

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

**Wednesday, February 4, -
Branch Board Meeting**

**Monday, February 9 - Public
Policy Meeting**

**Sunday, February 15, -
Black History Program**

**Monday, February 23 -
Book Sale Committee
Meeting**

**Monday, March 8, - International
Women's Day Program
'Women and Elections'
distinguished speakers,
reception and dinner**

Buffalo Branch Newsletter



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

NYS District 1

February 2004

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

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



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

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Uncrowned Queens

**African American Women Community Builders
of Western New York** SM

“Revealing the Unrecognized Heroine”

Sunday, February 15, 2004

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Coffee/ dessert will be available at 2:30)

Charge: \$2.00

Location: Reverend Dr. Bennett W. Smith, Sr., Family Life Center
adjacent to the Saint John Baptist Church
833 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York

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

If you need assistance in attending a meeting, call Betty Krist, 675-4059



President's Message

Now that the holiday hoopla is over and the winter doldrums are beginning to set in, this is a good time to focus on something new. February is the perfect month to do just that with its designation as Black History Month.

For many years we were led to believe that African American and other peoples of African decent had not made any contributions to human civilization. This, along with other distortions in Black history, led African American Scholar Dr. Carter Godwin Wilson to do something about conveying the truth in their history. In 1915 he founded the Association for Study of Negro Life and History and through this organization began the efforts for "Negro History Week", recognized officially in 1926, as a means to explore Black American contributions. He chose the 2nd week of February because two people who were instrumental in affecting the lives of African Americans were born that week – Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. In 1976, the now-renamed Association for the Study of African American Life and History succeeded in promoting this week into "Black History Month."

Our Buffalo Branch program on Sunday, February 15, 2004, is the ideal setting to focus on something new. "Revealing the Unrecognized Heroine", is in honor of Black History Month. It promises to be an enjoyable Sunday afternoon learning the valuable lessons from the Uncrowned Queens'

Deadline for the March issue is February 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 March issue.

lives and how the Uncrowned Queens Project continues to find these historical stories of African American women. Co-founders Peggy Brooks-Bertram, Dr. P.H., Ph.D. and Barbara A. Seals-Nevegold, Ph.D. began this project in 1999 in preparation for the Womens Pavillion Pan Am 2001. The group's name "Uncrowned Queens" was derived from a 1917 poem of the same name by Drusilla Dunjee Houston, (See this poem on page 5.) which conveys the essence of the project – *acknowledging the contributions and accomplishments of hundreds of unsung heroines.*

After January's program of physical fitness and feeling better, continue feeling better in February by attending this program and learning about this great Uncrowned Queens Project. Details, locations and sign-up for the meeting are located elsewhere in this newsletter. The February Uncrowned Queens program is chaired by Tamara Brown.

Janet Fowler, President-elect.



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

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February 2004
Vol. CXIII No 2
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Change of Address

Please note the following change of members' address. Make a note of it in your roster.
Irma L Bagdy, 6741 Nash Rd., Apt 406, North Tonawanda, NY 14120-3626
Tamara Brown, 2723 Christopher Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075 (649-9871)

Reservation Form for February Program,

"Revealing the Unrecognized Heroine" Highlighting Uncrowned Queens in Honor of Black History Month

Sunday, February 15, 2004 at Reverend Dr. Bennett W. Smith, Sr., Family Life Center adjacent to the Saint John Baptist Church, 833 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo.
The program begins with coffee and dessert at 2:30.

Name _____ Phone _____
Guest(s) _____
Cost \$2.00 per person Total included _____

Return reservations by **February 9** to
Tamara Brown, 2723 Christopher Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075 (649-9871)

Make checks payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch AAUW.

