

Chamber Celebrates Michael Rauh, 2020 Citizen of the Year

President/CEO of Chelsea Groton Bank Recognized for Business and Nonprofit Leadership Benefiting the Community After a Challenging Year

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT announced Michael Rauh, President/CEO of Chelsea Groton Bank, as it's Citizen of the Year in February 2020. The Chamber is pleased to finally celebrate Rauh's contributions on October 29, 2021, after a year where his continued leadership on behalf of the community helped businesses, nonprofits, and residents weather the pandemic.

The Citizen of the Year award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions on behalf of the civic and business community. Recipients are nominated for positive impacts made within their organization, through outreach to the community and in service to nonprofits in the region.

Michael Rauh has brought his genuine and intense passion for service to many community boards and committees. He recently served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for L&M Healthcare and 2019 Chair of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT. He is a past Chairman of the Connecticut Bankers Association. He actively serves on the boards of the American Bankers Association (ABA), Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, The Yale New Haven Health System, the Norwich Free Academy Foundation, the Norwich Community Development Corporation, URI Harrington School of Communication and Media, and the Providence Mutual Insurance Company, in addition to the Chelsea Groton Bank board and Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation board.

A strong believer in nurturing growth in individuals and communities, he focuses his efforts on fostering learning, sharing knowledge, collaborating to forward important causes, and reinvesting in the local community in meaningful ways.



He frequently emphasizes to the Chelsea Groton team the importance of reflecting diversity, ensuring equity, and acting inclusively.

Demonstrating the intersection of these values, the Chelsea Groton Foundation made grants totaling \$300,000 to the Norwich Community Development Fund for the Global City initiative in downtown Norwich for innovative multicultural programming and assistance to multicultural entrepreneurs and small business owners interested in occupying downtown Norwich storefronts. This collaborative approach

characterizes Rauh's leadership in supporting thoughtful, impactful solutions to economic and community development. Rauh's vision for the community also led to the formal development of 'ONE Chelsea', Chelsea Groton's diversity, equity and inclusion initiative.

Dedicated to nurturing talented leaders, Rauh and his leadership team launched Chelsea Groton's Circle of Excellence program in 2019. Available to every bank team member, the program develops the next generation of leaders, instilling in them the bank's extraordinary culture of promoting high-quality service, trust, collaboration, innovation, and positive contributions. He encourages staff to participate throughout the region in leadership positions and programs that develop leaders of self, leaders of others, and leaders of leaders.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Rauh collaborated with area non-profits and businesses to identify needs and allocate resources. He promised his continued commitment to the individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations who were in desperate need of financial support. Under Rauh's leadership, the Chelsea Groton Foundation and Bank together donated a record \$1 million to the community in 2020, in response to the increased need across organizations in many giving categories.

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU | Through their commitment to the Chamber, these companies have demonstrated support for the many smaller businesses we serve.



Upcoming Events

**TUE
OCT 12** Ribbon Cutting
**Grand Opening of UCFS
Healthcare at Waterford Public
Schools**
8:15 - 9:15 am

**WED
OCT 20** Business After Hours
Florence Griswold Museum
5:00 - 7:00 pm

**FRI
OCT 29** **70th Annual Citizen of the Year
Celebration honoring Michael
Rauh**
5:30 - 9:00 pm
Mohegan Sun
ChamberECT.com/coy

**THU
NOV 18** Business After Hours
Secor Subaru with TVCCA
5:00 - 7:00 pm

**WED
DEC 1** Business After Hours
The Spa at Norwich Inn
5:00 - 7:00 pm

**THU
DEC 2** **12th Annual Social Service
Recognition Breakfast**
Holiday Inn, Norwich
8:30 - 10:30 am

**FRI
DEC 10** **37th Annual Holiday Gala**
Mohegan Sun
5:30 - 9:00 pm

Pre-registration is suggested for most events. Call (860) 701-9113 or visit ChamberECT.com to learn more about any event. Cancellation Policy: Notice must be given at least three business days prior to event. No-shows or those unable to cancel in time will be billed.

