

2017



eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

Mohawk Valley

1000 Cornelia Street

Utica, NY 13502

315-732-2159

[WWW.YWCAMV.ORG](http://WWW.YWCAMV.ORG)

**29<sup>th</sup>** Annual  
**SALUTE TO  
OUTSTANDING**  
*Women*  
2017 LUNCHEON



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# WELCOME

Welcome to the 29th annual “Salute to Outstanding Women” luncheon.

YWCA Mohawk Valley has been an integral part of the community for more than 130 years. Through our transformative programs, we have enriched and empowered thousands of women, children, and all people living within our community. Over the years, we have learned that we are not alone in our efforts. Today we honor eight phenomenal women who serve as remarkable examples to others in their endeavor to make our community a better place to live.

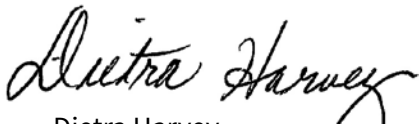
Our eight honorees were nominated and selected due to their commitment, inspiration, dedication, and determination. As educators, business leaders, volunteers, human service, public, and health care providers, these individuals are tireless in their efforts to serve others and excel at what they do. They exhibit unwavering devotion to their lifepaths, be it their career or volunteer efforts.

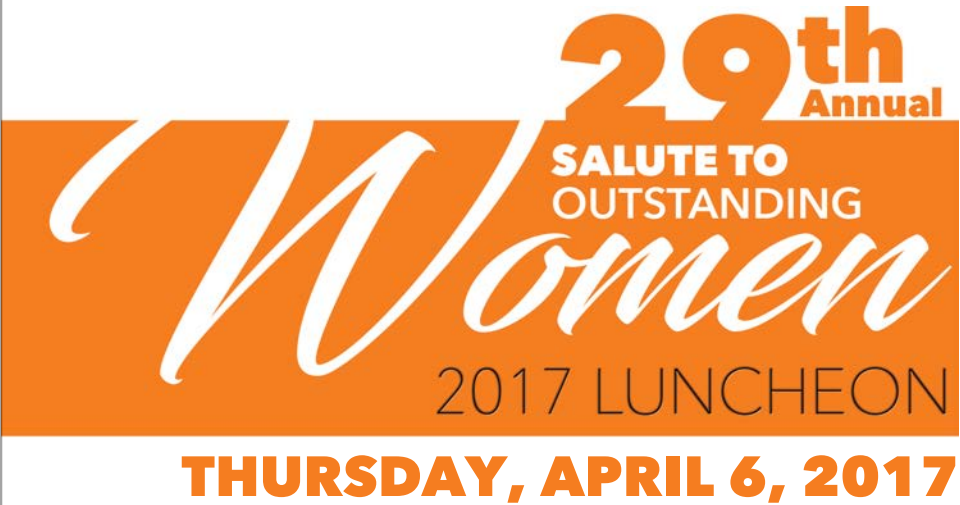
Thank you for being a part of this Salute, and for supporting YWCA Mohawk Valley. By joining with us today to honor these eight women, you commit yourself to the mission that embodies our organization. You join with us as we vow to continue to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen our community by providing peace, justice, and dignity for all.

For this, we thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Dianne Stancato  
YWCA Mohawk Valley  
Executive Director | CEO

  
Dietra Harvey  
YWCA Mohawk Valley  
Board President



<b>WELCOME</b> .....	SUSAN NACKLEY MOJAVE, Salute Academy, 1997
<b>SALUTE TO THE MISSION</b> .....	DIANNE STANCATO Executive Director / CEO, YWCA Mohawk Valley
<b>SALUTE TO CORPORATE SPONSORS</b> .....	DIETRA HARVEY Board President, YWCA Mohawk Valley
<b>SALUTE TO OUTSTANDING WOMEN</b> .....	DIANNE STANCATO
<b>ACCEPTANCE REMARKS</b> .....	2017 HONOREES
<b>CLOSING</b> .....	SUSAN NACKLEY MOJAVE

**SALUTE TO OUTSTANDING  
WOMEN COMMITTEE:**

LINDSEY COSTELLO  
C. SONIA MARTINEZ  
PAMELA MATT, ESQ.  
SUSAN MOJAVE  
JENNIFER OSIECKI, ESQ.  
ABBY PULEO  
MARIANNE REYNOLDS  
MAROLYN WILSON  
ALANE VARGA

**SALUTE JUDGES:**

DEBORAH CABRAL  
BRENDA EPISCOPO  
DARLENE MACK-BROWN  
FLOSSIE MITCHELL  
BEVERLY QUIST  
ELIZABETH ROSSI  
KAY SINCLAIR

