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NOTICE TO REPORTERS AND EDITORS

With smash reviews in season one, the Her Honor Mentoring program funded by Judge Judith Sheindlin of the hit CBS Television courtroom series Judge Judy, has bigger and better plans for season two of the mentoring program for young women.

The Her Honor program, developed by Judge Judy's daughter Nicole Sheindlin, pairs high school girls with successful women in the community who advise them on everything from how to dress for success to how to succeed in the workplace. Due to the program's overwhelming success, the Sheindlins and the Westchester County Office for Women, which administers the program, are expanding it to include more girls from more communities.

The new crop of 18 girls from Mamaroneck and Mount Vernon will meet their mentors at a reception and luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bonnie Briar Country Club in Mamaroneck.

"Last year we started with eight girls from Mamaroneck High School, but this has been such a great experience for everyone involved that we are bringing in more girls from more communities," said County Executive Andy Spano. "This is a wonderful thing that Judge Sheindlin and her daughter Nicole are doing for these young women. Our Office for Women is happy to partner with the Sheindlins on this important program."

Nicole Sheindlin, a defense attorney who lives in Larchmont and designed the program and curriculum, said she was very moved by the testimonials of girls who participated in last year's program. She said she is thrilled that the program will be able to reach more girls this year.

(MORE)

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“I was very impressed at the bonds that these mentors formed with their girls and how much the girls learned from these very special women,” said Nicole Sheindlin. “Ten more girls, including high school students from Mount Vernon, will participate this year. We are really pleased to be able to connect more girls with successful women from all walks of life in this community.”

Judge Judith Sheindlin said that the mentoring program is working out even better than anticipated.

“It’s lovely, that after a successful first year we are able to launch our second annual Her Honor Mentoring Program. Since last September, we have doubled the number of students and mentors and are extremely pleased about the expansion of our program.”

Karen Cheeks Lomax, executive director of My Sister’s Place shelter for victims of domestic violence, was mentor to 17-year-old Sheirin Torres, who started Baruch College this fall and hopes to become a Certified Public Accountant.

“This was an experience of a lifetime,” said Cheeks Lomax. “For those of us who spend their lives trying to make a difference, it was so rewarding to see such a change in one young person in such a short period of time.”

Lomax said that Sheirin not only got to spend time with her, but worked in her office and was able to attend and help plan functions held by My Sister’s Place. In addition to working with their mentors and holding a 25-week internship at their workplaces, each young woman in the program participates in a specially designed life skills curriculum that includes, among other things, seminars on budgeting, business etiquette and resume and essay writing. The girls were selected with the help of their school districts and will receive stipends for their work. This year 18 girls from two school districts – Mount Vernon and

Mentors and mentees will meet for the first time at Wednesday’s reception and luncheon. This year’s mentors and mentees are as follows:

MENTORS 2008

- Martha Anderson, Director, Hispanic Programs, Westchester County Office for Women
- Mariana Boneo, President, Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont / Mamaroneck
- Delores Braithwaite, Director, Westchester County Commission of Human Rights
- Chief Barbara Duncan, Chief of Police, Mount Vernon Police Department
- Christine Fecko, General Counsel, My Sister’s Place
- Marlene Furtick, Director, Westchester County Youth Bureau
- Barbara Gallagher, Campaign Manager, School and Youth Programs, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Westchester / Hudson Valley
- Danette Sawin - Grovesnor, The Boeing Company, Purchase, New York
- Janet Langsam, Jean LePere, Director, Cancer Control, American Cancer Society
- Karen Cheeks Lomax,

- Honorable La Tia Martin, Judge, Westchester County Supreme Court
- Pamela Minyard, Director, Girl’s Institute of Leadership and Abundance Integration
- Tracey Mitchell, Director, Westchester County Office of African American Affairs
- Susan Tolchin, Chief Advisor to County Executive, Westchester County
- Maria Valente, Owner, Chocolations
- Daisy Yau, Director, Westchester County Office of Asian American Affairs
- Virginia Zellman, President, Mamaroneck Artist’s Guild

MAMARONECK HIGH SCHOOL

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| 1. Nicole Peters | Janet Langsam Director, Westchester Arts Council. |
| 2. Crystal Campbell | Jean LePere, Director, Cancer Control, American Cancer Society. |
| 3. Victoria D’Andrea | Barbara Gallagher, campaign manager, school and youth programs, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.of Westchester/Hudson Valley. |
| 4. Ana Ruano | Marlene Furtick, Director, Westchester County Youth Bureau. |
| 5. Dana Dotti | Christine Fecko, General Counsel, My Sister’s Place |
| 6. Stephanie Diaz | Mariana Boneo, president, Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont /Mamaroneck |
| 7. Yumi Masuda | Virginia Zelman, president, Mamaroneck Artist’s Guild. |
| 8. Sagirah Wheeler | Maria Valente, owner, Chocolations. |

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

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| 1. Ting Lu | Daisy Yau, director, Westchester Office of Asian American Affairs. |
| 2. Xiao Lu | Susan Tolchin, Chief Advisor to County Executive, Westchester County. |
| 3. Cinnamon Lewis | Karen Cheeks Lomax, executive director, My Sister’s Place. |
| 4. Jellissa Findley | Tracey Mitchell, director, Westchester Office of African American Affairs |
| 5. Jerem Marie Kennedy | Judge La Tia Martin, Westchester County Supreme Court |
| 6. Afiya Andrews | Barbara Duncan, Chief of Police, Mount Vernon Police Department. |
| 7. Patrece Davis | Dannette Sawin Grosvenor, The Boeing Company, Purchase, NY. |
| 8. Karem Cayetano | Martha Anderson, Director, Hispanic Programs, Westchester Office for Women |
| 9. Tenesha Senior | Pamela Minyard, Director, Girl’s Institute of Leadership and Abundance |
| Integration | |
| 10. Brittany Goulbourne | Delores Braithwaite, Director, Westchester County Commission of Human Rights. |

Directions to Bonnie Briar Country Club: Take Hutchinson River Pkwy to exit 21 (Weaver St - Route 125). Turn left onto Weaver Street. Proceed through two traffic lights (1st light - Griffen Ave. / 2nd light - Quaker Ridge Rd). The club is on left hand side of the street past 2nd light (approx. 1 mile from exit).

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