

Buffalo Branch Newsletter



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

NYS District 1

January 2001

Buffalo Branch Homepage
<http://www.aauwbuffalo.org>



January Meeting

The Art of Living Peacefully in a Chaotic World

Speaker: Michael Joseph Riso

A Country Brunch

January 20, 2001

Time 10:00

Classics V Banquet Center
2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY

More information can be found on page 3. Reservation Form is on page 9.
Reservations are due **January 12, 2001.**

February Fund Raiser

See page 9 for information

Presidents' Message

While our focus is on the Buffalo Branch and all of its accomplishments, we need to be aware of the work of the Association. We are all familiar with the seminal work of the Association in commissioning and funding the work on Equity in Education for Girls and Women. Did you know that the Association sponsored a forum, "Beyond the Gender Wars" in Washington DC recently? The two-day symposium, moderated by syndicated columnist, Ellen Goodman, refocused the discussion of gender in education on issues of concern for girls and boys, rather than on who suffers most.

The publications from the Association on issues affecting girls and women continue. **TECH SAVVY: EDUCATING GIRLS IN THE NEW COMPUTER AGE** was released by the Association in April. Its message about girl's lack of participation in the new computer culture already has become part of the national consciousness.

We are seeking recommendations for our Achievement Award recipient for the year 2001. As most of you are aware, this award is presented at our Annual Meeting and Awards luncheon. We are seeking an exceptional woman, who has significantly contributed to our community. Please send your recommendation, along with the reasons for

Deadline for the February issue is January 12, 2000.

Please send articles to Joan Eschner via e-mail to jmeschner@att.net. Articles that are received later than the above date will not appear in the December issue.

your choice, to Judy or Cathy, by January 30, 2001. If you have any questions, please give us a call. The date of the luncheon is May 5, 2001, and it will be held at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

LAF Drawings

There have been more drawings for baskets for LAF. Many members are still holding tickets and there are several LAF baskets that have not been claimed. Those holding the following tickets should get in touch with Carol Jamieson (877-8569) about the baskets they have won. The winning numbers are:

948130

948196

948390

Carol Jamieson



BUFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

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836-5660

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

January, 2001
Vol. CX No 1
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The Art of Living Peacefully in a Chaotic World

Michael Joseph Riso

Mr. Riso has worked with a wide variety of groups including the Bar Association of Erie County and the American Business Women's Association. His lecture will teach us to understand ourselves and others more clearly. We will discover the commonality between all people, reduce anxiety and resolve our fears, express kindness, love, and compassion more often. We will learn to eliminate the attachments time and experience have proven worthless, embrace the truth of impermanence, use our minds to create a life of joy, and create and understand the value of solitude.

Velma Cobb Scholarship Committee Seeks New Members

The Velma Cobb Scholarship Committee is looking for new members to review student applications beginning in February, 2001. Velma Cobb was a school teacher who left money in her will to the Buffalo Branch. A scholarship was formed in her honor to be given to two female high school seniors who will be attending college full time in the Fall, 2001. Each award is for \$1,000 for a total of \$2000.

For more information, please call Maria Ceraulo, Velma Cobb chair, at 881-0729.

Maria Ceraulo

Plan now to attend the NYS AAUW Convention

April 27-29, 2001 at the Rochester Marriott Thruway (off NYS Thruway Exit 46)

The excellent program developed by the NYS AAUW Board and the Convention Committee combined with the outstanding facilities of the Rochester Marriott Thruway promise to make this an informative and exciting conference for new and continuing AAUW members. Come and meet members from other branches, share and exchange valuable experiences and resources, and gain new ideas and appreciation for the on-going work and contributions of members to the mission of AAUW.

Convention information will be sent (US Mail) to branch presidents in late February. If you would like to receive the convention information yourself via e-mail, send your e-mail address to Betty Preble at Bettyp6935@aol.com. Members may also download information from the NYS website at www.northnet.org/nysaauw.

FPA Conference Scheduled in Albany

The Family Planning Advocates (FPA) of New York State 24th Annual Conference will take place January 29-30, 2001 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany. FPA is a statewide membership organization dedicated to promoting access to the full range of reproductive health services. It is supported by more than 150 organizations, including AAUW NYS. Speakers to be featured include Barry Lynn, Leslie Watson, and Will Power. If you are interested in attending, call for registration information at 1-800-666-3404 or call FPA at 1-518-436-8408. Deadline for discounted registration is January 8, 2001.