**JUDGING OVERSEEN BY:**

GAIL UEBELHOER, ESQ., SALUTE ACADEMY, 1990

1989

Mary Lucia Cosgrove  
Joanne Gerace  
Jacqueline Herber  
Gale McGuane  
Dorothy Park  
Lois Portman  
Barbara Kress Roberts  
Michele E. Stofle  
Priscilla Storm  
Anita Vitullo  
Shirley Waters

1990

Benita Denemark  
Norma Eilenberg\*  
Diane L. Giorgi  
Barbara Hisel  
Barbara Brooks Jarvis  
Bette London Mammone  
Gail Nackley Uebelhoer  
Barbara Wiederker  
Linda Yost  
Maria Stewart Zalocha

1991

Karen Christensen\*  
RoAnn Destito  
Sandra Heugel  
Terry Ibbotson  
Audrey Johnson  
Joan Kay  
Faye Lenarcic  
Beverly Margolis \*  
Sister Rose Vincent\*

1992

Lucille Argenzia  
Jeanne Galvin  
Barbara Jordan  
Nancy McElwain  
Ellen Pawlikowski  
Maria Rich  
Mary Ann Rosen\*  
Marie Russo  
Vicki Sheardown  
Lamya Shaheen-Stowens  
Shirley Williams

1993

Dr. Susan Blatt  
Maryanne DiMeo-Brindisi  
Suzanne Lavin\*  
Dr. Marie Sauro  
Cynthia S’Doia  
Kathy Contino-Turner  
Rose White\*  
Marolyn Wilson  
Julie Wyzywanty

1994

Juanita Holmes Bass  
Stacey J. Cotton  
Annette M. Dimon  
Julia A. McGrath  
Patricia Roswig\*  
Angela Van Derhoof  
Daisy C. Williams \*

1995

Debra Altdoerffer  
Mattie Brown \*  
Dr. Maneck J. Kotwal  
Dr. Patricia K. Laino  
Helen Rico  
Carol Trunfio  
Treva Wood\*

1996

Ann Penberthy Allen  
Mary Kay Junglen  
Nancy Kobryn \*  
Dr. Margaret A. Kowalski  
Jacquedda Morreale  
Kristina Lynn Rico  
Rev. Carol Simpson  
Angela Rivers Smith  
Marie A. Testa

1997

Mary E. Breslow  
Jane Domingue  
Susan B. Doolittle  
Dr. Brigitte Garrison  
Jennifer Ann Gerlach  
Doris Wightman Latimer  
Susan Nackley Mojave  
Cathy M. Newell  
Kristy Spetz  
Eleanor Walsh Wertimer\*

1998

Patricia Shaffer Bobrow  
Suzanne Brodt  
Mary Q. Chapin  
Dr. Antonette Cleveland  
Maryann Gill Coyne \*  
Kathleen Eisenhut  
Lynne Mishalanie  
Bernadette T. Romano

1999

Darlene A. Burns  
Andria DeLisle-Heath  
Dr. Shelley Haley  
Karen Huxtable  
Georgiana Roberts Ide  
Margaret Moylan  
Nancy Stormer

Anita Vitullo  
Woman of the Decade

2000

Gale Barone  
Laura Casamento  
Betsi Dugan  
Laurie Lisi  
Margaret Peterson  
Linda Rae  
Jamie Sitera

2001

Colleen Cianfrocco  
Jo Ann Golden  
Alice Knutty\*  
Rev. Patricia Lawrence  
Mary Malone McCarthy  
Nancy Ann Shaheen, M.D.  
Sister Rose Benedict Troy  
Patricia Washburn

2002

Linda Allen  
Enessa Carbone  
Dr. Camille Dillard  
Janet Evelyn-Dorsey  
Nancy Dubner  
Judy Gorman  
Marilyn John \*  
Norine Norton

2003

Margaret Beck  
Mary Bowdish  
Aniela (Gay) Carl  
Erin Gall  
Dr. Lauren Giustra  
Barbara Rhodes  
Rev. Maria Scates  
Judith Sweet

2004

Kathleen Dyman  
Susan Eilenberg  
Abbie Goldbas  
Bernice Henderson  
Robin Ullman-O’Brien  
Judith Owens-Manley  
Sitta Schafer  
Mickey Smith

2005

Vivyan Adair  
Sylvia Armstrong  
Lisa M. Betrus  
Susan Conn  
Jeanne Donalty  
Kay Lanaux  
Nancy Pattarini  
Margaret Roberts

2006

Rev. Inell R. Claypool  
Cynthia C. Hummel  
Cassandra Harris-Lockwood  
Michelle Truett  
Joan T. Shkane, Esq.  
Joan Hinde Stewart  
Rita Terrazas  
Donna Vitagliano

