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MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR | NMLS #2285332 Direct: 516.544.5393 | fancona@mfmbankers.com www.mfmbankers.com/francesco-ancona

Ancona's journey in the mortgage industry is nothing short of remarkable, Armed with a wealth of knowledge across Conventional, FHA, and VA loan programs, Francesco's expertise is unparalleled. His immersion in real estate transactions from a young age, alongside his father, laid the foundation for his exceptional understanding of the housing market.

Graduating magna cum laude from the University at Albany with a bachelor's degree in business management, Francesco's academic prowess is matched only by his dedication to his craft. Joining the esteemed team at Meadowbrook Financial Mortgage Bankers Corp., he swiftly established himself as an indispensable asset. What sets Francesco apart is his unwavering commitment to client service. From Montauk to Manhattan, he goes above and beyond, ensuring that clients receive personalized assistance tailored to their needs.

Francesco Ancona isn't just redefining mortgage mastery; he's setting a new standard for comprehensive, client-focused service in the New York market.



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MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR | NMLS #1766990 Direct: 516.833.8473 | gnicolo@mfmbankers.com www.mfmbankers.com/gabriele-nicolo

Nicolo epitomizes the new wave of talent in the mortgage industry, Raised in an environment steeped in mortgage expertise, his family's legacy inspired his own journey into the field. Armed with a business degree from Molloy College, Gabe seamlessly integrated into the prestigious team at Meadowbrook Financial Mortgage Bankers Corp. upon graduation, which led to the ability to showcase his natural aptitude and dedication.

With a robust five-year tenure, Nicolo has become synonymous with excellence in client service, guiding numerous individuals towards their dreams of homeownership. His approach focuses on going above and beyond for clients, with clear communication and a strong effort to speed up the closing process. Recognizing the gravity of the financial decisions his clients face, Nicolo ensures they are well-informed every step of the way, providing clarity and reassurance.

Nicolo isn't just redefining mortgage excellence; he's setting a new standard for compassionate, client-centric service.

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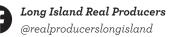
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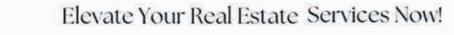
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Publisher's

Hello November, the Season of Gratitude!

As we welcome November, there's a crisp chill in the air and a sense of anticipation as the holidays approach. This is the month of gratitude, a time to reflect on all the blessings we've received throughout the year and to express our appreciation for the people and moments that have enriched our lives.

November is also a time for gathering, for cozying up with loved ones, and for savoring the warmth of home and hearth. It's the

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month of Thanksgiving, a perfect opportunity to come together, share stories, and create new memories.

A warm welcome to our newest preferred partner, HUB International Northeast Limited! We're delighted to have them join our community and look forward to many fruitful collaborations.

We're thrilled to announce our 2025 event schedule will be released soon! Stay tuned for more details—there will be fantastic opportunities to connect, learn, and grow together.

As we move through November, let's keep this quote in mind: "Gratitude turns what we have into enough."
Here's to embracing thankfulness and cherishing the abundance in our lives.
Wishing you all a November filled with warmth, gratitude, and joyful gatherings. Happy November, everyone!