Buffalo Branch Study/ Interest Groups

Group Leaders

Please send study group information to:
Mary Kellner, 8470 Lakemont Dr., East Amherst,
NY 14051 phone - 741-8127
e-mail - mlinkel@aol.com

Group: Bridge Biddies

When: Once per month
Topic: Casual bridge playing
Contact: Margaret Haas (839-3701)
or Valerie Marvin (833-8506)



Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

When: Wednesday, January 24 at 6:00 PM
(review at 6:45)
Where: Original Pancake House
5479 Main St., Williamsville
Topic: *Mexican Hat*
by Michael McGarrity
Reviewer: Ann Hicks
Contact: RSVP Norma Millar (875-6091)
for dinner reservations



Group: Dinner by the Book

When: Wednesday, January 17 at 5:30 PM
Where: Plaka Restaurant
2904 Delaware Ave., Kenmore
Topic: *A Lesson Before Dying*
by Ernest Gairns
Reviewed by: Joyce Swartney
Contact: RSVP Fran Witnauer (H 837-5887
or W 856-3150) for reservations



Group: Film Group

When: Tuesday, January 2,
and February 6
Contact: Maria Ceraulo (881-0729)



Group: Great Decisions

When: Thursday, February 1 at 1:30 PM
Where: Unitarian Universalist Church
6320 Main St near ECC North
Topic: *Trade and Globalization*
Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)
Next Meeting: March 1, China and Taiwan

Group: "Human Rights for Women - Global Issues"

When: Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 PM
Where: Williamsville Branch of Amherst
Public Library, 5571 Main Street,
Williamsville
Topic: the 1995 Fourth World Conference on
Women in Beijing and progress
reported at the "Beijing+5" UN
conference of June 2000, New York
Discussion Leaders: Ann Bish and
Rita Clement
Contact: Teresa Gessner (634-5053)

Group: Out on the Town

When: Saturday, January 13
Where: Allen Street Dance Studio
85 Allen Street, Buffalo
What: *Vintage Affair on Allen*
Fashions through the ages.
Ballroom dance performances, music
and hors d'oeuvres, Price: \$10:00 at
the door.
Contact: Marcia Wells (689-3617)

Group: Travel Group

When: Thursday, January 18 at 6:00 PM
Topic: Philadelphia and
Quebec Trip
Contact: Bunny Blackstone
(655-4519) for information
Call for location.



Marguerite Collesano Honored

Congratulations to Marguerite Collesano, our VP for membership, who was honored at the Philanthropy Luncheon on November 17 by D'Youville College. The award cites Marguerite for her outstanding personal and civic achievements. Marguerite has served on the college's Alumnae Board as a Trustee and is currently the president. She was appointed to the Statler Foundation in 1991 and served as its chair in 1995. Marguerite's commitment to the education of minorities, disadvantaged populations and to enhancing opportunities for WNY students is reflected in the variety of grants and scholarships awarded by the Statler Foundation. She has greatly contributed to the region's cultural diversity through her leadership at the International Institute and Artpark. She has been twice recognized as a Fulbright Fellow and as a National Fellow for Independent Study in the Humanities. She has recently retired from the Buffalo Public Schools where she taught high school for 27 years. The AAUW Buffalo Branch wishes to add its congratulations to, our truly outstanding member, Marguerite Collesano.

Card of Thanks

Barbara Ciepiela and Carolyn Day express a heartfelt, "Thank you!" to each of the hostesses who, by their attentiveness and graciousness, helped to make the 110th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration so special.

Funds for Education

In the spirit of our 110th Anniversary year, a pleasing way to remember our early members who have recently passed away (Ellen Quinn, Olga M. Linberg, and Leya G. Crouse) would be a remembrance donation to the AAUW Chapter Funds for Education in their name. Funds For Education general fund supplies the special needs grants for our continuing education applicants and is the only source for loans to our male applicants.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. (884-8698 home, 831-8462 work)

Janet Fowler

Do You Want a Voice in the Program Planning for Next Year?

There will be a 2001-2002 Program Planning Meeting. Anyone who is interested in helping to plan activities for next year is cordially invited to stay for a short meeting after the January 20 brunch at the Classics V BAuquet Center. If you have comments or ideas bring them to the meeting, or email them to Betty Krist at kristbj@earthlink.net, or send them to her at 116 Iris Ave., West Seneca, 14224, or call her at 675-4059. Your suggestions are necessary and greatly appreciated.

