

BUFFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER



NYS District 1

March 2002

Buffalo Branch Home Page
<http://www.aauwbuffalo.org>

March Meeting

Portrayal of Women in Mass Media

Panelists:

**Dr. Elayne Rapping,
Dr. Rafika Merini,
Faye Lone-Knapp, and
Dr. Bernadette Wegenstein**



Friday, March 8, 2002

Samuel's Grande Manor

8750 Main St. [Rte. 5] in Clarence- Williamsville postal zone. (Big white mansion about 1.5 mi. east of Main St. & Transit Rd.[Rte.78] intersection)

*Picture taken from WWW.IFUW.org website

For more information, see page 3. For reseravaion see page 9. Reservations must be in by February 27. *Advance dinner reservations required.*

President's Message

The **Shape the Future** membership campaign provides discounts for members joining the AAUW Buffalo Branch. The discount for the new member is \$10.00 off the Association dues. If the new member joins with a friend, the discount is almost \$20.00 off the Association dues for each new member because they are splitting the Association dues. The main requirement is that the new member must sign up at a Buffalo Branch program.

Our branch will be providing a guest list and a referral form at every monthly program. We will also be using the guest list provided by the Association at each special conference, such as, our Sister-to-Sister Summit on March 9, 2002. If a new member joins on the spot, our AAUW Buffalo Branch will receive Association dues credits to be used for future members or members who have financial problems paying the Association dues. Our branch will receive one free Association membership for every two new members who pay dues on the spot at any branch program. Our branch will also receive one free Association membership for every three members at large who join on the spot at a branch program.

Deadline for the April issue is March 11

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 March issue.

I encourage you to tell your friends about this new membership campaign so that they can receive the best value for their money. You may also find this information on the website. Go to aauw.org and then click on membership. You will find your member number above your name and address on all AAUW mailings.

We will be having a membership orientation for members who have joined in the past two years during the month of April. I hope you will attend.

Rita Clement

March is Woman's History Month



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

President: Rita Clement (434-2639)
 Editors: B. Krist and J. Weidemann
 Publisher: Joan Eschner (655-1322)

Send address changes to
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 62 Garden Court
 Amherst, NY 14226-3219

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

March 2002
 Vol. CX1 No 3
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Celebrate International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2002 at Samuel's Grande Manor, 8750 Main Street, Clarence (a big white mansion located about 1.5 miles east of intersection of Main St. and Transit Rd.[Rte.78])

Your will want to be part of the presentation and discussion of this very interesting topic:

Portrayal of Women in Mass Media

Four panelists, experts on various aspects of the media, will provide an overview of the theme and delve into some selected topics.

The panelists are **Dr. Elayne Rapping**, a professor in the women's studies department at the University at Buffalo, and **Dr. Rafika Merini**, an associate professor in the modern and classical languages department at Buffalo State College and former head of women's studies at the college. Other panelists are **Faye Lone-Knapp**, an author and poet, and **Dr. Bernadette Wegenstein**, a visiting assistant professor in the media study department at the University at Buffalo.

This event is Co-sponsored by: AAUW Amherst and Jamestown Branches • Business and Professional Women of Western New York • Erie County Commission on the Status of Women and the Women's Action Coalition (WAC) • Federal Women's Program Network • National Organization for Women (NYS) • The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC, Inc.) • U.S. Small Business Administration • YWCA of Western New York • Zonta International

You must have reservations to attend which are due February 27.

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)

New York State reached the LAF President's challenge to contribute 5% more to the Legal Advocacy Fund in 2001 than we did in 2000! 33 Branches met State Director Evvie Curie's goal of giving 5% more than last year. 100% of the branches contributed something. Our major donors increased on each level: 22 more in the NYS LAF Circle, 12 more LAF Amicus, 5 new LAF Partners, 3 new LAF Advocates and 1 new LAF Defender. Many of our members contributed for the 1st time. All of these things helped us raise \$31,198 for LAF, \$4,106 more than last year.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

I want to send a special thanks to all of the Buffalo Branch members. In 2001, we raised \$1,418.50 for LAF and earned our Star (Our goal was \$1,333.50) Thanks for a job well done. You have shown that the Buffalo Branch members are truly dedicated to supporting the cause of gender equity.

