# VORKING 2014





#### GENEVA AIKEN Bus Operator Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 NYC

## Embrace and Smile.

Geneva Aiken is a Bus Operator who works out of the Michael J. Quill Depot at 39th Street and 11th Avenue. She drives the 34th Street Select Bus Service in Manhattan. She's been working for New York City Transit since November of 2011. Before that, she was also a union member, an administrator with the New York City Department of Education at the Ronald Edmonds Learning Center, a junior high school on Adelphi Street in Brooklyn. "I love to drive my bus," Geneva says. "I'm a people person and I love working with people from all walks of life." At TWU Local 100, she's part of the Next Generation Initiative, which has the goal of organizing more young union members to create better relationships with management and with one another. Geneva is also mentoring a nephew who is currently a high school junior and who is interested in pursuing a career in engineering.



THERESA D. GREEN Station Agent Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 NYC

#### Alone we are nothing, together we're everything. It's the whole philosophy of labor. – Leon Davis

Theresa D. Green, a Station Agent, works a busy token booth at 34th Street on the A, C, and E lines in mid-Manhattan. She has 24 years with New York City Transit. Theresa became a union activist four years ago, when she was inspired by the newly elected leadership of the Stations Department to become a Shop Steward. She began attending union events starting with a march against "stop and frisk," in 2011, and then joined the Union's Women's Committee. Theresa moved up to take a course at Cornell University's labor studies program in Ithaca, New York. Theresa has been a leader at TWU Local 100 in the effort to encourage union members to pay back dues owed to Local 100 dating from the 2005 transit strike.



**CONNIE BATTS** NYS Public Employees Federation (PEF) Regional Coordinator Region 12

We need to bind together, especially in times like these, when the unionized workforce is under siege, in order to smooth the path for the women in the workforce who will carry the torch.

Connie Batts is a local union leader on Long Island for the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), made up of 55,000 members in a variety of mostly state government jobs, including scientific and technical employees and other professions.

As regional coordinator, Connie represents the more than 4,000 members of PEF who work in the Long Island region, leading them on issues important to her including job security, working conditions, and benefits. Connie has previously been a union activist, Assistant Council Leader, Steward, Member Mobilizer and PEF convention delegate. She began her career in state service more than 39 years ago and has received a series of commendations including a proclamation from the New York State Assembly for her work at the State Office of Mental Health. She began working at the Pilgrim State Psychiatric Center in food services and later advanced to Mental Hygiene Therapy Aide and Rehabilitation Assistant. She presently serves as an Underwriter 1 at the New York State Insurance Fund.

A lifelong resident of Long Island, Connie was born in Westhampton Beach, and lived in Bay Shore and Bellport before settling where she currently resides in Holbrook.



#### MICHELE ELIZABETH BUSHEY

Teacher Saranac Teachers' Association New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) American Federation of Teachers (AFT) National Education Association (NEA) Northeast Central Labor Council

## Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel. – Socrates

Michele Elizabeth Bushey, M.S. graduate of Plattsburgh State University, has had a love of learning and desire to be an educator since she was a little girl. Now, after 21 years as a public high school living environment teacher at Saranac Central School in Northern New York, that love of learning has not waned. Michele, raised in Redford, New York, was given the opportunity to teach at Saranac Central School, her alma mater from which she graduated as class valedictorian in 1985. For Michele, teaching at Saranac has been more rewarding than words can say and has given her the experience of personally connecting with thousands of students.

Michele is active in NYSUT. She serves as a NYSUT Regional Coordinator for Upstate New York; an Executive Committee Member and Grievance Chair for Saranac Teachers' Association; an Executive Member of UNITY Caucus; Northeast Regional Council of Teachers' Association Member; and Trustee Member of the Northeast Central Labor Council. Her union involvement has allowed Michele to help affect the direction of education and has been a great complement to her passion for teaching.

Michele lives in Morrisonville with Patrick and daughter Julia. She enjoys riding their quarter horses, running, biking and camping.



