



## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:**

### **Public Library, Erie County to Kickoff Local Commemoration of National Women's History Month**

*March 3 Activities Include Themed March Calendar, Keynote Speaker*

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March is National Women's History Month, and for the second year, a coalition of organizations, led by the **Erie County Commission on the Status of Women** and the **Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System**, have come together to develop collaboratively a **month-long calendar of events** focused on women. Project collaborators include the Junior League of Buffalo; WNY Women's Fund; Canisius College Women's Business Center; WNY Commission on the Status of Women Support Fund, and American Association of University Women-WNY Chapter.

The month-long focus on women, their history and current issues will be inaugurated on **Thursday, March 3** at the downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square. Twenty local non-profit organizations providing services to women will be exhibiting and distributing information at the Library, main floor, from **11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** prior to the 2:30 program.

Beginning at **2:30 p.m.** in the Library Auditorium, a program featuring keynote speaker **Molly Murphy MacGregor** will take place to celebrate the month. The public is invited to attend. MacGregor is the President and co-founder of the National Women's History Project ([www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org)), the educational non-profit based in California that spearheaded the establishment in 1981 of National Women's History Week, which in 1987 expanded to National Women's History Month. The NWHP works with national women's organizations and school districts to develop programs and integrated curricula that recognize and celebrate a multicultural women's history perspective and the accomplishments of women. The NWHP under MacGregor's leadership has won numerous awards from organizations such as the National Education Association, American Education Research Association and the Center for Women Policy Studies for its work. A networking reception sponsored by the Junior League of Buffalo and the WNY Women's Fund follows the program.

The new calendar is being distributed in printed form through the libraries and the partner organizations, and may also be viewed via [www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org) or [www.erie.gov](http://www.erie.gov).

Library Director Bridget Quinn-Carey said, "The WNY region has had a rich legacy of women of achievement. Our shared history is important but even more so is looking ahead to support today's women and girls with education, opportunity and solutions for the many issues they face. The Library is delighted to support this collaborative effort to commemorate Women's History Month."

Erie County Executive Chris Collins issued a proclamation declaring March, 2011 "Women's History Month" in Erie County.

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