

# Buffalo Branch Newsletter



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

NYS District 1

December 2003

Buffalo Branch Home Page  
<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

## December Program



Holiday Dinner and Entertainment at the  
Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site  
641 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, New York  
Friday, December 12, 2003

## January Program



Health & Wellness: Fitness Begins at Home

Monday, January 12 from 6 – 7 p.m.

Presenter Ginny Bell, trainer from the Town of Tonawanda  
Fitness Center,

See page 3 for more information. See page 9 for reservation forms.

If you need assistance, call Betty Krist, 675-4059

## President's Message

The past year has been exceptional for our branch, with creative programs that reflect how we are living the mission of AAUW by promoting gender equity, life long education and positive societal change. Our programs throughout 2003 were exciting opportunities for personal growth, opened dialogue for change, and improved the lives of hundreds of women and girls throughout Western New York. We also presented thousands of dollars in scholarships and funds for education to help women and girls pursue their degree programs and meet their educational goals.

Beginning in January, we started the year with a unique program on Bioinformatics and the possibilities this research will foster. In February, we were touched by the words of Olga Karman reading her work, *Scatter My Ashes*. In March, we presented an event worthy of international acclaim that is still being discussed on campuses, in businesses and throughout the community at large. Women Count: Conversations about Equity brought over 100 men and women together to discuss international strategies to value women and their work, and to explore such topics as pay equity and the challenges of child care finance. Also during March, the Sister to Sister Summit had the most successful program to date, with an overwhelming attendance of more than 200 girls participating in this day long event. In April, we learned about women of India and discovered the

cultural and historic contributions of women in this beautiful country. Also in April, we heard Mary Ann Saccomondo Freedman unravel the complexities of estate planning and elder law. Our Annual Luncheon in May underscored our commitment to recognizing the achievements of outstanding women in our community by presenting Dr. Esther Sans Takeuchi, developer of the battery used in pacemakers around the world, with our Annual Achievement Award. Perhaps the crowning glory of our year was the Annual Book Sale, which raised an unprecedented \$39,824.85 this year. And that's just the first half of the year!

The Potluck dinner in September brought new members and an opportunity to learn of the new local chapter of the Friends of the Women's Rights National Park. We explored the architectural treasures of our great city in October, and in November, presented our

(continued on page 3)

Deadline for the January issue is December 10  
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  
January issue.



### BUFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

President: Linda Suchocki  
(823-4154)  
Editors: B. Krist and J. Weidemann  
Publisher: Joan Eschner (655-1322)

Send address changes to  
Betty Preble  
6935 East Quaker Road  
Orchard Park, NY 14127

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

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*(President's Message continued from page 2)*  
 Second Annual Transitions Conference. Also in November, we were granted a glimpse of the latest technology in lifelong digital learning. In addition to all these programs, our study/interest groups continued to strengthen ties among our members, enrich our minds and encourage others to join our branch.

I invite you to join us December 12th at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site for a joyous holiday dinner, and ask that you please mark your calendars to save Monday evening, January 12th to start the New Year right with physical trainer Ginny Bell. As this remarkable year closes, I wish you a peaceful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Linda Suchocki

## Health & Wellness: Fitness Begins at Home



Have you started to think about your New Year's Resolutions yet? Of course, you'll make your mind up to improve your health. That will surely enhance about every other facet of your life. How then can you afford to miss the opportunity to learn about aspects of fitness that contribute to your wellness?

Join with other members and guests on **Monday, January 12** from 6 – 7 p.m. as Ginny Bell, trainer from the Town of Tonawanda Fitness Center, leads us in a fitness workout. She will concentrate on stress-free activities to be done in your own home sitting in a chair or laying down on a mat. We will be using the gymnasium of the Harlem Road Community

Center. Wear a smile, sneakers, and loose fitting clothing. As with any new exercise program, check with your physician for medical advice.

## Vocational Education and Training

From *Action Alert* November 2003

On Oct. 8, Reps. Melissa Hart (R-PA) and Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA) introduced the Pathways Advancing Career Training (PACT) Act (H.R. 3259), which seeks to restore the education and job training services formerly provided by the Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Educational Act grants (Perkins grants). Nationwide, these programs have been remarkably successful in helping people find jobs that significantly increase their annual incomes. For more than 30 years, Perkins grants have proven to be a valuable asset for helping students get quality workforce training.