#### LINDA H. DONAHUE

Labor Educator, Senior Extension Associate with the Worker Institute Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations

## The best way to organize is to educate.

Linda Donahue has worked as a labor educator in Rochester for many years. As a Senior Extension Associate with the Worker Institute at Cornell's Industrial and Labor Relations School, Linda administers the On-Line Labor Studies Program, offers training sessions and webinars, and conducts research on labor-related topics. The daughter of a union Ironworker, Linda embraced at an early age the values of the labor movement. She had the good fortune to work alonaside a number of remarkable women at Cornell ILR, including Alice B. Grant, Jean T. McKelvey, Michele Kaplan, and Mona Miller – all of whom taught her much about labor relations, labor history, and union principles. Linda also had the privilege of working for Congresswoman Louise Slaughter for several years, where she learned to appreciate anew the challenges of public office and the meaning of public service. "I have worked with activist women throughout my life," says Donahue, "and their commitment and energy sustains me more than they can possibly know. Rochester has always been home to incredible women, women who Susan B. Anthony would have wished to have among her friends. I feel honored to be a part of the Rochester labor movement and our community's network of activist women."





**DENISE DOWELL** Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) Director Early Learning and Care Programs

Every day, I draw strength from the fortitude, resourcefulness, compassion and determination of our family child care providers as they nurture children, fight for economic justice and build our union.

Denise Dowell, Ph.D. has worked in early childhood education for over 20 years. She has loved working with children and finds it very rewarding to nurture children to grow strong in body and character. Her work has covered every aspect of early childhood education, including family child care provider, classroom teacher, center director, educator, and advocate.

In college, Denise studied community organizing and took a job as a community organizer in North East Philadelphia. She merged what she knew about organizing to build the Delaware Valley Worthy Wage Coalition in 1997 and then co-founded the United Child Care Union as well as the Philadelphia Area Jobs with Justice Coalition. She served as coordinator of Child Care Providers Together, a project of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). She provided support and technical assistance to AFSCME affiliates and served as national liaison to early childhood professional organizations and advocates. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Research from Bryn Mawr. Her research, organizing, and policy work has focused on improving the quality of work and care in early childhood education.

Denise currently directs CSEA's Early Learning and Care Program, representing over 20,000 regulated and legally exempt homebased child care providers outside NYC. Denise misses working directly with children but knows that the work she does every day supports providers and parents in the work they do nurturing our youngest children.



#### **SABRINA HAYNIE-YOUNG**

Administrative Coordinator Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local #212 Recording Secretary

#### Working together collectively is always a work in progress and concludes with the power of success.

Sabrina Haynie-Young grew up in a strong union family. Her father worked at Bethlehem Steel for 40 years and her mother spent 39 years at National Fuel Gas. Sabrina said it was part of her destiny to become a union worker.

Sabrina has been a member of the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) for over 25 years which represents health care workers and their concerns. Starting as a steward, Sabrina worked her way to Grievance Committee, and then the Executive Board, where she is now an officer and recording secretary; additionally she has been on the negotiation team throughout her union work.

Sabrina is currently an Administrative Coordinator at a unionized health insurance company in Western New York. While working, Sabrina graduated with her MBA from D'Youville College, using flexible hours and other benefits (tuition reimbursement, paid time off, and more) which were available through her union membership to successfully finish her educational journey.

Sabrina is currently an instructor at Bryant and Stratton College. She loves to travel with her spouse, and spend time with her children and grandchildren. Networking and helping others is a joy! Working together collectively as union brothers and sisters can make a difference.



**KATHY LUZ HERRERA** Electrician International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 241

#### There's something amazing about my work as an electrician. Something is broken and you fix it or you install it.

Kathy Herrera's father taught her about the dignity of all work - he sold newspapers, dug ditches, and was a shoeshine boy. "He taught us that if you're bored, you're not paying attention. There's always so much going on that you want to be part of and so many ways to interact with people to help." Kathy was born in Houston, Texas to Mexican-American parents, both from large families. Her parents' families did migrant farm work at certain times of the year and her parents were hard-working activists in the Civil Rights movement. Her father ran for legislative office five times. Though he never won, he showed that Mexican-Americans could make worthwhile contributions in public office, and he continued to work in the GI forum helping others. Her parents instilled in their family the virtues of helping others, which has led to five of their children becoming activists today. Kathy started at the Communication Workers of America (CWA) as a Stockman/ Installer/Repairman for SW Bell where she formed lifelong friendships with her coworkers who appreciated her natural curiosity and strong work ethic. She moved on after securing an apprenticeship at IBEW Local 241 at Cornell and has found a wonderful life there. "It's been a good living, and good work."