January 1, 2002 started a new contribution year. We need every branch to have at least 5 major donors. \$1 a week for 52 weeks = \$52 (LAF Circle), \$2 a week = \$104 (LAF Amicus). Remember, we are helping to make the world a more equitable place for our daughters and granddaughters.

Freddie Cheek

Congratulations to Carolyn Day and her husband, Joseph who have recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Buffalo Branch Study Interest Groups

Group Leaders

Please send study group information to:

Mary Kellner
8470 Lakemont Dr.
East Amherst, NY 14051
741-8127
minkel@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, March 21 at 6:00 PM

Where: Scotch & Sirloin on Maple Rd.
near Bailey Ave., Amherst

Topic: *Buried Bones* by Carolyn Haines

Reviewer: Margaret Haas

Contact Margaret (839-3701) for reservations



Group: **Dinner by the Book**

When: Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30 PM

Where: Plaka Restaurant, 2904

Delaware Ave. at Victoria, Kenmore

Topic: *Bee Season* by Myla Goldberg

Reviewer: Marilyn Carmichael

Contact: RSVP to Fran Witnauer
(H 837-5887 or W 856-3150.)



Because space is limited, call early for reservations. When capacity is reached, a waiting list will be maintained.

Group: **Film Group**

When: Tuesday, March 5

Contact: Maria Ceraulo (881-0729)



Group: **Great Decisions**

When: Thursday, March 14 at 1:30 PM

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church

6320 Main St. near ECC North

Topic: *Korean Security Issues* by Leon Sigal
Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

Group: **Human Rights for Women – Global Issues**

When: Friday, March 8 at 6:30 PM

Where: Samuel's Grande Manor

8750 Main St. (Rte. 5) in Clarence-
Williamsville postal zone. (Big white
mansion about 1.5 mi. east of Main St. &
Transit Rd. [Rte. 78] intersection)

Topic: *Portrayal of Women in Mass Media* – a
panel presentation (during dinner) by Drs.
Rapping, Merini, Wegenstein, & Faye
Lone-Knapp

Contact: Teresa Gessner (634-5053) or
Judy Weidemann (655-3649)

All are welcome! **Advance dinner
reservations required.** (See front cover
for more information)

Group: **Out on the Town**

When: Friday or Saturday evening
(to be determined by unknown
movie schedule)

Where: Screening Room
Century Mall, Amherst

Event: Enjoy a movie in a cafe setting
Contact: Marilyn Kihl (691-8299) for
movie title and date



Group: **Travel Group**

When: Thursday, March 21 at 5:30 PM

Where: Original Pancake House
5479 Main St., Williamsville

Topic: Discuss plans for House & Garden
Tour to Rochester 6/1/02 and to
Montreal in July

Contact: Bunny Blackstone (655-4519) for
reservations.



Sister -to- Sister

Summit

Saturday, March 9, 2002

Buffalo's 5th summit for and about girls

The Buffalo Branch is once again working with a community-based coalition of over twenty organizations to plan a **Sister-to-Sister Summit** at **Buffalo State College**. The coordinating committee is pleased to have Kate Masiello serving as the honorary chair and to have Dr Muriel Howard, president of the college, providing the opening remarks.

This one-day summit on Saturday, March 9, will give a diverse group of girls twelve to seventeen years of age an opportunity to participate in what we hope will be a very exciting and productive forum designed to address many of the challenging issues and dilemmas they face in their daily lives.

Ten years later and the situations and experiences for teens described in the AAUW report *How Schools Shortchange Girls (1992)* report remain much the same. What was dubbed the "evaded curriculum" still impacts the lives and education of girls. The summit will provide an opportunity for the girls to talk candidly with one another and with resource providers to raise consciousness, educate and

find solutions. The girls will develop strategies to share and address their common concerns in small group sessions. "

We are pleased to be going back to Buffalo State College for this fifth annual summit and to have received so much professional assistance and support from community organizations for this special event. Among the sponsors are the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women, Girl Scout Council of Buffalo and Erie County, Buffalo Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services, EPIC-Every Person Influences Children, Erie 1 BOCES, Federal Women's Program Network, New State Department of Health, Planned Parenthood of Buffalo and Erie County, Preventionfocus, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, Women's Action Coalition, and YWCA of Western New York to name some.

