

BUFFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

January 1985

american-soviet peace exchange



Presented by

PEACE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Issue Study Group

Grace McMenamy, Chairman

SPEAKERS Audrey Mang
Staff of WNY Peace Center

Eileen Giarraffa
Women's Action for Nuclear
Disarmament

The speakers visited the Soviet Union this summer, invited by the American-Soviet Friendship Council, Committee of Youth Organizations. They participated in a Peace conference and informal conversations.

Saturday, January 19

RAMADA INN

6643 Transit Road (between Genesee and Wehrle)

11:30 Cash Bar

12:00 Luncheon

Cost: \$8.00

Menu: Vegetable Quiche
or Seafood Crepes

FRIENDS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."
Albert Einstein

PLEASE RETURN YOUR RESERVATION AND \$8.00 CHECK BY JANUARY 9 TO:

Renette Ferber

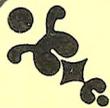
24 Linden Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214

NAME _____

Quiche _____

PHONE _____

Crepes _____



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ruth Seitz

January, the month of the mythological Janus, is the time to look back and ahead.

Looking back, I want to thank Toni Volk and her committee members for making the December holiday meeting a truly memorable one. It was good to see so many of you there.

Looking ahead, our major issues and topics will be the programs for general meetings in the next three months. Plan now to attend. Perhaps one of your New Year's resolutions will be to familiarize yourself with the issues by reading Graduate Woman, The New Yorker, and our own Branch Newsletter and then coming to the Branch Meeting to discuss them.

During December you received a letter relative to the proposed by-law change in Association dues. This is a serious matter for all of us. It is vital that your feelings and wishes be conveyed to Branch delegates before the June Convention. Read, think about it, and submit your ideas.

Speaking of money--and who isn't--we need all of you to work now to raise the funds for our EFP commitment. Many of you responded positively to the Used Book Sale phone survey in September. We have rooms full of books which need to be sorted and priced by YOU.

And so we begin 1985 with my 1984 message repeating itself: "Invite a new member, participate in Branch meetings, and volunteer for a committee."

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

by Judy Weidemann

There are a number of membership categories in AAUW.

The Association awards life membership for fifty years. This membership does not have to be for fifty continuous years. Recipients are exempt from Association dues; most state divisions and many branches, including the Buffalo Branch, award a similar honor to fifty-year members. We have eight honorary life members. Their names are listed in our roster. Honorary life membership must be verified and awarded by the Association. They receive a gold membership card and do not receive yearly cards from the Association. This honor is an additional incentive to maintain membership in AAUW.

There is also another category of life member--the paid life member. Upon payment of a one-time fee, the member is exempt from further payment of Association dues but continues to pay annual branch and state division dues.

Associate members are those members who were admitted before 1957 who have an A.A. degree only. They belong to the branch and state division but are not Association members. They may not rejoin if membership lapses but may transfer to another branch. Associate members do not receive yearly membership cards from the Association. They are not eligible for life membership or membership-at-large.

A member-at-large pays Association dues directly but has no branch privileges. The member-at-large may be a member of the state division by paying state dues.

ROSTER

Marjorie Skarin

The membership rosters are in the mail. If you did not receive your copy, please contact me at 631-8088. I will rectify the matter and get one on its way to you. Many thanks to Marion Fay and Barbara Paulson for all their time and effort for this project.

ROSTER CORRECTIONS

1. Bossman: Should be Margaret Owens.
2. Yarno: Should be Yavno.

REINSTATED MEMBERS

(Add these names to your Roster)

Frank, Mary Alice 186 West Girard Blvd. Kenmore 14217	876-1069 Niagara Univ. English
Ford, Alberta L. (Mrs. George B.) 304 Northampton Street Buffalo 14208	882-0139 Alabama State SUCB, M.S.
Samuel, Ruth 21-B Durham Drive Williamsville 14221	689-6792 SUCB, B.S. Business Educ.
Williams, Erma Dauterman (Mrs. Earl C.) 167 Smallwood Drive Snyder 14226	839-1598 SUCB Education

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

McCormick, JoAnn
209 Sunshine Drive
North Tonawanda 14120

Smyth, Rita
399 Delta Road, Apt. 4
Amherst 14226

SOS SOS SOS SOS SOS SOS SOS SOS

NEEDED USED BOOK SALE

One or two (or more) hours of your time.
All of us want the Used Book Sale.
All of us must help out.
SORT AND PRICE
Have fun.
Meet old and new friends.
Bring a brown bag lunch or supper.

