



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York



**THE ANNE FRANK PROJECT'S 15TH
ANNUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE FESTIVAL**



**IDEAS + ACTION
= JUSTICE**

OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2023

REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT
WWW.ANEFRANKPROJECT.COM

AFP 2023: Ideas + Action = Justice

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About the Anne Frank Project

The Anne Frank Project is a social justice initiative of SUNY Buffalo State. What began as a theater department production in 2006 has evolved into a distinctive reflection of the college's diversity, community, and global mission, articulated throughout the year with local, national, and international programming. Using story-building as its primary vehicle, AFP provides tools and vocabulary for conflict resolution, community-building, and identity exploration. Inspired by Anne Frank, we are committed to developing caring, inclusive, and nurturing cultures and communities. We have dedicated ourselves to making her dream of an "improved world" a reality... one story at a time... AFP welcomes you with open eyes, open ears, and open hearts.

Our Theme

This year's theme directly reflects the core of our mission: **Ideas + Action = Justice.**

This simple equation spells out the necessity of following our ideas with action if we desire impactful results. We live in a world where the 'Twitter-verse' and 'TikTok-land' can falsely reward ideas presented in isolation. Ideas without action require no courage, no research, and no truth; all fitting underneath the umbrella of 'Reaction.' Reactions do not require education and they have no lasting impact. When Ideas are followed up with *Action* positive impact becomes possible; This is a '*Response*' not a reaction. At the Anne Frank Project's 15th Annual Social Justice Festival, speakers, artists, and activists will teach people how to respond vs. react to their worlds—this is the only way to make positive personal and social change: Justice.

“How wonderful it is that we need not wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world.”

— Anne Frank

www.annefrankproject.com

A Welcome from Interim President

Greetings,

As the interim President of SUNY Buffalo State, Dr. Bonita R. Durand, I am honored to welcome you all to our 15th annual Anne Frank Project Social Justice Festival. This is an event that we, as a university, value deeply. We gather today not just as an academic community, but as a collective of individuals committed to creating a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive society.

This year, we continue to echo our timeless theme: Ideas + Action = Justice. It is a simple equation, yet it carries a profound message. It reminds us that social justice is not a passive concept, but rather a call to action. It is a call that requires each one of us to contribute our unique perspectives and energies in the pursuit of a more just world.

We're proud to host nationally recognized social justice experts and activists, selected by our students, for our students. This year, our distinguished guests include Autumn Rose Williams, who will enlighten us on indigenous awareness, self-love, and empowerment; the Rwanda Student Delegation, sharing transformational stories; and Sophia Veffer, a Holocaust survivor, who will inspire us to be upstanders in our own communities.

We are also thrilled to spotlight our Department of Hospitality and Tourism, as they blend culture and cuisine in a unique presentation titled "Cooking with Culture." And of course, I cannot forget to mention "A Long Talk," where we will delve into uncomfortable yet necessary conversations about activating anti-racism.

At Buffalo State, we pride ourselves on being an institution where social justice matters, where our students activate this every day. We invest in this festival because we believe in the power of stories in shaping our identities, managing conflicts, and building communities, as embodied by the Anne Frank Project's mission.

I encourage you all to participate fully in the workshops, performances, and art exhibits over the next three days. Let us immerse ourselves in the stories that challenge, teach, and explore diverse social and personal justice topics. Let us remember that every idea we conceive, every action we take, brings us one step closer to justice.

Thank you for being here, and I hope you find the festival enlightening, engaging, and inspiring.

May we, at the end of these three days, be renewed in our commitment to seek and nurture the best from those around us, and to continue the work of making our communities stronger and more fruitful.

Welcome to the 2023 Anne Frank Project Social Justice Festival at SUNY Buffalo State University.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bonita R. Durand, PhD

Interim President

Buffalo State University

Campus Spotlight at AFP 2023

It has been a tradition for AFP to highlight the excellent research, scholarship and creative activity accomplished by SUNY Buffalo State faculty and staff. It is our pleasure to spotlight the **Hospitality and Tourism Department** for our 15th Annual Social Justice Festival! AFP 2023: *Ideas + Action = Justice* is an opportunity to gain tools to *respond* rather than react. The Hospitality and Tourism Department will activate this concept through cooking.

Wednesday, October 4th

4:00-5:30 pm

Cooking with Culture: Recipes for Belonging

Caudell Hall Lobby, Russell J. Salvatore Demonstration Kitchen

About this Session:

The session "Cooking with Culture: Stirring Up a 'Sense of Belonging' with Family and Friends" will develop from the theory that equity is essential to growing a strong economy and will help build vibrant and resilient communities. The kinesthetic element of the session will include collecting recipes and family stories from students, faculty, staff, and the community who are self-described "food lovers" or even chefs from other parts of the world, but who live, work, and play in our community today. Hands-on cooking and a demonstration of the preparation of recipes and dishes which reflect a diverse food culture are part of one or more sessions. The hope is that participants achieve practical and emotional skills in the culinary arts and share various social occasions which are part of their cultural identity.