#### JANELLA T. HINDS

Vice-President United Federation of Teachers (UFT) Local 2 Secretary-Treasurer, New York City Central Labor Council AFL-CIO

#### Now is the time for each of us to reach out to one another and realize our infinite power in collective action.

Janella Hinds is the Vice President for Academic High Schools at the UFT and a serious union activist. In addition her role at UFT, she is responsible for the financial and fiduciary oversight of the NYC Central Labor Council, a non-profit labor membership umbrella organization representing 1.3 million workers in 400 public and private sector local unions. A Social Studies teacher, Janella worked for eight years as a dean, student council advisor, and conflict resolution specialist at G. W. Wingate and South Shore High Schools and The School for International Studies. During the seven years Janella served as a UFT Special Representative, she concentrated her advocacy on support for closing and strugaling schools and making the UFT's voice heard in new school staffing and teacher evaluations. Janella has championed equity for students and a more meaninaful voice for educators across a broad spectrum of circumstances. She has convened task forces to address divergent issues head-on at both highly coveted specialized high schools and at schools serving at-risk students. She is a delegate to the annual conventions of the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers and its state affiliate. New York State United Teachers (NYSUT). She is a member of the American Federation of Teachers' Black and Latino Caucuses, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) among other organizations. Janella also serves on the executive board of the New York State AFL-CIO/ Cornell University Union Leadership Institute.





#### **REBECCA HOLMAN**

International Union of Operating Engineers IUOE Local #17 Buffalo NY Operator's Apprentice

#### Be open to improving yourself and learning new things to ensure that you enjoy your work ...and your life.

Rebecca Holman grew up hearing only negative impressions of unions, but she followed her gut instinct and applied to the International Union of Operating Engineers Apprentice Training program for Local 17 in Buffalo NY. "My acceptance letter came and it was a true leap of faith in my intuition that I took the first step toward union membership." Rebecca graduated from Operator's Apprenticeship in 2012 and hasn't regretted her decision, even through the slow seasons. It is her job to operate and help maintain the machines that she's assigned to run. These change job to job, and in her young career Rebecca has run everything from rollers and forklifts to excavators and cranes, the latter of which remains her favorite. Not all Operators run heavy equipment. Stationary Engineers are responsible for maintaining the steam boilers (for hot water and heat) in many municipal buildings, schools, hospitals, etc. Shop Engineers do much of the basic and specialized maintenance on the equipment that is continually working out on the job sites in their areas.

"There are few women in the building trades, but I'm thankful to those who have been in the business for the last thirty plus years for proving that we can hold our own, and are worthwhile co-workers. As shown in the picture, my first job this year was running a roller for TetraTech, Inc. with an occasional jump to a dozer or excavator. I ended that job on a crane and managed to be sent to another job right away which doesn't always happen." She is currently planning her wedding to fiancé Mike, who is a Laborer with Local #435 in Rochester, NY.



#### FREDDI (FREDERICKA) MACEK

Rochester Central Labor Council AFL-CIO Rochester Teachers' Association Local 616/ NYSUT

No one said it better than Mother Jones, "mourn for the dead and fight like hell for the living." Working with the unions on workers'rights/human rights is my way of "fighting."

Freddi Macek is the kind of person that everyone needs to help achieve their goals! Dedicated, advocate and leader best describe Freddi's work ethic. An elementary school teacher for 33 years in the Rochester City School district, Freddi is a lifetime activist whose union education started early with her father, a union welder, plumber, and pipefitter. For years, Freddi worked with the Rochester Teachers Association (RTA) and the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) holding both elected and appointed positions including that of Vice-President of the RTA. After retirement she continued her union work as labor liaison for NYSUT Retiree Council 5. This opened the door to Freddi being hired as a part-time Rochester Central Labor Council AFL/CIO Retiree Committee Chair Coordinator, a position she has held for 12 years. Freddi also reestablished the Rochester Labor Council Retiree Group to keep people informed on both retiree and labor issues. Freddi recently represented the Rochester Labor Council on the Investment Cabinet of the United Way (UW) and is now a member of the UW Women's Leadership Council and the Labor Leadership Group. She holds elected positions in RTA and NYSUT retiree groups and is a member of Beta Eta of Delta Kappa Gamma.



**ENESA SABANAGIC** AFL-CIO Community Services Labor Liaison Central New York Labor Council

#### It wasn't easy getting here, but the lessons I learned will always stay with me and I will always try to share them with others.

