



CANOPY OF NEIGHBORS

ANN GOLDSMITH *Member, Poet, Author*



Oh, the joy of writing poetry! Ann Goldsmith's first love is in her engagement with writing and her work. "The real joy is in doing," she said as she

nursed a broken left arm. She broke her writing arm when she fell off an exercise ball in physical therapy. Ann is a prize-winning Buffalo poet with two books to her credit and a third one ready for publication. In an international competition in 1999, her book was one of only six books chosen for publication by the Quarterly Review of Literature.

Ann was born in Puerto Rico but came north as a small child. She is a graduate of Smith College where she majored in English. She started a career as a newspaper reporter working for the Schenectady Union-Star until she was 29 years old. She never thought of becoming a poet until she ventured off to a writing conference in Boulder, Colorado where she wrote her first poem. While waiting for resolution of car problems with her little SAAB, she decided to stay in Boulder. She tried her hand at writing fiction but she claims she had no gift for plot or character development. She rented a small apartment across from a man with a large apartment. They became friends and when they later married she became a stepmother to two boys. She lost her husband after five years when he was killed while rock climbing. She eventually moved back east to Buffalo.

Back in Western New York she taught and lectured in college courses on

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MY JOURNEY AND DISCOVERY

When asked to write an article for the Canopy Newsletter I was posed with the

question "What can I contribute that might be of interest to my readers?" So I have to refer to my own experience of learning about Canopy. It must have been about 5 years ago that I noticed an ad for Canopy. At 56 and with an unquenchable thirst for the unknown, inquisitive nature and pursuit of boundless resources that might serve a purpose one day, I checked it out...they were also searching for a volunteer at the time, so I took the bait. I was immediately thrown into the position of calling members, checking in on them, seeing if there was anything new or they were in need of, and making appointments for them. I began to have a real appreciation for how a phone call can impact an individual's life... and admittedly I enjoyed the connection... so I was hooked.

Then as you can see by my age I realized I was not far from reaching the age of services.

This forced me to think about what my aging might look like. I realized I was fortunate to have a legacy of long life... however, what did I expect that life to look like. Being productive and contributing in some capacity has always been a part of my makeup, so volunteering is a natural outlet, people food art creative pursuits (I use no commas because they usually work out to be one act) would be expected. I would

**Elders:
heads (n.)
chiefs
leaders
seniors**

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APRIL 2016

*Newsletter of Buffalo's
Canopy of Neighbors*



Our Board of Directors

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Elizabeth Kolken
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Sasha Yerkovich
Executive Director
Kathleen Daigler
Director of Volunteers

OUT & ABOUT WITH CANOPY

APRIL ❖ MAY ❖ JUNE 2016



IRISH CLASSICAL THEATER:

Join us for full dress rehearsal on:

Thursday, April 21st for

“The Yeats Project”

Thursday, June 2nd for

“An Ideal Husband”

Curtain up at 7:30 pm. Ride pickups to start around 7 pm. **Free Event**



COFFEE CLUB: *The 1st and 3rd THURSDAY of each month at 9 am at Canopy in the library. Free Event*

April 21st: TM Montante Development President Christian Campos

shares plans redevelopment of the former Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital and explains how this site will become a vibrant, mixed use urban district.

May 5th: TO BE ANNOUNCED

May 19th: Mary Roberts, Ex. Director Darwin Martin House. Learn about the historic Darwin Martin House.

June 2nd: Join Marla Bujnicki, preservationist, historian, volunteer and avid promoter of Buffalo who will recreate the lives of the “Movers & Shakers in Buffalo during the late 1800’s and early 1900’s”. Learn about the storied past of Delaware Avenue!

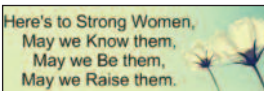


“WE ARE STRONG WOMEN”

presents Judge Rosalie Bailey

Thursday, April 28th at 10 am at the Canopy of Neighbor’s office. Join us as we learn about Judge Bailey’s career

and the family court system. **Free Event**



MAY 26TH: May Shogan

Director of International Exchanges and Education

Department at the International Institute of Buffalo. Join us at 10 am at Canopy.



WHO ME? WRITE POETRY?

