

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Pamela Varkony Named Woman of Influence by Pearl S. Buck International**

Award Ceremony to be Held May 4, 2017

[Perkasie, PA] – Pamela Varkony of Allentown, PA, has been named this year’s *Woman of Influence* by Pearl S. Buck International, the organization founded by author, feminist, and humanitarian Pearl S. Buck. The award will be presented at a special Award Dinner on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at Pearl S. Buck International, 520 Dublin Pike, Perkasie, PA.

In addition, a Wine Reception in celebration of the award will be held in the Lehigh Valley two weeks following the official Award Dinner: May 17, 2017, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Lehigh Country Club, Allentown, PA.

The *Pearl S. Buck Woman of Influence Award* is presented to honor a woman who, like Pearl S. Buck, has distinguished herself in devotion to family, career and humanitarian causes. Past award recipients have included American operatic soprano Beverly Sills, columnist Erma Bombeck, First Lady Laura Bush and Pulitzer Prize winning author Sheryl Wu Dunn.

This year, the organization has chosen Pamela Varkony, an award-winning journalist, inspirational teacher and women’s advocate. Considered to be a thought-leader on women’s empowerment, her insights on life, leadership, politics and the human condition are read and heard across four continents. Her commentaries have aired on NPR and PBS, and her columns have appeared in major newspapers across the country. From 2012 to 2014, she served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Pennsylvania State Commission for Women.

Varkony has received numerous awards for her work, including: the “Excellence in Journalism Award” from the PA Women’s Press Association, the “VERA Award” from the Business Council for Peace for her work in Afghanistan, the “Athena Award” from the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce for her achievements in business, and the “Gateway Award” from the American Association of University Women for leadership in women’s issues. A resident of Lehigh County, she grew up in Bucks County and has co-authored a book on the history of the area entitled “Our Lost Tohickon Valley.”

Pamela Varkony is available for interviews by contacting Arlene Daily at Pearl S. Buck International.

Tickets to the reception are on sale now through April 15. Visit [www.PearlSBuck.org/Woman](http://www.PearlSBuck.org/Woman)

\$100 per person or \$700 for a table of eight  
6:00 to 8:00 pm Dinner and Award Presentation

Sponsorships are available:

Legacy Sponsor \$7,500, includes 16 tickets  
Humanitarian Sponsor \$5,000, includes 12 tickets  
The Good Earth Sponsor \$2,500, includes 8 tickets  
Nobel Sponsor \$1,000, includes 4 tickets  
Pulitzer Sponsor \$500, includes 2 tickets

Sponsorship also includes tickets to the VIP Reception before the main event. Or people may purchase an additional ticket to attend:  
\$50 per person  
5:00 to 6:00 pm VIP Reception

All proceeds support the programs at Pearl S. Buck International which improve children’s lives and inspire others to continue the humanitarian work of the organization’s founder, Pearl S. Buck.

**About Pearl S. Buck International**

Pearl S. Buck International® provides opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, builds better lives for children around the globe and promotes the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Historic Landmark home.