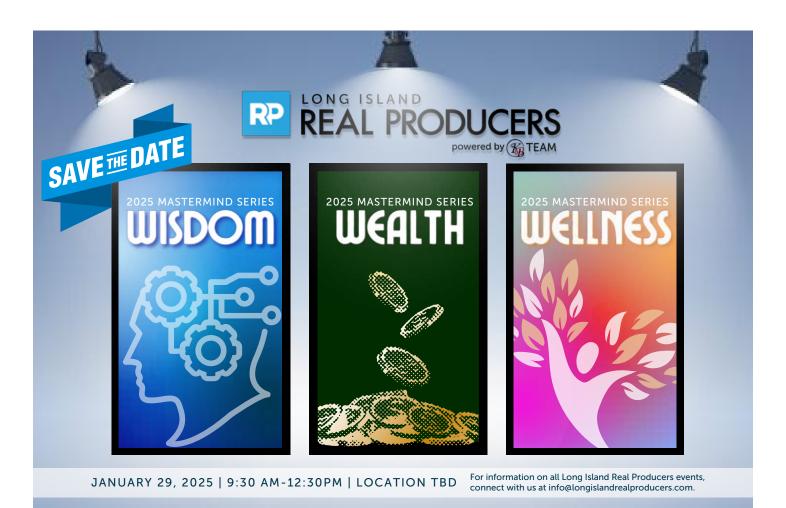
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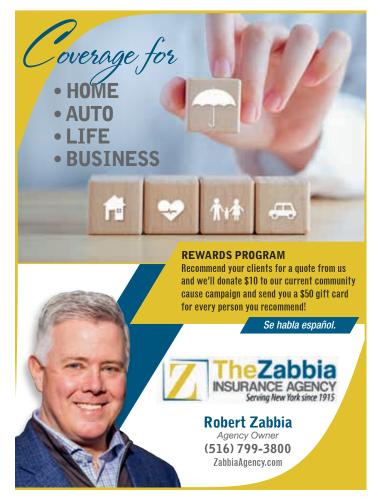
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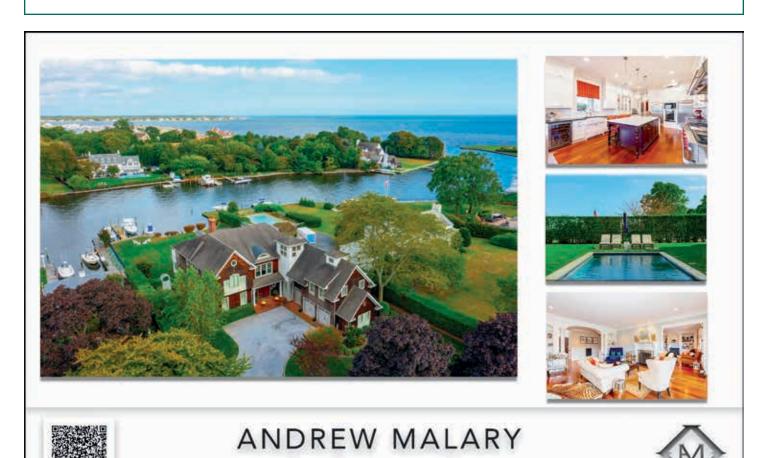
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Photos by Chris at Dynamic Media Solutions

MICHAEL BERMAN

NAVIGATING LONG ISLAND'S LUXURY REAL ESTATE LANDSCAPE

Michael Berman, President of Automatic Real Estate Associates, is no stranger to navigating the intricate world of Long Island's luxury real estate market. With over 18 years of experience, Michael has carved out a reputation for being the go-to expert for high-end properties across the North Shore's Gold Coast communities, particularly Old Westbury, Brookville, Muttontown, and Roslyn. His journey, however, didn't begin in real estate—it was born from a passion for construction and business development, which eventually became the foundation for his thriving real estate career.

From Corporate Interiors to Luxury Real Estate

Before establishing himself as a top-producing Realtor, Michael Berman was immersed in the fast-paced world of construction sales, focusing on corporate interiors in Manhattan. "We worked with some big names—Goldman Sachs, IBM, Louis Vuitton, and Absolut Vodka, to name a few," he recalls. However, after nearly two decades in the industry, Michael found himself at a crossroads when the company he was with began to unravel.

It was then that a fateful meeting with Stewart Senter, a luxury home builder from Old Westbury, redirected his career trajectory. "Stewart needed someone to handle business development, and I was ready for a change. The timing was perfect," Michael explains. Together, they founded Automatic Real Estate Associates in 2008, initially operating out of a construction site office. Fast forward to today, and the

firm has grown into a highly respected brokerage specializing in luxury properties on Long Island's North Shore.

