

## MezzaLuna and Limni

The ongoing pandemic has placed tremendous pressure on small business owners, and recent data shows that over 100,000 across the U.S. have been forced to shutter - some for good. But many others have dug-in and reinvented themselves on the fly, taking advantage of their small size and innate ability to quickly pivot, and today they are poised to recover and start growing again.

One example of an innovative entrepreneur here in Putnam County, Nisim Sachakov who, together with his wife Christina, owns and operates two local restaurants, MezzaLuna in Brewster, and Limni in Lake Carmel. Nisim joined the Putnam County Economic Development Corp (PCEDC) Small Business Advisory Committee as it was formed back in May.

Like many small business owners, Nisim was blindsided by the sudden impact of having to meet the formidable challenges of operating under the fog of regulations and guidelines that seemed to change daily. Since then, he has started his day facing serious questions about how to survive the pandemic that only he could answer. Where can we source fresh produce and ingredients for his unique menus? How can we maintain our front-line staff who were understandably skittish about returning to work? What would it take to remain open and serve equally skeptical customers?

One of the key resources Nisim has looked to for answers to help make it through these trying times is the support from fellow small business owners who joined the PCEDC Small Business Advisory Committee. Through their involvement together, he has found entrepreneurs like him who were working equally hard to come up with innovative solutions to their challenges.



"We believe we have had a positive impact on our community by hiring local residents, as a good part of their wages are spent at other local merchants who work hard like we do and are trying to keep their doors open." He added, "We are proud to be involved with the PCEDC Small Business Committee, and we enjoy working with our peers to come up with new, fresh ideas. The response from our communities has been incredibly positive, as we provided meals to first responders and others who just needed a helping hand, and they have been a source of energy and inspiration for brighter days ahead."

[Limni](#) also offers free meals for local students who have relied on the school lunch program to feed them, and lowered prices on their takeout menu in response to the uncertainty in the local economy and people losing their jobs.

For more information about the Putnam County EDC, contact:

Kathleen Abels, *President*

Putnam County Economic Development Corporation

[Kathleen.Abels@putnamcountyny.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Abels@putnamcountyny.gov)

(845) 808-1021.