2007

Beth Brewer  
Janine M. Carzo  
Lisa A. Davis\*  
Janice A. Forte  
Karen Stanislaus-Fung  
Janet M. MacCallum\*  
Rev. Ursula Meier  
Alane Varga

2008

Phyllis Breland  
Alicia Brockway  
Cornelia E. Brown  
Dr. Heather M. B. Dussault  
C. Sonia Martinez  
Dr. Marybeth McCall  
Eileen M. Pronobis  
Ruth Ridgway

2009

Linda M. H. Dillon  
Cira M. Foster  
Marianne Gaige  
Dr. Amy Gorczynski  
Lorraine Kinney-Kitchen  
Tyra K. McKinsey  
Marianne Monahan  
Jacqui Y. C. Schmidt\*

2010

Kathryn Cully  
Angeline M. Moran  
Eleanor Moran  
Lenora Murad  
Ginger Parker  
Marianne Reynolds  
Helen Sperling\*  
Eve Van de Wal

2011

Marlene Brown  
Suzy Burns  
Denise DiGiorgio  
Sonya Ezell  
Diane Martin-Grande  
Lili Piplica  
Alice Savino  
Marilyn Williams

2012

Shulamis Giordani  
Jeanette Lenoir  
Charlene Macri  
Dr. Ann Marie Murray  
Gloria Scutchins  
Azira Tabucic  
Carie Warmack  
Susan Woods

2013

Shelly Callahan  
Margaret Cardamone  
Mary Cardinale  
Angela Carter  
Anna D’Ambrosio  
Joanne Joseph  
Dawn Catera Lupi  
Linda Romano

2014

Alicia D’Ambrosio  
Polly DiCesare\*  
Evon Ervin  
Pamela Matt, Esq.  
Barbara Putman  
Kathryn Ruth Stam, Ph. D.  
Dr. Renee Scialdo Shevat  
Jenna Wratten

2015

Maryrose Eannace  
Denise Flihan  
Martha Kody  
Gabrielle Liddy  
Eileen McCann  
Elizabeth Mitchell

2016

Deborah Cabral  
Brenda Episcopo  
Darlene Mack-Brown  
Flossie Mitchell  
Beverly Quist  
Elizabeth Rossi  
Cassandra Sheets, LMSW  
Kay Sinclair

\*deceased

2017

Anita Brown

Franca Armstrong

Amy Lukacz

Alicia Dicks

Nora Bielejec Staring

Rasha Hakeem Mohamed

Mary Hayes Gordon

Joanne Donaruma-Wade

“Today we honor  
these women for  
who they are, and  
for who they  
inspire other  
people to be.”

# HERSTORY OF THE SALUTE

The Salute to Outstanding Women is a major part of YWCA Mohawk Valley's HERstory

For 29 years, YWCA Mohawk Valley has kept to the tradition of annually honoring local women for their service to the community. Each year eight women are recognized for their devoted, selfless, unwavering dedication to humanity, whether it is through their employment, volunteer efforts, or both. Each of these women were presented for consideration as a nomination from a colleague, friend, or family member, who had wonderful reasons to bring this person to our attention.

All of the nominations we received presented wonderful stories about wonderful people. However, in the end our panel of judges could only select eight names. Today we honor these women for who they are, and for who they inspire other people to be.

Twenty-nine years is a longstanding tradition, but that is what makes up the fabric of YWCA Mohawk Valley. Longstanding commitment. Tradition. Unwavering dedication to our mission. A look back over the last nearly 130 years will present a picture of how devoted YWCA members and staff have been.

And it all comes down to this: we believe in women. We believe in their power and their strength and their intelligence and compassion. We believe in the balance they bring to the professional world, and the inspiration they bring to other women.

By the mid-1800s, women began realizing and vocalizing this very notion. They were intelligent. They were creative. They were capable. These women – our great-great-great grandmothers – began collectively acknowledging the value of their worth, the value of sisterhood, and the importance of a collective, unified comradery.

“...we believe in women.  
We believe in their power  
and their strength and  
their intelligence and  
compassion. We believe in  
the balance they bring to  
the professional world,  
and the inspiration they  
bring to other women.”

With this stirring, a national organization called the Young Women's Christian Association was founded, and with it, similar groups began developing around the United States. One of these groups began gathering right here in Utica, in 1870. They called themselves The Christian Women's Association, not to be confused with the national Young Women's Christian Association. By 1884, they joined forces with the national movement and renamed themselves the Young Women's Christian Association.

