

# BUFFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

NYS District 1

December 1996

## DECEMBER PROGRAM

### CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION THE YEAR OF THE OX

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO  
210 STUDENT UNION  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 1996  
2 P.M. TO 4 P.M.

**GUEST SPEAKERS: CHINESE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS  
COME ENJOY THE FOODS, SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF CHINA AND  
LEARN HOW A "TRADITIONAL CHINESE NEW YEAR" IS STILL  
CELEBRATED IN CHINA**

#### **Chinese New Year Celebration Information**

**Location  
Room 210 Student Union  
University at Buffalo**

See reservation form on page 15

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members:

The last few weeks have been busy. On October 19th, a small but enthusiastic group listened to Dr. Nancy McGlen, Professor of Political Science at Niagara University and President-Elect of the North East Political Science Association, compare the results of the 1992 and 1994 elections with the upcoming 1996 election and explain the "gender gap". According to Dr. McGlen, there are significant public policy differences between male and female voters, with women traditionally supporting government's role in health, education and social services. Now that the election is over, my thanks to all of you who voted and helped with our many Voter Education initiatives. While the total turnout was the lowest in years, women voted in greater numbers than 1994 and proved that they are a force to be reckoned with in future elections.

On October 26, 1996 the annual district conference "Take Flight for the Future" took place at the Roycroft Inn. The morning began with a presentation on helpful hints for becoming, and in our case, remaining, a 5-Star Branch. Several of our members assisted with the presentation including Ann Hicks (Educational Foundation), Betty Loucks (Membership), Judy Weidemann (Education and Equity). This was followed by a group brainstorming session on the State's Strategic Plan facilitated by Barbara Carier and a presentation on last minute strategies for the Voter Education Initiative facilitated by Ann Bish. After lunch we walked across the street to the East Aurora Middle School, where

Elaine Casler from Erie County BOCES provided an introduction to the internet. For those of you who are interested the AAUW Home Page address is [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org). Our branch clearly deserves a special star for our participation. A special thanks to Barbara Carier, Ann Bish, Ann Hicks, and Judy Weidemann.

I enjoyed seeing many of you on November 16th at the Little White House when Collen Jansen spoke on "South African Women Then and Now: the Last Thirty Years and the Rights Guaranteed in the Constitution" and I look forward to seeing you on December 8th when we celebrate a Chinese New Year at the University at Buffalo. See page 6 for more information on the Chinese New Year's celebration and page 11 for details on our special afternoon program.



### BUFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

President: Dr. Karen Noonan (688-0987)

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

December 1996  
Vol. CVI, No. 4  
Circulation 350

**Deadline for January issue is December 9**



## November 1996 AAUW Buffalo Board Meeting

### Members Present:

Rita Cascia	Diane Sina
Judy Bratty	Ann Hicks
Carolyn Day	Ann Bish
Freddie Cheek	Jane Riga
Diane Silvestro	Margit Spector
Carolyn Iadovito	Judy Weidmann
Chris O'Connor	Bunny Blackstone
Karen Noonan	

The November 1996 AAUW Buffalo Branch Board meeting was called to order by President Karen Noonan at 7:05 P.M. on November 6, 1996 at the Snyder-Eggerstville Library.

The minutes were accepted as corrected.

Noonan discussed the need for a branch librarian. We have many reference items which belong to the branch and there is a need for someone to keep track of them, hand them out, and establish a resource center. Noonan will place an article in the Newsletter asking for items that members may have. A motion was made to establish a position of branch librarian. The motion passed unanimously.

Noonan circulated a copy of AAUW's Home Page from the internet. (see pg. 14)

Noonan announced that the Roster for 1996-1997 is going to the printer.

Noonan also reported on the District Conference which had been held at the Roycroft on October 26, 1996. Buffalo Branch members Barbara Carrier, Ann Bish, Ann Hicks and Judy Weidemann gave presentations at the Conference.

Noonan reported on Women's History

Month, which will be held in March 1997.

Noonan announced that Ruthe Sichertman is appointed as Historian. Sichertman would like all material for the archives to be placed in plastic containers and given to Karen Noonan at the next board meeting.

Noonan announced a program initiated at the State level by Kay Kraatz asking for mentors for struggling branches and to establish sister branches.

