



Neighbors Link Board of Directors Bios 2026

April 29, 2026

Elisa Burns, MD, Chair - joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2017 and became Chair in 2019. She is a retired Obstetrician and Gynecologic surgeon, formerly the Chair of the OB/GYN Department at CareMount Medical where she practiced for 35 years. Dr. Burns was also an Attending Physician at Northern Westchester Hospital and served on its Board of Trustees. She currently serves as a Board member of the NY State Board of Professional Medical Conduct. She also served on the Board of Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic for nine years.

Dr. Burns received her Bachelor of Arts from Colgate University and her medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She completed her medical residency at Columbia Medical Center. Dr. Burns lives in Bedford with her wife, Meryl, and her Jack Russell, Chavo. They met their son, Pedro, at Neighbors Link and they are forever grateful for the help Neighbors Link has provided him. She enjoys reading, exercising and traveling in her free time.

Jelane Caspar, Vice Chair – joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2017. She recently retired following a career in the technology and telecommunications sector, where she held multiple executive leadership roles at Oracle, Vodafone, AT&T and Focal Communications.

Most recently, Jelane served as Global Vice President in Oracle's Strategic Client Group, leading industry engagement across Communications, Media & Entertainment and Utilities in North America. Prior to Oracle, she was Country Sales Manager at Vodafone Americas, where she led global, cross-functional teams responsible for complex enterprise clients and significant revenue portfolios. Earlier in her career at AT&T, she held senior sales leadership roles managing large multinational accounts in the financial sector and driving global account strategy and growth. At Focal Communications, a competitive local exchange carrier startup, she served as Regional Vice President with responsibility for multiple markets, leading sales, operations, and customer care teams and overseeing regional performance and growth. Over the course of her career, Jelane has built high-performing, global teams, established long-standing strategic partnerships with multinational clients, and delivered sustained growth across complex and competitive markets.

She has long been active in nonprofit organizations focused on education, workforce development, and underserved communities. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon, she brings a strong appreciation for diverse cultures and the importance of immigrant integration.

Jelane currently lives in Ridgefield, Connecticut, and previously resided in Briarcliff Manor, Westchester County, New York for 37 years, where she and her husband David raised their two daughters.



Teresita Bango Wisell - has been in the field of higher education administration at two and four year colleges and universities for more than 35 years. She currently serves as the Vice President for Workforce Development and Community Education at Westchester Community College (WCC). While at WCC, she founded and served as the Executive Director of the Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education (2008-2021), a national initiative that raised awareness of the critical role that community colleges play in immigrant integration.

Teresita serves on the board of the National Council for Workforce Education. She has received numerous awards and honors, including the State University of New York Chancellor's Award in Professional Service; a Leadership Fellow by the National Community College Hispanic Council; and recognition by local agencies for her work with Latino youth in Westchester County. Teresita was born in Camaguey, Cuba and immigrated to the United States as a child. She regularly serves as a panelist and presenter on issues regarding access to education and the immigrant population. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and an MBA in Marketing. She joined the Neighbors Link Board in February 2013.

Christopher Robinson, Treasurer – joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2016. He was born and grew up in Argentina and is fluent in Spanish. He is a dual US and UK citizen. He is UK chartered accountant and holds a Master of Business Administration certificate from the International Management Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. He lives in Bedford, NY.

He first joined Citi in 1986. He is currently the Regional CFO for Mexico reporting to the Citigroup CFO and supporting the Mexico CEO. Chris has been Mexico CFO since May 2011 when he returned to Citi after spending two and a half years as CFO of Ixe Grupo Financiero in Mexico from December 2008 to March 2011. Chris has worked in Mexico for over ten years during his career, including as Banamex CFO in 2001-2004. Chris has also been CFO of Asset Management from 1993-2001, CFO US Credit Cards from 2004-2008 and also spent seven years in Citi Corporate Financial Analysis from 1986-1993. He worked with Price Waterhouse from 1976-1986.

Adrienne Marcus, PhD., Secretary - is a co-founder and the Executive Director of Lexington Center for Recovery. The Center is a private, state-licensed, non-profit chemical dependency treatment agency serving individuals and families throughout Westchester, Dutchess and Rockland Counties. It is an active collaborating partner with Neighbors Link. Adrienne is currently a member of the Program Committee. She joined the Neighbors Link Board in September 2000.

