

# THE POWER BOOK

CONNECTING WOMEN LEADERS IN BUFFALO

We want to inspire conversations  
that look at issues through the  
lens of how they will impact WNY

**women.**

Our hope is that these confabulations  
act as catalysts for actions that help  
move women up and ahead.



## American Association of University Women, Buffalo Branch

Barbara Carier and Betty Preble, Co-Presidents  
P.O. Box 894, Cheektowaga NY 14225

AAUW advances equality for women and girls with an associate's or higher degree through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

## American Business Women's Association of Western New York

Nicholle Wilcox, President

ABWA strives to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and provide various opportunities to help them grow as individuals and professionals. This is done through leadership, education, networking and national recognition.

[www.abwawny.com](http://www.abwawny.com)

## Association for Women in Science, Buffalo Chapter

Gail Willsky, President

SUNY at Buffalo, 140 Farber Hall, Buffalo NY 14214  
716-829-2969

AWIS connects women and men nationwide with a common purpose – making America's science and technology enterprise more becoming for all people. Membership in a local chapter provides members with hands-on opportunities to network, participate in educational programs, and enjoy community outreach initiatives.

[www.awis.org](http://www.awis.org)



## Breast Cancer Network of Western New York, Inc.

Marcia Heaney, President  
3297 Walden Avenue, Depew NY 14043  
716-706-0060

The Breast Cancer Network provides education, advocacy and support for those currently battling breast cancer, those who have survived, and their families. They sponsor various programs throughout the Buffalo area, as well as provide information for support groups.

[www.bcnwny.org](http://www.bcnwny.org)

## Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network

Constance Schweitzer, Executive Director  
625 Delaware Avenue, Suite 410, Buffalo NY 14202  
716-884-0513

The Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network is a not-for-profit community providing maternal health care resources to the Buffalo community to improve the health of mothers and children alike. They strive to support programs with a positive impact to the community, especially the population with the greatest need for prenatal help.

[www.bppn.org](http://www.bppn.org)

## Buffalo Urban League

Brenda W. McDuffie, President and CEO  
15 East Genesee St, Buffalo NY 14203  
716-854-7625

The Buffalo Urban League's mission is to empower African Americans, other minorities and disadvantaged individuals to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. They strive to provide empowerment in the following areas: youth and education, economic, health and the quality of life, civic engagement and leadership, and civil rights and racial justice.

[www.buffalourbanleague.org](http://www.buffalourbanleague.org)



## Child and Adolescent Treatment Services

Bonnie L. Glazer, President  
301 Cayuga Road, Suite 200,  
Cheektowaga NY 14225  
716-819-3420

Child and Adolescent Treatment Services is a non-profit children's mental health agency that provides innovative, research based preventative and treatment programs to strengthen the emotional health and safety of children. They provide multiple programs to aid in the mental growth of children.

[www.mentalhealthforwnykids.org](http://www.mentalhealthforwnykids.org)

## Child and Family Services of Buffalo

Douglas Fabian, Executive Director  
330 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14202  
716-842-2750

Child and Family Services strengthens families and promotes the well-being of children through prevention, intervention, education, and advocacy. They provide counseling, community based services, child placement services, work-life support, domestic violence information, education, senior services, and mediation and prevention services.

[www.cfsbny.org](http://www.cfsbny.org)

## Child Care Resource Network

Marie Cannon, Chief Executive Officer  
1000 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo NY 14216  
716-877-6666

The Child Care Resource Network's mission is to support families, child care providers and the community by developing and advocating for high quality, accessible and affordable health care for all children. They provide services including free help finding child care, parenting and education resources, and training and professional opportunities for child care providers.

[www.wnychildren.org](http://www.wnychildren.org)



## Coalition for Economic Justice

Cheryl Bird, Executive Director  
237 Main Street, Suite 1200, Buffalo NY 14203  
716-892-5877

The CEJ is a permanent coalition of labor, faith, community, academic and student organizations and individual activists. They engage in collective action to create good jobs, strong and sustainable communities, and economic justice for all.

[www.cejbufflao.org](http://www.cejbufflao.org)

## Crisis Services

2969 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14214  
24 Hour Hotline: 716-834-3131  
Administrative Line: 716-834-2310

Crisis Services is dedicated to promoting the health, safety and well being of the community through prevention, education, immediate intervention and access to community wide resources 24 hours a day. They work to educate and prevent issues such as rape, domestic violence, suicide, homelessness, mental health issues, and trauma.

