

## Gila River Gaming Enterprises Names Kenneth Manuel as CEO



Kenneth Manuel

Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc., operator of three casino properties in Arizona, recently announced that Kenneth Manuel has been selected as Chief Executive Officer. Manuel is the first member of the Gila River Indian Community to hold this position permanently. The announcement comes after an intensive search and selection process by Gila River Gaming Enterprises' Interim Oversight and Planning Committee, consisting of five Gila River Indian Community tribal council members.

"The enterprise is honored to have Mr. Manuel as a leader, who many consider a mentor and highly recognized Gila River Indian Community member," said Teaya Vicente, Public Relations Manager for Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. "We are confident in Mr. Manuel's ability to propel our vision to be Arizona's first choice in casino entertainment for both work and play."

Manuel's path to the Chief Executive Officer role included serving in nearly every aspect of the business for the past 22 years. He began his career as a slot manager in 1994 and was immediately promoted to acting slot director. During Manuel's career, he spent a year in a management position servicing the Sheraton Grand Resort and Spa at Wild Horse Pass, rejoining as a member of the Gila River Gaming Enterprises Inc. Board of Directors, fulfilling the role as Board President. He was a member of the Casino Expansion Owners Team from 2007 to 2013, Chairman of the Enterprise's Expense Committee, and a member of the mentorship committee. Continuing his successful career, he joined the Enterprise's Pathways Mentorship Program as Assistant Chief Executive Officer.

"It is an immense honor to have been chosen to serve in the role of Chief Executive Officer," Manuel said. "The casinos are the primary source of support for the Gila River Indian Community. I see incredible growth potential as premier entertainment destinations and furthermore as great places for employees to grow and develop their skills."

## Auggie Cipollini Named President of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood

Auggie Cipollini has been named President of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. In his new role, Cipollini will be responsible for all operations and management of the Seminole Hard Rock, South Florida's largest gaming and entertainment complex.

Until recently, Cipollini was the Senior Vice President of Operations at Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City,



Auggie Cipollini

NJ. He was responsible for all non-gaming operations, including hospitality, food and beverage, retail, reservations, hotel sales, revenue management, project design and development, facilities and property maintenance, security and surveillance.

He joined Borgata in April, 2000, as Director of Development and immediately became a key member of the senior management team. He was promoted to Vice President of Finance in 2002, prior to the opening of Borgata in 2003, and was again promoted to Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer in 2006. In 2009, he became Senior Vice President of Operations.

"With his impressive 17-year track record at Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, and his strong background in financial management, Auggie Cipollini is sure to be a remarkable leader at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood," said Seminole Gaming Chief Operating Officer Larry Mullin. "I am confident he will be an exceptional addition to our executive team."

Cipollini has an extensive track record of community commitment and service in New Jersey, where he has served on many boards of directors, including Shore Medical Center in Somers Point, NJ, as well as the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce and Borgata's Heart & Soul Charitable Foundation.

## Choctaw Nation Names Erica Kosemund to Senior Director of Corporate Marketing



Erica Kosemund

The Choctaw Nation recently appointed Erica Kosemund to Senior Director of Corporate Marketing. In her role, Kosemund will oversee all marketing strategies for the tribe including Choctaw Casinos and Resorts and the Division of Commerce. Kosemund joined the Choctaw Nation from the Chickasaw Nation where she served as the Director of Marketing Operations.

With more than a decade of experience serving in various marketing roles for the Chickasaw Nation, Kosemund brings a strong background in management, operations, marketing and gaming to her position at the Choctaw Nation.

"Erica is a strong leader with a keen eye for detail and proven strength in managing multiple departments," said Janie Dillard, Executive Officer of Operations for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Division of Commerce. "We are thrilled to have her join our strong leadership team and leverage her extensive marketing knowledge to help further grow the Choctaw Nation."

## Pechanga Resort & Casino Names Anthony Zamora Director of Slots



Anthony Zamora

Pechanga Resort & Casino recently announced they have hired from within to promote Anthony Zamora to Director of Slots. Originally starting out as slot apprentice technician and most recently serving as the slot technical manager, Anthony has been with Pechanga since 2006 and has worked his way up spanning now five positions landing him where he is today. In his most recent management position,

Anthony managed and supervised all slot technical operations and technical team members.