Reservation Form for International Women's Day Celebration Program Due by March 1, 2004

Name(s) _____
Telephone # _____
Cost: \$32/person
Dinner choices:
Chicken Samuel _____
Roasted Salmon _____
Vegetarian Linguini _____ Total enclosed _____

Mail reservations to: Cathy Weiss (688-6181), 70 Fennec Lane, East Amherst, NY 14051

Make Checks made payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch

Book Sale Committee Meeting

There will be a meeting of all who wish to be part of the Book Sale Committee on Monday, February 23, 2004 at 3:00 PM at The Stonegate of Clarence Club House. Stonegate is .6 miles east of Transit Road just off Wherle. It is just past the Wherle Golf Dome and opposite the Harris Hill Nursing Facility. The address is 4100 Stonegate. It is the first building on the left as you pull into Stonegate. The parking lot is to the left of the building. Try to park double so that there will be enough room. The phone number of the Clubhouse is 565-1400. The arrangements for this meeting were made by Maryalice Seagrave.

This is our 50th anniversary year and an exciting one! We welcome members of the branch to the committee.

Call any member of the Steering Committee for more information.

The Book Sale Committee:

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Marguerite Collesano | 853-6480 |
| Mary Kellner | 741-8127 |
| Jan Vine | 636-6182 |
| Judy Weidemann | 655-3649 |
| Cathy Weiss | 688-6181 |

December Board Minutes

1. The branch contributed approximately \$975 to the Legal Advocacy Fund. \$225 of that was a branch contribution - the remainder was contributed by individuals.
2. \$10,000 was sent to the NYS EF Chair as our branch contribution. 50% was designated to General Support and 50% to the Research and Projects fund. Twenty people or organizations will be named as honorees.
3. There were ninety requests for applications for the Chamberlin Loan and Funds for Education awards. These were followed by nine final applications. In the future, we will attempt to put the application form on our website to save the postage and paper costs of sending them out.

Public Policy

The Buffalo Branch Public Policy Committee will meet on Monday, February 9, 2004, (note the change from the usual 1st Monday) at Perkins Restaurant, 84444 Transit Road, East Amherst, NY. Supper will be at 5:30 PM and the meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

The committee will continue to plan for the Dinner Meeting on March 8, 2004, to recognize International Women's Day and the Title IX Conference in October. The Title IX Conference will be under the leadership of Linda Suchocki. Both events are exciting and meaningful.

We invite other branch members to join our committee. Call Linda Suchocki at 823-4154, Cathy Weiss at 688-6181, or Judy Weidemann at 655-3649 for more information.

Public Policy Dinner

The Public Policy Committee sponsored its second annual Holiday Dinner to benefit a local Social Service Agency on December 16, 2003. This year's speaker was Stephanie Eghigian from Haven House. She told us of the needs of the clients at Haven House and of Haven House's plans for expansion. \$265 was collected from those attending. In addition to giving cash it was suggested that there were items that could be donated. Among them are items for the daily needs of the women (shampoos, toothpaste, face cream and other cosmetics), journals, small pocket calendars. Toys or activities with learning components would be appreciated. Dolls of color would be enjoyed by some of the children. Items for teens such as Walkmen and teen games are especially needed. If you have items to donate, contact Cathy Weiss (688-6181) or Judy Weidemann (655-3649).

“Revealing the Unrecognized Heroine” Highlighting Uncrowned Queens in Honor of Black History Month

The Uncrowned Queens Project began as a project for Pan Am 2001 and includes a website to provide an historical overview and photos of the exhibits that purported to represent Africans and African-Americans at the 1901 Exposition, and of the activities of Buffalo's African American community in response to the Fair. The site details the nature of these activities as well as the individuals and specific groups who were participants in these momentous events.

In many respects, the Website speaks for itself. As a dynamic entity, the website changes continuously as updates and additional information are added frequently. You are encouraged to spend time “surfing” the Uncrowned Queens site at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/uncrownedqueens>.

This project has far exceeded all expectations. The website is receiving more than 20,000 hits a month and the total hits are increasing steadily each month.

In addition to the website, the Uncrowned Queens Project has stimulated community educational workshops in community based organizations, universities, colleges, schools and churches. There have been Uncrowned Queens sponsored conferences and a monthly e-mail newsletter provides readers with up-to-date information on the activities of our “community-builders” and innovative addi-

tions to our programs.