We are still seeking funding to cover expenses for the program. We would like to give individual members an opportunity to be a sponsor or patron by providing a scholarship for one or more girls. The direct costs per girl are estimated to be \$30. If you would like to provide a scholarship for one or more girls, please send a check made out to EPIC to Suzanne Oliver, 120 Deepwood Drive, East Aurora 14052. Contributions in any amount will be helpful and gratefully received. If you would like more information about the program, you may contact Suzanne or Ann Hicks.

Ann Hicks

Buffalo Branch Board Notes January 9, 2002

- Call to order: Rita Clement
- Treasurer's Report: Karen Noonan reported on expenses \$3,538.21; and income of \$5875.39 to date. Mutual Funds have \$25,377.49; and Educational Foundation has \$25,277.50.
- Chamberlin Loan:
Balance 12-01 is \$46,227.57; Funds for Education on 12-01 has \$10,125.63. (Candidates are to be interviewed for loans.
Loan-E-Mail address is:
chamberlinfund@mindspring.com
- Annual Luncheon: April 27, 2002 at the Mansion Hotel in Buffalo; plans are being completed.
- Women in Media Program will be at Samuel's Grande Manor. Co-sponsors and final plans are being completed.
- Next Board Meeting will be February 6, 2002
Clarine Radt

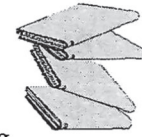
Chamberlin Loan Fund and Funds for Education

From the December 2001/ January 2002 Chamberlin Fund applicants, seven candidates were recommended by the Chamberlin Loan Committee and were approved by the board for awards. Five were repeat candidates. The recipients are:

Joyce Chuboda-Buddell a senior at Medaille College, **Genevieve Crofut** a Dental Student at the University of Buffalo, **Cheryl Hogg** a PhD candidate at the University of Buffalo, **Kelly Lang** a junior at Hilbert College, **Amy McMahon** a junior at Canisius College, **Rachel St Laurent** a junior at Marietta College in Ohio, **Roseanna Marie Vinti** a sophomore at Cornell University

Leona Barback

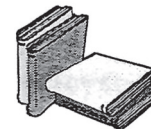
BOOK SALE 2002



We are preparing for our up-coming book sale in June. Many of us have been picking up books for months now, and some sorting at depots has also been done. We will have our sale at the same site as last year-the Steinmart/Premier Plaza. A schedule of sorting and sale days will be in the March newsletter. A member of our committee will be calling to obtain members to work a shift or two for our sale. Those members unable to work at the sale may help out by 1) making phone calls to our members, 2) donating \$10 or more for the table rental. Make checks out to the Educational Foundation and send to Sharon Minklein, 32 Bernhardt Dr., Apt. 8, Amherst, NY 14226, 3) saving grocery brown and plastic bags for the sale, 4) inform your friends about our sale.

If you or someone you know has books to donate, please call the closest depot to you, listed in the last newsletter. Please pack the books in liquor size boxes. Large boxes or bags do not work well. Please remember that we do not accept text books, encyclopedias and Reader's Digests.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Bunny Blackstone (655-4519). We need much help, and many hands make light work! Husbands are also greatly appreciated.



Velma Cobb Scholarship Enters Third Year

The Velma Cobb Scholarship was named after Velma Cobb who was a Buffalo member and left money in her will to the Buffalo Branch. It was decided that a scholarship for high school seniors attending college in the fall would be established, since the Branch already has college scholarships and grants.

Now entering its third year, the Velma Cobb Scholarship is awarded to two students annually. Each scholarship is for \$1,000, for a total of \$2,000 awarded each year

Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2002. Committee members review each application from February through April. Interviews with the finalists will be held in April/May and then two finalists will be selected.

Last year's members include: Ann Bish, Bunny Blackstone, Rita Clement, Janet Fowler, Ann Hicks, Jean Hubbard, Stacy Johnson, Maryalice Seagrave, Annette Stein, Linda Suchocki, Joan Trinchera, Jan Vine and Judy Weidemann.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee can call Maria Ceraulo at 881-0729.

Maria Ceraulo

An Update on the Coalition for Women's Appointments ACWA

Two special programs were launched in Amherst as part of the Amherst Coalition for Women's Appointments (ACWA) mission. A successful network event was held to promote awareness of the pilot project, which was followed by a workshop. Panelists included Susan Grelick, Amherst Supervisor, Jane Woodward, Councilwomen, Catharine Weiss and other committee appointees. The workshop chaired by Sharon Minklein outlined the process for assessing committee appointments and board memberships.