Nancy Bauer - began volunteering for Neighbors Link in 2009. She has taught English to students one-on-one or in small groups of learners and also has volunteered in the Family Center, helping with the Parents as Teachers program. She has participated in Citizenship Drives, helping applicants navigate and complete their applications for citizenship. Nancy



graduated magna cum laude from Brown University with a degree in Comparative Literature. Following graduation she worked for Crown Publishers and then for SIN (Spanish International Network, now Univision). Nancy joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2017. She and her husband Jon raised their two children in Katonah, where they have lived for the past 35 years.

Steven H. Bloom, CFA – recently joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2025. He has more than 30 years of experience in the alternative asset management industry. He currently manages his family investment office and serves in an advisory capacity to several hedge funds. Earlier in his career, he was one of five founding partners of Susquehanna International Group, a global proprietary trading firm, and later founded and managed Sagamore Hill Capital Management, a multi-billion-dollar multi-strategy hedge fund.

Prior to entering the investment field, Steven worked as an environmental scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council. He serves as Chair of the Binghamton University Foundation, is a trustee of The New School, and is a member of the Dean's Advisory Board at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. He received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the State University of New York and lives in Armonk, New York.

Cynthia Brill, Esq. – is General Counsel of NewsGuard Technologies, Inc., a company that will provide software to social media platforms to identify fake news sites and assess reliability using trained journalists. Previously she has served as General Counsel of Journalism Online and General Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer for Verified Identity Pass, Inc.; Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Brill Media Holdings, L.P.; and General Counsel of American Lawyer Media, L.P. and Court TV. She founded and wrote the newsletter *Corporate Control Alert*, a monthly publication owned by American Lawyer Media. Cynthia also practiced law as a commercial litigator in New York City. She received her BA from Yale University and her JD from New York University School of Law.

Cynthia has served on the Boards of Phoenix House; the New York League of Conservation Voters; the Asphalt Green; and the Fund for Public Advocacy, where she was a volunteer assistant to Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate of the City of New York. She also served on the Major Gifts Committee for the Fund for the Met at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. She was Chair for the Yale 30th Reunion Class Gift; Reunion Chair for her class reunion; and currently serves on the Steering Committee of Yale 50/150, a celebration of Yale Coeducation.

Prior to law school, Cynthia worked for the City of New York in the Office of Neighborhood Government. She is a former member of Community Board 8 in Manhattan, and served on capital campaigns for the Brearley School and the Collegiate School. She is married with two daughters and one son. She joined the Neighbors Link Board in May 2010.



Kevin Conroy – has retired after 25 years of extensive healthcare financial and managerial experience in both public and private healthcare organizations. Kevin joined CareMount Medical as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in 2014, and in 2016 he was given the additional role of Chief Population Health Officer (CPHO).

At CMM, a multispecialty medical group serving 500,000 patients across five counties, Mr. Conroy provides direction to the group's strategic growth plan with the steadfast mission of providing the highest quality patient care in a community setting. He is responsible for financial strategy, financial reporting, investments and performance, as well as revenue cycle management. Prior to joining CMM, Mr. Conroy was President of WellCare of New York, served as CFO of a start-up Medicaid health plan increasing access to primary care for residents of New York City, and New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Mr. Conroy is a member of the Board of Partners Health Plan.

Mr. Conroy has resided in Westchester County, NY for over 20 years where he and his wife Anita Nordal have raised their two children. He joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2018.

James Fenimore, Ph.D. - is the Director of Clergy and Congregational Care and a Marriage and Family Therapist at Samaritan Counseling Center, where he has served since 2014. He is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with extensive experience supporting individuals, couples, and families through counseling and community-based care.

Prior to his work at Samaritan Counseling Center, James served as the Senior Pastor of the Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, where he provided spiritual leadership and pastoral care while engaging deeply with the surrounding community. His professional background reflects a long-standing commitment to service, mental health, and strengthening families through compassionate, inclusive support.

James has served on the boards of Wesley Health Care Center and the Franklin Community Center in Saratoga Springs, New York, contributing his experience in governance and community-based service organizations. James has a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Vermont and a Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Theology and a Doctor of Ministry from Drew University and a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and finally a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy from Iona College.

James lives in Bedford, New York, with his wife, Dr. Alison Cape, a maternal-fetal medicine obstetrician-gynecologist. He recently joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2025.

