



CANOPY OF NEIGHBORS



JACYRA GUARD

"Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art."

Jacyra Guard, one of the excellent volunteers for Canopy of Neighbors, selected this quote from Eleanor Roosevelt as her favorite. She grew up in Louisville, Kentucky with her grandmother as her "third parent." Her family moved to Washington, DC when she was thirteen. She volunteered as a visitor to the elderly in the eighth and ninth grades. Her word of choice for the aging members of our community is our "elders." Isn't it a pleasure to have someone with this attitude volunteering for us?



Jacyra was involved with Canopy even before this organization was fully functioning. Early on, she joined the volunteer committee and drafted the volunteer handbook. She helped to set up some basic procedures, spread sheets and computer systems to react to calls. She brings some of the talents and skills she used in her management position as Chief Social Welfare Examiner with the Erie County Department of Social Services (DSS). By the end of her career there she oversaw assistance to the difficult-to-serve populations which included one special team for grandparents parenting grandchildren. Her job was most exciting when working under a transformational commissioner who led the organization to develop a scenario for the future. She says it was a great learning experience to see the implementation of much of what she had written. She retired after

35 years at DSS.

Jacyra came to Buffalo in 1966. She has one daughter and a granddaughter who live in Amherst, Massachusetts. Jacyra began her education at the College of New Rochelle and then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology at the University at Buffalo and a master's degree from Buffalo State College (now SUNY Buffalo State) where she was in the pilot class for the multi-disciplinary master's degree in human services management.

In retirement she seeks out experiences that include continuous learning, creativity and writing. She believes that we should look for a rainbow of choices in retirement because it's a time for operating from a place of joy and new experiences. Initially she turned to the huge directory of activities offered by RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). She loves reading the Buffalo News "live" with the Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service. She served on the board of the Jung Center and has been reading with their women's study group for almost twenty years. She organized and manages their poetry writing program. She enjoys being an active docent at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, especially the continuous learning that is involved. She helps manage the Crane Library Book Club and she started an adult discussion group at Crane called Socrates Café. This summer, she wrote a series of 19 book reviews that are posted online at the Buffalo and Erie County Library. At Canopy, she loves driving and talking to the elders in her little blue car. She finds that all these activities fulfill her goals for the second half of life – a realization of the unrealized.

– Marian Deutschman

SEPTEMBER 2015

Newsletter of Buffalo's Canopy of Neighbors



Our Board of Directors

Thomas F. Disare, Esq.
Gayle L. Eagan, Esq.
Steven Evans, M.D.
Richard F. Griffin, Esq.
Brandi L. Haynes
Athalie Joy, Ph.D.
Louise H. Kreiner
Toby Laping, Ph.D.
Joyce Markiewicz
Tim O'Neill, Ed.D.
Linda Matt
Elizabeth R. Schreier
Shirley Watts
Susan Siwec, APR
Anthony Szczygiel, Esq.

Staff

Sasha Yerkovich
Executive Director
Kathleen Daigler
Director of Volunteers



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We're proud to announce our community is growing as we issue a warm welcome to our newest members, volunteers and donors. Each new addition welcomed into our village enhances our mission, enriches our lives and expands the boundaries. As Athalie Joy, Canopy

Board member, writes on our website, "At its core, Canopy is a set of relationships, a network of personal connections that sustains our confidence and energy as

we encounter the challenges of aging. The more diverse our backgrounds, the more we have to explore together". The friendships we have formed as community members have been life-changing and life affirming.

We welcome our newest members, Betty Eslick, Helen Deifendorf, Frances Marie French, Theresa Paradowski, Akiko Baggs, Barbara Bernadis, Lynn Licata and Eliza Ferby.

We invite you to join us in membership, service to others and in support of our mission with your donation.