President-Elect Diane Silvestro reported on the Women's Roundtable. They are educating their members on family violence, working on Women's History Month, and working to establish a local Women's Hall of Fame. Silvestro reported on WAC which will sponsor a "Habitat for Humanity" home in 1997, which will be completely built by women.

Silvestro also asked for volunteers to help with the Strategic Plan. Bunny Blackstone, Ann Hicks, Rita Cascia, Judy Bratty and Judy Weidemann volunteered to help.

Fund-Raising: Bunny Blackstone presented many items as fund-raisers. A decision was tabled until comparative prices could be presented.

Committee Reports: By-Laws: Ann Bish presented the new revised By-Laws. Bish acknowledged her helpers, Sharon Rich, Diane Silvestro, and typist Julie Smith. Bish and the board reviewed the By-Laws page by page asking for comments and suggestions. Some changes were made. Bish will present a brief summary of where amendments will be needed for the By-Laws at the next board meeting.

Membership Retention Chair, Carolyn Day,

(Continued on page 4)

(Board Minutes from pg. 3)

announced there are 210 paid members.

New Business: A suggestion was made to make copies of the AAUW Home Page ad and add our branch label and telephone contact number. Copies would then be placed in libraries, teacher's lounges and other appropriate sites.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM .

The next Board Mtg. will be held Dec.th 4 at 7:00 at the Eggertsville-Snyder Library.

Recording Secretary;  
Christine O'Connor

## Reach for the Stars: 1996-1997 Five Star Update

For the second year in a row our branch has reached for the stars and succeeded but there's still much to do if we want to add a third year. The Stars in the Reach for the Stars Campaign and members who have or are working on this effort include:

Community Action Star  
Judy Weidemann and others currently working on an early childhood education community action project that will include a diversity component.



*Three Branch members represent District I at State Conferences. Betty Louchs, Ann Bish and Judy Weidemann at the Roycroft Inn, District I Fall Conference, October 26, 1996*

### Public Policy Star

Ann Bish, Judy Weidemann and many others who worked on the 1996 Voter Education Campaign.

### Membership

Rita Cascia our membership VP needs to recruit 35-40 new members to reach a 5% net growth in branch membership.

### AAUW Educational Foundation

Bunny Blackstone and the Used Book Sale Committee who need to raise \$25 for each member of the branch, over \$5750.

### Legal Advocacy Fund Star

Chair Mary Jo Evans, with help from the Study Groups, needs to raise \$2 for each member of the branch, over \$450.

### Visibility Star

This star requires local visibility through media outreach for our branch community action projects and public policy efforts.

Is there anyone who is willing to accept the challenge?

**Leadership Star**  
Diane Silvestro is currently working on the branch strategic plan, goal setting system and branch leadership program.

Diane, Judy, Ann, Rita, Bunny, and Mary Jo can't do it alone. If you are

interested in working with other members to be sure we reach our goal, please call Karen Noonan at 688-0987.



## KUDOS TO MEMBERS:

Katherine Johnson organized a conference on "Women And Men Working Together" at Niagara County Community College on November 1, 1996. It was designed to bring awareness of gender-related issues in the workplace to the college and surrounding community.

Stacey Johnson presented a paper at the above conference on "Breaking Through The Glass Ceiling And The Old Boy Network".

Congratulations to Evelyn Wolf, who was recently elected to the position of political precinct committee person in her area.

## SHOULD ENGLISH BE THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNITED STATES?

The Supreme Court of the US has agreed to decide if states can require school employees to speak English—and only English—on the job. At issue is the legality of an Arizona ballot initiative declaring English to be the "official" language of the state.

Adopted in 1988 by a slim 50.5 percent majority vote, the law requires all public employees to write and speak English—and only English—while performing their government jobs.

The law applies to all public school employees in Arizona, although there is an exception permitting teachers to teach

foreign languages as part of the curriculum.

Immediately after the initiative passed, a bilingual state worker filed a legal challenge in federal court. The worker claimed that the new law prevented her from providing services to people who can speak only Spanish.

A Hispanic state senator later intervened in the case, arguing that the law prevented him from communicating with his Spanish-speaking constituents.

The defendants argued that the English-only requirement "protects democracy" by encouraging unity and political stability, makes state workers more "efficient," and "promotes public confidence" in government.

Last year, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit struck down the new law, ruling that it violates the federal Constitution.

The court held that the law is overly broad, violates the free speech rights of public employees, and impairs the ability of Arizona residents to receive information from their state government.

