

# Buffalo Branch Newsletter



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

NYS District 1

November 2000

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

## *November Meeting The 110<sup>th</sup> Gala Anniversary of the Buffalo Branch*

*Grupp Fireside Lounge*

*Student Center*

*Canisius College*

*November 11, 2000*

*11:30 a.m. Networking*

*12 noon Champagne Toast and Lunch*

*Keynote Speaker:*

*Maryann Saccomando Freedman*

*Cost \$15*

More information can be found on page 3. Reservation Form is on page 9.  
Reservations are due **October 27.**

## Presidents' Message

**E**ven though the 110th anniversary celebration on November 11th, 2000 has been mentioned in each of our Newsletters, we could not neglect to call it to your attention in this letter. You have already received the handsome invitation. Maryalice Seagrave, Donna Biro and their committee have planned a very special luncheon. Do be part of this grand celebration.

Working in coalition with other groups is helping us to achieve one of the three goals of AAUW - effecting positive societal change. Once again we are involved in KIDS VOTING. We co-sponsored WOMAN TO WOMAN with the League of Women Voter's. We are a co-sponsor of the YWCA CANDIDATE'S NIGHT. Three of our members, Bunny Blackstone, Rita Clement, and Diane Silvestro are on the Executive Board of the PAN-AMERICAN WOMAN'S PAVILION. Cathy Weiss is the convenor of the WOMEN'S ACTION COALITION and a member of the COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN. We are poised for even greater accomplishment in the next 110 years!

The talent and accomplishment of our members is noteworthy. While we have a vibrant and capable membership committee, membership is every member's job. Do bring your friends to future

### Deadline for the December issue is November 3, 2000.

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

meetings and ask those eligible to consider joining AAUW, Buffalo Branch. Our program for 2000 - 2001 is one to be proud of.

Judy Weidemann and Cathy Weiss

## KIDS VOTING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have the opportunity to participate in KIDS VOTING. The format has changed. Organizations now adopt a polling place. We have adopted School 81 at 140 Tacoma Avenue in the City of Buffalo. Volunteers are needed in three-hour shifts to help the kids vote. Please call Judy Weidemann (655-3649) if you can help on Election Day November 7, 2000. This is a great opportunity for visibility of our branch in the community and for participation in a wonderful project.



### BUFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

Co-Presidents Judy Weidemann (655-3649)  
Cathy Weiss (688-6181)  
Editors: B. Krist and J. Weidemann  
Publisher Joan Eschner (674-5837)

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AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

Nov. 2000  
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## AAUW-Buffalo Branch 110th Anniversary

We hope you will all save November 11 to celebrate the AAUW-Buffalo Branch 110th Anniversary. Our theme is our long and distinguished history of service to the community. Maryann Saccomando Freedman will be our keynote speaker for this Gala luncheon to be held at Canisius College. A brief biography of Maryann and a few of the milestones in her outstanding career can be found on page 8 in this newsletter. Historical Branch highlights are also included. Members and guests are invited to dress in period costume.

Maryalice Seagrave and Donna Biro are co-chairing this special event. We are inviting community organizations who are celebrating their history, and those who share our mission of promoting education and equity for women and girls, to share this special occasion with us.

## Meet the Candidates Night Election 2000

Invite a friend and join others on Wednesday evening, November 1 at the YWCA of Western New York, 190 Franklin Street, to hear the positions of the candidates on issues of importance to us. It's an opportunity to ask questions of incumbents and challengers before going to the polls on November 7<sup>th</sup>. A wine and cheese reception is at 5:00 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. statements by the candidates followed by questions to them begin.

Candidates running in the general election for US House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, New York

State Assembly and Senate, Delaware District Council member, Erie County District Attorney, and judicial candidates have been invited.

Buffalo Branch is a co-sponsor of the forum along with the YWCA of WNY, AAUW Amherst Branch, American Society for Public Administration, League of Women Voters Greater Buffalo Area, Adelphia, NAACP Buffalo Chapter, N.O.W. Buffalo/Niagara Chapter, and The Women's TAP Fund.

The forum is free and open to the public; however, reservations are requested. Please call Bernice Leiner at the YWCA of WNY, 852-6120, ext. 234.

## Branch History Relived at the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon

Not only will there be displays of events which occurred during the 110 years of the existence of the Buffalo Branch of AAUW and of the Pan-American Exposition, 1901, but Judy Weidemann has written another chapter, 1990 – 2000, to the Centennial publication of 1990. This will be available at the luncheon in November.

