



## Introducing NEW's Newest Staff Member

**Name:** Lakshmi Iyer    **Title:** Employment Coordinator    **Started at NEW:** January 2009



**What do you most enjoy about working at NEW?** I am inspired most by being part of a community that values hard work and dedication. Working at NEW, and specifically as the Employment Coordinator, enables me to meet with women who are excited to invest in themselves and believe in each other. The entire process at NEW nurtures lifestyle transformations.

By taking the initiative to challenge themselves, women push their boundaries, do more for themselves, and make a difference in their communities - this is what NEW is all about. It's invigorating.

**Why should graduates reach out to you?** There are multiple new job opportunities available every week. Job Appointment Time is a time set aside for NEW graduates and students to focus on applying for these opportunities. Job Appointment Time is held Mondays, from 4pm-7pm, and Fridays, from 9:30am-12:30pm. All students and grads must RSVP to secure a time for an appointment during the designated times.

Resume revision is the first step towards ensuring that an application is solid. Highlighting experiences in a positive, blue-collar light is beneficial and crucial. I am excited to work with grads and students on their resumes and assist in making grads' applications more competitive.

**What do you most enjoy doing after work?** Running -- it gives me a chance to explore different neighborhoods.

Please contact Lakshmi by phone at 646-257-5206 or email at [Liyer@new-nyc.org](mailto:Liyer@new-nyc.org).

### Motivational CPR

By Marvella Dixon, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, 2007 NEW Graduate

Our current economy has negatively impacted the construction industry. Don't be discouraged. Use this recession as an opportunity to **C**reate **P**otential **R**esolutions.

Attend union meetings and network with your membership. Gain experience and enrich your skill set by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity for example. Take advantage of what NEW has to offer and attend events. **C**ontact **P**eople for **R**esources.

NEW graduates are intelligent, strong, and determined as evidenced by their accomplishment of graduating the pre-apprenticeship program. You have endured tough times using tough tactics. **C**ontinue to **P**ermit yourself to **R**e-NEW (re-enlist NEW for support). **C**oncentrate, **P**lan, & **R**evive.

## NEW Remembers Maura Fogarty

Maura Fogarty, a beloved NEW graduate and Ornamental Ironworker, passed away on March 11, 2009. Maura graduated from NEW with the Blue Collar Prep 21-08 class in June 2008. She stood out amongst her class as a mature, self-assured, and confident woman. From her first week at NEW she expressed interest in the Ornamental Ironworkers. Shortly after graduating, Maura joined the Ornamental Ironworkers, Local 580. She worked on buildings in midtown and was the only woman in her crew. She often told NEW staff members how happy she was at work and how comfortable she was on the job.

"I remember Maura most for her enthusiasm and determination," recounts Kathleen Culhane, NEW's Vice President of Programs, "from teaching her class that first week and witnessing how she quickly took on a leadership role by encouraging her peers to get all they could out of the program, to her drive to pursue and thrill at being accepted to be an Ornamental Ironworker, to her love for the work and the construction field, Maura stood out and will be remembered."

After joining the union, Maura volunteered to speak to NEW students and graduates interested in learning more about the Ornamental Ironworkers. Many women called Maura with questions about her work and her new career.

In addition to working in the trades, Maura loved music and had a successful singing and songwriting career.

Maura Fogarty will be remembered and greatly missed by NEW.



## Profiled Journeywoman: Marge Keller

**Name:** Marge Keller    **Trade:** Elevator Mechanic, IBEW, Local 3

**Born:** Fredonia, NY

**Before NEW:** I owned a vegetarian restaurant for ten years in Rochester, NY.

**Lives now:** Long Island, NY

**Home Life** I'm legally married to my wife Carol. We went to Canada on May 17, 2008.

**Looking forward to:** The day NEW is not called *Nontraditional* Employment for Women and IBEW is not called International *Brotherhood* of Electrical Workers

**Favorite Part of being an Elevator Mechanic:** When something isn't working and I am able to make it work.

**Key to Success:** Stubbornness got me through my apprenticeship. I wasn't going to quit. It's also important to keep an open mind. You don't need to learn everything all at once.