The court said the ban on non-English speech was so broad that it would reach "teachers speaking in the classroom," bar schools from "issuing diplomas in Latin," and prohibit judges from saying "mazel tov" at weddings. Relying in part on a 1923 Supreme Court decision striking down a state ban on teaching foreign languages, the court ruled that a state cannot "gag" its employees or force them to "remain mute before members of the non-English speaking public" who seek information about government benefits such as social security, welfare, housing, and voting.

(Continued on page 8)

# The Chinese New Year's Festival

The Chinese calendar, like the Jewish and Islamic calendars is based on the lunar cycle, following the passage of the moon and dividing the year into 12 lunar months. The discrepancy between a lunar calendar based on 354 days and a solar year based on 365 days 5 hours and 48 minutes, a difference of 11+ days was rectified in the west in 1582 when Pope Gregory instituted the Gregorian calendar which provided that century years divisible evenly by 400 should be leap years. The Gregorian calendar was adopted slowly in Europe. Great Britain adopted the calendar in 1752 using January 1 as the first day of the New Year. The Chinese government adopted the Gregorian calendar in the 1940's. The Chinese continue to celebrate the Chinese New Year, falling on the first day of the second lunar month after the winter solstice (December 21st). This most important and popular of all festivals for the Chinese usually occurs between January 21st and February 19th. The Chinese name each year after an animal, 1997 will be the Year of the Ox and New Year will be celebrated on February 7th, 1997.

Legend has it that on his deathbed, the Buddha summoned all the animals of the kingdom to his bedside. Only 12 turned up and in order of their appearance he dedicated a year to each of them. The Chinese zodiac moves in a cycle of 12 years (rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake,

horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig) and people born under these signs are said to possess certain characteristics. A child born in 1997, the Year of the Ox, will be steadfast, methodical and dependable.

No one knows how far back New Year celebrations go in Chinese history. Their customs include removing the bad luck of the old year and obtaining a new slate for the next. In keeping with the idea of clearing out the old, the New Year was thought to be an appropriate time for a through housecleaning and for the payment of debts. Beginning on New Year's Day, people visit friends and associates and wish them luck. On the last day of the year, preparations are made for the New Year's Eve Feast, the most important event of the New Year is the reunion dinner. Families make special efforts to gather together to celebrate New Year's Eve. At midnight fire crackers are set off to scare away evil spirits and lights are turned on to chase away bad luck.

Traditionally, the festivities last 15 days ending with a parade of elaborate paper lanterns and street dances accompanied by cymbals, drums and gongs. New Year is an especially exciting time for children because they receive presents of money in red envelopes.

If you are interested in hearing more about this festival and meeting Chinese scholars who are studying at the University this year, please join us at 2:00 p.m. on December 8th, 1996 at the University at Buffalo and celebrate the Year of the Ox.



## Questions and Answers About the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Case Support

Q: What is the purpose of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund?

A: LAF supports women in higher education by fighting sex discrimination and by recognizing programs that advance equity at colleges and universities.

Q: How does LAF promote equity for women in higher education?

A: LAF works for equity through case support, the Progress in Equity Award, and the LAF Network.

Q: What is case support?

A: LAF supports plaintiffs charging sex discrimination in higher education by providing direct financial aid, technical assistance, and fundraising support. LAF does not engage in litigation.

Q: Are there limitations on the type of cases or plaintiffs LAF will support?

A: At this time, LAF considers only sex discrimination lawsuits brought by women in higher education. The Fund accepts cases brought by both AAUW members and non-members.

Q: Who decides which cases LAF will adopt?

A: The LAF Advisory Committee—three to five AAUW members, at least two of whom are attorneys—reviews requests to

determine if the cases fall within the guidelines set by the LAF Board of Directors and makes recommendations to the Board. The Board makes the final decision and determines the level of support.

Q: What criteria does the LAF Board use when choosing cases?

A: (1) the plaintiff's need for financial aid;  
(2) a high probability of success;  
(3) potential significance of the case for women in higher education; and  
(4) The action must be filed in a state or federal court.

Q: How does the Fund support cases?

A: LAF can provide direct financial support to a case or can allow the plaintiff to use the LAF name as a fundraising channel. For instance, once the Fund has adopted a case, contributions earmarked for that case can be accepted by LAF and forwarded to the designated plaintiff. (An administrative fee is deducted from such contributions.) The use of the LAF name can also boost credibility for the case and general community support. By giving money through LAF, the donor may be able to take a tax deduction for her or his contribution.

