



Woman's History Month: A Recap

Upcoming Events:

June 21st: Summer Solstice at the Tribute Garden

For more information contact Karen King

On **Friday March 1st**, The ECCSW kicked off **Women's History Month** at the Downtown Central Library. The event featured the 2019 Women of Courage, Compassion, & Commitment Awards with a special musical performance by the Buffalo Girl-Choir.



Karen King along with graduate interns Rebecca Bentley, Brianna Miller, and Amber Ried on International Women's Day.

Friday March 8th marked the **International Women's Day Celebration** at the AAUW Buffalo Branch!

On Thursday March 21st, The Trailblazing Women Press Event was held along with the **Women's History Month Book Club**. Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz joined Karen King, Executive Director of the ECCSW, county legislators, and members of the Trailblazing Women of WNY Committee as the Committee presented an update on the progress of the Trailblazing Women of WNY monument project. This project will recognize trailblazing women of WNY through the placement of a series of public monuments and plaques that will highlight the "hidden history" of women in our public life and help to raise awareness of the many contributions that women have made to our region. Three monuments are planned for the inaugural round of the project: Louise Bethune, Mary Talbert, and Geraldine "Sid-tah" Green.



Group photo from the Trailblazing Women Press Event

"The Trailblazing Women project will begin with three WNY women who fearlessly led the way in their respective fields and showed the world what women can do. These are women who succeeded in male-dominated fields and cultures, women who spoke their minds and pursued goals that paved the way for generations of women who came after them."

-Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz





Healthy Relationships Initiative: Teen Relationship Violence Awareness Summit

Upcoming Events:

**June 21st: Summer
Solstice at the Tribute
Garden**

*For more information
contact Karen King*

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. At the Summit, students heard a compelling story from a survivor of teen relationship violence. Students then participated in a series of workshops that encouraged them 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.

Students discuss ways they can advocate for healthy relationships in their schools.



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

Karen King at karen.king@erie.gov



First Amendment, First Vote: Erie County Cohort

Upcoming Events:

**June 21st: Summer
Solstice at the Tribute
Garden**

*For more information
contact Karen King*

This March, the ECCSW held **First Amendment, First Vote** at the Buffalo History Museum. First Amendment, First Vote is an initiative to educate high school girls throughout Western and Central New York about women's

suffrage and give them political efficacy to eventually run for elected office.



The day began with a special welcome from Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz and Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. Chief of Staff to the Erie County Executive and Campaign Manager for Mark Poloncarz 2019 reelection campaign Jennifer Hibit was the keynote speaker and gave an inspiring speech about her experiences. The girls participated in roundtable discussions about civic engagement with a variety of important women, including Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Personnel for Erie County and 2018 Candidate for Erie County Clerk Angela Marinucci, Katie Burd from the Kenmore Village Board of Trustees, Erie County Legislature Majority Leader April Baskin, and Jennifer Hibit. The students then came up with action plans to take back to their school and get others involved in civic engagement.

*If you would like to get involved in this initiative, please contact
Karen King at karen.king@erie.gov*



Karen King joined by April Baskin, Katie Burd, Angela Marinucci, and Jennifer Hibit.



ERIE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Spring 2019

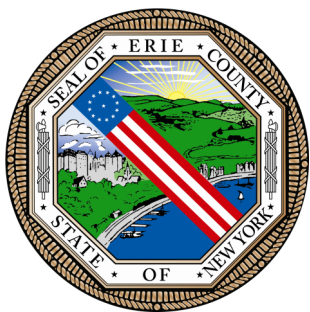
Issue 12

Meet the Interns

Upcoming Events:

June 21st: Summer Solstice at the Tribute Garden

For more information contact Karen King



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.