



Buffalo Branch Newsletter

NYS District 1

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June 2003

**Don't Forget to Support
the
Buffalo Branch AAUW**

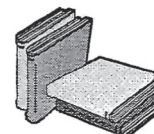
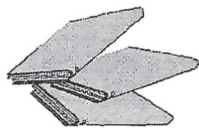
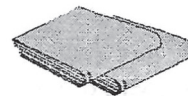
Book Sale

June 4 - 8

Vix Plaza

Transit Road, Clarence

See last page of this issue for more
information



**Annual Pot Luck Dinner
Monday, September 15**

**AAUW Membership Dues
due By June 30**

President's Message

What a year! As my term as President comes to an end, I can honestly conclude that I had a wonderful time of it. Just today (5/12/03), Linda Suchocki, several members and I appeared in Surrogates Court to pick up a check for \$436,597.93, a very generous bequest left to the Buffalo Branch by Olga Lindberg. This legacy is to be used for scholarships for young women pursuing a college degree.

2002 was also a banner year for the Book Sale, with record sales of \$26,000 to benefit the Educational Fund.

My term as President was made joyful and very easy due to the talented and dedicated members of the Board of Directors. What a team of women! The first annual Transitions Conference was a huge project, so well organized that it attracted a great deal of attention to our goals and we won many friends in the academic community. The interest groups are flourishing and are an excellent source of new members. Also the monthly programs are interesting and well attended. The Board's collaboration with various other organizations has widened our participation in the community and the award-winning International Woman's Human Rights Committee has broadened our vision and concern for woman's experience throughout the world.

Deadline for the September issue is August 11. Please send articles to Joan Eschner via e-mail at jmeschner@att.net. Articles that are received later than the above date will not appear in the June issue.

These past few months have been an emotional roller coaster for me in that my family has endured two personal losses. My heartfelt thank you to all the members for the many expressions of sympathy to my family.

I extend my best wishes to Linda Suchocki our new President and to Janet Fowler, president-elect. They have been great to work with, and I look forward to an exciting year under your leadership.

Data Base Up-date

Anyone wishing to confirm her personal information in our branch database please contact Betty Preble, preferably via e-mail - at bettyp6935@aol.com. or via snail-mail to 6936 East Quaker Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127



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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 Publisher: Joan Eschner (655-1322)

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 Orchard Park, NY 14127

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

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YWCA Leader Luncheon

The Buffalo Branch of AAUW is honored to have two nominees - Bunny Blackstone and Linda Suchocki recognized at the annual YWCA Leader Luncheon on June 6 (registration at 11:30, luncheon program at 12 noon) at the Buffalo Convention Center. The cost of the luncheon is \$40. If you would like to attend and sit with some of our other members, please register through Judy Weidemann or Cathy Weiss. The deadline for reservations is May 28, 2003. Please send a check made out to Judy or Cathy before the deadline to:

Judy Weidemann, 21 Nye Hill Road,
East Aurora, NY 14052-2651 or Cathy
Weiss, 70 Fennec Lane, East Amherst, NY
14051-1812.

Save this Date!

Mark your calendars to save October 11, 2003 for attending the District 1 Conference, hosted by the Chautauqua-Westfield AAUW Branch. The conference will take place at the YWCA of Westfield. There are 48 AAUW branches in NYS, grouped into 7 Districts. At this conference, you'll get to meet members from our District 1 branches of Amherst, Buffalo, Chautauqua/Westfield, Jamestown, and Dunkirk/Fredonia. Please plan on attending.

Plan to Attend the Annual Potluck Dinner

Our Annual Potluck Dinner is **Monday, September 15, 2003**, at Christ United Methodist Church, 350 Saratoga Road, (corner of Harlem) Snyder. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. members and friends can survey exhibits created by Buffalo Branch Study Groups and find out more about how these popular interest groups operate and what they do. Members will be able to answer your questions and tell you how you might participate and expand your enjoyment in AAUW. Invite a friend to attend this kick-off event with you!

