

2007 Inductees



Lee Gross Anthone, 1930-2001:

A volunteer and community activist, Lee Gross Anthone's name is associated with just about every cultural, educational and civic organization in her native city. But Buffalo remembers her best as the founder of the Child Advocacy Center that now bears her name. The thousands of abused children who have found a refuge in the center that she worked so tirelessly to create in 1992 are Lee's living legacy to this community. She was generous with her time and money and she brought a vision, enthusiasm and concern for the welfare of others to all her endeavors be they in her profession, her business or her community work.

Peggy Brooks-Bertram, Ph.D.:

A scholar and educator, Peggy Brooks-Bertram is co-founder of the Uncrowned Queens Institute for Research and Education on Women and has done research and writing on the life and works of Drusilla Dunjee Houston, an unheralded African-American author. Her work has lifted a veil that obscures the contributions African-American women made in building communities, preserving a culture and advancing opportunities for all Americans. The institute she helped create is becoming a national model and Oklahoma this year will celebrate its own Uncrowned Queens. She has been honored by organizations ranging from the Buffalo Urban League to National Conference for Community Justice to the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Sister Karen Klimczak, SSJ, 1943-2006:

In sacrificing her life for a cause, Sister Karen Klimczak has become a symbol of love and peace in her community. Murdered in April 2006 by a man she hoped to help, the nun embodied the courage, dedication and compassion of the sisterhood she represented. Few questioned her willingness to risk her life to rehabilitate those who had strayed beyond civil society and many were ready to adopt the peace activist's philosophy of non-violence. Today her symbol, the dove, is ubiquitous in a community that continues to support the programs she served and memorializes her as its "moral conscience" and an "agent of spiritual good."

Cindy Abbott Letro:

Cindy Abbott has empowered the missions of numerous cultural and educational organizations in Western New York through her generous philanthropy and tireless activism. From the Burchfield-Penney Art Center, to the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, to the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site and the National Federation for Just Communities, Ms. Letro does not just serve on boards, as one admirer put it, she "invests" in them, with time, talent, energy and passion. There are few organizations in this region that have not, at one time or another, been the beneficiary of her unique style of community service. The former media personality turned consultant accomplishes most of her work outside of the public spotlight.



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Barbara A. Seals Nevergold, Ph.D.:

As co-founder of the Uncrowned Queens Institute for Research and Education on Women, as a teacher and an author, Barbara Nevergold has reclaimed and celebrated the historical role of African-American women. The Web site she helped create as a Pan-Am Centennial project has collected the histories of more than 1,000 women. Co-author of a book on the Uncrowned Queens adventure, she has written articles for several periodicals on both women's history and her family's history in Buffalo. Her work has gained national attention and has garnered more than a dozen awards for professional and community service from local and national organizations.

Patricia O. Rehak, 1940-2005:

A native of Lackawanna, Patricia O'Mara Rehak was one of Buffalo's best friends. An articulate and dedicated champion of the city and region she worked through the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, the Erie County Industrial Development Commission, Women for Downtown and Western New York Transportation Council in her quest to revitalize downtown Buffalo and re-energize the Buffalo/Niagara region. Under her guidance a regional economic and development marketing program was launched in 1995. By 1999 it had become a \$5 million-a-year regional marketing campaign. At her busiest she found time to serve a variety of civic and educational organizations and counsel and mentor women making career choices.



Julia Boyer Reinstine, 1907-1998:

Known as Cheektowaga's "great lady," Julia Reinstein left her town and all of Western New York a rich historical and educational legacy. The town's first and only historian from 1953 until 1992, she promoted regional and local history, helped found the Erie County Historical Federation, created 28 historical societies in Erie County and helped create the Historical Building at the Erie County Fair. Buffalo and Erie County named a Cheektowaga library after her and the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society named its Administration Building in her honor. The Society also gave her its prestigious Red Jacket Award for community service, one of many awards she received.

Margaret Sullivan:

Newspaper editors have a huge impact upon their communities and Margaret Sullivan is exceptional in that elite corps not just because she is one of its few female members. The Buffalo News' first woman editor and its first woman vice president has introduced a style of leadership and a quality of journalism that bodes well for a newspaper and a community going through great changes. Innovative in her use of staff, resources and journalistic enterprises, she brings recognition and accolades to the newspaper and the region. This Lackawanna native has won the respect and admiration of reporters, editors and publishers in local and national media.

