

Name of Nominee: **Josephine A. Swanson, PhD** (retired)

NEAFCS LIFE member, Josephine (“Jo”) Swanson was Associate Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and Assistant Dean of Extension and Outreach for the Cornell University College of Human Ecology from October 1998 until her retirement in June 2009. Jo began her career in CCE as an Extension Associate in Nutritional Science in 1971, before becoming both an Extension Associate and Senior Extension Associate in Consumer Economics and Housing from 1974 – 1993. In those capacities, she developed Extension programs and curricula along with other print and electronic resources as well as providing training for extension professionals across New York. As CCE Program coordinator (1993 – 1998), she administered statewide Family Living Programs, securing funding and collaborating with faculty and local extension staff. She was co-PI (principal investigator/lead researcher) of the multi-state research project “Rural Families Speak”. She was active in her district and our state NYA board.

Jo received her BS degree in Food, Nutrition and Wellness from Dominican University, her Master’s in Foods, Nutrition and Related Sciences from Cornell and her PhD in Adult Education from Cornell. She served as NEAFCS-NYA’s liaison to the Director of CCE for many years. Her extraordinary leadership enabled our association and its members to be as fully integrated with campus and other Extension program disciplines as possible. Jo was constantly on the lookout for program development offerings as well as outreach opportunities (including funding sources) for NYA members, on the national, regional and state level, as well as within the Cornell community.

She attended Directors meetings and the Awards Banquet at the Annual Session whenever possible.

Her vigilance, expertise, enthusiasm and optimistic nature were unparalleled. Jo enjoyed assisting NEAFCS members in ways both big and small – from helping secure scholarship monies to attend national conferences, to identifying potential training program speakers, to alerting members about new resources and curricula. She received the Carolyn O. Boegly Leadership Award (NYA’s highest honor) in 2007, and in expressing her thanks for that distinction, indicated that Carolyn had mentored her early in her career. Jo’s office on campus was located in the iconic Martha Van Rensselaer Hall, so it’s only fitting that we nominate her for inclusion in NEAFCS’s Hall of Fame. Jo was a tireless advocate for FCS for our organization and the profession. She inspired us all, from the new hires to the veterans.