

BUFFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

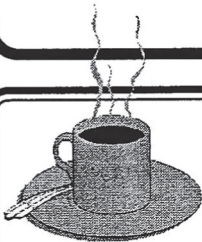


AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

NYS District 1

March 2004

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



Legal Advocacy Fund Breakfast

Saturday, April 3

10:00am - 12:00pm

at Daffodil's Restaurant

930 Maple Road in

Williamsville

Speakers: NYS LAF Vice President, Susan Sontup
Sheila Graziano, a local attorney

Information on page 3. Reservation form on page 9
Need assistance attending a meeting, call Betty Krist, 675-4059

Make your
reservations for
*International
Women's Day*
gala dinner
meeting,
March 8th
NOW!!
Information in
centerfold

President's Message

Many thanks to all of you for your warm thoughts and prayers for my recovery from surgery. It was overwhelming to receive so many kind wishes and I cannot thank you enough for your support during this time. I would like to also give special thanks to Janet Fowler, our President Elect, who so efficiently took the helm during my recuperation. She is an outstanding leader and our branch will flourish under her guidance when she begins her term later this year.

Our country has named March as National Women's History Month, and on March 8th, the world celebrates International Women's Day. On that date women of all countries, regardless of differences in language, culture or politics, join as one to celebrate and recognize women worldwide.

This year on March 8th, our branch is honored to be presenting three internationally known women in a special program in observance of International Women's Day. We are proud to present Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey, U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; Dr. Mary H. Purcell, Special Representative to the United Nations and former President of the International Federation of University Women; and Julia Hall, Counsel in the Europe and Central Asia Division of Human Rights Watch for an international discussion of "Women and Elections" on March 8th at 6 pm at Samuel's Grande Manor.

Deadline for the April issue is March 15. 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 April issue.

Please join us for this exceptional program. Our guest speakers have dedicated their lives to the advancement of women through educational, economic and political empowerment and it is a privilege to have them all present for an evening that is sure to be historic and memorable. For information, contact Cathy Weiss at 688-6181.

Plan to attend the breakfast Saturday, April 3rd to learn more about AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). The LAF is the nation's largest fund dedicated solely to supporting women who are fighting gender discrimination in higher education and employment. It provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress. After enjoying a delicious brunch at Daffodils, we will have an opportunity to hear Susan Sontup, NYS LAFVP and attorney Sheila Graziano, a member of the LAF network of attorneys, tell us about this important AAUW program. We will also be raffling special gifts and theme baskets in support of the fund. For information, contact Jayne Harnisch at 565-2076.



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

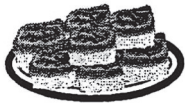
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 Publisher: Joan Eschner (655-1322)

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 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.

March 2004
 Vol. CXIII No 3
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Legal Advocacy Fund



Breakfast Program

Join us for breakfast and meeting on Saturday April 3 from 10:00am - 12:00pm at Daffodil's restaurant at 930 Maple Road in

Williamsville. The featured speakers are NYS LAF Vice President, Susan Sontup and Sheila Graziano, a local attorney who specializes in gender discrimination. Susan

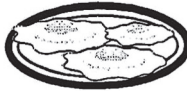
will speak about the history of the Legal Advocacy Fund and provide updates on current cases. Ms. Graziano will



speak about her experience with the LAF Network of attorneys and her work in the Western New York area. Susan

will also be awarding LAF Major Donor pins to Buffalo Branch AAUW members Jan Vine, Linda Suchocki, and Linda Brodsky.

For those who want to learn more about the important work the LAF does, this is an



excellent opportunity. Ms. Graziano will also be addressing topics of general interest to all who want to see pay equity, promotion opportunities, and fairness in hiring practices for women. The cost to attend is just \$20.00 and includes a buffet of eggs, quiche, bacon, sausage, potatoes, muffins, pastries, juice, coffee, and tea. Please use



the registration form in this newsletter and reserve your seat now!

NYS AAUW Elections

There are two candidates, Nancy Mion and Jane Smith running for NYS President this year. Diane Haney is running for Program Vice President and Phyllis Anderson is seeking the Educational Foundation Vice President. Our branch delegates at the NYS AAUW Convention will vote on these elections and the proposed changes to the NYS AAUW bylaws.