**Words to describe her first day as a mechanic:** Proud and nervous

**Typical Day:** I work by myself and I drive through the city to different buildings. I'm in charge of 73 elevators in 56 buildings. I've been working with El Tech Elevators since December 1, 2003.

**Wacky Fact:** Elevators are maybe the safest form of transportation. People very rarely are hurt.

**Favorite Band:** Ferron    **Favorite Sport:** Swimming    **Favorite Tool:** My brain. Second favorite tool is my meter.



### NEW GRADUATES GIVE BACK AN HOUR

In March NEW launched a new campaign called *Give Back an Hour*. We asked NEW graduates to give back an hour or more of their salary to support NEW's programs and we've had an overwhelming response. Thank you to all of you who have given so generously to this campaign. If you have not yet made a donation but would like to, there is still time.

Please contact Jennifer Williford, Individual Giving & Event Manager at (646) 358-4817.

Thanks again for all of your support.

## NEW Graduates Attend "Tradeswomen Changing NYC"

By Doniesea D'Andrade, Carpenter, 2006 NEW Graduate



Tammy Rivera speaks to NEW graduates in March 2009

On Wednesday March 4, 2009, twenty-three women came together for "Tradeswomen Changing NYC", an event for NEW graduates and students. The two featured speakers were Tammy Rivera and Elly Spicer. Tammy Rivera is a member of the District Council of Carpenters and the first female organizer for the Carpenters in New York City. Elly Spicer, a 24 year member of the District Council of Carpenters, is a Field Representative for the New York and Vicinity Carpenters Labor Management Organization and is also a delegate to the District Council of Local 608.

The event focused on how tradeswomen can impact what is built in NYC and who builds it. The women who attended the meeting were of diverse races and different trades. They united and related to the issues which threaten union jobs. Elly and Tammy explained the importance of attending community board meetings that influence land usage and building construction and how going to union meetings and staying politically

involved also helps increase unity amongst brothers and sisters in the union.

Elly Spicer said that there was a time when you could stand on top of a high rise construction building in New York City and count the union construction sites that dominated the city. However, presently union work sites are out-numbered by non-union sites. That's why Elly and Tammy stress the importance of attending your community board and local union meetings. When tradesmen and women attend meetings we show strength in numbers. Your role as a tradeswoman is valuable to your union.



Nontraditional Employment for Women  
243 West 20th Street  
New York, NY 10011

(212) 627-6252  
[www.new-nyc.org](http://www.new-nyc.org)

## ATTENTION NEW GRADUATES

### Weekly Metro Card For Your Pay Stub

Have you been working in the field for less than a year? Please return to NEW with a recent paystub and we'll give you a week-long unlimited Metro Card. You can exchange a copy of your paystub for a Metro Card once every three months during your first year. You also have the chance to win other gifts when you do so.

For more information on opportunities mentioned in this newsletter call (646) 257-5097 or e-mail [jkatz@new-nyc.org](mailto:jkatz@new-nyc.org)

### Online Community for NEW Graduates

NEW graduates can now go online to learn about events and connect with classmates and union sisters. Sign up for the latest news and opportunities at [www.NYCtradeswomen.Ning.com](http://www.NYCtradeswomen.Ning.com)

### Working Status

Unemployed and looking for work? NEW is working with subcontractors to hire more women in the building and construction trades unions. Call NEW if you are in a union and unemployed. We'll do our best to help you find work.

Working and excited about your jobsite? NEW wants to know where our graduates are working, what you're building, and if there are other women on your jobs.

### Update Your Contact Information

NEW is interested in updating your contact information. Please let us know how we can reach you. NEW offers grants to graduates in unions who want to go back to school to advance their careers in construction. If you know of a program you want to enroll in, if you're interested in starting your own construction business, or if you want to start exploring opportunities for your future in construction, contact us!