We are pleased to spotlight the work of our students and colleagues and look forward to featuring a different department or office on campus each year.

AFP 2023 Donn Youngstrom's Featured Presenter

Autumn Rose Williams

Miss Native American USA 2017/2018,
Activist, Model

**Tuesday, October 3rd at 7:00pm, Burchfield Penney
Art Center's Tower Auditorium.**

**Wednesday, October 4th at 10:00am, Social Hall,
Campbell Student Union.**



Autumn Rose Miskweminanocauq (Raspberry Star Woman) Williams was born and raised on the Shinnecock Reservation in Southampton, New York. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications and a Minor in Business. Being immersed in her culture from birth has given her pride in her Black and Indigenous heritage that is the foundation for the work she does today.

When Williams was crowned Miss Teen Shinnecock at the age of 16, it allowed her the opportunity to travel across the United States and learn about the indigenous experience outside of her Shinnecock community. Following college, she was crowned Miss Native American USA 2017/2018 and began yet another journey to learn more about her people. Being Miss Teen Shinnecock, attending college, and being Miss Native American USA were important growing periods of her life that allowed her to learn about the world and people around her as well as look within. After completing her reign as Miss Native American USA, Williams was signed to STATE Management as a plus size model. Plus size modeling is a way Autumn Rose faces her body image issues head-on and continues her message of self-love and empowerment!

Williams utilized her skillset in her communications career to advocate for accurate representation and inclusivity of Indigenous communities. Williams worked for her tribe, the Shinnecock Nation, as a Communications Manager to ensure her community was up to date with tribal politics, events and news. She has worked with the Administration for Native Americans to support Indigenous language preservation and revitalization within the lower 48, Alaska, and across the Pacific Region, including Hawaii, American Sāmoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Williams has worked with ICF Next as a Multicultural Communications Specialist where she supported the organization in understanding Indigenous communities and building healthy relationships.

With 14 years of public speaking, and 6 years of Public Relations Williams continues to educate and bring awareness to the topics that are dear to her, such as Afro-Indigenous culture, social justice awareness, body positivity and mental health.

“The empowerment of oneself leads to the empowerment of a nation!” - Autumn Rose

This speaker series is made possible by the generous donations from Donn Youngstrom.

Highlights of AFP 2023

A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth

Chief Empowerment Officer Kyle Williams, President Kamal Carter

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 6:00pm

Wednesday, October 4th, 2023, at 2:00pm



“A Long Talk” is an anti-racism activation experience designed to expose participants to a level of truth about the duration, violence, and intentionality of the systems of oppression that have existed since the inception of the United States. It is an open, honest discussion designed to explore and give voice to the uncomfortable truth of our shared history. It is an ongoing conversation which serves as a catalyst for creating a culture of individual change agents and collective anti-racism activism.



The purpose of this work is to end racism and dismantle systemic oppression in America by energizing, activating, and empowering allies in the pursuit of our shared purpose. We will do this by engaging in an ongoing conversation focused on truth, understanding, and problem solving, leading to individual and cooperative activism. In essence, the experience is an honest conversation about how we can all do more than just being personally “not racist.”

They have conducted this experience with over 13,000 people over the last 3 years and have received a tremendous amount of positive feedback. We invite you to sessions expertly designed to engage in constructive, reflective conversations, where participants are asked to listen, participate, and practice effective anti-racism in a supportive and facilitated setting. At the end of this experience, participants will be able to make connections between American history and its current reality; use the CPR Protocol to challenge racist comments and beliefs; and identify and overcome internal and external obstacles which may hinder living as an active anti-racist.

Highlights of AFP 2023

Sophia's Legacy: Holocaust, Genocide, and Conflict Education

Dr. Sophia Veffer

Survivor, Educator, Activist

Thursday, October 5th, 2023, at 1:45pm

Sophia grew up in Amsterdam, attended school with Anne Frank, and experienced firsthand the unthinkable atrocities of the Holocaust. As a young girl, she spent those years in hiding and in two concentration camps, separated from her family. Today, Sophia is an activist and educator, sharing her story and how she rebuilt her life following the war with unflinching honesty, poignancy, and her trademark sense of humor.