Wendy Gardner - joined the Neighbors Link board in 2021. She was elected to the Byram Hills Board of Education for three terms, including two years as President. She was a member of the



boards of Hope's Door, where she served as Treasurer and Vice President, and Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic where she served as Treasurer and Chair. She has also volunteered as a tutor and mentor at Children's Village, as a tutor at Neighbors Link, and worked as a New York State contact tracer during the first year of the pandemic. Before raising her family, she held positions in finance at Citibank, IBM and PepsiCo. Wendy has a BA from Amherst College and an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business. She and her husband, Tom, live in Bedford.

Omar Lopez - Omar Lopez joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2021. He is the Deputy Mayor of the Village of Ossining and a Principal at DRG Talent, where he leads executive searches for nonprofit organizations across the country. His work focuses on helping mission-driven organizations identify and hire leaders who can strengthen their impact and serve their communities effectively.

In Ossining, Omar is committed to building a more connected and responsive local government. He has supported efforts to expand community engagement, strengthen relationships between residents and local institutions, and ensure that village initiatives reflect the needs and voices of all who call Ossining home.

Omar grew up in Bushwick, Brooklyn, and now lives in Ossining with his wife and two daughters. His work, both professionally and in public service, is grounded in a belief that strong communities are built through trust, access, and opportunity.

Stuart E. Marwell – recently retired as President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of the Board of Curtis Instruments, Inc., a privately held, family-owned green technology company headquartered in Mount Kisco, New York. Curtis Instruments designs and manufactures advanced instrumentation, controls, and integrated systems for electric and industrial vehicles worldwide, with operations spanning manufacturing, engineering, and sales across multiple continents.

Stuart joined Curtis Instruments in 1983 and became President and CEO in 2001. Under his leadership, the company has achieved sustained growth and profitability while maintaining a strong commitment to innovation, reinvesting significantly in research and development to advance clean transportation technologies. Curtis Instruments has been widely recognized as one of the Best Companies to Work for in New York, reflecting Stuart's people-centered leadership philosophy.

Deeply committed to community service, Stuart has served on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester since 1987 and was President of the organization from 2017 to 2020. He also serves on the board of Bedford 2030, a local environmental sustainability organization. In recognition of his civic leadership, Stuart received Neighbors Link's Humanitarian Award in 2016.



Stuart earned a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University and an MBA with honors from Boston University, and completed graduate studies in architecture at Harvard University. He lives in Katonah, New York, with his wife, Vicki, and has two adult children. He recently joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2021.

Julie Muñiz - is a Partner in Fragomen's New York office with more than 20 years of experience practicing immigration and nationality law. She has published extensively on immigration issues, with articles appearing in publications including the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), the New York Law Journal, and ILW.com.

Julie is a frequent speaker for industry and continuing legal education organizations and is deeply committed to pro bono work. She currently represents a family from Honduras in an asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) petition. She speaks both English and Spanish.

Julie was named one of Crain's Hispanic Leaders in 2022. She earned her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from New York Law School in 1997 and her Bachelor of Arts from Boston College in 1994. She lives in New Rochelle, New York, and joined the Neighbors Link Board 2023.

Robert Newborn, MD - is a board-certified Internal Medicine physician, currently working in Urgent Care with Optum Medical Group (formerly CareMount Medical). Previously, Robert held various leadership roles including the Deputy Medical Director at CareMount, the Chief Medical Officer at the Western Connecticut Medical Group and the Associate Medical Director and VP of Physician Services Northern Westchester Hospital. Robert began his career as an Emergency Physician at NY Hospital/Cornell and then Northern Westchester Hospital. Robert received his medical degree from Albany Medical College and completed his internship and residency at St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York. He lives in Chappaqua with his wife Andrea. Robert joined the Neighbors Link Board in March 2014.

Ray Sanchez, EdD - is the Superintendent of the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns. He began his career as a classroom teacher and went on to serve as Superintendent of the Ossining Union Free School District beginning in 2013, a role he held for more than ten years before joining the Tarrytowns. Throughout his career, Dr. Sanchez has been recognized for building strong bridges between schools and the communities they serve, with a sustained focus on instructional excellence, data-driven decision-making, and educational equity.

Dr. Sanchez currently serves on the boards of several community organizations, including 914 Cares, the Jacob Burns Film Center, and the Westchester Community College Foundation. His previous board service includes Teatown Lake Reservation, Feeding Westchester, and the Food for Life Council. He has held numerous regional and statewide leadership roles in educational organizations and has served as an adjunct professor at Mercy College, Manhattanville College, and Bank Street College of Education.