Ruth Freeman Himmel, a member since 1938 and Lucille Mattern Peterson, branch president 1956-58, will be special guests at the gala event. Invitations have also been sent to all recipients of the Achievement Award who could be located. Members of other AAUW branches and of other women's organizations were included in the invitation mailing. More than 450 invitations were sent out.

## Buffalo Branch Study/ Interest Groups

Group Leaders  
Please send study group information to:  
Mary Kellner  
8470 Lakemont Dr.  
East Amherst, NY 14051  
741-8127  
mlnkel@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, November 29 at  
6:00 PM (review at 6:45)  
Where: Original Pancake House  
5479 Main St., Williamsville  
Topic: *Child of Silence* by Abigail Padgett  
Contact: RSVP Jan Vine (636-6182)  
for dinner reservations



### Group: Dinner by the Book

When: Wednesday, November  
15 at 5:30 PM  
Where: Plaka Restaurant  
2904 Delaware Ave., Kenmore  
Topic: *Out of the Dust* by Karen Heise  
and *Ellen Foster* by Kaye Gibbons  
Reviewed by Judy Bratty  
Contact: RSVP Fran Witnauer  
(H 837-5887 or  
W 856-3150) for reservations



### Group: Film Group

When: Tuesday, November 7,  
December 5  
Contact: Maria Ceraulo  
(881-0729)



### Group: Great Decisions

When: Thursday, November 2 at 1:30 PM  
Where: Unitarian Universalist Church  
on Main St near ECC North  
Topic: *Africa: Prospects for the Future*  
Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

### Group: Out on the Town

When: Sunday, November 5 at 1:00 PM  
Where: Visit to Karpeles Museum  
453 Porter Avenue, Buffalo  
Topic: View millennium exhibit  
Contact: Marcia Wells  
(689-3617)



### Group: Travel Group

When: Thursday, November 16 at 6:00 PM  
Topic: Discuss final plans for spring and  
summer trips  
Contact: Bunny Blackstone (655-4519) for  
information  
Where: Location to be determined  
The trips to the Philadelphia Flower  
Show March 3- 4, 2001 and the  
Quebec trip next summer will be  
discussed. Anyone interested in these  
trips should contact Bunny. Informa-  
tion on the December 9, 2000 trip is  
enclosed in this newsletter.

## *Exercise Your Power ...the Power of One Vote*

More than one hundred fifty years ago, the women's rights movement began when women from across the country gathered in Seneca Falls to stand up for their rights. For the first time, women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony spoke out for their right to vote.

Today, less than half of the eligible women voters even bother to go to the polls. That's why the American Association of University Women is conducting a nationwide, grassroots campaign to mobilize women to vote on November 7.

There's a lot at stake for women in 2000. Congress is trying to strip away a woman's right to choose, siphon limited resources away from public education, and stave off attempts to pass a real patient's bill of rights from which women and families can truly benefit.

After spending the first part of last century fighting for the right to vote, women cannot afford to stay away from the polls now. The fight for women's rights is far from over. Women can make a difference by electing a Congress that will stand up for women and their families.

AAUW members are urged to promote the importance of voting within their communities. Ask a friend to go with you when you go to the polls on **November 7 and exercise your power, the power of one vote.**

*For additional information on the Voter Ed Campaign and AAUW issues on the national level, visit the AAUW website ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)).*

## *Every Woman's Vote Counts*

It is important to make women's voices heard on Election Day, Tuesday November 7, 2000 by encouraging women to vote for candidates who support issues important to women and their families. The next Congress will make decisions affecting the following issues:

- **Education: Initiatives** that use federal dollars to increase student achievement, improve teacher quality and accountability, and provide a quality, equitable education for all students
- **Reproductive Choice:** A woman's right to make her own reproductive decisions without government interference
- **Health Care:** Health care services that are determined by health care professionals not insurance companies
- **Social Security and Medicare:** Reform that guarantees the solvency of the current programs and provides additional options to improve retirement security for women and low-wage earners.

Women must determine which candidates will best represent the needs of women and families. By not voting, women allow Congress to count them out. Every woman's vote counts. Make sure that you cast your vote and that you encourage others to vote.

- Spread the word: post this alert in your community.
- Watch your neighbor's children so parents can vote.
- Drive someone to the polls.
- Organize carpools among friends, co-workers, and family members.