Please note that the Monday date is a variation from past practice. This schedule change is necessary to better accommodate our members and church activities.

Please Welcome our New Member

Barbara Babij
2929 Shawnee Trail
RR 2
Ridgeway, Ontario L0S 1N0
Barbbabij@cogeco.ca

Buffalo Branch Hosts Second Annual Transitions Conference

We are delighted to announce the second annual Transitions Conference, presented by the Buffalo Branch of the American Association of University Women, Erie Community College, Everywoman Opportunity Center, the Junior League of Buffalo and the YWCA of WNY. This year's event will be held at ECC North Campus on Saturday, November 15, 2003.

Last year's half day conference drew more than 120 participants who were interested in learning how it is possible to return to school and complete a degree regardless of your age, financial status, or family or work responsibilities. The enthusiasm of those who attended was so overwhelming that we knew this had to become an annual event. Many of you contributed to the success of the event by doing presentations or providing materials. Last year, we defined the topics and the titles and went looking for people to fill in the gaps. We would like to repeat some of the sessions, but are looking for ideas for new topics and presenters. Last year, we presented workshops, led by panel discussions of 2-3 presenters, on everything from financing your degree; to balancing work, family and school; to meeting the challenges of being a nontraditional (over age 40) student. We would like to expand to a full day program this year and hope that you, or someone you know, would

be interested in submitting a presentation proposal. Suggested workshop topics include: stress management, financial aid, budgeting, career planning, dealing with the fear of going to school, balancing school and life responsibilities, vocational/interest assessment, disabilities and education, specialized programs or services, support services on campus, building personal support networks, planning a course schedule, picking courses, etc.


If you or someone you know might be interested in participating in this exciting initiative, please send your name and contact information, along with a brief description of your workshop idea, to Kathy Hoffman at: hoffman@ecc.edu. For questions, call Kathy at 716/851-1832 or Linda Suchocki at 716/823-4154. All submissions must be received by June 15, 2003.


The Buffalo Branch
extends its sympathy to
the family of long time
member Margaret
Goodsole. Margaret
died on April 12,
2003.


Buffalo Branch Study/ Interest Group

Group Leaders
Please send study group information to:
Mary Kellner
8470 Lakemont Dr.
East Amherst, NY 14051
741-8127
mkellner39@aol.com

Note: If you are interested in forming a new study group, please send the purpose and expectations of the group to Mary.


Group: **American Biographies**
When: Tuesday, June 17 at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Eggertsville Library
4622 Main St. (east of Harlem at
Burroughs. Parking lot off Burroughs)
Topic: *Woodrow Wilson* by Louis
Auchincloss
(available in paperback) 
Facilitator: Carol Brasure
Contact: Nancy Ryther (884-8324)
All are welcome whether you have
read the book or not.

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, June 25 at 6 p.m.
Where: Original Pancake House
2075 Niagara Falls Blvd. just past
Home Depot/Walmart Plaza
Topic: *Friends & Enemies* 

by Susan Oleksiw

Reviewer & Contact: Sue Grossman
(837-8769) for reservations

Group: **Dinner by the Book** 
When: Wednesday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Plaka Restaurant, 2904
Delaware Ave. at Victoria,
Kenmore

Topic: *Seabiscuit* by Laura Hillenbrand
Reviewer: Marilyn Carmichael
Contact: RSVP to Fran (H 837-5887
or W 856-3150)

Group: **Film Group** 
When: Tuesday, June 3
Contact: Maria Ceraulo (881-0729)

Group: **Travel Group**
Topic: Make plans for future trips.
Contact: Bev Schwiegerling (652-7182)
to put item on the agenda
and for date, time and location
schwieg@adelphia.net
All are welcome! 

Congratulations

At the State Convention on Long Island in April, Diane Silvestro was installed as Membership Vice President for the term 2003-2005. Jackie Woods, Executive Director of AAUW officiated at the installation of Diane and 3 others to the NYS-AAUW Board of Directors. The Buffalo Branch is honored to have a member on the NYS Board.