Thanks to ACWA for becoming the first organization to lend support through a membership and a financial contribution.

If you wish to become an individual member of ACWA send \$25.00 payable to ACWA, P.O. Box 6, Amherst, NY 14226

Sharon Minklein

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Buffalo Branch Education and Equity Project

The Buffalo Branch Education and Equity project for this year is an investigation of the extent of "gender balancing" in higher education locally. In the early days of women's studies, the vision was that eventually there would be not just courses about women but also women's issues would become part of traditional courses. We'll be collecting information, acknowledging professors who include women's issues in their courses, and sharing the results with those who are interested.

If you teach in a local college or university or know someone who does and who would be willing to fill out a brief questionnaire—or to hand it along to colleagues to fill out—please call me (877-8569) or e-mail me (jamiesn@localnet.com). I can give you a hard copy of the questionnaire or attach it to an e-mail, whichever is easier for you.

Carol Jamieson

AAUW NYS Convention to be Interesting and Fun

Looking ahead - the NYS Convention is coming up soon! Save the weekend of May 3-5 for a chance to get together with members from all over the state at beautiful Lake Placid. There will be opportunities for:

FUN - the Adirondack dinner Friday night with a prize for the best hat and a wine/cheese reception at the top of the ski jump.

CONTROVERSY - the races for NYS offices are usually a single slate, but we have a contest for Program VP this year.

MORE CONTROVERSY - the state board is asking us to endorse a resolution to suggest that the Association consider dropping the education requirement for membership - the only requirement would be the sharing of the Association goals.

EXERCISE - sign up for the EF walk/run or the LAF lap swimming (and earn money for these in the process).

FELLOWSHIP - round table discussions and small workshops

EDUCATION - peace building workshop, keynote speaker Janice Koch (Associate Professor of Science Education and Gender Studies for the Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Hofstra University), LAF litigant Dr. Lynn Ilon (her suit is against U.B.!).

SHOPPING - LAF baskets from branches across the state and items for sale in the resource room.

AND MUCH MORE.

There will be a bus going from this area, leaving Friday morning and returning late Sunday afternoon. The board will be discussing plans at the March board meeting - please contact a board member if you'd like to join the group. Contact Betty Preble (bettyp6935@aol.com) if you'd like to get an electronic copy of the convention mailing.

The Women's Health & Wellness Act

The NYS Assembly passed an important bill: A2006 - The Women's Health & Wellness Act. Getting this bill passed through the Senate will take a tremendous effort from our Grassroots Lobby Corps. We need every Grassroots member and supporter to contact their local Senator and urge them to pass this bill, as well as Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno (518-455-3191). For contact information for your local Senator, please follow this link: <http://www.senate.state.ny.us/>.

Here is a sample script on each issue:

Women's Health & Wellness:

"I am calling to urge Senator _____ to support the Assembly version of the Women's Health & Wellness Act. Women must have comprehensive insurance coverage. This includes mammograms and cervical cancer screenings without co-pays/deductibles, and access to contraceptives WITHOUT religious exemptions for providers or special riders."

Woman's History Month Featured Woman



***Sarah
Winnemucca
(1844-1891)***

Indian leader Sarah Winnemucca (1844-1891) was a Paiute chief in Nevada. Both her father and grandfather preceded her as chiefs of this great American tribe.

For years, Winnemucca labored, speaking out on the poor living conditions and abusive handling of Indians under United States policy. She lobbied Congress to improve the situation of her people. Chief Winnemucca carried her cause across the country lecturing and writing on the difficult plight of all Indian nations. Her endless efforts resulted in a governmental grant approving Indian land use in Nevada.

For her tireless dedication to Indian rights, Sarah Winnemucca will forever stand out as a hero of her people.

AIDS in New York State

Much has been written lately concerning the AIDS (Auto Immune Deficiency Syndrome) crisis in Africa, yet little has been written about the fact that after twenty years of the HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) epidemic, New York State leads the nation in cumulative and annual AIDS cases. It is estimated that in the United States, between 800,000 – 900,000 people are living with HIV or AIDS. Nearly one out of five of those people live in New York State. Here in Western New York according to the Department of Health as of June 2000, 2714 people have been diagnosed with AIDS of which 1,325 have died.

Gay and bisexual men were at the center of the epidemic in the early years. They were the first to respond to the epidemic as their community was the most effected. Today HIV/AIDS can be found in all populations. Alarmingly, HIV/AIDS in New York State has significantly increased among women.

