

# **BUFFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER**



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

NYS District 1

February 1996

## **WHO'S RIGHT? WHOSE RIGHTS?**

### **Panel Discussion:**

**Residents' Rights vs. Developers' Rights  
New Land Uses vs. Residential Settings**

**Panelists: Joseph Gillings, Amherst Town Planning Department director  
Catharine Weiss, Amherst Town Planning Board member  
Jane Woodward, Amherst Town Councilwoman**

**Holiday Inn  
1881 Niagara Falls Boulevard  
Amherst**

**Saturday, February 24, 1996**

**Registration - 9 a.m.**

**Sit-Down Breakfast - 9:30 a.m.**

Fresh fruit cup, Texas-style French toast, Virginia baked ham, Danish and mini-muffins, Beverages

**Cost: \$8.25**

**Panel Discussion - 10:15 a.m.**

**GUESTS ARE WELCOME**

**See registration form on page 11.**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**H**appy New Year! We hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and made a New Year's resolution to become more active in AAUW. We have some interesting programs for the new year and have formed some new interest groups to keep you occupied in your spare time. Members interested in public policy and educational equity are working together on voter education and are looking for more member input. The membership, community, international relations, and diversity chairs are eager to develop their committees. We also need someone interested in co-editorship of the newsletter. Betty Loucks will be retiring from this position after many years of producing an outstanding newsletter. She is training Rita Cascia presently, and we believe that this position is in need of two experienced people so that we have a back-up. Communication is very important for our group, and we don't want to be without an editor. By getting involved you become acquainted with new people and receive many personal gratifications. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please call Bunny Blackstone (655-4519) or Sharon Rich (631-9777).

The board extends its deepest sympathy to Judy Weidemann on the death of her husband.


We would like to thank Pat Seaver and her committee for chairing the Mexican Holiday celebration. Our guest speaker, Carolina Marquez, enlightened us with the customs and traditions of the Mexican Christmas practices. Many thanks to all the members who baked the delicious Mexican recipes. For many years we have highlighted a country for our holiday

celebration. We will continue to do this as part of our diversity campaign to educate our members on the various traditions and customs around the world. If you have any suggestions for next year, please contact Carolyn Iadovito at 634-0927.

The Voter News Service contacted us again for our help in reporting the returns for the primary and the general election. Our group has been assigned Lancaster, part of Depew, part of East Aurora, and Marilla. We receive \$8 for each assigned election district that we report. In the past we have made over \$200 for our group. If you are able to help, please call Blackstone at 655-4519.

Best wishes for a good year.

Bunny Blackstone  
Sharon Rich  
Co-Presidents



**BUFFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER**  
is published monthly as a bulletin of events for members and as an update on AAUW issues and programs.

AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

Co-Presidents: Bunny Blackstone (655-4519)  
Sharon Rich (631-9777)  
Editor: Betty Loucks (632-3157)

Send address changes to Marion Fay  
347 Brantwood Road  
Snyder, NY 14226-4307  
836-5660

AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and positive societal change.

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**Deadline for the March issue is February 7.**





# Get the Facts

## SPEAK UP!

The outcome of the battle between congressional leaders and the administration over how to balance the budget will determine funding levels for programs for the next seven years.

We know that reform of the welfare program is long overdue; however, the proposed welfare programs do not provide adequate resources like education and training opportunities and child care to help women and their families move from welfare to work.

Bills to dismantle federal affirmative action programs have been introduced in both chambers. Other AAUW priority issues concerning reproductive rights, education, health care (Medicaid and Medicare), funding for teacher training, funding for title IX enforcement, student loans, etc. have all been attacked in the first session of the 104th Congress.

If we are complacent or excuse ourselves from getting involved, the consequences of this Congress will be felt in some way by every one of us. To right the wrongs later on is an excruciating process that is too often slow, arduous, and ineffectual.

Keep informed, and share information with other women – friends, neighbors, family members – who care about women's rights. Finally, call or set up appointments with your member of Congress to express your concerns. Let's make our voices heard on issues important to women.

Ann Bish  
District 1 Public Policy Chair

## PUBLIC POLICY

**T**here is simply no denying the obvious. The 104th Congress has made crystal clear its intentions to attack issues you and I hold dear: educational equity, reproductive choice, affirmative action, and more. Gone from Capitol Hill are many good friends and allies of AAUW and women everywhere.