The women devoted to this organization focused on improving the quality of life for local women by teaching reading, sewing, and cooking; by showing them how to find employment; and by offering social events like afternoon tea and weekly dinners. There was another group of women just as dedicated to improving the quality of life for women. They were called Suffragists, and their goal was to ensure that all women were treated equal to men, and this could only start by winning the right to vote in elections.

By the late 1800s, the local YWCA was hosting lectures and presentations to educate the public on women's suffrage. Susan B. Anthony even came to Utica to speak, but was booed off stage. Finally, in 1917, New York did it. Women won the right to vote – three years before this right was acknowledged by inclusion into the U.S. Constitution.

This year we celebrate the New York State Centennial anniversary of women winning the right to vote, we celebrate the 29th annual Salute event, and we honor and welcome these eight incredible women into the YWCA Mohawk Valley Salute Academy.



EVENT SPONSOR

PJ GREEN, INC.

Empowering women is critical in today’s society.

As a majority-women-owned business and long-time supporter of the YWCA, PJ Green hopes that all women, including our employees, value themselves and their communities.

Our business has been in Utica for over 80 years, and now with the fourth generation involved in the operations, it is essential to our Family that we continue to support our great community. The YWCA is just one of the local organizations that our employees are actively involved with, and we are proud to be the Presenting Sponsor at today’s event.

The women who are honored before us are great examples of strength, intelligence and perseverance. PJ Green salutes their personal and professional accomplishments and hopes we all leave today feeling inspired and empowered!

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is proud to support  
**YWCA's  
Salute to  
Outstanding  
Women**

and congratulations  
to all of the Honorees  
at today's event.



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## BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

AWARD SPONSOR: BANK OF UTICA

### ANITA BROWN



As Senior Marketing Communication Manager for Indium Corporation's global operations, Anita Brown is responsible for planning and executing Indium Corporation's marketing communication strategies including advertising, trade exhibition planning and management, website and social media communications, public relations, technical content publication, internal communications, and media relations. That might seem like a lot for one person, but not for Anita, who has accrued more than 30 years in the marketing field. Prior to her 13 years of service with Indium Corporation, Anita gathered 17 years of experience in banking.

As an active volunteer in the community for most of her life, Anita has served numerous local organizations including YWCA, Rotary, the SUNY Poly Foundation, House of the Good Shepard, the United Way, and Utica Public Library. She has also ridden in the Ride for Missing Children for 10 years, which led to her love of cycling.

Anita was a stay-at-home mother for many years prior to entering the workforce in her 30s. At 40, she went back to school to complete her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from SUNYIT. Her ambition and love of learning took her back to school again in her 50s to earn her MBA in Technology Management from SUNY Poly. During that time, Anita remained active mentoring young girls and women entering the business world, helping them to achieve their potential. She also created and taught a leadership development training program through MVCC.

In 2009, Anita received the Dean's Award from the SUNY IT School of Business. In 2005, she received the Women in Business Award from the Mohawk Valley Business Journal; and the Follow the Leaders Award from Leadership Mohawk. She has been honored with Rotary's Paul Harris Fellowship award three times throughout her career, and served as a Rotary Exchange Student host.

Of course, family is what is most important to Anita. She has been married to her husband, Peter, for 43 years, and together they have two children, Patricia and Robert, and four grandchildren, including Abby, Leah, Adam, and Sira, all of whom she is very proud.

"I have been extremely blessed to have a family that has supported me in all my endeavors, whether it's pitching in when I went back to school, volunteering alongside me in my many activities, welcoming in new family members, or cheering me on from the sidelines. I would not be where I am today without the support of my husband, my parents, my children, and my three brothers. I am also extremely grateful to my Indium family, especially Rick Short, for providing me with the opportunity and encouragement to be the best I can be."



# Congratulations!

**Franca Armstrong & Anita Brown**

## **Mohawk Valley Community College and SUNY Polytechnic Institute**

are proud to join together to support the YWCA and congratulate all the outstanding women honored today!

As community partners, we are grateful for your work to empower women, eliminate racism, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.



**MVCC** MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE **SUNY** POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

## **EDUCATION**

AWARD CO-SPONSORS: MVCC & SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

## **FRANCA ARMSTRONG**



As Associate Vice President of Workforce Development, and Dean of the Rome Campus at Mohawk Valley Community College, Franca Armstrong sets the priorities and objectives for MVCC's branch campus in Rome, NY, and the non-credit Workforce Development activities of the College. She has been with MVCC for 17 years in various roles.

Franca began her career as an intern at an anti-poverty organization. She quickly learned that the only way to combat poverty was through education. She found her passion there and uses that passion in all that she does.