Q: What cases has the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund adopted and at what level?

A: LAF has contributed more than \$300,000 to 43 cases since its founding in 1981.

Q: How does a plaintiff apply for LAF support?

A: She can request that an application be sent to her by writing or calling the AAUW

*(Continued on page 10)*

(*English Official Lang. from pg. 5*)

Emphasizing that "this country has historically prided itself on welcoming immigrants with a spirit of tolerance and freedom," the court cautioned that "the state cannot achieve unity by prescribing orthodoxy."

Last summer, the US Supreme Court agreed to review the Ninth Circuit's ruling.

The High Court's decision in the case, *Arizona v. State of Arizona*, will have ramifications for the free speech rights of public school employees nationwide.

The National Education Association recently joined People for the American Way, the American Jewish Congress, and other organizations in filing a friend-or-the-court brief urging agreement with the lower court decision.

And now Congress has entered the fray. Just last August, the House of Representatives passed the "English Language Empowerment Act of 1996," a bill requiring the federal government to conduct most of its business in English only.

Opponents of the legislation argue that it would ban bilingual education and English as a second language programs, and prohibit teachers and schools from communicating with parents in languages other than English.

In a speech on the House floor, Speaker Newt Gingrich complained that California public schools now teach academic subjects in more than 80 languages and warned that this level of bilingualism will lead "to the decay of the core parts of our civilization" if the trend is not reversed.

Critics have noted that more than 97 percent of all Americans already speak English and urge that the best way to encourage immigrants to learn the language is not to ban other tongues, but to fund many more English-language classes.

The bill failed to pass the Senate in the just-ended 104th Congress. President Clinton had promised to veto it if it had made it to his desk.

Submitted by Barbara Carier, Education Representative, based largely on Michael Simpson's article in November 1996 issue of *NEA Today*

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## Educational Foundation - A Long & Proud Tradition

Last year the branch contributed \$10,105 to the AAUW Educational Foundation which boosted the Buffalo Branch Centennial American Fellowship to almost \$95,000! We have approximately \$5,000 to go to reach our pledge of \$100,000 to establish this fellowship. Once we reach that amount, a recipient will be named annually in honor of the Buffalo Branch 100th Anniversary celebrated in 1989-90.

As a branch we take great pride in the dedication and commitment of our members to the organization and administration of the annual used book sale, our principal EF fund raiser. In addition to the funds for EF and Loans for Education and goodwill generated by the sale, we know that it enhances our visibility in the WNY community.

Over the past five years considerable attention was given to AAUW and the research initiatives focused on gender equity in the schools. These research initiatives included 1991, *Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America*; 1992, *The AAUW Report: How Schools Shortchange Girls*; 1993, *Hostile Hallways* and 1995, *Growing Smart: What's Working For Girls in School*.



Through our individual and collective gifts to EF we are enabling the AAUW Educational Foundation to advance its mission of preparing and empowering women to bring about needed change in our society and institutions and to make tomorrow's world a better place for women and girls. As we approach the end of another year, members might want to consider a tax deductible gift to EF. Some options are outlined below for your consideration.

March to Victory (five year plan with pins &/or certificates)

Gold \$200/year = \$1000 by June 2000

Silver \$100/year = \$500 by June 2000

Bronze \$50/year = \$250 by June 2000

Twenty-First Century Club	\$210 annually
Eleanor Roosevelt Fund	\$100 annually
Equity Futures	\$25 minimum

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me (741-3964).

#### Education Foundation Application Deadlines

Members are encouraged to promote the availability of EF fellowships and grants to friends, colleagues and potential members. Last year over \$2.6 million in fellowships and grants were awarded to women across the country and to international fellows.

#### Deadlines/ Postmark Dateline

December 17, 1996	Selected Professions/ Engineering
December 2, 1996	International Fellowships
January 3, 1997	Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellowships
February 4, 1997	Spring Cycle Community Action Grants
September 4, 1997	Fall Cycle Community Action Grants

Information/applications: AAUW Educational Foundation, 2201 N. Dodge Street, Dept Iowa City, IA 52243-4030 (319/337-1711)

Submitted by Ann Hicks

## BUFFALO BRANCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Buffalo Branch Achievement Award has been presented annually to a woman in the Western New York area since 1940. The award recognizes the various achievements and contributions of women in our community. Selection criteria focus on those activities and achievements which reflect personal and/or professional involvement and commitment to promoting equity for women's education and self-development over time, and positive societal change. The award is presented at the branch annual luncheon in May.