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Advantage Personal Training Shares the Love...of Exercise



**“They truly care and want me to feel comfortable.
This place is a small gym with a Big Heart!”**

Changing lives since 1999, Advantage Personal Training lives up to their mission to be “The Best Part of Our Clients’ Day.” Owner Greg Drab called APT the “Cheers” of fitness gyms, “We know all of our clients’ names, their goals, and hold them accountable.”

That accountability leads to inspiring success stories from every kind of client with many different motivations and goals. The homepage proudly exclaims “We Speak Beginner” and the approach backs that up.

“We believe in meeting clients where they are, and then helping them to get where they want to be,” explained Greg Drab. “We do this by mapping out a plan for them and helping them execute it.”

Each client begins by meeting with the director of training to map out a game plan designed to help them meet their unique fitness goals. After movement evaluations and measurements, the director of programming works with staff to set the training program in motion. Every 4-6 weeks clients have an “On Point” session to see if they are on track with their goals.

Greg developed his love of exercise early on. At age 12 he joined his older brothers lifting weights in the basement. “They put together a plan for me to follow. I started seeing results and never stopped exercising,” said Greg. That commitment led Greg to study exercise science in college and continue his work in graduate school.

Greg opened Advantage Personal Training in Mystic in 1999 and a Niantic location in 2001.

With a thriving business, he purchased land in 2013, where APT built its dream facility. Niantic’s dream facility was close behind in 2016.

“Most gyms have fitness equipment, just like hotels have beds,” said Greg. “We are different because we work as a team to help our clients accomplish their training goals.” He pointed to the variety of training programs available that allow clients the flexibility of working with a trainer as much as they want. The fitness center opens their doors to everyone from youth to seniors and works with them no matter where they are on their fitness journey.

Clients are kept motivated and connected with this active community, not only at the gym, but through special workouts in the park, a blog filled with tips and mouthwatering recipes, and an engaging social media presence.

“My trainer really showed me that exercise was something I could do and love. Her enthusiasm, knowledge, and faith in me really made the biggest difference,” shared happy APT client Mel. Her story of success reclaiming a healthy lifestyle emphasizes the key elements: a big reason why, a support system, and good habits paired with good nutrition. “They truly care and want me to feel comfortable. This place is a small gym with a Big Heart!”

If You Go:

6 Liberty Way, Niantic
2906 Gold Star Highway, Mystic
advantagepersonaltraining.com

Chamber celebrates Michael Rauh continued from page 1

In accepting the nomination, Rauh said, "I am honored and humbled to be considered for this award. I have been blessed to work with extraordinary people throughout our region, each doing their own part to make this special place we call home even better. My professional career has been all about helping people achieve their dreams and I've also had the opportunity to spend time on causes that help strengthen our region. I really feel like I've gotten so much back personally from the things I've learned and the people I've met that this award seems like icing on the cake."

"Michael brings energy, thoughtful engagement, and a positive outlook to every endeavor," said Tony Sheridan, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT. "His knowledge, gained through years of professional experience as a community leader enables him to think creatively and collaboratively about regional issues and assess ways to derive the greatest benefits for all involved."

Past Citizens of the Year include Rodney Butler, of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Louis Ziegler of the Mohegan Tribal Housing Authority, Mary Lenzini of the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern CT, Neil Ryan and Scott Gladstone of Wireless Zone, Mitchell Etes of the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority, Maria Miranda of Miranda Creative, Alice Fitzpatrick of the Community Foundation of Eastern CT, and Dr. Grace S. Jones of Three Rivers Community College.

