

Buffalo Branch Newsletter



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

NYS District 1

January 2004

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

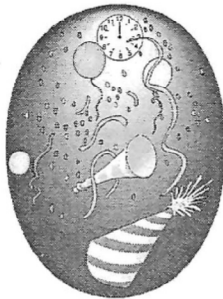


January Program

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,**



**Happy New
Year**

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

Welcome to the start of a New Year and fresh beginnings! We all know the benefits of physical fitness for promoting healthy minds and bodies, relieving stress and just feeling better about ourselves. However, we aren't always diligent about putting our health first. To give an extra boost to our efforts, I invite you to join us in a fitness workout with personal trainer Ginny Bell on Monday evening, January 12th from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Harlem Road Community Center as we stretch and exercise our way to better fitness.

Opening opportunities for girls in athletics is perhaps the most significant impact of Title IX, the landmark legislation passed in 1972, due in large part to the efforts of AAUW. Basically, this law provides that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational programs or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

The AAUW was a major proponent of Title IX, and in 1993, the Buffalo Branch sponsored a national conference on this landmark civil rights law. We drew participants from throughout the United States, and presented a wealth of experts in the field to discuss the history and impact of Title IX. Unfortunately, in recent years Title IX has

come under attack, with recommendations for changes that would greatly weaken its effectiveness. For this reason, our branch is revisiting this issue, and planning another major forum on Title IX, to take place during October 2004. Growing out of our Public Policy Committee, this conference will explore the legacy and future of Title IX, and its impact on gender equity in education. Civil rights have been a powerful vehicle for social change, and our mission is directly tied to the profound changes this legislation has facilitated. If you are interested in helping to plan and present this conference, please join us on Monday evening, January 5th at 5:30 pm (6:30 pm if you'd like to skip dinner) at Perkins Restaurant on Transit Road in East Amherst. Equal treatment is not a luxury, it is a right, and I hope you will give your support so that your daughters and granddaughters will enjoy the same opportunities as do your sons and grandsons.

Linda Suchocki

Deadline for the February issue is January 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
February 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.

January 2004
Vol. CXIII No 1
Circulation 252



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 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.

Cathy Weiss Honored

The Erie County Commission on the Status of Women on December 10, 2003 honored branch member and past branch president, Cathy Weiss. She was honored for her outstanding service as a member of the Commission. She has been a member of the Commission for 9 years and Convener of the Women's Action Coalition (WAC) for 8 years.

Congratulations, Cathy.

Public Policy Meeting

The branch Public Policy Committee will meet on Monday January 5, 2004 at 6:30 PM at Perkins Restaurant, 8444 Transit Road in East Amherst. Those who wish to have supper may come at 5:30.

We will move forward on our plans for a Title IX Conference in October 2004. New members for the committee are welcome and needed. The task of planning for the Title IX Conference will be a large, but rewarding undertaking.

Call Linda Suchocki (823-4154, Cathy Weiss (688-6181), or Judy Weidemann (655-3649), for more information.

Call for Nominations of Achievement Award Honorees

Each year during the Spring, our branch honors one outstanding woman from WNY to recognize with our Annual Achievement Award. Women have been recognized for their volunteerism and dedication to our community, for their professional achievements, and for promoting opportunities for the advancement of women. We ask that the recipient live in WNY and be available to attend our Annual Achievement Award Luncheon which next year takes place Saturday, May 1, 2004 at the Twentieth Century Club.

If you would like to nominate someone for this distinguished award, please write a short narrative why you feel they should be so recognized, and if possible, include their bio or CV, and mail to:

Linda Suchocki, 207 Fenton Street,
Buffalo, NY 14206

Deadline for nominations is January 15, 2004.

Buffalo Branch Reaches #1 in Membership

Our branch has recently been informed we are now the largest AAUW branch in New York State, with more than 231 members! Many thanks to our Membership Recruitment Vice President, Bev Schweigerling, and our Membership Retention Vice President, Janet Trinkwalder. We appreciate the efforts of our membership committee, including Jayne Harnisch and Betty Preble, for their work in growing our branch. Thank you to all our branch members who do so much to encourage others to join our outstanding and very active branch. The creative programs, study/interest groups and various committees also do much to encourage others to join our branch.

We are not done yet, though, and I ask that you invite a friend to attend our programs and meetings. The AAUW has much to offer and membership in our branch provides an opportunity for personal and professional development, and for shaping the future of girls and women in our community. In becoming a member you will be joining the most powerful network of women in the country.

Linda Suchocki

Congratulations to the Buffalo Branch Educational Foundation

A member recently asked where the Buffalo Branch ranks in terms of contributions to the national AAUW Educational Foundation. This is an excellent reminder that we do not often pause

long enough to congratulate ourselves on our impact to the organization.