Liberation Embodied: An Invitation to Return 'Home'

Dr. Reuben Faloughi

Psychologist, Speaker, Consultant

Thursday, October 5th, 2023 at 4:00pm

Dr. Reuben is a multi-talented person and service provider with the sole purpose of activating innate human potential. He creates dynamic learning experiences for people, groups, and organizations based on his experience wearing a variety of 'hats' including: licensed psychologist, business consultant, public speaker, DEI thought leader, former Division I student-athlete, and artist. Dr. Reuben's areas of expertise include holistic wellness, communication, and leadership development. He works in a variety of industries including K-12 and Higher education, healthcare, athletics, and entertainment. Some of Dr. Reuben's past clients include: the American Psychological Association, Harvard University, Stanford University, and more. With contagious zeal, compassion, and a collaborative style, Dr. Reuben invites each of us to activate our humanity as individual and institutional change makers. For more, visit: www.Dr-Reuben.com

Schedule of Events

Registration is online at www.annefrankproject.com

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4th

Time, Title, Location, Description

10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. - Social Hall, Campbell Student Union

Festival Welcome and AFP 2023 Donn Youngstrom Featured Speaker: Autumn Rose Williams

Bonita R. Durand, PhD, Interim President, SUNY Buffalo State

Autumn Rose Williams

Who Am I Workshop

Autumn Rose Williams will explore individual identities and the ways in which we connect with ourselves. If you were to answer the question, who are you? How would you answer? Does the job title you have define you, does your cultural background or what you're studying in university define you? Through this workshop participants will walk away with insight on how to create a stronger foundation of self while also being empowered to explore more aspects of the self and the world.

12:15 - 1:45 p.m. - Social Hall, Campbell Student Union

Living Library

Eugene Harvey, Justin Crossfox, Julie Setele

A Living Library (aka Human Library) is an event designed to bring together people from different backgrounds and situations to engage in meaningful interactions. The “books” are real-life humans with diverse, marginalized, or underrepresented backgrounds, such as those who identify as homeless, LGBTQIA, or refugees. “Readers” are community members who “borrow” these books for a brief conversation during the event. This event allows attendees to speak honestly and openly with a person they might not otherwise come into contact with. These small-group conversations can increase understanding and empathy – two qualities that are becoming increasingly important in today’s partisan political and social climate.

12:15 -1:45 p.m. - Assembly Hall, Campbell Student Union

Abundance + Appreciation = Joy

Steve Peraza

In this presentation, participants will explore how 'joy' is a foundation to life. In the process, participants will understand the 'abundance mindset', and discuss the politics of appreciation. To connect this theory to action, a demonstration of a secular prayer –namely, the Five Gifts of Hathor – which is a 'handy' way to remind oneself what is good in their life. "Joy is what I want, and when I accept that there is more than enough for all in the world, and that the good in my life overshadows all my challenges, joy is exactly what I get..."

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Social Hall, Campbell Student Union

A Long Talk About The Uncomfortable Truth

Chief Empowerment Officer Kyle Williams

President Kamal Carter

A two-part anti-racist empowerment experience. The purpose of this work is to end racism and dismantle systemic oppression in America by energizing, activating, and empowering allies in the pursuit of our shared purpose. By engaging in an ongoing conversation focused on truth, understanding, and problem solving, leading to individual and cooperative activism. In essence, the experience is an honest conversation about how we can all do more than just being personally “not racist.”

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. - Assembly Hall, Campbell Student Union

Sign With Me

Kamil Gerald

Sign With Me will educate the community about the importance of being inclusive, promoting hearing loss and cultural awareness of the deaf community. Participants will have an understanding of the challenges faced within the deaf community. The workshop aims to encourage participants to play an active role in eliminating communication barriers. Not only within the deaf community, but also with those who have ailments and other disabilities. Participants will have the opportunity to learn basic signs such as the alphabets, "Hi, what's your name", and "My name is..". Handouts of signs will be provided.

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. - Burchfield Penney Art Center

Centering Within Us: Connecting with Our Breath

*Muhammad Zaman, Michael Mandolfo,
Myari Ware, Kathy Shiroki, Heather Gring*

This exhibition by Muhammad Zaman and Michael Mandolfo explores how we connect with each other through language and motion. The installation space is a softly lit, cozy environment where viewers are encouraged to interact with physical symbols of language, represented by long flowing draperies painted by Zaman. Accompanying photographs by Mandolfo depict images of language in motion with an emergent soundscape throughout. Visitors are encouraged to participate by sharing their experiences with language, songs, and stories in a recording booth within the space. Participants' recordings will be added to the soundscape over time. Participants will practice breathwork and bodily calming techniques. No previous experience is necessary.