You may remember that the leadership of the last Congress averaged a strong 85 percent AAUW Voting Record rating. Shockingly, every single one of today's House and Senate leaders received a 0 percent AAUW Voting Record rating that same year!

AAUW passionately believes that steps must be taken – beginning at once – to protect the rights we've fought so hard to win for women and girls. Therefore, over the coming weeks and months, AAUW will accelerate our intensive, nationwide VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN aimed at educating and galvanizing voters – especially women voters – into a powerful political force by November 1996.

We must target all women in a massive Get-out-the-vote (GOTV) drive that will make our voices heard in primary after primary, in state after state, as well as in the general election.

*The above was taken from the AAUW Voter Education Campaign letter of January 1996.*

See GOTV on page 5.

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Buffalo Branch welcomes the following new members for the new year:

Catherine Hoepfnger  
76 Robert Street  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
649-1151

Hoepfnger has a bachelor's degree in medical technology from Rochester Institute of Technology.

Ann E. Schulz  
277 Lakefront Boulevard  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
871-6000

Schulz has both bachelor's and master's degrees in education from SUNY College at Buffalo. She was recruited for membership by Barbara Olandt.

Florence M. Sodus  
459 Wood Acres Drive  
East Amherst, NY 14051  
636-0393

Sodus has both bachelor's and master's degrees in education from SUNY College at Buffalo. She was recruited for membership by Rosemary Darbee.

Jean K. O'Connell  
10646 Main Street  
Clarence, NY 14031  
759-8580

O'Connell has a bachelor's and a master's degree in education from SUNY College at Buffalo. She is the owner of J. O'Connell and Associates, Grant Consultants.

Suzanne A. Zalewski  
204 Villa Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14216  
874-5979

Zalewski has a bachelor's degree in education from Cornell University. She is an attorney with the law office of Gregory P. Miller. She was recruited for membership by Freddie Cheek.

Jacqueline Deasy  
1058 Thomas Fox Drive East  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120-2957  
862-5609

Deasy has a bachelor's degree in commerce from Niagara University.

Kathleen R. Scanlon  
32 Hilltop Court  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
897-8100

Scanlon has a bachelor's degree in exceptional education, a master's degree in student personnel administration, and a CAS.

Barbara Knauer  
116 Segsbury Drive  
Williamsville, NY 14221-3426  
874-1566

Knauer has a master's degree from SUNY at Buffalo.

Judith J. Ricca  
137 Breezewood Common  
East Amherst, NY 14051  
636-1134

Ricca has a master's degree in education from the University of Rochester and a doctorate in education from SUNY at Buffalo.

Ruby G. Sentman  
334 Everett Place  
Tonawanda, NY 14150  
837-5504

Sentman has a master's degree and a doctorate in education from SUNY at Buffalo.



Laura R. Winsky Mattei  
67 Moorgate Court  
East Amherst, NY 14051  
689-0739

Mattei has a master's degree and a doctorate from SUNY at Buffalo.

Joan A. Droit  
1901 Marjorie Drive  
Grand Island, NY 14072  
773-7105

Droit has a master's degree from SUNY College at Buffalo.

If you know of someone who might like to receive membership information, call Rita Cascia (625-6957).

Rita Cascia  
Vice-President for Membership Recruitment

## CULTURAL NEWS

**B**efore letting you know what is going on culturally in February, here is a plug for the *WNY Arts Are for Everyone Value Book*, a coupon book which costs \$5 and which can be purchased at Tops. This book includes discount coupons for about fifty cultural, educational, and literary organizations in the area. A terrific idea!

Continuing through February at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery are portraits by Dawoud Bey. In cooperation with the University at Buffalo Art Gallery, the Albright-Knox will host a series of lectures entitled *Art at the End of the Century: A Dialogue*. Two of these lectures will take place in February on the 15th and the 29th. An exhibit at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society beginning on February 17 will address the problem of urban violence in

*Common Ground: Communities Dealing with Urban Violence*.

On stage, beginning February 8, the Irish Classical Theatre Company will present *Dangerous Liaisons*; beginning February 22, the Kavinoky Theatre will stage the classic *A Man for All Seasons*; and beginning February 7, the Studio Arena Theatre will mount Wendy Wasserstein's *The Sisters Rosensweig*.

On February 7, the Greater Buffalo Opera Company will present *La Traviata* as sung by the New York City



Opera National Company. The Leipzig Chamber Orchestra, sponsored by QRS, will perform on February 4 at Rockwell Hall. The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra will play several concerts in February, including a Jeans and Beer Concert on Valentine's Day, pops concerts featuring Gershwin and Ellington on the 16th and 17th, and a classical concert with pianist Awadagin Pratt on three dates earlier in the month.