Up until 1998, the Perkins Act included programs that provided comprehensive education and training programs for displaced homemakers, single parents, and those pursuing nontraditional career training (most of whom are women), so they could acquire the skills to get jobs that pay a living wage and offer good benefits. When these programs were cut from the Perkins Act in 1998, many women lost access to job training and education.

AAUW is concerned that, without a clear path to help women find their way to economic security these women and their children may face a lifetime among the working poor. AAUW also supports initiatives that encourage women to pursue nontraditional careers that often pay higher salaries.

**ACTION:** Urge your representative to co-sponsor the bipartisan PACT Act (H.R. 3259) and help put women on a pathway to economic security.

## International Women's Rights Program

The Committee for International Women's Rights has taken another initiative to reach out into the community to share our program. Chair Teresa Gessner in the past two years held the discussions at the Williamsville Public Library and the Campus at Buffalo State College. This year the discussion group is meeting at the Veterans Medical Center on Bailey Avenue. Carol Griffis has made the arrangements for our group to meet on the 11th floor Board Room of the Center. There is plenty of parking, in a lit up lot and plenty of security. On October 28, the Center's administration greeted us with refreshments and a tour of the Women's Clinic. We learned that only recently (1983) Congress passed a law that each VA Hospital have a Women's Coordinator to serve the needs of Women Veterans. In 1978, by an act of Congress, women pilots were allowed benefits equal to men. In as much as the Veteran Center employs women medics from all over the world, it is a great resource for speakers. **Please join the group on December 9th (Tuesday) at 7 P.M.**

Marguerite Collesano

### Adopt a Soldier

As we approach the holiday season, we thought it would be nice to adopt a member of our armed services serving abroad. Specifically, we would like to adopt a relative of an AAUW member. If you have a relative who is currently serving overseas, or are interested in contributing to our care package, please let me know by e-mailing me at [aikotler@earthlink.net](mailto:aikotler@earthlink.net) or call me at 716-688-0740.

Adrienne Kotler

## Successful Public Policy Meeting

The plan for the Public Policy Committee program year is to sponsor several meetings with speakers on Public Policy issues. The first such meeting took place on November 3, 2002, at the Clearfield Library in Amherst.

The speaker on November 3 was Amy White, Public Relations and Marketing Director for Planned Parenthood and Co-chair of the YWCA Public Policy Committee.

Amy talked on a number of topics related to the AAUW Public Policy Agenda. Proposed welfare reform planned for the Spring of 2004 may mean cutbacks in Child Care funding and a "scary" marriage promotion piece.

There will be a Pro-choice March in Washington on April 25, 2004, sponsored by Planned Parenthood. Amy is soliciting donations of \$70 to facilitate participation of women in that march.

Amy described the Plan - *Advocating with One Voice*. The idea behind this program is for Social Service Agencies to band together to consolidate requests for services and make suggestions for ways of finding funds for these needs. *Advocating with One Voice* will continue efforts to find more efficient ways of funding needed social programs.

Amy has promised to add the branch to her lists of e-mail contacts to keep us up to date on Public Policy issues.

Cathy Weiss and Judy Weidemann

## Buffalo Branch Study/ Interest Groups

### Group Leaders

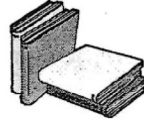
Please send  
study group  
information to:

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**

No meeting in December  
Happy Holidays!



### Group: **Bridge Biddies**

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



### Group: **Combined Meeting Dinner by the Book & Clueless Mystery Group**

When: Wednesday, December  
17 at 5:30 p.m.  
Where: Plaka Restaurant, 2904  
Delaware Ave. at Victoria, Kenmore  
Topic: *The #1 Ladies Detective Agency*  
by Alexander McCall Smith  
Reviewer: Jan Vine  
Contact: RSVP to Fran Witnauer  
(H 837-5887 or W 856-3150)  
or Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)  
for reservations



### Group: **Film Group**

When: Tuesday, December 3  
Contact: Maria Ceraulo (881-0729)



