



NIKE The official publication of New York State Women, Inc.

VOL. 70 ■ ISSUE 1 ■ SEPTEMBER 2020

NEW YORK STATE  
**women, INC.**

**Our Mission**

To build powerful women  
personally, professionally,  
and politically.

**Our Vision**

To make a difference in the  
lives of working women.

Dated Material — Deliver Promptly

Are YOU a member of NYS Women, Inc. yet?  
Time to check us out at [nyswomeninc.org](http://nyswomeninc.org)



**#NEWYORKTOUGH**

# NYS Women, Inc. – The State of the State



## Clear vision, clear leadership.

-Jacquie Shellman  
NYS Women, Inc. President, 2020/2021

First, thank you for supporting and encouraging me during my 43 years of membership. It is an honor to serve the women of New York State in this new decade. A perk of this office is to write a President's Message for *NIKE*, the respected publication of an organization with 100-plus years of advocating for women.

To accomplish our goals, we need *Clear Vision, Clear Leadership*. We need to connect with you, our member, and those of you who are interested in our organization. We know that this new decade is full of challenges which will provide opportunities for us to improve the status of women, thus improving the lives of all. That slogan certainly rings as true now as during WWII. "We Can Do It!" was originally about motivating women workers at Westinghouse during the war, but it is now meant to suggest women can do anything they put their minds to.

Membership in New York State Women, Inc. is an opportunity for women to enhance their self-confidence, thus finding their voice. Women make up over 50% of the population. We have the power to make a difference. "We Can Do It!" Membership promotes connecting with women, not only in our community and workplace, but across the state from Staten Island to the Adirondacks to Buffalo and the Southern Tier.

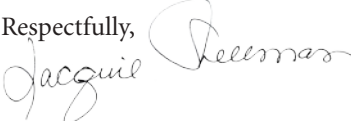
Your executive board, region directors, and committee chairs are here to listen and provide opportunities for growing and nurturing your passion to succeed.

We have held productive informative Zoom meetings about "Best Practices for Presidents & Treasurers;" training on holding your own Zoom meetings, how to navigate our website, and navigating Facebook. We have more sessions coming. Most are all recorded and accessible on our website at: [www.nyswomeninc.org/members/zoom meetings](http://www.nyswomeninc.org/members/zoom%20meetings)

We are being positive and proactive, planning a Fall Board October 2-3, 2020 at the Killian's Event Center in Waterloo, NY. The agenda is not finalized but installation will be held Friday night followed by installation banquet. The traditional memorial service will be held Saturday morning to honor our members who have passed away since May 2019. The board business session and potential special membership meeting will be followed by a served lunch. The Quality Inn has given us a room rate of \$95 before taxes for Thursday to Saturday night.

So, plan on joining us in the beautiful Finger Lakes where our fall foliage is spectacular, wineries provide luscious refreshments, and the history of Seneca Falls and suffragists call us to remember and rejoice. 🍂

(Please refer to our website to keep abreast of continuing developments [nyswomeninc.org/FallBoardMeeting](http://nyswomeninc.org/FallBoardMeeting)).

Respectfully,  


**"The question isn't who's going to let me;  
it's who is going to stop me." -Ayn Rand**

**2020**

**MONTHLY**  
**15** Communicator deadline

**SEPT**  
**15** NIKE submissions deadline

**OCT**  
**2-4** NYS Women, Inc. Fall Board  
Waterloo Quality Inn  
Waterloo, NY

**NOV**  
**3** General Election Day: YOUR  
VOTE MATTERS!

**NIKE Submissions**

All contributed articles must be original work; all previously published works must be accompanied by the publisher’s authorization to reprint. NIKE reserves the right to edit contributed articles for clarity and length, and reserves the right to refuse to publish any contributed article.

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NIKE is a quarterly informational magazine for New York State Women, Inc. members and other professional women. Published 4 times per year (September, January, May/June and May). Circulation: approximately 1200. Payment must accompany all advertisement requests. NIKE reserves the right to refuse to publish any advertisement.

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**#NEWYORKTOUGH**  
**The enduring strength of New York State**

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**NIKE (ISSN 0271-8391, USPS 390-600)** is published quarterly in September, January, May/June and May by New York State Women, Inc. (formerly Business and Professional Women of New York State, Inc), 295 Weimar Street, Buffalo, NY 14206-3209. Subscriptions are a benefit of membership in New York State Women, Inc. Periodical postage is paid in Buffalo, NY and additional mailing offices.  
**POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to NIKE Editor, 295 Weimar Street, Buffalo, NY 14206-3209. RETURN POSTAGE ACCOUNT at Buffalo, NY Main Post Office 14240.



## From the Editor

# NYS Women, Inc. Can Do It!



**NIKE Volume 70, Issue 1**  
**September 2020**

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and footnote to "NIKE" Allstars, Ad, Gift*

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1 issue: \$600 • 4 issues: \$2,000

#### **Inside Front Cover**

1 issue: \$400 • 4 issues: \$1,400

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1 issue: \$300 • 4 issues: \$1,000

#### **Half Page**

1 issue: \$150 • 4 issues: \$500

#### **Quarter Page**

1 issue: \$75 • 4 issues: \$250

#### **Eighth Page**

1 issue: \$37.50 • 4 issues: \$125

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THE SIDEBAR RUNNING down the left-hand side of this page? Right there at the top, where it says "NIKE Volume 70"?

That number – 70 – refers to how many years this magazine has been published under the name "NIKE." Pretty amazing, isn't it? And even now, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we're proud to be publishing *NIKE* for our members!

We'll be continuing our #NewYorkTough motto throughout the rest of the year. It seems appropriate during these difficult COVID times: our state has suffered so dreadfully from this disease but at the same time has overcome so much. And on that vein, starting on the next page, we're featuring stories from our members and chapters that we hope will inspire you to overcome fears, volunteer to help your community, create opportunities for yourself and others, and look forward to a future when we can all come together, in person, as members of New York State Women, Inc.

Speaking of inspiration, that iconic World War II poster of a strong female industrial worker, "We Can Do It!" has been repurposed in our magazine pages with her mask (symbolic of our current war on coronavirus) firmly in place. We've even printed our new version in the center of the magazine as an 11-by-17-inch coloring sheet that you can pull out and hang in your window for motivation and optimism. You'll find its interesting – and surprising – history printed on the back.

NYS Women, Inc. as an organization soldiers on, continuing to fulfill our mission to build powerful women personally, professionally and politically. President Jacque Shellman has presented the Call to the October Board Meeting on page 10. And on the same page you'll find updates from Chair Sue Mager on the Athena Military Women's Initiative. Check page 15 for the awardees of The NY Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund, Inc. (GLEF), women who will continue their education with graduate study. Listed on page 17 are the requirements to apply for a special grant, ranging from \$100 to \$500, from GLEF which are awarded annually.

Also on page 17, are opportunities for you to help with the NYS Career Development Opportunities Inc., a 501C(3) not-for-profit corporation working in conjunction with NYS Women, Inc.

We're reprinting some histories of amazing women from New York State who made a difference in the medical field, thanks to the late JoAnne Krolak's *NIKE* column, "Women Who Helped Build the Empire State." With their expertise in infectious diseases, cancer research, heart disease, and more, it's easy to imagine they'd be "all in" to conquer COVID-19 today.

We're all in too, the members of New York State Women, Inc., building powerful women for our future. 🐾

*-Joyce DeLong*

### **NIKE DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020.**

Please type *NIKE* in your email subject line and send to the attention of Joyce DeLong, *NIKE* editor, at PR@NYSWomeninc.org. Previously published material must be accompanied by a letter from the publisher with permission to republish and credit line to be included with the article.

**WE** *you and I and another or others*  
**CAN** *to be able to; have the ability, power, or skill to*  
**DO** *achieve or complete; undertake, execute, carry out*  
**IT** *whatever we set our minds to; a thing previously mentioned or easily identified*

by Claire Knowles



These are unsettling times. We see political and social unrest all around us. We see friends and family in jobless status. We see emotions rising across the spectrum.

We've had to adapt to big changes in our lives as we go about our daily regimens

amidst restrictions to prevent spreading the COVID-19 virus. We all have been impacted as we engage in our businesses, our schools, our places of worship; even our grocery shopping has changed.