Enjoy your February.

Judy Summer  
Cultural Representative

*GOTV* continued from page 3.

If you know a woman who is not registered to vote or has not voted recently, help to GOTV by letting her know it's easy to register to vote. She can do it as she renews her New York State driver license, or in Erie County she can call 858-7817, and forms will be mailed. Remind her that each vote **does count**. Don't wait to be an expert on every topic. Make a responsible choice and **VOTE**.

Barbara A. Olandt  
Public Policy Chair

## Baker Victory Services Meets Social Needs

**Baker Victory Services** is a multi-service organization offering social services, mental health treatment, developmental disabilities residential programming, special education and early childhood services, maternity residential and outpatient services, and community-based preventive services for children, adolescents, young adults and families. Through a sub-contract arrangement with Our Lady of Victory Hospital in Lackawanna, the agency provides medical services to both special needs populations and the normal population from birth through young adult age. The organization supports a staff of over 800 employees and operates with an annual budget of approximately \$25 million.

The programs of Baker Victory Services provide the fullest range and level of care for services for children and families ranging from intensive levels of inpatient programming to community based Preventive Programs and Outpatient Clinic Services as follows:

Inpatient Psychiatric	Institutional
Special Services	Group Homes
Foster Care	Maternity Residence
Mother and Child Group Home	Adoption
Special Education	Day Treatment
Mental Health Outpatient Clinic	Preventive Services
Early Childhood Intervention	Early Diagnostic and Assessment
Residential and Community Based Residential for the Office of Mental Retardation with a special emphasis on the medically frail.	

The broad range of services is an invaluable asset to both behavioral health care as well as to the special needs plans of children and young adults across all of the licensure areas presently served. Looking toward the future, plans are to develop additional specialized services that address existing community needs.

Baker Victory Services looks to form alliances with providers in coordinated efforts to fully service the evolving needs of the Western New York community for children and families. Baker Victory Services has a history of services dating back to 1854 and has developed a system of services that provides quality and effective care at fiscally responsible levels (well below market standards). It looks back on its growth and development with a sense of pride and looks to the future with a realistic sense of confidence in meeting the challenges which lie ahead.

### Ombudsmen Needed

Can you help? Amherst Ombudsmen visit nursing and adult homes as advocates for residents. Volunteer training is available through New York State Office for Aging. Ombudsmen handle problems of any nature with confidentiality and to the extent the resident chooses. Call 839-2969 for information or assistance.





## BRANCH NOTES

### Thank You

Maryalice Seagrave, Chamberlin Loan Chair, thanks the following branch members, who found time in the busy month of December to interview seven candidates for grants and loans from the Chamberlin Loan Fund and the Funds for Education: **Carolyn Day, Barbara Kadzik, Chris O'Connor, Carol Paskuly, Barbara Paulson, Joan Richmond, Diane Silvestro, and Judy Weidemann.** Four of these responded in an emergency situation with only three hours notice.

Interviewers will be needed again in late June for three or four hours.

**Marion Fay**, who has prepared the labels for mailing the newsletter and the roster for 12 years, has earned a thank you from Buffalo Branch members.

### Condolences

Buffalo Branch members extend their sympathy to...

... member **Judy Weidemann** on the death of her husband.

... friends and family of member **Marie Johnott Porter**, who died in December at the age of 97.

### LAF

The "share the wealth" raffle has collected \$118.50 to date for the Legal Advocacy Fund. The 1995-96 goal is \$2 per member.

## WHI NEEDS HELP FROM AAUW

**T**he *Women's Health Initiative* (WHI), the first large research effort for women, needs help from the AAUW. The study, which will investigate prevention of heart disease, some cancers and osteoporotic fractures, needs 4,000 women from the Western New York area. Currently, 2,000 are enrolled, BUT recruitment is slated to end in September of 1996.

Efforts are under way for a last recruitment push. AAUW has been supportive in the past of this pioneer research effort for women. Members are now asked to reconsider enrolling as well as to help promote the study in Western New York. For more information about joining, women should call the clinic at 829-3128. AAUW members who belong to another women's organization that might be interested in hearing about the study, or who have ideas on recruitment, should call Dr. Karen L. Falkner at the same number.