### Group: **Great Decisions**

No meeting in December

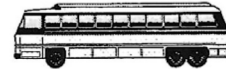
### Group: **Human Rights for Women – Global Issues**

When: Tuesday, December 9 at 7 p.m.  
Where: VAMC Medical Center  
3495 Bailey 11<sup>th</sup> floor

Topic: "Women of Tehran"  
Contact: Marguerite Collesano (853-6480)  
mCollesano@aol.com

### Group: **Travel Group**

Mission: To organize 1 or 2 trips per year to  
benefit existing and prospective  
members of AAUW Buffalo  
Contact: Bev Schwiegerling (652-7182)  
for date, time and location  
schwieg@adelphia.net



### *Human Rights for Women – Global Issues*

Human Rights for Women - Global  
Issues is presenting guest speaker  
Parisima Mirzakazemi to discuss  
"Women of Tehran" on Tuesday, Decem-  
ber 9, 2003 at 7:00 pm at the 11th Floor  
Director's Conference Room, Buffalo  
VA Medical Center, 3495 Bailey Av-  
enue, Buffalo.

## Forming New Study Groups

Study Groups are in many ways the backbone of our branch. They foster opportunities for personal growth and education, are a great way to network with other members having similar interests, and help attract new members and retain current members. We already have many outstanding study groups, but are always welcome to new ideas and invite you to consider creating new study groups if interested.

Study groups may have as few as five members, but must meet certain guidelines and be approved by the Board. However, it is a very simple process and if you are interested in forming a new study group, please contact Mary Kellner, the Study Group Coordinator.

Below are a few of the many different study groups found at other AAUW branches. I invite you to consider these or other ideas you may have.

**NEW HORIZONS** - focuses on issues affecting the lives of women today, whether in society, the workplace, or home.

**ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES** - this might be especially fun for our bibliophile members.

**GARDEN CLUB** - although we have a short summer, here in WNY we value our gardens. Share ideas and even plants, discuss gardening tips, even visit local gardens.

**DOWNTOWNERS** - here's an opportunity for those of us who work downtown and have trouble getting out after work. Members could meet downtown during lunch to discuss issues facing women in the workplace today.

**FRENCH** - or any other language. This group could meet to keep their language skills sharp, by

meeting and conversing in a different language, and at the same time learn about other cultures, sample international cuisine, travel.

**A to Z CRAFT GROUP** - We are always looking for creative members to help with table decorations, theme baskets and door prizes. Perhaps form a group to do crafts throughout the year, making something to enjoy and take home, sharing your talents with others in the group.

**PEN POWER** - Following our public policy guidelines, perhaps meet to spearhead a letter writing campaign about legislative and other issues of concern to women.

**WRITERS** - Many of our members are authors of fiction and prose. Meet with other members to read your work, and to give support and suggestions for publishing and improving your technique.

**ART APPRECIATION** - WNY has a plethora of museums and galleries and a huge artist community. Explore the cultural gifts our city has to offer, visit museums and gallery openings. Perhaps help sponsor a local show of women artists.

**PLAYING MUSIC FOR PLEASURE** - Share your musical expertise with others, join in a musical group, perform at branch events.

**DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

**LO-CAL GOURMET** - Share recipes for heart healthy foods. Develop, prepare, and share low calorie meals.

**THE COUPLES GOURMET** - Prepare and enjoy gourmet meals with other couples, perhaps explore food from other cultures.

Linda Suchocki

## Books Still Make Great Holiday Presents

### AAUW - NEW BOOKS - December

<i>Better Homes &amp; Gardens</i> - 505 Quilt Blocks	\$4
<i>Country Homes &amp; Gardens</i> - Our Country Diary 2004	\$2
<i>Culinary Institute of America</i> - Cooking at Home	\$6
<i>Dahlstrom, Carol Field</i> - Christmas- Make It Sparkle	\$5
Fisher, Jude - <i>Wild Magic</i>	\$4
Grisham, John - <i>Bleachers</i>	\$3
Herbert, Brian & Anderson, Kevin - <i>Dune/</i> <i>The Machine Crusade</i>	\$5
Roberts, Nora - <i>Remember When</i>	\$3
Sparks, Nicholas - <i>The Wedding</i>	\$3
Swofford, Anthony - <i>Jarheard</i>	\$2
Turtledove, Harry - <i>American Empire: The Victorious Opposition</i>	\$4

### *Kids Voting Thank You*

Thank you to Donna Fitzgerald who  
manned the Kids Voting booth at  
School #81 on Election Day.

