

**Bill Batson:** Bill Batson is a writer, artist, and activist, has published a sketch and short essay called Nyack Sketch Log every week since 2011. Bill is the manager and artist in residence at the Nyack Farmers Market and an advisor to River Hook: the Hester Haring Cason Preserve in Upper Nyack, NY. In June 2021, Bill was inducted into the Rockland County Hall Civil Rights Hall of Fame. In September 2021, Bill announced his candidacy to represent the 97th district in the New York State Assembly.

**Shari Ward-Cushnie:** Dr. Shari Ward-Cushnie works as a psychiatric nurse practitioner providing therapeutic and medicine management services to patients with psychiatric and substance abuse disorders. She recently started at a new position working for Family Services after 15 and a half years at Arms Acres in Carmel, NY. as the Supervisor of Nurse Practitioners. She has operated her private practice since 2016. In 2021 Shari was invited to serve on the local board of Planned Parenthood. Shari resides in Carmel, NY with three of her four children. In her free time, she enjoys bike riding, long walks, and listening to audiobooks.

**Debbian Fletcher-Blake:** Debbian Fletcher-Blake, APRN, FNP, is the CEO of Vocational Instruction Project (VIP) Community Services, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization in the Bronx that offers comprehensive medical, behavioral health, housing, vocational and supportive services to the community. She served as administrator and medical provider in several health centers for over 25 years and as a Nursing instructor at New York University.

Ms. Fletcher-Blake has been active in building culturally competent workforces, tackling healthcare inequities, focusing on strategies to eliminate health disparities, and ensuring community members are active participants in deciding systems of care. Due to her vast experience in quality assurance, integrated care, physical and behavioral health care delivery systems, Debbian has served as a subject matter expert on numerous clinical and administrative projects both locally and nationally.

Most recently in 2021, for her role in rebuilding New York City, she was awarded a prestigious Empire Whole Health Hero Award and showcased on the Bronx Power List as the one of the most influential and impactful individual in the borough and her continued commitment to the Bronx and its' community. In 2019, for her leadership, visionary and dedication to reducing health disparities in the communities and transforming lives of the underserved populations, Debbian was selected as a CRAIN's Notable Women in Health Care. She is also the recipient of the prestigious Dr. Philip W. Brickner Award Honoree from CHCANYS for advocating and being a champion for the medical needs of those who are vulnerable and homeless.

Ms. Fletcher-Blake serves on multiple Boards, Councils and Coalitions, including Montefiore Nyack Hospital, Community Health Care Association of New York State, NYC Behavioral Health Council, Coalition of Medication Assisted Treatment Providers, Homeless Services United, Certified Behavioral Health Clinic-Expansion Technical Training Advisory Board. She was also a 2020 mentor for the National Behavioral Health Council's CCBHCs mentorship program.

With an Executive Leadership Certificate in Health Information Technology from the University of Colorado School of Nursing, Debbian brings expertise and efficiency in coordinating health and social services programs through health information technology.

Ms. Fletcher-Blake is a Board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Pace University. Debbian holds an Executive Leadership certificate from UCLA School of Business and Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing from Pace University and Chemistry from SUNY Stony Brook.

**Lorraine Von Eeden, DNP, CPCN-PC, FNP-BC:** I was born in Guyana; a country located on the northern coast of South America. As a former British colony, Guyana is the only English-speaking country on this continent. In my mid-teens, my family migrated to the USA and it is here that I received my post-secondary education, embarked on my career path, married, and raised a family.

Being raised in a background in which Education was paramount, coupled with my inherent love of knowledge, led me on a path of self-fulfillment. And so in 2013, I completed the terminal Doctorate degree in Nursing Practice (DNP).

I am a practicing clinician by career and have spent over 35 years providing health care. Since I am dual-trained and Board Certified as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and as a Family Nurse Practitioner, the population that I provide medical care to spans the age range from 0 – to 99 yr.

I have practiced in different areas including; tertiary care hospitals, primary health care clinics, school-based health clinics, vaccination clinics, Covid testing sites as well as in home health care i.e care provided in the patient's home.

I have also participated in several Overseas Medical Missions providing voluntary medical care to much-needed populations in third-world countries.

Education of students has also been a focus of mine and over the years I have been a Preceptor / Mentor to many Nurse Practitioner and Medical students, as well as Adjunct Faculty in two Nurse Practitioner programs in New York City.

I am also an active member and serve in a leadership capacity in several professional Nurse Practitioner organizations.

Aside from my professional life, my hobbies include Reading, Cooking, Listening to music, traveling, and spending time with family and good friends.

I enjoy meeting new people as well as sharing and learning from new experiences. Each interaction with a new culture, new people, new language, and a new lifestyle provides opportunities to broaden one's perspectives; gain new insights, make authentic cultural connections as well as enrich one's personal and professional beliefs and values.

This does much to shrink the world.

