

# MEETING OF THE MINDS: WOMEN ADVOCATES FOR AMHERST



**SUE MILLER YOUNG**

**Advocate for Preserving History**  
*Town of Amherst Historian*

**Sue Miller Young** was appointed the Town of Amherst Historian in 1953. She published extensive materials on the Town's history for fourteen years, until her death in 1967.

Her work included the first book on the Town of Amherst, published in 1965, and a comprehensive newspaper column which ran in the Amherst Bee from 1954 to 1962.

In 1958, she was recognized by Buffalo State Teachers College for two decades of excellence in teaching, writing, and research. In 1964, the Amherst Business and Professional Women's Club awarded her the Very Important Member award for her integral work in recording the history of the Town of Amherst.



**LUCILE KINNE**

**Advocate for Seniors**  
*Founder of the  
Town of Amherst Senior Center*

**Lucile Kinne** was pivotal in the development of the local, state, and national senior center movements. In 1962, she founded the Town of Amherst Senior Center.

For more than two decades, Lucile dedicated herself to advocating for innovative senior center program offerings that would improve the quality and enjoyment of life of seniors. She lobbied to ensure help for seniors in obtaining medical care and services, legal services, financial assistance, nursing home placement, subsidized housing, improved and expanded community-wide accessibility, and more.

She received local, state, and national recognition for her service.



**BEA MASSMAN**

**Advocate for Sport & Education**  
*Badminton Champion  
& Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame Inductee*

**Bea Massman** was an influential teacher and racquet sports coach throughout the Amherst and Buffalo areas. She instilled good sportsmanship, a humble attitude, and a love for athleticism in many local students of all ages.

Bea was instrumental in the establishment of the Town of Amherst tennis program. She served on the Buffalo Board of Education for 35 years, and coached at Amherst High School and St. Mary's School for the Deaf.

Together with her doubles partner, Ethel Marshall, she won 500 local and national titles. She was inducted into the National Badminton Hall of Fame and the Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.



**ETHEL MARSHALL**

**Advocate for Sport & Education**  
*Badminton Champion  
& Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame Inductee*

**Ethel Marshall** was a significant teacher and badminton coach throughout North America, including the Amherst and Buffalo areas. She instilled good humor and the importance of remaining active in many local students of all ages.

Ethel served as badminton coach at the Town of Amherst Recreation Department for five decades, and was instrumental in garnering national attention for Amherst through her accomplishment in the sport of badminton.

Together with her doubles partner, Bea Massman, she won 500 local and national titles. She was inducted into the National Badminton Hall of Fame and the Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.

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**DOLORES ATTEA SAPIENZA**  
**Advocate for Community, Youth  
& Education**  
*Civic Leader  
& Amherst Museum Founder*

**Dolores Attea Sapienza** was a devoted advocate for and volunteer in the Amherst community for more than 50 years.

Dolores started the local Brownies program in WNY, created integral Town of Amherst youth programs, founded the Amherst Youth Board, served as president of the Williamsville South PTA, and much more. Dolores was passionately involved in Daemen Alumni affairs and was a founding member of the Amherst Museum (now BNHV), also serving as Trustee Emeritus. She advocated for and contributed to many local charitable societies and served as Events Chair for countless community events. Dolores received numerous distinguished service awards for her tireless dedication to youth, education, and the local community.



**JOAN FISHBURN**  
**Advocate for Music & Education**  
*Amherst Symphony Orchestra*

**Joan Fishburn** joined the Amherst Symphony Orchestra in 1959. While a violinist in the Orchestra, Joan has also served as President of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra's Women's Committee and the Amherst Symphony Orchestra Association's Board.

Joan has been instrumental in creating and expanding music education programs for local children, which encourage youth to find passion in music. She has also secured music access for seniors throughout local retirement homes by working to provide transportation to Amherst Symphony Orchestra concerts.

For more than six decades, Joan has dedicated herself to music, music education, and access to free community music services for all.



**KAREN ECKERT**  
**Advocate for Airline Safety**  
*Activist & BNHV Advisory Council*

**Karen Eckert** is a passionate activist for airline safety. In 2009, Karen lost her sister Beverly when Flight 3407 crashed in Clarence, NY. Following her sister's death, Karen has tirelessly fought to strengthen FAA regulations, improve airline safety, and protect air travelers throughout the nation.

In 2010, Karen was successful in her efforts and the Airline Safety Act was signed into law, which included the new requirement that commercial pilots have at least 1,500 hours of in-flight experience before hiring. In June of 2021, Karen and fellow airline safety advocates also achieved the passing of a Pilot Records Database.



**SUSAN GRELICK**  
**Advocate for Amherst**  
*First Woman Town Supervisor of Amherst,  
Counsel at New York State Senate,  
BNHV Trustee Emeritus*

**Susan Grelick** was the first woman elected Town of Amherst Supervisor. As Supervisor, Susan created and expanded a myriad of community services that enriched the lives of Amherst residents of all ages. Susan facilitated the creation of ten local parks, a new recreation center, a new senior center, the dedication of Amherst Memorial Hill Grove in honor of the victims and heroes of 9/11, and much more.

For three decades, Susan has been a tireless advocate for the Amherst community. Committed to public service, Susan has served on many boards and committees supporting arts and culturals, business, education, recreation, women, and youth. Susan is currently Counsel and Legislative Director to the NYS Senate Majority Leader.