## Monthly Pubic Policy Meeting

The regular meeting of the Public Policy Committee will take place on Monday, December 1, 2003, at 6:30 PM at Perkins Restaurant 8444 Transit Rd. E. Amherst, NY. Those who would like to have supper before the meeting may come at 5:30.

This will be a planning meeting for the Title IX conference to be held during the 2004 - 2005 program year. We will also continue to plan for informational meetings to be held during the rest of this program year.


Guests and new members of the committee are welcome. Call Cathy Weiss at 688-6181 or Judy Weidemann at 655-3649 for further information.

### *A Reminder*

## Holiday Event

Friday, December 12, 2003  
Theodore Inaugural Site  
641 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo New York

5:30 Glass of Champagne  
*Opportunity to Browse through the  
House and Visit Shops*

 6:30 Dinner and Entertainment  
"Hutchinson Family Revival  
Old Fashioned Melodies"

## Welcome New Members

Brigita Alks  
73 Woodward Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14214  
[brigitaalks@hotmail.com](mailto:brigitaalks@hotmail.com)

Rita Bailey  
409 Washington Highway  
Snyder, NY 14226  
[rbailey409@aol.com](mailto:rbailey409@aol.com)

Progyamita Banerjee  
6357 Robinson Road Apt. 5  
Lockport, NY 14094  
[pb28@buffalo.edu](mailto:pb28@buffalo.edu)

Jo Louis Baxter  
550 N. Ellicott Creek  
Amherst, NY 14228  
[jolouise@rocketmail.com](mailto:jolouise@rocketmail.com)

Barbara, Bohlen  
11 Michele Drive  
Depew, NY 14043  
[bohlen@ecc.edu](mailto:bohlen@ecc.edu)

Dr. Linda Brodsky  
219 Bryant Street  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
[lbrodsky@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:lbrodsky@kaleidahealth.org)

Lisa Clifton  
25 Morton Drive  
Amherst NY 14226

Linda Eaton  
289 Lakefront Blvd.  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
[lbskm@adelphia.net](mailto:lbskm@adelphia.net)

Dr. Marilyn Fiegel  
5083 Sheridan Dr.  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
[marilynfiegel2002@yahoo.com](mailto:marilynfiegel2002@yahoo.com)

Kathleen A Granchelli  
32 Cottage Street  
Lockport, NY 14094  
[kgrancheilli@ywcანიagrara.org](mailto:kgrancheilli@ywcანიagrara.org)

Claudia Kolbe-Hawthorne  
3 Beale Ave.  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225  
[hdhckh@msn.com](mailto:hdhckh@msn.com)

Barbara Kaye  
286 Walton Drive  
Snyder, NY 14226  
[bkaye@adelphia.net](mailto:bkaye@adelphia.net)

Mary Ann Lapp  
41 Fairway Dr.  
Elma, NY 14059  
[bunnyhill8@aol.com](mailto:bunnyhill8@aol.com)

Suzann Lutz  
26 Sherrelwood Court  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Johnna Mauro  
4469 Chestnut Ridge Rd Apt 2  
Amherst, NY 14228  
[floydopink@aol.com](mailto:floydopink@aol.com)

Erin Mauro  
4469 Chestnut Ridge Rd Apt 2  
Amherst, NY 14228  
[gemtwick@aol.com](mailto:gemtwick@aol.com)

Jennifer M. Sinatra  
47 Barton Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
[jmsmiles@bluemoon.net](mailto:jmsmiles@bluemoon.net)

Marcia A Turley  
624 Starin Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14216 1517  
[MarciaALT@aol.com](mailto:MarciaALT@aol.com)

Brenda Yamin  
13304 Schang Road  
East Aurora, NY 14052

## Roster Changes

**Bunny Blackstone**  
750 Twining Way  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
610-454-0587  
[bjblackstone@comcast.net](mailto:bjblackstone@comcast.net)

