

## LI People ON THE MOVE

### HEALTH CARE



**Dr. Reham Abdou** of Westbury has been hired as a pediatric gastroenterologist at **Nassau University Medical Center's** new

primary care center. She was a pediatric resident at NUMC and completed a fellowship at the University of Buffalo.



**Dr. Alanna Nattis** of Woodbury has completed her fellowship in cornea transplants and refractive surgery at Ophthalmic

Consultants of Long Island in Garden City and has joined her father, Dr. Richard Nattis, in his practice at **Lindenhurst Eye Physicians & Surgeons** in West Babylon.



**Dr. Adriana Guigova** of East Setauket has joined **New York Cancer & Blood Specialists** in Port Jefferson Station as an

oncologist and hematologist. She completed her residency and fellowship — chief fellow in her final year — at Northwell Health in New Hyde Park.



**Dr. Henry H. Woo** of Setauket has been hired as vice president of neurosurgery for **Northwell Health's** central region and as vice

chair of neurosurgery, director of cerebrovascular surgery and associate director of the neurosurgery residency program at **North Shore University Hospital** in Manhasset. He had similar roles in neurological surgery and cerebrovascular and neurocritical care at Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

Send submissions and color headshots to [peopleonthemove@newsday.com](mailto:peopleonthemove@newsday.com)

### REAL ESTATE

**Signature Premier Properties** has hired some sales agents and an associate broker.



**Mark O'Rourke** of Garden City, an agent in Garden City, was with **Sewanhaka Realty Group** in Floral Park.



**Dennis Newman** of Bellmore, an agent in Merrick, was with **EXIT Realty Premier** in Massapequa Park.



**Melissa Giusto** of Huntington, an agent in Huntington, was with **National Real Estate Referral Group** in Syosset.



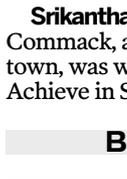
**Elizabeth Chinich** of Huntington Station, an agent in East Northport, was with **Better Homes and Gardens** in Huntington.



**Ramon Paredes** of Bellport, an agent in Rockville Centre, was with **Exit Home Key Realty** in Patchogue.



**Allison McNally** of Baldwin, an associate broker in Rockville Centre, was with **Charles Rutenberg Realty** in Plainview.



**Srikantha Chilakala** of Commack, an agent in Smithtown, was with **Exit Realty Achieve** in Smithtown.

### BOARDS



**Corinne Hammons** of Setauket, CEO of **Little Flower Children and Family Services** of New York in Wading River, has been elected

to the board of directors of the **Collaborative for Children and Families** and **Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies**, both in Manhattan.

— DIANE DANIELS



**Aaron Parecki, Patrick Arlt and Kyle Drake, from left, work at the Portland (Oregon) Incubator Experiment, which nurtures startups. Certain steps will help you transition to running your own shop.**

# The leap from corporate career to entrepreneur

BY JACKIE ZIMMERMANN  
*NerdWallet*

After two decades in the workforce, Ohio businesswoman Deborah Wasytko found herself faced with having to move to keep her job while dealing with challenges in her family life. She concluded she had a choice: continue her corporate career or become an entrepreneur.

"I decided to start a corporate gift company, because that's what I love to do," says Wasytko, founder and president of **Baskets Galore**, which creates gift baskets for corporate clients. She had long been enthusiastic about visual design and making people feel cared for, she says, and her new venture touched on both interests. "It was my opportunity to re-engineer my career and follow my passion."

The allure of becoming your own boss seems strong: As of 2014, there were more than 29 million small businesses in the United States, up 6 percent from 2010, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

But excelling in an office doesn't mean you're bound for entrepreneurial success. Besides logistical and financial challenges, the transition involves a shift in mentality. Before you make the leap, take these steps to make sure you're ready beyond the numbers.

■ **Talk with entrepreneurs:** The best way to prepare for the jump from a corporate job to calling the shots is to talk with those who have done it.

"You don't want to reinvent the wheel every single time," says Cathy Posner, a small-business coach in Ohio. "You don't have to do it alone."

Ask other entrepreneurs how their roles in corporate America prepared — or failed to prepare — them to run a small business. What do they wish they had done differently? What do they wish they had known ahead of time? And, most importantly, would they do it again?

■ **Identify your resources:** A small-business mentor from SCORE is invaluable to entrepreneurs, Posner says. This free program, supported by the SBA, connects seasoned professionals with small-business owners. A mentor can help you define your services, determine fees you'll charge and give advice on daily tasks you may not have handled before, such as marketing and managing employees.

The skills you had in a corporate environment — project management, organizational skills, employee management — will be even more important, Posner says. "Everything that you do starts to be magnified."

■ **Prepare for uncertainty:** Being an entrepreneur involves higher highs and lower lows than working in an office, Posner says. "In many corporate en-

vironments, your responsibilities can be pretty segmented," she says. But when you're a small-business owner, "the buck stops 100 percent at you."

Brainstorm ways to keep yourself grounded in the face of uncertainty. After JJ DiGeronimo transitioned from Silicon Valley startups to running a consulting firm for women in tech fields, she found she had to redefine what success looked like.

"I think entrepreneurship brings out your own deficiencies, and for me a lot of that was around self-identity," DiGeronimo says. After years of identifying with her title and salary, she was in a new role that emphasized the less concrete objective of personal and professional growth.

"Our society often aligns success to money, but as an entrepreneur, it can take time to make money," she says. "Finding ways to align to the goodwill of your work is important."

■ **Network, collaborate, repeat:** In a corporate environment you likely dipped your toes in the networking pool. Take advantage of those connections before you leave your 9-to-5. Contacts may prove invaluable; plus, you never know who may become a client. Networking events are also a good place to meet other business owners with whom you can collaborate, Posner says. And they provide a partial replacement for a benefit you'll lose after leaving your job: colleagues.