

Mel (Carmela) Donaldson
Corresponding Secretary, Rhinebeck Democrats Club

Mel (Carmela) Donaldson has lived in Rhinebeck for 36 years with her husband Bob raising their daughters, Leah and Rachel. She received her BA from Iona College in New Rochelle, NY and her MS in Education from SUNY New Paltz.

After teaching in the Yorktown (NY) school district for five years she made the decision to spend the next years as a stay-home mom for her girls. During summers, she taught reading at Holy Cross (Rhinecliff Union Free School). In time, she became a full-time elementary teacher and union representative in the Red Hook Central School system. After 22 years of teaching, she retired in 2010.

Mel's time in retirement has been occupied with various volunteer experiences. Her most rewarding have been as a volunteer medical driver and board trustee for both Caregivers in Rhinebeck and Friends of Seniors based in Poughkeepsie.

Her hobbies include the NYT crossword puzzles (love Thursdays'), river cruises, reading, knitting, gardening and, especially, visiting with her granddaughter, Rosa.