

Ewing speaks on the realities of family violence

A pernicious myth, according to Dr. Charles Ewing, who spoke at the October 23 Buffalo Branch meeting, is that domestic violence only happens to others. The reality is that family violence is not confined to a particular neighborhood, economic level or region; it is, in fact, in all social and economic strata. In the case of the battered woman, there are two underlying causes: attitudes toward women and the perpetuation of physical, psychological or sexual abuse learned in the home that becomes the acceptable norm. The need for control or power is the key issue.

We may wonder why women continue to stay in such devastating situations. Dr. Ewing discussed the reasons for their entrapment. Repeated demeaning messages (you are to blame, you are at fault, you can't make it in the "outside world") are internalized and lead to crushed self-esteem, hopelessness, helplessness, depression, and even possible suicidal ideation. Psychological abuse may be so severe that it affects the woman's physical well-being. Dr. Ewing emphasized that external factors also contribute to the victim's entrapment. In short, the batterer is unwilling to lose control; there is a lack of social services to handle a victim's plight (shelters, financial support, children), and our legal system does not understand the human dynamics of family violence. Furthermore, the system fails to recognize that domestic violence is a crime. And the sad truth is, according to Dr.

The reality is that family violence is not confined to a particular neighborhood, economic level or region; it is, in fact, in all social and economic strata.

Ewing, even with long term therapy the likelihood of rehabilitating the batterer cannot be assured.

How can we as individuals respond to the increasing epidemic of domestic violence? Some suggestions Dr. Ewing and members and guests offered were as follows:

- ~ Reach out to families, friends, neighbors in trouble;
- ~ Encourage our schools to consider programs on violence, such as "Say No to Drugs and Sex;"
- ~ Write letters to television stations expressing displeasure with their selection of programs depicting excessive violence;
- ~ Write letters to commercial sponsors indicating that we are not buying their products because of their promotion of violence on TV;
- ~ Support agencies such as Haven House which is doing a remarkable job in our community in helping women and children;
- ~ Support and vote for qualified women for public office. (Dr. Ewing noted that Buffalo is fortunate in having two exceptionally effective Family Court women judges, Sharon Townsend and Marjorie Creola Mix).

In sum, more must be done to help those who are victimized in our community.

Ann Bish and Ann Hicks

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership Committee introduces new members

The Membership Committee is pleased to introduce our new Buffalo Branch AAUW members.

Please welcome:

Jean E. Gittler
2025 Delaware Avenue, Apt. 24
Buffalo, NY 14216
873-0334

Jean has a B.A. and J.D. from the State University at Buffalo. She joined our branch in order to network with other professional women and to support women in pursuing educational goals.

Janet Morgan
260 Roycroft Blvd.
Amherst, NY 14226
834-0918

Janet was recruited by our past President Carolyn Day. She received a B.A. from Denison University, Ohio and an M.A. from the University of Colorado. Janet has worked as a school psychologist and is now retired. She is looking forward to networking in AAUW.

Dr. Donna M. Otabachian
203 83rd Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
283-4241

Donna has a B.S. from Ohio State, an M.S. from State University College at Buffalo. She is a recipient of the Buffalo Branch's Chamberlin and Funds for Education loans currently working on her Ph.D. at State University at Buffalo. She is interested in the support of women in pursuing their educational goals. Donna would also like to work in affirmative action on the administrative level.

Aileen S. Meyer
116 Somerton Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14217
877-0285

Aileen received a B.S. and an M.S. in education from State University College at Buffalo. She learned of AAUW from Rita Nowak. Her interests include child and dependent care, human and civil rights, pay equity, work and family issues, elementary and secondary education, and health issues.

Dr. Judith Harris
21 Deer Path
West Seneca, NY 14224
674-0156

Judith received a B.S. from State University College at Brockport, an M.S. from Canisius College, and a Ph.D. from the University of Saratoga, Florida. She was a presenter at the Sports Equity Conference and is presently working as an administrator. Judith is interested in human and civil rights, equal educational opportunities for women and girls, and elementary and secondary education.

