

2000 Inductees



Lauren Belfer:

A new star on our horizon, Lauren Belfer scraped more than a little rust off Buffalo's image when she gave the world a vision of the city's illustrious past. This native daughter, in her acclaimed novel, *City of Light*, entertains and informs another generation that may be moved to preserve and build on the legacy of an era that she so beautifully reconstructed. Belfer has taken this city along on her extraordinary rise to fame.

Joan Kendig Bozer:

Legislator, preservationist, environmentalist, and feminist, Joan Kendig Bozer's name is connected with almost everything that makes Erie County such a likable, livable place. Preserving Buffalo's Old Post Office building, saving Olmsted parks, creating the county's commission on women, working for sustainable energy, and building a Pan American Women's Pavilion, are just a few of the things she has done for us. And she does it all with elan, grace



and great humor.



Annie Damer, 1858-1915:

Annie Damer's brief career in Western New York left a lasting impression. The nurse investigator for the Charity Association of Buffalo from 1898 to 1901, she was president of the Buffalo Nurses Association and a member of the Board of Managers for the Pan American Exposition. Her lifelong contributions to the advancement of nursing as a profession and the struggle for women's suffrage have been called awe inspiring.

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Ernestine Nardin, DCM, 1822-1896:

Ernestine Nardin, founder of the private Catholic academy that bears her name, left her native France in 1851 to spread her religious order's education mission in this country. After opening a school in Buffalo in 1857, she went on to provide education for working girls with evening classes and started a dispensary offering health care in poor neighborhoods. Her pioneering spirit lingers in the school that has enriched the lives of young people for 140 years.

Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted, MD:

Elizabeth Olmsted, physician, philanthropist, and teacher, is ageless and dauntless. Western New York's pioneering female ophthalmologist has been in continuous practice for close to sixty years and remains an inspiration to women who defy barriers. She shared an interest in flight with her late husband, Ira G. Ross, president of Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, and has given generously of her time, energy, knowledge and resources to helping the visually impaired. She was also the director of the Buffalo Eye Bank and Research Society and the president of the Buffalo Ophthalmologic Society.



Mildred Ellis Tidwell, 1927-1993:

Mildred Ellis Tidwell did not live by bread alone, but she made sure others had enough of it to survive. A stalwart of the Community Action Organization, she started the first "free bread" project, which grew into a national program to help low-income families. The mother of seven, whose compassion for people has been described as deep and wide, had helped people find jobs and housing and was a tireless worker for her church.