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. - Salvatore Demonstration Kitchen, Caudell Hall and Statler Room

Cooking with Culture: Recipes for Belonging

Kathleen O'Brien, Donald Schmitter, Chef Darian Bryan

The session "Cooking with Culture: Stirring Up a 'Sense of Belonging' with Family and Friends" will develop from the theory that equity is essential to growing a strong economy and will help build vibrant and resilient communities. The kinesthetic element of the session will include collecting recipes and family stories from students, faculty, staff, and the community who are self-described "food lovers" or even chefs from other parts of the world, but who live, work, and play in our community today. Hands-on cooking and a demonstration of the preparation of recipes and dishes which reflect a diverse food culture are part of one or more sessions. The hope is that participants achieve practical and emotional skills in the culinary arts and share various social occasions which are part of their cultural identity.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Social Hall, Campbell Student Union

Remarkable Rwanda Stories

*Anisa Parsons, Anne-Sophie Hellman, Kayla Innocent, Makka Djibrine, Min Zo, Magdeline Vasatka,
Orianne Simon, Rachel Marillo, Samayiah Daughtry, Sonia Mbabazi, Viola Zimmerman*

Enjoy interactive presentations by the 2023 Rwanda student delegation. Light Rwandan refreshments will be served.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5th

Time, Title, Location, Description

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Social Hall, Campbell Student Union

Donn Youngstrom AFP Global Learning Lab Celebration

Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D, Interim President, SUNY Buffalo State

Drew Kahn, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, Founding Director

Donn Youngstrom

Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of the Donn Youngstrom AFP Global Learning Lab! During this event, participants will interact with students, teachers, and educators from Urukundo Learning Center LIVE from Rwanda. Listen to stories of how Story-Based Learning and the Global Learning Lab have impacted their education. A sneak peak of an upcoming documentary film about the Rwanda 2023 Delegation will be shown. Light breakfast will be served.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Czurler-Nelson Gallery, Upton Hall

Art as Witnessing, Art as Envisioning

Buffalo State University Faculty & Students

The Anne Frank Project 2023 exhibition, part of the AFP 2023 Social Justice Festival is a group show of artworks by campus faculty and student artists centered on responding to the world by using one of two perspectives: art centered on witnessing, showing us “this happened- or is happening,” and art that incorporates envisioning, imagining that things can be otherwise. Together these perspectives provide a foundation for teaching, learning, and making art through a social justice lens.

The exhibition is open from *Monday, October 2nd through Wednesday, October 18th.*

1:45 - 3:45 p.m. - Social Hall, Campbell Student Union

Sophia's Legacy: Holocaust, Genocide, and Conflict Education

Dr. Sophia Veffer

Drew Kahn, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, Founding Director

Kyle Williams & Kamal Carter

Dr. Reuben Faloughi

Witness Sophia Veffer’s legacy as she shares her stories of a young girl growing up in Amsterdam, Holland, attending school with Anne Frank, and experiencing the unthinkable atrocities of the Holocaust. A panel discussion to follow on the similarities and differences of racism and antisemitism. This session also gives an overview of the Sophia’s Legacy project, such as lesson plans, conversation starters, and story-based exercises where teachers can actively extend the lessons into their classrooms.

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Social Hall, Campbell Student Union

Liberation Embodied: An Invitation to Return 'Home'

Dr. Reuben Faloughi

Our human collective is in the midst of chaos. Mainstream media (and social media) feeds us stories of hopelessness, polarization, and despair that stoke our fears. This fear often becomes a distraction from our innate power as creative creators of our human experience. In other words, we have been systematically programmed out of our bodies, minds, and spirits in service of further dehumanizing ourselves and each other. However, with a willingness to return 'home' to our individual and collective humanity, we can recreate the narrative for our lives and the human collective. In this workshop, Dr. Reuben will introduce the Cycle of Liberation as a resource to inform individual, interpersonal, and institutional liberation. Participants will be invited to practice elements of individual and collective liberation with the intent to return 'home' to the most authentic expression of individual and collective humanity. Participants will: 1) learn about the Cycle of Liberation, 2) practice the expression of liberation in the individual and collective bodies, 3) develop skills for liberation in the individual, interpersonal, and institutional contexts.

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Assembly Hall, Campbell Student Union

"Are We Together?": Stories and insights from an education-focused Buffalo State trip to Zambia.

Andrew Hashey

Mary Lavin

In the session, students and faculty from the School of Education, will share experiences and insights from their 2023 trip to Zambia, highlighting their partnership work with the University of Zambia and local schools. This opportunity was made available through the Michael and Nancy Chicola International Professional Development Schools Consortium, whose goal is to provide opportunities for teacher candidates to globalize their understanding and experience of education through international study and travel.

Biographies

Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D. has been named interim president by the SUNY Board of Trustees. Durand will serve in this role until the appointment of a permanent president.

