



2023 OMBUDSMAN OF THE YEAR



Fiona DeJardin

Fiona DeJardin is an active volunteer in Otsego County. She works tirelessly for members of the community and many organizations, including significant volunteer hours with the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. In addition to her weekly visits at facilities, she is always ready to go out to a facility when a case gets called into the office. Her compassion for the residents is always present and they look forward to her visits.

The staff is very receptive to her quiet diplomatic way of getting to the bottom of residents' concerns. She works with the resident council to educate and empower them to speak up and make a change. She works tenaciously to help residents in her facilities. The seasoned residents will tell new residents: "If you have a problem, just turn to her—she gets results."

DeJardin has lived in New York for the past 37 years, including 28 years as a professor of Art History at Hartwick College and as the Director of the Yager Museum for six years. She and her husband of 36 years live in Schenevus in a home surrounded by gardens that she tends to herself. She is a master gardener and volunteers to share her skills through Cornell Cooperative Extension. Her hobbies include lamp-work, bead making, jewelry making, ceramic hand-built objects, art, museums, reading, cats, and traveling.

DeJardin has been a volunteer for 12 years doing a lot of important work that keeps her very active. She has been an ombudsman for nine years. "My work as an ombudsman is one of the most rewarding activities of my life," she says.