Building a Niche

Michael's success didn't happen overnight. "I didn't want to be one of those brokers chasing deals all over the place. I wanted to specialize," he says, reflecting on his decision to focus on Old Westbury and surrounding areas. This commitment to a specific niche has paid off. His laser focus on North Shore communities has allowed him to build a robust network and reputation as a local expert.

Even as his firm expanded, Michael has remained true to his philosophy of quality over quantity. "I've got a team of 10 agents, and while we're not the biggest agency around, I'm proud of the reputation we've built," he says. His team is encouraged to pursue their own leads wherever they may take them, but Michael's personal focus stays rooted in his niche. "My goal is to be the go-to guy for Old Westbury properties, and so far, it's worked out pretty well. I just completed my 60th sale in Old Westbury."

Navigating Real Estate and Property Management

While real estate is the heart of Michael's business, his background in construction has led him to another side hustle that complements his real estate work—property management. "I got into property management through my construction



contacts. It's steady, guaranteed income, which balances out the ups and downs of real estate commissions," he explains.

Michael's involvement spans everything from managing shopping centers to waterfront estates. One such estate in Kings Point managed by a family he's worked with for years holds a special place in his heart. "The owner is in her 90s, and her daughters brought me in to manage the property. It's been a fantastic fit." The steady nature of property management provides him with a unique balance and flexibility, keeping him active between showings and real estate transactions.

Staying Grounded and Giving Back

Despite his success, Michael remains grounded, attributing much of his career growth to strong relationships with colleagues and clients. "Confidence is key in this business," he says. "I remember one listing presentation where a seller later told me, 'Michael, I'm comfortable with you.' It's moments like that that remind me I'm on the right path."

Michael's firm operates with minimal red tape, which has attracted agents looking for a more flexible environment. "I went from flying solo to having a team of 10 agents. Some of my agents have been with me for over a decade, and that's something I'm really proud of," he shares.

Though Automatic Real Estate Associates is a boutique operation, Michael values the tight-knit nature of his team. "We're not chasing agent headcount. For us, it's all about quality over quantity." This philosophy extends to Michael's long-term vision for the firm. "Sure, we could expand with 30 or 40 agents, but that's not what I'm focused on. My priority is maintaining the integrity of our work and continuing to be the best in our niche."

Outside of work, Michael's family plays a central role in his life. His wife's quip that he'll be working until he's 90 isn't far from the truth. "I wouldn't have it any other way," he laughs. From real estate to property management—Michael embraces the hustle with a sense of humor and relentless drive.

Defining Success

For Michael, success isn't just about closing deals—it's about leaving a lasting impact

on clients and colleagues alike. "It's not about being the biggest agency. It's about being known as a straight shooter and delivering results with integrity," he says. His favorite quote, "Quality over quantity," defines both his professional approach and the values he instills in his team.

As for the future, Michael is open to possibilities but remains focused on delivering the best service to his clients and expanding his expertise in niche markets. "Who knows what opportunities will come next?" he says. "All I know is, whatever it is, I'll be ready."

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Taren ising star ROTH MAY SETTING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

By George Paul Thomas | Photos by Chris at Dynamic Media Solutions

Karen Roth May's journey into real estate is a story of determination, resilience, and hard work. After moving to Long Beach, New York, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she saw real estate as her next big challenge. "I knew if I put my head down, did the necessary work consistently, and took advantage of every training and education opportunity, I would eventually succeed," she says. With no established connections in the area, Karen approached the industry with focus and commitment, applying lessons from her previous career and passion for the work. Today, she's well on her way to becoming an expert in the field she loves.

A New Chapter Begins

Karen's roots are in Roslyn, Long Island, where she developed a deep affection for the North Shore. After a divorce, she moved with her son, Zachary, to New York City, where she balanced motherhood and ran a boutique recruiting firm in midtown Manhattan. "I wanted to be home with my son in the evenings. I wanted to get involved in his school and build a community for myself, so Manhattan allowed me to do so," she reflects.

