

2005 Inductees



Lana D. Benatovich:

As executive director of the National Conference for Community and Justice, Lana Benatovich's job is to eradicate bias, bigotry and racism from our midst. She brings to that task a life-long belief that we can build strong communities by instilling trust, respect and understanding among its people. Her appreciation of and enthusiasm for diversity in our culture is reflected in the variety of organizations which have benefited from her talent and skills. She is on the board of trustees at St. Bonaventure University, a trustee of the Network of Religious Communities, and a board member of Erie County Coordinating Council of Children and Families. The extent of her influence is reflected in the honors she has received from academic, professional, volunteer and activist organizations.

Pamela Davis Heilman:

A distinguished career as an attorney, and partner in the Hodgson Russ Attorney's, provides Pamela Heilman extraordinary opportunities to advance the status of women and she takes full advantage of them. Representing her firm in Canadian-American business relationships, she creates opportunities for women on an international scale, advancing their business and professional status here and sharing her leadership skills with businesswomen on the other side of the border. She values most her mentoring role and rejoices in the progress of women in her profession. As the first woman to chair the United Way Board, she helped create the United Way's women in board governance program and the Western New York Women's Fund. Her success has earned her an Athena award and recognition from many community and academic organizations.



Elizabeth Coe Marshall, 1847-1892:

While health care has changed dramatically since 1885 good nursing care remains one of its most important components due in part to the efforts of Elizabeth Marshall whose foresight and compassion led to the establishment of the Visiting Nursing Association. Marshall used funds donated by First Presbyterian Church to hire a professional nurse whose job was to care for the sick in their homes and teach them how to help themselves. From those humble beginnings, the VNA of Western New York grew into one of the largest and most comprehensive home care agencies in the country serving more than 24,000 patients annually. The movement spread across the country and today more than 500 VNAs care for an estimated 4 million each year.

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Madeline O. Scott:

For more than 40 years Madeline Scott, president of the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier, has served Buffalo's African-American community as activist, archivist, leader, mentor and, perhaps, its greatest booster. From the days when she worked with young men in prison to the times she worked with academic programs for high school students to her successful nomination of Mary B. Talbert to the National Women's Hall of Fame, she has shared her time, energy, skills and compassion with the Western New York Community. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is only one of the many organizations she has served and more than a dozen community groups have recognized her outstanding contributions.

Ruth Kahn Stovroff:

Through decades of quiet service as a philanthropist and community worker, Ruth Stovroff has touched, enriched and inspired countless individuals. For more than 60 years her presence has made a huge difference in the quality of life in Western New York. From the 1950s with her work with the Research and Planning Council to the 1960s as the first president of the Community Action Organization to the present she has set the standard for those who aspire to the deepest level of community service. She is a past chair of the Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted Center for the Visually Impaired and Child and Family Services and past president of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo and a board member of the Western New York Women's Fund.