The 1996 recipients, Betty J. Cappella and Geraldine E. Bard from Buffalo State, were recognized for their contributions in establishing Project F.L.I.G.H.T. (Family Literacy for Intergenerational Growth and Home Teaching). Project F.L.I.G.H.T. has been identified as an effective strategy for women combating the pervasive arrangement of disastrous social problems associated with undereducation. The "Give a Book To Life" project sponsored by the Buffalo Branch and Project F.L.I.G.H.T. placed over 20,000 new books into the hands of children who did not own their own book before. Our branch has contributed both books and money to Project F.L.I.G.H.T.

Isn't there someone you think deserves recognition? You are encouraged to submit nominations to the Achievement Award Committee c/o Karen Noonan by February 1st, 1996. Three letters of recommendation should be included with your letter of nomination.

(LAF from pg 7)

Legal Advocacy Fund, 1111 Sixteenth St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036, 202/785-7719.

## Proposed Revisions in the Buffalo Branch Bylaws

Q: Who administers the Fund?

A: The Fund is administered by the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Board of Directors: the AAUW president and AAUW finance vice president, five AAUW board members elected by the AAUW board, three AAUW members elected by the LAF board, and a representative from AAUW's College/University Relations Committee.

Q: Who can support the Fund?

A: Anyone can support LAF! While AAUW established the Fund, contributions are not limited to dollars from AAUW members. Everyone committed to the cause of equity, particularly women in higher education, should be encouraged to support the Legal Advocacy Fund. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Q: How can I help the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund?

A: SPREAD THE WORD. AAUW members, women faculty, and other interested individuals need to hear about LAF. Run an article about the Fund in your state or branch bulletin and raise funds for LAF at meetings. If your branch is located near where plaintiffs live, ask them to speak at a branch meeting. If you, your spouse or your children are alumni of one of the schools involved in an LAF-supported lawsuit, tell the school that you will not be giving your alumni contribution this year due to the school's lack of support for equity in academe.

The following amendments to the "By-laws of the Buffalo Branch" have been proposed by the Bylaw's Committee. In compliance with Article XVIII Amendments to the Bylaws, members will have an opportunity to vote on these amendments at the January, 1997 branch meeting.

### Article VII - Officers

#### Section 1. Officers

##### Elected officers

Only those members having primary branch membership shall be president, president-elect, vice presidents, recording secretary, nominating committee chair and nominating committee, and treasurer of the branch.

### Article VI - Finance

#### Section 2. Amount of Dues

The annual dues of the branch members shall be the sum of the dues assessed by the Association, the state, and the branch. The branch treasurer is notified by the Association and the state as to the amount of dues required. (Specific amounts of dues are to be deleted.)

Submitted by  
Ann Bish, Chair 1995-96



# **CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION THE YEAR OF THE OX**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 1996  
2 P.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**GUEST SPEAKERS: CHINESE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS  
COME ENJOY THE FOODS, SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF CHINA AND LEARN HOW  
A "TRADITIONAL CHINESE NEW YEAR" IS STILL CELEBRATED IN CHINA**

**Chinese New Year Celebration - Background Information on page 6**

**Location  
Room 210 Student Union  
University at Buffalo**

**The building is handicapped accessible. Use Parking Furnas Lot. Call Karen Noonan at 688-0987 if you need directions or a map.**

**See Reservation Form on page 15**

**No Charge  
Chair: Dr. Karen Noonan**

**Send reservations by December 4, 1996 to  
Carolyn Iadovito  
8689 Rebecca Drive  
Williamsville, NY 14221**



## Cultural Events

It's hard to believe that the end of the year has come so quickly. This year the holidays span the month, with Chanukah at the beginning and Christmas and New Year's Eve to end the festivities. In a month of celebrations, there are many avenues for celebration.