Future plans for the Uncrowned Queens Project include incorporation of the project as an organization that will perpetuate the work initiated under the original mission and vision. The Uncrowned Queens Institute for Research and Education on Women, Inc. is envisioned as an organization that will conduct research, compile and disseminate information and provide educational enrichment on issues concerning and affecting women of color.

Come to our **Sunday, February 15** program at Reverend Dr. Bennett W. Smith, Sr., Family Life Center adjacent to the Saint John Baptist Church, 833 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo. Ample parking is available in the church's parking lot that is accessible from Michigan Avenue. Use the Locust St. exit from Rt. 33 and turn onto Michigan Avenue, if you come from the east. The program begins with coffee and dessert at 2:30 PM followed by a presentation of co-founders, Drs. Nevergold and Brooks-Bertram. They will tell us more about their organization and its current and future projects. Bring a friend (perhaps a young woman) and join us as we learn more about how these women continue to make known worldwide the heralds of unrecognized women of excellence.

“Be a Hero, Be a Teacher”

Claudia Kania, branch member, was honored at a reception on December 18, 2003, by Buffalo State College's Center for Excellence in Urban and Rural Education. The reception marked the start of the college's “Be a Hero, Be a Teacher” program. Twelve Teachers were honored. Claudia is a special education teacher at school 84 in Buffalo. She is indeed a hero.

HELP PLAN 2004-2005 PROGRAM

Our Program Development Committee would like your suggestions of some exciting, important, cutting edge topics/programs for our Branch. Please bear in mind their suitability for our organization and our mission. Are there any issues or activities we ought to consider? Would you be willing to help with some such programs? Please let us know your thoughts. We will be collecting suggestions through February. Please e-mail your suggestions to tgessner@buffalo.edu, or mail them to my home address which is in the membership roster; call me at 634-5053 if you wish to present your ideas at an upcoming meeting of the committee. Thank you for your help.

Teresa Gessner,

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Thank you to everyone who responded to the last minute request for additional gifts to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). I am proud to say that we had three major donors from the Buffalo Branch: Linda Brodsky, Linda Suchocki, and Jan Vine. These members will attend the first annual LAF Benefit which be held at Daffodils on Saturday, April 3rd from 10:30am - 12:30pm and receive their LAF Donor pins from Susan Sontup, NYS LAF Vice President. Susan will discuss the history of LAF and the inroads the Fund has made in terms of achieving equity for women and girls on college campuses across the nation. Sheila Graziano, a local attorney who specializes in gender discrimination and is a member of the LAF Network, will also discuss her experience with the Network as well as general issues pertinent to gender discrimination.

Though the official figures are not in yet, I believe the Buffalo Branch will be credited with a contribution of \$1438 for calendar year 2003. The contributions came from the following sources:

- \$577 member contributions from addition to dues
- \$400 major donors
- \$225 Buffalo Branch contribution approved by BOD
- \$100 contributions sent directly to NYS LAF
- \$136 theme basket raffles

In 2004, I am confident contributions from nonmembers will be added as source of funds through the work of the LAF Committee on local campuses and within the community. The Buffalo Branch also has the opportunity to auction up to three (3) theme baskets at the NYS Convention in Albany this April. The Book Sale Committee has generously offered to donate a basket of our new books. If there are any members who have items they would like to donate, please contact me via e-mail at jayneham@adelphia.net or by phone at 565-2076. The LAF Committee needs items for approximately 10 theme baskets; 3 for the Convention and the remainder will be raffled off at the LAF Benefit in April and throughout the coming year at general membership programs

The next meeting of the LAF Committee will be on Tuesday, January 20th at 6:00pm at the Higher Grounds Coffee House at Millersport & Sheridan. We will be discussing publicity for the April event, partnership with the Women Lawyers of Western New York and the Women's Bar Association of NYS, and fundraising ideas for the calendar year. All are welcome to attend.



The American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch presents

AN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION of WOMEN AND ELECTIONS



*Julia Hall, Counsel and Senior Researcher for Europe/Central Asia
Human Rights Watch*

This is a outstanding and knowledgeable panel of guests. The program is open to the public and we encourage you to bring guests and friends.