International Federation of United Women (IFUW)

The Buffalo Branch of AAUW has “adopted” an emerging International Federation of University Women (IFUW) group in Bilbao, Spain.

In Spain right now there are three groups underway: Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao. The Bilbao group presently has twenty members. The group has approved by-laws and sent them to IFUW for approval as an associate member of the organization. Subsequently, Bilbao and the other groups may form a national federation. The liaison to Buffalo reports

In our initial year we had the multiple activities:

In March and October 2002, we had two public introductions of IFUW showing transparencies and slides of the Ottawa IFUW Conference. In November we had a trip to two museums: the Museum of Music Instruments and the “Chillida Leku Museum” (Chillida is an important sculptor). In December we had the Christmas celebration with love poetry from the XVI to XXI centuries and a small Christmas carol concert. In January they had our first General Assembly. In February we had a professor of the University talking about, “Are we a species ethically sustainable?” a lecture that will be continued with other one in November on “Transgenic

food/vegetables”. In March we had a day excursion to Vitoria to visit its new Museum of Modern Art and its gothic cathedral. In April we had our first gathering with cakes members brought and our first used books and CDs sale. In this gathering we discussed the new program. In May we have a lecture on “Women and citizenship”

Future activities:

Last week we’ve submitted to the County Hall Office a program of activities. They may grant us some money but we need to contribute 25-50% of the total cost and we don’t have that amount. We’ve thought about activities for which attendees may contribute that amount, and what we’ve proposed is:

- A Tai Chi course for the Fall Semester because many women suffer from stress and some of them report that yoga and Tai Chi have helped them a lot.
- A course on computers (Internet, Word, Power Point and so on) both elementary and advanced levels.
- A course on “self-esteem”

The group is considering many projects—even one in a third world country—and will study the various suggestions.

Carol Jamieson

Needed - Branch Members to Attend a Leadership and Planning Session

The State AAUW is looking for two Buffalo Branch members to attend a leadership and planning session at Delta Lake (near Rome, NY) the weekend of July 11-13, 2003. They will participate in planning the NYS Living the Mission Agenda for 2003-2004. These members would also participate in the State Nominating Committee which is searching for a candidate for next year's NYS AAUW President. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other AAUW members from throughout the State and participate in the important task of reviewing candidates for the State President and planning our State Agenda for AAUW. If interested, please contact Evelyn Currie at 518/399-3711 or emcurrie@earthlink.net

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

I am honored to have been chosen as the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Chairperson for the Buffalo Branch of the AAUW. The AAUW LAF is a vital resource for women in higher education for a number of reasons. The LAF has contributed more than \$700,000 to more than 65 women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education. In addition to case support, the LAF maintains a referral Network

of 300 participants located in 46 states and the District of Columbia. The referral Network is composed of attorneys, social scientists, and past plaintiffs who consult with women considering or conducting sex discrimination against higher education institutions. In 1997, LAF launched its Campus Outreach Program to educate students and staff about sex discrimination, share ways to address and prevent it, and provide action steps toward creating a more equitable campus climate. The LAF also makes an annual Progress in Equity Award to honor a college or university program that has made significant progress in equity for women. The honoree receives public acknowledgment and a monetary stipend of up to \$10,000.

Now that you know what the AAUW LAF can do for you, wouldn't you like to know what you can do for the AAUW LAF? Under the leadership of my predecessor, Suzanne Oliver, the Buffalo Branch contributed a total of \$1167 to the LAF in 2002. This is a figure we can proud of! There are approximately 250 Buffalo Branch members, making the average contribution close to \$5.00 per member. The AAUW Buffalo Branch also makes it easy for members to donate funds to the LAF by adding an amount to your annual dues that is designated for the Legal Advocacy Fund. I hope each of us is able to contribute in this way to support the mission of the LAF. Because the LAF is a 501 (c) (3) organization, your contribution is fully tax deductible.