Together let us explore what makes a poem, gathering images and ideas to express our creative selves! Facilitated by Dianne Riordan (*The Names of My*

Mothers) and Marj Norris, poet. Bring your pencil and note pad to join us **Wednesday, May 4th and 18th** at the Canopy office in the library at 10 am.

Free Event



YOGA CLASS @ BAPTIST

MANOR: Chair YOGA to cultivate balance, strength, flexibility and tranquility. **Meets Every Wednesday at 10:00 am.** For more information call

the instructor Athalie Joy at 830-6900. **Free Event**



TUESDAY MOVIE MATINEES:

First Tuesday of each month, for a late afternoon matinee. Time to be announced.

Tuesday, May 3rd -

To Be Announced.

Cost to member for Ticket and Refreshments



LUNCH @ HAMLIN HOUSE:

Second Tuesday of each month

@1:00 pm. \$10.00 ALL INCLUSIVE.

Next date **Tuesday, May 10th.**



TOUR OF BUFFALO CITY HALL

Coming this Spring



TIFFANY CRAWL

Resumes this Spring. Churches to be announced. **Free Event**



MISS BUFFALO

Ride this July. Info. to come. Cost and Tip to members



FOREST LAWN CEMETERY TROLLEY RIDE

Coming this Summer.

Cost to member



A DAY AT THE BUFFALO ZOO

Coming this Summer. \$10 senior admission. Cost to member + refreshments (Regular admission \$12)

RSVP To Larry, 716-235-8133. Please RSVP to all Events.

Rides are available by volunteers to all activities.



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Canopy of Neighbors has reached a milestone – its FIFTH Anniversary! Pat yourselves on your collective backs because Canopy's longevity springs from all of us participating together as members, volunteers, donors, board and committee members and staff. Speaking on behalf of our other co-founders, Toby Laping and Liz

Schreier, I thank each of you and, especially, our donors and grantors who have believed in and supported Canopy since its inception. Because of your generosity, in 2015 alone, Canopy's 121 outstanding volunteers, many of whom are also members and donors, under the very capable oversight of Kathy Daigler, provided an astounding 10,079 volunteer hours filling 3,568 requests from members. In the five years since our doors opened, the number of volunteers and their committed hours have soared. And, the number of rides provided to members to attend social activities and programs have now exceeded the number of rides requested for all reasons. Kudos to our Program Committee, under the leadership of Athalie Joy through 2015, and now led by Linda Matt and Liz Kolken, for the great variety of offerings that bring us all together in so many ways and in so many different venues. See the current listing in this newsletter.

Luckily for Canopy, Sasha Yerkovich arrived in our 5th year to serve as our new Executive Director. Her style of leadership and entrepreneurial spirit energizes and motivates us all as we continue to build the Canopy community of members, volunteers and donors.

Behind the scenes is a group of wonderful people, some of whom are members and all of whom are Canopy donors and volunteers who give their time on Canopy's Board of Directors overseeing the workings of Canopy and leading our varied committees. Their service has been critical to Canopy's development and we are grateful to everyone who has served or now serves on the board since Canopy's inception.

As you can see from the expanded donor list in this newsletter issue, due to your generosity, we are moving closer to becoming more self-sustainable. Self-sustainability is the magic potion of any grant application, especially repeat asks. While it is going to be tough to reach the ideal 80% level, increasing membership and expanding our donor and corporate sponsor base will move us closer to the goal.

What can you do? Be a Canopy Ambassador and spread the word about Canopy to your friends, neighbors and relatives. Call Sasha at 235-8133 with names of potential members and volunteers and she will follow up on all of your leads.

Call me at 837-0024 or e-mail me at gayleleagan@gmail.com if you have any program ideas or comments AND if you wish to volunteer on one of our many board committees – program, membership, volunteers, vendors, grants/corporate sponsorships, public relations/marketing, governance and finance.

Gayle L. Eagan
PRESIDENT

CANOPY ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Brandi L. Haynes, Elizabeth (Liz) Kolken and Elaine M. Pyne have been elected to Canopy of Neighbors Board of Directors.

Ms. Haynes is a Buffalo resident and Director of Emergency Services Division of the Community Action Organization (CAO) of Erie County. Brandi is self-described as an eternal optimist. "I think Canopy truly enriches the everyday lives of seniors by offering supports that allow them to maintain their independence."