Wednesday, January 9 - All city of Buffalo members.

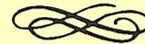
Tuesday, January 22 - All Ken-Ton and Tonawandas members.

YWCA

190 Franklin Street
9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Parking: Across the street at Franklin/Hyatt Ramp.

All members: You are most welcome both of these days. Dates for other areas to be announced next month. Call Bunny Blackstone at 655-4519 and let her know you will be there! If you have any questions, please call Lois Jarrett at 873-1076.



INTERCLUB COUNCIL NEWS

The Susan B. Anthony Luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 2, 1985, at the Sheraton East Inn on Walden Avenue. Tickets for the luncheon are \$12. The luncheon honors a member of one of the groups which belongs to the Council. (See the December NEWSLETTER for details of the award.) Rita Smyth has volunteered to receive requests for tickets. Please call her at 833-9132 before January 26. It is hoped Buffalo Branch will have a table of ten members present.

COALITION FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

The next meeting of the Coalition for Equal Rights will be January 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brighton Public Library, 999 Brighton Road, Tonawanda.

Research on the ERA and the issue of comparable worth will be the next project with the goal of developing source information for preparing fact sheets or position papers for specific purposes. For example, an organization could request information to use to educate their own members about the legal and social implications of the ERA or comparable worth. Further, despite years of debate, the general public is woefully misinformed or ignorant with respect to the ERA and few would argue that our elected representatives are in need of enlightenment with regard to equity.

Potential categories to be developed are employment, social security, education, the military, criminal law (prostitution, rape, and sexual assault), family law, ERA and the housewife, ERA impact in other states, legal status of women in New York State, religion, and unisex bathrooms and other fairy tales.

We are interested in collecting facts, statistics, and instances of discrimination which support the need for a federal ERA, legal proceedings, and recent court decisions relative to equity and any other related material.

If any members are interested in helping in the research, compilation of material, editing, etc., please call Pat Seaver at 688-5693 (no later than 10 p.m.).

Future Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Bertha Cutcher and facilitated by Carol Stull, met November 28 to begin long-range planning for the Branch.

The Association has developed a Strategic Plan which was outlined in the September 1983 Graduate Woman. The goals of this plan are: 1) To increase and diversify the membership and strengthen membership retention; 2) To increase visibility for AAUW; 3) To broaden member participation in the Association; 4) To develop and implement a comprehensive financial program for the achievement of AAUW's programs for the association; 5) To achieve legal, social, educational and economic equity for women; 6) To move women into policy-making positions in all sectors; 7) To provide broad-based programs on timely issues and concerns; 8) To increase AAUW's impact on public issues; and 9) To support a strong educational system at all levels.

The Committee will meet over the next few months to discuss our goals and to assess program and finances, as these fit in with Association goals and with our own members' needs.

If you have concerns, ideas or questions regarding the future direction of our Branch, please feel free to contact any of the committee's members: Bertha Cutcher, chair; Barbara Carrier, Joan Eschner, Lois Jarrett, or Stacey Johnson. (Joan Eschner is the new member representative to the committee--new members may want to talk to her about their expectations of the branch and their potential contributions to branch activities.)

COMMUNITY



by Lois Jarrett

I hope that all of you are enjoying a happy holiday season.

Before anything else, I would like to thank all of the members of the Branch who worked on our News Election Service Project. Due to the concerted efforts of my predecessor as Community Representative, Nan Summers, Buffalo Branch is in the position of having a convenient source for adding to our local treasury monies which are indeed necessary.

Additionally, I would like to thank those members who generously contributed to our collections for the needy through the Food Pantry sponsored by the church Women United. The combined collection from the Pot Luck Dinner and the November Board of Directors meeting was \$39.

Since you probably have your 1985 calendar, please mark Saturday, March 16, for a continental breakfast and panel discussion. We are most fortunate that we will have a representative from each of the three coalitions to which the Branch belongs:

Coalition of Court Observers
Coalition for Equal Rights
Coalition of Government Observers (our newest coalition)

Nan has agreed to be moderator. So frequently one hears, "What can I, as an individual, do?" The panel will address this concern because of the underlying theme that in unity there is strength. More details of this program will be announced in a later newsletter.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

by N. Anne Montes

As the New Year begins, I hope we have all made a resolution to be more politically aware and active. As educated women, we understand that all issues are, in effect, "women's issues." It is only a matter of degree as to how close these issues come to us personally.