Zamora previously oversaw all technical operations including slot machine installations, conversions, and machine moves. He was also responsible for managing slot machine performance and evaluating slot technology prior to purchase and installation. At the time, he managed more than 50 team members. Now, he is directing 300.

As Director of Slots, Zamora has inherited the other half of the slot department where he will now be responsible for all daily operations and identifying ways to improve processes to ensure efficiency and ease-of-use globally within the department.

## Chef Ryan Clark Named Executive Chef for Casino Del Sol



Ryan Clark

Acclaimed Tucson Chef Ryan Clark was recently promoted from his position as Chef de Cuisine at PY Steakhouse to Executive Chef for all of Casino Del Sol.

In his new role, Clark will oversee all culinary operations at Casino Del Sol and its sister property, Casino of the Sun. This consists of in-room dining, meetings catering, and the property's ten restaurants including the Forbes

Four Star and Wine Spectator award-winning PY Steakhouse, plus Ume, Tequila Factory, Festa International Buffet, Abuelita's Taqueria, Moby's, Oasis Bar, Prema Lobby Lounge, Streetscape Deli, Wildcats Grille and Sunflower Café.

"In this new position, I have the opportunity to expand upon what we started at PY Steakhouse one year ago," said Casino Del Sol's Executive Chef Ryan Clark. "My vision is to bring the freshest dishes made with local ingredients to all menus across the entire Casino Del Sol property, serving more of our guests exceptional food."

At 32, Clark has a wealth of experience in the food and beverage industry. His career began at the age of 16 when he worked under James Beard winner Alan Zeman at his

restaurant Fuego! in Tucson. After graduating from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY, Clark returned to Arizona to hone his craft at such notable eateries as Elements at Sanctuary Camelback Mountain, Canyon Ranch Resort & Spa, The Dish Bistro and Lodge on the Desert. During this time, he was nominated for Food and Wine Magazine's Best New Chefs in the Southwest, named Iron Chef Tucson for three consecutive years and published his cookbook, *Modern Southwest Cooking*.

In 2013, Clark opened Agustin Kitchen at Mercado San Agustin in Tucson's burgeoning downtown. With Clark as Executive Chef and Partner, the restaurant received rave reviews and garnered many accolades. In 2016, Clark left Agustin Kitchen to become the Chef de Cuisine for Casino Del Sol's PY Steakhouse, where he maintained the restaurant's stellar ratings and continually elevated the dining experience with his inventive seasonal menus and partnerships with local purveyors.

"We are more than excited that Chef Clark is continuing his exemplary career with us at Casino Del Sol," said Casino Del Sol's Executive Director of Food and Beverage Victor Gonzalez. "Just as he brought his culinary magic to PY Steakhouse, we are looking forward to the positive impact his passion and prowess brings to the entire property and the farm fresh cuisine we serve our guests."

## Scientific Games Names Karin-Joyce Tjon Chief Operating Officer and President



Karin-Joyce (KJ) Tjon

Scientific Games recently announced the appointment of Karin-Joyce (KJ) Tjon as Chief Operating Officer and President. Her responsibilities include oversight of the gaming and lottery operations and driving the company's organizational strategy, business development and fiscal discipline.

Tjon will report directly to Scientific Games' Chief Executive Officer Kevin Sheehan, who said, "We have tremendous confidence in KJ's ability to lead our long-term growth strategy and execution, and continue the strong growth across all of our businesses. Her deep experience in international finance, performance accountability, and culture transformation will further enhance our ability to deliver for our customers, employees and our shareholders."

She joins Scientific Games after serving two years as Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of Epiq Systems, a leading global provider of integrated technology and services for the legal profession, where she oversaw legal, corporate governance, risk compliance, and all aspects of international corporate finance.

Before that, during her three-year tenure as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Hawker Beechcraft

Corporation, a \$2.5 billion international manufacturer of business and special mission aircraft, Tjon directed the company's administrative, financial and risk management operations, effectively aligning finance with overall business strategy.