[www.crisisservices.org](http://www.crisisservices.org)



## Erie County Commission Against Family Violence

Michael Chase, Community Relations Chair  
P.O. Box 350, Buffalo NY 14205  
716-884-6002

ECCAFV works to end domestic violence in Erie County through education, awareness, and advocacy. They participate and coordinate events throughout the year to build awareness of the issue and train the community about domestic violence. There are also a number of committees open for the public to engage in creating awareness.

[www.eccafv.org](http://www.eccafv.org)

## Erie County Commission on the Status of Women

Sawrie Becker, Executive Director  
95 Franklin Street, Sixth Floor, Room 624  
716-858-8307

The Erie County Commission on the Status of Women (ECCSW) works to provide appropriate and meaningful information to women and girls throughout Erie County thereby helping them reach their full potential. The commission conducts policy studies, analyzes current legislation and programs and trends affecting women, develops collaborative programs with local and regional organizations and public officials, provides educational awareness, and recommends measures to coordinate consolidation or expand the resources and services available to women in Erie County.

[www.csw.erie.gov](http://www.csw.erie.gov)

## Everywoman Opportunity Center, Inc.

Myrna Young, Executive Director  
237 Main Street, Suite 330, Buffalo NY 14209 \*Other locations  
throughout Buffalo!  
716-847-1120

Everywoman Opportunity Center, Inc. was incorporated in 1977 as a private not-for-profit corporation to help women achieve economic and personal self-sufficiency. All programs and services are designed to be holistic and address all the barriers a woman may face in seeking economic and personal self-sufficiency.

[www.everywoman.org](http://www.everywoman.org)



## Family Help Center

Deborah A. Merrifield, Executive Director

60 Dingens Street, Buffalo NY 14206

716-822-0919

24 Hour Family Help Hotline: 716-892-2172

The Family Help Center (Formerly Joan A. Male Family Support Center) is a non-profit organization, provides services to families raising children and is available 24 hours a day to insure immediate responses to potential crisis situations. They strive to unite families, improve home life, and eliminate child abuse and neglect.

[www.joanamale.org](http://www.joanamale.org)

## Family Justice Center of Erie County

Mary Travers Murphy, Executive Director

237 Main Street, 14th Floor, Buffalo NY 14203

716-558-SAFE (7233)

The Family Justice Center provides free services for domestic violence victims and their dependents through an extensive collaboration with 13 partner agencies, all located at one secure and comfortable location, where survivors can get all the services they need to safely escape abuse.

[www.fjcsafe.org](http://www.fjcsafe.org)

## Gender Institute at the University at Buffalo

Kari Winter, Director

University at Buffalo, 520 Lee Entrance Suite 207 The Commons,  
Buffalo NY 14228

716-645-5200

The Gender Institute supports and promotes research and teaching related to women, gender and sexuality. They offer fellowships, grants, and co-sponsorships to faculty and students to encourage and support their research on women. They also sponsor and co-sponsor projects to encourage interdisciplinary scholarship and artistic achievement.

[www.genderin.buffalo.edu](http://www.genderin.buffalo.edu)



## Girl Scouts of Western New York

Cindy Odom, Chief Executive Officer  
3332 Walden Ave, Suite 106, Depew NY 14043  
716-837-6400

The Girl Scout's mission is: "Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place." Troops of Girl Scouts participate in fun activities such as camping. They also participate in the largest female-run business in the country by selling the infamous Girl Scout Cookies!

[www.gswny.org](http://www.gswny.org)



## Haven House

330 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14202  
Domestic Violence Hotline: 716-862-HELP (4357)  
General Number: 716-842-2750

The Haven House, a program through Child and Family Services, provides safe, confidential services for victims of domestic violence and their children. They provide emergency services, counseling, advocacy, support groups, education, and more for those who need to get out of violent homes and those who have survived.

[www.cfsbny.org/programs/haven-house](http://www.cfsbny.org/programs/haven-house)

## Hispanic Women's League, Inc.

Susana Gonzalez-Colon, President  
P.O. Box 874, Buffalo NY 14201

The mission of the Hispanic Women's League is to improve the quality of life, assist in personal and professional development, and advocate for the concerns of the Hispanic woman. The primary commitment of the League is to provide scholarships to women of Hispanic decent for the attainment of higher education. In addition, they participate in community service and contributions geared to the Hispanic community.

[www.hispanicwomensleague.org](http://www.hispanicwomensleague.org)



## International Institute of Buffalo

Eva Hassett, Executive Director  
864 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14209  
716-883-1900

The International Institute of Buffalo assists immigrants, refugees, and others who face linguistic and cultural barriers in the Buffalo area become self-sufficient and active members of the community. Their programs include helping survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic violence, international exchange programs, and language classes.

