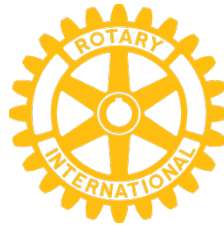


Rotary

Club of Buffalo



Club Meeting

Saturn Club
977 Delaware
Buffalo NY
12:15-1:30pm

Club Leaders

Thomas H. Van Nortwick
President

Nicholas J. Alberalla
President-Elect

Christopher M. Fetter
Secretary

Keith Schottman
Vice President

Onkham Rattanaphasouk
Treasurer

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Club Director

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Club Director

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Patrick M. Phelan
Club Director

Matthew J. Plizga
Club Director

Nancy Sanders
Club Director

Bridget Ann Willadsen
Club Director

Brian T. Casey
iPast President

Thursday, May 8, 2025, the Speaker is: Gene Bunnell Ph.D., Professor Emeritus

Title of my talk: Citizen Activists, Nongovernmental Organizations and Buffalo's Waterfront Renaissance



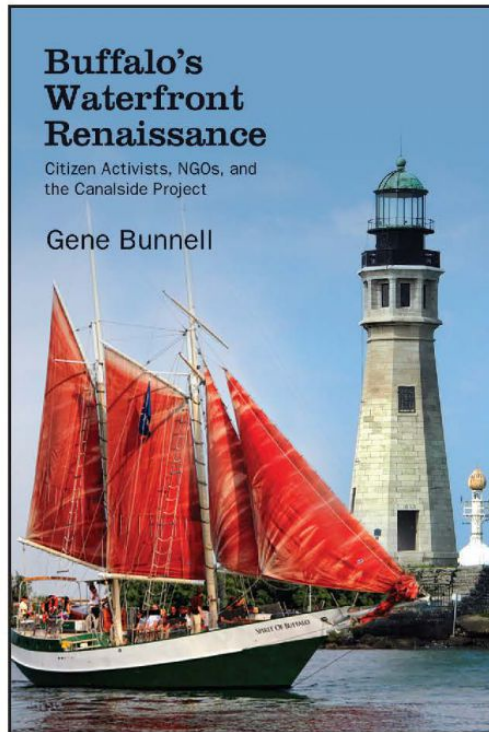
Born and raised in Buffalo, Gene Bunnell came of age when the city was hemorrhaging jobs and population and entering what would be a long period of decline. Growing up in Buffalo during that time has provided him with a lens for understanding and comparing the experiences of American cities, with a particular focus on post-industrial cities.

After earning a B.A. degree from Wesleyan University and earning a Master of City Planning degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, he worked as an urban planner in the public sector for fifteen years, first for the Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs Office of Local Assistance and then as Director of Planning and Development for the City of Northampton, MA.

After earning his Ph.D. from London School of Economics and Political Science in 1993, he taught urban planning at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the Department of Geography and Planning at the State University of New York at Albany, drawing on the experience and insights he gained as a practicing planner in "the real world."

He is the author of three previous books: *Built to Last* (Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1977); *Making Places Special* (Planners Press 2002); and *Transforming Providence: Rebirth of a Post-Industrial City* (Troy Bookmakers 2017).

BUFFALO'S WATERFRONT RENAISSANCE



"Gene Bunnell's book is an invaluable and well-written examination of the history of Buffalo's waterfront and of the many ups and downs of its redevelopment in recent decades. As someone deeply interested in the role of local journalism in American democracy, I especially appreciated how he adroitly shows the positive role that *The Buffalo News* played in persuading—at times pressuring—the state waterfront agency to scrap its original redevelopment plans in favor of ones that ultimately better served the public. His research is meticulous, his writing is accessible, and his message is important." — Margaret Sullivan, former editor of *The Buffalo News* and columnist for the Guardian (US)

"Bunnell's interesting and useful case study should appeal to planners, developers, and citizens in equal measure. General readers will especially appreciate his particular focus on citizen participation and intervention in planning processes generally left to politicians and professionals." — Jonathon Welch, owner, Talking Leaves...Books, Buffalo, New York