If we're older, like my husband and I are – he's 85, I'm 73 – we have an even greater urgency to pay attention to what we do, what protective measures we take, and where we go. Staying informed and diligent are big on our list. As snowbirds, it was quite a challenge to drive our two cars north, after wintering and springing in Florida – so planning that trip, staying in safe clean rooms en route north, being prepared for rest-stops, minimizing the frequency of stops, and relying on brought-along nourishment all proved to be in order for getting safely back to Western New York in mid-June. We had our COVID tests 10 days after getting to our home in Youngstown, NY – taking precautions was important. Thankfully, we tested negative.

Our world has changed. It has forced us all to adapt. It has forced us to see things differently, do things differently. It has lifted up what perhaps we previously took for granted in our lives, and made us reconsider what truly is important.

We've all had to re-examine our values and where we stand on issues as the nightly newscasts bring the chaos happening in the world into our living rooms.

As an organization – New York State Women Inc. – we are all about building powerful women personally, professionally and politically. We hold to the vision of making a difference in the lives of working women. That mission, that vision, should make each of us pause – what can each of us do now, within this current environment to further these tenets? How are we reaching out?

Here's what I've chosen to do:

- In my work with preventing workplace violence, I spent the month of April getting my booklet converted to a book and in May marketed it to Amazon best-selling status. Why? To utilize my “forced-to-stay-in-time” and convert it into a product for the mass workplace – helping leaders across the spectrum to create harassment and violence-free workplaces.

- To use my Lights On! platform for women (via my newsletter) to lift up timely topics that we need right now, like finding your optimism, “how to stop your constant Complaining,” undergoing life transitions, and “calming the waters of one's heart.”

- Bring my Zoom-skills up to par so that I can contribute in Zoom calls, and learning opportunities.

- Support NYS Women, Inc. – by writing articles when requested and keeping up with my chapter and state organization's FaceBook pages – lots of good information and inspiration is posted there.

And finally, something we all can do: pay attention to requests from our members and chapter. For example, when a request went out to send a holiday card, then a thinking-of-you card to a long-term member in the nursing home, did you respond? Or what about on the passing of loved ones of one of our members? Though we cannot connect in person – especially when COVID prevents visitors to nursing homes, or attendance at wakes or funerals – there are still some small ways that we can connect in meaningful ways.

***We Can Do It! . . . Differently . . . yet we can still do it!*** 🦁

*BNC member Claire Knowles is a 2-time Amazon best-selling author, including the book, Can You See Them Now? Elephants in our Midst. A speaker and business leadership consultant, she helps leaders and their teams become the most effective they can be at accomplishing goals (together). Contact her at [www.ClaireEKnowles.com](http://www.ClaireEKnowles.com) at 716-622-7753.*

***See page 6 for more inspiration on how our members and chapters “can do it” during these COVID times.***

## Feature: #NewYorkTough

# We can DO It! Inspiration from our members.

### It was a “stellar” birthday for Lake to Lake Women member.

- by Diana Smith, Lake to Lake member and former mayor of Seneca Falls

Dr. Judith Pipher’s birthday was a “stellar” event! One of NYS Women, Inc.’s most notable members, **Judith Pipher, PhD**, celebrated her 80th birthday on June 18, 2020. An astrophysicist known to many in her field as “the mother of infrared astronomy,” Judy continues to work for NASA and mentor students as Professor Emerita at the University of Rochester. She is a member of the Lake to Lake Women Chapter.



Fellow members, led by Virginia DeJohn, secretly coordinated a community-wide celebration in Judy’s honor, which included a parade of over 30 vehicles, led by Town Supervisor Michael Ferrara. He presented a proclamation to Judy which declared June 18th “Dr. Judy Pipher Day” in Seneca Falls. Local reporter Susan Porter, from the Finger Lakes Times, covered the story, which was front page news in the region.

Among Judy’s many accomplishments are her significant role in designing NASA’s Spitzer Telescope. Launched in 2003, its mission revealed images of our universe in unprecedented detail and provided critical new data to scientists. She is a recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2007, for her work in astronomy, astrophysics, and for her contributions to scientific exploration, Dr. Judith Pipher was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

To learn more about Judy, read her profile on Wikipedia. You can also listen as she challenges traditional views of women in science, in a 2017 TED-talk sponsored by TEDxRochester called Women in STEM: Flipping Some Definitions (<https://www.tedxrochester.org/flip-2017/women-in-stem-flipping-some-definitions>).

### Dr. Anne Marie Stilwell, a “New York Woman.”

-by Anne Marie Stilwell, M.D, Staten Island Chapter



I’m a physician with a private practice on Staten Island, specializing in anesthesiology/pain management. I also consult for the New York State Department of Health in their Office of Professional Medical Conduct. When the stay-at-home order went into effect back in March and Governor Cuomo announced that he was opening the Javits with

the help of the Army, and that the Navy was bringing the

Comfort medical hospital ship to NYC, I was asked by the State Department of Health to volunteer as the Medical Coordinator for admissions to the Javits. This virus at the time was a total mystery, but the numbers of afflicted were increasing so quickly at local hospitals, that initially, I went to my local hospital to be trained in the new ventilators and how to put two patients on one, but when I was called for this opportunity, I saw that I could possibly help more New Yorkers, and agreed to go.

When I walked into the Javits Command Center that first day and saw the swarm of fatigues in front of me at desks and on phones, I was quickly welcomed by the few Department of Health employees put in charge of organizing the Javits. You see, the Javits is owned by the state and this was an idea of our Governor, so there was pressure to achieve the mission which was to organize in such a way as to transfer patients from NYC and area hospitals out and to the Javits so that the hospitals could take care of the extremely acutely sick patients. Initially, we were assigned to take only non-COVID-19 patients, but after only a couple days we saw that those patients barely existed any longer. All the hospital patients were mostly COVID-19. So without missing a beat, we completely changed our focus and reached out to the hospitals and started transferring stable COVID patients who still required care, mostly in the form of oxygen and observance, from the hospitals to the Javits and Comfort ship. This required daily 12 hours shifts of being on the phone speaking to hospital administrators and doctors, who were totally overwhelmed with caring for patients. At the height, the first week of April, we sent teams of Army and Navy doctors and nurses to each hospital to pick patients to be rapidly transferred with FEMA ambulances waiting outside to take them to us for continued care.

You could see the treatment area on the first floor from the second floor command center. I watched the beds fill, the ambulances arrive in swarms and the doctors and nurses, donned in PPE, giving the best care to New Yorkers. I would go to the treatment area to help with issues related to patients speaking to their families since the last time many had communicated with their loved ones was when they were dropped off at the emergency room. Their cell phones were not charged and most were still wearing a hospital gown from their original hospital stay.

It was five weeks of organizing hundreds of people to help over 1,200 New Yorkers. I am so happy to report we had only a few deaths. The care given to my neighbors by men and women health care professionals from across the country was top-notch. I am so relieved that the spread of the disease was gotten under control so quickly in New York and I could get back to treating my patients and my own family.

I hope we don’t have a “second wave” this fall. But if

**“As an organization – New York State Women Inc. – we are all about building powerful women personally, professionally and politically. We hold to the vision of making a difference in the lives of working women. That mission, that vision, should make each of us pause – what can each of us do now, within this current environment to further these tenets? How are we reaching out?”**

**-Claire Knowles**

we do, and I am called, I will be back at the Javits again, or wherever I may be needed, because that is me, a New York Woman. 📷

### **COVID-19 – my new reality and how the virus has changed me and my business.**

*-by Joyce DeLong, Buffalo Niagara Chapter*

It started with a terrible headache.



When I woke up on April 19th at 3:00 AM, I knew. I had a 102.9 degree fever, the shakes, and a severe headache. I knew immediately I had the dreaded coronavirus. Despite all my precautions, all my care, I had managed to contract COVID-19 and I was extremely worried about what would happen next. I deduced that I must have been infected when

I was at the grocery store – my shopping trip was the only place I was exposed in a public area and it occurred prior to New York State’s mask mandate.

On April 28th, I received word that my COVID-19 test had come back positive. No surprise, since I’d already lost my sense of taste and smell, tell-tale signs of the virus. Luckily, my breathing was stable, so I didn’t have to be hospitalized. However, I cannot remember ever feeling so sick in my entire life. Fast forward – over three months later – I still have severe re-occurring headaches, a limited sense of smell, and an overall feeling of exhaustion. But I know how lucky I am and I am grateful to be able to return to my daily life. And thankfully, because I self-quarantined in another bedroom in our home my husband, Richard, never got sick.