Ann Judith Bratty
2198 Colvin Blvd.
Tonawanda, NY 14150-6910
833-5795

Ann learned of AAUW from President Suzanne Grossman. She has a B.A. from Daemen College. Ann is interested in health issues, in supporting issues of importance to women, and in networking.

Donna Eno (member at large)
115 Larchmont Road
Buffalo, NY 14214
833-8873

We extend a warm welcome to all our new members.

Roster: Address Changes

Susan Gray (new address)
1 John James Audubon Parkway
West Amherst, 14228-1118

Sara Grube (new address)
133 Washington Avenue
Kenmore, 14217-1917

Diane Kane
(moved to Kentucky)

Charlotte McNeal
320 Humboldt Parkway
(street omitted in Roster)

Winifred Morrison (new address)
201 Ridgewood Drive
Amherst, 14226-4941

Ruth Penman (new address)
191 Wedgewood Drive
Williamsville, 14221-1465

Julia Weidemann (new mailing address)
P.O. Box 652
Hamburg, 14075-0652

MOVING? Save AAUW money by
informing Marion Fay (836-5660).

Membership Retention Committee needs help

This is an SOS to all members from the Membership Retention Chairperson. Volunteers are needed to conduct a survey in order to tap the interests and commitment of our total membership. The survey results will assist the committee in shaping the vision and action of our organization.

Meetings will be limited in length of time and to the number needed. Your input is important, and as a part of this committee, you will have a great influence on the future of the Buffalo Branch of AAUW.

If you can be a part of this important committee, please call Eve Stoklosa, (695-3606) to offer your help.

Membership Retention initiates new column

A new column in the newsletter, *Spotlight on Service*, will feature period interviews with long-time AAUW members. These interviews will include views regarding AAUW and advice to new members.

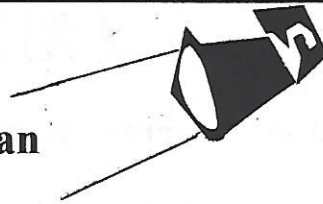
In the spotlight this month is Ruthe Sichernman who has found her 42 years in the Buffalo Branch both rewarding and fulfilling.

As Ruthe states, membership in the Buffalo Branch of AAUW has much to offer. Members like her make the branch a success.

Eve Stoklosa, Membership Retention Chair, will be contacting other long-time AAUW Buffalo Branch members for their words of wisdom.

Spotlight on Service

Ruthe Sicherman



Ruthe joined AAUW in 1951 when she was home with a new baby and two-year-old son. She found the branch provided intellectual stimulation, sociability, and those important "nights out."

Ruthe strongly believes that the way to enjoy an organization is to become an active part of it. In her second year she joined the Membership Committee and has been involved in one way or another ever since.

"The way to enjoy an organization is to become an active part of it."

Scholarships were the main focus during the 50's, but later the branch was directed to emphasize fellowships. Ruthe served on the board of directors which voted in the book sale and has worked on every sale since the first in 1955. She says it has been a big factor in keeping her as a member.

"I'm proud of the aims and accomplishments of AAUW: the Legal Advocacy Fund and the nationally recognized reports on studies of sexual discrimination in the schools and their hallways."

"I'll remain a member because I'm excited about the planned focus on eradicating diverse discrimination, and I'll be pleased to welcome Native American, Asian, Hispanic, and more African American members into our branch."

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Ruthe was proud to have a 1972 Educational Foundation fellowship named for her, and an annual branch scholarship established in 1990, the centennial year, in her honor. "I thank the members of Buffalo Branch for 42 wonderful years."

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

Emerson

PUBLIC POLICY

The religious right is wrong

AAUW's concern for the antithetical policies and political thrusts of the religious right was expressed at the Public Policy Focus Workshop at the District meeting in October. Moreover, in the November issue of *Action Alert*, AAUW reports that Concerned Women for America (CWA), a religious right organization, is organizing to defeat HR 1793 (House of Representatives: Gender Equity in Education Act) and prevent the kind of reforms that are so vital to ensure women and girls a bias-free environment for learning. This organization is anti-choice, anti-gay, and anti-women's rights. It has an extremely strong grassroots network. According to the report in *Action Alert*, many Congressional offices have been receiving calls and letters opposing HR 1793. CWA claims that the bill "encourages promiscuity and sexual experimentation." In short, CWA's broader agenda is to encourage censorship, to provide vouchers for private and religious schools, and to remove sex education and drug prevention programs.

