

Judaline Cassidy

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - December 2020



Level of Experience: Journeyworker

Years in Trade: 25+

Union: UA

Local: 1

Bio

Judaline Cassidy tirelessly promotes career opportunities for women in the building trades. A native of the twin islands of Trinidad and Tobago, Judaline was amongst the first three women selected to learn plumbing at the John Donaldson Technical Institute of Trinidad (now known as the University of Trinidad and Tobago). Since then, Judaline has spent the last 25 years perfecting her craft. Her devotion to her craft alone would merit recognition, but Judaline is much more than a tradeswoman. Over the last 25 years she has used her talents and abilities to inspire women to join the building trades.

Through various media outlets, Judaline gets the word out. Her podcast, Tradeswomen Talk, features many women in the building trades. By featuring women, Judaline makes sure that the world knows that the building trades are for everyone, including women.

Judaline also established and runs a mentoring program for inner city girls called Tools and Tiaras where she introduces young girls to the building trades. Judaline also helped establish Union Local 1's first tradeswomen committee: The Croton Sisters of Plumbers Local 1.



Most recently, Judaline has continued her efforts by collaborating with Sheryl Sandberg to create Lean-In Tradeswomen Circles with the AFL-CIO so that all building tradeswomen could have a support network. These Lean-In Circles help women navigate the trades programs from apprenticeship to journey-level. Judaline has made herself an unstoppable force when it comes to ensuring that women become a greater part of the building trades.

For the aforementioned reasons, and so many others, I would like to nominate Judaline Cassidy for the Tradeswomen Heroes award to recognize her accomplishments as a plumber, tradeswoman and for her contributions as an advocate for tradeswomen everywhere; paving the way for diversity and inclusion of both women and minorities.

Why Judaline Was Nominated

Judaline Cassidy is a feminist plumber, Tradeswomen activist, and public speaker. Her peculiarity not only lies in paths of her career but also in personality, as she is charming, kind-hearted, diligent, and compassionate. She has worked extensively for over two decades as a plumber and loves every bit of her craft. Judaline understands that not every woman

desires to be a plumber, and for this reason, she has grown to be more attentive to her work, inspiring more women to become skilled professionals like her.

In her career years, she has earned numerous prestigious career highlights, such as becoming one of the first women to be accepted into Plumbers Local 371 Staten Island, NY, and the first woman elected to the Examining Board of Plumbers Local No. 1. Furthermore, she helped usher in the first Women's Committee within her Union and became the Committee's first President. Judaline has also inspired several platforms to develop programs for women.

She founded "Lean In Women In Trades" to help tradeswomen share information and learn from each other. She even went ahead to start up a non-profit organization, "Tools & Tiaras Inc." to expose, inspire, and mentor young girls and women about trades that are "non-traditional" for women. She serves on the board of the Monumental Women, an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to placing the first statue honoring women's history in New York City's Central Park and as Advisory Board for the Women's Building NYC.

Judaline is a proud member of Plumbers Local Union 1 in NYC.



North America's **Building Trades** Unions