Even now, since no one can tell for sure whether a COVID survivor is still infectious, I wear a mask and practice social distancing. Over the summer, during a visit with my daughter, my grandchildren so urgently wanted to hug me, they threw a blanket over me! As they wrapped their arms around me, they were so happy to have the physical closeness with their grandma that they’d missed.

Of course, the virus has changed my business life, as well. Due to my continued exhaustion, I’ve cut back my work week to three days and I leave early on the days when I do work. My printing business has suffered greatly during this time. Our sales dropped by 75% in March, 50% in April and have leveled off in June and July to approximate-

ly a 20% decrease. We’ve been in business for 37 years, and have had plenty of ups and downs, but nothing has affected us as severely as this virus. Our employees are on reduced hours. We anticipate it will be about a year before things start to improve, so we are doing everything we can to “keep the boat afloat!”

In the end, I realize things could have been so much worse: many people have been much sicker than I was and even lost their lives. Every day I read about businesses that haven’t survived. Although my health and business have suffered greatly due to the impact of coronavirus, I’m hopeful we’ll get through this challenging time. I don’t believe things will ever totally return to the old normal, but we will have a new reality and with it will come new opportunities. May we all come out of this stronger and with a better appreciation of our lives. 📷

## **NEW YORK STATE Women, INC.**

### **staten island chapter**

#### **The Staten Island Chapter caring for its members and its community during the COVID-19 crisis.**

*-by Christine Donahue, Staten Island Chapter*

Our members are proud that the Staten Island Chapter always comes through, no matter what situation arises. We share a common concern for the safety, comfort and freedom to pursue a decent life for the families in our community. We take this as a responsibility that we should embrace wholeheartedly.

During the pandemic, our chapter has done what it does best. Our mission is to improve the lives of women and their families in Staten Island, professionally and personally, through multiple avenues of support. During the crisis, this mission has been amplified through actions that are both caring for those within our chapter, and reaching out to our community.

Knowing that contact with others is important during times of confinement, our officers started calling members to check on their safety. As more members wanted to connect to remind others that they were cared about and remembered, our roster was updated and re-distributed to ensure that members could get through to each other.

*Continued on page 8*

“Our world has changed. It has forced us all to adapt. It has forced us to see things differently, do things differently. It has lifted up what perhaps we previously took for granted in our lives, and made us reconsider what truly is important.”

-Claire Knowles

As we sincerely missed sharing time and camaraderie with each other, the chapter began monthly Zoom meetings to replace our regular dinner meetings. Each of our meetings contained especially inspirational moments.

At our May Zoom meeting, we heard from Staten Island Chapter member **Dr. Anne Marie Stilwell**. She discussed volunteering her expertise at the Javits Center during the heaviest outbreak of the pandemic in New York City. Ann Marie has a private practice of Interventional & Medical Pain Management. In addition, she is a clinical consultant for NYC Department of Health in preventing the misuse of prescription opioid drugs, and co-authored the protocol for the distribution of Naloxone.

We had an uplifting June Zoom meeting where scholarships were awarded to female college students in need. **The scholarships were presented to students from the four Staten Island colleges:** College of Staten Island, St. John's University, St. Paul's School of Nursing, and Wagner College. Many of our members were on the Zoom for this special event.

In addition to these highlights, here are several other inspirational stories of how our Staten Island members have helped others:

Knowing that the stress of isolation and worry about health can take an emotional toll, a special comfort was offered by one of our members. **Renee Kroeker**, a certified yoga teacher who promotes well-being through gentle and restorative yoga, conducted several online yoga classes for our members and friends. This was a welcome respite for many, helping them cope during this very stressful time. In 2018, Renee founded “Renee Kroeker Private Yoga,” a therapeutic yoga practice. She also has a master's degree in elementary and special education and bachelor's in social work.

After hearing about local food pantries that were unable to keep up with demand, our executive committee informed our members that chapter would match donations from our members up to a total of \$1,000. **An amazing response from our members allowed us to donate \$2,500 to help three local food pantries in need.**

Several members joined together making masks for **Richmond University Medical Center** which were much appreciated. It was another chance to participate in a project with fellow chapter members to help the community.

The Little Victory Theater, owned by member **Alberta Thompson**, was closed due to the pandemic. This caused a severe stain on meeting ongoing facility costs. A virtual fundraiser was held for the theater via Zoom, featuring a magician and mentalist. Many of our members and

friends participated.

The Staten Island Chapter can always rely on our members. All year round, our members address the needs of our community. We're so proud of our members, who volunteer countless hours of their resources, time, and energy to help those in need and improve opportunities for women and their families.

### Buffalo Will See It Through

- submitted by Katharine Smith

We're all facing terribly uncertain times right now. And ever since this dreadful coronavirus turned life upside down and inside out, Buffalo Niagara Chapter member and **NIKE** associate editor, **Katharine Smith** had been searching for a way to help, especially for the most vulnerable people in her Western New York community.

In 2017, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I, Katharine designed a graphic based on the Liberty Bond posters used during bond drives in Buffalo in WWI. And it seemed to her an appropriate icon for our current “war again coronavirus.”

The “Buffalo Will See It Through” poster is her attempt. For each poster sold she donates 20% of the proceeds to the FeedMore WNY COVID Relief Fund which supplies Western New York homeless shelters, mobile food pantries, soup kitchens, and Meals on Wheels, among many others.

Her hope is to uplift her city's “Buffalove” spirit and evoke the City of Good Neighbors with displays of these “Buffalo Will See It Through” posters. AND to help those who need it the most in her community. To date, Katharine has sent over \$200 in donations.

The posters are available from her company, White Rabbit Design at: [white-rabbit-design.square.site](http://white-rabbit-design.square.site). Each poster costs \$9.17 (plus sales tax) and comes with two free coloring sheets. Shipping is free. For each poster bought, a donation is made to FeedMore WNY.





# Chapter and Region News

## Chadwick Bay Chapter – 8

- submitted by *Donnie Hover, president*

Chadwick Bay held its July installation of officers at Shorewood Country Club on July 21. **Sue Mager** and **Linda Przepasniak**, both NYS Women, Inc. past state presidents, led the installation. **Donnie Hover** was installed as president, **Christine Storer**, first VP; **Terri Pacos**, second VP; **Donna Comstock**, recording secretary; **Debbie Dillenburg**, treasurer; and **Nancy Steffan**, corresponding secretary.

The chapter is excited to announce that **Emily Clapp** and **Tiffany Yeric** are the recipients of its annual scholarships. Emily will be graduating from SUNY Fredonia in spring of 2021 with a bachelor's degree in education. Tiffany is will be graduating at Jamestown Community College in 2021 as a registered nurse.

Chadwick Bay has continued its local donations to the Dunkirk Library, Meals on Wheels, Chautauqua Nursing and Rehabilitation Services, Rural Ministries (a food bank) and Chautauqua County Crisis Relief Fund.

The chapter's "Getaway Weekend" was held at the new Chautauqua Harbor Front Hotel in Celeron. This venue was beautifully decorated with pictures of the amusement park formerly located on the property and in addition, amenities on the waterfront of Chautauqua Lake pay homage to past park rides. The chapter gives special thanks to the "Getaway" committee: **Christine Storer**, **Donna Comstock**, **Brenda Lewis**, **Suzanne Lawrie**, and **Debbie Dillenburg** for an outstanding job!

## Lakeshore Chapter – 8

- submitted by *Mary Stelley*

**Dorothy Mangano**, a 65-year member of the Lakeshore Chapter (formerly Silver Creek BPW) passed away on July 16, 2020, only weeks before her 100th birthday (August 10th). The planned birthday celebration had been postponed to a later date due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Dorothy was president of BPW/NYS, for 1982-1983. She was active for most of her 65 years of membership, until she moved to St. Columban's on the Lake in Silver Creek, NY and last year the Lutheran Home in Jamestown, NY. A birthday celebration was held in August 2019 and Dorothy was looking forward to her 100th. (The photo above was taken at her birthday party in 2017.)



She and her husband Louis owned three businesses in the village of Silver Creek and Dorothy was a dedicated activist and community leader. She served on the village

of Silver Creek board for 20 years and received numerous awards over the years.

In 2013 Dorothy was honored by Lakeshore Chapter in the National Women's Hall of Fame Book of Lives & Legacies in Seneca Falls, NY. She was dearly loved by her large family and they always celebrated her birthdays. Louis and Dorothy's four daughters (Suzanne, Jill, Roberta and Linda) survive her. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to VFW Post 6472, 13 Main St, Silver Creek, NY, Silver Creek Volunteer Emergency Squad, 162 Central Ave, Silver Creek, NY and Anderson-Lee Public Library, 43 Main St, Silver Creek, NY 14136.