Sasha Yerkovich
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CANOPY OF NEIGHBORS PRESENTS SEPTEMBER ♦ OCTOBER ♦ NOVEMBER ♦ 2015



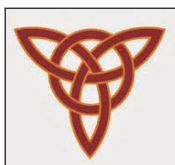
CANOPY COFFEE: Coffee, speaker, social 9-10:30 am, 1st & 3rd Thursdays, **free** at Canopy of Neighbors Thursday, September 17th: *Janice Okun, Food Editor Emeritus, Buffalo News, is our speaker*



MONTHLY LUNCHEON, cost to member

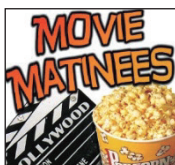
2nd Tuesday of each month at 1pm, \$10 includes all. **Resumes at a special place, Tuesday, October 13 at Buffalo Yacht Club**

Resumes on Tuesday, November 10th at 1 pm at the Hamlin House



IRISH CLASSICAL THEATER, free Join us for full dress rehearsal on: Thursday, Sept. 17th for "A Little Night Music" Thursday, October 29th for "Outside Mullingar"

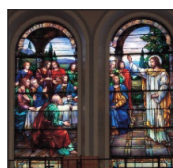
Thursday, January 14th for "All My Sons"
Thursday, March 10th for "Fully Committed"
Thursday, April 21st for "The Yeats Project"
Thursday, June 2nd for "An Ideal Husband"
Curtain up at 7 pm.



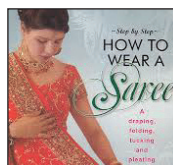
TUESDAYS MOVIE MATINEES, cost to member
1st Tuesday of each month, late afternoon time to be announced
October 6th - Movies and locations to be announced



YOGA WITH ATHALIE, free Every Wednesday at 10 am at Baptist Manor. New members join us October 7th.



TIFFANY WINDOWS CHURCH CRAWL, free Join Canopy as we continue our tour of churches at St. Louis Church Friday, October 9th, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm



HOW TO WEAR A SAREE WITH INDIRA KARTHA (Canopy Member), free Learn how to wear a Saree and learn more about Indian customs. Monday, October 19th at 10 am at Canopy of Neighbors.



ORIGAMI WITH AKIKO BAGGS (Canopy Member), free Join us Thursday, November 12th at 10 am at Canopy of Neighbors to learn the Japanese art of paper folding.



CREATIVE WRITING SERIES WITH DIANNE RIORDAN, Author of "The Names of My Mothers." free Tuesday, October 20th and Friday, October 30th at 10 am at Canopy of Neighbors. Explore creative writing. Bring your memories, ideas, and observations to share and to transform into words that will surprise you.

CALL LARRY AT 235-8133 TO RSVP FOR ALL EVENTS.
Transportation available to all Canopy of Neighbors' events.

ISA WALLACE

If you need someone who will sing the praises of Canopy of Neighbors, Isa Wallace is your woman! After two years as a member, she says "It's just wonderful!" After hearing her story, I can understand why people fall in love with her.

She lived in a much larger Delaware Avenue apartment where she only met her neighbors in the elevator or the laundry room. Now at Baptist Manor Apartments she isn't bored because she's met new people and there are different activities each week. Everyone is "just so nice." She first heard about Canopy at a program at Baptist Manor.

Isa was born in Georgia and raised by her grandfather and step-grandmother. Her life was hard but she feels that it contributed to making her a strong person. She was separated from her husband when the youngest of her five children was just four years old. She wanted a better life for her children so she made sure all the children went to a parochial school and finished high school here in Buffalo. Some went on to college. When her mother passed away, brothers and sisters came from Alabama to live with her for a time. One of her three sons was killed by a drunk driver right after he graduated from high school. Both of her daughters became police officers. She proudly showed a special certificate one of her sons earned from his employer and peers at the Greyhound Bus Company for exhibiting performance above and beyond the call of duty. She has 13 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. Her advice to them is "to always be able to take care of yourself."

In 1970 she began working at Bethlehem Steel as a laborer and retired after 22 years. The job was not easy especially when working outdoors in the cold wind. When she was moved to the Bar Mill she appreciated having a protective covering from the elements while working. She was also given opportunities for incentive work to earn more money. When she was temporarily laid off, she worked at automobile companies where she said "they worked you to death." During the last six years at Bethlehem, she was the only woman in a department of men in the Bar Mill. She was not expected to do well but sometimes did even better than a man. She enjoyed this job because she loved working with her hands. However, she hurt her back and had to take time off for recuperation. When she returned, she wore a type of waist clincher to protect her back and she still has some residual pain from that injury.