Very little research has been done for women. Consequently, there are not many answers about women's health. The **Women's Health Initiative** is the first to try to get some.. **PLEASE HELP!!**

## December Board Meeting

**T**he December board meeting of the Buffalo Branch AAUW was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on December 6, 1995, by Co-President Bunny Blackstone at the Eggertsville-Snyder Library. The minutes were accepted as corrected. The following reports were given:

**President's Report** – Bunny Blackstone thanked Judy Weidemann and Diane Silvestro for the November program, and Pat Seaver and Ann Bish for the December holiday program..

Blackstone also introduced Rita Cascia, who

will fill the position of Second Vice-President for Membership Recruitment being vacated by Marlene Dick.

**Past-President's Report** – Judy Weidemann reported on a reception attended by herself and Blackstone to honor Dr. Swanee Hunt, U.S. Ambassador to Austria, who was on a speaking tour of the United States with a stop in Buffalo.

**First Vice-President for Program Report** – The January program will feature Maryann Bolles from the School for Creative Cuisine. The emphasis will be on natural herbs in cooking and healing. The program will be held on January 20, 1996, at Erie Community College, North Campus. A luncheon will be catered by Preservation Hall.

**Second Vice-President for Membership Recruitment** – Rita Cascia reported that Marlene Dick needs a home for the January new-member tea. Judy Bratty volunteered her home for January 24 from 7 - 9 p.m.

The AAUW phone number, which was Marlene Dick's home phone, needs to be changed. Ann Bish offered to have the number changed to her phone.

**Third Vice-President for Membership Retention** – Carolyn Day reported that to date she has 199 names without the new members. Rita Cascia will provide the new names. Day also circulated a petition, for those who cared to sign, from the Women's Action Coalition program in March for their national position for fair pay.

**Loan Funds Treasurer's Report** - Cindy Monacelli circulated her report showing \$31,119.34 in the Chamberlin Loan Fund and \$5,245.31 in Funds for Education. The report was accepted and filed for credit.

**Educational Foundation Report** - Stacey Johnson reported a total balance in all accounts of \$13,534.40.

**Education and Equity Report**- Judy Weidemann presented two programs in October,



one for the wives of the Young Presidents Group and the other at the Junior League Round Table for heads of women's organizations.

On November 12, *School Secrets* was presented at the New York State PTA Convention using people from the audience.

Weidemann, Ann Bish, and Stacey Johnson are part of a committee which has met twice and is focusing on Voter Education in 1996. A "Get the Facts" insert will be in the next newsletter.

**Public Policy Report** – Ann Bish reported on information from the Association concerning the Educational Foundation, which states that individuals can donate money before the end of the year with credit given to Buffalo Branch.

Bish also distributed information from the Association requesting that members become activists by calling their local and national representatives in government. Bish asked for at least five volunteers to make calls. The Voter Education program recommends establishing phone trees to make members aware of pertinent information. Bish also circulated an AAUW Grassroots Fax/Internet Form to mobilize voters on women's issues.

**Community Report** – Phyllis Kelly thanked the members and their guests who contributed food and clothing items to the Haven House at our Holiday Program.

Sharon Rich will have lunch with the local people who attended the Beijing Conference to see how Buffalo Branch can help in their work.

**Newsletter Editor's Report** – Betty Loucks again asked for newsletter articles by the deadline.

**Chamberlin Loan Report** – Maryalice Seagrave conducted an interview with an award candidate prior to the meeting. The next interviews will be held on December 28. The revised guidelines were presented by Seagrave

and unanimously approved by the Board.

**Finance/Budget Report** – Diane Silvestro has met with Michelle Bancroft, branch treasurer, and has further simplified a chart of accounts.

**Public Relations Report** – Rita McDonald would like more names of members on each committee for publication; the more names in articles listed from various areas, the more likely that local papers will publish pictures and articles about our events. McDonald suggested we use television advertising and a home page.

**Study Group Report** – Judy Bratty explained the new interest groups that members signed up for at the November program. Carolyn Day will be sending out letters asking for a list of the members in each study group.

**May Luncheon Report** - Chair Linda Fusco reported that all is proceeding well.

**Old Business** - The board discussed the goals for the 1995-1996 year. Barbara Olandt had proposed making sure people are registered to vote and assisting those who need help.

Diane Silvestro would like to form a strategic planning committee to establish goals for Buffalo Branch.