[www.iibuff.org](http://www.iibuff.org)



## Junior League of Buffalo

Julie Warman, President  
45 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo NY 14201  
716-884-8865

The Junior League of Buffalo, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

[www.jlbuffalo.org](http://www.jlbuffalo.org)



## League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara

Terri Parks, President  
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14209  
716-884-3550

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan group, meaning they don't support or oppose candidates or political parties. Their aim is to ensure that citizens are informed and prepared to answer questions of local, regional and national concern through candidate debates, issue forums, community dialogues, voter guides, on-line discussions and more.

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)



## National Association of Women Business Owners, Buffalo Niagara Chapter

Celeste DiStefano, President  
P.O. Box 1165, Orchard Park NY 14127  
716-238-2461

NAWBO propels women entrepreneurs into economic, social, and political spheres of influence worldwide. The Buffalo chapter advocates for emerging and established women business owners in the Buffalo area by providing educational and networking opportunities, encouragement through mentoring and support, and promotion and acknowledgement of women's businesses.

[www.nawbowny.org](http://www.nawbowny.org)



## Planned Parenthood of Western New York

Cecile Richards, President Nation-Wide  
2697 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14214  
716-831-2200

Planned Parenthood is a private, not-for-profit health care agency providing reproductive health care, counseling services, education and advocacy for women. They promote responsible and healthy sexuality, as well as access to mammograms, pap smears, birth control and more. Find multiple WNY locations on their website!

[www.plannedparenthood.org/ppwny](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppwny)

## Prevention Focus

Matthew G. Smith, CPP and Executive Director  
69 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo NY 14209  
716-884-3256

Prevention Focus, Inc. strives to give children, teens, and adults the skills and information they need to make safer and healthier choices. They also work to impact laws, policies, norms and beliefs that make those choices easier and more likely.

[www.preventionfocus.org](http://www.preventionfocus.org)



## WNY Women's Foundation

Heather A. Filipowicz, Executive Director  
742 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14209  
716-887-2621

The WNY Women's Foundation strives to remove roadblocks and provide opportunities to enable women and girls to become self-sufficient. As an independent non-profit organization, they focus on researching the status of women in the community, funding innovative programming, leading collaborations for social change, educating the community on women's issues, and advocating for public policy change.

[www.wnywomensfoundation.org](http://www.wnywomensfoundation.org)

## Women's Bar Association, Western New York Chapter

Bridget M. O'Connell, President  
P.O. Box 1012, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo NY 14201

The WNY Chapter of the Women's Bar Association supports women lawyers and law students in WNY by providing a local community in which to promote the advancement of the status of women in society and the legal profession, and the fair and equal administration of justice; and by acting as a forum through which to communicate the voice of its members with respect to issues of statewide, national, and international significance to women both generally and in legal professions.

[www.wnychapter-wbasny.org](http://www.wnychapter-wbasny.org)

## Women's Business Center at Canisius College

Sara Vescio, Program Chair  
Demerly Hall, 2365 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14214  
716-888-8280

As the region's most comprehensive resource for business and professional women, the Women's Business Center provides real world expertise to help women business owners gain professional growth through empowerment, education, and engagement.

[www.canisius.edu/wbc](http://www.canisius.edu/wbc)

## Women on the Rise

Cecily Rodriguez and Katie Gracie, Co-Chairs  
716-812-4847

Women on the Rise empowers women by creating and inspiring a career support network that shares and values the diversity of experience from a wide range of professions and career paths. Our mission is supported by the strategic priorities to offer information that broadens our perspectives and supports our individual career goals while providing an environment that allows our members to both offer and ask for the career support they need.

[www.womenontherise.net](http://www.womenontherise.net)

## WomenElect, Inc.

Diana Cihak, Founder & Program Director  
Laura Monte, Director

WomenElect was created to encourage talented and smart women to say “Yes, I want to run for office.” WomenElect is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization in New York State that offers leadership development to women with a passion for bringing positive change to their communities.

[www.womenelect.org](http://www.womenelect.org)

## Womanfocus

Cheryl Ann Stevens, CPP and Programs Manager  
69 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo NY 14209  
716-884-3256

Since 1979, Womanfocus has provided workshops, special events, and other services to thousands of women and girls throughout Erie County to help them cope with the stressors of life in a way that is safe, positive, and healthy. Womanfocus provides a range of programs that pertain to women’s health, from one-hour, single session workshops to seven week workshop series.