ACTION is imperative at this time. It is URGENT that we contact our representatives in support of this bill. Also, watch for and respond to letters to the editor concerning gender equity.

AAUW establishes criteria for health care reform

AAUW's role in the health care debate is to advocate for the specific needs of women of all ages, races, and socioeconomic class. In

evaluating the many health care proposals being introduced into Congress, AAUW will consider the following five criteria:

- ~ Universal coverage/access to quality health care;
- ~ A standard package of comprehensive benefits, including comprehensive reproductive health care, emphasis on primary and preventive care, and comprehensive long-term care (at least to be phased in);
- ~ A full range of providers and settings;
- ~ Accountability: diversity of representation on health advisory boards in states and communities;
- ~ A commitment to women's health research.

Action Alert, November

Public Policy Program wins approval

Association Director of Public Policy Karen Gallagher kicked off the 1993 Convention's consideration of the proposed 1993-95 Public Policy Program by highlighting recent AAUW accomplishments in the public policy arena. Health rights for women was added to the Association's public policy priorities in 1991. Since then, AAUW has joined other organizations in advocating full coverage of women's needs in the health care reform proposal being developed by the Clinton administration.

Gallagher thanked members for contributing almost \$265,000 to AAUW's second Campaign for Choice--contributions that supported action to preserve reproductive rights in states across the nation.

Finally, she pointed with pride to the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA). This federal

legislation was written largely by AAUW and introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in April. GEEA would provide federal funds for gender equity components in key federal elementary and secondary education programs. Gallagher asked members to write to their representatives to urge support for GEEA as soon as they return home from Convention.

Following the report on AAUW's policy activities, delegates took action on the Public Policy Program. The only amendment offered was to move support of the Equal Rights Amendment from the Public Policy Principles for Action section to the Biennial Action Priorities section. The amendment was defeated, and the Public Policy Program was approved as proposed.

Carolyn Day

Buffalo Council on World Affairs Programs

December 2	Model UN at Canisius (see November newsletter)
January	Finnish Ambassador (luncheon) or program at Medaille
February/March	Great Decisions--weekly meetings at the International Institute with a speaker on each topic
March 14	Annual Citation dinner
April or May	Saudi Arabian Ambassador, program at Medaille
May	BCWA tour to Ottawa
June	Annual meeting

For further information on these events, please call the BCWA office (852-6406) or Lucille Peterson (876-0252).

Openings exist for State AAUW positions

If you are interested in one of the New York State positions listed below, please call Suzanne Grossman as soon as possible.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES:

Cultural Interests
International Relations

CHAIRS, COORDINATORS AND DIRECTORS:

Administrative Assistant
Branch Council
College-University Representative
Communications/Public Information
Convention
Diversity
Education and Equity
Issue Task Force
Legal Advocacy Fund
Training and Development Team

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Branch Council
Communications Public Information
Education and Equity
Educational Foundation
Issue Task Force
Membership
Public Policy

Chamberlin Loan Fund grants awarded

In September the branch board approved the recommendations of the Chamberlin Loan Fund Chair, Maryalice Seagrave, to award \$4,000 in loans and grants to three students. Of this amount \$3,000 came from the Chamberlin Fund and \$1,000 from the branch's Funds for Education.

The awardees are Sandra L. Doran from Angola, a senior at Syracuse University, majoring in environmental science; Kim Grabowski from North Tonawanda, a third year student at the Cleveland Institute of Art, majoring in metal art, and Diane Marie Otabachian from Niagara Falls, a Ph.D. candidate in education administration at the State University at Buffalo. Part of Miss Grabowski's award was the \$500 Ruthe Sicherman grant. Mrs. Otabachian received a \$500 Special Needs grant from the Funds for Education account.

