



**America - Israel
Chamber of Commerce**

Chicago ★ ★ ★ ★

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD CELEBRATION

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 ▪ 5:30pm to 8:30pm ▪ Chicago Local Time
Maggiano's Banquets ▪ 111 W. Grand Avenue ▪ Chicago, IL 60654



Honoring

Andy Poticha

Founder and Principal
Mosaic Construction, LLC



Featuring an Expert Analysis on
“The Future of the Cannabis Industry in Illinois”

Wendy Berger



CEO and President
WBS Equities, LLC

Barrington Rutherford



COO
Combs Global

And Welcoming **Sharaka.**

PROGRAM

5:30pm: Doors Open for Check-in, Drinks, and Appetizers

6:00pm: Dinner Buffet Opens – Salads on Tables

6:45pm: Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome from AICC Co-Presidents, Sally Fernandez and Fred Tannenbaum
- Welcome from Itai Biran, Consul for Political and Economic Affairs, Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest
- Recognition of Dignitaries (Sally & Fred)

7:00pm: Business Leadership Award Presentation to Andy Poticha, Founder and Principal of Mosaic Construction, LLC

- Award Presented by David Golder, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Remarks, Andy Poticha

7:10pm: “The Future of the Cannabis Industry in Illinois”

- Wendy Berger CEO and President of WBS Equities, LLC
- Barrington Rutherford, COO of Combs Global

7:30pm: Sharaka: “A New Era of Cooperation and Friendship in the Middle East”

- Discussion Led by Andy Poticha

7:45pm: Closing Remarks (Sally & Fred)

7:47pm: Dessert Buffet, Drinks & Networking

8:30pm: Evening Concludes

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Andy Poticha

Founder Principal

Mosaic Construction, LLC

In 1991, Mr. Poticha formed Design Construction Concepts. In its inception, Design Construction Concepts was commissioned for small custom residential projects that the firm designed. During the past 32 years, Design Construction Concepts has expanded to include the execution of small and large scale residential and commercial projects created by other Architects and Interior Designers.

In 2005, Mr. Poticha helped form Mosaic Construction, a national design-build construction industry leader delivering high quality renovation, remodeling, and building services for multifamily, commercial, and government/non-profit properties.

In 2014, Mr. Poticha founded Cannabis Facility Construction (CFC), a division of Mosaic Construction, which is a national, industry leader in full-service cannabis facility design-build who has worked on over 80 cultivation facilities, processing centers, and dispensary projects in 13 states.

Andy earned his Bachelor of Architectural Studies in 1988, and his Master of Architecture in 1990 from the University of Illinois Urbana.

Andy has devoted his personal time and efforts to several important charitable causes and organizations. His community leadership, industry designations, and professional affiliations include:



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Jewish Child and Family Services - Former Board Member, Executive Board Member, and Vice Chair
- Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center - Executive Board Member, and Chair of the Building Committee

INDUSTRY DESIGNATIONS

- Certified Green Professional
- The Illinois Better Business Torch Awards for Ethics
- Illinois State Remodeler of the Year
- Mid-West Regional Remodeler of the Year
- Chrysalis Award
- Remodeling Magazine The Big 50
- HBAGC Gold Key Award
- HBAGC Bronze Key Award
- Speaker-Portland Remodelers Council
- Remodel Chicagoland Best Contemporary Design
- Remodel Chicagoland Best Bathroom Renovation

HONORS

- Illinois Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics, 2004
- Illinois State Remodeler of the Year 2003,2004
- Midwest Regional Remodeler of the Year 2003
- Chrysalis Award 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004
- Remodeling Magazine, The Big 50, 2000
- Qualified Remodeler Top 500 2000
- HBAGC Gold Key Award 1998, 2000, 2007
- HBAGC Bronze Key Award 1999, 2000, 2007
- Speaker - Portland Remodelers Council 2005
- Remodel Chicagoland Best Contemporary Design 2006
- Remodel Chicagoland Best Bathroom Renovation 2007
- Columnist - Upscale Remodeling Magazine

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Home Builders Association of Greater Chicago Remodelers
- Secretary Northbrook Business Center Condominium
- National Association of Home Builders
- Northbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Illinois Better Business Bureau
- National Kitchen and Bath AssociationJUF Facilities Corporation Board Member
- Holocaust Museum and Education Center Board Member
- Advisor to Bright Star Church on Bronzeville Dream Center

THE FUTURE OF THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY IN ILLINOIS

Wendy Berger

CEO and President
WBS Equities, LLC

Wendy A. Berger is principal of WBS Equities, LLC. WBS Equities specializes in ground-up construction, renovation, development, sale lease back transactions and acquisition of industrial buildings for food and beverage manufacturers and distributors. Wendy founded the firm in 2014.