On a local level, we are all concerned about Erie County's financial woes. To better understand how we got into this situation and, even more, how these problems will be resolved, you might want to sit in on some of the hearings, committee meetings, or legislative sessions that are regularly scheduled in County Hall. If so, I would be glad to share what information I have and accompany any of you interested in doing this. Seeing your county legislators in action may help you vote in a more informed manner in the next county elections.

An important economic issue at all levels of government is pay equity. AAUW has testified in support of pay equity before congress and several state legislatures. The concept of comparable worth maintains that jobs dominated by women are underpaid due to sex discrimination and that wages for such jobs should equal those of men holding jobs of comparable skill and responsibility. Please inform your elected representatives at all levels of your support for this concept.

Lists of names and addresses of elected officials are still available on request. If you have questions on legislative issues, give me a call and I'll try to find the answers.

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Are adequate resources available to finance needed K-12 education reform, or will those efforts come at the expense of programs such as the arts? What is the federal government's role in funding education? Are state school finance systems equitable for both students and taxpayers? Does the quality of a student's education depend upon his or her place of residence? These questions are important considerations in the current quest for quality in America's public schools.

The federal government has played a limited role in financing public education. Education is a state responsibility, falling into that category of the United States Constitution where all powers not assumed by the federal government go to the states. Congress had discussed federal aid to education since the 1870s, but it was not until the Soviet Union launched Sputnik that national concern for quality and equality in education prompted passage of the National Defense Education Act of 1958. That legislation signaled the beginning of a trend toward increased federal funding for particular categories of students and services which continued through the 1960s and 1970s.

The major sources of revenue for the schools are state and local taxpayers. The proportion of their contribution varies from state to state, with local taxpayers assuming 89.2% of the tax burden for education in New Hampshire and the state only 6.9%, while in Hawaii the state contributes 89.8% and the local share is 0.3%.

Does the level of funding make a difference in the quality of education? According to The New York Times, a preliminary report by the National Assessment of Education Progress indicates that there is some correlation between the level of state funding and per pupil expenditures and student achievement in math and reading. Two different assessments of math and reading scores of 9-, 13-, and 17-year olds were analyzed, and it was discovered that students in states which had increased funding from 1976 to 1981 showed a greater improvement in math and reading scores than those in states which had not raised their level of funding. Furthermore, the study showed that scores improved in direct relation to increases in funding and that states with the smallest expenditures per pupil also had the lowest scores.

THE FUTURE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Patricia Seaver

Some members of the Association Board of Directors are in favor of drastically reducing the funds spent in support of the ERA. They would maintain the ERA as a legislative priority for AAUW but feel that until a more sympathetic Congress is elected, we should not expend more funds on lobbying, literature, etc. Other members feel that if we are ever to have a sympathetic Congress, we must continue to keep the issue in the public eye, to lobby, and to "put our money where our legislative priorities are."

If you want to express your opinion on this matter, you can write to Karline Tierney, Director, Committee on Women's Issues, AAUW, 189 North Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877.