December 10 is the next deadline for receipt of completed applications. As of early November, 27 applications had been sent out. Interviews will take place on December 27, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and on December 29, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Any member who would like to be a part of the interviewing committee on one or both of these dates should contact Maryalice Seagrave at 833-0437. Interviews take place in the Kenmore Library on Delaware Road.

Maryalice Seagrave

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN Buffalo Branch Balance Sheet 1993-94

		Oct 31

ASSETS:	Cash:	
	M & T Trust Co.	5,557.07
	Lockport Saving Bank	2,797.45

		\$8,354.52

EQUITY:	Fund Balances:	
	Unrestricted Funds	1,847.31
	Special Projects	2,210.82
	Accumulated Fund	2,797.45
	Designated Funds:	
	1994 State Convention	200.00
	1994 Natl Convention	400.00
	1994 MAR Convention	200.00
	1993 Dist. I Convention	54.44
	Special Events	164.00
	Dues 93/94:	
	National	104.00
	Division	25.00
	EFP	351.50
	Dues 94/95:	
	Branch	0.00

		\$8,354.52

Membership Report

Renewals - Branch Members	158
Life Members	24
Student Affiliate	2
New Branch Members	24

	208
Dual Members	8

Total Paid Membership	216
Honorary Life Members	9

Total Membership 93/94	225

November Board Minutes

President Sue Grossman called the November board meeting to order a 7:00 p.m.

Minutes from the September and October board meetings were approved and accepted. Kelly McCurdy presented the treasurer's report, which was approved, and reported that we have 225 paid members.

Reports:

Carolyn Day, Legal Advocacy Fund: Money was collected at the October branch meeting. This will be continued until the goal is reached.

Bunny Blackstone, Nominating Committee: Suggestions for nominees for 1994-95 are welcome.

Diane Silvestro, Book Sale: Three chairs have been found for the book sale: Lynn McClive, Elisabeth Hellman, and Diane Silvestro. They are asking for an ad hoc committee to investigate future solutions for fund raising. A motion was passed to establish this committee which has a deadline to report to the board at the March meeting.

Barbara Carier, Education Representative: Judy Weidemann and she are taking advantage of opportunities to speak on gender equity and *Hostile Hallways*.

Bunny Blackstone, Annual Holiday Tea: Plans are underway. Members are asked to bring wrapped gifts for children and unwrapped toiletries for women at Haven House to the tea.

Old Business:

Carolyn Day suggested that we consider updating our branch history. This was approved and will be investigated.

New Business:

Sue Grossman presented a letter from Western New York Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy (WNYCAP). A motion to donate \$50. was passed.

Sue also discussed working with the YWCA and Haven House as a branch project.

Sharon Rich represented us at the Presidents' Junior League Round Table, and the group was impressed with our work on sexual harassment.

The next board meeting will be held on December 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the First Investors Group (3rd floor) at 5500 Main Street, Williamsville.

AAUW CALENDAR 1993

12/1 Wednesday - **Board of Directors** will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the First Investors Group's conference room at 5500 Main Street, Williamsville. All board members are expected to attend. If you cannot attend, call Suzanne Grossman at 837-8769.

12/4 Saturday - **International Study** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ernie Foster, 245 Ransom Oaks Drive, East Amherst. Fay Friedman, who spent three months in Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa, will talk on *Great Beauty--Great Turmoil: South Africa in Transition*. Phone Ernie at 688-6393 if you plan to attend. Husbands and friends are welcome.

12/7 Tuesday - **Music Study Group** - no meeting this month. See you at the Polish Tea.

Duplicate Bridge should call Mary O'Connor at 831-9227 for location and reservations. Bridge time is 7:30 p.m.

12/9 Thursday - **Crafts Study Group** will meet at 7:30 p.m. Call Barbara Dascomb (833-0904) for details.

12/13 Monday - **Great Decisions** will meet at the home of Sybil Pressprich, 301 Highgate Ave., Buffalo at 5:30 p.m. for supper (BYO). Ann Bish will give a brief report on topic #8, *Children at Risk*. Ruth Seitz will conduct a summary and collect ballots, followed by a planning meeting for next year. Discussion will include changing the format from Great Decisions book topics to local as well as international topics to be decided by members. Call Sybil at 834-1329 if you plan to attend. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Meeting adjourns at 8:00 p.m. New members are encouraged to attend.