Her community involvement includes being a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee of Erie County, Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Greater Buffalo, and WNY Coalition for the Homeless and Buffalo Niagara Partnership 360 as well as being a board member of Canopy. Brandi now serves as chair of Canopy's Grants Committee.

An alum of Alabama State University she currently attends SUNY Empire State College. Brandi is also a graduate of the Young Audiences of WNY Emerging Leaders Institute.

Liz Kolken is a life-long WNY resident growing up in Kenmore and now living with her husband Robert, in Buffalo. They have two sons, Mathew and Benjamin and two grandchildren Alexander and Catherine (twins).

A former teacher in the Buffalo School System, Liz owned Buffalo's famous Quaker Bonnet restaurant for over 30 years. Although now "officially" retired, Liz remains an active member of our community. In addition to her volunteer efforts on the Canopy board she serves on the board at One Symphony Circle and BOCES Advisory Board as well as their mentoring program.

Liz notes, "Canopy makes it possible to meet new and interesting people, go to new and interesting places, and learn about new and interesting ideas without being the old fart in the room."

As a long-time WNY community volunteer, **Elaine Pyne** has served on a number of not-for-profit boards including Past President of the Junior League of Buffalo and Longview Niagara Children's Home. She also serves on the board of WECP (Westminster Early Childhood Program) and Presbyterian Senior Care of WNY.

A senior level professional with over 25 years' experience in fund raising, Elaine volunteers on Canopy's Development/Public Relations Committee. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo.

A resident of Buffalo, Elaine has worked both in the private and not-for-profit sectors including Director of Advancement at the Albright Knox Art Gallery and Director of Sales for IBM Consumer Software Division.



**Canopy members enjoy excursions,
lectures and each other!**

**Learn creative writing, join us for tea time...
the options are endless!**

"Why I joined Canopy..."

"Canopy really is all encompassing – it keeps me connected with what's happening in the community socially, intellectually and with my peers."

~ Joan Josephson

"Canopy takes me where I need to go and helps me stay in touch with old friends and make new ones!"

~ Helen Diefendorf

"When at a stage in my life I realized books, crosswords and other interests were not enough, and I needed 'people,' Canopy gave me a beautiful pavilion with caring people. I read about Canopy in the Buffalo News saying it's organized to 'help one age in place.'"

Just the panacea I needed. Thanks to Liz and others who started it, led and developed a place where you can greet and meet people, enjoy other's company while volunteers help with many needs including cheerful calls 'to see if one is doing alright.' At Canopy I was able to widen my circle of friends, enjoy varied interests, meet others from all walks and stations of life and countries – a global tour – all in a great family atmosphere. With all the different activities offered, one is able to enjoy, learn and be delighted by performances, places, & people – all provided along with caring transportation. Thank you Canopy!"

~ Indira Kartha

"Why I volunteer for Canopy..."

"I volunteer for Canopy of Neighbors because it is a way for me to give back to the community where I have lived for most of my life. Also, I have met wonderful people and made new friends through volunteering at Canopy of Neighbors."

~ Ginx Graves

"I always meet someone new who shares their interest and skills. Last time I met Daysi who is bilingual and a seamstress learning to quilt. I could never be patient enough to sew."

~ Liz Kolken

"I decided to volunteer for Canopy in order to help people the way my mother was helped by a similar organization. Now I feel almost guilty because it's been so personally rewarding. I have met so many nice people!"

~ Leslie Curtiss

"I love volunteering for Canopy because it keeps our community strong. Canopy feels like family!"

~ Anna Krause

"Why I donate to Canopy..."

"I first heard about Canopy of Neighbors as a possibility, and was immediately impressed by the caliber of those involved. A great group of people worked hard to realize a great idea. We are delighted to be donors to this eminently worthy cause."

~ Maria Scrivani

"As a volunteer for Canopy of Neighbors, I directly see how the members benefit from all the services Canopy offers. I donate to help more seniors become members and to support Canopy's successful programs."