Enesa Sabanagic was born in Slunj in Croatia (formerly Yugoslavia), a small village with lots of green fields, streams, woods, and a river where large parts of her summers were spent swimming and enjoying nature. Winters were cold and white, and were spent skiing or sledding with siblings and friends. In 1994, after almost four years in a war torn country, her family escaped to Germany where Enesa mastered the language, finished high school, got a job at a restaurant and made many friends. At the conclusion of the war in Bosnia in the summer of 1998, her family was made to leave Germany. Following in the footsteps of friends who had already immigrated to the United States, her family moved to Utica, New York, where Enesa worked and went to college, earning her degree. In 2006 she began working with the Central New York Labor Agency. As a Community Services Liaison for the CNY Labor Council, her job is not only to make the labor movement stronger, but to also strengthen the community she lives in. Now a mother of three boys  $(5\frac{1}{2}, 4, and a baby)$ , Enesa is passing down the importance of giving and helping others and forming a community.



**DEBBY SZEREDY** Executive Vice-President American Postal Workers Union (APWU)

Leadership is about delivering results and providing inspiration that's contagious. We must get our members to rise up, not just depend on one leader but to make many leaders, not followers.

Debby Szeredy was elected in October 2013 to the position of Executive Vice-President of the APWU. She is proud to be the first woman elected to this position in the history of the APWU. She was the Vice-President of the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation, NYS Research & Education Director for the APWU, and is actively involved in the Central Labor Councils in the Hudson Valley. A union activist since she graduated from high school, Debby was an active member of the Retail Clerks Union in Southern California and later tried to organize a union at a School for Mentally & Physically Challenged Children in Arizona, eventually being fired for the attempt. Her inspiration started with the APWU/Post Office Women for Equal Rights movement and her mentor. Moe Biller. Debby was hired by the Postal Service in 1977. She met Moe Biller, Union President on a picket line for a fired president of the Phoenix Metro Area Local. Moe Biller registered Debby as Union Steward, the first of her numerous and invaluable union activities. With the APWU/POWER she helped to bring women into the movement, encouraging them to reach for leadership roles. After 17 years in Arizona, Debby had held the position of Arizona State President and the Local President for Phoenix, one of the larger US Locals. In addition to her active presence with the APWU, AFL-CIO, CLUW, and HVALF, Debby has expertise in Labor History, OSHA, Arbitration, Negotiations, EEO, and Labor Law. She was awarded the 2009 Leadership Award by National Union President Bill Burrus for her fight to ensure that workers' voices are heard as they work to save the Postal Service. Debby has a wonderful son, Matt Duro, now 22 years old, who has attended many union meetings, rallies, and events, and is her heart and joy.





## JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			] New Year's Day	2	3 Lucretia Mott, women's rights pioneer	4
5	6	7 Marion Anderson first African American Woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera	8	9	10	11 Alice Paul, suffragist leader, founder of National Women's Party 1917
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act Signed 2009	30	31 Lunar New Year	*
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## JANELLA HINDS

Vice-President United Federation of Teachers Local 2 (UFT) Secretary-Treasurer NYC Central Labor Council AFL-CIO

UFT

## FEBRUARY

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** 

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Rosa Parks First Lady of Civil Rights and Mother of the Freedom Movement	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Susan B. Anthony suffragist, women's rights advocate
16 Leonora O'Reilly, founding member of the Woman's Trade Union League 1903	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23 Collar Laundry Union founded by Kate Mullaney Troy, NY – the first women's labor union in the USA, 1864	24	25	26	27	28	WDP



MARCH

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Read Across America Day	4	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day
9 Daylight Savings Time begins	10	11	12	13	14 Bread and Roses Strike Settled 1912	15
16	17	18	19	20 Spring begins	21	22
23/30	24/31	25 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire 1911 Mary Anne Krupsak First Woman Lieutenant Governor in NYS 1974	26	27	28	29

## MICHELE BUSHEY

Saranac Teachers' Association, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) Northeast Central Labor Council

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Michele stands with two Saranac Central students, Makayla Duquette (R) and Ellen Thew (L)