Prior to Hawker Beechcraft Corporation, Tjon served for almost ten years as Director, Senior Director and Managing Director at Alvarez & Marsal, LLC, a global professional services firm specializing in business turnaround and performance improvement.

### Aristocrat Names Matt Wilson Managing Director of the Americas



Matt Wilson

Aristocrat has appointed Matt Wilson to the position of Managing Director of the Americas, based in Las Vegas, subject to the receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals.

“Matt’s leadership has been instrumental to Aristocrat’s recent growth both in the Americas and across other key markets,” said CEO-Elect Trevor Croker. “Matt comes to the role with proven commercial and strategic skills

and a genuine passion for product and helping our customers succeed. We are delighted to welcome Matt to the position of Managing Director of the Americas.”

Wilson has been with Aristocrat since 2004 and has held several significant positions in a variety of the company’s key markets. Most recently, he was Senior Vice President of Global Gaming Operations, where he helped to grow the company’s Gaming Operations (leased) product line with landmark new titles.

Previously, Matt served as Vice President of Marketing for the Americas, and then as Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for North America. Between 2008 and 2012 he oversaw Aristocrat’s expansion in the Asia Pacific region as the head of the group’s Sales team.

Wilson was named one of the Top 40 Under 40 business-people in Las Vegas. He is actively involved in Aristocrat’s commitment to the Make A Wish Foundation, and Aristocrat’s Las Vegas recently raised nearly \$34,000 for Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada.

### Ortiz Gaming Promotes Robert J. Reyes to Senior Vice President of Sales

Ortiz Gaming recently announced the promotion of Robert J. Reyes to Senior Vice President of Sales with an interactive focus.

President of Ortiz Gaming, Maurilio Silva, said, “The Ortiz Interactive division has grown exponentially over the past two years. We are excited to leverage Robert’s experience and proven track record to take Ortiz Interactive to new levels of success.”



Robert J. Reyes

Reyes, a seasoned veteran in the gaming industry, will continue to oversee all sales, business development, and client account management for commercial and tribal casinos in North America while assuming new responsibilities to oversee all global interactive business initiatives, sales and development.

“I am excited about this opportunity to continue to deliver Ortiz’s full turn-key gaming solutions for our casino partners. Ortiz Gaming and its products are enjoying success and increased penetration in the U.S. markets as well as our new expansion into Canada,” Reyes said. “Ortiz’s mission is laser-focused on partnering with customers and offering a growing product suite that delivers strong performance for casino operators.”

### Joseph Eve CPAs Adds Two Experienced Accounting Associates, Trisha Bishop and Dylana Brooks

Joseph Eve CPAs recently welcomed Trisha Bishop, CAPM, as an Accounting Associate, and Dylana Brooks as a Financial Accounting Outsourcing Associate.

Bishop will perform accounting and audit-based work and will also specialize in Title 31 and casino-related engagements. She brings more than 10 years of experience to the firm, including experience with internal audit and Title 31/AML Compliance and in internal control compliance with Federal and Nevada Control Board Regulations. Most recently she was Corporate Internal Auditor at Eldorado Resorts, Inc. Bishop also served as Compliance Officer at Grand Sierra Resorts, and as the Internal Auditor and Race & Sports Auditor at Club Cal Neva Casino.



Trisha Bishop

Brooks brings a wealth of tribal and commercial casino experience to her role as a Financial Accounting Outsourcing Associate. Most recently, she was the Gaming Controller at Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino. Previously, she has served as Accounting Manager at Harlows Casino & Resort, and as Controller and Internal Auditor for Tropicana Entertainment. She holds a Master of Professional Accountancy degree.



Dylana Brooks

“We are excited to welcome Trisha and Dylana to the Joseph Eve team. Their experience blends perfectly with the type and caliber of services we provide to tribal and commercial gaming clients across the U.S. As we constantly seek to



expand our staff and the services we offer, we know that intelligent, driven staff members like Trisha and Dylana help to increase our capabilities," said Debra Fisk, Joseph Eve Human Resources Director.