~ Ellen Daly

"Supporting Canopy of Neighbors is a way of supporting our neighborhood and the people who stay in it because they love it. It is also a way to assure there will be a source of assistance in the future for those of us who hope to 'age in place'. We are so grateful for this presence in our community! I was so excited when I first learned that this organization was becoming a reality in Buffalo, having learned of a well-established similar group in Boston. Facilitating elders remaining in their familiar surroundings seems like such good common sense, and just what we hope to do, thanks to you!"

~ Camille Cox

SPECIAL OCCASION GIFTS

*These gifts are a meaningful way to honor and remember individuals
as well as supporting Canopy of Neighbors. Thank you.*

These tribute and memorial gifts were received by Canopy of Neighbors during 2015.

TRIBUTES

In honor of Nan Clarkson

- Barbara Billings
- Virginia & Hazard Campbell

In honor of Toby Laping

- The Family of Mary Ermer
- Susan Siwec
- Alice & Robert Rosenthal

In honor of Gayle Eagan

- Roberta & Roger Dayer
- Elizabeth Wilkes

In honor of Linda Matt

- Elizabeth & Robert Kolken

MEMORIALS

In memory of Alex Catalano &
Frances Catalano

- Rosemary Catalano

In memory of Theresa Privitera

- Sheila Archer & Ed Evans
- Elizabeth Dann
- Karina & Bernard Flynn
- John Freeman

- Ruthanne Hickey Harkins
- Charlotte & Edward Hotard
- The Jeffree Family
- Karen & John Lanigan

In memory of Linda Schoemick
• Jerry Schoemick

In memory of Susan Schapiro &
William Schapiro

- Ann Schapiro

In memory of Peter & Thomas
• Anthony Coluccci, Jr.

In memory of Bruce Beale

- The Cinti –
Finkelstein Family

Ann Goldsmith...continued from page 1

poetry, personal journal writing, and writing short stories. She became the Western New York coordinator for ALPS – Alternative Literary Programs in Schools. She was Poet in Residence for two summers at the Chautauqua Institution. Along the way, she earned a PhD in English from the University at Buffalo. She loves using imagination in her joy of writing poetry where she can color facts with feelings and memories any way she chooses. Her creativity can be triggered by an overheard passing remark, a small incident, or a philosophical thought that connects to a person or a time period. She said, “A poem is not predictable.” It begins with a dream that may be insignificant except that it shines a light on something for her. She said she is never comfortable with sonnets but “they challenge you out of ruts.” Her titles for her books are thought-provoking in themselves – “No One is the Same Again,” “The Spaces Between Us,” and “Waiting at the Turn.”

Two or three friends suggested Canopy to her several months ago. She said she appreciates the nice woman who drives her to physical therapy although ordinarily she could still drive herself. She appreciates Sasha’s kindnesses such as in anticipating a need to move Ann’s mailbox closer to make it more convenient for her. At this point in her life Ann feels hugely blessed to be able to write poems and to share matters. She identifies with a quote from Yeats when he wrote a letter to friends saying that he had six months of rewriting – what a joy! It was said that in Yeats’s mind, perception of fact, and feeling and thinking are all a little different from ours. Ann and I shared the wonder of discovery found in learning some new connections we had never experienced before. Oh, the joy of meeting a real poet!

– Marian Deutschman

My Journey and Discovery...continued from page 1

most likely always want to be engaged with friends and family. Why would I possibly want to stop doing the things that give me a vital life force? Why would anyone for that matter? (Bear with me I know I’m preaching to the choir here).

So as I learned more about Canopy as a grassroots organization formed in response to a community’s concern and championing issues on making life better for older adults I became a real proponent of its focus and familiarized myself with some statistics like:

By 2050, people aged 65 and older will make up more than 20 percent of the U.S. population. As a result of public health initiatives and medical advances throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, people are now living longer than ever before. Village to Village (a peer to peer network and the parent organization of Canopy) currently has approximately 190 Villages operating across the country, in Australia and the Netherlands and 185 additional Villages are currently in development.

Canopy is a unique design and on the innovative edge of the national and international movement for aging in place; creating neighborhoods designed with aging in mind and working to promote aging with dignity.

Canopy identifies productive aging as an important topic, continuing the talent and contributions of older people; and promoting an active, healthy life throughout the life course. But more importantly Canopy provides critical programs, services and resources to seniors. Being part of a network that provides home and community-based services to ensure that seniors can stay in their homes longer and maintain the

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THANK YOU...Our sincere thanks and gratitude to the individuals, corporations and foundations who have supported Canopy of Neighbors and its mission through their financial support in 2015.