Jane Smith has been a member of AAUW since 1976 after moving to the Keuka Lake area. She has held many offices at the branch level, including President, VP for Program, EF Chair, and LAF Chair. She joined the NYS AAUW Board in 1999 as a member of the Education/Equity Team, was Voter Education Director in 2000, and NYS Public Policy Director for 2001-2202. She is presently NYS AAUW Program President and has brought the AAUW theme of "Living the Mission" to AAUW branches throughout the State. As a candidate for President, she offers a new theme of "Building the Mission." Her goal is to foster stronger communication with branch leaders and to build on mission based programming in NYS. She has creative energy and believes we can make a difference in our communities.

Nancy Mion has been a member of AAUW since 1975 and has served at the State level for 13 years. She has served as branch president twice, and as branch LAF chair. She organized the last two NYS AAUW Conventions, been a presenter at Conventions, and over the years has held leadership positions in AAUW and elsewhere. For 20 years she has been on the Board of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence. From these experiences, she feels she has developed the skills needed to create

(Continued on Page 4)

(Elections continued from Page 3)

an atmosphere of harmony, cooperation and support to enable boards and members to work together. As NYS President her goal would be "Sharing the Mission," going forward with others to move us into the future.

Branch Bylaws Changes

We have received notice through NYSAAUW that our branch bylaws are not in conformity with the National AAUW Association bylaws in just two areas. They have asked that we remove the section on "Friends" as a membership category in the bylaws, and rather describe this category of membership in a *Branch Policy and Procedure Handbook* which is separate from the bylaws. They have also asked that since the (national) AAUW has become three equal Corporations, the:

- Association (the branches)
- Educational Foundation (EF)
- Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)

that our branch bylaws should be updated to elevate the current LAF Chair from an appointed position on the Board of Directors, to an *elected* Vice President position. This officer shall be elected in an alternating year from the EF chair who should also be renamed as a branch *Vice President* rather than Chair. We currently elect an EF Chair and *appoint* an LAF Chair. It is the responsibility of the branch president to bring the branch bylaws into conformity with the Charter and Bylaws of the Association, and such amendments shall not require a vote of the branch members.

Based on these recommendations, we are therefore

amending our branch bylaws as follows:

We will delete the entire paragraph describing "Friends" as a category of membership from our branch bylaws. We will change the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Chair from an appointed position to an elected Vice President position, to be elected in alternate years from the Educational Foundation (EF) position. We will change the title of the EF position to Educational Foundation Vice President.

Linda Suchocki

AAUW NYS Convention in Albany

This year, please consider attending the AAUW New York State Convention April 23-25, 2004 at the Albany Marriott. This is an opportunity to not only showcase our branch to the other AAUW branches throughout NYS, but to network and exchange ideas and participate in workshops and meetings that will inspire and renew your enthusiasm for the important work we do as members of AAUW. Packages that include 2 nights hotel, 6 meals, receptions and breaks, range from only \$276 (for double occupancy). Albany is a relatively easy drive from Buffalo, and you are invited to car pool with others attending from our branch. For reservations, see page 9 in this newsletter, or for more information, call Linda Suchocki at 823-4154 or visit <http://www.northnet.org/nysaauw/albany04.htm>

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, March 9 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Eggertsville Library

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

Topic: *Benjamin Franklin, an American Life* by Walter Isaacson

Discussion leader: Jean Sylvester

Contact: Nancy Ryther (884-8324)

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

For April 13 read *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose (about Lewis and Clark)



Group: **Bridge Biddies**

When: Once per month

Topic: Casual bridge playing

Contact: Margaret Haas (839-3701) or Valerie Marvin (833-8506)



Group: **Clueless Mystery Book Club**

When: Wednesday, March 24 at 6 p.m.

Where: Loughran's Restaurant

4543 Main St., Snyder

near Harlem Rd.



Topic: *Brat Farrar* by Josephine Tey

Reviewer: Norma Millar

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, March 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Plaka Restaurant, 2904

Delaware Ave. at Victoria, Kenmore

Topic: *The Lovely Bones* by

Alice Sebold



Reviewer: Julia Piquette

Contact: RSVP to Fran Witnauer

(H 837-5887 or W 856-3150)

Group: **Great Decisions**

When: Thursday, March 4 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church

6320 Main St. just East of ECC North

Topic: *The Philippines*

Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

Group: **Film Group**

When: Tuesday, March 2

Contact: Maria Ceraulo

(881-0729)



Group: **Travel Group**

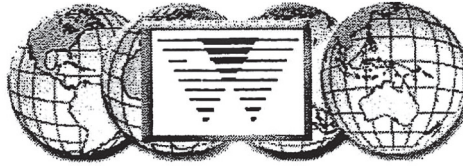
Mission: To organize 1 or 2 trips per year to benefit existing and prospective members of AAUW Buffalo

Contact: Bev Schwiegerling (652-7182)

for date, time and location

schwieg@adelphia.net





It is Critical that We Have Membership Support

as we present

AN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION
of
WOMEN AND ELECTIONS

International Women's Day Celebration

Reception and Dinner

Samuel's Grande Manor

8750 Main Street

Clarence, NY

6:00 PM

Monday, March 8, 2004

Our speakers will be:

Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey

Mary Purcell

Julia Hall

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

**This Gala Celebration of the
Third International Women's Day Offers Attendees a Unique
Educational Opportunity and Networking**

Since this is the United States Presidential Election Year, there will be an International Discussion on **WOMEN AND ELECTIONS**.

