windsor, Hamilton, Hightstown and Robbinsville in Mercer County.



A full-time legislator, Senator Greenstein serves as Assistant Majority Leader of the State Senate and Chair of the Law and Public Safety Committee. She is also Vice Chair of the Environment and Energy Committee, Vice Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, and Co-Chair of the Legislative Manufacturing Caucus.

Throughout her career, the Senator has sponsored and voted for legislation protecting the most vulnerable and marginalized citizens of our state, including citizens with disabilities and military veterans. She has worked hard to protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, supporting legislation to compel the Attorney General's office to provide a system to track rape kits; expedite review of evidence in sexual assault cases; and mandate SART teams receive special training on working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

As a result of the efforts of Senator Greenstein and the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee, the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act was amended to include coercive control as an aggravating factor that courts must consider when deciding whether or not to award a Final Restraining Order to a domestic violence victim. This amendment passed unanimously in December 2023 and became law in New Jersey in January 2024.

The Senator's legislative track record includes addressing the climate crisis, expanding the use of electric vehicles, supporting New Jersey's thriving manufacturing sector, continuing to grow the State's economy and supporting labor and education. She is a leader on water quality and a leading advocate for New Jersey's retirees and families, fighting for the passage of the Paid Family Leave Act and Senior Freeze Tax Relief Program.

The Senator was appointed to the New Jersey-Israel Commission by Governor Phil Murphy. She chose the 14th District as her home over 35 years ago and raised her son, Evan, in Plainsboro with her late husband Michael Greenstein.

Sheriff Mildred Scott

On January 1, 2011, Mildred S. Scott was sworn in as the Sheriff of Middlesex County. She is the first female Sheriff for the county and the first African American Sheriff in New Jersey. In 1968, she was one of the first females to graduate the county Police Academy then be sworn in as Sheriff's Officer, then becoming Sergeant, Lieutenant and Chief Warrant Officer. She was made Chief Sheriff Officer in 1991, the first female to serve as the highest law enforcement officer in Middlesex County. During her career, she supervised all Sheriff's Officers, oversaw all courthouse security, instituted fingerprinting programs in schools, established a senior citizen home security program and coordinated prisoner transport services with 25 municipalities within Middlesex County.



Mildred retired from the County Sheriff's Office in 1995. Elected as Piscataway's Councilwoman in 1996, she served until 2008 when she was elected Middlesex County Freeholder, the first African American to hold the position, until she assumed her current position as Sheriff of Middlesex County. She was re-elected for her 5th term in November 2022.

In managing the Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Scott undertook the first accreditation process in office history. A rigorous analysis of the organization's policies and procedures led to the prestigious New Jersey Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation, a distinction only 10 other Sheriff's Offices in NJ have achieved. She has made substantial changes to the office's personnel structure; implemented major improvements in technology; made major advances in the security of courthouses and satellite offices; increased training for sworn personnel and administrative staff; and launched the Sheriff's Civilian Academy.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Gold Life Member of the Policeman's Benevolent Association; Perth Amboy Hall of Fame, NAACP Award for Outstanding Service, Law Enforcement Humanitarian Award and Middlesex County 200 Club Honoree. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Jewish Renaissance Foundation. Sheriff Scott was appointed to the 2016-2018 and 2018-2020 Supreme Court Committee on Court Security. On June 14, 2018, she was elected Chairperson of the Middlesex County Democratic Organization Black Caucus and, in 2023, received the Middlesex College Paige D. L'Hommedieu Award.





About Women Aware

As the state-designated lead domestic violence agency for Middlesex County for more than 44 years, Women Aware provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence and their children. Our mission is to promote the safety and self-sufficiency of individuals and families affected by domestic violence in Middlesex County. Our services are available to any victim regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender expression, national origin, marital status, and military status.

Each year, Women Aware shelters 200 women and children in imminent danger; serves an additional 3,000 men, women, and children in safety net programs—including legal advocacy, counseling, support groups, and children’s trauma reduction therapy; and responds to more than 8,000 calls through our 24-hour toll-free multilingual hotline.

Women Aware is the lead agency of the Middlesex County Family Justice Center (FJC) located in an ADA-compliant space in downtown New Brunswick within blocks of Family and Superior Courts and public transportation. Victim-survivors can walk in Monday-Friday and meet with an advocate. The FJC answers a need for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking by establishing a one-stop center that provides direct access to law enforcement, legal, immigration, housing, healthcare, social and human services, and other resources.

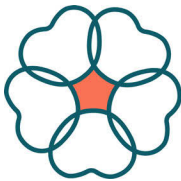


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**250 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
<https://womenaware.net>**

24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline – 833-249-4504



MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Family Justice Center

**100 Bayard Street, 4th Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
<https://middlesexcountyfjc.org>**