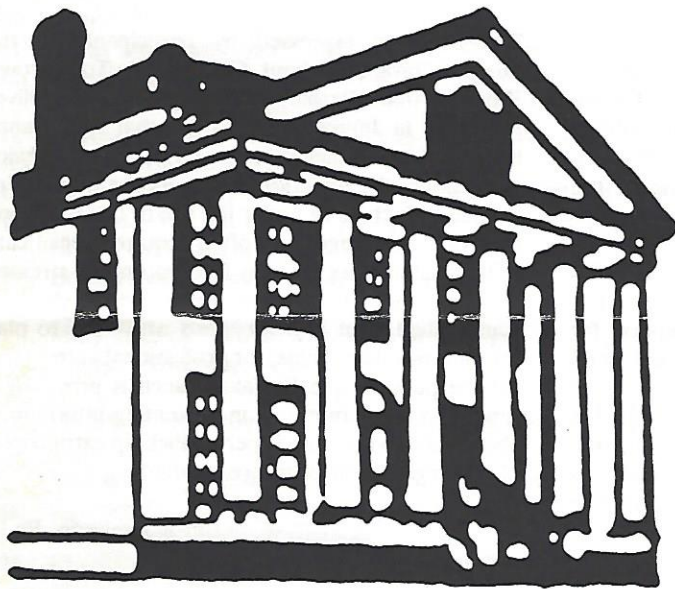


MARCH 1991



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, March 10
2-4 p.m.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Historic Site
641 Delaware Avenue

Members and prospective members are invited to come and learn more about the activities of the Buffalo Branch -- study groups, Educational Foundation Program, Chamberlin Loans, Book Sale and Branch Centennial projects. Tours of the site will also be available. Come and bring a prospective member.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You may have read one of the periodic articles in the newspaper which reports that some Buffalonians do not want the rest of the world to know that our climate is more moderate than outsiders think, that we have a good orchestra and several theatres for live performance, two public television stations, a significant collection of modern art at the Albright-Knox, and few traffic jams. These people are afraid that if others know what the Buffalo area is really like, they will have to share it with outsiders who flock here.

I wonder if some of us may have the same attitude about Buffalo Branch of AAUW. If so, I hope you'll reconsider and share the branch with others who would appreciate what we have to offer and who would contribute to the continuation of the varied programs and services we offer.

Now is the time to invite friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors to learn about Buffalo Branch of AAUW at the March 10 reception for prospective members. Sue Grossman will send invitations to people you suggest, but prospective members are more likely if the written invitation is followed with your offer to take them to the reception and to introduce them to branch members and activities. Other members may also introduce their guests to you.

The deadline for nominations for the achievement award is approaching. Think of a woman from the Buffalo area whose accomplishments you admire. She does not need to be someone you know personally or a member of AAUW. Just send a list of her accomplishments to me, and she will be considered for the award which is presented at our May luncheon.

* * * * *

The concerns expressed by participants at the excellent program about Choices for Tomorrow's Women that Barbara Carier and Sue Oliver presented in January showed me that the Branch has identified a significant issues in The Sandwich Generation, the topic for April. As the majority of women with children under the age of one work and as people live longer and often require special care in their later years, women face enormous stresses. The program is not just for women who are "sandwiched," but also for those who want to plan for their own later years, for professional care givers, for the public. The Buffalo Branch is providing a service to the community in presenting information about care giving from experts. Pick up extra copies of the registration brochure to share.

Carol Jamieson, Ph.D.

* * * * *

AAUW on the PHONES for Channel 17's Festival '91

A limited number of phones have been reserved for members of AAUW Buffalo Branch during Channel 17's Festival '91 membership drive. If you can work any of these shifts, call Nancy Ryther (884-8324) or Maryalice Seagrave (833-0437) before March 2.

AAUW shifts are:

Saturday	March 2	1:30-6:30 p.m.
Monday	March 18	6:30-11:30 p.m.*
Thursday	March 21	6:30-11:30 p.m.*

*or as long as you are comfortable staying.

* * * * *

Choices for Tomorrow's Women Program

Thanks to Barbara Carier, a past president (two terms) of the Buffalo Branch and currently secretary of the AAUW New York Division and Sue Oliver, vice president for program, New York Division for the interesting and thought-provoking January branch program. Our attendance was very good despite the snowstorm. Those who attended left with a better understanding of each generation represented and encouraged about future relationships.

