

GET TO KNOW

JANINE TERRITO

Hometown: Bedford, New York

Education: B.A. Smith College, Ed.M. Harvard University

Profession: Co-Founder and President of Take the Cake

Family Status: My husband Joe and I have a blended family of 6 kids (3 boys and 3 girls...yes, just like the Brady Bunch!), ages 12 to 21.

Favorite Music: Stevie Wonder, Talking Heads, Wilco, Liz Phair, Gorillaz. Currently, I am loving the song "May I Have This Dance" by Francis and the Lights (feat. Chance the Rapper).

Favorite TV Shows: The Daily Show, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Scandal, This is Us, Parenthood, The Gilmore Girls, Silicon Valley, Arrested Development, Call the Midwife

Favorite Movies: Harold & Maude, Big Fish, Elf. I love documentaries about the politics of food and health (Forks Over Knives, Fed Up, Supersize Me, A Place at the Table)

Hobbies: I read fiction, do weight training, go for walks in the woods, have coffee with friends, binge watch TV shows and go to restaurants (especially vegan ones!)

Person you admire: I am fortunate to have many people I admire in my life, but Maplewood's own Claire Sinclair pops into my mind first. She's a beloved and devoted teacher and gives back to our community however and whenever she can. She seems to have boundless positive energy that she's devoted to more causes than I can list! She's volunteered her time and talent as a photographer to capture some of Take the Cake's most special moments—photos that will be treasured by our birthday boys and girls forever! I am grateful for all of her help and am inspired by her joyful dedication.

Nonprofit work: Take the Cake, which I founded with my friend Laura Himmelein in 2014, is a local nonprofit serving Essex and Union counties. We provide fun, customized and free parties to families who couldn't otherwise celebrate their children's birthdays due to economic strain and/or family crisis. While birthday parties are certainly not a critical need like food, housing or medical care, they have a unique and critical place in a child's life. Birthday parties provide children an opportunity to feel special and important. They also provide families and caregivers with a time, space and reason to come together and celebrate their love for their children and how they are growing and maturing. Take the Cake allows Laura and me to be surrounded by truly amazing and resilient kids—not to mention the generosity of our wonderful volunteers of all ages, local merchants and generous supporters, who donate endless time, treasure, talent, balloons, pizzas, party spaces, cakes, etc. to make each unique party truly extraordinary! To learn more about Take the Cake, nominate a child or make a donation (and take advantage of a special matching opportunity this holiday season!), please visit take-the-cake.org.



Photo credit: Joy Yagid 2017

Laura Himmelein and Janine Territo, co-founders of Take the Cake



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- Santa at the Firehouse 1:30 - 4:30pm
- Elf Parade up S.O. Ave. 5pm
- Tree lighting at 76 S.O. Ave. 5:15pm
- Live music and dance
- Merchant specials
- Free 2 hour parking

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DECEMBER 7TH-10TH, 14TH-17TH, 22ND-23RD NOON-8PM

55 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE (FORMERLY BLOCKBUSTER)

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