STUDY and INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

JANUARY

JANUARY

- 2 Wed. NO JANUARY BOARD MEETING
- 6 Sun. CULTURAL EVENTS - Albright tour. Optional Gallery brunch at noon (\$6.95).
1:30 p.m. - Tour of Toulouse-Lautrec lithographs. Contact Toni Volk 832-5981.
- 7 Mon. COALITION FOR EQUAL RIGHTS - 7:30 - 9 p.m. at the Brighton Public Library, 999
Brighton Road, Tonawanda.
- 8 Tues. GERMAN GROUP - 9:30 a.m. coffee, 10 a.m. at Renny Ferber's, 24 Linden Avenue,
Buffalo (836-3277). For further information, call Jean Noye at 873-3400.
- 9 Wed. USED BOOK SALE - Sorting and pricing at the Franklin Street YWCA, 9:30 - 8:30.
Call Bunny at 655-4519 if you plan to come.
- 10 Thurs. FRENCH GROUP - 10 a.m. at the home of Daphne Meyer, 333 Southwood Drive,
Kenmore. Call Daphne at 877-1576.
- 14 Mon. WORLD PROBLEMS - 12:30 p.m. at Sarah Sterrett's, 1088 Delaware Avenue, Apt.
9H. We will discuss Megatrends by John Neisbitt. Call Sarah at 883-2693 if
you plan to attend. Call Eleanor Goetz at 876-2449 if you have not ordered
"Great Decisions" for next year.
- 15 Tues. BOOK REVIEW GROUP - 1 p.m. at Eleanor Henrich's, 554 Kings Highway, Snyder
(839-1921). Jean Noye will review From Bonsai to Levi's by George Fields.
"An accurate and incisive look at contemporary Japan." (Dust jacket.)
- 17 Thurs. THURSDAY NIGHT BRIDGE - 7:45 p.m. at Marion Barone-Moen's, 608 Lisbon Avenue.
Buffalo. For reservations, call Marion (838-5928) or Cindy Monacelli (836-8266).
- 19 Sat. LUNCHEON and General Meeting on Peace and National Security - See page 1.
- 22 Tues. BOOK SALE - Sorting and pricing at the Franklin Street YWCA, 9:30 - 8:30.
Call Bunny at 655-4519 if you plan to come.
- 23 Wed. EVENING LITERATURE - 7:30 - D'Youville College, Madonna Lounge, Fargo and
Porter, in conjunction with D'Youville Humanities Department. Speaker will be
Dr. Victor Dayno, Professor of English at SUNY at Buffalo. Topic will be Mark
Twain (read any Mark Twain selection). Call Missy Naum at 681-9530.
- 24 Thurs. HAND CRAFTS - 7:30 at Sylvia Volk's, 255 Ashland Avenue (one house north of
Utica). Sylvia will present the program: Liturgical Art: Vestments, cloths,
Banners, Etc., a slide presentation. Call Sylvia at 884-2812 if coming.
- 24 Thurs. FRENCH GROUP - 10 a.m. at the home of Carol Houck, 215 Mt. Vernon Road,
Snyder. Call Carol at 839-3330.
- FRIDAY AFTERNOON LITERATURE - No meeting in January or February.

FEBRUARY

- 1 Fri. CULTURAL EVENT - Kleinhans concert. Optional cocktails, 5 p.m. at Cloister.
fish fry at 6 p.m. (\$4.95). Henry Mancini pops concert at 8 p.m. - \$13.00.
Contact Sarah Sterrett at 883-2593.
- 2 Sat. SINGLES AND DOUBLES - Save the date! Our own Sylvia Volk will present a
slide presentation and discuss "Peace in Art; War in Art." Spouses are
welcome as are friends and prospective members. Bring a small bottle of wine
or a slab of cheese to the Cutchers, 91 Monroe Drive, Williamsville, 633-6025.
- 6 Wed. BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 7:30 at the University of Buffalo Faculty Club.
Hostesses are Judy Weidemann, Delores Bowker, and Barbara Carier.

Used Book Sale

THE BOOK SALE NEEDS YOU! WHEN? THE SECOND WEDNESDAY AND THE FOURTH TUESDAY for sorting and pricing at the Downtown YWCA where three shifts are scheduled from 9:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. To date, the same five to ten members have come. THEY CAN NOT DO IT ALONE! YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. THERE IS STILL NOT A CHAIRMAN FOR SEALED BIDS.

After the Book Sale questionnaire was mailed, approximately 200 members were contacted by phone, whereupon an overwhelming number were adamant that the Book Sale BE CONTINUED. However, a very few suggested that the Book Sale be replaced by an alternative fund raiser such as the publication of a cookbook, a fashion show, a craft show, an auction or a flea market, or three or more group projects. Hiring a fund-raising specialist was also suggested, along with monetary contributions from individuals or perhaps a used-book store to operate year round. Any new project would be discussed at a general meeting. Suggestions under consideration for future sales are: To avoid downtown, to hold the sale in a mall or school where parking is easier and where sorting and pricing can take place nearer to the sale, preferably in the suburbs.

The pricing system has been simplified and lowered in many categories as suggested, and we will be more selective in accepting donations. Outdated textbooks, Readers Digest condensed books, and magazines do not sell and should not be accepted. Each study group has been asked to take at least one shift as a group and to make any suggestions to enhance this project. Upon being contacted, several members offered to donate coffee, tea, etc. Several thought they may be able to provide truck, van, and/or drivers if given advance notice. Others volunteered for telephoning, collection, sealed bids (but not the chair-manship) sorting/pricing, pre-sale week, sale week, and general help.

When able to help, please call Coordinator Bunny Blackstone at 655-4519. SEE YOU AT THE YWCA!

AAUW-Buffalo Branch
Marion Fay
347 Brantwood Road
Buffalo, NY 14226

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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