For many years, Karen has placed administrative support staff and

human resources executives in Fortune 500 companies across all industries, honing valuable listening, negotiating, and relationship-building skills. These talents would later serve her well in real estate. "The housing market follows similar cycles as the recruiting market, and the skill set needed for success is the same,"



Karen explains. "Listening to what people want, relentlessly hunting for the perfect place for them to land, and supporting them through the entire process—that's exactly what I did as a recruiter, and it's exactly what I do now in real estate."

In 2020, with her son heading off to Syracuse University, Karen and her husband, Scott, moved to Long Beach. "We fell in love with the entire barrier island," she recalls. It was then that she decided to get her real estate license. "I knew it would be challenging without many deep roots in the area, but I did know with my tireless work ethic and drive, I would figure it out and do well." Real estate felt like a natural fit for her. "I've always loved walking into random open houses, appreciating architecture, and (much to my husband's dismay) watching endless hours of home shows. I knew if I could couple that with my desire to help people through the real estate process, I would not only enjoy it but find success."

Since joining Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty in June 2022, Karen's rise has been swift and impressive. Operating as a solo agent out of the firm's Rockville Centre and Long Beach offices, she quickly made a name for herself. Karen attributes much of her rapid learning curve to learning from and partnering with many of the seasoned agents in her office and throughout Sotheby's International Realty.

In her very first year, Karen earned the prestigious Rookie of the Year award. Her momentum continued in 2023 when she achieved the Silver Circle of Achievement and was named the #2 Office Production Leader, #2 Office Listing Leader, and #2 Office Unit Leader. "I've worked hard to reach these milestones," she notes, though she remains humble about her successes. "It's not just about the numbers for me; it's about the relationships I build along the way."

A Peek Behind the Curtain

When she's not working, Karen enjoys spending time with her family and her mini goldendoodle, Schuyler, named after the Schuyler sisters in the musical Hamilton. "I was obsessed with that show," she laughs. "And as I always say, a dog helps to make a house a home."

Travel is another one of Karen's passions. "I love exploring new cities, experiencing different







cultures, trying new restaurants, listening to live music, and attending concerts. And I still love going back into the city whenever I can to see friends and enjoy all that Manhattan offers," she says.

Karen is also involved in charitable work through her brokerage's Daniel Gale Charitable Foundation, which supports community efforts across Long Island and New York City.

Building a Lasting Legacy

As Karen grows her business, her favorite quote— "Do something you love, and you'll never work a day in your life"—guides her every step. "I truly believe if you love what you do and combine it with your natural skill set, success will follow," she says.

For Karen, success isn't just about accolades or sales. "It's about achieving a reputation where clients and peers value me for my dedication, integrity, hard work, and the genuine relationships I make," she explains. Looking forward, Karen is eager to reach the highest levels of achievement within Daniel Gale Sotheby's, all while eager to help mentor newer agents at her firm. "I want to help guide them, just as others have helped me," she says.

On a personal level, Karen's future includes supporting her son, Zach, as he starts his first year of law school and planning her next travel adventures with her husband, Scott. She also hopes to purchase income-producing property in Long Beach, further deepening her roots in the area she now calls home.

When asked what advice she would give other up-and-coming top producers, Karen emphasizes the importance of support and mentorship. "I think it's important to find the right broker in your area to work with—a company that will support you, provide training, and offer ongoing education," she says. "It's also crucial to learn from other experienced agents at the outset. Finding an outstanding mentor in my office made a huge difference in the trajectory of my real estate career."

Karen recommends new agents take a proactive approach to their learning. "Go to the office, attend office meetings, and support experienced agents whenever given the opportunity. This way, you're put in situations where you can learn and grow," she advises. Networking, too, plays a key role. "Meeting and networking with other agents, both inside and outside your firm, is essential," Karen says. "On days when I had less going on, I would pop into every open house, learning the inventory and introducing myself to the other agents there."