Start the month with the Waverly Consort on December 3, performing a costumed version of "The Christmas Story" at the Mary Seaton Room, sponsored by the Chamber Music Society. Or attend a holiday concert performed by the Amherst Symphony Orchestra on December 8 at 7:00 at Amherst Middle School. Continue with a performance of "The Messiah" by the BPO on the 14 and 15 or with one of Doc Severinson's "Holiday Pops" on the 20, 21 or 22. At SUNY Buffalo, the UB Opera Workshop sings Handel's "Semele" on December 6 and 7.

For the traditionalist, the Alleyway Theater is presenting its annual "Christmas Carol" at Rockwell Hall on December 19-21. Try the Irish Classical Theater for "A Child's Christmas in Wales" from December 5-January 5. At the Lancaster Opera House, TnT Productions will present "The Sound of Music" weekends throughout December. For the nostalgic, and certainly appropriate this year, Shea's Buffalo showcases "Damn Yankees" December 3-8.

Plan ahead! AAUW will sponsor an evening at the Kavinoky Theater to see Agatha Christie's "Witness for the Prosecution" during the month of March. Date, time and price will be announced soon. Plan to join us for an optional dinner and an exciting theatrical production.

Whichever holiday you celebrate, enjoy!

## AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH STUDY GROUPS

12/7/96 Saturday-Clueless Group (Mystery Book Club) will attend Murder by Request: a Murder Mystery Dinner at D'Youville College. Tickets are \$27.00. Advanced reservations are required. Call Anne Hicks (741-3964) if you plan to attend.

12/10/96 Tuesday-German Study Group meets on an irregular basis. For information about location, call Renee Faber (836-3277) or Gloria Bunter (838-1273)

12/11/96 Tuesday-Crafts Group will meet. Call Barbara Dascomb (685-2079) if you plan to attend.

12/15/96 Sunday-Music Study Group will meet for dinner at Victoria Square, South Park Road & Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY. They will then attend a concert performed by the Buffalo Choral Arts Society at 7:30 P.M. at Our Lady of Victory Basilica in Lackawanna, NY. Please call Marie Moody (662-9628) if you plan to attend.

12/17/96 Tuesday Book Review Group will meet at 1:00 P.M. at the home of Margaret Haas, 230 Hamilton Avenue, Snyder, NY Margaret will review *They Call Her the Baroness* by Lorene Hanley Duquin.

12/18/96 Wednesday-Dinner By the Book will meet at Country Kitchens, 2075 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY. Joyce Swartney will review *The Alienist* by Caleb Carr. Please call Marie Barker (884-0087) for reservations.



## Used Book Sale, Continued from November

Shocking as it may seem, there was pilfering from the sealed bid area. Several pieces of donated jewelry disappeared from an early sale, and some very old and valuable Valentines and post cards donated by Lucille Peterson were purloined from another sale. A James A. Garfield 1881 ribbon which the Buffalo News publicized in the 1978 sale, disappeared one day when a lone member was policing the area. She reported that the only visitors during the time she was on duty were two well dressed gentlemen (?).

Another time, a book was missing, and a box of note paper which we had priced at \$1!

Mollie Fleysher recognized many of the bidders as they came in, and knew what would interest them. She was so enthusiastic and lively in her presentations that she often convinced them to bid on extra items, and thus increased our sales.

The number of donations Mollie was able to collect was staggering. In 1984 in a sale in the Convention Center, with Bunny Blackstone and Amelia Sherrets as chairmen, she amassed 122 oils, prints, water colors, collages and photos among the art items; books worth almost \$100, crafts valued over \$55, and sports items (a slim year!) more than \$155.

Some of the donations were pretty sad. Elvis painted on velvet became a standard, and strangely enough, people continued to buy it. Much of the "art" did not deserve that name, and yet it sold.

When the sale ended, Mollie and Sicherman took home the left-overs and continued to phone buyers who had expressed an interest. Additional donations were accumulated in this way.