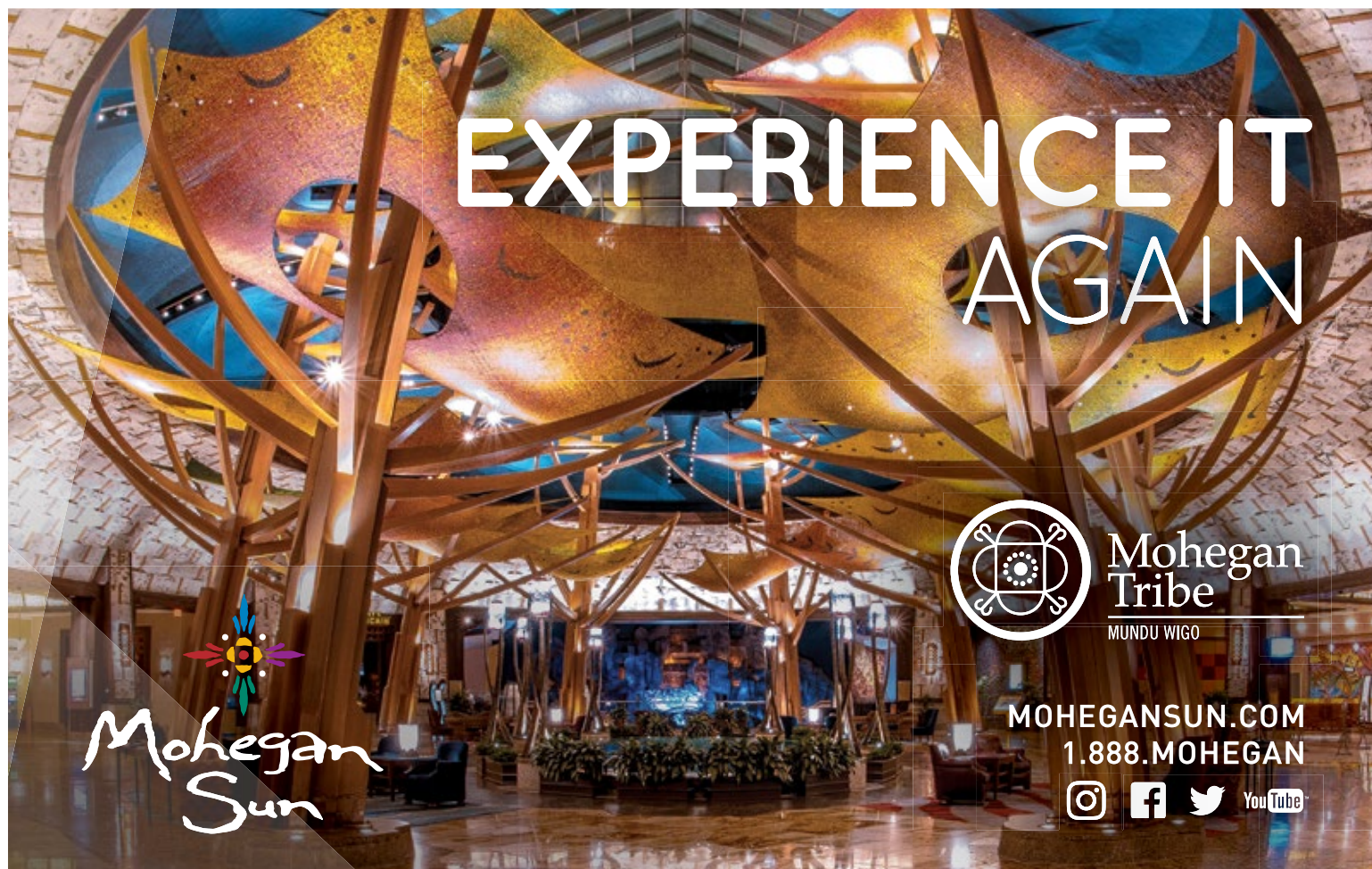
The Chamber is pleased to recognize Rauh on October 29, 2021 at 5:30-9:00 p.m. at Mohegan Sun Casino. For the most up-to-date information and to purchase tickets, visit ChamberECT.com/coy or call (860) 701-9113. Inquire with the Chamber about marketing and sponsorship opportunities for the Citizen of the Year celebration before October 13.




Save the Date
37TH ANNUAL CHAMBER FOUNDATION
Holiday Gala
Champagne, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dessert.
Silent & live auction to benefit local children's charities.
Friday, December 10 | 5:30 - 9:00 PM | Mohegan Sun




ChamberECT.com | (860) 701-9113.







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theday.com/conversations

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*Full menu details and pricing will be made available on October 10 at theday.com/conversations.

BENEFACITOR NEWS

Four Suisman Shapiro Attorneys Named to 2022 Best Lawyers® List; Two Are Recognized as “Ones to Watch”

Suisman Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law is pleased to announce that four lawyers have been included in the 2022 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®. Since it was first published in 1983, Best Lawyers has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence.

