



First Amendment, First Vote *1st Annual October Summit*

Upcoming Initiatives:

- **Women's History Month Kick Off**
March 1, 2019
- **1stA, 1stV Seminar,**
March 13, 2019

This past October, the ECCSW held its first annual First Amendment, First Vote Summit in Seneca Falls, NY. This summit sought to educate high school girls throughout Western and Central New York about women's suffrage



Students writing up their action plans to get peers involved with voting

and give them political efficacy to eventually run for elected office. On the first day, students Skyped with the director of the documentary UNLADYLIKE 2020, Charlotte Mangin, and learned about the importance of media narratives. In the afternoon, Diana Cihak from Women Elect spoke to the girls about the nuts and bolts of running a campaign. Later, students participated in round table discussions with elected officials.

The second day started off at Wesleyan Chapel where the First Women's Rights Convention took place. Students were treated to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul reenactments that led them through the history of women's suffrage. They also met Coline Jenkins, great, great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The girls heard inspiring remarks from Maria Whyte, Deputy Erie County Executive, about the importance of participating in democracy and her experience running for elected office. The students discussed a breadth of topics with legislatures ranging from financing campaigns, working with legislatures across the aisle, and the relationship between a candidate and the media. To cap off the summit, students convened with their respective high school groups to create an action agenda and plan ways to implement their ideas surrounding civic engagement in their communities.



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First Amendment, First Vote: From A High School Student's Perspective

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October 25th and 26th marked important dates for the First Amendment, First Vote initiative. I was one of the many students from Western New York area high schools who departed to Seneca Falls for the first annual First Amendment, First Vote Summit.

First Amendment, First Vote aims to educate high school girls on the First and Nineteenth Amendments to the Constitution, show girls the historical significance of Seneca Falls, NY in the women's rights movement, and encourage girls to register to vote and imagine themselves as candidates.

We heard speeches from elected officials and women who have been successful in paving their own path. At round table discussions, I learned the skills I will need in order to hold elected office in the future. We got to hear first hand inspiring stories of the women who came before us. Some of the highlights as a student were watching the Ruth Bader Ginsburg documentary and listening to a re-enactor of Elizabeth Cady Stanton while sitting in

ECCSW Director Karen King with Deputy Erie County Executive Maria Whyte



the Wesleyan Chapel, where the first women's rights convention was held. The other girls and I were immersed in politics and history for the two days by being in Seneca Falls and the Wesleyan Chapel to hearing from recent or current female elected officials from local areas.

The First Amendment, First Vote Summit was a successful trip and helped me learn more about the history of women's rights and how to become a future candidate for political office.

Jillian Myers, Williamsville East High School



Students presenting their action plans to get their peers involved with voting



ERIE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Winter 2019

Issue 11

2018 Tribute Garden Plan-a-Thon

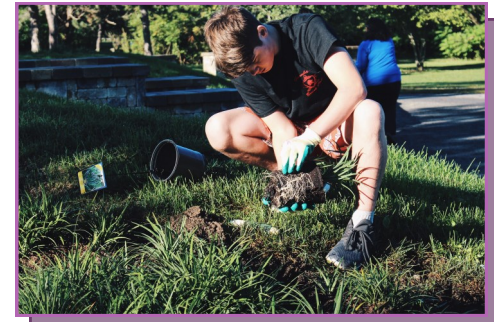
Tribute Garden Plant-a-Thon was held at Isle View Park to kick off the Healthy Relationships Initiative. In attendance were a several community leaders, middle and high school students, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners who together helped plant shrubs and bushes for the garden. After planting, we discussed the importance of



Students help plant bushes and shrubs in the Tribute Garden



student involvement in advocating for healthy relationships, as well as what the students would like to see at the upcoming Teen Dating Violence Awareness Summit.



2019 Teen Dating Violence Awareness Summit

This February, during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, the ECCSW held our 2nd Annual Healthy Relationships/Teen Relationship Violence Awareness Summit. This Summit is part of a larger state-wide initiative to empower and educate teens about healthy relationships. We collaborated with twelve different schools, as well as the Family Justice Center of Erie County, to bring male and female students together for educational workshops. These workshops aimed to help them develop the knowledge and skills needed to advocate for healthy relationships in their community. The Summit encouraged students to serve as ambassadors in their schools by initiating opportunities in leadership, peer mentorship, and advocacy related to teen relationship violence. The workshops explored topics such as what relationship violence looks like, identifying red flags and signs of abuse, actions to take, and media influence on relationships.

****If you would like to get involved in this initiative, please contact***

Karen King at karen.king@erie.gov

Questions or comments? E-mail us at csw@erie.gov or call at (716) 858-8307



ERIE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

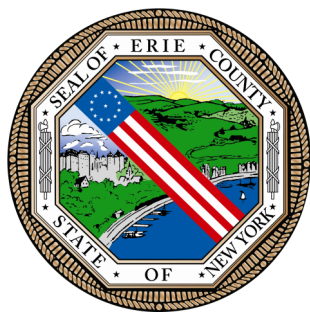
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Meet the Interns

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Amber Ried joined the ECCSW team as an intern through the UB School of Social Work. Amber graduated from SUNY Geneseo with BA in Sociology and has spent years working for organizations that support and advocate for survivors of interpersonal violence. Amber is currently working for the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier as a sexual assault crisis advocate at local hospitals, as well as the facilitator of a support group for children who have experienced family violence.

