

LENORE JANIS

Lenore Janis, Class of 1951, is a leading advocate for women and minorities in the construction industry and is one of the founders and President of Professional Women in Construction (PWC).

Ms. Janis gave evidence of her entrepreneurial spirit and independence while a student at White Plains High School where she wrote a fashion column for *The Orange*, marched as the only girl trumpeter in the band, and played the leads in drama club productions. After graduation she attended Bennington College and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut.

Her first career choice was the theatre. Ms. Janis played summer stock and off-Broadway, started a traveling theater company, produced Isaac Bashevis Singer's first play in English, and created the Jewish Heritage Theatre for Children at the 92nd Street Y in New York City.

In 1972, Ms. Janis entered the family steel business in Peekskill. By 1980, she started her own business, Era Steel Construction Corp., a steel erection company certified as a Woman Business Enterprise that successfully bid for many government contracts.

Along with 11 other women, in 1980, Ms. Janis formed PWC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of business and professional women in construction and allied industries. She is currently serving as President and CEO of PWC, in its 25th year, which reaches a constituency of 10,000, now including men. It is a frontrunner in business networking for the industry.

In 1986, Mayor Koch selected Ms. Janis to serve as the first woman Director of the New York City Bureau of Building Management. She has been honored by many organizations, including the Association for Women in Communications, American ORT and the New York City Chapter of NOW.

Ms. Janis has two sons, two grandchildren and lives in Manhattan.