***VOTE NOVEMBER 7***

## VAWA PASSES!

In a tremendous, hard fought and long overdue victory for battered women and the nation, the United States Senate passed legislation on October 11<sup>th</sup> to reauthorize the **Violence Against Women Act of 2000** (VAWA). VAWA was included in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act Conference Report, which passed in the House of Representatives October 6<sup>th</sup> by a vote of 371 to one. The Senate passed the bill, 95 to zero.

It will now go to President Clinton, who has long supported the bill and campaigned for its passage. The President has vowed to sign VAWA into law right away.

### The Legislation

This bill more than doubles the amount of money authorized in the original Violence Against Women Act to fund essential programs and services for battered women, including the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The new legislation authorizes a total of \$3.3 billion over the next five years. It includes:

- \$925 million in Services for Training for Officers and Prosecutors (STOP) grants;
- \$200 million to provide civil and legal services to victims of domestic and sexual violence;
- \$875 million for shelter services for battered women;
- \$140 million to address violence against women on college campuses;

- Programs to fund transitional housing for women fleeing domestic violence;
- Grant programs to help service providers address the needs of women with disabilities who are victims of domestic and sexual violence; and
- Significant protections for battered immigrant women, who can face immigration law consequences if they seek to flee from or support prosecution of their abuser.

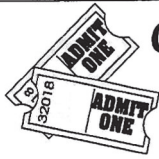
The new VAWA legislation also provides funding for state and local grant programs that address stalking and domestic violence, and to train child protective service workers and judges. The legislation also supports programs that address teen dating violence, domestic violence in the workplace, the enforcement of orders of protection, and that support children who witness domestic violence.

AAUW, along with other many women's organizations, has been advocating for this legislation.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Members are urged to call or write their representatives and senators to thank them for supporting this Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization (VAWA).

*Adapted from "News Flash" ([www.fvpf.org/newsflash](http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash)), an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention Fund.*

Ann Bish



## Cultural Events and Interests



Where were you in the 1890's? Here are some cultural and social happenings in Buffalo at that time. When the Buffalo branch of AAUW was being formed and spreading its message, Buffalo was also enjoying the hay day of legitimate theater. With a population of 376,000, Buffalo could count on three million paid admissions in one season to the many events in the music and theater world. Buffalo was listed as one of the best theater sites in the country in 1890.

You might have attended the Garden Theater on Pearl Street near Seneca that opened in 1896 or the Teck built in 1889 or the Star built in 1887. You might have attended the Academy Theater, later named the Academy of Music, to see "The Old Homestead" on Monday, November 3, 1890. "Louis XI" and "Hamlet" played during that season at the Star with the distinguished tragedian, Thomas Keene. Theater events often went on for hours. The cost ranged from \$.10 to \$.25. Michael Shea was one of the top entrepreneurs in the theater business. He built the beautiful and now restored Shea's theater.

Some distinguished performers in the theaters and the Academy of Music were Sarah Berhardt, Ellen Terry, Lily Langtry, Edwin Booth, Maurice Barrymore, Helen Madjeski and Julia Marlowe. The Music Hall had the distinction of hearing Padereski's last recital in 1892.

The Buffalo Orchestral Society was founded by John Lund in the 1890's and concerts were given in the Elmwood Music Hall at Elmwood and

Virginia. May Music festivals became an established tradition. The Waverly Ball attracted actors, actresses, artists and the socially prominent. Some of the names associated with the Buffalo Orchestral Society were Dr. Roswell Park, Hans Schmidt, Dudley Irwin, Joseph Dudley and Stephen Clement.

Lady photographers were in vogue. Some who worked in Buffalo were Gertrude Kasehur, F.B. Johnston, Alice Austen, Catherine Barnes Ward and Eva Watson Schultze. Catherine Barnes Ward was the Associate Editor of the *American Amateur Photographer* in 1890. She was a popular teacher and supporter of women in the field. Anna Atkins may have taken your picture for use in her first published book of published illustrations.

If you read a variety of books, you might have read Laura Eliza Wiles's biography of Frederick Douglas. This book, published in 1896 was the first biography authored by a Black woman on the famous leader of the 19th century.