Brianna Miller joined the ECCSW team as an intern through the University at Buffalo School of Social Work. Brianna graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a BA in Psychology and Human Development. Brianna conducted research focused on childhood relationships as an undergraduate. She currently has interests in mental health and substance abuse counseling. She hopes to work in the future at a nonprofit promoting the wellbeing of others.

Alexis Agyare-Singh is joining the ECCSW team as an intern through the Buffalo State School of Natural Sciences. Alexis will be graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Forensic Sciences. Alexis previously interned at a hospital in Bronx, NY where she worked closely with a Forensic Pathologist Specialist. She is currently working toward a career as a Forensic Pathologist .

Rebecca Bentley is a first-year law student at the University at Buffalo School of Law. Rebecca graduated from the University at Albany with a BA in Political Science and Criminal Justice. Prior to joining the ECCSW team, Rebecca was a member of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, and she has worked closely with various nonprofit organizations throughout the country. Rebecca currently has an interest in public interest law and plans to pursue a career as an advocate for women's rights.

Commemorating Women's History Month in Buffalo & Erie County



Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence

Please check listed phone/website to confirm location, dates and times. Activities listed as submitted by 2/4/2019.
\$ = There is a charge for this event.

Thu, February 28, 5:30-7 p.m. **Town Hall: Women's March Forum & Discussion.** Hosted by WNY Peace Center. Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, 716-332-3904, www.wnypeace.org

March 1-31. **Exhibit: Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust.** Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center (Israel) visiting exhibit sponsored by Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo. Opening Reception March 3, 2 p.m. Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, 716-858-8900, www.BuffaloLib.org

Fri, March 1, 4 p.m. **Women's History Month Kickoff.** Speakers, music by Buffalo GirlChoir, and 2019 Women of Courage, Compassion & Commitment awards. Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, 716-858-8900, www.BuffaloLib.org

Fri, March 1, 4-5:30 p.m. **Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Non-Violence.** Program presented by Johnetta R. Cole AmVets Post 24. Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library, 1324 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo. Free, Debbera Ransom, 716-563-2536 or 716-883-4418

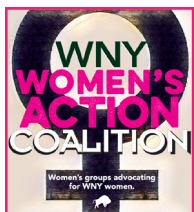
Sat, March 2, 2-5 p.m. **Annual Roses for Outstanding Women Ceremony.** Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, 716-858-8900, www.BuffaloLib.org

Sun, March 3 & 31, 12:30-4:30 p.m. **Girls in Chess Rock!** Beginner workshops with Archangel 8 Chess Academy. Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, information at knights64@yahoo.com

- Wed, March 6, 5:30 p.m. **NYS Women, Inc. Buffalo Niagara Chapter Dinner and Program: 100 Years: A Century Fighting for Women's Rights, Yet the Battle Isn't Over.** Speaker Dr. Lori V. Quigley, Medaille College. Twentieth Century Club, 595 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo. \$, 716-675-6075, www.bncwomeninc.org
- Thu, March 7, 6 p.m. & Sat, Mar 9, 2 p.m. **A Conversation with Oxycontin.** Original play by Eileen Dugan on the opioid epidemic, presented by Red Thread Theatre. Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, www.redthreadtheatre.info/home.html
- Fri, March 8, 4:15 p.m. **Women's March of Buffalo & WNY.** Downtown march and rally at Niagara Square, Buffalo. Free, 716-332-3904, www.wnypeace.org
- Fri, March 8, 6:30 p.m. **AAUW Buffalo Branch International Women's Day Celebration.** Dinner and program with Dr. Uma Gupta on *How to Leverage Our Brain for Success and Happiness.* Classics V Banquet & Conference Center, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst. \$, 716-912-4523, www.aauw.buffalo.edu
- Sat, March 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Girl Scouts of Western NY: Wilderness Skills for Beginners.** Survival skills workshop open to all girls 6th-12th grades. Camp Seven Hills, 10299 Savage Road, Holland. \$, 888-837-6410, customer@gswny.org
- Sat, March 9, 1-2 p.m. **Young Audiences Second Saturday: Power of Words.** All-ages poetry and video program with Aitina Fareed Cooke. Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, 716-858-8900, www.BuffaloLib.org

More on reverse . . .