Wendy serves as a Director of the Board at Green Thumb Industries Inc. (GTI) (CSE: GTII) (OTCQX: GTBIF) (2015 – present). GTI is a national cannabis consumer packaged goods company and retailer. GTI's brands include, Dogwalkers, The Feel Collection, incredibles and Beboe, among others. GTI has 13 manufacturing facilities, 40 retail stores open, licenses for 96 retail locations and operations across 12 states in the United States.

Over the last 30 years she has been involved in the real estate business as a developer, lender, property manager, broker and investor. Wendy began her career at American National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago (a subsidiary of First Chicago, now JP Morgan Chase) in Commercial Lending. Wendy spent several years as a principal with Berger Realty Group, an 80-year-old family owned Real Estate business where she focused on residential and industrial property management and development. She was responsible for managing 3,000 apartment units, 200,000 square feet of commercial space and 250,000 square feet of industrial space.

Aside from her experience in the real estate field, Wendy spent 10 years working with technology startups. Wendy was employee number 11 at Orbitz, the Travel web site founded in 2000 by American, Continental, Delta, Northwest and United Airlines. Wendy was Director of the Enterprise Planning at Orbitz and focused on strategic planning. Prior to Orbitz, Wendy co-founded and was COO of Neoglyphics Media Corporation, one of the country's first web site development firms. Neoglyphics grew quickly from a small start-up to a leader in the industry before it was sold to a publicly traded company in March 1998 for \$65 million.



Wendy earned her MBA in Finance and Real Estate from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business. She received a B.S., cum laude, in Finance and Marketing from Syracuse University.

In her spare time Wendy is an avid triathlete and runner, having completed 39 Olympic Distance triathlons and 8 half-marathons.

Wendy serves on the Board of directors of the Chicago Public Library Foundation (2016 – present) and chairs the Governance Committee. She is also on the Board of directors of the Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Chicago (2001 – 2007, and 2009 – present), is a Vice-Chair and served as the 2019 General Campaign Chair which raised a record setting \$89 million dollars. Among her responsibilities as a Board Member of JF/JUF, Wendy helped to develop and led the first two classes of the Jewish Leaders Institute. Wendy also serves on the Board of Directors the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Wendy was a participant in the 2011 class of Leadership Greater Chicago. Wendy is a graduate of the Wexner Heritage Program, a two-year study program founded and funded by Les Wexner, Founder and CEO of Limited Brands. Wendy was a member of the United Jewish Communities National Young Leadership Cabinet (1998 – 2004), The Hillels of Illinois Governing Commission (1996 – 2014), was the Chair of the JUF High Tech Committee (2000 – 2003).

Wendy is an avid hands on volunteer and currently serves as a volunteer for several Chicago based charitable organizations. Wendy served until 2004 as Vice-President and Membership Chair at The Standard Club of Chicago and as a member of the Board of Directors (1994 – 2004). Wendy is also a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and served as the chair of the Real Estate Membership Committee. Wendy served two years on the Board of Directors of TEDxMidwest, the locally and independently organized TED event. TED is a nonprofit devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. In 2014 Wendy co-founded Illinois Women in Cannabis, an organization with the mission of ensuring that women would be at the starting line of the emerging legal Cannabis industry – an industry too new to have a glass ceiling – rather than playing catch up.

Wendy is an active mentor, a role she takes very seriously, usually mentoring 4 – 5 young women at any given time. Wendy is proud to now call herself a TED speaker, her talk is available on the TED web site or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tirTJQVO1dE>

Barrington Rutherford

COO

Combs Global

Barrington Rutherford joined Combs Global as its Chief Operating Officer in November 2022. Combs Global owns and operates a growing portfolio of leading companies spanning media, television, spirits, fashion, e-commerce, consumer products, and cannabis.

Founded in 2013, the Combs Global portfolio has since expanded to include Bad Boy Entertainment, CÎROC Ultra Premium Vodka, Deleón Tequila, REVOLT Media & Television, Empower Global, Sean John, Aquahydrate, Love Records, Our Fair Share, Capital Prep Charter Schools.

Prior to joining Combs Global, Barrington served as Cresco Labs' Senior Vice President of Real Estate and Community Integration. Barrington Rutherford supported the company in the growth of its operations from one state to nine. Under his leadership, Cresco's real estate team successfully negotiated numerous real estate transactions that led to prime locations for the company's cultivation, manufacturing and dispensary locations.