In 2002 the Buffalo Branch contributed \$10,765 to the Educational Foundation. This includes the Branch contribution and donations from individual members. Our branch ranks #1 in New York State. On a per member basis, Buffalo ranks fifth in the state; at \$48.71, we are well above the national goal of \$25.00 per member.

Because of the help and leadership of the Booksale Committee and voluntary donations from individual members, we are looking forward to another year of furthering AAUW's efforts to create educational opportunities for girls and women worldwide. Congratulations!

Tamara Brown

In Memoriam

The Buffalo Branch extends its sympathy to Ruth Auer on the death of her husband, Dick. He died on December 6, 2003. Dick Auer was a retired teacher in the West Seneca School system and an owner, breeder, trainer and racer of standard bred horses.

The Buffalo Branch also extends its sympathy to Joan Eschner who lost her sister, Jean Kohlhagen who died of ovarian cancer on October 20. She was 59 and was a retired art teacher of the West Seneca Schools.

AAUW TRANSITIONS CONFERENCE Again, A Success

On November 15, 2003, AAUW Buffalo Branch held its second annual Transitions Conference at Erie Community College. This year's conference was a full day event beginning at 8:30AM and concluding at 3:30 PM. The conference was co-chaired by Janet Fowler and Kathy Hoffman. Linda Suchocki, Buffalo Branch President, was presented with a New York State AAUW "LIVING THE MISSION", Recognition Award on the day of the conference by Evelyn Currie, President, New York State AAUW.

The conference was an overwhelming success. The audience represented diverse age, ethnic and racial backgrounds. The participants wrote lengthy comments on their surveys praising the conference.

There were concurrent sessions in the morning and afternoon. Myrna Young, Executive Director of Everywoman Opportunity Center was the keynote speaker at the noon luncheon. She gave an outstanding motivational talk about you as your own boss and CEO.

The workshops were arranged in "Strands" so that participants could pick a theme to follow if they chose. Prior to the beginning of the workshops, the Myer-Briggs Personality Type Indicator was offered. The strands offered were: *Overcoming Challenges, College 101, I Don't Know What I Want to Do, Taking Care of Business, and You're Not Alone.*

One of the panelists, Kimberli Brown, who is now attending college, is one of the success stories from last year's Transitions Conference. That conference motivated Kimberli to take that first step and this year she shared her experience.

Throughout the morning, the attendees could meet with the various College Reps who were present at the conference. The day concluded with "Closing Remarks" by Carol Jamieson, Ph.D. Dr Jamieson gave the women three key things to remember as they prepared themselves for the next step in their lives.

The diverse tapestry of attendees shown that day extended to the conference committee members, moderators, and the school intern volunteers whom helped on the day of the event.

A Junior League of Buffalo Community Assistance Grant provided funding in part for this year's conference. Many corporate, organization, and Friend sponsors contributed money, time, meeting locations, conference facilities, artwork and designs, pens, token gifts, and door prizes. Others donated scholarships for those girls and women who would not otherwise have been able to attend the conference.

The conference will continue to evolve and improve. If anyone is interested in being on the committee for the next conference call Janet Fowler at 884-8698.

The AAUW Book Sale benefited from the conference too. Books sold very well. \$279 was made during the conference.

Janet Fowler.

**American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Buffalo Branch Travel Study Group
Toronto Trip
The Producers and/or Canada Blooms
Saturday, March 6, 2004**

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) promotes equity for all women through education, and positive societal change.

THE PRODUCERS at the Canon Theatre

This is Mel Brooks' musical adaptation of his great, classic film comedy! It tells the tale of accountant Leo Bloom and the flamboyant Broadway impresario Max Bialystock. They have more money than needed to stage the worst musical ever written... and pocket a fortune!

Canada Blooms at the Toronto Convention Centre South Building Entrance.

The Toronto Flower and Garden Show is the largest flower and garden show in Canada. It features designs, products and services of amateur and professional participants--one of the top ten in North America. <http://www.canadablooms.com/>

In case of emergency: East Aurora (Bev's cell #: 716 912-9456) and Boulevard Mall (4232). Bus driver's cell #: TBA

Itinerary: Please arrive at least 15 minutes before bus departure time from East Aurora