12/14 Tuesday - **German Study Group** meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. For information about location, call Gloria Beutner (838-1273) or Renny Ferber (836-3277).

12/15 Wednesday - **Dinner by the Book** will dine from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Macaroni Co., 60 Maple Road, Amherst. Lea Bendes will lead a discussion of *Like Water, For Chocolate*, by Laura Esquivel from 7:00-8:00. If you plan to attend, call Joan Ward (689-6568) by December 10.

12/16 Thursday - **Thursday Night Bridge Group** will not meet for lack of enough players for two tables. However, if anyone is interested, do call Margaret Haas (839-3701).

Women's Issues Study Group - Date and location to be announced. Contact Rita Nowak (874-9725) for details.

12/17 Friday - **Afternoon Literature Group** will meet at the Cafe in the Square, Harlem and Main, Snyder at 12:30 p.m.

Book Review Group have been invited to join the German group at their meeting earlier in the month.
















Investment Club will not meet this month.



1/4 Tuesday - **Duplicate Bridge** should call Mary O'Connor (831-9227) for location and reservations.



Music Study Group will not meet this month.



Jan Vine, Coordinator
Study and Interest Groups



Marlene Dick reports that several women have expressed an interest in a new group on *Lite Cooking*. Any others who are interested in light, low-cal, or special cooking should call Marlene at 837-3458, The group hopes to get started in 1994!





















 **Name** _____ 



 **# Guests** _____ 



 **Name Guest/s** _____ 



 **Amount enclosed (members free, \$2.00 per guest)** _____ 



 **Reservations are due by December 1.** 

















 **Mail to Diane Silvestro,** 

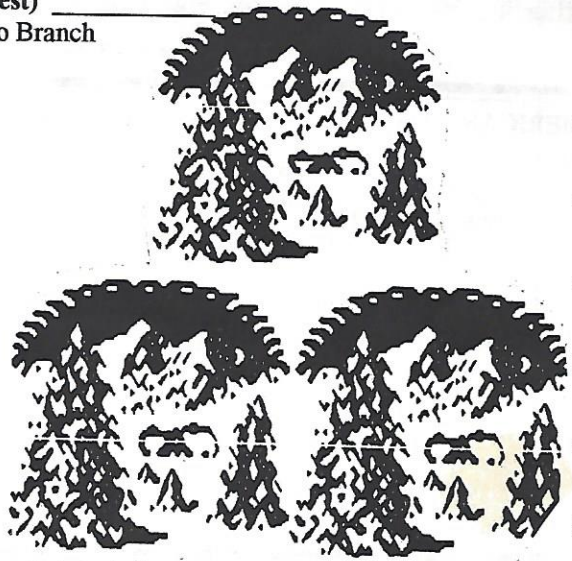
 **6 Belvoir Road** 

 **Buffalo, NY 14221, 631-3349** 



★
★ **The AAUW Challenge to be a Five-Star Branch** ★
★

★ **Must meet five of the seven criteria:**

★ **1. A net five percent growth in branch membership, based on February 1 to February 1 one year period, i.e. 2/1/93 to 2/1/94.**

★ **2. An average branch donation to the AAUW Educational Foundation of \$17 per capita, or a five percent increase over last year's donation.**

★ **3. An average per capita branch donation of \$1.13 in 1993-94 to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund to meet the "Countdown to '95" goal.**

★ **4. A community action project related to education and equity for women and girls, including a diversity component, with plans implemented prior to April 1 of the year the branch applies for Five-Star status.**

★ **5. Demonstrate sustained public policy advocacy.**

★ **6. Achieve visibility in your community based on either your community action project or your public policy efforts.**

★ **7. Leadership development by attendance at a minimum of two events, sponsored by either New York State AAUW, the MAR, or the Association, by at least one branch member who is neither a state nor Association board member.**

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
Marion S. Fay
347 Brantwood Road
Snyder, New York 14226

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 1078

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

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo NY on November 19.