Carolyn Day
Vice President for Program

How to Be a Successful AAUW Advocate*



AAUW would not be as successful without the support of dedicated members and friends who took time to write letters, make phone calls, and attend local hearings. AAUW encourages members to continue their efforts as citizen advocates. Letters and phone calls from constituents can have a strong impact on the way Congress votes on proposed legislation. Some guidelines for writing follow:

- Put your return address on the letter. Envelopes get thrown away;
- Identify the subject (and bill number if there is one) in the first sentence or two so your letter can be routed quickly to the correct person; write on one issue per letter;
- Explain in personal terms how the issue will affect you, your family and community;
- Translate information from AA into your own words. Avoid stereotyped phrases that sound like form letters. Be brief;
- Request a specific, reasonable action, such as a cosponsorship, or a vote. Don't threaten;
- Ask for a response. You are entitled to one.

The Family and Medical Leave Act (HR2/S5) has been reintroduced (essentially the same as before) and will be a top priority for AAUW in 1991.

AAUW's Congressional Action Line provides an up-to-date report -- 24 hours a day -- on AAUW's public policy issues. The message is less than three minutes and suggests how you and your branch can take action (202/785-7785). This is not a toll free call.

Excerpts taken from **Action Alert**, February 1991.

Report of Chamberlin Loan and Funds for Education

Eight awards were made for a total amount of \$7500 (1-\$1,500; 5-\$1,000; 2-\$500). These awards will:

- enable completion of teacher certification program, heading to the recipient's employment as a teacher in the City of Buffalo.
- assist continuation of musical studies for a young woman who is becoming an orchestral musician.
- encourage the education of a future hospital administrator.
- facilitate the education of a young woman who hopes to teach elementary school.
- aid in the completion of a course in restaurant management and hotel administration.
- help support the education in psychological counseling of one awardee, in fitness training and cardiac rehabilitation of another loan recipient.
- contribute to the financial aid of a woman completing her final semester in medical school.

Further, the first Ruthe Sicherman Award, in honor of Ruthe's many years of service to AAUW, was made to Mary Stephenson, a graduate student in music performance at New York University. Mary's award comes from AAUW's Funds for Education, supported by money raised through the Annual Book Sale.

Many thanks to Diane Silvestro, Maryalice Seagrave, Carol Jamieson, Ann Hicks, Valarie Bozarth who helped conduct the candidate interviews.

Jane Vogel Fischman
Assistant Treasurer

Educational Foundation

Right now our attention is focused on the Middle East where our armed forces are engaged in war. Approximately 10% of our forces are women and they are serving in all capacities except that of combat. It is intriguing to reflect on the fact that these women are stationed in a country where the female citizens must get permission from the male head of the family in order to receive an education. Education is still a privilege for many people.

Some of the funds that we raise each year for the Educational Foundation are used for International Fellowships. Applicants for these fellowships are evaluated on the importance of their projects to their country of origin and on their prior commitment to improving the lives of other women and girls. During the 1989-1990 grant year two women from the Middle East were granted fellowships.

Shadia Gaafa El-Bagir of the Sudan studied at the University of Connecticut in Cytology and Cytogenetics. "One of her goals is to develop and expand a Sudanese unit for cytology and screen Sudanese women for cancer of the cervix." Aziza Mohammed As-Saqqaf of Yemen attended Georgetown University where "she structured curricula for English-as-a-second language to be implemented at preparatory and secondary girls' schools in Yemen. She is an active member of the association of Yemeni career women and volunteers in family planning, day care, and female illiteracy eradication programs."

In the 1990-91 grant year, Tali Carmon of Israel received a fellowship to work on a Ph.D. in industrial engineering at the University of California with a specialty in the efficiency aspects of scheduling in highly automated electronics assembly environments. She has worked with underprivileged girls and supervised a group of big sisters in Tel-Hanan, one of Israel's most distressed communities.

As we approach our 1991 Book Sale let us think about these fine women who without our financial support through the Educational Foundation would

not have been able to continue their studies. The funds we raise are affecting not only the lives of the women who receive fellowships and grants but also the lives of everyone they touch.

When you receive a phone call from the Book Sale Chairpeople, please volunteer. There are jobs for everyone!

Stop by the Educational Foundation table at the Open House on Sunday, March 10 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Theodore Roosevelt Historic Inaugural Site. I will have information on the many ways you can support the Educational Foundation. There will also be information on how to apply for grants and scholarships. I look forward to seeing you.

If you have any questions, please call me. (634-0927)

Carolyn Iadovito
Educational Foundation Program



Decorators' Show House Volunteers Needed

The Junior League has invited AAUW to participate in the Decorators' Show House by acting as hostesses.

A shift lasts approximately 3 3/4 hours and involves greeting and explaining features of the room to guests. Staffing opportunities also exist in the cafe.

If you want more information, call Phyllis Kelly (839-1952). You can sign up for hosting by calling her or by signing at a general meeting of the Branch.

The show house is open April 27 through May 24, 1991.

Survey Finds Dramatic Drop in Girl's Self-Esteem*

"Somewhere along the road to growing up, girls experience a dramatic drop in self-esteem and in confidence in themselves and their abilities.