submitted by: Ruthe Sicherman

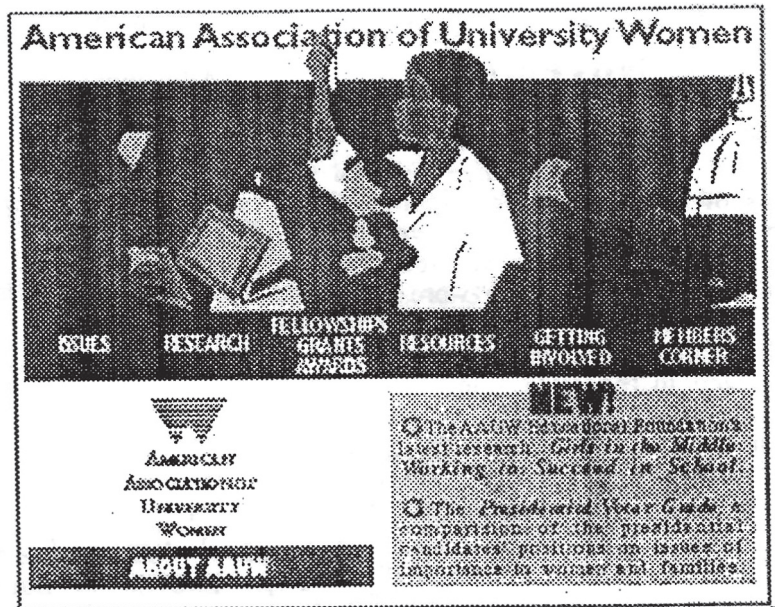
## 1996 Election Activities

Thank you, Buffalo Branch, for calling to remind members of the importance of their voting on November 5. (The response of many was, "Of course I intend to vote" or "No problem--I'll be there.") While the election results will not be certified by the Erie County Board of Elections until December 2, the estimated turn-out in Erie County is approximately 72%, a lower percentage than that of 1988 and 1992, but, at the same time, higher than the national percentage.

Certainly Buffalo Branch members' efforts deserve recognition in other ways as well. Many members worked on "Kids Voting" by assisting students at the polls in various schools. (We're especially proud of Judy Weidemann who served on the steering committee of that project.) Then, of course, there were approximately twenty Buffalo Branch members who went to the polls at closing time to record and phone in the results to the Voter News Service. Everyone involved in getting out the vote for this year's elections deserves credit for her efforts, however large or small!

Ann Bish

# AAUW's Web Page



The American Association of University Women is a national organization that promotes education and equity for all women and girls. Our commitment to these issues is reflected by the AAUW Public Policy Program.

AAUW is composed of three corporations: the Association, a 160,000 member organization with more than 1,600 branches nationwide that lobbies and advocates for education and equity; the AAUW Educational Foundation, which funds pioneering research on girls and education, community action projects, and fellowships and grants for outstanding women around the globe; and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, which provides funds and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education.

To learn more about this exciting network and how you can join, read about an AAUW membership.

For a complete overview of our website, browse the directory.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
1111 SIXTEENTH STREET N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20036  
TEL: 202/785-7700 FAX: 202/872-1425 TDD: 202/785-7777

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This Page was last updated Oct. 22,1996

[\[Issues\]](#) [\[Research\]](#) [\[Fellowships, Grants, Awards\]](#) [\[Resources\]](#) [\[Getting Involved\]](#)  
[\[Members Corner\]](#) [\[Presidential Voter Guide\]](#) [\[Girls in the Middle\]](#) [\[Directory\]](#)



**AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM  
JULY 1, 1996 - JUNE 30, 1997**

Amount:	\$48.50 (Includes Branch, State, and Association dues)
Educational Foundation Donation	<u>  2.00</u> (optional)
Total	\$50.50

Association Life Members pay	\$19.50 (Includes branch and state)
Legal Advocacy Fund Donation	<u>  2.00</u> (optional)
	\$21.50

Dual Members: Buffalo Branch, 1st branch - \$48.50, Buffalo Branch 2nd branch - \$14.50  
AAUW Student Affiliate - \$ 24.25

Make renewal check payable to AAUW , Buffalo Branch and mail to Bunny Blackstone,  
11478 Tomarsue Drive, Marilla, NY 14102-9704

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**December 8th Program**

**CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION  
THE YEAR OF THE OX**

**UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO  
210 STUDENT UNION  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 1996 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**No Charge**

**Send reservations by December 4, 1996 to  
Carolyn Iadovlto  
8689 Rebecca Drive  
Williamsville, NY 1422**

**I plan to attend the Chinese New Year Celebration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ I plan to bring \_\_\_\_\_ guests.

...ple 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, 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 possessive societal change.*



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

**Moving? Did not receive the newsletter? Please contact Marion Fay (836-5660). This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo NY on November 25, 1996**



**BUFFALO BRANCH**  
Marion S. Fay  
347 Brantwood Road  
Snyder, NY 14226

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