Durand retired in 2018 after 22 years of service to SUNY Buffalo State, where she served as chief of staff and secretary to the Buffalo State College Council. Durand served under five presidents at Buffalo State during her tenure. In addition, she was a graduate faculty member in the university's Higher Education Administration Department, where she taught courses on the history of American higher education and strategic planning and finance in higher education.

Durand provided leadership to countless committees and working groups at Buffalo State, including the Middle States accreditation steering committee, the presidential inauguration support committees, the facilities master planning committee, and the presidential search advisory committees. She has also served as the faculty adviser for the collegiate chapter of the National Council of Negro Women and the campus adviser for the Gamma Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

An active member of the Western New York community, Durand has dedicated her time to numerous organizations across the city and region.

Dr. Andrew I. Hashey is an Chair and Associate Professor in the Exceptional Education Department at SUNY Buffalo State University. In his K-12 teaching career, Dr. Hashey taught in classrooms serving students experiencing significant behavioral and emotional difficulties. His beliefs about teaching and learning are rooted in the tenets of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and in the power of positive and proactive approaches to supporting the growth of all learners. Dr. Hashey's recent research examines how video-enhanced performance feedback can support pre-service teachers' acquisition and implementation of evidence-based practices. Other scholarly interests include self-regulation, high-leverage practices (HLPs), and school-university partnerships.

Chef Darian Bryan is a Jamaican chef bringing the heat to Buffalo, NY. He is a Food Network winner and has also been featured on CBS News, ESPN, The Jamaican Observer, The Gleaner, TVJ, and more. He arrived in the States in 2012 and has quickly risen to the spotlight through his pop-up fine dining dinners in surprising and unusual locations, private dinners and meal prep for Buffalo's favorite NFL players, and his block-long lines at his Jamaican pop-up events titled "Jerk Hut". Chef Darian specializes in everything extra, from his signature fedora hats and chef jacket styles to his jewelry, to his colossal surf and turf. He recently opened a new dining concept, a boutique for chef services. The boutique allows the Chef to focus on his mission, redefining the chef, bringing them from the back of the house to the front, with each dining party centered around his cooking. Chef Darian believes that chefs are rock stars and should be celebrated as such, their food makes people happy, and they should feel and see that love

too. He opened his second restaurant this summer called *Bratts Hill*, an ode to the hill he grew up on in the Jamaica countryside and it will feature upscale Jamaican fusion cuisine. Through all his success, he represents Jamaica to the fullest and loves to merge his Caribbean cuisine with all his fine dining dishes, hence the nickname, “The Fancy Jerk”

Resources: <https://www.theplatingsociety.com/>

Chef Donald Schmitter specializes in the culinary aspects of hospitality, based on his many years of experience in the field. In addition to teaching catering, baking, and advanced food courses he also serves as the faculty advisor to the student special events catering club. He serves as the Lab Coordinator for the Hospitality Department. A current member of the American Culinary Federation of WNY and a Certified Culinary Educator, he began his career after graduating from culinary school by completing an ACF Apprenticeship under William Moser (Hilton Hotels) and Norman Hart at Brookfield Country Club. He went on to become an ACF Certified Chef de’ Cuisine from 1998-2003 while working as an Executive Sous Chef at Buffalo Hilton, Adam’s Mark Hotel, and The Glen Iris Inn (Rich Products).

He was also the Executive Chef at the Red Coach Inn in Niagara Falls while completing his graduate degree in Career and Technical Education at Buffalo State, before becoming a member of the faculty in the Hospitality and Tourism Department.

Donn Youngstrom joined the faculty at Buffalo State in 1994 following an extensive theatrical career. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in history from Lewis & Clark College, he studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts/West. He began his career acting and directing in semi-professional theaters in LA and later Seattle. He relocated to New York City, where he joined CSC Rep, a classical repertory company. In 1984 he played the lead in *Comus* directed by Donald Savage as part of a Milton Festival at Buffalo State. There he met Donna and Dennis McCarthy, as well as Horace (Hank) Mann. At the urging of Dr. Savage and Dr. Mann, Donn completed a master’s in fine arts in directing at Brooklyn College. He subsequently taught as a Lecturer at East Carolina University for four years before returning to New York City as an adjunct professor. In 1994 he was invited by the Chair of the Theater Department, Donna McCarthy, to return to Buffalo State, this time initially as a full-time temporary faculty and later tenured faculty member. Mr. Youngstrom retired in 2018. As a member of the Buffalo State faculty, Mr. Youngstrom left a lasting impression on countless students, in his classes and as a director of 22 student productions. He served as chair of the Theater Department and was a member of the Faculty Senate.