\$30,000 & Above

John R. Oishei Foundation
The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation

\$10,000 - \$29,999

Patrick P. Lee Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Belmore & Peter Bridgford
Josephine Goodyear Foundation
Evans-Devereux Memorial Fund
The Frank G. Raichle Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Gayle & James Eagan
Linda Matt

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Ann Schapiro

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Edith Flanigen
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Maria Scrivani & John Lipsitz
Anthony Szczygiel
Susan & Ronald Uba
Isa Wallace
Gina & Michael Weiner
Elizabeth Wilkes

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Sheila Archer & Ed Evans
Caroline Babb
Janet Beurskens
Linda Birkinbine
Jean & Anthony Caldiero
Melissa DeCastro
Rosemary Catalano
Ruth Cohan
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Melissa DeCastro
Marian & Emil Deutschman
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Cynthia Schwartz
Donald Shedd
Phyllis Smuckler
Phillips Stevens, Jr.
Mary Taylor
Mary Thomas
Marge Vullo
Shirley Watts
Clementine Wells

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Thoughtful, Caring and So Very Helpful describes Canopy's Volunteers.

Become a Canopy volunteer and join a wonderful group of people. Whether it is an hour or so, a week... or more, we will work with your schedule. You can reach out to make a difference in someone's life.

Do you have time to drive someone to a medical appointment or help out in the Canopy office?

Do you have time for a friendly visit, a cup of coffee with a member or participating in social outings? So many choices to lend a hand and have a good time to boot.

We will be happy to email and/or mail you volunteer opportunities. You choose what interests you. For more information and to answer any questions, call or email Kathy at our Canopy offices at (716) 235-8133 or Kathy@canopyofneighbors.org.

OUR NEWEST CANOPY VOLUNTEERS

Welcome to these seven individuals who have become volunteers for Canopy. Our warmest welcome to...

Gretchen Grobe Anna Krause Suzanne Pilon
Susan Illes Peppy McLean Bertha Rhone

My Journey and Discovery...continued from page 6

quality of life they deserve, creating innovative programs that reflect core values and focus. Canopy consists of a core group of diverse individuals bound by a common goal: to support the commitment and enhance the knowledge and skills of those who seek to improve the quality of life of older adults and their families.

So our membership can be proud to proclaim themselves innovators that have established one of the many networks interested in establishing and improving their own village whether in large metropolitan areas, rural towns or suburban settings.

A just and caring society in which each of us, as we age, lives with dignity, purpose, and security, where we are dedicated to leveraging the skills and talents of experienced adults to address pressing social issues, where the experienced adult is a resource for the greater good and connects our social-purpose in positive and productive ways, contributes to family and society as a whole.

Older people are our key stakeholders... Thank you Canopy and its Membership.

— Deborah Kane
SUNY at Buffalo

AHRQ Exemplary Practice Program

CORPORATE SPONSORS

We thank these corporations for their continued support of Canopy of Neighbors and our community.





CANOPY OF NEIGHBORS

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This newsletter is a
publication of
Canopy of Neighbors, Inc.
in Buffalo, New York.

DID YOU KNOW...

*Your IRA @
Canopy*

If you have an IRA, you can make gifts to Canopy directly from your IRA at the time you take your Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) (monthly, quarterly or annually) with PRE-TAX dollars. That's right, your MRD gets reduced by the contribution and you are only taxed on what you actually receive. Your check(s) from your IRA to Canopy must be generated by your financial institution. Check with your financial institution, Accountant or tax preparer.

Welcome...WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST CANOPY MEMBERS:

John Davis

Peggy Moriarty

Diane Rittling

NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Are you considering joining Canopy of Neighbors?
We have two new types of memberships that may fit your life style.

Social Membership which has tax deductible membership fee.
Snowbird Membership which allows you to fly south but be a part of our flock for part of the year.



Want to make a statement about your values?
Make that statement through your will and include Canopy of Neighbors, Inc.

Our Mission

Canopy is a community of individuals empowering each other to live independently and enriching the wider community by sharing our wisdom, experience, energy and friendship.