In a highly regulated industry where each state's cannabis program has a different and precise requirement for operation, he focuses on ensuring that all the company's locations are compliant with local and state regulations. Mr. Rutherford also oversaw Cresco's social equity and justice initiatives. Under his stewardship, the SEED (Social Equity & Educational Development) initiative works to develop tangible pathways into the cannabis industry for communities impacted by the War on Drugs through a commitment to restorative justice in the form of partnerships, sponsorships, and developing justice-oriented programming. His community-first strategy has the SEED initiative focusing on three core areas: Restorative Justice, Education & Workforce Development, and Community Business Incubator. The program has contributed over \$1.5MM to date to initiatives, activations and organization's in Cresco's local communities.



Prior to his tenure at Cresco Labs, Mr. Rutherford has enjoyed an acclaimed entrepreneurial career as a real estate developer and fast-food restaurant franchisee. His real estate experience dates to 2003 and includes both residential and commercial development, both new and adaptive reuse projects including office facilities, churches, gymnasiums, childcare facilities and multifamily housing developments around the country.

He has served on the board of directors of several community organizations in the Chicago area and was the founding Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Amandla Charter School in the Englewood neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. In 2019, he was elected Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the New York Medical Cannabis Industry Association and to the Board of Directors of the Minority Cannabis Business Association. Mr. Rutherford is currently a board member of the New York Urban League.

Mr. Rutherford graduated from DePaul University with a bachelor's degree in Economics.

A NEW ERA OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Sharaka.

Abraham Accords between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain opened the door to a new era of cooperation and friendship.

Sharaka, which means ‘partnership’, was founded by young leaders from Israel and the Gulf in order to turn the vision of people-to-people peace into a reality.



Dan Feferman, Director of Communications & Global Affairs

Israeli-American

Dan Feferman is an Israeli American author, speaker, researcher, and thought leader who focuses on Israel, the Jewish world, and the Middle East. He publishes and speaks regularly in Israel and around the world and is co-host of the *Jewanced* Podcast. He also consults on international intelligence and public relations campaigns. He is a Fellow at Jewish People Policy Institute and Founder of Gulf-Israel Policy Forum



Dr. Ahmed Khuzai, Director, U.S. Affairs

Political Analyst, Gulf Politics, Bahrain

Ahmed has cross-industry experience ranging from managing regional marketing campaigns with international names like HSBC Bank. Prior to taking his current post, he led several political initiatives and campaigns worldwide. Ahmed speaks Arabic, English and German. He published ‘The Book of Management,’ ‘Contractum Trinius,’ ‘Political Campaign Planning Manual’ and ‘Kingdom of Bahrain: Political Review.’



Fatema Alharbi, Director of Gulf Affairs, CEO

Sharaka Bahrain

Bahraini author. One Young World Peace Ambassador- First & only Bahraini-European Commission Peace Ambassador at One Young World. She led the first Bahraini Mission to Israel in 2022.



Youssef Elazhari, Director

Sharaka Morocco

Youssef Elazhari is a Moroccan marketing and advertising entrepreneur who is passionate about tech and education and peacebuilding, especially after visiting Israel in May of 2022. He is the founder of Fihria, a non-profit project that works to prevent girls from dropping out of school across Africa. Youssef is also a member of the World Economic Forum Global Shapers program. He holds a master's degree in marketing and speaks fluently Arabic, French and English.

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Co-Presidents
Sally Fernandez
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Our Mission is to cultivate business connections, collaboration, and community between Chicago, the broader Midwest, and Israel.

Our Vision is to be the go-to, thought leader in the Chicagoland/Midwest community interested in developing business relationships among themselves and with ties to Israel; be an organization where like-minded people socialize, network, exchange ideas and take initiatives to further these ideals.

The America – Israel Chamber of Commerce Chicago is a 501c6 organization. For Federal Income Tax purposes, membership dues are deductible as a business expense to the extent permitted by law.



E. Herbert Krug
President

The America – Israel Economic Forum brings together diverse groups to provide the business community as well as the general public with educational programs about the Israel's economy and the benefits of conducting business in and with Israel and other foreign countries.

AIEF sponsors educational forums and briefings featuring outstanding speakers from government, academia, and business who share their first hand knowledge about modern Israel's thriving business sector.

The America – Israel Economic Forum is a 501c3 organization. For Federal Income Tax purposes, donations are a charitable deduction to the extent permitted by law.

IN MEMORIAM

Valued members, friends, and mentors we have lost since we last gathered in 2019,
in-person, for our Business Leadership Award Celebration

Howard I. Bernstein, Past President

Jeffrey Davis, Member of the Board

Jane Fischer, Past President

Milton Levenfeld, Past President

Maurice Raizes, Past President

Your Memory Inspires Us Every Day

THANK YOU!