



2018 Honorary Gala Chair Adler Aphasia Center Founder **Elaine Adler** Invites you to Celebrate

2018 Mike and Elaine Adler Humanitarian Award Fernando Garip AND

Myron Corp. and the Adler Family

2018 Karen Tucker Advocacy Award Barbara and Steven Kessler

2018 Shining Star Award The Koury Family

Master of Ceremonies

Steve Adubato, Ph.D.
EMMY AWARD-WINNING ANCHOR, AUTHOR, "LESSONS IN
LEADERSHIP" AND LONGTIME CENTER SUPPORTER

Couvert \$275

Lavish Cocktail Buffet | Silent Auction 50/50 Raffle | Business Attire RSVP by September 19, 2018

2018 MIKE AND ELAINE ADLER HUMANITARIAN AWARD MYRON CORP. AND THE ADLER FAMILY

MYRON°



Myron Manufacturing was founded in 1949 in NYC by Mike and Elaine Adler. After purchasing a sewing machine and one of the first heat sealing machines ever made, the Adlers launched a mail order business, offering imprinted pocket calendars, pens, and other business gifts. Thanks to Mike and Elaine's resourcefulness and ingenuity, Myron soon thrived. In 1982, Myron settled into its current facility in Maywood.

Its flagship lines of business and high-tech personalized gifts are designed, partially manufactured, and customized in the US and Germany. Myron ranks among America's top manufacturers and distributors of mail order business gifts, with offices in 12 countries. Yet despite its vast size and scope, Myron remains family-owned and true to its roots. Mike and Elaine's son, Jim, now helms the company and proudly continues the tradition of outstanding customer service, innovative product design, and strict quality standards—values that made Myron what it is today.

In 2003, the couple shifted their focus to philanthropy. They decided to fulfill a personal mission: to help people living with aphasia. Mike knew this condition's devastating effects as he had suffered from aphasia during the later stages of his career. With great fortitude, he overcame many of his difficulties, after which they vowed to help others do the same. Since founding the Adler Aphasia Center in Maywood, their efforts have since extended to multiple locations – in Israel and throughout NJ – and have led to the formation of numerous community-based groups. Mike and Elaine's passionate work has put aphasia on the map, and helped so many people reclaim their lives.

2018 MIKE AND ELAINE ADLER HUMANITARIAN AWARD FERNANDO GARIP

NJ REGIONAL PRESIDENT, WILMINGTON TRUST, PART OF THE M&T BANK FAMILY





Fernando is responsible for managing Wilmington Trust's New Jersey Region, overseeing the development and coordination of wealth management services for prominent individuals, families, corporations, and foundations. Fernando and his team work closely with clients and their advisors to develop financial strategies that help clients meet their current needs and plan for their long-term objectives.

Fernando has more than two decades of experience in the financial services industry. Prior to joining Wilmington Trust, he led national wealth teams at TD Bank, Commerce Bank, and several other firms throughout the region. His experience includes a broad range of responsibilities with a track record of establishing and growing successful wealth and investment management businesses across a broad spectrum of organizations on the east coast.

M&T Bank's community relations and philanthropy program allow the company to foster robust relationships and partnerships with area non-profit organizations. In 2017, M&T Bank contributed over \$2.7 million to 186 not-for-profit organizations in the New Jersey region. As a corporate and philanthropic partner with Adler Aphasia Center for the last several years, Wilmington Trust has helped the Center to advance their cause, while supporting the Center's life skills program and Scholarship Fund for people with aphasia. Fernando has known Mike and Elaine Adler since serving on the founding board of Gilda's Club with Elaine in the mid 1990's.

Fernando holds a bachelor's degree from Villanova University and completed the Executive Management Program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He currently serves on a number of boards and civic organizations throughout the region and has been a featured speaker and guest at many personal wealth and economic financial conferences over many years.

2018 KAREN TUCKER ADVOCACY AWARD BARBARA AND STEVE KESSLER

NATIONAL ADVOCATES FOR PEOPLE WITH APHASIA AND THEIR FAMILIES



In 2007, Barbara suffered a severe stroke, developed aphasia and was unable to speak, read or write. Through extensive speech therapy and participation in excellent programs including the Adler Aphasia Center, she has reclaimed her ability to communicate. Barbara and Steve salute the Adler Aphasia Center for their innovative programs for stroke and brain injury survivors and their caregivers and cherish their longstanding friendship with Mike and Elaine Adler.

Barbara was a librarian for over thirty years. She was one of the first female reference librarians at Columbia University Law School. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was among the professors that Barbara assisted when Professor Ginsburg joined the law school faculty. Steve was an attorney and compliance officer specializing in international securities, banking and finance and served most of his career at JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs and a large investment firm. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable David N. Edelstein, Chief Judge of the US Courthouse, Southern District of NY.

The Kessler are national advocates for aphasia, promoting greater awareness of this communication disorder and other stroke health care challenges. They support providing information and resources nationally to stroke survivors, their families and caregivers to enable survivors to achieve stronger recoveries towards living happy, fulfilled lives. Barbara and Steve serve on the Board of Directors of the National Aphasia Association and support the work of the National Stroke Association. Steve is also active with the Board of the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains, NY, while Barbara is a volunteer and participant in Burke's numerous programs for stroke and brain injury survivors.

2018 SHINING STAR AWARD RACHEL, JACKIE, PAUL AND JACKSON KOURY



In 2010, Jackie suffered a massive stroke while working for a major magazine in NYC. A wife and mother of two, ages 8 and 6, she was hospitalized for months. She was paralyzed on her right side and developed aphasia. Being confined to a wheelchair, she felt isolated and guilt-ridden knowing how taxing it was on her family. Her husband Paul would come home from work to find his daughter, Rachel, saying words out loud to herself and touching her mouth, lips and teeth. When asked what she was doing, she said, "I want to learn how I position my mouth so I can teach Mommy to speak again." Rachel, now 16, wants to become a speech therapist.

When Jackson, 14, was in kindergarten, he was frightened and avoided her for the first year. Gradually he became closer and both credit reading together as the source of their reunion. When Jackson was in 1st grade, he and his mother were both assigned the same book to read, Dr. Seuss' *Fox in Socks*. Jackie's speech therapist felt it would help her build her reading skills. As they sat and read the book together, their relationship grew stronger.

When Adler opened its West Orange location in 2012, Jackie was the first member to join and continues to attend twice a week. She also attends the Morristown Aphasia Communication Group. She and Paul both credit Adler for building her communication skills and confidence to lead a more independent life. Jackie says she feels safe being around others with aphasia. "The aphasia community has become a second family to me." Her children have grown up around others with aphasia and understand the value that the Center's programs have had on their mom. Paul, who now serves on the Center's Board of Directors, credits the Center as having helped the entire family build a better quality of life.

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