

■ Hospitality Ones to Watch



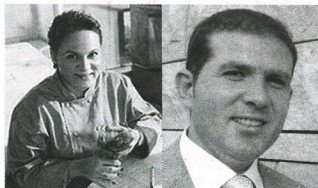
MANNY CARVALHO

LILLIAN DENT



FRANKLIN FERGUSON

KRISTEN MATEJKA



DEBORAH R. PITTORINO

FRANCO SUKAJ

Manny Carvalho

Owner
Churrasqueira Bairaada

After cooking in his native Portugal for 20 years, Carvalho and his family moved to Long Island and opened a small, 20-seat barbecue restaurant in Mineola in 1993, catering to the local population of Portuguese immigrants. The restaurant's appeal wound up extending to a broader clientele, so when an adjacent store became available, Carvalho expanded to create a second dining room, and Churrasqueira now has 100 seats. Carvalho uses real charcoal briquettes to cook meat dishes; the restaurant claims to be the only one in New York to use this traditional method.

Lillian Dent

Co-Owner
LL Dent Restaurant

Dent, who co-owns the Carle Place Southern-cuisine eatery with her daughter, Leisa, was recently honored with two awards. The National Association of Women Business Owners of Long Island presented her with the Woman of Excellence in Hospitality Award, while the Long Island Association Small Business Council honored her with the Women-Owned Business Advocate Award. Prior to opening LL Dent in 2006, Dent spent 30 years at Dow Jones, where she was New York market manager for a decade.

Franklin Ferguson

General Manager
Navy Beach Restaurant

Ferguson and a partner, Frank Davis,

opened beachfront Navy Beach Restaurant in Montauk in April. Ferguson oversees all operations, including the restaurant's food and beverage program. After graduating from college with degrees in pre-medicine, biology and psychology, Ferguson eschewed the scalpel in favor of the corkscrew. He earned his sommelier diploma from the International Sommelier Guild, where he is currently in charge of marketing and e-commerce for the ISG brand. Ferguson gained experience as a sommelier, beverage manager and corporate trainer at China Grill Management's Asia de Cuba and Social Hollywood restaurants in Los Angeles. In 2008, he joined SushiSamba in New York, holding the positions of corporate director of purchasing and corporate director of beverage.

Kristen Matejka

Director of Marketing and Communications
LI Convention & Visitors Bureau & Sports Commission

Since joining the Hauppauge-based group in 2005, Matejka has worked directly with LICVB's president to formulate its strategic marketing plan and budget to promote Long Island as a tourism destination. Earlier this year, when Coopers Beach in Southampton was named the No. 1 beach in the nation by Dr. Beach, Matejka generated a significant amount of online, broadcast and print coverage. Matejka is responsible for LICVB's social media program and its Facebook page, which now has 110,000-plus fans. She has also contributed to a redesign of the bureau's website, scheduled to launch this summer.