

### Lifestyle

## Wood Dale woman is chamber's businessperson of the year

In 41 years of marriage, Steve Finkel never kept a secret from his wife, Muriel, until he found out that she would be named this year's Wood Dale Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

"We've never kept anything from each other, but I managed to keep quiet about this," said Steve. "I'm so happy and proud and may this go on for another 20 years."

According to Muriel, this has been an "incredible year" starting with her winning the Influential Women in Business award from The Business Ledger.

"All of this has been a complete and utter surprise," said the Wood Dale resident. "I had no idea that I was even nominated! I've had so many honors this year! This is me, folks! Do you know who you're dealing with?"

From her husband and daughters Audrey and Jennifer, to Bob Hackman of Itasca's Business Diversified Labeling Solutions who accepted pallets when she first started, and Dianne Middlebrooks of Itasca Bank & Trust who always supported her, the audience was filled with people who made her success possible.

"I'm sure in Hollywood you thank all these people who you really hate. But everyone I thanked, I love and have been

so wonderful to me," said Finkel. "Nobody has ever done anything completely alone and it was great to see so many of them there."

Muriel's company, Finkel Supply, is a warehouse and shipping supply company that supplies "all the stuff that's needed to get products out the door, like boxes, packing peanuts, plastic bags," she said. She started in 1987 when the company she was working for went Chapter 11 and she didn't want to give up that customer base. She started in her home and now has a 100,000-square-foot warehouse in Itasca.

"I wanted to buy myself a job and when my husband would retire from the Cook County Sheriff's police, that he would have something to retire to," Muriel said.

Besides a successful business, she also started Amyloidosis Support Groups, a place for patients, caregivers, family, friends, anyone who has been touched by amyloidosis to find comfort from others. Amyloidosis is a group of diseases that

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result from a protein-folding abnormality that causes deposits of amyloid fibrils in organs throughout the body and leads to organ failure.

Her uncle Norman had the disease, and she said it was through taking care of him that "her life was changed forever" and she

was inspired to help others.

"I thought we were all alone and I didn't want other people to feel alone," she said. "I can't stop them from going through what they are going through, but since taking care of Uncle Norman, I know what they are going through."

The first support group meeting was in Texas in March 2004 and today there are more than 15 groups across the United States, plus in Australia and Israel.

"I realized there was another place to spend money other than on myself," Muriel said. "I'm not a God freak, but I feel like God has opened doors for me and I haven't made a conscious decision to do anything in my life. The doors keep on opening and I just keep on walking through. This was my time to do something."

Finkel was officially announced as the Chamber's Business Person of the Year during its monthly meeting Feb. 9. Some past recipients include Gus Frentzos of Christy's Restaurant, Lorrie Heggaton of Forest Awards & Engraving, Mike Malone of Wood Dale Bowl and Jim Mathisen of Mathisen Reality.

"This award means something to me, but it means so much more to the people around me," Muriel said. "It's like, 'Look, Bob, you helped me way back when and now I won this award. Look, husband Steve, you supported me and look what I'm getting. Look, employees, you're doing a great job for me and look at what I'm winning.' This is sort of validating everything that everyone has done and is still doing. I couldn't be more thankful to everyone around me."

For more information about Muriel Finkel's amyloidosis support group, visit [www.AmyloidosisSupport.com](http://www.AmyloidosisSupport.com).

*Border Bounding is a weekly column appearing on Thursdays. Ideas and items for the column can be sent to Lifestyle, Press Publications, 800 Roosevelt Road, Suite D107, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137, or e-mailed to [hipychk73@yahoo.com](mailto:hipychk73@yahoo.com).*

## Artist-in-Residence program nurtures Addison's artistic side

My cousin, who is a 17-year-old Addison Trail High School student, has been blessed with

Development  
Committee