James P. Berryman – Workers’ Compensation Law – Claimants

John A. Collins, III – Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs

Jeffrey W. Hill – Family Law and Family Law Arbitration

Robert B. Keville – Workers’ Compensation Law – Claimants

Additionally, the following lawyers were recognized in the 2022 Edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch:

Roger T. Scully – Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs

Kyle J. Zrenda – Insurance Law, Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs, and Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch recognizes associates and other lawyers who are earlier in their careers for their outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States.

Chelsea Groton Bank Assisted More Businesses with Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loans Than Any Lender in Region

Chelsea Groton Bank was the leading Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) lender in the region. Through Chelsea Groton’s all-hands-on-deck approach, the Bank was able to approve and fund 1,027 loans totaling over \$116 million to local businesses between the first and second rounds of the PPP, saving over 8,500 jobs in the region.

In addition to the record number of PPP loans the Bank processed, Chelsea Groton also developed their own Small Business Relief Loan, which offered a good option for businesses in need of relief during the pandemic, beyond the PPP.

While non-profits were not eligible for the Bank’s Small Business Relief Loan, many benefited from both PPP and Chelsea Groton Foundation grants. The Foundation and Bank gave an unprecedented \$1 million in giving to the community in response to the challenges the non-profit community faced during the pandemic. The Bank was recently named Outstanding Business Supporter of Arts & Culture by the Cultural Coalition in response to the support Chelsea Groton provided to the arts community throughout the PPP process, and for the tremendous level of financial support provided through grant donations to struggling arts and cultural organizations.

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Chamber Welcomes New Team Members

Rachel Lenda

Administrative Partnerships Manager



Rachel Lenda knows the ins and outs of hospitality and tourism, having served the needs of guests for 12 years in the restaurant industry. From covering the varied tasks of a general manager to sales and marketing, Rachel brings a wealth of knowledge from the service industry as well as over five years' experience in administrative work as an executive legal assistant.

With her breadth of skills, Rachel is coordinating the Chamber's

administrative partnerships with the Eastern Regional Tourism District (ERTD), Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Eastern Connecticut (HBRAECT), and Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council (SECWAC).

The state-designated ERTD selected the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT to act as its nonprofit administrative partner in March 2020. The Chamber works with the ERTD Board of Directors, representing the district's 41 towns and major attractions, to implement innovative marketing and promotion of the region supported through annual state funding. Working closely with the Board, Rachel is looking forward to the insights she can share from her work in the industry.

"I have a deep understanding of restaurant tourism from various positions held within our area's leading high-volume and multimillion dollar venues such as the Hard Rock Café at Foxwoods, Ballo Italian at Mohegan Sun Casino, S&P Oyster Restaurant and Bar, and Max Downtown. These iconic and landmark establishments focus on attracting travelers for both business and pleasure," shared Rachel. "I plan to bring this expertise into my role as Administrative Partnerships Manager to help the Eastern Regional Tourism District with innovative ideas with food establishments, live music venues, bars, nightclubs, and food and beverage tours."

Rachel brings another point of view as a vocalist in Eastern Connecticut's award-winning band, Red Light. Performing for major community events, night outs, beach concerts, fairs, and casinos, Rachel understands the entertainment market from backstage.

"My connection to tourism comes from my connection to people. I would classify myself as your quintessential 'people-person' and I love being a part of the unique moments in people's lives," said Rachel. "To be able to influence a family's vacation or a newly wedded couple's honeymoon, that is a gift; it is a true pleasure to be a part of and something I am proud to be connected to."

Additionally, this role expands people's experiences through supporting SECWAC and their programs that bring experts on global issues to speak to local audiences. The Chamber has been a proud partner in this effort since 2014.

Rachel connects with local small business owners by meeting the administrative needs of HBRAECT and its members in the construction industry. HBRAECT provides valuable opportunities for local contractors to meet, collaborate, learn, share promotional opportunities, and promote the highest standards in the building industry. HBRAECT began their partnership with the Chamber in 2017, and Rachel looks forward to continuing to support our industry members.

Connect with Rachel at rlenda@ChamberECT.com to learn more about the Chamber's work with these partners.