### **GMA Appoints Jeffrey Smith to Lead Racing Division and Brendan Bussmann As Director of Government Affairs**

Global Market Advisors (GMA), recently announced that Jeffrey Smith has joined as Managing Director of Racing and Brendan Bussmann as Director of Government Affairs.

"As the hospitality and travel industries continue to grow, these two individuals bring a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge to complement and expand the existing GMA team. Jeff and Brendan bring a straightforward approach to provide the best strategy for our clients to accomplish their goals working with governments, agencies, and other stakeholders," said Steve Gallaway, GMA's Managing Partner.

Jeffrey Smith, a 30 year seasoned sports, entertainment, and gaming executive, has extensive expertise in venue management and working with regulators and lawmakers. He is a former executive of Centaur Gaming and Churchill Downs Inc. During his tenure at Centaur, Smith positioned the company for growth resulting in annual revenue generation of \$250 million, \$1 billion in capital raised, and employment of over 1,000 individuals. Smith also negotiated the purchase of Hoosier Park and was keenly involved in transforming Hoosier Park Racing & Casino into a successful, fully integrated gaming destination. Throughout his 18 years at Churchill Downs, Smith was instrumental in the company's evolution from a single-location operation to the premier, multi-state industry leader.

Brendan Bussmann brings over 20 years of government/public affairs and business development experience to GMA. Bussmann served as Director of Government Relations and Community Development at Las Vegas Sands Corp. While at Sands, Bussmann was integral in securing gaming licenses in Singapore and Pennsylvania, overseeing ballot initiatives, and several domestic and international legislative victories. Additionally, Bussmann constructed the company's responsible gaming and community development program. Bussmann has worked in the sectors of gaming, hospitality, sports, healthcare, and energy.



Jeffrey Smith



Brendan Bussmann

### **MN Lodging Association Inducts Mark Dunn into Hospitality Hall of Fame**

The Minnesota Lodging Association recently honored five outstanding individuals, two lodging properties and an industry supplier at its gala Awards Ceremony recently at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel.



Mark Dunn

Minnesota Hospitality Hall of Fame inductees are considered "legends" of the Minnesota lodging industry. This award honors a professional's commitment and dedication to their customers and peers, in the tourism and hospitality industry and whose accomplishments, fame and popularity set them above everybody else. Mark Dunn, Director of Hospitality at Treasure Island Resort & Casino in Welch, MN was honored with this recognition. He has an extensive background in the hospitality industry.

Dunn, a resident of Hastings, is a certified Hotel Administrator and earned certificates in Personnel and Project Management. He has been active and influential in the Minnesota Lodging Association, being recognized as the organization's Hotelier of the Year in 2012 and serving as President in 2016.

Dunn spent five years at French Lick Springs Resort in French Lick, IN, where he worked his way up from night audit to Office Manager to Room Service Manager to Director of Beverage Operations.

In 2008 when Treasure Island Resort & Casino in Welch, MN needed someone to oversee the opening of the new hotel expansion, they reached out to Dunn and he's been there ever since as the Director of Hospitality. He currently is responsible for seven restaurants and eight bars at Treasure Island plus all of the banquets and catering.

Dunn has continued to advance his career through education. He has earned certificates in Personnel and Project Management, Certified Food and Beverage Executive and is also a certified Hotel Administrator. Dunn was honored as the Volunteer of the Year for the American Hotel and Lodging Association in 2006 and was a past President of the Iowa Lodging Association in 2008.

### **GameCo Appoints Marc Comella as Chairman of the Compliance Committee**

GameCo, Inc. recently announced the appointment of Marc Comella as an independent member and Chairman of the Compliance Committee. Based in Las Vegas, Comella has 35 years of diverse gaming experience in the areas of regulatory compliance, product compliance, sales and service, and product development.