As the proud daughter of immigrants, she was given a foundation of empathy and compassion for others. She is most proud of working at a community college that provides access to education for those who need it the most. She has used her 17 years there to increase programming and offerings in the workforce development field, and commitment to excellence in those areas.

Franca serves on numerous boards and enjoys the work of touching peoples' lives through her involvement with many organizations. In addition to serving as the current Vice Chair of the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce, Franca also serves as a board member of the New York State Association of Training and Employment Professionals; the Herkimer-Madison-Oneida Workforce Development Board; Rome College Foundation; Griffiss Local Development Corporation; Oriskany Public Library; and Oriskany Little League Association.

Franca holds a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from SUNY Albany; a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology/Anthropology from Utica College; and an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts from MVCC.

She attributes her success to being surrounded by people who have always invested in her, encouraged her, and built her confidence. From Day One, she was nurtured to believe that everything was possible and that anything she set her mind to could be achieved. She strongly believes in giving others that same confidence. Her motto is that "Strong women are the ones building each other up."

She lives in Rome with her husband, Steve, and teenage children, Steven and Arianna. She loves to travel and collect autographs.





**FEARLESS IS MAKING  
A DIFFERENCE IN THE  
LIVES OF OTHERS**



## HEALTHCARE

AWARD SPONSOR: EXCELLUS BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD

### AMY LUKACZ



With a strong belief in serving her community, Amy Lukacz provides services in several sub-specialties of psychiatry throughout Mohawk Valley, working as an educator and as a curriculum developer. In the field of psychiatry, Amy has been given the privilege to treat a diverse patient population across the life span, managing mental health and substance abuse recovery. As an educator, she teaches adult learners advanced skills and develops relationships as a preceptor and mentor for those in pursuit of advanced degrees. Finally, as a curriculum developer, she creates and presents a purposeful, progressive, and systematic process to create positive improvements in patient care.

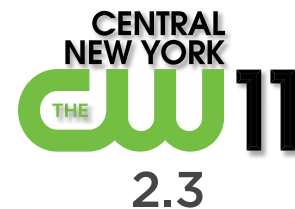
Amy received her Associate's in Applied Science from Mohawk Valley Community College, her Bachelor's degree from SUNY Institute of Technology, and both her Master's in Science as a family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and post-Master's in Education from SUNY Upstate Medical University. She has been accepted for her DNP residency at Chatham University.

Amy has received numerous nominations and awards, including a 2011 nomination for an outstanding service award in her field as a Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; in 2000, an Effort Displayed in Regard to the Discrete Substance Abuse Unit by Office of Family Services; in 1998, a Professional Commitment by Office of Family Services; also in 1998, Efficient and Effective Emergency Procedures by Office of Family Services; in 1997, Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty award for a quick response to a chemical spill, given by Oneida County Sheriff's Department; and, in 1996, a Life Saving Medal by Oneida County Sheriff's Department.

Amy's academic awards have included the President's Award from Upstate Medical University, and induction into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. Amy also volunteers at the state level as a New York State Disaster Mental Health Team Member and at the local level by providing community education.



# KEEPING OUR EYE ON UTICA



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## HUMAN AND PUBLIC SERVICE

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### ALICIA DICKS



As President and CEO of The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Alicia Dicks has guided the organization through its transition from traditional grant-maker to transformational change agent, investing more than \$5 million in Herkimer and Oneida counties each year. As head of the Foundation, Alicia leads and inspires her staff, trustees, and countless partners to create opportunity and innovative solutions to community challenges.

Prior to joining The Foundation in 2015, Alicia served as president of the Fort Schuyler Management Corporation, where she managed the development and construction of the Computer Chip Commercialization Center at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Marcy. In addition to her experience in the not-for-profit sector, she spent more than a decade at National Grid in several managerial and operational positions. She was a regional executive director, managing National Grid's business operations for Mohawk Valley and Northern New York, and served as a director of market strategy.

While earning a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from SUNY Cortland, Alicia spent two years studying abroad in England and Spain. Following her graduation, she worked as a paralegal for a Wall Street law firm before beginning a public policy career at the Albany Local Development Corporation. She also served as a senior economic developer for urban planning, development, and construction projects within Albany City government. She holds a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University at Albany.

Born in Virginia, Alicia grew up in a military family, with her father serving as a Marine Corps colonel. By the time she was 12 years old she had lived in half a dozen places, and even called Venezuela "home."

A Mohawk Valley resident since 2000, Alicia has served as a volunteer with many local organizations, including Whitestown AYSO, the Utica Comets, and as a member of several non-profit boards, including the Save of the Day Foundation, the School & Business Alliance, and Mohawk Valley EDGE. Since 2007, she has been a partner in a successful start-up business venture, contributing to the continuing rebirth of the regional economy.

