

Welcome!

Valley United Way Annual Meeting

LEADING & LIFTING THE VALLEY



2023



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
CHARLES H. FLYNN
HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**JIM GILDEA
&
JAMIE COHEN
A GREAT FRIEND, PARTNER & MENTOR**

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Program

Welcome

Karen Stockla

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Dinner

Keynote Speaker



Seila Mosquera-Bruno

Department of Housing
Commissioner

Charles H. Flynn Award Recognition



Jamie Cohen



Jim Gildea

Close





Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner

Seila Mosquera-Bruno was appointed the Commissioner of Housing by Governor Ned Lamont in 2019 and re-appointed for his second term in 2023. As Commissioner, Seila directs the lead state agency for housing matters for the State of Connecticut. The Department of Housing is responsible for all aspects of housing policy including the development, redevelopment and preservation of housing and neighborhoods.

Prior to her appointment, Seila was the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mutual Housing Association of South-Central Connecticut, Inc., dba NeighborWorks® New Horizons. NWNH is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing affordable housing opportunities to help build strong communities and revitalize neighborhoods.

Seila holds a master's degree in Urban Studies from Southern Connecticut State University, a B.A. in Business Administration from Charter Oak College, and completed the Achieving Excellency in Community Development an 18-month fellowship program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Included in her many board associations, she served on the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston Advisory Council, the Santander Bank Community Advisory Board, the Board of The Connecticut Legal Rights Project, and the Board of the National NeighborWorks Association.

Seila has been a speaker at local and national venues on housing related issues including as a guest lecturer at NYU. She conducted conferences in capacity-building and provided technical assistance to non-profits in Guayaquil, Ecuador. In 2018 she spearheaded a partnership with NWNH and NHS Puerto Rico to assist in their recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria.

Jamie Cohen



Jamie is a Derby native and graduate of Derby High School who went on to the University of Pennsylvania for his undergraduate degree and the University of Connecticut School of Law before commencing a distinguished legal career at the Cohen & Thomas Law Firm in Derby from 1971 to 2008. His father David B. Cohen was the founder of the firm and a model for Jamie's community spirit.

In 2008, Jamie made a major career change when he was named President and CEO of the fledgling Valley Community Foundation and guided it through a period of impressive growth until his retirement earlier this year. Under Jamie's guidance, the Valley Community Foundation greatly expanded its leadership role in Valley philanthropy and cemented a new relationship with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

Jamie has always been an active member of the community and served two terms as Corporation Counsel for the City of Derby. He also found time for involvement with the Derby Public Library where he served as a Director and Vice President, the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Housatonic Council Boy Scouts of America, the Derby Historical Society, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and the Oxford Board of Ethics where he was a member and chair. He was also a director of both the Valley Community Foundation and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

Jamie has received numerous community awards for his good works including the Martin Luther King Brotherhood Award, the Good Scout Award and the derby Historical Society's John Ireland Howe Award. He was also awarded the prestigious Gold Seal Award by the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce in 2006.

Now residing in New Haven with his wife Fran DeToro, Jamie is the father of Matthew D. Cohen (wife - Sheri Cohen) and the late Daniel M. Cohen.

Jim Gildea



Jim Gildea is a lifelong Derby resident who is a graduate of Irving School, Derby Middle School, and Emmett O'Brien High School. Jim works at Bigelow Tea where he has been employed at since 1996. During his tenure Jim has served in roles ranging from Facility Supervisor, Maintenance Manager to Plant Manager. He has since worked his way to his current role as Director of Manufacturing where he oversees the tea blending and manufacturing operations in the Fairfield Plant.

Jim and his wife Tracy raised 7 children together before she passed away unexpectedly in April 2022. Christina, Samantha, Melissa, Jessica and Matthew are all out of school while Emily is a sophomore at Southern CT State University and Joshua is a junior at Derby High School. Jim is a parishioner at Holy Rosary Church in Ansonia where he and Tracy were married and where all his children received their sacraments. Jim also taught catechism at Holy Rosary for 12 years.