A nationwide scientific survey of 3,000 fourth through tenth grade students conducted by the American Association of University Women found that girls emerging from adolescence suffer significantly lower self-images and lower expectations than boys.

The findings confirm a growing body of research suggesting that girls are systematically, if unintentionally, discouraged from a wide range of academic pursuits, particularly math and science. The results are especially troubling in a technological age that sets a premium on math and science and a job market where two out of three entrants to the workforce will be women.

"Girls are being left out and left behind in school," according to AAUW President Sharon Schuster. "American can not compete with only half its team on the field."

The poll examined the impact of gender on career aspirations, educational experiences, and math-science interests, as well as the self-esteem levels of both sexes. At the age of nine, a majority of girls were confident, assertive and felt positive about themselves according to the survey. But fewer than a third felt that way by the time they reached high school.

The key finding that girls and boys who like math and science have higher self-esteem, greater career aspirations and are more likely to hold onto their dreams highlights the importance of addressing the "self-esteem gap" in education reform plans.

"Education reform without gender equity is like building a plane with only one wing -- it just won't fly," observed Anne Bryant, executive director of AAUW. "The education reform movement holds out an empty promise unless we improve education for our girls.

"Failure to address this challenge," she added, "shortchanges girls and shortchanges America."

For girls, race seems to be a factor in maintaining a strong self-image. The survey found more black girls were still self-confident in high school compared to white and Hispanic girls and that white girls lost confidence earlier than Hispanic girls.

Carol Gilligan, professor of education at Harvard and a pioneer in studying the development of girls, pointed out, "This survey makes it impossible to say that what happens to girls is simply a matter of hormones. If that was it, then the loss of self-esteem would happen to all girls at roughly the same time.

"This work raises all kinds of issues about cultural contributions and it raises questions about the role of schools, both in the drop of self-esteem and in the potential for intervention," she added.

Education Equity Roundtable** On January 9, 1991, a group of distinguished educators, policymakers, corporate leaders, and members of the media gathered in Washington, D.C. to participate in the AAUW Educational Equity Roundtable. The Roundtable was coordinated in conjunction with the AAUW Initiative for Educational Equity to spark attention to a critical but overlooked aspect of the national education reform debate: getting girls into America's education agenda.

Recognition of the urgency to achieve excellence in education has grown throughout the last decade and inspired an outpouring of studies, conferences, proposals, and experiments for improving public education. Unfortunately, more than half of the American population has been ignored in the majority of those reform proposals. In the formulation of national education goals and objectives, little attention has been directed to gender bias in the education system and to the needs of girls.

*Reprinted from New York Teacher

**Taken from Action Alert, February 4, 1991

Legislative Briefs



Action Urged Erie County Commission on the Status of Women

The Erie County Status of Women Legislative Committee Meeting was held last month. Several items of importance were discussed.

The Committee believes that women should be represented on the Erie County Legislature's Reapportionment Committee which will decide the boundaries and districts of the elected Erie County Legislators. This is an extremely important committee and it was decided that the Erie County Status of Women Commission will submit the name of a representative from the Commission to the Chairman of the Legislature, Roger Blackwell asking for consideration and will forward copies of the nomination to both the Minority Leader, Mary Lou Rath and the Majority Leader, Leonard Lenihan.

The Legislative Committee is also in the process of formulating a statement identifying what needs to be looked for in drafts of legislative that may effect women. Some of the items to be included will speak to equality, development and peace as priorities. Any points that the AAUW feels would be of assistance in this statement would be appreciated and should be sent to Sharon Rich.

The Erie County Commission on the Status of Women is establishing an Observer Corps to observe meetings of various committees of Erie County Legislature to identify pending legislature that may impact on women. We would like to recruit volunteers to attend one meeting a month. Grace Blackstone of our AAUW has agreed to chair this committee.

If you are interested, please call Shirley T. Joseph at the Commission office at 858-8307.

Sharon Rich
Public Policy Chair

The Commission has issued an "action alert" dated February 7, 1991, which reads as follows:

"Governor Cuomo is planning to eliminate the New York State Division for Women as a budget cutting measure. It will be downgraded to being part of a Human Services Department with several other agencies.

In this difficult economic climate when reduced services in areas such as domestic violence, medicaid and displaced homemakers are disproportionately affecting women and children, it is especially important to have an agency which can help to prioritize and advocate according to their most essential needs. The removal of the Division for Women from the Governor's cabinet will make it much more difficult to have a voice where it can be heard.

Please urge all of your members to write or telephone Governor Cuomo's office and each of the New York State Legislators from Western New York with the following message:

"The women of New York State want the Division for Women restored to its cabinet level position in New York State."

Please send copies of messages and/or lists of telephone calls to Shirley Joseph at the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women, Room 280, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, New York 14202.

The Commission will appreciate the support of individual AAUW members in this endeavor.