### *Now fast forward to the present.*

The Lancaster Opera House (633-12776)  
 "Forties Follies with the Sensational Senecas"  
 November 9 -11 -12, 2000  
 "It's Christmas Time" directed by Mary Kate  
 O'Connell November 24 - 25, 2000

Amherst Symphony Orchestra at Amherst Central  
 Middle School  
 "Holiday Concert" Sunday December 3, 2000

Buffalo Philharmonic at Kleinhans  
 "Sonnenberg on Bach" December 2 -3, 2000  
 Handel's "Messiah" December 16 - 17, 2000

Lois Dabney

## *Minutes from the October Board Meeting*

The Board of the Buffalo Branch met on October 4, 2000, at the Heathwood Health Center. Call to order by Co-president Judy Weidemann.

- Treasurer Bunny Blackstone reported the September expenses were \$934.00 and income of \$5424.00. Donna Sina reported there is \$22,086.00 in the Chamberlain Loan and \$7924.00 in the Fund for Education. All repayments of loans are current.
- Progress reports were given on the following planned events: the District Conference on October 14; the Board Retreat on October 27-28th; the 110th Anniversary Luncheon on November 11th; and the Woman to Woman Conference on November 4th
- Janet Fowler, Chair Chamberlain Loan Committee, reported that all interviews with loan applicants for the year 2000 are complete. She requested the Board's approval for the final 3 loans of \$1200.00 each. The motion was passed.
- The Leadership Plan for the Branch was reviewed in order to encourage the completion of committee action plans for the year with special emphasis placed on the recruitment of new members and community involvement.
- Membership Retention Chair, Karen Noonan reported the results of a survey response sent to non-renewing members. The major reason for leaving was members were too busy to become involved. Various suggestions for member retention were explored.
- Teresa Gessner, Chair of the International Relations Committee, reported on plans to participate in the International Federation of University Women's Conference to be held in Ottawa, Canada in August 2001. A Study group has been formed to study the "Status of Human Rights for Women—Global Issues."

Clarine Radt

Next board meeting will be on November 1, 2000 at 6:45 p.m. at the Heathwood Health Center.

## *Maryann Saccomando Freedman*

Maryann Saccomando Freedman is a graduate of the University School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1959. Her legal career has embraced both the public and private sector. As an assistant New York State Attorney General she represented the state in its many manifestations and successfully prosecuted the "voter registration by mail" case in the highest court of our state. Before returning to private practice, Ms. Freedman served ten years as a Matrimonial Referee in the State Supreme Court. She is currently "of counsel" with the law firm of Cohen and Lombardo where she heads the matrimonial and family law practice.

Ms. Freedman has the distinction of having been the first woman president of both the Erie County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. She is currently president of the New York Bar Foundation and sits in the House of Delegates of both the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She has also provided extensive service to the profession.

Ms. Freedman's many contributions to her profession and to her community have been recognized in the many honors and awards she has received. Ms. Freedman is listed in *Who's Who of America*, *Who's Who of American Law*, *Who's Who of American Women*, *World's Who's Who of Women*, *Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century*, and *Dictionary of International Biography*.



**Help Celebrate the 110th Gala Anniversary of  
our Branch  
Invite a friend to join the celebration**

*AAUW Buffalo Branch 100th Anniversary Luncheon Reservation Form*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's names \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon includes champagne toast, choice of entree, vegetable, potato, salad, rolls, and muffins, coffee or tea, and dessert.

Please indicate choice of entree for each luncheon reservation.

- \_\_\_ Grilled Chicken @ \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Vegetable Lasagna @ \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Open Prime Rib Beef Sandwich @ \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I need some assistance (ride, etc.), please specify \_\_\_\_\_

I can provide assistance, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to Buffalo Branch AAUW and send to Barbara Ciepiela, 4456 Beach Ridge Road, Lockport, NY 14094-9619*



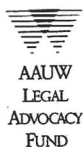
*In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.*



*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

November 1 Board meeting at 6:45 p.m. at the Heathwood Health Center.

November 4 Women to Women

November 11 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon

December 3 Scottish Holiday Celebration

January 20 "The Art of Living Peacefully in a Chaotic World"

**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 October 25, 2000.



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

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AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH  
HAMILTON HOLIDAY TRIP  
December 9, 2000

**Itinerary:**

**Departures-**

**7:50 a.m. sharp** from the East Aurora Plaza on Grey St. (near Goodyear store)

**8:20 a.m. sharp** from the Boulevard Mall (near the "B" sign on Niagara Falls Blvd.)

**10 a.m.-**Stroll through the Village of Waterdown to enjoy some historical sites of the early 1800's now restored as shops and restaurants.

