



Young  
Audiences  
Arts for  
Learning

Western New York

**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact:** Palmer Davis, Program Director  
[palmer@yawny.org](mailto:palmer@yawny.org) / (716) 881-0917

## Young Audiences Announces New Board Members for 2009-2010

*Buffalo, NY, October 19, 2009* – Young Audiences of Western New York, Inc. began its academic year with a new president, vice president and six new members of its board of directors.

The new board president is Seema Maheshwari, who has made volunteering her career. Seema was born in India, moved to Canada at age 13, and studied radiation therapy as a young adult. Now a Williamsville resident and mother of two daughters in college, she has been on the Young Audiences board for three years, involved in the Williamsville East PTA, headed the school's post-prom committee for two years and currently sits on the Amherst Task Force committee.

Maria Emmi Schory, a recent retiree from the Buffalo Public Schools, is the new board vice president. A special education coordinator, Maria graduated from SUNY Buffalo with a BA in Communication Disorders and an MS Ed. in Speech Pathology from Buffalo State College. She volunteers for the annual Catholic Charities Appeal and the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. Maria has served on the board of Young Audiences as president, vice president, development chair and annual dinner/fundraiser chair. She resides in Grand Island with her husband Carl and daughter Carla.

The six new board members are: **Nicole Carroll**, who just completed two years of teaching 10<sup>th</sup> grade English and was previously Emergency Shelter House Coordinator/Day Counselor for homeless and at-risk youth at the Franciscan Center; **Corrin Matthews**, an underwriter for WNET and owner of WNY Hypnosis; **Robin Needham**, Media Supervisor for Eric Mower and Associates; **Jill Sessa**, Associate Director of Development for the UB School of Management/UB Foundation; **Ann Marie Szymanski**, Communication Designer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York; and **Bernadette Walsh**, Global Customer Support Manager for National Air Cargo, Inc.

Young Audiences' new Executive Director, Cynn timer Gaasch, is looking forward to the year ahead and the contributions the new board members will make. "We are excited about the energy, enthusiasm, and talents our new members will bring to our board of directors," says Gaasch. "Seema Maheshwari's skillful leadership and significant contribution of time makes her an invaluable asset to this organization."

Images of YA-WNY programming may be found on Flickr username Young Audiences WNY:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/42060677@N07/>

*Founded in 1962, Young Audiences WNY programming is designed around the fact that an arts-rich education provides a child with the ability to look beyond facts and figures; to creatively meet new challenges as they arise. Plus, the arts make learning fun. Introducing curriculum-supportive, arts-based learning provides a varied and compelling environment--engage even the most reluctant learners and give day-dreamers a classroom as rich as their imagination.*

*Young Audiences of Western New York, Inc. (YA-WNY) is a not-for-profit arts-in-education organization dedicated to making the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people's lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings.*

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