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**

When: Tuesday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Eggertsville Library

4622 Main St. (north of Harlem at
Burroughs. Parking off Burroughs)

Topic: *Eleanor Roosevelt Vol.1, 1909-1933*

by Blanche Weisen Cook

Discussion leader: Peg O'Brien

Contact: Nancy Ryther (884-8324)

All are welcome whether you have
read the book or not.

For March 9 read *Benjamin Franklin An
American Life* by Walter Isaacson

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, February 25 at 6 p.m.

Where: Loughran's Restaurant

4543 Main St., Snyder near Harlem Rd.

Topic: *Close to Home* by Peter Robinson

Reviewer: Jean Hubbard

Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

for reservations.

Parking available in rear lot and
you can enter by rear door



Group: **Dinner by the Book**

When: Wednesday, February 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Plaka Restaurant, 2904

Delaware Ave. at Victoria, Kenmore

Topic: *John Adams* by David McCullough

Reviewer: Marilyn Carmichael

Contact: RSVP to Fran Witnauer

(H 837-5887 or W 856-3150)

Group: **Great Decisions**

When: Thursday, February 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church

6320 Main St. just East of ECC North

Topic: *The Media & Foreign Policy*

Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

Group: **Film Group**

When: Tuesday, February 3

Contact: Maria Ceraulo (881-0729)



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

When: Tuesday, February 10 at 7 p.m.

Where: Veterans Medical Center

3495 Bailey 11th floor

Topic: *African Refugees* Dr. Parisima

Mirzakazemi spaker

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



AMERICA'S UNCROWNED QUEENS:

Dedicated to the Heroic, Toiling Black Woman

by Drusilla Dunjee Houston

October 26, 1917 - *Black Dispatch*

Courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society

'Neath a weary load upon dusky head,
Upon American streets is the tread
Of an uncrowned type of heroine,
Their labors untrumpeted and unseen.
It to her helpmate, life chance is denied
With undaunted courage, she stems the tide,
Meets some of homes needs, help make it fair;
That he may find a kingship there.

When manhood is shackled, into its place
Nature oft forces a courageous race
Of women, who with heroic spirit,
Stamp within unborn children the merit
Denied their fathers. For what man's disdain
Keeps from one generation, the next will gain.

We see them in rain, in cold and the heat,
As they pass us with patient, toil worn feet.
Behind some great universities wall
It is the boy or girl for whom she gives all
Sometimes the more sacrificial her fire
The less we praise it, the more we require.

Whipped with the lash, until the reddened stain,
Of her life blood ran from opening vein,
In slavery's hour, this type was true
To virtue. Today life's way they pursue
As heroically. No scorn or slight
Can change her ideals, she sees aright;
That duty done, in higher worlds will mean
That she will be more than an uncrowned
queen.

If you would like to learn more about the life and
works of Drusilla Dunjee Houston, visit
<http://wings.buffalo.edu/dunjeehouston>.

New Books for Sale in February

A limited number of the following new books are
currently available. If you would like a copy,
email Mary Kellner at mkellner39@aol.com.
Checks may be made out to the AAUW Educa-
tional Foundation.

- Coelho, Susie - *Styling for Entertaining* \$3
- Franken, Al - *Lies* \$4
- Hamilton, Nigel - *Bill Clinton - An American
Journey* \$4
- Hart, Carolyn - *Letter From Home* \$3
- James, P.D. - *Murder Room* \$3
- Johnson, Paul - *Art - A New History* \$6
- Katz, Robert - *The Battle for Rome* \$4
- Keegan, John - *Intelligence in War* \$4
- LeHayeTim - *Babylon Rising* \$3
- McDevitt, Jack - *Omega* \$3
- Moore, Beth - *The Beloved Disciple* \$2
- Nichols, Linda - *If I Gained the World* \$3
- Patterson, Richard - *Balance of Power* \$4
- Pratchett, Terry - *Monstrous Regiment* \$3
- Slaughter, Karin - *A Faint Cold Fear* \$3
- Yancey, Philip - *Rumors* \$3

**Best Wishes for a speedy
recovery to our President,
Linda Suchocki.**