Lisa Sanders

Business Services Representative



With 12 years in leadership roles for local organizations including The Day and Eastern CT Savings Bank, Lisa Sanders brings a wealth of knowledge in Human Resources and a deep understanding of what local employers need. She's also worked for local manufacturers, seeing first-hand the struggles to find quality talent and the value the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative brings to our region's manufacturers.

Lisa joined the Chamber this summer in the role of Business Services Representative, where she will be the bridge between employers, employees, and workforce initiatives in the region.

"My position is unique in that I am employed by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut through a partnership with the Eastern Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) and the American Job Center located in Montville, CT," explained Lisa. "So, I get to work with three great teams all at the same time. I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by such incredible talent and we all share a similar passion for the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative."

In her role, Lisa reaches out to area businesses to understand their needs, connects them to workforce resources, and helps them fill job openings via her talent pool from the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative. Tools to meet these workforce needs include American Job Center resources and events, such as upcoming Virtual Job Fairs for employers to connect with job seekers.

"A highlight of my day is when I get to visit a local manufacturer, tour their shop, and gain a better understanding of what they are looking for in their future employees so that I can assist them in filling those roles. Many will be filled with graduates from the pipeline classes," said Lisa.

Lisa works closely with all the pipeline candidates serving as their job developer throughout the process. After graduation, Lisa assists in placing them with local manufacturers.

Candidates from all employment backgrounds are encouraged to explore the program that provides all the training they need to get started in well-paying career in manufacturing. The Eastern Connecticut Youth Manufacturing Pipeline shares experiences and opportunities with high school students.

Employers include General Dynamic Electric Boat and the many manufacturers that are in the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance.

Lisa is enjoying the variety of interactions across a typical day: assisting candidates with their resumes, helping employers with their CTHires accounts, assisting with On the Job (OJT) training contracts, or referring a pipeline graduate to a manufacturer.

"I spent 12 years in human resources and worked for some amazing companies. I still get to work alongside some wonderful HR managers, only now I'm helping them find talent," said Lisa.

Look for Lisa at upcoming Chamber events. She is eager to meet business leaders to see how she can be of service to them in her new role. Reach out to Lisa Sanders at lsanders@ChamberECT.com.

MEMBER NEWS

UConn's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts Returns to In-Person Performances for the 2021-22 Season

Like so many other presenting organizations across the country, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on the UConn Storrs Campus developed virtual programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Jorgensen is now gearing up for in-person events for their 2021-2022 season – featuring 24 events with nationally and internationally renowned artists.

“We are beyond excited to announce the return of in-person performances on the Jorgensen stage for the first time in 18 months,” said Rodney Rock, Director of Jorgensen. “Due to COVID-19 pandemic restricting us from having live performances, we presented over a year of livestream events on our new Jorgensen Digital Stage platform. While we enjoyed presenting the digital alternative to in-person performance, it will be so wonderful to have artists on the stage again, and you, our patrons, back in your seats in the main hall to enjoy these highly anticipated performances.”

Jorgensen Center will have strict protocols in place – all in compliance with the CDC, UConn and the State of Connecticut to help mitigate the spread of the virus. “The health and safety of our patrons, staff, artists, and the UConn community is our highest priority,” continued Rock.

All COVID-related policy and protocol information for Jorgensen events can be found at jorgensen.uconn.edu/online/article/covid-policy

See the complete list of events at jorgensen.uconn.edu.

Mitchell College Welcomes Vice President of Academic Affairs



Mitchell College recently welcomed Dr. Elizabeth Ann (Betsy) Beaulieu as vice president of academic affairs. She will oversee all academic areas of the college, including Thames at Mitchell, the Bentsen Learning Center and the Mystic Program.

Beaulieu most recently served as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Haven. Prior to that she was founding dean of the Core Division at Champlain College in Vermont, where she served for 11 years, and director of Women's Studies at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. She has consulted on many areas of higher education, including general education reform and integrative teaching, learning and collaboration. Her research focuses on contemporary African American women writers.

She holds a doctorate in 20th-century British and American literature from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, master's degrees in literature from the University of York, England, and Georgetown University, and a bachelor's degree from Providence College.



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