(LAF continued on page 8)

(LAF continued from page 7)

This year, Bunny Blackstone, as the chair of our annual Book Sale, has generously agreed to allow me to raffle off a gift basket at the Book Sale. Tickets will be sold at the cashier's station for \$1.00 each on each of the 5 days of the sale, June 4th - 8th. I will also have the LAF's donation forms entitled, "Speaking Out For Justice" as well as Honor Gift donation forms. Show your support for the Buffalo Branch by attending the Book Sale and making your contribution to the Legal Advocacy Fund by entering the drawing for the gift basket. I appreciate all the donations our members have made to date. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Buffalo Branch LAF Chair.

Lucida Grande

Annual Achievement Award Luncheon

The Buffalo Branch had a wonderful Annual Achievement Award Luncheon and Ceremony on Saturday, May 3, 2003. The 501(c)(3) proposal was unanimously passed, the day was exceptionally sunny and warm and The Niagara Club was absolutely spectacular. Joan Trinchera did an outstanding job organizing the program. Many thanks to Joan and the entire luncheon committee for their hard work in making this such a success. At the luncheon, Branch President Marguerite Collesano presented our annual report of the many activities, programs and initiatives of our Branch. The incoming Branch Officers were installed by NYS AAUW Board Mem-

ber Eileen Hartmann. We presented the annual Branch Recognition Award to Maria Ceraulo for all her hard work as Public Relations Chair, Velma Cobb Chair, and Film Study Group Chair; and we recognized our 25 year and 50 year members. Educational Foundation named gifts were presented to our many collaborators and sponsors of our Branch programs, and everyone was delighted to thank Marguerite Collesano for an exceptional year under her leadership as President of the Buffalo Branch. We presented the Annual Woman of Achievement Award to Dr. Esther Sans Takeuchi. Below is an excerpt of her acceptance speech.

I would like to thank the Buffalo Branch of the American Association of University Women for selecting me to receive the annual achievement award. I am truly honored to be considered worthy of this recognition.

I would like to especially acknowledge and thank my research group. They are all outstanding scientists whose efforts have made the difficult possible and the seemingly impossible attainable. Their dedication is undeniable. They demonstrate selfless determination in solving very difficult problems. Like anything in life worth doing and worth doing well, it does take effort and my research team demonstrates it every day.

Further, I would like to thank my husband

(Award Luncheon continued on page 9)

(Award Luncheon continued from page 8)

for his enduring support and encouragement. I could not do what I do without him.

As I think about the work that we do, I would like to provide you some statistics. Each year almost 1 million people receive pacemakers. These devices regulate heart rhythm and extend or improve quality of life. In addition, about 180,000 people receive implantable cardiac defibrillators. These devices interrupt one type of heart attack and save lives each time they activate. What we do in my research group is develop the power sources for these devices and others to extend and improve the quality of life. It is exciting, interesting and extremely gratifying work. The contribution that we are able to make scientifically and to the benefit of humankind is significant and provides continual motivation for us to push ahead.

People sometimes ask me how I ended up in science and how I chose science as a career. I have to say that it is due to the one person I have not yet mentioned in my acknowledgement, my father. My father was one of those rare individuals that from the age of 10 chose his career. He grew up on a farm and decided that he wanted to be an electrical engineer the first time he saw a light bulb. My father had high aspirations for his children, set high standards and encouraged hard work. He believed through education and hard work success was possible. Importantly, he never put

limitations on my possibilities, it never occurred to him that there was something that I could not do. Perhaps the most important aspect of my father was that he involved me in all the projects that he did. Whether it was changing a tire, rewiring a lamp or replacing a light switch. Everything became a problem solving opportunity. He did not limit me in these endeavors because I was a girl. I believe that this type of mentoring early in life is so important for success.