Adolescent and adult women accounted for over 29 percent of the AIDS cases diagnosed in New York State in 1999. Women of color represent a disproportionate number of new AIDS cases in New York State. As of June 2000, 53.7 percent were African American; 30.9 percent were Hispanic; 14.9 percent were white; 0.3 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander and 0.03 percent were Native American.

The predominant mode of transmission for women is injecting drugs, however, an increasing number of new cases is attributed to heterosexual contact with partners who are injecting drug users or HIV positive themselves.

AIDS mortality in York State has decreased due to advances in the medical treatment of HIV yet women of color continue to have higher death rates than white women.

HIV/AIDS is a health care problem often stemming from social and economic inequalities. Poverty, lack of education and lack of access to health care has a strong impact on overall general health. In addition, the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS due to the modes of transmission and lack of acceptance in society, keeps many individuals from seeking testing and early treatment.

Since the beginning of the epidemic New York State has been in the forefront of the nation in meeting the challenge of HIV prevention. For the past fifteen years the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute has been recognized as a leader in advancing HIV health care, support services, comprehensive HIV prevention education as well programs that address HIV stigma and discrimination. The Division of HIV prevention is aware of current trends and responds with interventions and strategies to prevent both HIV infection and transmission that are culturally sensitive and accessible.

*For further information contact:
AIDS Network of Western New York
366 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14222*

*New York State Department of Health/AIDS
Institute
HIV Prevention Planning Unit
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower
Albany, New York 12237*

Norine D. Borkowski

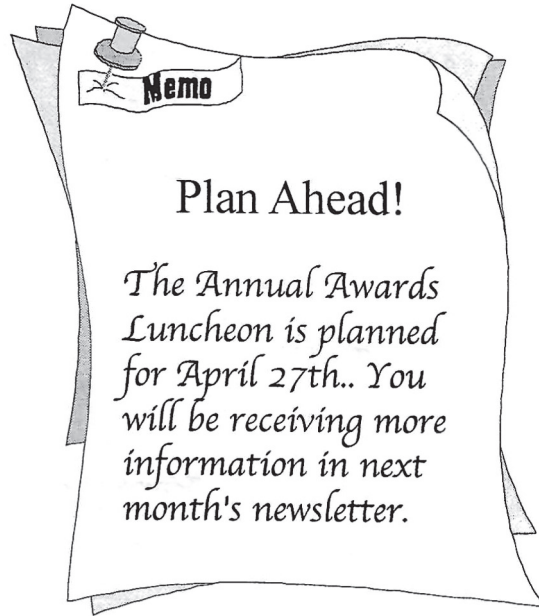
"If you make fun of bad persons you make yourself beneath them ... Be kind to bad and good, for you don't know your heart."

"The saddest day hadth gleams of light,
The darkest wave hath bright foam beneath it,
The twinkles o'er the cloudiest night,
Some solitary star to cheer it."

"Nobody really knows Indians who cheat them and treat them badly"

"No man can be a leader among Indians who is not a good man."

Sarah Winnemucca (1844-1891)



**Reservation Form - Due February 27
Portrayal of Women in Mass Media**

Please print name and check your choice of entree.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Chicken Salmon

Street, city, state & zip code _____

Please print name and entree choice of others included with this reservation.

Total reservations _____ at \$25.00 per person = total \$ _____ .

Please make check payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch.

Send completed reservation form with check to Judy Weidemann, 21 Nye Hill Road, East Aurora, NY 14052.

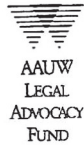
In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.



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

Wednesday, March 6

Buffalo Branch Board Meeting
6:00 Amherst Sr. Citizen Center

Friday, March 8

Dinner - Samuel's Grande
Manor, Celebration of International Women

Saturday, April 27

Luncheon
Annual Awards

May, 3-5

The NYS AAUW Convention at
the Hilton Lake Placid Resort

June, 5-9 Book Sale

Moving? Did not receive the newsletter? Please contact Jean Hubbard, (832-0349). This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo NY on February 14, 2001.



BUFFALO BRANCH
Jean Hubbard
62 Garden Court
Amherst, NY 14226-3219

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Return Service Requested

**Barbara Carier
295 Lakewood Parkway
Amherst, NY 14226-4072**