Previously, Comella served in a number of executive positions at Bally Technologies, including Vice President of



Marc Comella

Regulatory Compliance, Vice President of Product Management, Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Systems division, and Vice President of Projects and Product Compliance. In addition, Comella was appointed as a member of the Integration Management Office, where he was responsible for key integration projects resulting from the Bally's acquisition of SHFL entertainment, Inc. in November

of 2013 and Scientifics Games acquisition of Bally Technologies, Inc. in November of 2014.

Prior to Bally Technologies, Comella held positions as the Director of Information Technology at Bally's Casino Resort in Reno; Data Center Manager and Application Development Manager at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City; and Systems Analyst and Data Administration Manager at Caesars Atlantic City.

"We're thrilled to have Marc serve as Chairman of the Compliance Committee. His experience is a valuable asset to us, as we continue to rollout the VGM™ in gaming jurisdictions throughout the country in 2017. As video games become vital to the future of casino gaming, Marc joins our growing team of the most talented professionals from the casino, video game, and event industries leading our expansion," said Blaine Graboyes, CEO of GameCo.

### Segev LLP Enhances iGaming Offering with Addition of Two U.S. Attorneys, Eric Stein and Mark Balestra



Eric Stein

Segev LLP, a North American law firm, recently announced the appointment of two new attorneys specializing in the iGaming sector as it enhances its offering to the industry. Following the arrival of U.S.-qualified attorneys Eric Stein and Mark Balestra, Vancouver-based Segev LLP now employs a five-strong iGaming team with corporate, commercial, IP commercialization, M&A, private equity finance, public

markets finance, regulatory and compliance experience.

Eric Stein has 25 years' experience practicing law and was formerly General Counsel for the Ute Mountain Indian Tribe, operators of a Class III casino.

Mark Balestra has been in the iGaming industry for more than 20 years having been the principal of the BolaVerde Media Group, a leading international iGaming consultancy and events organizer. Mark wrote *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Gambling* in 2000 and has gone on to assist iGaming companies with their legal needs.

Stein will be based in Segev LLP's Vancouver office and

regularly travels to Colorado, Illinois and the Pacific Northwest to see to his clients' needs. Balestra is based out of Segev LLP's newly-opened offices in St. Louis, MO.

Speaking about the appointments, Ron Segev, Founding Partner of Segev LLP, said, "I am extremely pleased to welcome Eric and Mark to the team. They enhance what is an already highly competent and experienced practice group. This is a time of change across the gambling sector, and it is important that operators in the U.S. and Canada have legal counsel that they can rely upon. Segev LLP has the capacity to be a one-stop shop for all their needs."

Speaking about the appointments, Ron Segev, Founding Partner of Segev LLP, said, "I am extremely pleased to welcome Eric and Mark to the team. They enhance what is an already highly competent and experienced practice group.

"This is a time of change across the gambling sector, and it is important that operators in the U.S. and Canada have legal counsel that they can rely upon. Segev LLP has the capacity to be a one-stop shop for all their needs."

As well as enhancing its iGaming offering, Segev LLP has also now formed a Securities division that can handle IPO and RTO work on Canadian capital markets.



Mark Balestra

### Tony David Appointed to International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Board of Control



Tony David

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division recently announced that Water Resources Program Manager Tony David has been appointed to the International Joint Commission's (IJC) International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Board of Control. The two-year appointment was approved

by the IJC Commissioners effective from February 1, 2017 to January 31, 2019.

"For nearly 13 years, Tony has been leading projects within the tribe's Water Resources Program to improve water quality standards, fish populations and other efforts to protect and rehabilitate our natural environment," said Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance. "I'm proud that his experience and knowledge is now being enlisted to enhance the environments for river communities that reside all along the St. Lawrence River."

The Board of Control's main duty is overseeing the

## Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Mourns the Passing of Vyola J. Ortner

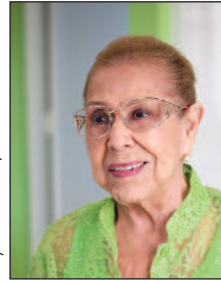
The oldest member of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, 95-year-old Vyola J. Ortner, died on Feb. 10, 2017 at her Palm Springs home. She will best be remembered in Palm Springs and throughout Indian Country as a determined tribal leader ahead of her time and as a progressive woman who helped change the course of history for her tribe and other tribes across the nation. She was the Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Council from 1952 to early 1959.