Drew Kahn is a Distinguished Service Professor at SUNY Buffalo State where he has taught acting, devised theater (President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching/SUNY) and directed productions (Kennedy Center Award) for 25 years. He taught K-12 populations for 10 years previous to his work in higher education. He is the Founding Director of The Anne Frank Project, a multi-layered social justice

initiative at SUNY Buffalo State that utilizes the wisdom of Anne Frank as a springboard for the examination of genocide and intolerance through the lens of story and performance.

He presents and teaches internationally on the universal language of theater and the intersection of story, conflict resolution and community building—most recently in Rwanda, Kenya, Switzerland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, Viet Nam, Morocco, New Zealand, Greece, Croatia and Turkey (Toby Ticktin Back Award for Holocaust Education, Community Leader Award, National Federation for Just Communities). Professor Kahn has extensive acting experience in professional theater (Andre' DeShields' original cast of Saint Tous), feature film (Paramount Pictures' Necessary Roughness) as well as several television and commercial credits.

In Buffalo, New York, he was the host of WKBW-TV's (ABC) AM Buffalo for six years, hosted the WNED (PBS) documentary Saving a Landmark: The Darwin Martin House (National Telly Award), and has numerous local stage credits including In a Dark, Dark House, Lobby Hero, A Cat On A Hot Tin Roof and Baltimore Waltz (ArtVoice Artie Award). He received an MFA from Southern Methodist University and a BA from San Diego State University. His favorite roles are husband to his wife Maria and dad to his children Sam and Nate.

Eugene Harvey is an Associate Librarian at E. H. Butler Library and holds master's degrees in library science and Social Work. Besides being a librarian with experience in teaching, reference services, and library assessment, Eugene also has a background in adult mental health treatment and psychotherapy and remains interested in many social welfare issues. This is Eugene's fourth time planning the Living Library event, which has been immensely successful over the years in bringing a variety of "human books" to share their stories with our students.

Resources: <http://humanlibrary.org>

Heather Gring has been the Archivist at the Burchfield Penney Art Center since 2013. She is responsible for traditional archival projects and contributes to the Arts Legacy Project (ALP), which aims to document and provide access to the artistic legacy of Western New York. Heather's role also involves processing archival collections, supporting researchers, and curating exhibitions about WNY art, such as *The Language Within Us*. She is most proud of her work to process the Artpark Archives, an archival project that took eight years to complete."

Resources: @burchfieldpenney

Julie Setele is a Senior Assistant Librarian at E. H. Butler Library. They hold a PhD in Sociology, as well as an MLIS. They are passionate about social justice, especially reproductive justice, intersectional feminism, and prison abolition.

Justin Crossfox is a Senior Assistant Librarian at the E. H. Butler Library. He received his MLS from Queens College, in Queens, NY. Justin had previously spent his career in Public Libraries, focusing on children's librarianship. Crossfox is also on the event planning team for the Living Library.

Kamal Carter is a scientist, an activist, an educator and a management consultant. Kamal brings more than 25 years of corporate development and growth strategy experience. He has held multiple global leadership positions at leading companies. What he is most proud of is walking away from millions of dollars to serve as a high school chemistry teacher at an inner city school in Atlanta. For more than a decade, Mr. Carter has pioneered innovative strategies in education. He co-wrote a script for a PBS science show which he also stars in. He has been a National Institute of Health (NIH) Research Fellow and a member of the State of Georgia Superintendent's Teachers Advisory Council. Kamal graduated from Hampton University with a Biology Pre-Med degree. He turned down two full scholarships to medical school to pursue his passion in business, community development, and science education. Kamal Carter is chairman of the board of Step Ahead Scholars, Inc., a nonprofit he co-founded 10 years ago whose mission is to eradicate college access inequality.

Resources: <https://alongtalk.com/>

Kamil Gerald, MSW is a hard of hearing (HOH), African American woman who is the Founder of Signing Is Art (SIA) which is located in Buffalo, NY. She created SIA to promote hearing loss awareness, cultural awareness of the deaf community, as well as to promote equality and inclusivity. Signing Is Art provides sign language classes and private lessons to the community.

Resources: @siabykamil

Kathleen O'Brien, appointed as chair of the Hospitality and Tourism Department in 2019, specializes in the broad areas of hospitality services management, event planning, and private club management. She is a lecturer for cultural tourism and principles of food service management courses offered in the B.S. Undergraduate Hospitality Administration program.

Collaborative work with university administrators resulted in a plan for a start-up business called Campus House Club, Inc. The university faculty and staff club, founded in 2002, is where O'Brien served as director for more than seventeen years. The club operates as a premier learning laboratory for hospitality students and offers an array of services to the campus community. She is the faculty advisor for the Buffalo State student chapter of Club Management Association of America (CMAA) and acting Alcoholic Beverage Officer (ABC) for the department.