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support made this event possible!
We also want to give a BIG thank you

to *Il Gufo of Seventh Street in Garden City* for graciously hosting us — the atmosphere, food, and cocktails were all phenomenal!

The night was filled with laughter, great conversations, and meaningful connections as we celebrated with the best in the business. Your continued support as partners means the world to us. We couldn't do what we do without your unwavering commitment, and for that, we are endlessly grateful.

Our photographer, Chris Basford of
Dynamic Media Solutions, captured plenty
of fun memories throughout the evening —
we love sharing these moments with you!

Thank you once again for being part of our Real Producers community. We look forward to seeing you at our next event, where we will continue to celebrate success, growth, and connections that last a lifetime!

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By Amelia Rosewood Photos by Chris at Dynamic Media Solutions

hen Kenneth Hirsch was told he might never walk again, he defied the odds through sheer determination and perseverance. His journey is a testament to his remarkable strength and resilience. This profound experience instilled in him a strong sense of ethics, perseverance, and a relentless drive to excel. These traits have not only shaped his personal life but have also significantly influenced his professional achievements, making him a standout figure in his career as a REALTOR®.

Charting a New Course

Kenneth was born and raised in Patchogue and now lives in the charming hamlet of Brookhaven with his family. His profound familiarity with Long Island's neighborhoods and his extensive network of local connections distinguish him in the real estate field.

His journey from a BMX rider to a leading real estate agent is a story of resilience and transformation. Ever since, Kenneth has had an adventurous spirit, which eventually led him to become a professional BMX rider. However, a severe spinal cord injury in 2005 changed the course of his life. Kenneth was paralyzed from the neck down and was informed that walking again might be impossible for him. However, through unwavering determination and extensive





KB

I truly value my clients and colleagues. I prioritize building strong, long-lasting relationships based on trust and integrity. I also love to sprinkle in a little humor. The connections I make with my clients and mentoring my team keep me going.

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rehabilitation, he surpassed expectations and regained the ability to walk after six arduous months.

Kenneth's career path took a striking turn in 2017 when he transitioned from a five-year stint in advertising and earlier roles as a sales rep and pro-BMX rider to real estate. He worked for a small boutique agency, Rice Realty Group, for nearly five years. He then joined Compass in June '22 and established The Hirsch Team, a close-knit group of toptier agents. As the Team Principal, Kenneth's leadership skills are evident in his highly effective team's exceptional service and camaraderie.

In his seven years in the real estate industry, Kenneth has sold nearly 300 homes, with an impressive \$45 million in sales volume and 90 units closed last year. This year, he projects a sales volume of \$55 million. Kenneth's achievements have earned him notable accolades, including the LIBOR/YPN Top 20 Under 40 and Real Trends Verified #41 in New York for small teams by transactions.

Kenneth attributes his success to his entrepreneurial spirit and a deep-seated desire to help others. He notes, "Real estate provides the opportunity to create financial stability and make an impact on the lives of others. My

career aligns perfectly with my outlook on life: putting everything into perspective, focusing on the good, and crushing the day!" He emphasizes the importance of connections and mentoring, which he finds most fulfilling in his work. "I truly value my clients and colleagues. I prioritize building strong, long-lasting relationships based on trust and integrity. I also love to sprinkle in a little humor. The connections I make with my clients and mentoring my team keep me going," he adds.

Beyond Numbers

Kenneth is a car enthusiast who enjoys attending car shows, exploring Long Island's wineries, and traveling. He cherishes time spent with his close-knit family, including his mother, sister, best friend, and four-year-old daughter, Ruby. Kenneth's personal life is deeply intertwined with his values, and he finds joy in everyday moments with his daughter, whether it's bike riding, visiting playgrounds, or going to the movies.

His family life and interests keep him grounded and motivated. Outside professional work, Kenneth and his team are also involved in various charitable activities, supporting local organizations like the Boys & Girls Club of America and Suffolk Lawmen Softball.