**New Business** – Blackstone stated that we have fulfilled five of the seven criteria for 5-star status. Karen Noonan, Sharon Rich, and Judy Weidemann have met with Blackstone to discuss the 5-star status. Two dollars per member is needed to meet the LAF goal.

Chris O'Connor, book sale collections chair, needs some new sites to drop off books.

A motion was made by Carolyn Day, seconded by Diane Silvestro, to send a \$25 gift certificate to the coordinator at Tri-Main Center for her help with the book sale. The motion passed unanimously.

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## AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH CALENDAR

2/6 Tuesday – The **Duplicate Bridge Group** should call Mary O'Connor (631-9227) for location and reservations. Bridge time is 7:30 p.m.

The **Music Study Group** will not meet.

2/8 Thursday – The **Craft Group** will continue to work on current projects. Call Barbara Dascomb (685-2079 for details.

2/13 Tuesday – The **German Study Group** meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please call Gloria Beutner (838-1273) or Renny Ferber (836-3277) for information about location.

The **Book Collecting Group** will not meet.

2/20 Tuesday – The **Book Review Group** will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Norma Millar, 128 Crosby Avenue, Kenmore. Nancy Acara will review *My American Journey* by Colin Powell. Call Millar (875-6091) for reservations.

2/21 Wednesday – The **Dinner by the Book Group** will meet at Elizabeth's Gourmet Coffee and Tea Shoppe in the Maple-Ridge Plaza at Maple and Sweet Home. Marilyn Carmichael will review *Moo* by Jane Smiley. Call Suzanne Grossman (837-8769) for reservations. The book for March has been changed to *The Stone Diaries* by Carol Shields.

2/26 Monday – The **Investment Interest Group** will meet at 7 p.m. at the Greenhaven Library, 350 Greenhaven Road, Tonawanda. The topic will be "Special Interest Investing." Call Eve Stoklosa (695-3606) or Judy Bratty (833-5995) for more information. Guests are welcome.

2/27 Tuesday – The **Investment Club** will meet at 7 p.m. sharp at the Williamsville Library, 5571 Main Street, Williamsville. All members are encouraged to be in attendance to transact business. Contact Jan Vine (839-2559) for more information. Guests are always welcome.

3/2 Saturday – The **International Studies Group** (International Study Through Foods) will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ann Hicks and Ann Bish, 5177 Willow Brook Drive, Clarence. Vitauts Alks, Ph.D, R. Ph., an Oncology Pharmacist at Roswell Park Institute, will talk on *Pharmacy from the Rain Forest: Impressions of a Workshop in the Amazon*. Call Hicks or Bish (741-3964) if you wish to attend. Husbands and friends are most welcome. There will be a \$2 charge per person.



Eve Stoklosa (695-3606) is still meeting on Sundays at Kissing Bridge at 8 a.m. with the **Down Hill Skiing Group**. Please call her any day between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and leave a message.

**CAARD** (Cards are a Relaxing Diversion) is being proposed as a new interest group. A variety of card games will be played depending on the interests of the members. If you are interested, call Suzanne Grossman (837-8769).

Judy Bratty, Coordinator

**FEATURING STUDY GROUPS:**  
***INTERNATIONAL STUDIES INTEREST GROUP***

The International Studies Interest Group (International Study Through Foods) was developed to increase understanding and to appreciate cultural diversity by studying various cultural practices, societies and geography. Members and guests meet in members' homes two to four times a year to socialize; interact with one or more presenters on diverse social, economic, and political issues; and to share related food and beverages. Past evenings have highlighted New Zealand and Australia, teaching and living in China in the 1990s, and Buffalo's sister city of Lille, France. Check this month's branch newsletter for information on the next program, a trip through the Amazon.



**Registration Form for February Branch Meeting**  
**Saturday, February 24, 1996, 9 a.m., Holiday Inn, 1881 Niagara Falls Boulevard**  
**See page 1**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \$8.25      Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

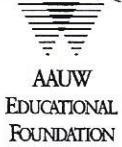
Make check payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch.

Please send reservations by **February 15** to Maryalice Seagrave 833-0437  
 350 Warwick Avenue  
 Buffalo, NY 14215-3241

*In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.*



*AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education and positive societal change.*




*The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.*



*AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.*

**Moving? Did not receive the newsletter? Please contact Marion Fay (835-5660).**

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo NY on January 23.

 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN	<b>BUFFALO BRANCH</b> Marion S. Fay 347 Brantwood Road Snyder, NY 14226	Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage <b>PAID</b> Buffalo, NY Permit No. 1078
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