

2006 Inductees



Louise Blanchard Bethune, F A D A, 1856-1913:

Louise Bethune, designer of Hotel Lafayette, became a pioneer for women in her field when as Louise Blanchard, she started her own architectural firm at the age of 25 in 1881. The firm became Bethune and Bethune a year later when she married a colleague who had joined her business. Besides the hotel, the firm's commissions included schools, a prison, an armory, a baseball facility and a factory among hundreds of other structures. Always championing women's equality, she broke the gender barrier in the Western Association of Architects, became the first woman to be admitted to the American Institute of Architects and the first woman named to the institute's College of Fellows. By example and principle she paved the way for future generations of women.

Katharine Cornell, 1893-1974:

Katharine Cornell, called the "First Lady of the Theater" by a contemporary critic, was famous as much for her glamour as her celebrated acting talent. Her illustrious career had its roots in Buffalo where her family lived during her formative years and where as a budding actress she performed with a stock company. The road from Buffalo led to London and New York and a distinguished career that spanned four decades. Her greatest triumphs were on the stage but she did venture into film and television, all with the help of her husband, director and producer Guthrie McClintic. It has been said she "represented the theater of quality" one of the many reasons the University of Buffalo built a namesake theater in her honor.



JoAnn Falletta:

Since she first came on the scene as music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in 1998, JoAnn Falletta has been the city's most notable ambassador, garnering accolades for her talent and high standards. Buffalo basks in the glory of her acclaimed performances in Kleinhans Music Hall and her many recordings with the BPO, local and national radio broadcasts and in guest appearances with the world's finest orchestras. JoAnn's enthusiasm and joy in music is infectious and includes the generous support she extends to the community's other artistic endeavors. She has garnered numerous awards and critical acclaim for her performances and her commitment to contemporary music enlarges our understanding of the music of our time and its powerful impact on us.

Ernestine R. Green:

An educator, civic leader and volunteer, Ernestine Green's impact on the community is reflected in the great number of public and private organizations that have enlisted and received her help. She has served on boards that promote education, culture and the arts and woman's interests. A retired Buffalo school teacher and former lecturer at State University of Buffalo, she is one of the founders of the Black Educators Association and was the first woman appointed by the governor as Commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. She was named "Woman of the Year" by the American Jewish Committee's Institute of Human Relations. The Buffalo Urban League, in honoring her, noted she "possesses a zest for life and lives a life of service."



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Edna M. Lindemann, Ph.D.:

An artist, designer and an inspired teacher, Dr. Lindemann was the first curator and the founding director of Burchfield Art Center, now acclaimed around the world as the Burchfield-Penney Art Center. The Buffalo State College art instructor's vision of a showcase for the works of Charles E. Burchfield became a reality in 1966 with the help of the renowned water colorist. She was named curator in 1967 and director in 1972. During her tenure, which lasted until her retirement in 1985, the museum acquired more than 400 of Burchfield's works and began a collection of works by living Western New York artists that numbers in the thousands. At the same time she was creating another legacy, the legions of students who have shaped their lives around her values, visions and dedication to excellence.

E. Jeannette Ogden:

Appointed to the Buffalo City Court in 1995 and elected twice thereafter, Judge Ogden has combined a distinguished legal career with exceptional community activism. Her legal career includes the practice of criminal, civil and municipal law and judicial service on the City, County and Family courts. Her community activism includes service on and/or participation with more than two dozen organizations and civic projects. Judge Ogden's personal commitment to "lift as she climbs," as expressed in her own mentoring program for elementary through law school students, most defines her unique concept of service. Her professional credentials have earned her a respect in the community that crosses political, economic, ethnic and racial divides.



Suzanne Oliver:

A member of the American Association of University Women for more than 40 years, Suzanne Oliver has worked to enrich the lives of women and girls throughout New York as branch leader and as state president. Her reach expanded in 1996 when she was named director of the organization's Middle Atlantic Region. Her crowning achievements have been the introduction of the AAUW's Sister to Sister initiative to Western New York and her extraordinary efforts to maintain it as an on-going program. This unique outreach to adolescent girls from all backgrounds has helped hundreds of girls identify their challenges, define their goals, meet the people who will help them and recognize the strategies that lead to success. She comes as close as anyone can to "living" the AAUW mission to educate women and girls.

Sister Edmunette Paczesny, Ph.D., FSSJ:

Sister Edmunette's tenure as head of Hilbert College has made her one of the longest serving college presidents in the country, an achievement directly linked to her vision, leadership and dedication to students and their community. The woman who transformed a two-year college into one of Western New York's fastest growing four-year institutions has passed her 50th anniversary as a member of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph. As overseer in Hilbert's "journey to excellence" she has reached out to all segments of the community to expand the school's physical plant, its educational mission and fulfill its promise to students. A new academic building named for her will open in 2006, her 32nd and final year as Hilbert president.