**11:45-** Stop at "Pause Awhile" (a tearoom, formerly the 1857 post office) for our lunch. See choices below.

**12:30-** Bus leaves for Westfield Heritage Village (a 19th century living museum with 34 historical buildings situated on 324 acres.) All buildings are decorated in different periods of Christmas decor, horse and buggy rides are available, entertainment is held in the church, watch the crafters make toys and other gifts sold in the gift shop, a working blacksmith will demonstrate his task.

**4:45-** Depart for dinner at "**The Plainsman**" in Dundas for a delicious smorgasbord.

**6:45-** Depart for Niagara Falls to drive by the **Festival of Lights**.

**8:30-** Estimated time of arrival at the Boulevard Mall, **9 p.m.** arrival at East Aurora.

**Responsibility:** The Buffalo Branch of the American Association of Women and its Board acts as promoter and agent only and disclaims any and all liability of property lost or damaged and/or any and all damages or irregularity of any vehicles, restaurant, or otherwise or whether caused by failure or delay or by any transportation company due to any cause whatsoever occurring during this tour. All tickets are furnished and issued subject in all respects to these terms and conditions. The Buffalo Branch of AAUW acts solely as agent and reserves the right to make any changes in established itinerary whenever, in its sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if it is deemed necessary to the comfort, convenience or safety of the passengers, and may refuse to accept or retain as a member of the tour any person at any time and to pass on to tour members any expenditures caused by delays or events beyond its control. The Transportation Company is not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or events during the time passengers are on board their transportation. The passage contract in use, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the Transportation Company and the purchaser of the tour or the passengers.

**The price of the trip is \$49, which includes: lunch, dinner, Westfield Village, round trip to Hamilton, tips and other gratuities. Final payment is due on November 15, 2000. Make your check payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch travel and mail to Bunny Blackstone, 11478 Tomarsue Dr., Marilla, NY 14102. Questions: 655-4519.**

**Choices for lunch:**

1. Soup, tossed salad, scone, jam and cream, drink.
2. Fresh fruit cup, chunk of cheese, toasted raisin bread, cookie, drink.
3. Tossed salad, hard boiled egg, cottage cheese, taste of fruit and tasty crackers, drink.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOICE OF LUNCH (1,2 OR 3)** \_\_\_\_\_

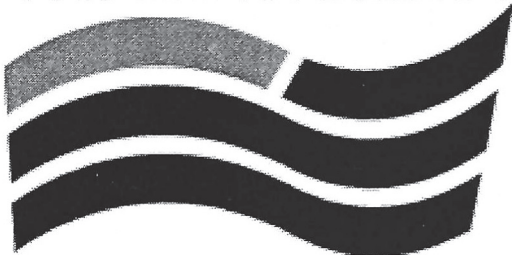
# What's at STAKE for Women in 2000

## VOTER GUIDE

New York  
U.S. Senate

Rick Lazio (R)	Issues	Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)
mixed	Sending tax dollars to only public schools, not private or religious schools	support
support	Giving states federal education dollars with "no strings attached"	oppose
oppose	Protecting a woman's right to choose without government interference	support
oppose	Weakening clean air and water standards	oppose
oppose	Limiting the purchase and use of guns	support
support	Letting insurance companies, not doctors, make health care decisions	oppose

**Vote on November 7**



This voter guide is sponsored by the New York American Association of University Women.

Candidates' positions on the issues were determined using voting records and/or public statements. This guide is provided as a public service and is not intended to be an endorsement of any candidate or political party. For questions about this guide or AAUW, please contact 800/608-5286, [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

In principle and 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, or class.



## EVERY WOMAN'S VOTE COUNTS

Make women's voices heard on Tuesday, November 7, by encouraging them to vote for candidates who support issues important to women and their families. The next Congress will make decisions affecting the following issues:

- **Education:** Initiatives that use federal dollars to increase student achievement, improve teacher quality and accountability, and provide a quality, equitable education for all students
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### 2000 Presidential Voting Guide on the Issues

Al Gore (D)	ISSUES	George W. Bush (R)
support	Sending tax dollars to only public schools, not private or religious schools	oppose
oppose	Giving states federal education dollars with "no strings attached"	support
support	Protect a woman's right to choose without government interference	oppose
oppose	Weakening clean air and water standards	support
support	Limiting the purchase and use guns	oppose
oppose	Letting insurance companies, not doctors, make health-care decisions	support

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