Sympathy cards can be mailed to Suzanne Burst, 172 Mill Hollow Crossing, Rochester, NY 14626 or Jill Conley, 7 Winchester Road, Lakewood, NY 14750.

## St. Lawrence County Chapter – 5

- submitted by *Sue Bellor, president*

### Chapter President

**Sue Bellor** presented a check for \$500 to their scholarship recipient **Hannah Wilson** at their August meeting. Hannah will be attending Clarkson University this year and will be studying business finance and pre-law.



The St. Lawrence County Chapter celebrated August birthdays of members **Patricia McGrath** (left), a 63-year member and **Cosette Witty-Lewis**, a second year member.



## Staten Island Chapter – 2

- submitted by *Rosemarie Dressler*

The Staten Island Chapter recently installed officers for its upcoming year during their virtual Zoom meeting. The officers are **Margaret Antonello**, president; **Alexandria Florenza**, vice president; **Cammie Brandofino**, recording secretary; **Alicia Stern**, corresponding secretary; and **Christine Olivieri Donahue**, treasurer.



# New York State Women, Inc.

[Editor's note: Fall Board Meeting information is accurate as of this printing of NIKE. Changes may have occurred after publication.]

## Fall Board Meeting • Waterloo, NY

### CALL TO October Board Meeting

CALL TO: October Board Meeting  
DATE: October 2-3, 2020  
LOCATION: Killians Event Center  
at Quality Inn, Waterloo, NY  
  
TO: Executive Committee,  
Members of Board of  
Directors and all members of  
New York State Women, Inc.

NOTICE is hereby given that the October Board Meeting of New York State Women, Inc. will be held from Friday, October 2, 2020 through Saturday, October 3, 2020 in Waterloo, NY. (Refer to our website to keep abreast of continuing developments: [nyswomeninc.org/FallBoardMeeting](http://nyswomeninc.org/FallBoardMeeting))

The business session will begin on Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM. All board members in good standing are eligible to vote. Members are welcome to attend the business session but will not vote at this meeting.

All reports will be given verbally, rather than written, giving all in attendance an opportunity to put a face with a position. Only standing committee chairs and region directors give board reports. Reports should be a brief list of goals, how you are reaching out and accomplishments for the year to date.

Installation of officers and installation banquet will be held Friday evening. The memorial service for deceased members will be held Saturday morning, followed by the business session and a served lunch.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have a 50-person limit and vendors will not be present. Hotel guidelines will be provided upon check in.

Members, new and seasoned, of New York State Women, Inc are encouraged to attend and participate. Come Thursday and enjoy our reduced NYS Women, Inc. room rate. Tour the wineries, shop at Waterloo Outlet Mall, walk historic Seneca Falls, renew friendships.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jacquie Shellman, NYS Women, Inc. President

## Athena Military Women's Initiative Update

- submitted by Sue Mager, chair

News about women veterans is arriving often in this chair's mailbox. My goal is to keep NYS Women, Inc. members informed, and my hope is that with President Jacquie Shellman's support and enthusiasm, you may just find something that sparks interest and action ideas from these monthly committee messages.

Did you know that New York has a Women Veteran's Memorial? Pay a visit next time you're in Albany and be sure to send a picture to [LBer633655@aol.com](mailto:LBer633655@aol.com).

The New York State Women Veterans Memorial is located on Madison Avenue in



Albany, New York. It commemorates the role of women in military service. The ground-breaking ceremony for the memorial was held in June 1998 and presided over by Governor George Pataki and was unveiled in December of the same year.

The artist, Hy Rosen, created the memorial with three panels, each with a bronze bas-relief sculpture. The central panel features Liberty on the crown of England, holding the state flag aloft in her right hand. The other two panels show images of women veterans from various eras. The text on the memorial reads "Dedicated to the Women of New York State for their War Time Military Service in the Defense of this Nation."

### Do you want to light up the face of a special veteran?

Have you been wondering how to tell your veteran they are special to you? VA's #VeteranOfTheDay social media feature is an opportunity to highlight your veteran and his/her service. Do you know a veteran (female or male) you could nominate?

#VeteranOfTheDay on 07/01/2020 was Air Force veteran, Kim Reid, who served as a knowledge operations manager in Afghanistan, Iraq and Qatar. Kim Reid served in the Air Force as a knowledge operations manager from February 2006 to November 2012.

### VA offers debt relief to veterans through year's end.

VA this month announced its commitment to extend debt relief to veterans adversely impacted by COVID-19 to the end of 2020 by suspending certain debt collection actions. The department recognizes veterans and beneficiaries are still being greatly impacted by the coronavirus prompting the extension of financial relief.

To sign up to receive this very informative newsletter from the VA Center for Women Veterans their web address is [CenterforWomenVeterans@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:CenterforWomenVeterans@public.govdelivery.com).

Please share your chapter's Athena Military Women's Initiative with Chair Sue Mager at [LBer633655@aol.com](mailto:LBer633655@aol.com).

# This iconic WWII poster is symbolic during our COVID times, too.

The “We Can Do It!” poster was actually little seen during World War II. Created by J. Howard Miller in 1943 for Westinghouse Electric, it was intended to be an inspirational image to boost female worker morale.

The poster was rediscovered in the early 1980s and widely reproduced in many forms, often called “We Can Do It!” but also called “Rosie the Riveter” after the iconic figure of a strong female war production worker. The “We Can Do It!” image was used to promote feminism and other political issues beginning in the 1980s. It graced the cover of Smithsonian magazine in 1994 and was fashioned into a US first-class mail stamp in 1999. It was incorporated in 2008 into campaign materials for several American politicians, and was reworked by an artist in 2010 to celebrate the first woman becoming prime minister of Australia. The poster is one of the 10 most-requested images at the National Archives and Records Administration.

After its rediscovery, it was often assumed that the image was used as a call to inspire women workers to join the war effort. However, during the war the image was strictly internal to Westinghouse, displayed only during February 1943, and was not for recruitment but to exhort already-hired women to work harder. People have seized upon the uplifting attitude and apparent message to remake the image into different forms, including self empowerment, campaign promotion, advertising, and parodies.

## Background

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government called upon manufacturers to produce greater amounts of war goods. The workplace atmosphere at large factories was often tense because of resentment built up between management and labor unions throughout the 1930s. Directors of companies such as General Motors (GM) sought to minimize past friction and encourage teamwork. In response to a rumored public relations campaign by the United Auto Workers union, GM quickly produced a propaganda poster in 1942 showing both labor and management rolling up their sleeves, aligned toward maintaining a steady rate of war production. The poster (pictured at the right) read, “Together We Can Do It!” and “Keep ‘Em Firing!” In creating such posters, corporations wished to increase production by tapping popular pro-war sentiment, with the ultimate goal of preventing the government from exerting greater control over production.



## J. Howard Miller

J. Howard Miller was an American graphic artist. He painted posters during World War II in support of the war effort, among them the famous “We Can Do It!” poster. Aside from the iconic poster, Miller remains largely unknown. He is believed to be born in 1915 and possibly died in 1990. Miller studied at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, graduating in 1939 and lived in Pittsburgh during the war. His work came to the attention of the Westinghouse Company, and he was hired to create a series of posters. The posters were sponsored by the company’s internal War Production Co-Ordinating Committee, one of the hundreds of labor-management committees organized under the supervision of the national War Production Board.



## Westinghouse Electric

In 1942, Miller was hired by Westinghouse Electric’s internal War Production Coordinating Committee to create a series of posters to display to the company’s workers. The intent of the poster project was to raise worker morale, to reduce absenteeism, to direct workers’ questions to management, and to lower the likelihood of labor unrest or a factory strike. Each of the over 42 posters designed by Miller was displayed in the factory for two weeks, then replaced by the next one in the series. Most of the posters featured men; they emphasized traditional roles for men and women.