Previously, Jim has been awarded the CBIA Outstanding Contributor to a Family Business Award, the Jayne Kuchma Leadership for Greater Bridgeport Alumni Award, the Bridgeport Rescue Mission Compassion in Action Award, a Bank of America Local Community Hero nominee, the Distinguished Friend of Education Award and most recently, Saint Mary Saint Michael's Christian Compassion Award.

Throughout the years Jim has been dedicated to the improvement of the community on a local and state level and has received noteworthy recognition for his efforts. In 2012, Jim was appointed by Governor Dannel Malloy and subsequently reappointed by Governor Ned Lamont to serve on the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council where he has served as Chairman since 2016. Jim is also a member of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council Board of Directors and is the past Chair of the Leadership for Greater Bridgeport Board of Directors. He once again received additional recognition from Governor Ned Lamont to serve on the Board of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System. In the past he had been appointed to the position of Co Chairman of the Ansonia Derby Temporary Regional Study Committee and previously served on the Derby Zoning Commission, School Building Committee, and the Derby Water Pollution Control Authority. Most recently, Jim is on the Board of Directors for ManufactureCT where he serves as Secretary of the Board as well as Chair of their Government Affairs Committee. In addition, Jim is the Chairman of the Derby Board of Education (a position he has held for 18 years of the 26 years that he has been on the Board) as well as Vice President of the Derby Historical Society.

Congratulations Jamie

on your richly
deserved
Award

Sheehy & Dillon

Jim & Tim



Congratulations Jim Gildea

on receiving the
**Valley United Way Charles H. Flynn
Humanitarian Award**



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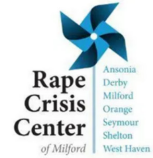
Congratulations Jamie
on receiving this humanitarian award.

**It is well deserved,
and we are proud of you.**

**Love,
Bob & Mary Ann Norris**

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HONOREES
FROM THE JOHN &
CARRIE
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Jamie,

*Your steadfast determination to
put integrity, honesty, and
humility above all else is truly
worth emulating for all thinking
and caring people.*

With much love and respect,

Dee and Ed Melisky



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Jamie Cohen

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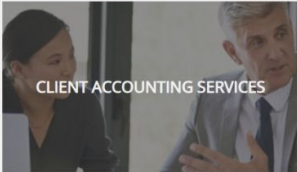
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Congratulations



Valley United Way

**Would like to congratulate this year's
Charles H. Flynn Award Recipients**



Jamie Cohen



Jim Gildea

**And our partner agencies
on a great year!**

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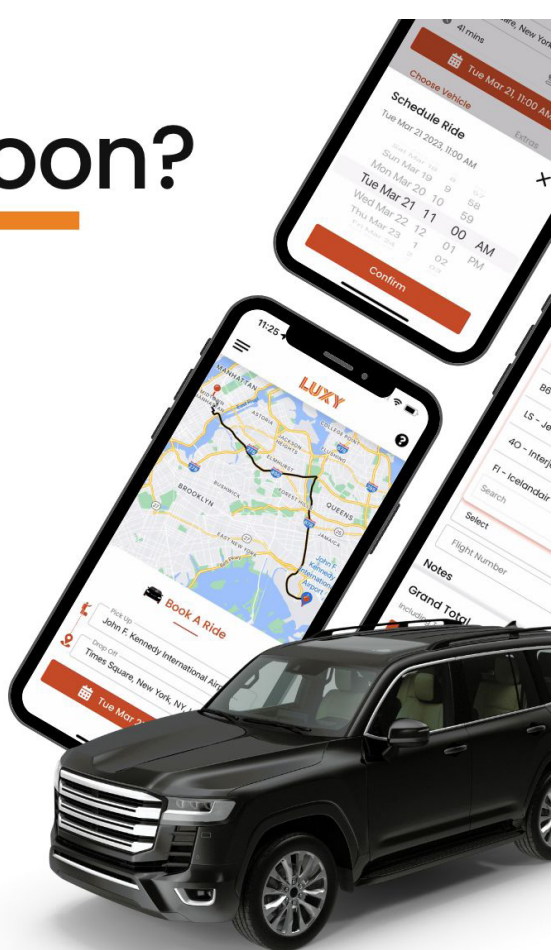
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