

Maureen & Mike Cacace



Maureen was born in Niagara Falls – a twin and one of seven children – where she graduated from Niagara University and began her career. In the 70s, her twin brother Mike had a roommate named Mike at Fordham, and soon destiny took its course. In 1975, Maureen married Mike Cacace and moved to Stamford. Here she worked for Xerox Learning Systems before staying home with her children, Joe and Chrissy, during their preschool years. Once their children were in school, she volunteered as a tutor and a room mother.

In 1990, Maureen became a Para Educator at Northeast Elementary School in the Chapter 1 Early Intervention Reading Program and found her true passion—teaching. She earned her Masters in Teaching and began working at Roxbury Elementary School for “what turned out to be the most rewarding 20 years of my professional career.” She retired in 2014.

Currently, Maureen serves on the Boards of SilverSource and the Stamford Museum & Nature Center. Previous Board service includes Reading Is Fundamental; Northeast PTO; Holy Spirit Parish Council and Holy Spirit Women’s Guild. Her volunteer experience includes tutoring in schools, Holy Spirit Church, Family and Children’s Agency, and as a judge for the Ferguson Library Annual Literary Competition.

A lifelong Stamford resident, Mike is the founding partner of Cacace, Tusch & Santagata. His practice focuses on civil litigation, real estate and land use. He holds a BA from Fordham University and a JD from New York Law School, and is admitted to practice in Connecticut and New York. He is a former President of the Stamford Regional Bar Association and a former Chair of the Planning and Zoning Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. He was recently listed as a Top Lawyer in Connecticut by *Connecticut*, *Westchester* and *New York* magazines.

Among his numerous honors and awards, Mike was named Citizen of the Year by the Fred Robinson, Jewish War Veterans Post in 1995; Man of the Year by State Street Debating Society in 2011; and Community Leader of the Year by the Advocate in 1986. He received the Judge Learned Hand Award from AJC Westchester/Fairfield in 2018, the first Arts Ovation Award from Stamford Center for the Arts in 2010, the Good Scout Award from the Connecticut Yankee Council, Boy Scouts of America, in 2001, and was honored by the Council of Italian American Organizations in 2007.

Mike has served on the Democratic National Committee for Connecticut; as Chair of the Ferguson Library Board of Trustees; President of the United Way of Stamford; President of the United Way of CT; Chair of the Stamford Commission on Aging; Co-Chair of the Stamford 13th Charter Revision Commission; Co-Chair of the Connecticut Committee of the Regional Plan Association and on the Board of the Regional Plan Association; and President of the Stamford Center for the Arts, The Italian Center and The Volunteer Center. He currently serves as Co-Chair of Stamford’s Redistricting Commission and as Chairman of the State Street Debating Society.

Guest Speaker

Ashton Applewhite



Ashton Applewhite is a leading voice in an emerging movement dedicated to dismantling ageism and honoring age as a vibrant and necessary aspect of diversity. The author of *This Chair Rocks* and a TED mainstage speaker, she reveals the untapped possibilities of late life — in our communities, at work, and in ourselves.