No more than 1,800 copies of the 17-by-22-inch “We Can Do It!” poster were printed. It was not initially seen beyond several Westinghouse factories in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the midwestern U.S., where it was scheduled to be displayed for two five-day work weeks starting Monday, February 15, 1943. The targeted factories were making plasticized helmet liners impregnated with Micarta, a phenolic resin invented by Westinghouse. Mostly women were employed in this enterprise, which yielded some 13 million helmet liners over the course of the war. The slogan “We Can Do It!” was probably not interpreted by the factory workers as empowering to women alone; they had been subjected to a series of paternalistic, controlling posters promoting management authority,

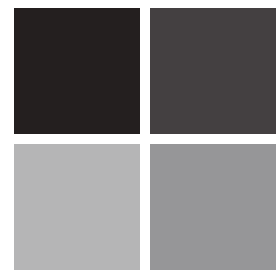
*Continued on page 12*

# We Can Do It!



[www.nyswomeninc.org](http://www.nyswomeninc.org)

NEW YORK STATE  
**women, INC.**



**#NEWYORKKTOUGH**

employee capability and company unity, and the workers would likely have understood the image to mean “Westinghouse Employees Can Do It,” all working together. The upbeat image served as gentle propaganda to boost employee morale and keep production from lagging. The badge on the “We Can Do It!” worker’s collar identifies her as a Westinghouse Electric plant floor employee; the pictured red, white and blue clothing was a subtle call to patriotism, one of the frequent tactics of corporate war production committees.

During World War II, the “We Can Do It!” poster was not connected to the 1942 song “Rosie the Riveter,” nor to the widely seen Norman Rockwell painting called Rosie the Riveter that appeared on the cover of the Memorial Day issue of the Saturday Evening Post, May 29, 1943. The Westinghouse poster was not associated with any of the women nicknamed “Rosie” who came forward to promote women working for war production on the home front. Rather, after being displayed for two weeks in February 1943 to some Westinghouse factory workers, it disappeared for nearly four decades. Other “Rosie” images prevailed, often photographs of actual workers. The Office of War Information geared up for a massive nationwide advertising campaign to sell the war, but “We Can Do It!” was not part of it.

Rockwell’s emblematic Rosie the Riveter painting was loaned by the Post to the U.S. Treasury Department for use in posters and campaigns promoting war bonds. Following the war, the Rockwell painting gradually sank from public memory because it was copyrighted; all of Rockwell’s paintings were vigorously defended by his estate after his death. This protection resulted in the original painting gaining value – it sold for nearly \$5 million in 2002. Conversely, the lack of protection for the “We Can Do It!” image is one of the reasons it experienced a rebirth.

### Rediscovery

In 1982, the “We Can Do It!” poster was reproduced in a magazine article, “Poster Art for Patriotism’s Sake,” a Washington Post Magazine article about posters in the collection of the National Archives.

In subsequent years, the poster was re-appropriated to promote feminism. Feminists saw in the image an embodiment of female empowerment. The “We” was understood to mean “We Women,” uniting all women in a sisterhood fighting against gender inequality. History professor Jeremiah Axelrod commented on the image’s combination of femininity with the “masculine (almost macho) composition and body language” in his 2006 book, *The Noir War: American Narratives of World War II and Its Aftermath*



Another wartime worker: Miss Anna Bland, working on the SS George Washington Carver, second Liberty Ship named for an African American. Photographed by E. F. Joseph in April 1943 at the Richmond Shipyard No. 1 of the Kaiser Company in California. She was among the approximately 1,000 Black women working in at four Kaiser shipyards in Richmond, CA.

Smithsonian magazine put the image on its cover in March 1994, for a feature article about wartime posters. The US Postal Service created a 33¢ stamp in February 1999 based on the image, with the added words “Women Support War Effort.”

After she saw the Smithsonian cover image in 1994, Geraldine Hoff Doyle mistakenly said that she was the subject of the poster. Doyle thought that she had also been captured in a wartime photograph of a woman factory worker, and she innocently assumed that this photo inspired Miller’s poster. Conflating her as “Rosie the Riveter,” Doyle was honored by many organizations including the Michigan Women’s Historical Center and Hall of Fame. However, in 2015, the woman in the wartime photograph was identified as then

20-year-old Naomi Parker, working in early 1942 before Doyle had graduated from high school. Doyle’s notion that the photograph inspired the poster cannot be proved or disproved, so neither Doyle nor Parker can be confirmed as the model for “We Can Do It!”

Westinghouse historian Charles A. Ruch, a Pittsburgh friend of J. Howard Miller, said that Miller worked from live models. However, the photograph of Naomi Parker did appear in the Pittsburgh Press on July 5, 1942, making it possible that Miller saw it as he was creating the poster.

### Legacy

Today, the image has become very widely known, far beyond its narrowly defined purpose during WWII. It has adorned T-shirts, tattoos, coffee cups and refrigerator magnets. It was used in 2008 by some of the regional campaigners working to elect Sarah Palin, Ron Paul and Hillary Clinton. Michelle Obama was worked into the image by some attendees of the 2010 Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear. The image has been employed by corporations such as Clorox who used it in advertisements for household cleaners. A bobblehead doll and an action figure toy have been produced.

The “We Can Do It!” poster was used by the Ad Council for its 70th anniversary celebration, through a Facebook app called “Rosify Yourself.”

After Julia Gillard became the first female prime minister of Australia in June 2010, a Melbourne street artist calling himself Phoenix pasted Gillard’s face into a new monochrome version of the “We Can Do It!” poster.

Most recently, a 3-D image of “We Can Do It!” was created for the closing credits of the 2011 superhero film *Captain America: The First Avenger*. The image served as the background for the title card of English actress Hayley Atwell.

—Source: [wikipedia.org/wiki/We\\_Can\\_Do\\_It!](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Can_Do_It!)

## Awardees of NY Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund, Inc. (GLEF)

by Ramona Gallagher, Chair, 2020 GLEF Fellowship Committee

On March 14, 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic required major quarantine restrictions across New York State, the Fellowship Committee of the NY Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund, Inc. (GLEF) met to select three awardees for fellowships in the amount \$2,000 each. Subsequently, GLEF President Elsie Dedrick announced those awardees: Margarita Valkovskaya, Madeline Collins and Elaina Mansley.

Since its incorporation in 1989 through 2020, The NY Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund, (GLEF), Inc. has awarded more than \$180,000 in fellowships to 159 NYS women. Of these, 105 were working toward a Master's degree and 54 toward a doctorate. They were enrolled in 53 diverse fields of graduate study.

Fellowships are awarded annually for graduate study to qualified women who are residents of New York State and attend New York State colleges/universities. The GLEF has allocated \$6,000 for three Fellowships of \$2,000 each to supplement education costs for the upcoming 2021-22 academic year to be awarded in the Spring of 2021. For detailed information on the eligibility requirements and the application process, interested applicants should access the web site at [www.gracelegendre.org](http://www.gracelegendre.org) in October 2020. Submission of applications must be postmarked no later than February 28, 2021. As always, this year's awardees had outstanding qualifications and the selection process was tough.



**Ms. Margarita Valkovskaya** is working on her Master's degree in Public Administration and attends the Maxwell School, Syracuse University in Syracuse N.Y. She hopes to use her academic and professional background, as well as her language skills, to help inform and develop security policies in one of the government's agencies

or departments. Ms. Valkovskaya said "Receiving the LeGendre Fellowship is an honor and will be instrumental in helping me offset the costs of tuition for my Master's degree."

**Ms. Elaina Mansley** is pursuing her law degree while working two part-time jobs. She is in the accelerated two-year JD program at Brooklyn Law School. She has worked

as an engineer for over three and a half years developing her technical abilities. However, Ms. Mansley said "I was inspired to pursue a career in law because I no longer felt challenged working as an engineer, coupled with the negative work environment I was faced with."

Further, she stated "A legal education will also provide a platform to advocate for and participate in pro-bono work helping women who face harassment, discrimination or assault." She plans to use her engineering background coupled with her legal education to work in patent law. Additionally, she wants to serve her community and devote time to the furtherance of women's rights so that all women can feel confident working in whatever field they please, without having to worry about their gender having an impact on their employment.



**Ms. Madeline Collins** is attending Columbia University pursuing a Master of Science in Social Work. Her goal is to become a Child Life Specialist and serve as a liaison between the medical team and the pediatric patient. Part of her desire is based on her own personal experience with numerous congenital

health defects and volunteer experience in a Child Life Department of a local hospital. She maintains that her personal experiences have given her the ability to connect with people through unique and unorthodox teaching methods. Ms. Collins notes "My passion for this work is all encompassing and the GLEF Fellowship will provide the assistance I need in order to continue my graduate studies and further my dedication to service."