“Leadership is about taking people to places they didn’t realize possible,” Chairman Jeff L. Grubbe said. “Vyola was passionate, engaged and ambitious in ways that ultimately made life better for our tribal members. She set out to make a difference, and along the way, she inspired many of us to step up and do the same.”

Ortner was born in Palm Springs as Viola Juanita Hatchitt on April 1, 1921. She grew up on Section 14 in downtown Palm Springs and attended Frances Stevens School.

In 1952, at the insistence of her mother, Juana Saturnino Hatchitt, that Ortner attended a Tribal Council meeting. By the time the pair returned home that night, Ortner had been elected to serve on the Tribal Council at the age of 30. In 1954, she was elected Chairman of the Tribal Council of the first-ever all-women Tribal Council and served with fellow members LaVerne Saubel, Eileen Miguel, Flora Patencio and Elizabeth Pete Monk.

Through persistence and dedication, it was her work in these tribal leadership positions that allowed her to guide her tribe



Viola J. Ortner

Joy Calderon/Desert Sun

out of poverty and toward prosperity.

In 1955, the Tribal Council adopted the first-ever Constitution and By-Laws, a document that ratifies that the Tribal Council is the official governing body of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

The women leaders worked to convince Congress that the tribe had a right to long-term leases for their otherwise valueless land. The all-woman Tribal Council partially succeeded with the

General Leasing Act allowing 25-year leases in 1955. In 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower finally signed the federal law to allow Indian land leases up to 99 years.

During the 1950s, she was the Executive Officer of the California Indians Congress and the National Congress of American Indians.

One of Ortner’s passions was creating a strong tie between city government and tribal government. From 1973 to 1980, she served as Chairman of the City of Palm Springs Planning Commission. In 1980, she was elected to the City of Palm Springs City Council and was the first and only tribal member to ever serve on the Palm Springs City Council. She also served on the Tribal Building Design Committee in the 2000s.

From her book, *You Can’t Eat Dirt*, Ortner writes, “We have the obligation as tribal members to our own people and the right under the laws of this nation to determine the use of our own land and the destiny of our tribe.” ♣

implementation of Plan 2014 to ensure that outflows from Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River, including releases from the Moses-Saunders Dam, comply with the requirements of the IJC’s Supplementary Order of Approval (Dec. 8, 2016). The tribe has been working to negate the environmental impact of regulated water levels and supported implementation of Plan 2014 in partnership with Save the River, American Rivers, Congressional leadership, and the IJC.

“Tony David’s professional expertise and demeanor will prove to be an asset to the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board of Control in ensuring compliance with Plan 2014,” remarked Tribal Chief Eric Thompson. “His ability to comprehend and translate the science behind environmental changes has proven invaluable in managing a number of significant water resource projects in collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, U.S. Geological Survey, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.”

As the SRMT Water Resources Program Manager, David oversees the Environment Division’s effort to protect and enhance Akwesasne’s water resources; including fish species through a partnership with the U.S. Geological

Survey’s Tunison Laboratory of Aquatic Science. Since 1999, he has coordinated efforts to reintroduce Atlantic Salmon into the St. Regis River, as well as to improve the natural habitat for Lake Sturgeon and other species.

David also served as project leader for the tribe’s decommissioning and removal of the Hogansburg Dam in collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; which was the first hydroelectric dam to be successfully removed in the state and the first federally licensed dam in the United States to be removed by a tribe. Removal of the outdated dam opened up 555-miles of stream habitat for fish species and helped restore the St. Regis River to its natural state.

“Being appointed to this international oversight body is a tremendous accomplishment and recognition of Tony David’s passion to apply his education and environmental knowledge for not only the Akwesasne community, but all communities that will benefit from implementation of Plan 2014,” noted Tribal Chief Beverly Cook. “I am proud to know we have talented and caring Mohawk people, such as Tony, who are contributing their skills to a matter that is important for everyone, our environment.” ♣