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## APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Frances Perkins, first woman cabinet member, Secretary of Labor 1933-45 Dolores Huerta, co-founder United Farm Workers Union	11	12
13	14	15 Passover begins	16	17	18	19 Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues formed 1977
20 Easter	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26
27 Coretta Scott King, Civil Rights, Union Rights Leader and peace activist	28 Workers Memorial Day	29	30			*
						WDI

## SABRINA HAYNIE-YOUNG

Office & Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Recording Secretary Local 212 MAY ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				] International Workers Day Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, labor leader and organizer	2	3
4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6 National Nurses Day	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31
						WDI



## **DEBBY SZEREDY**

NOE

American Postal Workers Union (APWU) National Executive Board Executive Vice-President

## JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Equal Pay Act enacted 1963	11 Jeannette Rankin, first woman elected to Congress, Montana 1916	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21 Summer begins
22	23 Title IX enacted 1962	24	25	26	27	28
29 Ramadan begins	30					
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## **KATHY LUZ HERRERA**

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Electrician – Cornell

Local

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Civil Rights Act 1964	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10 Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, founder of the National Council of Negro Women 1935	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 The Seneca Falls Convention, first Women's Rights Convention 1848
20	21	22	23 Barbara Deming, activist for peace, civil rights, women's rights and lesbian and gay rights	24 Bella Abzug, New York Congresswoman, social activist	25	26
27	28	29 Maria Hernandez, Mexican American Civil Rights Activist	30	31		ŴD

## FREDDI MACEK

Rochester Central Labor Council AFL-CIO Rochester Teachers' Association, Local 616 NYSUT

TOM

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Voting Rights Act 1965	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Aurora Castillo, community activist, co-founded Mothers of East Los Angeles	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26 The 19th Amendment of the US Constitution is ratified granting women the right to vote 1920 Women's Equality Day	27	28	29	30 Luisa Moreno, created first national Latino civil rights assembly 1939



## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	] Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6 Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, Suffragist, FIrst American Woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize
7	8 Tish Sommers, co-founded the Older Women's League (OWL) "Don't Agonize, Organize" 1980	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Autumn begins	24 Rosh Hashana begins this evening	25 Sandra Day O'Connor, First Woman seated on the US Supreme Court 1981	26	27
28	29	30				

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## THERESA GREEN

Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 Station Manager

### **GENEVA AIKEN** Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100

**Bus Operator** 

## OCTOBER

#### **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Yom Kippur begins this evening	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Eleanor Roosevelt, civil rights advocate, feminist, author, world diplomat, First Lady
12	13 Columbus Day	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State, Senator from New York, First Lady	27	28	29	30	31	WD



## NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Daylight Savings Time ends	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7	8 Dorothy Day, social reformer, suffragist and peace activist, co-founded the Catholic Worker Movement
9	10	11 Veteran's Day Vietnam Women's Memorial Dedicated in Washington DC 1993	12 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Suffragist	13	14 US Women's Trade Union League is established 1903	15
16	17	18 Wilma Mankiller, first female Chief of the Cherokee Nation 1985	19	20 Rose Pesotta, first woman vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union 1920	21	22
23/30 Shirley Chisholm, first African-American Congresswoman 1969-83, first woman and first African- American Democratic presidential nominee 1972	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 Alice Cook, Labor Educator Established Cornell University's Department of Women's Studies	29



## DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Patsy Mink, first Japanese- American Congresswoman 1965 played a key role in the enactment of Title IX
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Hanukkah begins	18	19	20
21 Winter begins	22	23 Sarah "Madam C.J." Walker Entrepreneur 1867	24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa begins	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			
						WDP

The Workforce Development Institute (WDI) is a non-profit partner to organized labor, focusing on workforce, economic and community development. WDI provides training, policy advice, support services for unions and working families, works closely with government agencies and small businesses and develops coalitions with environmental and social justice advocates.

#### - Ed Murphy, Executive Director, WDI









#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

96 South Swan Street Albany, New York 12210

WWW.WDINY.ORG

Ed Murphy, Executive Director

 WDI's Women of the Workforce Initiative (WOW) is a program created by and focused on working women. In partnership with Area Labor
Federations and Central Labor Councils, WDI brings women together to advance the dialogue surrounding women and work.

WDI listens to women, learns from women and shares with women.

**WOW** programs empower, build capacity, increase skills and knowledge and provide opportunities for women and their communities.

For more information please contact Susan F. Hains, Director Health and Human Services shains@wdiny.org or 518-272-3500 ext. 105