So why is it important for women to participate in various fields including science? I believe that creativity is needed to solve very difficult problems and creativity is a matter of perspective. It is when problems are very difficult and seem intractable, sometimes a new perspective can solve the problem. A different way of looking at things can lead to the solution. So it is important to pursue independent thought and pursue an interest in a non-traditional career. The perspective that you bring may resolve problems long unsolved.

Finally, I would like to close by providing you the perspective from one of the most famous scientists of the 20th century, Albert Einstein. Here is what he said.

“Concern for man himself and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavors, - in order that the creations of our mind shall be a blessing and not a curse to mankind. Never forget that in the midst of your diagrams and equations.”

Again, thank you all.



Installation of officers, Linda Suchocki, Janet Fowler, Janet Trinkwalder and Teresa Gessner, by NYS Board member, Eileen Hartmann



Maria Ceraulo with recipients of the Velma Cobb Award



Awards Luncheon Chair, Joan Trinchera, with Athena award winners Gretchen Stringer and Linda Suchocki and YWCA Leadership honoree, Bunny Blackstone



Ann Hicks and Ann Bish who we thank for their tireless work on behalf of the Buffalo Branch and who we will miss greatly.

Buffalo Branch Receives Awards

The AAUW Buffalo Branch's newsletter has been named a Newsletter of Excellence at the New York State Convention. Congratulations to publisher Joan Eschner, editors Betty Krist and Judy Weidemann, Claudia Kania and her students at School 84 who fold and do some sorting, and Betty Prebble who does the label list. Betty Loucks created the format that is used to this day.

In addition NYS AAUW awarded certificates for the following of our branch:
 2003 Public Policy Awareness Award
 2003 Action for Equity Award for continued commitment to Education and Equity for our Transitions Conference and for Women Count: Conversations About Equity. The 2003 Eleanor Roosevelt Honor Roll Awards were presented to Ruth Geiger, Suzanne Oliver and Gloria Stulberg.

Minutes Summaries

1. Board meeting April 2. Guest Tim Scheuer gave an overview of our investment account and made some recommendations for ongoing maintenance. Maria Ceraulo presented the recommendations for Velma Cobb award winners - those were approved by the board. Teresa Gessner gave a review of the successful Women's Human Rights Conference in March. Sue Oliver reviewed the successful Sister2-Sister conference, also held in March. The board voted to contract for a voice mailbox system which can be used to handle phone calls for various activities, avoiding the necessity of

someone's personal phone number being used.
 2. Branch annual meeting May 3. The proposed slate of officers was unanimously elected. The branch voted unanimously to approve the formation of the 501c3 branch not-for-profit corporation.

AAUW Membership Dues Due By June 30

Branch Members

\$67.00 * (Branch, State and Association dues)

Association Life Members

\$28.00 * (Branch and State dues)

Dual Members

1. Buffalo Primary Branch

\$67.00 * (Branch, State and Association dues) OR

2. Buffalo Secondary Branch

\$15.00 (Branch dues)

Student Affiliate (working on an undergraduate degree)

\$29.50 (Branch, State, Association dues)

Friend of the Branch (only non-college graduates)

\$40.00

*(\$3.00 optional LAF contribution added.)

Mail your check, payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch, to: Karen Noonan, 123 Main St., Youngstown, NY 14174-1010



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 Orchard Park, NY 14127

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Barbara Carier
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 Amherst, NY 14226-4072

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, disability, or class.



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

May 27- 29: 9-8, May 30: 9-5 May 31: 9-3, June 1: 12-6, June 2-3: 9-8 table set-up

Wednesday, June 4 - Sunday, June 8 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. - Book Sale

Friday, June 6 - YWCA Leadership Luncheon

Monday, June 16 - Farewell Tea for Ann Bish and Ann Hicks

Monday, June 9 - Tuesday, 10: 9-3 Book Sale Clean up

Sunday, July 13 - Farewell Tea for Bunny Blackstone

Monday, September 15 - Pot Luck Dinner

Moving? Did not receive the newsletter? Please contact Betty Preble at 662-0608. This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo NY on May 19, 2003.