Women's History Month in Buffalo & Erie County is coordinated by the following Partners:



Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Erie County Commission on the Status of Women
WNY Women's Foundation
Women's Business Center at Canisius College
Planned Parenthood of Central & Western NY
League of Women Voters

NAWBO Buffalo Niagara
We Are Women Warriors
University at Buffalo Gender Institute
New York State Women, Inc. Buffalo Niagara Chapter
Zonta Club of Buffalo
AAUW-Buffalo Branch

For additional activities and more information, please visit:



www.BuffaloLib.org
(716) 858-8900



www.erie.gov

Commemorating Women's History Month in Buffalo & Erie County



March
2019

Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence

Wed, March 13, 4-9:30 p.m. **NAWBO 9th Annual Each One Reach One Mega-Mixer.** Statler City, 107 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo. \$, 716-435-0020, www.nawbowny.org/each-one-reach-one

Wed, March 13, 5:30-7:45 p.m. **Town Hall: Women's March Forum & Discussion.** Hosted by WNY Peace Center and We Are Women Warriors. Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library, 1324 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo. Free, 716-332-3904, www.wnypeace.org

Wed, March 13, 7:30 p.m. **20th Anniversary Celebration of DIVA by DIVA: A Celebration of Women!** O'Connell & Company at The Park School, 4625 Harlem Road, Snyder. \$, 716-848-0800, www.oconnellandcompany.com

Fri, March 15, 8 p.m. **Exhibition Opening/Artist's Talk: Works by Alexandria Smith.** Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, 341 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo. Free, 716-854-1694, www.hallwalls.org

Sat, March 16, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Girl Scouts of Western NY: Girls Go to Neuro School.** Medical research and STEM activities about the brain for girls 6th grade and up. Held at University at Buffalo. \$, pre-registration required at 888-837-6410, www.gswny.org

Sat, March 16, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. **AAUW Buffalo Branch: 14th Annual Tech Savvy Program.** Workshops for girls grades 6-12 to explore STEM careers. UB North Campus Student Union, Amherst. \$, 716-949-2413, www.originaltechsavvy.org

Mon, March 18, 6 p.m. **Amazing Ellie: Creator of Candyland.** Program about Eleanor Abbott, the creator of the popular children's board game, followed by games and crafts relating to Candyland. Lackawanna Public Library, 560 Ridge Road, Lackawanna. Free, 716-823-0630, www.BuffaloLib.org

Wed, March 20, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Women's Business Center at Canisius College: 2019 Ignite Awards Luncheon.** Canisius College Science Hall, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo. \$, 716-888-8280, www.thewomensbusinesscenter.com

Wed, March 20, 8 p.m. **Just Buffalo Literary Center BABEL Series: Min Jin Lee** (author of bestselling novel *Pachinko*). Kleinhans Music Hall, 3 Symphony Circle, Buffalo. \$, 716-885-5000, www.justbuffalo.org

Thu, March 21, 10 a.m. **Trailblazing Women Press Event.** Updates on this important project. Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, 716-858-8307

Thu, March 21, 12 noon-1 p.m. **Women's History Month Book Club:** Discussion of Kate Manne's *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny* with Karen King, Dr. Carrie Bramen, Tosca Miserendino, and Ann Marie Butler. Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, 716-858-8900, www.BuffaloLib.org

Thu, March 21, 6 p.m. **Between History and Memory: Women in the Holocaust,** speaker Professor Karolina Krasuska. Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. Free, 716-858-8900, www.BuffaloLib.org

Fri, March 22, 10-11:30 a.m. **Women Running for Elected Office: On the Campaign Trail Then and Now.** Exhibit, panel discussion with former Amherst Town Supervisor Susan Grelick, Karen King (Erie County Commission on the Status of Women) and invited panelists. The Buffalo History Museum, One Museum Court, Buffalo. Free, 716-858-8307

Sat, March 23, 2-4 p.m. **Book Talk: Your Time, Your Shine** with Michelle Carter-Douglass. Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library, 1324 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo. Free, 716-883-4418, behindthedoorsofmcd@gmail.com

Sun, March 24 & Tue, March 26, 8 p.m. **Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival Screening: Working Woman.** Amherst Dipson Theatre, 3500 Main Street, Buffalo. \$, 716-204-2084, www.bijff.com

Wed, March 27, 1-3 p.m. **Book Discussion** by Women's Club of Orchard Park Book Club. Orchard Park Library, S-4570 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park. Free, 716-662-9851 or Allem Pardi, 585-727-0507

Wed, March 27, 6-8 p.m. **Discussion/Launch, Community Building Team: Women Finding Our Voices: Honest Talk, Deep Listening, Real Healing.** McKinley High School Auditorium, 1500 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo. Free, information at 716-830-9453

Sat, March 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Girl Scouts of Western NY Healthcare Career Exploration: More Than Med School.** Interactive workshop for girls grades 6+. Trocaire College, 360 Choate Avenue, Buffalo. Free but registration required: 888-837-6410, www.gswny.org

Sat, March 30, 5 p.m.-Midnight. **Junior League of Buffalo Centennial Gilded Gala.** Fundraiser dinner, auctions, performances by Broadway stars of *Wicked*. Salvatore's Italian Gardens, 6461 Transit Road, Depew. \$, 716-884-8865, www.jlbuffalo.org

Thu, April 4, 7:30 p.m. **Just Buffalo STUDIO: Layli Long Soldier & Eric Gansworth.** Free reading. Just Buffalo Literary Center, 468 Washington Street, Buffalo. Free, 716-832-5400, www.justbuffalo.org/event/studio-eric-gansworth-layli-long-soldier-20190404/

More on reverse . . .