Follow Up to Election 2000

AAUW members can be very proud of the Voter Education Campaign and its success in mobilizing women voters and protecting the issues at stake in the 2000 elections. Despite a divided electorate, women responded in the 2000 elections by getting out to vote in districts where the issues were clearly at stake. To get out the women's vote, AAUW members reached approximately two million women voters in 43 states by distributing voter guides in 136 congressional districts and 14 U.S. Senate races, conducting more than 250 candidate and issue forums collectively, phone banking women voters, raising visibility in the media, and working in coalition.

The 2000 elections demonstrated the importance and power of one vote. Not only will the presidency be decided by a razor-thin margin, 56 members of the House won seats by a margin of 55 percent or less and 14 representatives were elected with less than 50 percent. In the Senate, 25 seats were decided by a margin of less than 55 percent.

The gender gap played a decisive roll in determining the winners of several Senate races, including:

- In New York, exit polls showed women preferred pro-choice candidate First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) to anti-choice Rep. Rick Lazio (R) 60 percent to 39 percent.
- In the Michigan Senate race, Rep. Debbie

Stabenow (D) won 54 percent of the women's vote and her opponent, Sen. Spencer Abraham (R) won 54 percent of men's votes. Analysis reveals that women supported Stabenow's strong positions in favor of reproductive choice and public education, which contrasted starkly with those of Abraham.

- Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) were re-elected overwhelmingly with the help of a gender gap of at least 10 percent.

The 107th Congress will have more women members than ever before. Fifty-nine women—18 Republicans and 41 Democrats—were elected to the House, and an unprecedented 13 women, three of whom are Republicans, will hold seats in the Senate. In both chambers, every woman incumbent who ran for re-election was successful, and all six women who ran for the Senate prevailed.

Since AAUW issues will remain under attack in the 107th Congress, it is essential that AAUW members in Buffalo Branch continue the momentum of the Voter Education Campaign by informing women in their communities of the issues at stake.

Ann Bish

Excerpts from a report sent by AAUW Field Director Ellen Buchman to all state public policy directors.

Woman-to-Woman Dialogue Child Care

A diverse group of advocates for high quality childcare met on November 4, 2000 to lay the foundation for an active program promoting pay equity for and parents. AAUW members are encouraged to participate by calling Rita Clement at 434-2639. Senator Mary Lou Rath presented a summary of legislative efforts concerning childcare and youth. Her efforts in the area of childcare are outstanding. Lavonne Ansari, Assistant to the President at Niagara County Community College and a parent advocate spoke of the idea of personal advocacy. We must design a meaningful one on one plan with clearly defined goals that can be measured and successful. Gloria Lucker is a strong leader in the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) and a member of the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women. Gloria Lucker spoke about the need for early intervention in the lives of children who have developmental problems. David Gonzalez and Cyndi Argone from the Center for Creative Studies actively participated in generating ideas and were an integral part of this program. Virginia Purcell developed a strong plan for action by integrating and summarizing the ideas generated by the Woman-to-Woman discussion. She is presently the Director of Gateway-Longview.

The number one problem in childcare today is the lack of pay equity for childcare workers. Children require constancy in their caregivers. When childcare workers are paid less than teachers are in the public school system, children suffer. Childcare workers leave their chosen work because they are unable to survive economically.

Parents are most productive at work when they know their children are cared for and are receiving

high quality childcare. Childcare workers provide high quality childcare when they are educated and aware of the steps in the growth and development of children. Knowledge of the anti-bias curriculum is essential.

Lavonne Ansari and Gloria Lucker provided thought provoking dynamic presentations which encouraged dialogue among the people attending the program at the United Way. A need exists for networking among childcare providers. We believe that a purpose group would be able to establish an e-mail network for ease of communication among the members promoting pay equity and the resource purpose group. The idea that early intervention workshops are essential for providers in dealing with children who experience delays or difficulty in their early growth and development was expressed several times. The creation of a palm card that parents could use when seeing their child's doctor would connect the health care community with the child care provider network and the parents. The resource purpose group would also develop a way to distribute the palm card and make the information accessible by parents. We used questions for early intervention scenarios to encourage dialogue. The questions focused on serving the child effectively. In your current setting, what would you do? What resources do you know about? What do you need to do your job more effectively? Valerie Cooley, Executive Director of the Child Care Coalition described the 211 Initiative which will be located in the front of the phone book. Success by 6 also has a resource guide. We discussed how the process of finding high quality childcare is segmented. Each step of the way requires the parent to provide information. There is a need to consolidate the completion of the childcare search by low-income parents. Parental empowerment was

(Continued on page 8)

(Woman to Woman - Childcare continued from page 7)

discussed in connection with the pamphlet from the Early Childhood Direction Center.