Looking Into The Future

Kenneth's approach to success is succinctly captured in his favorite quote by James Dean: "Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today." For him, success is about mastering his craft and achieving the highest level of performance. "Success to me means being the master of your craft and performing at the highest level you possibly can," Kenneth explains.

Looking ahead, Kenneth aims to remain a beacon of excellence in real estate and continue providing exceptional service. His personal goals include staying healthy and being the best father to Ruby. "From a personal standpoint, I want to continue to prioritize my health and physical well-being and seek the latest treatments, whether physical therapy, breakthroughs in the spinal cord injury space, and being the best father to my daughter. Professionally, I want to continue to shine and help as many people as possible," Kenneth notes.

His story is a testament to overcoming adversity and achieving success through dedication, perseverance, and a genuine passion for helping others.

Kenneth's journey is not only inspiring but also a reminder of the power of resilience and the importance of building strong, trust-based

relationships in both personal and professional spheres.

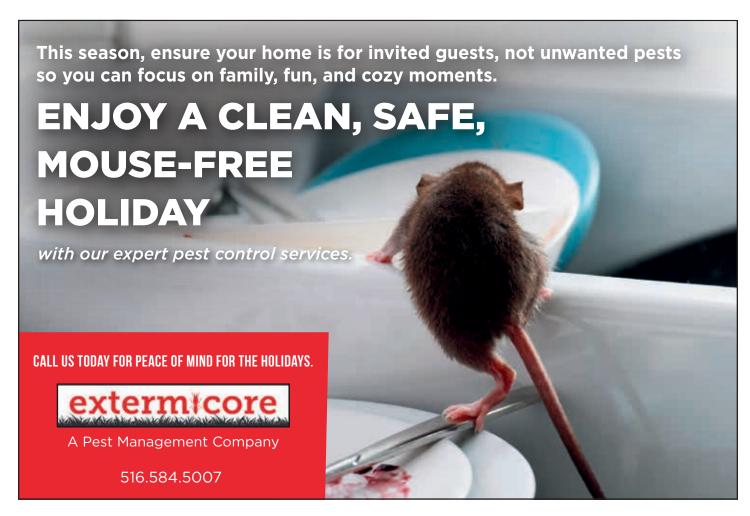
As he concludes his narrative, Kenneth leaves sound advice to emerging top producers: "Don't get caught up in the minutia. Focus on and leverage your connections."

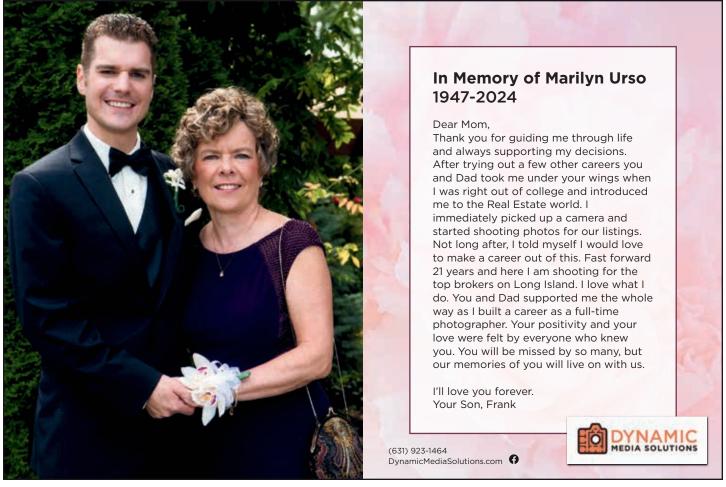


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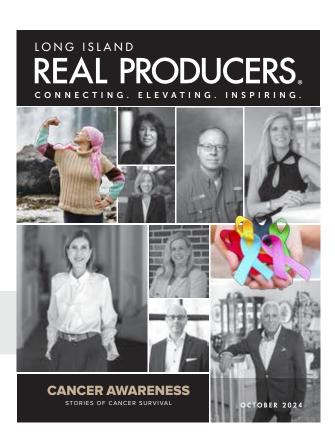




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