O'Brien earned hospitality educator certification through the Educational Institute of the American Hotel and Lodging Association in 2002 and received the President's Award for Excellence in Service to the College in 2009. Kathleen earned credentials through participation in Fostering Innovation in Teaching with Technology (FITT) Academy, a project-specific faculty development opportunity sponsored by

Information Technology. She serves on the Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Council at the university.

Kathy Shiroki is the Outreach and Adult Museum Educator and Heather Gring is the Burchfield Penney Art Center Archivist and Curator of *The Language Within Us*.

Resources: @burchfieldpenney

Kyle Williams is a leader. Whether leading his three sons into manhood, leading a community-based elementary school in Washington, D.C., leading the #1 youth basketball program in the country, or leading this incredible team at *A Long Talk*, he has always been a leader. Raised in Plainfield, NJ, the son of Artie B. and Jocelyn, is a child of Hip Hop and a servant of the community. As a professional educator, Kyle has amassed over 25 years teaching children and adults alike. Highlighted by his time at the Community Academy Public Charter school where, in 1998, he applied and interviewed to serve as a volunteer and was “coerced” into accepting a provisional teaching position instead. After six short years of service in the classroom and on the school’s leadership team, he would be appointed as the school’s third Academy Leader in 2004. Following his 17 year career at CAPCS, he began working with Discovery Education helping teachers and school leaders all over the country make the shift to becoming more technology savvy, 21st century educators. Change and progress through educational empowerment has always been at the heart of the work he has done. He brings that same focus and energy to the fight for social justice and racial reconciliation as the Chief Empowerment Officer and creator of “*A Long Talk About The Uncomfortable Truth*.”

Resources: <https://alongtalk.com/>

Mary Lavin (bio coming soon!)

Michael Mandolfo is a visual artist based in Buffalo, New York. Perception is a common theme in his work. Upon receiving his bachelor’s degree in photography from the University at Buffalo in 1985, Mandolfo has received a multitude of awards and exhibited across New York over the last few decades. His work has also appeared in Times Square, at destination hotels in many US cities including New York City and Las Vegas, and as far away as Buenos Aires, Argentina and Tokyo, Japan. His work explores coexisting cultures in America as he focuses on discovering ways elements of culture are able to be expressed as a unifying force rather than a dividing one. His subjects may include one’s individual perception, as well as cultural perception both from within and outside one’s culture.

Mandolfo is also a partner of Forest Productions & Photography, Inc. – a commercial photography and video studio specializing in creating marketing and advertising media for corporate and institutional clients. The work created by both Mandolfo and Forest Productions & Photography, Inc., produces compelling imagery. Most recently, Mandolfo has transitioned his natural ability with still images into moving pictures through his video work. When not photographing on location, he creates his artwork in his 4,500 square foot studio in Buffalo, New York.

Resources: <https://www.michaelmandolfo.com/>

Muhammad Zaman is a visual artist who specializes in Arabic calligraphy. His works are predominantly acrylic or mixed media on canvas, wood, and paper. His technique transforms the written script of three languages--English, Bangla, and Arabic-- into a new script that is distinctly his own. It takes elements from each of these languages which have significant personal meaning for Zaman: Bangla is his first language as a native of Bangladesh, English is the language of his home in the U.S., and Arabic is the language of his religion, Islam. His script is deeply inspired by ancient calligraphic practices, and incorporates modern and urban techniques and influences.

In Zaman's works, he layers words and full messages about peace, unity, and understanding. The colors he chooses tend to capture the tone and energy of his intended messages. Because of the nearly readable quality of his works, they have been described as a "scavenger hunt" wherein the viewer becomes an active participant in decoding or filling in the message. Thus, his works are simultaneously abstract, interactive, and conceptual. Zaman was influenced by the artist, eL Seed and his idea to create unity for people from varying backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions. Zaman's artistic goal is to inspire people, and for them to share the same place and learn from each other in harmony and mutual understanding. Although his works contain characters from three different languages, there is always at least one recognizable word represented in each language. This sparks curiosity across audiences to decode the message, leading to a deeper connection with his art. By 2012, Zaman started to do calligraphy at a professional level and pursue it as a career. He later started www.zamanarts.com; he is also part of www.commongroundsrtsists.com which is an interfaith organization that promotes peace and allows diverse groups of people to come together for the arts. He has most recently joined Buffalo Arts Studio as a Resident Artist. Zaman has created 7 public art murals and has exhibited all across the U.S. and several international locations. His work has also been included in a multitude of private collections in Paris, Lisbon, NYC, Buffalo, among others.

Resources: <https://zmnart.com/>

Myari Ware is a yoga practitioner and instructor based in Buffalo, New York. She has been practicing yoga for nearly a decade and earned her 200-hour certification from East Meets West Yoga.