- 7:00 a.m. Depart from the East Aurora Plaza near the Goodyear Store
- 7:30 a.m. Depart from the Boulevard Mall near the "B" sign on Niagara Falls Blvd.
- 9:30 a.m. Drop off at the Convention Centre S. Bldg. for Canada Blooms and Eaton Centre
- 1:15 a.m. Pick-up at Convention Centre S. Bldg for transportation to Canon Theatre, 2100
- 4:00 p.m. Pick-up at Convention Centre S. Bldg for transportation to Barootes Restaurant
- 4:30 a.m. Pick-up at the Canon Theatre for transportation to Barootes Restaurant
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner at Barootes Restaurant 416 979 7717, 220 King St W Toronto)
- 7:00 p.m. Depart for Buffalo
- 9:30 p.m. Arrive at Boulevard Mall
- 10:00 p.m. Arrive at East Aurora Plaza

Note:

1. Bring two IDs: driver's license, passport, birth certificate with a "raised seal."
2. A light snack and bottled water will be provided on the bus.
3. Lunch is on your own.
4. There will be no rest stops.
5. Walk from Eaton Centre to Canon Theatre
6. How to walk to Barootes: exit North Building, go north on Simcoe Street, turn

On a separate sheet of paper for each person, please print: Reservations are filled in the order received.

1. Name _____ Address _____ Phone # _____ Cell # _____
2. Your e-mail address _____ If you don't have an e-mail address, whom in your household would you like to receive e-mail on your behalf? _____ or send a self-addressed stamped envelope for you
3. Bus pickup location: East Aurora Plaza or Boulevard Mall _____
4. Sitting with (if you have a preference.) _____
5. In case of emergency call: Name _____ Phone # _____ Cell # _____
6. Entrée choice: Roast Beef Tenderloin, Herb Crusted Filet of Salmon, Pecan Crusted Filet of Salmon

Make checks payable to "AAUW Buffalo Branch Travel Group." All options include bottled water, light snack, bus and driver's tip.

1. \$119 *The Producers* and Canada Blooms
2. \$108 *The Producers* only
3. \$57 Canada Blooms only

Mail check to Marilyn Kihl (691-8299), 27 Deepwood Court, Amherst, NY 14228.

Marilyn must receive check and registration by January 9, 2004. We have to pay for 7 days of travel.

Questions or problems: Marilyn Kihl (691-8299) kihlmc@iopener.net or Bev-- schwiegerling

Responsibility: Members of the AAUW Buffalo Branch Travel Study Group are voluntarily participating in this tour. AAUW is not responsible for arranging for transportation and other tour features. AAUW accepts no responsibility for delays, loss, damage, injury to property or person due to mechanical defects or other causes. Expenses incurred through sickness, weather, strikes, wars, quarantine, or other causes are the responsibility of the individual.

If you are not a member of AAUW Buffalo Branch, please consider joining our group.

Thanks, Bev Schwiegerling and Marilyn Kihl

(updated Dec 2003)

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, January 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Eggertsville Library 4622
Main St. (north of Harlem at Burroughs.)

Parking lot off Burroughs)

Topic: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
by Maya Angelou

Discussion leader: Lynn McClive

Contact: Nancy Ryther (884-8324)

Discussing next month: *Eleanor Roosevelt Vol. 1*
by Blanche Weisen Cook

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, January 28 at 6 p.m.

Where: Loughran's Restaurant
4543 Main St., Snyder near Harlem Rd.

Topic: *The Corpse at the Haworth Tandori*

by Robert Bernard

Reviewer: Karen Howard

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, January 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Plaka Restaurant, 2904

Delaware Ave. at Victoria, Kenmore

Topic: *Balzac and the Little Chinese*
Seamstress by Sijie Dai

Reviewer: Karen Stephenson

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

Group: **Great Decisions**

No meeting in January

Group: **Film Group**

When: Tuesday, January 6

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*

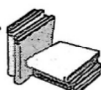
Contact: Marguerite Collesano (853-6480)
mcollesano@aol.com

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



New Books for Sale In January

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 Educational Foundation.

Abulafia, David - *The Mediterranean in History* \$5
 Baldacci, David - *Split Second* \$4
 Burroughes, Augusten - *Dry* (paperback) \$2
 Cornwall, Patricia - *Blow Fly* \$3
 Frey, James - *A Million Little Pieces* (paperback) \$2
 Meyer, Joyce - *How to Hear From God* \$2
 Patterson, James - *The Big Bad Wolf* \$4
 Stanley, Charles - *Finding Peace* \$2
 Better Homes & Gardens *1001 Full Sized Patterns, Projects & Ideas* \$5

Thank You

Thank you to Bunny Blackstone, Janet Morgan, and Barbara Paulson for volunteering at the Theodore Inaugural Site during the Holiday Festivities. The Buffalo Branch was recognized for volunteering.