This book tells the remarkable story of how Buffalo's post-industrial waterfront was reclaimed for public use and enjoyment and pays tribute to the many local citizens and nongovernmental organizations that made the city's waterfront renaissance possible. After years of litigation, public controversy and debate, preservationists and environmentalists ultimately succeeded in persuading the state to abandon its contentious plans for privately developing Buffalo's waterfront. Gene Bunnell, an experienced urban planner, lays out the Buffalo waterfront's long and troubled history, from the torrent of shipping and commercial activity that was unleashed by the opening of the Erie Canal, to the contamination of the Buffalo River due to waterside industries, to how the Outer Harbor—the last portion of the waterfront to be industrially developed—was reshaped and contaminated by filling in low-lying areas with a toxic mix of waste materials. Drawing on interviews and articles, editorials, and op-eds from *The Buffalo News*, Bunnell provides the reader with a "real-time" sense of how the struggle over the future of Buffalo's waterfront unfolded and the ultimate victory by local activists to secure environmental cleanup, restored natural habitats, and expanded public waterfront access.

316 pages • \$29.95 paperback • ISBN 978-1-4384-9909-3

Gene Bunnell is Emeritus Professor of Geography and Urban Planning at the University at Albany, State University of New York. He is the author of *Built to Last: A Handbook on Recycling Old Buildings and Making Places Special: Stories of Real Places Made Better by Planning*.

"*Buffalo's Waterfront Renaissance* is an outstanding piece of scholarship. Reading the manuscript deepened my love for the Queen City. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. In fact, I went through it in two uninterrupted afternoons. That is highly unusual for me. The many examples of how individuals created NGOs hopefully encourages others to follow their lead." — Claude E. Welch, Jr., SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Comparative Politics, Department of Political Science, University of Buffalo, the State University of New York

"*Buffalo's Waterfront Renaissance* is a unique and insightful study of a waterfront district undergoing de-industrialization and the struggle between citizens and their public organizations with state government and experts, ultimately leading to the area's ecological and cultural renewal. Today, Canalside is a place where all feel welcome and comfortable." — Clinton E. Brown, FAIA, coauthor of *Olmsted's Elmwood: The Rise, Decline and Renewal of Buffalo's Parkway Neighborhood*

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UPCOMING SPEAKERS

May 15th – offsite at Bflo Maritime Center – 5:30-7:30

May 22nd – Jeremy Besch – Managing Director for Per Scholas

May 29th – Youth Exchange /Lorraine Students

June 5th – Club Assembly

SAVE THE DATE – June 19th – President's Dinner Party @Bflo Yacht Club 6-9pm

Set Sail for Connections! & Networking at the Buffalo Maritime Center

Ahoy there, movers and shakers of Buffalo!
You're invited to an evening of **fresh connections**, **nautical vibes**,
and **inspired conversations** at one of the city's hidden gems — the **Buffalo Maritime Center**.

Date: May 15, 2025

Time: 5:30-7:30

Location: Buffalo Maritime Center, 90 Arthur St (off of Niagara St)

RSVP: Required to help us stock the snacks & sails!

Whether you're looking to grow your network, discover collaborative opportunities, or just enjoy a unique setting surrounded by boats, craftsmanship, and lakefront lore — this event is your port of call.

Expect:

Casual conversation with local pros & creatives

Buffalo's Best Grill Food Truck, Beer & Wine

Tours of the workshop & boat-building projects

Insta-worthy views & vibes

Come as you are, leave more connected.

Bring a friend, bring your business card, and bring your curiosity!

Anchors aweigh — we'll see you there!

???????



To the Annual Service Fund

Joyce DeLong
Tom Van Nortwick
Mike Grimaldi
Frank Eberl
Matt Plizga
On Rattanaphasouk
Nick Alberalla
Don DeMeo
Lucy Ederer
Bob Galdys
Jerry Kelly
Althea Luehrsen
Carolyn Murray

Richard Ridenour
Charlie Martorana
Don Ferguson
Nora Eberl
Susan Schwartz
Nancy Sanders
John Bradley
Joe DePaolo
John Ehrbar
Paul Hurley
Dave Knauss
Paul Marzello
Mike Sendor

Stan Wyner
Ravi Bansal
Wayne Mertz
Rob Eck
Mike Ryan
Mike Woods
Rich Adams
Fred Cohen

Birthdays



Joseph P.
Brennan
May 10th

Years of Service



Susan M.
Schwartz
13 Years