With a focus on mindfulness, Myari strives to create an environment free of judgment and comparison and encourages students to challenge themselves and to make this practice their own.

Dr. Reuben is a multi-talented person and service provider with the sole purpose of activating innate human potential. He creates dynamic learning experiences for people, groups, and organizations based on his experience wearing a variety of 'hats' including: licensed psychologist, business consultant, public speaker, DEI thought leader, former Division I student-athlete, and artist. Dr. Reuben's areas of expertise include holistic wellness, communication, and leadership development. He works in a variety of industries including K-12 and Higher education, healthcare, athletics, and entertainment. Some of Dr.

Reuben's past clients include: the American Psychological Association, Harvard University, Stanford University, and more. With contagious zeal, compassion, and a collaborative style, Dr. Reuben invites each of us to activate our humanity as individual and institutional change makers.

Resources: <https://www.dr-reuben.com/>

Sophia Veffer, a survivor of the Nazi campaign that orchestrated the systematic slaughter of more than six million European Jews during World War II, was born in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1929. Her father was a stamp dealer and the family lived in a middle-class neighborhood where Veffer attended school with Anne Frank. Veffer became a special education teacher, receiving her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Buffalo and her master's degree in special education from Buffalo State College. She also raised three sons, all of whom are now successful attorneys. Veffer began publicly sharing her story several years later. She has taught thousands of students and young adults the important lessons of the Holocaust and other mass atrocities. In January 2006, Veffer received the National Conference for Community and Justice Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award for outstanding leadership in promoting goodwill and understanding in the community. That same year she was contacted by Drew Kahn, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, who requested her assistance with his theater production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and became a founding member of the Anne Frank Project. Sophia is a past president of the Women of Studio Arena Theater and the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo where she currently serves on its Executive Board. In addition, Sophia serves on the Advisory Committee of the Jewish Repertory Theatre of Western New York. In May 2019, she was named an honorary doctor of humane letters by the State University of New York.

Resources: <https://www.annefrankproject.com/sophias-legacy>

Steve Peraza is a senior research and policy associate at Cornell ILR Buffalo Co-Lab. Dr. Peraza earned a Ph.D. in U.S. History from SUNY Buffalo and a BA from St. Lawrence University. His research programs engage with issues such as slavery in the Atlantic World, manumission, poverty, policing, racial justice, and social movements. Dr. Peraza is the co-editor for and a prominent contributor to an influential book recently published by SUNY Press, *More Than Our Pain: Affect and Emotion in the Black Lives Matter Era*. Dr. Peraza's teaching experience includes authoring and delivering classes on African Americans and Civil Rights, Black Protest and Leadership in the 20th Century, the African Diaspora, and Hip Hop and Beyond: A Cultural History, among others. Beyond his scholarship and teaching, Dr. Peraza is widely acknowledged for his community and professional service. He serves on numerous boards in the Western New York region and holds editorial positions with multiple publications (including the *Journal of Afro-Americans in New York Life and History*, *Weave News*, and *H-Slavery*).

Urukundo Foundation is dedicated to education for Rwandan children, created and funded through Hope Made Real and its incredibly kind donors. Founded by Arlene Brown, Hope Made Real is dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned and abandoned children, and the poor and vulnerable people of Rwanda, Africa.

Resources: <https://hopemadereal.org/>

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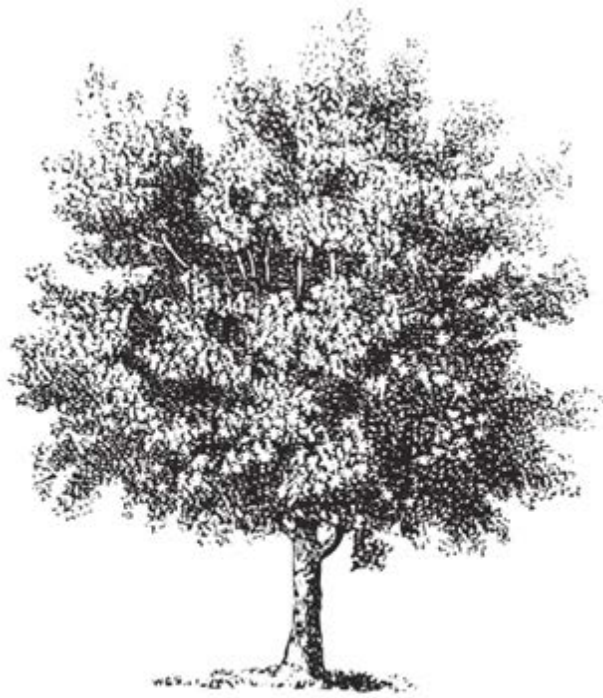
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