[www.preventionfocus.org](http://www.preventionfocus.org)



## YWCA Western New York

Deborah Lynn Williams, CEO  
1005 Grant Street, Buffalo NY 14207  
716-852-6120

YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The WNY chapter seeks to provide various programs for women and children, including, but not limited to: day care, transitional housing for women including survivors of domestic violence, and education and empowerment for women and girls.

[www.ywca-wny.org](http://www.ywca-wny.org)

## YWCA Tonawandas

Jill E Townson, Executive Director  
49 Tremont Street  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
716-692-5580

YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The Tonawandas Association provides: a pre-school program, school age child care, summer camp programs, and a variety of recreational/educational programs throughout the year for women and youth. Domestic Violence services, individual counseling for women and children, group support for women and court advocacy services, KidStrong support group for children who have experienced abuse and violence, food pantry and clothing closet, transitional housing and court mandated programs: supervised visitation and therapeutic visitation, offender accountability and women as defendants.

[www.ywcatonawandas.org](http://www.ywcatonawandas.org)



## Zonta International & The Zonta Club of Buffalo

Mary-Jane Wajmer, President  
PO Box 1252  
Buffalo, New York, 14240-1252  
United States  
716 674 7586

Zonta International was founded in Buffalo, New York and seeks to advance the status of women worldwide by improving the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local levels through service and advocacy. With more than 30,000 members belonging to more than 1,200 Zonta Clubs in 64 countries and geographic areas, Zontians all over the world volunteer their time, talents and support to local and international service projects, as well as scholarship programs aimed at fulfilling Zonta's mission and objectives. Zontians are a culturally diverse group of women and men who share a commitment to working for women's rights and gender equality. They are professionals and executives from a wide array of sectors - architects, educators, engineers, entrepreneurs, lawyers, doctors, pilots, government officials and more.

[www.zontabuffalo.org](http://www.zontabuffalo.org)

# upcoming



## Summer Fundraiser

Join us this summer for music, food, libations, and a night full of fun! Stay tuned for event details.

## TEDxBuffaloWomen 2013

Our premier event! This event brings together the most influential and thought-provoking women in our community. We'll be holding auditions for speakers in the late summer so if you have a message to share, stay tuned for audition details or if public speaking isn't for you but you want to be part of this awesome event, subscribe to our news updates on [womeneventsbuffalo.com](http://womeneventsbuffalo.com) so you can be the first to know about the event.



**CONNECT. CONVERSE. ACT.**

[WomenEventsBuffalo.com](http://WomenEventsBuffalo.com)

# thanks to...

... our host Perfetto! A perfect place for confabulation.

... all you women and men who think that our events add value.

... Women Events Buffalo committee:

[Diana Cihak](#) is the Founder and Program Director for WomenElect, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that prepares women to run for office. The unique program of leadership development is designed to help more women achieve positions of leadership throughout NY State.

[womenelect.org](http://womenelect.org)

[Sawrie Becker](#) serves as the Commissioner of Public Advocacy for Erie County and in that role she acts as the Executive Director of the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women. In these positions she acts as a countywide public advocate for all residents of Erie County and works to connect resources to women and young girls to help them reach their greatest potential.

[csv.erie.gov](http://csv.erie.gov)

[Anne Conable](#) handles community-based programs, the Library Foundation, and special projects in marketing, grants and events for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. She has previously appeared at Buffalo Place, the Historical Society, and the Buffalo Museum of Science over the past 27 years.

[buffalolib.org](http://buffalolib.org)

[Sabina Ramsey](#) is the Owner of Insight International USA LLC, an agency that markets services and products that matter. Ms. Ramsey is a proven design leader and strategist and has extensive experience in branding and business development. She is pushing women's agenda forward locally and internationally by her commitment to organizations such as the YWCA, NAWBO and ZONTA.

[brandingbyinsight.com](http://brandingbyinsight.com)

**Cecily Rodriguez** is a member of the Organizational Development team at First Niagara and an adjunct professor at Canisius College. She is also a charter member and co-chair of Women on the Rise, a local professional women's group whose mission is to empower women by creating an inspiring career-support network that shares and values the diversity of experience from a wide range of professions and career paths.

[www.womenontherise.net](http://www.womenontherise.net)

**Laura Monte** is the Executive Director of WomenElect, Inc., a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization committed to offering leadership development for women with a passion for bringing positive change to their communities.

[womenelect.org](http://womenelect.org)

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COMMISSION ON  
THE STATUS OF