If you or someone you know is currently in graduate school and might be interested in applying for a 2021 Fellowship, encourage her to check out the web site noted above this fall. Individuals wishing to contribute to GLEF may send gifts of any amount (which are tax-deductible) to the Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund, Inc., 124 Gateway Drive, Staten Island, NY 10304-4441.



## NIKE All Stars

The 2020-2021 *NIKE* All Star Campaign is in full swing and thank you to our loyal supporters who have already sent their listings in.

Members will have an opportunity to contribute at our annual conference, and chapters, regions and friends of NYS Women, Inc. can send contributions anytime to the *NIKE* Business Manager. Information on contributing can be found on our website.

Publication July 15th/Sept. issue Oct. 15th/Dec. issue  
 Deadlines: Feb. 1st/March issue March 15th/May issue

Rates: Platinum Patrons: \$75 and over  
 Golden Givers: \$50 – \$74  
 Silver Supporters: \$25 – \$49  
 Bronze Boosters: \$5 – \$24

Make check payable to:  
 NYS Women, Inc. (memo: *NIKE* contribution)

Mail form and check(s) to: Sue Mager, *NIKE* Business Manager, 3406 McKinley Parkway, Apt C-11, Blasdell, NY 14219  
 E-mail: NIKEmgr@NYSWomeninc.org.

Platinum Patrons Patricia Ferguson	Kathy Kondratuk Deborah Langevin Patricia McGrath	Clare Sullivan '96-97 Elsie Dedrick '97-98 Lucille Argenzia '98-99 Mary Stelley '99-2000 Viola McKaig '2000-01 Maria Hernandez '01-02 Linda Przepasniak '04-05 Helen Rico '05-06 Linda Winston '06-07 Neale Steiniger '08-09	Mary Ellen Morgan '09-11 Susan Mager '12-13 Amy Kellogg '13-14 Colleen Ostiguy '14-15 Renee Cerullo '15-16 Theresa Fazzolari '16-17 Debra Carlin '17-19 Robin Bridson '19-20
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### NIKE ADVERTISING PAGE RATES

<b>Outside Back Cover</b>	1 issue: \$600	4 issues: \$2000
<b>Inside Front Cover</b>	1 issue: \$400	4 issues: \$1400
<b>Full Page</b>	1 issue: \$300	4 issues: \$1000
<b>Half Page</b>	1 issue: \$150	4 issues: \$500
<b>Quarter Page</b>	1 issue: \$75	4 issues: \$250
<b>Eighth Page</b>	1 issue: \$37.50	4 issues: \$125

Email your ad (in PDF format) to: joyce@allegracheektowaga.com and ksmith@whiterabbitdesign.com. Make check payable to NYS Women, Inc. (memo: *NIKE* ad) and mail to: Sue Mager, *NIKE* Business Mgr, 3406 McKinley Pkwy, Apt C-11, Blasdell NY 14219

### Select the size of your *NIKE* ad.

<b>Half Page</b> 6.65" wide x 4.75" tall	
<b>Quarter Page</b> 3.25" wide 4.75" tall	<b>8th Page</b> 3.25" wide 2.25" tall

**NIKE DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020.** Please type *NIKE* in your email subject line and send to the attention of Joyce Delong, *NIKE* editor, at PR@NYSWomeninc.org. Previously published material must be accompanied by a letter from the publisher with permission to republish and credit line to be included with the article.

# NY Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund

## NY Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund, Inc. (GLEF) Special Grants

submitted by Mary Ellen Morgan, chair, GLEF Special Grants Committee

In 2014, the NY Grace LeGendre Fund, Inc., a 503c (3) not-for profit corporation, began awarding special grants to organizations in order to sponsor educational or research opportunities which would further the advancement of working women. Special grants will be awarded yearly and may range from \$100 to \$500.

### Eligibility:

1. Any NYS Women, Inc. chapter, region, state president, or state executive committee may submit an application.
2. Applications from organizations not affiliated with NYS Women, Inc., must include a mission statement that is consistent with the purpose of the Endowment. The program for which the grant is awarded must be completed in one year.

### Categories:

The special grant must fall into one of the following categories:

1. To further the capabilities of individual business and professional women by means of lectures, seminars and other forms of education.
2. To conduct or support surveys and other research projects into current problems of importance to the community and to business and professional women.

3. To conduct and or support research into the economic, social and health problems confronting business and professional women and achievements of business and professional women.

### Application Process:

Applications are available from the GLEF special grant chair and or the GLEF website at [www.gracelegendre.org](http://www.gracelegendre.org). Documentation is required with the application form.

1. Written plan or agenda describing the event and its goals.
2. Project budget.
3. Work plan, agenda giving date, facility where program is to be held, and estimated attendance.
4. Description of publicity and media coverage planned.
5. Description of evaluation process.

**Contact:** Mary Ellen Morgan, chair, NY Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund, Special Grants Committee, 901. E. Lake Rd., Dundee, New York 14837. Email: [grants@gracelegendre.org](mailto:grants@gracelegendre.org)

**DEADLINE:** February 28, 2021 postmarked and sent to grants chair.

**Decision:** May/June 2021 decision made early May

**Notification:** Email followed by official letter. 📧

## NY Career Development Opportunities, Inc.

### Help Wanted. . . NO ONE WILL BE TURNED DOWN

by Linda Przepasniak

Do you want to make a difference in the life of a woman? Do you like working virtually in this new norm?

If you can answer “yes” to these two questions, **We NEED You!**

The NYS Career Development Opportunities Inc. is at a crossroad. We are a 501C(3) not-for-profit corporation working in conjunction with NYS Women, Inc. We have been around for 15 years and are probably another of the biggest kept secrets of NYS Women, Inc.

### What have we done in the past, you might ask?

We have funded speakers at NYS Women, Inc. conferences, provided scholarships to women and are a sponsor to the Reality Store (a career exploration day for students ages 13-17).

In these changing times, we need help. NYS

Women, Inc. members have exceptional expertise that is essentially untapped. We are searching for people to assist in revising our scholarship application, to research/secure grants, and to come up with ideas for programs supporting women today through training via zoom or other virtual means. Our resources can help women in your community!

We need new expertise in this challenging time and know that NYS Women, Inc. members have the talent and skills to create a positive impact.

Please answer our call and email Linda Przepasniak or Robin Bridson at [NYSWCDO@gmail.com](mailto:NYSWCDO@gmail.com) Additional information can be found on the NYS Women, Inc. website at [www.nyswomeninc.org/NYSCDO](http://www.nyswomeninc.org/NYSCDO).

**And thank you for continued support!** 📧



# Jane Arminda Delano

## Medical Women Who Helped Build the Empire State

by JoAnne Krolak

Originally published in May 2013

JANE ARMINDA DELANO was born in 1862 to George and Mary Ann Wright Delano in Montour Falls, New York (some sources give Townsend, NY, as her birthplace). George Delano was a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War and died of yellow fever in Louisiana and was buried there. Jane never knew her father. She attended Cook Academy and after completing her education, taught school for a short time.

Jane then decided to become a nurse and traveled to New York City where she enrolled in the Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing and graduated in 1886. Jane loved being a nurse. She used to say that “I can’t say that anything romantic or sentimental determined me to be a nurse... I think the nurse’s profession is a fine one, and I like it.”

After graduating from Bellevue, Jane traveled to Jacksonville, Florida, where she became superintendent of nurses at the Sandhills Hospital. She arrived just as a yellow fever epidemic was raging through Jacksonville. Though some scientists suspected the disease was spread via mosquitoes, this had not yet been confirmed. Jane, however, directed that screens be placed over open windows and mosquito netting be hung in patient care areas and in the nurses’ quarters.

Jane went to Arizona after the yellow fever epidemic ended in Jacksonville. She became a nurse at the copper mining camp in Bisbee. Typhoid fever had reached epidemic levels. Jane nursed the typhoid patients for three years. Her time in Arizona convinced Jane that people living on the frontier, particularly in rural or isolated areas, needed health education and services. Before she left Bisbee, Jane was instrumental in organizing a hospital there.

1891 saw Jane Delano back on the East Coast, where she became superintendent of nurses at the University Hospital in Philadelphia. Five years after that, she moved to Buffalo, NY, with the intention of attending medical school. Instead of becoming a doctor, however, Jane went to New York City, where she attended the New York School of Civics and Philanthropy and continued her nursing career. During the Spanish American War, Jane joined the American Red Cross, where she served as secretary for the enrollment of nurses. From 1902 to 1906, she was superintendent of the training school at Bellevue



Shown below left, the Jane Delano Memorial pays homage to the founder of the Red Cross Nursing Service and to Red Cross nurses.

