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[Home](#) > POLONCARZ TO JOIN LIBRARIES IN CELEBRATING MARCH AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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Third Annual Kickoff on March 1st to Highlight Month Long Calendar of Events

ERIE COUNTY, NY— Erie County and its Commission on the Status of Women, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System and numerous partner organizations will kick off March as Women's History Month at the downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, on Thursday, March 1, 2012.

From 11:00am to 1:00pm, two dozen non-profit organizations serving women and girls locally will offer to the public displays and resource information on their services and activities. At 12 noon, the official Kickoff Ceremony will feature original poetry, music by the Buffalo Chamber Players, and remarks by Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Erie County Legislature Chairwoman Betty Jean Grant, Library Vice Chair Sharon Thomas, and YWCA Director Deborah Lynn Williams, facilitated by County Commission staff Sawrie Becker. The public is invited to attend.

For the third straight year, Erie County and the Library have collaborated to produce a Women's History Month calendar of activities, which will be unveiled at the noon ceremony. The calendar, which features over 40 workshops, performances, dinner programs, tours, and lectures relating to women's history and contemporary issues taking place locally during March, is available free at participating locations, the 37 County-wide Library branches, Erie County's Rath Building, and on the websites www.erie.gov and www1.buffalolib.org.

Activity presenters represented on the calendar include partners Canisius College Women's Business Center, Buffalo State College, Girl Scouts of WNY, Everywoman Opportunity Center, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Gilda's Club of WNY, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Family Justice Center, Nardin Academy, Irish Classical Theatre, Buffalo Seminary, and AAUW-Buffalo, among other groups.

The local commemoration of March as Women's History Month matches the national commemoration, declared by Congress in 1987 as advocated by the National Women's History Project and many other national organizations. This year's national theme is "Women's Education, Women's Empowerment."

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