Alicia lives in Whitesboro with her husband, Bob, and their two daughters, Meredith and Abi.

# OUTSTANDING!

(NOW THAT'S WHAT WE CALL PERFORMANCE)

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES  
TO THIS YEAR'S CLASS  
OF  
OUTSTANDING WOMEN.



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## PROFESSIONS

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### NORA BIELEJEC STARING



One of Martha Murphy and Joseph Michael Bielejec's 12 children, Nora believes that being raised in a large family instilled strong values, a strong work ethic, and the ability to see beyond the exterior.

"Don't judge another until you walk a mile in his shoes," was a favorite saying in the Bielejec home. This outlook in life paved the way to counter negative with positive and the desire to help others.

Nora's career began as a YWCA pre-school teacher. The curriculum designed by her sister Laura Lawrence-Campione was ahead of its day, incorporating social emotional learning. Seeing the potential of this in helping others, Nora furthered her education at Utica College of Syracuse University and SUNY Albany, in Psychology and Social Work.

Dedicated to serving the vulnerable and those most in need, Nora has worked with Herkimer County youth in recreational, school and employment settings,

supporting them in developing skills for their future. Nora has also worked with youth by serving as a religious education instructor at Holy Family Parish for 10 years. She also provided services at Herkimer County BOCES, Little Falls Community Outreach, Catholic Charities, and Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. Nora is currently at Marcy Correctional Sex Offender Treatment, and is working with people through her private practice.

Nora really enjoys connecting with others, helping them find their own answers, as they pave the way for new possibilities. Through her varied experiences, Nora has learned how to tap into the potential of others, and help them to discover this for themselves. She is highly dedicated to this approach and hopes to pass it on to others.

Describing herself as a lifelong learner, Nora spends countless hours reading and studying to discover new ways to help people. She loves art, literature, drawing, and the outdoors.

Most important to Nora are her four amazing daughters, grandchildren, siblings, and her unwavering faith and belief in humanity.

" Treat people as if they are what they ought to be, and help them become what they are capable of being."

- Johann Von Goethe





# Truly inspiring

We celebrate all honorees present and past

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

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## RASHA HAKEEM MOHAMED



Rasha Hakeem Mohamed is described as a person who “can bring light in any and all darkness,” and “a pillar in every community she has ever lived in.”

Born in Sudan, Rasha found refuge in the United States in 2012, and now lives in Utica with her husband and three children.

While living in Sudan, Rasha attended and graduated college as a student of Environmental Science and Natural Resources. After graduation, she worked as a nutritionist for the Minister of Health in Sudan. She then moved to Egypt and worked as an activist for women's education. In Cairo, Egypt she operated a community center where members could go for help. Through her self-founded organization, she taught women Arabic as well as many other practical skills, such as henna tattooing, crocheting, and basic computer skills which they could then use to enter into the economic sphere and become more self-sustaining.

Rasha has continued her social justice work here in America. For more than two years, she has been the leader of a women's group at the Midtown Utica Community Center (MUCC) that meets weekly to study English in a conversational manner. In addition to providing the opportunity to study and practice English, this group brings together refugee women from the many different communities so that they may get to know one another. Rasha coordinates the study materials and volunteers as a tutor with this women's study group.

She is currently furthering her education at Mohawk Valley Community College, and is interested in eventually becoming a nurse. She also runs weekly with the community running group, Run Mohawk Valley International, and is an active volunteer at the Midtown Utica Community Center.

One final thought provided about Rasha was offered: “She truly embodies all that is good in the world and shines as a strong woman and example to the community.”



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women who  
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## STEAM

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## MARY HAYES GORDON



Even with her life spanning the eastern USA, from Northern New York to North Carolina, Mary Hayes Gordon considers herself a true Central New Yorker. She came to Utica to attend Utica College and has happily stayed for 35 years. She describes her return to Utica College in 2007 to work in the Young Scholars Program as finding her “dream job.”

She and her husband, Dean Gordon, have raised four fantastic children whose journey through the education system sparked Mary's passion to provide educational opportunities for all students. From preschool parents and district PTA, to her position today, Mary has long been a strong advocate for parental involvement in education. She continues to work one-on-one with parents throughout the community to help them navigate the educational system.

Mary has a strong connection to her community and has served it in many ways, such as board participation in local organizations, including the Mohawk Valley

Community Action Agency, the Peacemaker Program, YWCA Mohawk Valley, the NAACP, the Zonta Club of Utica, and the Central New York Diplomatic Youth Fellowship. She currently serves on the boards of the New Hartford Historical Society, the Oneida County Freedom Trail, and as vice president for Sculpture Space.