Hospital, where she worked to upgrade the nursing curriculum and improve the status of nurses in the medical profession.

After some time spent in Virginia caring for her mother, Jane returned to New York, where she assumed the presidency of the American Nurses Association and chaired the Board of the American Journal of Nursing. In 1909, she became chair of the American Red Cross Nursing Service and superintendent of the Army Nursing Corps. In addition, Jane saw to creation of Red Cross training in hygiene and home care for the sick, set up the Red Cross Town and Country Nursing Service for the delivery of health care to rural areas, and organized



emergency response teams for disaster relief.

Under Jane’s leadership, the Red Cross Nursing Service became the nursing reserve for the Army, the Navy and the Public Health Service. By the time the United States entered World War I, the Service had over 8,000 nurses trained and ready for duty. By war’s end, Jane had seen to it that over 20,000 nurses plus nurses’ aides were added to this number.

After the war, Jane traveled to Europe to oversee Red Cross activities and visit the places where American nurses were serving. While she was in France, Jane fell ill with an ear infection, which later developed into mastoiditis. Her condition worsened and Jane died on April 15, 1919 and was buried in the American military cemetery in

Savenay in France. One year later, the Army Quartermaster Corps brought Jane's remains back to the United States, where they were reinterred in

the nurses section of Arlington National Cemetery. In 1972, the citizens of Schuyler County dedicated their new hospital to Jane Arminda Delano.



The Jane Delano Memorial pays homage to the founder of the Red Cross Nursing Service and to Red Cross nurses. By physician and sculptor, Tait McKenzie, the memorial honors the 296 nurses, including Delano, who gave their lives as the result of World War I. Sponsored by American nurses, it was dedicated in April 1933, making it the first sculpture to be placed on the grounds of Red Cross Square. A curved stone wall and continuous bench embrace this monumental bronze figure of a veiled and draped woman who reaches with outstretched arms to those in need. The inscription, a verse from the 91st Psalm reads: "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday."

source: [redcross.org/about-us/history](http://redcross.org/about-us/history)

# Marie Maynard Daly, Ph.D.

by JoAnne Krolak  
Originally published in December 2010



## Medical Women Who Helped Build the Empire State

Marie Maynard Daly was born in 1921 in Corona, Queens, in New York City to Ivan and Helen Page Daly. Mr. Daly was an immigrant from the British West Indies. In his youth, Ivan Daly dreamed of becoming a chemist and had won a scholarship to Cornell University to study chemistry. However, financial difficulties cut short his aspirations and Ivan dropped out of Cornell after one semester and later became a postal clerk.

Marie's mother read to her children and her grandfather had an extensive collection of books. These combined to make an avid reader out of Marie. She was particularly drawn to works on science and scientists. Marie's parents supported her in her desire to study the sciences. The all-female faculty at Hunter College High School encouraged Marie's interests and acted as role models of women in academic careers. After graduation from high school, Marie entered Queens College, where she majored in chemistry. Marie then attended New York University, where she obtained a master's degree. At the same time, she worked as a laboratory and teaching assistant at Queens College. Knowing that her career options would be limited without further study, Marie entered the doctoral program in chemistry at Columbia University, where she studied under Mary Caldwell. As part of her studies, Marie researched how compounds produced in the body affect and participate in digestion. When Marie completed her dissertation in 1947, she became the first black woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry.

After obtaining her doctorate, Marie worked as an instructor in physical science at Howard University. In 1948, Marie received an opportunity for postdoctoral research when she was offered an apprenticeship with Dr. Alfred Ezra Mirsky at the Rockefeller Institute of Medicine (now Rockefeller University). Marie would have to find her own funding to support this research. The American Cancer Society awarded Marie a grant, which permitted her to pursue the research. During Marie's time at the Rockefeller Institute, she and Alfred Mirsky studied the cell nucleus and how proteins are constructed within the cells

Continued on page 21



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# Dr. May Edward Chinn

## Medical Women Who Helped Build the Empire State

by JoAnne Krolak

Originally published in December 2012

May Edward Chinn was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, in 1896. Her father, William, was the son of a plantation slave and the plantation's owner. Her mother, Lulu Ann, was the daughter of a slave and a Chickahominy Native American. Lulu Ann was a cook in the household of Charles Tiffany of jewelry store fame. Growing up as a part of the Tiffany household meant May learned to speak French and German and went on trips to concerts in New York City. May also learned to play the piano, and served as an accompanist to Paul Robeson in the early 1920s.

William thought women belonged at home and should not pursue higher education. However, Lulu Ann believed in the value of an education for her daughter and saved enough money to send May to school at the Bordentown Manual and Training Industrial School in New Jersey. Unfortunately, May had to withdraw from the school after contracting osteomyelitis of the jaw. Money was still a problem, and May did not have a high school diploma. However, with her mother's encouragement, May secured a high school equivalency diploma and passed the entrance examinations for Columbia University Teachers College. May entered the school intending to study music. One of her music professors mocked her ambitions because May was Negro (a term May preferred to either Black or African-American). At nearly the same time, though, May

received honors for a paper she had written on sewage treatment. This led to May's changing her major from music to science. In her final year at Columbia, May got a job as a lab technician in clinical pathology, finished her studies at night and graduated with a bachelor's degree in science in 1921. From there, May went on to study medicine at Bellevue Medical College. When she graduated in 1926, she was the first Negro woman to receive a degree from that institution.

After May graduated from Bellevue, she applied for a research fellowship at the Rockefeller Institute. When the Institute found out she was a Negro, the admissions officer suddenly discovered that "the appropriation for that position had not come through." May was then offered an internship at Harlem Hospital and took it. The job involved riding in ambulances with



“Upon graduation Chinn found that no hospital would allow her practicing privileges. The Rockefeller Institute had seriously considered her for a research fellowship until they discovered that she was black. With her fair skin and last name, many assumed that she was white or Chinese. She later told Muriel Petioni, former president of the Society of Black Women Physicians, that black workers snubbed her because they assumed she was passing as white, and did not want to jeopardize her position. In 1940, Harlem Hospital granted Chinn admitting privileges, in part due to Mayor Fiorello La Guardia's push for integration in the wake of the Harlem Riot of 1935.”

Source: <http://harlemworldmag.com/2011/07/01/dr-may-edward-chinn-the-first-african-american-female-doctor-in-new-york/>

the paramedics, and the drivers insisted that May be accompanied by a police officer when entering crowded  
*Continued on the next page*



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## Dr. May Edward Chinn *Continued from previous page*

apartments in the city's poor neighborhoods.

After completing her internship, May found that no hospital in New York would grant her admitting privileges, so in 1928, she opened her own practice. Her office was next door to the Edgecombe Sanitarium, which was a private institution. May agreed to take night calls at the Sanitarium, in return for housing for herself and Mr. and Mrs. Chinn. As time went on, May found herself caring for the families of the other doctors at the Sanitarium, plus patients she had seen at the Harlem Hospital, Mohawk Indian construction workers, and the Handmaids of Mary (an order of nuns). She also continued her education and received a master's degree in public health from Columbia University in 1933.

In addition, May saw a large number of cancer cases among her patients. As a Negro, she was still not allowed to officially admit patients to a hospital or treat them once

they were admitted. However, May would study how the residents at Memorial Hospital treated the cancer patients and was able to learn the procedure for biopsies from an old professor of hers.

In 1940, May was finally granted admitting privileges by Harlem Hospital and in 1944, she began working at the Strang Cancer Clinic to do cancer research. May stayed at the Strang Clinic for 29 years, conducting cancer research, performing pap smears and other cancer screenings plus taking down family histories of cancer patients. This was in addition to treating the patients in her existing practice.

In 1975, May joined the Society of Surgical Oncology. In 1978, she gave up her private practice in order to work with the Phelps Stokes Fund on education for African and Native American students. May Edward Chinn died in New York at Columbia University in 1980 after collapsing at a reception honoring a friend. 🗨️

## Marie Maynard Daly, Ph.D. *Continued from page 19*

of the body.

In 1955, Marie returned to Columbia University, where she took a job teaching biochemistry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. She also worked with Dr. Quentin Deming on the chemical mechanics of heart attacks, artery metabolism and the connection between high cholesterol and heart attacks. Their studies revealed that a high level of cholesterol contributed to blockages of arteries that supply oxygen to the heart. Marie also studied the effects of sugar on the

coronary arteries and what impact smoking had on the lungs.

