

Virginia A. Swartz, Woman of the Year 1997



Virginia Americo Swartz graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a degree in Music Education, specializing in piano and voice. Since her arrival in Poughkeepsie fifty years ago, she has been active in her church, school and community. A member of the Junior League of Poughkeepsie, she was their 1969 Volunteer of the Year and is currently on the Board of Directors as Sustaining Representative. She was a charter member of the Community Mixed Chorus, and accompanist and assistant director for nearly thirty-five Years.

Ginny directed many shows in the Arlington schools and taught ballroom dancing at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club. A past director of the youth choirs of The First Congregational Church, she is a soloist and member of the senior choir and director of the church's bell choir.

She served in many capacities with the semi-professional Dutchess County Philharmonic and then served on the Central Board of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic from 1960-1982. She was president of the Dutchess County Council of the HVP for three terms. She has organized luncheon fundraisers, after-concert receptions, and the HVP *A Kitchen Symphony* cookbook. Ginny has also served on the Dutchess County Arts Council and is currently on the committee for the Young Artists Competition.

Ginny was class president of Oberlin College for five years and more recently has been fundraiser for three classes.