Mary is particularly pleased with the strong support of Utica College and the local community in bringing meaningful STEAM education and experiences to the region's youth. She sees STEAM as the opportunity for global participation for all youth; and as a way for people to rise to their potential and contribute to humanity based solely on their capabilities. The STEAM fields welcome innovation and encourages students to think big, which is exactly what Mary wants her students to do! Her work in this area reflects a strong belief in the transformational power of education.

Mary holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism, and a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies, and is delighted to bring her liberal education to the advancement of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.



# LITE 98.7 SALUTES THIS YEAR'S OUTSTANDING WOMEN



## UNSUNG HEROINE

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## JOANNE DONARUMA-WADE



For more than 37 years, Joanne Donaruma-Wade has been a leader in the field of Human Services. Following her graduation from Utica College in 1976, Joanne began her professional career at The Arc Oneida-Lewis Chapter, retiring in 2014. She left a legacy of innovative, community-based programs and services for individuals with disabilities, particularly young adults.

She received numerous awards for her accomplishments throughout her career, the most recent including the Council on Exceptional Children's Excellence in Leadership Award for 2014, and the New York State Senate's 2015 Women of Distinction.

Joanne is known for fostering self-esteem in young women. She taught modeling and etiquette to hundreds of girls. She volunteered her talents to make a positive impact on teenagers through her work with the Good Old Summertime Festival Board of Directors and the Miss Greater Utica Pageant for more than 25 years.

Joanne is one of 10 children born to Ed and Rosemary Trevisani, and is proud of her heritage and family values. She resides in New Hartford with her husband John Wade, owner of Delmonico's Italian Steakhouse. She has two children: Michael and Alexa Rose.

Since her retirement, Joanne remains committed to her community and is active on numerous boards and volunteer committees. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Kelberman Center, Charles Sitrin Health Center's Foundation Board, MVCC Foundation Board, Corporate Chair of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Annual Campaign for 2016, and the Logistics Chair of the Go Red Luncheon for 2017.

She also serves on various event committees, including Mohawk Valley Health Services; United Way; Women's Fund; and is a member of Utica Rotary. She also consults with Upstate Cerebral Palsy, sharing her knowledge of vocational rehabilitation to continue to create integrated options for people with developmental disabilities. Joanne recently "Danced the Night Away" for The Good News Foundation's annual fundraiser.

HERE'S *to*  
**STRONG  
WOMEN**

*May we*  
**KNOW THEM.**

*May we*  
**BE THEM.**

*May we*  
**RAISE THEM.**

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**Just a few of the qualities that describe what it takes to be outstanding and make a positive impact.**

The Community Foundation congratulates our President/CEO Alicia Dicks for her outstanding leadership in the community and all of the 2017 award recipients!



**The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties**  
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As community partners, we are grateful for your work to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

# Congratulations!

We are proud to support the YWCA and congratulate all the outstanding women honored today!

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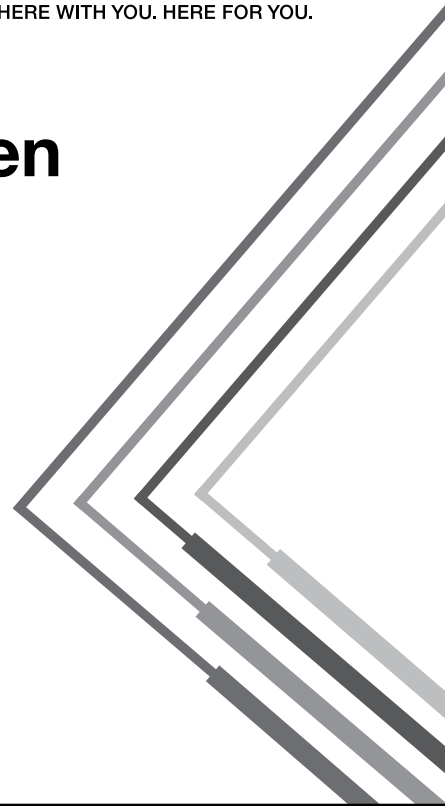


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**We Salute  
*You.***



Anita Brown  
Franca Armstrong '94  
Amy Lukacz  
Alicia Dicks

Nora Bielejec Staring '02  
Rasha Hakeem Mohamed  
Mary Hayes Gordon '82  
Joanne Donaruma-Wade '76

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**Joanne Donaruma-Wade**

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CAMILLE TAURONEY KAHLER\*  
MERRITT S. LOCKE  
MICHAEL D. CALLAN  
REBECCA G. KELLEHER\*\*

\*also admitted in Florida

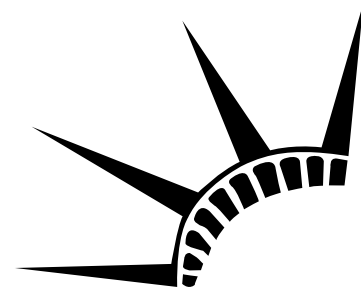
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Congratulations to this year's  
**Salute to Outstanding  
Women Honorees**

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commitment to  
our community is  
an inspiration to us all.