Dr. Sanchez earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Manhattanville College, where he received the Doctoral Outstanding Leadership Award in 2019. He also holds advanced degrees and certifications from Fordham University, Columbia University, and Long Island University, and received his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Geneseo. He joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2023.

Joel Seligman – joined the Neighbors Link Board in 2020. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Northern Westchester Hospital from 2001 until his retirement in 2019, following an 18-year tenure marked by significant growth, clinical excellence, and expanded community outreach. Under his leadership, the hospital opened numerous major facilities, including a neonatal intensive care unit, Interventional Radiology Suite, Breast Institute, women's imaging center, cancer treatment and wellness center, a state-of-the-art emergency department, and multiple surgical suites. In 2015, Northern Westchester Hospital became a member of Northwell Health, further strengthening its capacity to serve the region.

Throughout his career, Joel held numerous leadership roles within the healthcare sector, including serving as a state delegate to the American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board 2, Chair of the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association, and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Healthcare Association of New York State. He is a former member of the Planetree Board of Directors and currently serves on the Advisory Board of Hope's Door, an organization dedicated to ending domestic abuse. He has also served on the Board of Directors of Nonprofit Westchester.

Joel has been recognized for his leadership and service with several honors, including the Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley's Ellen Wood Health Care Award, the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award, and the American Diabetes Association's Father of the Year Award. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Boston University and a Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Health from Columbia University.

Robert T. Shepardson - as one of the founders of SS+K, Rob has spent over 25 years working in advertising, marketing, and brand consulting. Rob has led the agency's work for a diverse set of clients, including HBO, The New Yorker, Starbucks, President Obama's campaigns in both 2008 and 2012, Microsoft, LiveStrong, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Airbnb, the AFL-CIO, Everytown for Gun Safety College Board, the NCAA, Mark Zuckerberg's FWD.us, First Lady Michelle Obama's anti-childhood obesity campaign, Let's Move!, MSNBC, and many others.

In the spring of 2014, President Obama appointed Rob to the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition co-chaired by Drew Brees and Dominique Dawes. Rob is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a founding board member of Business Forward, and on the advisory boards of Hip-Hop Public Health and Share our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign. In January 2020, Rob joined the Neighbors Link board.



Rob designed and continues to teach a graduate-level course on health issue advocacy at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. He currently is on the advisory board of the Center for Health Communication at Harvard's School of Public Health. Rob has a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He holds a B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College, where he graduated with a double major in government and biology. At F&M, he was a four-year starting quarterback and All-American. He was inducted into F&M's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990.

Rob is married and he and his wife have three children.

Tracy Stein - graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law and practiced as a commercial litigator for more than ten years at prominent NYC law firms. After taking leave from practice, Tracy became active in Northern Westchester community and town leadership positions. During this time, she also obtained a Master of Science in Global Affairs from NYU (concentrating in energy and environmental policy).

Passionate about driving social impact, Tracy has spent the last 15 years providing board service and legal, strategic, and policy advice to non-profit organizations spanning multiple sectors. She has served as an active volunteer with Neighbor's Link Legal Team for several years and as a Board Member since 2025. Tracy is also the Chair of the Board of TheatreWorks USA (a nonprofit that offers theater to family audiences throughout the country) where she directs strategic planning and provides legal and governance expertise. Tracy has also worked as a visiting lawyer for the Environmental Law Institute as part of its environmental peacebuilding research and initiatives. Tracy also serves on the Board of Directors of UJA Federation of NY and the Advisory Board of Adamah NY, the leading Jewish environmental nonprofit in NYC.

As part of her early advocacy work in peacebuilding and justice, Tracy worked on South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, an experience that was instrumental in developing her passion for human rights. Tracy has three adult children and splits her time between Mount Kisco and New York City.

Mary L. Weiss, Esq. - is a graduate of New York University School of Law. As a former associate at White & Case in New York City, her practice in corporate and financial services focused on project finance and syndicated loans. Her international public service includes work at the United Nations Environment Program in France, research on the political and cultural implications of North African immigration in Paris, and mission work in Trinidad. She has lived in Santiago, Chile, and her published works concern international environmental law. Mary is the Chair of the Program Committee, and serves on the Strategic Planning and Governance Committees. She joined the Neighbors Link Board in October 2002.