Five years later, the two moved to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University and continued their work together. Marie studied the effects of aging on the circulatory system and became first, an assistant and later, an associate professor of biochemistry at that institution. In addition to her teaching duties, Marie also worked to increase the number of minority students in medical school and the sciences, and served as an

investigator for the American Heart Association, a cancer scientist with the Health Research Council of New York and was a member of the board of governors of the New York Academy of Science.

Marie Daly stayed at Yeshiva University until her retirement from that institution in 1986. In 1988, Marie started a scholarship fund in her father's memory at her alma mater, Queens College, to support minority students in the fields of chemistry and physics. 🗨️

# Rosalyn Sussman Yalow

## Medical Women Who Helped Build the Empire State

by JoAnne Krolak  
Originally published in December 2009

Rosalyn Sussman Yalow was born in New York City in 1921. She attended schools in New York City and had at one time intended to become a mathematician. However, her high school chemistry teacher encouraged Rosalyn's interest in science and she entered Hunter College intending to major in chemistry. Once again, Rosalyn's career plans were transformed through the influence of her teachers, and she changed her major to physics.

In the late 1930s, to Rosalyn, physics seemed an exciting field. Her family wanted Rosalyn to become an elementary school teacher, since it seemed unlikely that a graduate school would accept a woman wanting to study physics. She persisted, and in her senior year at Hunter College, took a job as secretary to Dr. Rudolf Schoenheimer at Columbia University, which would also allow her to take graduate courses.

During this time, Rosalyn was accepted into the physics program at the University of Illinois, where she would also have a teaching assistantship. When she arrived at the Champaign-Urbana campus, Rosalyn found she was the only woman among the 400-member faculty at the College of Engineering, and the first woman graduate student in the physics department since 1917. It was also at the University that she met fellow student Aaron Yalow, who would later become her husband.

After earning her Ph.D. and marrying Aaron, Rosalyn came back to New York to teach at Hunter College. This was 1946, and her classes were filled with WWII veterans who were getting an education through the GI bill. Two years later, Aaron introduced Rosalyn to Edith Quimby, who was a physicist at Columbia University. Rosalyn volunteered to work in Quimby's lab on a project involving the use of radioactive isotopes. This led to a job offer at the Veterans Administration Hospital in the Bronx, where she set up the radioisotope laboratory.

Rosalyn split her time between teaching at Hunter and working at the Veterans Hospital until 1950, when she left Hunter and went to work for the Veterans Administration full time. That year, she was named physicist and assistant chief of the radioisotope service. At the same time, she entered into a working relationship with Dr. Solomon

Berson, who had recently completed his residency at the Veterans Hospital. Together they used radioactive isotopes to examine and diagnose various conditions.

One of their first projects involved using the isotopes in examining type II diabetics. In the 1950s, the bodies of diabetics treated with animal insulin would require greater and greater dosages of the hormone to achieve the purposes for which it was administered. Rosalyn Yalow and Solomon Berson hypothesized that the animal insulin, when introduced into the human body, stimulated the production of antibodies which prevented the insulin from doing its work. They used a combination of immunology and radioisotopes to track the antibodies and in the process, created radioimmunoassay (RIA). In time, use of RIA was expanded to cover such things as screening for the hepatitis virus in blood and gauging the proper dosages of drugs and antibiotics. Rosalyn Yalow's and Solomon Berson's collaboration on research projects lasted until his death of a heart attack in 1972. Two years before Berson's death, Rosalyn Yalow had become chief of nuclear medicine at the Veterans Hospital, and in 1974, named her research laboratory after Solomon Berson.

In 1976, Rosalyn Yalow received the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award – the first woman to be so recognized. The following year, Rosalyn Yalow was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology (Medicine) for the development of RIA. She shared this award with Roger Guillemin and Andrew V. Schally. Since Solomon Berson had passed away, he was not able to partake of the honor.

Rosalyn Yalow retired from the Veterans Administration in 1991. She still lives in the house that she and Aaron bought when she first went to work for the Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital, and where she and Aaron raised their two children. Rosalyn remained on the faculty of the Mount Sinai Hospital until 2003, when her health made such activity impossible. 🐾



We are forever indebted to the late JoAnne Krolak, who wrote a regular column on women's roles in New York State history. We honor her legacy every time we reprint her excellent biographies.



# What will be the lasting impact of COVID-19 for women?

by Katharine Smith

*"...women find themselves constantly – and indefinitely – expected to be teacher, caregiver, employee and parent." -The New York Times, August 17, 2020*

*"Women are more vulnerable to the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic because they are more likely than men to work in service industries, which have been hit especially hard in recent months. With so many schools and daycares closed, many of the additional childcare responsibilities have also fallen to women. Females lose skills when they leave the workforce, either because of job loss or to care for children, which results in lower pay when they return, according to NBER." -Bloomberg, August 11, 2020. "Virus Worsens the U.S. Gender Pay Gap, With Women Losing Out" by Maeve Sheehy*

*"Though research shows that men are more likely to suffer from severe COVID-19 complications, women front-line health workers face a much greater risk than men of contracting the disease, says Michelle McIsaac [economist & health workforce specialist at World Health Organization].*

*'We've heard that women are more liable to be affected by shortages of personal protective equipment, or lack of training in how to use PPE,' McIsaac says. And what's worse, much of the available PPE, including full-body gear, is designed by men and is often not adaptable to women's bodies, nor does it take into account their menstrual needs." -National Geographic, July 24, 2020. "Women are on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19" by Rachel Jones.*

### Two thirds of US essential workers are women.

"One in three jobs held by women has been designated as essential, according to a New York Times analysis of census data crossed with the federal government's essential worker guidelines. Nonwhite women are more likely to be doing essential jobs than anyone else." (New York Times, April 18, 2020)

Today about 77% of public school teachers are female. Nationwide over 91% of nurses are women. And, according to CEPR (Center for Economic and Policy Research), among the current frontline workers who are women: 47.6% work in grocery, convenience and drug stores; 38% are public transit workers; warehouse and storage workers, 31.4%; fast food and counter workers, 67%; school bus drivers, 48.3%; janitors and building cleaners, 53.2%; of maids a whopping 90.1% are female; child and social services, 85.2%; and in the postal service 43% are female. They're putting themselves on the line, while caring for their children, elders, and holding the household together.

And due to the coronavirus, the unemployment rate for women in May 2020 was 14.3% (as compared to men at 11.9%). Real numbers: as of July 2020 over 30 million

Americans were claiming unemployment benefits. The big reason women have lost more jobs than men is because more of them work in the industries hit the worst, the leisure and hospitality sector and educational services.

COVID-19 has ravaged our country, turning lives upside down and casting doubt on the future of women's livelihoods, well-being, and pay equity. How can NYS Women, Inc. make a difference, going forward?

### We can do what we do best, and build powerful women personally, professionally and politically.

Now, more than ever, women need the strength of our NYS Women, Inc. connections, resources, ingenuity, and our outreach to communities in New York State.

Do you know of a woman needing help escaping from domestic abuse? Your chapter can connect her to your local shelter. Do you know of a student without the computer so required now by schools for remote learning? Your chapter can raise money through crowdfunding or make calls to local companies for corporate donations. Do you know of an elderly woman without family isolated in a nursing home? Your chapter can coordinate a letter writing campaign within your community to let her know she's not alone. Do you know of nurses or other health care workers who need masks? Your chapter can source sewers from within your own members or friends and family with sewing machines. Or even set up a drop off for fabric donations.

Do you know of a food bank or homeless shelter that's running low? Your chapter can set up a canned food drive and drop off donations. It's an election year, so creating a get out the vote campaign, or working in conjunction with the League of Women Voters to help women register to vote, would be an ideal project for your chapter.

Right now, more than ever, it's important for women to keep the jobs they have or find new employment. For those professional women, it's imperative not fall behind in their careers. Can your chapter give webinars for young women on leadership skills, communication, negotiating for a raise, or how to start a business? Creating coalitions with local colleges to help train women with new job skills could make a huge difference in their futures. And how many of our chapters give out scholarships? Now is the time to create more offerings, so our young women will see an expansive employment future, not a contracting of opportunities.

NYS Women, Inc builds powerful women personally, professionally and politically. In these "COVID times" we should – and can – be a shining example of what women can achieve. This is our mission. We make a difference. We are the future for all women. 🍷



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the Finger Lakes  
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