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### CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

Franca Armstrong  
Anita Brown  
Alicia Dicks  
Joanne Donaruma-Wade  
Mary Hayes Gordon  
Amy Lukacz  
Rasha Hakeem Mohamed  
Nora Bielejec Staring

- Natalie Brown

### Congratulations to recipients of the YWCA Mohawk Valley's 2017 Salute to Outstanding Women Awards:

Anita Brown  
Business and Industry

Franca Armstrong  
Education

Amy Lukacz  
Healthcare

Alicia Dicks  
Human and Public Service

Nora Bielejec Staring  
Professions

Rasha Hakeem Mohamed  
Social Justice

Mary Hayes Gordon  
STEAM (Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Arts, Math)

Joanne Donaruma-Wade  
Unsung Heroine

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Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency is proud to support the YWCA  
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Amy Turner, CCAP Executive Director [www.mvcaa.com](http://www.mvcaa.com) 315-624-9930

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eliminating racism  
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Mohawk Valley

Helping People, Changing Lives, Ending Poverty

**Congratulations**  
**to all the members**  
**of**  
**the Salute Academy!**

- Jim Hill



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## WOMEN OF COLOR LEADING CHANGE

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**ORGANIZATION:** YWCA Mohawk Valley

**LOCATION:** The DeSales Center, 309 Genesee St., Utica

'Celebrating Local Women of Color Leaders'

**DATE:** Friday, April 28, 2017

**TIME:** 4-6 p.m.

**CONTACT:** Laura Howard | lhoward@ywcamv.org

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

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*YWCA Mug Club*



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*DeClutter Coach*



*CAC Storytime With Santa*



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*Community Reach Out*



# ABOUT YWCA MOHAWK VALLEY

YWCA MOHAWK VALLEY provides life altering services and programs to women, children, and men living throughout Herkimer and Oneida counties, and even at times, beyond. These programs provide domestic and sexual violence crisis services including advocacy, counseling, shelter, and free 24/7 hotline access. We provide education, life-skill building, extensive support services, and a vast network of referrals to help people find the path they need to healing.

Programs and Services include:

**Community Education**

Providing violence prevention education in Oneida and Herkimer county schools, colleges, and businesses. In addition to domestic and sexual violence education, topics include dating violence, gender and sexual identity bias, and bullying.

**Domestic and Sexual Violence Crisis Services**

24-hour confidential hotline, information and referrals, case management, crisis counseling, support groups, residential services, and victim advocacy through legal and medical procedures. Our advocates are in the city courts and police departments of Rome and Utica, and throughout the rural areas, as well as in the Child Advocacy Center in Oneida County.

**Residential Services**

YWCA Mohawk Valley provides residential services to victims of domestic and sexual violence via our emergency domestic violence shelters, Hall House in Utica, and Lucy’s House in Rome; and our transitional housing programs New Horizons Plus, and Willow Commons – the only program of its kind in a six-county region.

**Sexual Violence Services and Child Advocacy Center of Herkimer County**

Crisis Services are provided to adult and child victims and secondary victims of sexual violence. Services include individual and group counseling, a 24-hour confidential hotline, and victim advocacy throughout all legal and medical procedures. Additionally, our child advocacy center is connected to a multi-disciplinary team to ensure the uniform handling of child abuse cases.

April Is Sexual Violence  
Awareness Month  
and Child Abuse  
Prevention Month.

## April Awareness Events

**April 3**

Going Blue in Herkimer County

**April 13**

Go Blue 4 Kids to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**All Month**

Pinwheel for Prevention Campaign. To obtain a pinwheel from the CAC, visit ywcamv.org or call 315.866.4120

**April 24–30**

Stand Against Racism Week

**April 27**

Celebrate Women of Color at Herkimer College, 12 to 2 p.m.

**April 27**

Open mic night at the Tram in Utica

**April 28**

Students Rise Against Racism through a Literary Lens, 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Herkimer College

**April 28**

Panel Discussion: Celebrating Local Women of Color Leaders, 4 to 6 p.m. DeSales Center, Utica



# YWCA MOHAWK VALLEY IS DEDICATED TO ELIMINATING RACISM, EMPOWERING WOMEN AND PROMOTING PEACE, JUSTICE, DIGNITY AND FREEDOM FOR ALL.

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