



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR XIOMARA MALDONADO



Hi Everyone! It's Hispanic Heritage Month, and I want to acknowledge two of the most incredible Puerto Rican Americans I know—my parents, Judith Mendez and Andre Maldonado. They are the ones who instilled within me a passion to fight for social justice. They are the reason why I fully believe in the power of community service and why I choose to do the work I do.

My parents taught me that civic engagement is important at every stage of life.

Growing up, our family outings sometimes consisted of distributing sandwiches to the hungry along the East River, volunteering in soup kitchens, and sliding a lever to cast a vote. I watched my parents help their neighbors to turn off lights on Sabbath and fix their remote controls. I listened as my mom shared resources with parents on street corners, and I felt proud that my parents mentored youth in church. Now, at the age of 62, my mom has flown twice to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria to promote healing as a nurse and meets with elected officials as a union representative. My dad, at age 60, volunteers as an instructor of Self Defense at Sirovich. When I visit them, neighbors still ring their doorbell to ask for help.

Union leader and labor organizer Cesar Chavez once said, "True wealth... is measured in the legacy we leave behind for those we love and those we inspire."

To my parents, to every Sirovich volunteer and staff person, and to every member who participates in political processes, who serves our communities, and who practices kindness with their neighbors: thank you for working towards building such wealth.

RECENT & UPCOMING STAFF CHANGES

- **Clifton Horne has recently resigned as Sirovich's Superintendent.** We love you so very much and already deeply miss you! Check out an interview with Cliff on Page 2.
- **Peter Bessent has been promoted to Chef at Center for Recovery & Wellness.** We are thankful for you (and your desserts!) and wish you well in your new position.
- **Hannah Shuman is now Sirovich's Social Worker.** We are so glad you're here!
- **Seetaram Lootawan is now Sirovich's Evening Porter.** Welcome to the team!

MANDATORY FOR ALL:

Pick up a Nutrition Screening Questionnaire outside the Main Office & return to us ASAP.



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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PG 2: STAFF SPOTLIGHT

PGS 3 & 4: SEPTEMBER REVIEW

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: INTERVIEW W/CLIFTON HORNE



This month, we celebrate Superintendent Clifton Horne who came to Educational Alliance in 1995 and recently resigned after many years of service. It's hard to imagine life at Sirovich without Cliff, whose loud laugh and aptitude for lightening the mood often helps us to get through tough days. Cliff is the type of worker who we'd force to use his personal days; except, he'd still show up to Sirovich during his vacation, and we'd have to check in on him to make sure he wasn't doing any work!

Cliff's knowledge of the building is unparalleled, and his very spirit is intertwined with it. In fact, Cliff's constant presence at Sirovich has been a given—you could find Cliff serving breakfast to members every morning, waxing floors on weekends, and cleaning throughout the week. Often, he would make repairs, like fixing toilets, tiles, sinks, walls, electrical issues, and lights, quietly, so that, sometimes, no one would even realize that something had been in need of fixing. **Learn more about this valued Sirovich team member below:**

My Home: I grew up in East New York, Brooklyn, and now I live in East Flatbush.

My Music: 36 Chambers by Wu-Tang Clan. I like the beats, the lyrics, all of it. I have everything they put out except for that \$2M album. My favorite radio station is 105.1.

My Pets: I have two Toy Poodles. They're sisters, born minutes apart—Destiny, the perfect girl, and Sasha, the mean one.

My Favorite Hobby: Shopping at Home Depot. I go wild in there.

If I had a Superpower: I would want to be like Flash so I could do more work.

Something Others Might Not Know About Me: Every year, I volunteer with Project Ezra to assemble and deliver packages to homebound older adults for the Jewish holidays. I also help to set up at a special dinner for them. One day, my friend asked me to help her out there, and that was it, I stayed. In 11 years, I never heard anyone argue over there. They're so sweet—they kiss my hands when I'm leaving.

My Favorite Place in the City: Sirovich. I just love to be there.

What I Love Most About Working at Sirovich is: When I get a little time to stop off and talk to the Kitchen crew—Mama, Alice, and all of them.

I want to tell Sirovich members: I've had so much fun working with you all, and I love you all, in spite of the madness, and I wish I could spend more time with you.

MEMORABLE QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"[The Intergenerational Poetry Slam] was very powerful. Everybody's voice was so unique. I felt very good about being a part of the program." —Elvira Colorado, Member & Performer

IN & ABOUT SIROVICH IN SEPTEMBER 2018



Sirovich hosted the 2nd Intergenerational Flo-crocovery Poetry Slam in partnership with the Center for Recovery and Wellness on 9/28. Participants & staff (including Executive Vice President Jonathan Skolnick!) performed original & existing poetry that moved the audience to both tears & laughter. Special thanks to Sirovich Advisory Board President Sarie Teichman & CRW Peer Specialist Idris Patterson for MC-ing this event. Video of "We are the Ones," a communal poem they created, was featured at our 2nd Poetry Slam!



Councilmember Keith Powers toured Sirovich on 9/24.



Members enjoyed a Wine Glass Painting art workshop with Senior Whole Health on 9/21.

IN & ABOUT SIROVICH IN SEPT 2018 CONT'D



Director Xiomara led an Intergenerational Poetry Writing workshop in Aug. & Sept. to encourage healing & self-exploration by writing about identity & life. Sirovich members & Center for Recovery and Wellness participants connected by reading their work aloud to one another in a safe space.



On 9/27, members visited Storm King Art Center, an outdoor museum in New Windsor, NY. Thank you to City Council for helping to underwrite part of the cost of this trip with discretionary funds.



On 9/25, Sirovich celebrated the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, an important Chinese holiday, that brings together family to appreciate one another, share well-wishes & eat mooncakes, symbols of unity. Sirovich's Asian Choral Group & Chinese Dance Group donned various beautiful outfits for their performances!