Roster Changes

Margit Spector
 Note change of e-mail address
<mailto:margit1234@usadatnet.net>

Elizabeth Binner
 113 Willow Green Dr
 Amherst 14228-3423

Ruth Muck
 2235 Millersport Hwy, #BI
 Getzville, NY 14068-1219



Those who attended the Holiday program at the Wilcox Mansion were treated to a wonderful meal served by the Boy Scouts from Troop 431 and our own Bunny Blackstone. We also were entertained by the music of The Hutchinson Family Revival.

Peter Gessner was the winner of the Holiday basket drawing.

Don't Blame Girls, Women

Opposing View: Instead, Work to Improve Educational Opportunities for All.

By Jacqueline E. Woods

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is troubled by recent suggestions that girls and women are somehow to blame for the fact that boys are not excelling in certain academic areas. Is there a "gender war" being waged against boys, as some have claimed?

Gender inequity in education is a complex issue. Two years ago, AAUW published *Beyond the 'Gender Wars,'* a summary of the views of some of America's foremost researchers of boys and girls regarding a range of gender equity questions. One of the major conclusions shared by these researchers was that we do not need to "fix the boys" or "fix the girls."

Fix public schools

Instead, they argued, we need to create more equitable schools that encourage equal academic achievement and engagement for girls and boys across the curriculum, and that support both girls' and boys' sense of themselves, their options, and their ability to express themselves as full human beings across a variety of social roles.

The flames of a gender war are being unnecessarily fanned; implying that educational achievement is a zero sum game and that girls' achievements have somehow come at the expense of boys'.

The message to women and girls is clear: You are taking more than your fair share. You are too successful. You have come too far, and boys are paying the price for your accomplishments.

This is not the case. Worse, the implicit solution sounds disturbingly close to advocating rolling back

gains for girls to address our concerns about boys.

Pitting boys and girls against each other does not move us toward better education for all of our children. There are serious concerns for boys' education that absolutely deserve attention and further study. At the same time, there are also key areas of concern for girls, including their low rates of participation in advanced levels of mathematics and science, and in computer science and technology. These are the fields according to the most recent AAUW Educational Foundation research report, *Women at Work* (2003) that are critical for obtaining the best paying, highest growth jobs of the future.

Girls still overlooked

A *Business Week* report stated recently that MBA programs are one of a few remaining "old boy domains" but failed to mention the comparable under-representation of women in computer and information science, technology and engineering courses and careers. Nor did it mention that women's participation in computer science courses has actually been declining for the past 20 years.

AAUW was founded more than a century ago when education and employment opportunities were severely limited by gender, race, and other social characteristics. Although great inequities still persists, it is true that women and girls have made great strides. These advancements, however, have never been at the expense of men and boys.

We hope we can reach beyond polarizing debates to create a public education system and a society that neither defines nor confines young people's opportunities based on gender, race, or social status.

From AAUW Website - *USA Today*

**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.

International Woman's Human Rights Committee February Meeting

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton led a small group of women gathered in Seneca Falls, N.Y. to take a stand on the rights of women. During that same period, in Iran, an ocean and a continent away, a Persian woman, Tahirih, was the first Iranian woman to "unveil". For this symbolic action she was martyred. She is recorded as saying, "You can kill me as soon as you like, but you cannot stop the emancipation of women. I am the call of the bugle, I will awaken sleeping souls." This is the tradition that guides the life and research of Yasaman (Yasi) Sanii, a third year law student at SUNY Buffalo. On December 9th at the Veteran's Medical Center, Yasi told of the political consciousness of Iranian women, that dates back to the 19th Century, where women would gather together in homes to discuss

politics and issues that concerned them and their country. Iranian women, she said, felt a role to play to improve their society, to raise the next generation - a role that was the focus of their life. 19th century correspondence between Iranian women and their friends in the United States, France and Russia, is evidence that Iranian women engendered feminist discussions independent of liberal movements outside their country. Yasi also discussed the book, *Reading Lolita in Iran* by Azar Nafisi, a true story written by a college professor about her experience and consequences of introducing western literature in the present-day Iranian totalitarian regime.

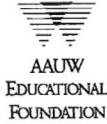
The International Woman's Human Rights Committee is very excited about the quality of speakers Carol Griffith has invited to our discussions. I invite you to join us on February 10th at 5:30 at the Veteran's Center on Bailey Avenue to learn about the experiences of Parisima Mirzakazemi, a medical doctor, who has worked with refugees in Africa.

Marguerite Collesano

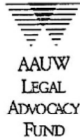
In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.



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, January 5, -
Public Policy Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 7, -
Board Meeting**

**Monday, January 12, -
Health and Wellness**

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

**Monday, March 8, - International
Women's Day Dinner**

**Saturday, March 20, - Sister To
Sister Conference**

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo NY on December 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

Non-Profit
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U.S. Postage
PAID
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Permit No. 1078

Return Service Requested



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

1 4226 4072 22