Study & Interest Groups Calendar

MARCH 1991

- 3/4 **Music Study Group.** The group will meet at 1:00 p.m. Mollie Fleysher will present a program of Irish folk songs at the home of Ruth Seitz, 19B Wayne Terrace in Cheektowaga (834-4973).
- 3/4 **Women's Issues.** Please call Bertha Cutcher (633-6025) for meeting specifics.
- Mon
- 3/5 **Duplicate Bridge.** Contact Mary O'Connor (631-9227) for location. Bridge time is 7:45 p.m.
- Tues
- 3/6 **Board of Directors Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at Kenmore East Senior High School. Hostesses are Barb Olandt and Ruth Seitz.
- Wed
- 3/10 **Open House** for prospective members. 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Wilcox Mansion, 641 Delaware Avenue.
- Sun
- 3/11 **Great Decisions 1991.** The topic is "The New Europe: What Role for the U.S.?" Members will provide their own sandwiches or salads and meet at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Ruth Seitz, 19-B Wayne Terrace, Cheektowaga. Please call Ruth (834-4973) if you plan to attend.
- Mon
- 3/12 **German Study Group.** The group will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Renny Ferber, 24 Linden Avenue, Buffalo (836-3277).
- Tues
- 3/15 **Literature: Friday Afternoon.** Dr. Jean Northcott will discuss the book, The Fateful Shore by Robert Hughes. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Marion Elmer, 110 Canterbury Court, Union Road, Williamsville (633-7873).
- Fri
- 3/19 **Book Review.** Dorothy Payne will review The Road from Coorain by Jill Ker Conway. The group will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Jane Orcutt, 62 Kenwood Road, Kenmore. Please call Mary Jane (875-9896) if you are attending.
- Tues
- 3/21 **Bridge: Thursday.** Call Margaret Haas (839-3701) to confirm location.
- Thurs
- 3/21 **French Study Group.** This group is being discontinued for lack of member interest.
- Thurs
- 3/25 **Literature: Evening Study Group.** The group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Loretta Quenneville will facilitate the discussion of A Sign of the 80's by Gail Parent. Please call Valarie Bozarth (633-2130) for location information.
- Mon
- 3/26 **Investment Club.** This group meets at 7:00 p.m. at Amherst High School. Please contact Kelly McCurdy (439-8739) if you are attending.
- Tues



Government Functions and Action Group. If you would like to be involved in the development of this new group, call Gloria Stulberg at 634-5446.

APRIL 1991

- 4/1 **Music Study Group.** Carol Ehinger will make arrangements for a morning tour of the Kazoo Company in Eden, New York. The group will have lunch in the vicinity of Eden. Call Mary Weppner (634-6636) to confirm.
- Mon
- 4/2 **Duplicate Bridge.** Contact Mary O'Connor (631-9227) for location. Bridge time is 7:45 p.m.
- Tues
- 4/10 **Board of Directors Meeting** at Kenmore East Senior High School at 7:00 p.m. Hostesses are Bunny Blackstone and Kelly McCurdy.
- Wed



NEEDED

Ann Bish
Study & Interest Groups Coordinator

Membership News

Membership leads to contacts for networking, friendship, pursuit of interests and relaxation, and educational opportunities.



The Theodore Roosevelt

Inaugural National Historic Site

The Buffalo Branch Open House for new, prospective and continuing members is scheduled for Sunday, March 10 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a friend, relative or other prospective member to our open house at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Historic Site (Wilcox Mansion), 641 Delaware Avenue.

The study and interest groups centennial activities, and Chamberlin Loan and Educational Foundation programs will be featured. Tours of the site and delicious refreshments will also be available. Join us!

Suzanne Grossman, R.D.
Second Vice President for Membership

The Sandwich Generation

Saturday, April 6, 1991

Moot Hall, SUNY College at Buffalo

8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Keynote address followed by panel presentations
12:30-1 p.m.	Wrap Up

The purpose of the forum is twofold: 1) to provide information to participants about their options as individual care givers and 2) to identify sources of stress on women who are both family members and part of the work force.

The forum will address a range of topics including legal and financial issues and medical and emotional aspects for care giver and patient. At the wrap-up, the keynote speaker will provide specific recommendations about projects non-profit groups can implement or advance to make the multiple roles of contemporary women less stressful.

Brochure with detailed information on this community program and registration will be mailed to every AAUW Buffalo Branch member. Look for it in your mail.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Marion S. Fay

347 Brantwood Road

Snyder, New York 14226

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Newsletter Deadline

Members are invited to submit articles and announcements for the branch newsletter each month. Please send to Ann Hicks by the 5th of each month.

Barbara Carrier
295 Lakewood Parkway
Snyder,
New York 14226-4072

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold the baccalaureate or a higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be not barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. Membership is not by invitation.