**Isabel Marcus** - Barnard C.  
B.A.; Univ. of Calif.  
(Berkeley) M.A.; Univ. of  
Calif. (Berkeley) Ph.D., J.D.,  
Law.  
home address: 83 Bryant St.,  
Apt.9, Buffalo, NY 14209-  
1831

**Margit Spector**  
[mailto:margit1234@usadatnet.net](mailto:mailto:margit1234@usadatnet.net)



**Reservation Form for January Program,  
Health & Wellness: Fitness Begins at Home**

Gym, Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road, 6 PM,  
Monday, January 12

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

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost \$3.00 per person      Total included \_\_\_\_\_

Return reservations by **January 5** to  
Suzanne Grossman, 310 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150-7431

Make checks payable to Buffalo Branch AAUW.

**SPECIAL PUBLIC POLICY MEETING**

Perhaps some of you remember the meaningful Holiday Event sponsored by the Public Policy Committee last December. We invited Bill O'Connell, the head of Erie County's Commission on the Homeless to speak. About 25 people attended dinner, heard a presentation by Bill and contributed to Homeless Services in Erie County.

This year the Public Policy Committee will repeat the event. This year our Speaker will be Katey Joyce, Director of Haven House. Haven House serves as a shelter for abused women and children. Katey was the 1997 winner of the branch Woman of Achievement Award. We will collect contributions for Haven House at the dinner. Below is the information on the event:

**Date:** Tuesday, December 16, 2003

**Place:** Eagle House 5578 Main Street, Williamsville, 14221

**Time:** 6:00 PM

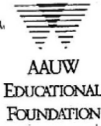
**Cost:** We will order from the Menu. *A small amount will be added to each person's cost to cover dinner for Katey Joyce and guest.*

**Reservations:** Contact Cathy Weiss at 688-6181 or [cmweiss1@earthlink.net](mailto:cmweiss1@earthlink.net)

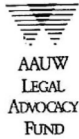
*In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.*



*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

- Monday, December 1, -  
Public Policy Meeting
- Wednesday, December 3, -  
Board Meeting
- Tuesday, December 9, -  
International Women's  
Rights Program
- Friday, December 12, -  
Holiday Event
- Tuesday, December 16, -  
Special Public Policy  
Meeting
- Monday, January 12, -  
Health and Wellness
- Sunday, February 15, -  
Black History Program

**Moving? Did not receive the newsletter?** Please contact Betty Preble at 662-0608, newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo NY on November 22, 2003.



BUFFALO BRANCH  
Betty Preble  
6935 East Quaker Road  
Orchard Park, NY 14127

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Buffalo, NY  
Permit No. 1078



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

14226+4072 22



## A Special Request from the AAUW Legal Advocacy Committee

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) provides funds and support services for women seeking judicial redress for gender discrimination. It is the nation's largest legal fund solely supporting gender discrimination in higher education, and through your efforts, New York State AAUW was the # 2 contributor to LAF in the country.

I know many of you have already contributed to LAF with your membership renewals, but please consider making an additional contribution to LAF on behalf of our branch.

Last year, the Buffalo Branch contributed nearly \$1,200 to LAF. This year, we have already reached \$800 and would like to meet or exceed last year's goal by the end of 2003.

Please help by considering an additional contribution, in any amount, to LAF. There is a special program this year for individuals who contribute \$100 or more before the end of 2003. You will receive the new LAF Pin as well as become a member of LAF Amicus (which will be listed in the 2004 Convention LAF Luncheon Program and in the Association publications.) You will also be individually recognized at our branch LAF brunch on Saturday, April 3, 2004.

I invite you to make a gift in any amount, maybe even present a gift in honor of a female faculty member of your alumni institution or in memory of a loved one.

**Please make checks payable to AAUW LAF and note  
"Buffalo Branch" on your check.  
Send to our branch treasurer:**

Adrienne Kotler  
PO Box 46  
Amherst, NY 14226

Checks must be received by **December 19, 2003** to be credited to this year's 2003 goal.

***Yes! I would like to contribute to the 2003 AAUW LAF.***

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_