She doesn't mind telling you that she's 78 years old because she thanks the "Good Lord for letting me live this long." She's aiming for 100 years if she can make it. She loves people. She said she tries to get along with everyone – "It's important to bypass certain people who get you upset." She feels good about herself because she's come a long way and she's at peace.

– Marian Deutschman



Won't You Join Our List of Newest Volunteers?

Do you remember when neighbors reached out to help their older neighbors? We all use the same excuse that we are so busy but would love to help in some way but we only have an hour or so a week. The great news is you can! Volunteering after retirement or when the kids are in school is a great idea. Do you have time for a cup of coffee, a friendly smile, and some simple conversation by doing a friendly visit? Our members have great stories to tell and appreciate every effort you make for them.

We can reach out and help someone by driving to a medical appointment or to the grocery store, participating with a social activity or helping out in the Canopy office. You can volunteer around your schedule. We will be happy to email and/or mail you volunteer opportunities and you can choose what is convenient for you. Please call Kathy at the Canopy of Neighbors office at (716) 235-8133 or e-mail her at Kathy@canopyofneighbors.org.

Welcome to our New Volunteers:

Susan Adams	Dianne Riordan	Mary Lou Forte
Alicia Oswald	Geraldine Shatkin	Lizzie Granditsch-
Karen Parry	John & Pamela	Stewart
Denise Piekarski	Schott	Elizabeth Hitchcock
Alicia Pooley	Larry Suttle	Suzanne Kelley
Joe Quackenbush	Alex Terbush	Will Yerkovich
Jasmine Ramos	Alex Chun	Alec Yerkovich
Kyle Reiser	Joseph Craft	Edward Yerkovich

HOW DO I SELECT CANOPY OF NEIGHBORS TO SUPPORT WHEN SHOPPING ON AMAZON SMILE?

Go to www.SmileAmazon.com. Login to your Amazon.com account or create one. You will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive a donation from purchases. Type in Canopy of Neighbors, Buffalo, NY in the Search box. That's us! Please click on it and from that point on Amazon Smile will remember your selection, and every purchase you make on Amazon Smile will result in our receiving a donation, unless otherwise noted. Amazon will directly deposit the donations in our account on a monthly basis. We appreciate your shopping and giving to Canopy of Neighbors. Thank you!

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Thanks to these corporations who have chosen to support our mission and our community.

Jaecle | **FLEISCHMANN & MUGEL, LLP**
Attorneys at Law

M&T Bank

Lumsden & McCormick
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

univera
HEALTHCARE
an excellus company

Catholic Health
Home & Community Based Care

BlueCross BlueShield
of Western New York



CANOPY OF NEIGHBORS

805 Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14209-2005

Email: Info@CanopyOfNeighbors.org

Phone: (716) 235-8133

Web: www.CanopyOfNeighbors.org

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buffalo, N.Y.
Permit No. 369

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

Your Legacy...

If you remember Canopy of Neighbors in your will, or as a beneficiary of your life insurance, IRA or charitable trust, you are ensuring that Canopy of Neighbors will have a strong source of funding to continue its work by enabling people 62 years and older to remain in their own homes confidently, safely and independently.

If you would like more information on our Legacy program please contact Sasha Yerkovich at 716-235-8133.

2014 Donors...

In acknowledging our 2014 donors in our summer newsletter, we omitted three individuals. Our apologies to **Marie and Frederic Houston** and **Joan Gruen**. Thank you for your continued and generous support of Canopy's mission.

NEW IN 2015...

Canopy is introducing two new types of memberships:

Social Membership: Tax deductible membership fee.

Snowbird Membership: Fly south but be a part of our flock for part of the year.

**CALL SASHA AT 235-8133 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.CANOPYOFNEIGHBORS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Our Mission

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