We will be contacting everyone who attended the Woman-to-Woman Dialogue. This meeting will be held in January to establish a resource group and a purpose group to pursue the pay equity issue. Please call me at 434-2639 with your suggestions. Thank you for participating in this initiative.

Rita Clement

WOMEN HIT HARDEST BY BANKRUPTCY REFORM

On Oct. 12 the U.S. House of Representatives passed (297-114) a bankruptcy reform bill (HR 2414) that would make it more difficult for divorced women to obtain child support and alimony payments from former spouses declaring bankruptcy. It would also make it harder for recently divorced women and others facing economic crises to regain their financial stability by filing for bankruptcy. The Senate is expected to consider the bill after Nov. 14.

HR 2414 will hurt women and families economically:

- Women will be forced to compete with credit card companies for their child support and alimony payments. Women trying to collect money from former spouses who have declared bank-

ruptcy will find that their child support and alimony would no longer be paid before credit card debt. Women will be hard pressed to compete with big business creditors for limited funds.

- Women are often forced to file for bankruptcy after divorce to stabilize their income. Traditional bankruptcy legislation enables these women to pay rent and buy food for their families by postponing or erasing credit card and other debt payment they cannot afford. HR 2414 will deny many of these women economic relief.

In addition to harming women financially, HR 2414 eliminates a provision that would further reduce violence against abortion clinics. The provision, approved by the Senate (80-17), would prevent anti-choice clinic terrorists from filing for bankruptcy to avoid paying fines levied against them for clinic-related violence.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- Help spread the word; work with friends and family to distribute this alert in your community.
- The Senate will soon consider HR 2414. Call your Senators at 202/224-3121 and urge them to protect women and families by opposing HR 2414.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE ALERTS, CALL 800/608-5286

JOIN US FOR LAUGHS AT STUDIO ARENA!

AAUW -Buffalo Branch is having a lunch & theater fundraiser at:
The Studio Arena Theater- **Sunday February 4, 2001;**
2:00 p.m. at 710 Main St. in Downtown Buffalo

See ***Breaking Legs***, a hilarious comedy about a desperate playwright trying to recruit investors so his play (that was a hit in Buffalo!) can have a Broadway opening. (see www.studioarena.com)

Meet for Lunch at **Hemingway's Restaurant**
492 Pearl Street (directly behind Studio Arena)
at **Noon**

Reservations must be made by January 8, 2001.

Lunch only \$14.00 including tax and gratuity and parking.

Theater only \$22.00

Lunch and theater \$36.00 including tax and gratuity and parking.

Meal includes soup, chocolate mousse dessert, coffee, tea, or soda.

Clip reservation form on page 11 and return to
Sandra Ceraulo, 813 Potomac Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209

Call 882 - 4018 for more information. Free parking behind Hemingway's.
Free and nearby street parking also usually available at noon on Sundays.

Photos from our Holiday Scottish Tea



January Meeting

The Art of Living Peacefully in a Chaotic World, Speaker Michael Joseph Riso
Country Brunch of: bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, assorted pastries & muffins, fresh cut fruit tray, coffee, tea, chilled juices. Price \$9.95

Reservation form:

Clip and return to by January 12, 2001 to Anne M. Szczesny, 6425 Hamm Road, Lockport, NY 14094-6537. *Make check payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch*

Printed Name _____ Guest's Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Amount of check _____

I need assistance _____ I can give assistance _____

February Fund Raiser Reservation Form

return to Sandra Ceraulo, 813 Potomac Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209

I/We would like to attend: **(Indicate Quantity)** _____ My/Our choice of

Lunch entree is:

___ Lunch only \$14.00

___ 8 oz. NY Strip & Greens

___ Theater only \$22.00 (Section B)

___ Chicken Stir Fry

___ Lunch & Theater \$36.00

___ Pasta Primavera

Make checks payable to A Buffalo Branch.

Printed Name _____ Guest's Name _____

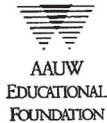
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Home Phone _____

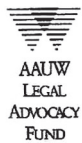
In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.



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 AAUW women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

Upcoming Events

- January 20 "The Art of Living
Peacefully in a Chaotic World"
- January 29-30, The Family
Planning Advocates (FPA) of
New York State 24th Annual
Conference
- February 4 Fund Raiser at
Studio Arena - "Breaking Legs"
- March 15 Karen Little as Maria
Love, An early social reformer
and Character in City of Light
- April 27-29, NYS AAUW
Convention

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 December 22, 2000.



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

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