The lineup of speakers is outstanding. They are:

Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey, US Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Ambassador Sauerbrey has represented the United Nations on the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Mary Purcell, International Federation of University Women Representative to the United Nations. Mary Purcell was president of AAUW and the AAUW Educational Foundation from 1981-85.

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

Joining with the Buffalo Branch are 21 cosponsoring organizations. The League of Women Voters will launch their Voter Registration Campaign and the Friends of the Women's Right's National Park will describe their plans for their election year event. The evening will consist of a reception with the opportunity to meet the three speakers, dinner and program.

The branch is fortunate to have been able to secure these three speakers. The International Women's Day Celebration will be an evening to be remembered. Come, tell your friends, and bring a guest!

International Women's Day Gala Dinner Reservation Form

Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

Cost: \$32/person (Checks made payable to AAUW/Buffalo Branch)

Dinner choices:

Chicken Samuel _____

Roasted Salmon _____

Vegetarian Linguini _____

Total enclosed _____

RESERVATIONS and CHECKS TO: Cathy Weiss (688-6181)

70 Fennec Lane, East Amherst, NY 1405

by March 1, 2004

AAUW Action Alerts

AAUW Action Alerts provide detailed updates on how AAUW's priority issues are faring in Congress. Find out the latest news on such issues as education, managed care reform, Social Security and Medicare reform, and civil rights. AAUW members can read the Action Alert newsletter online free of charge at the following website address:

<http://www.aauw.org/takeaction/actionalert/index.cfm>

A one-year subscription to Action Alert (12 issues) is just \$20 for AAUW members and \$25 for nonmembers. You may subscribe online, or by phone, fax or mail. For information, call the AAUW Helpline at 1-800-326-2289 or visit www.aauw.org.

Board Meeting Highlights, January 7, 2004

- The board voted to have the Action Alerts from the Association e-mailed to the branch members who have an e-mail address. The message will be sent in such a way that the addressee list cannot be copied. (Note from secretary – some concerns regarding e-mail etiquette and computer/mailbox limitations regarding this process were brought up at the February meeting. A committee will bring in a recommendation for specific action).
- It was announced that \$265 had been collected from attendees of the last public policy meeting and donated to Haven House.
- There will be a Planned Parenthood "March for Women's Lives" in Washington, DC for which sponsorship donations have been

requested. The board voted to contribute \$70 as a non-specific donation which may be used to assist a participant. No direct sponsorship was approved due to potential liability issues.

- The Finance Committee came to the board with some recommendations for making the various accounts more understandable and manageable. The financial arrangements of the branch are complex, and their suggestions were welcomed with enthusiasm.

AAUW Buffalo Branch, Educational Accounts and Charitable Projects

- The board voted to donate \$500 to sponsor Joyce Carol Oates' appearance in the Distinguished Speakers' Series at SUNY Buffalo.
- The board also voted to contribute \$500 to the UB's "Expanding Your Horizons" program, aimed at encouraging math and science programs for inner-city girls.

PUBLIC POLICY MEETING

The AAUW Buffalo Branch Public Policy Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 9 at 5:30 at Perkins Restaurant 8444 Transit Road, East Amherst.

The International Women's Day Celebration held on March 8 will be reviewed and work will continue on the planning of the Title IX Conference to be held on October 16, 2004.

Contact Cathy Weiss - cmweiss@adelphia.net - 688-6181 or Judy Weidemann - JWeide7170@aol.com - 655-3649 for further information. New members of the committee are welcome.

New Large Print Books for Sale

The following new books are available in LARGE PRINT. If you would like a copy, email Mary Kellner at mkellner39@aol.com. Checks may be made out to the AAUW Educational Foundation.

Baldacci, David - *Split Second* \$3
 Brown, Sandra - *Hello Darkness* \$3
 Clark, Mary Higgins - *Second Time Around* \$3
 Cook, Robin - *Seizure* \$3
 Cornwall, Patricia - *Blow Fly* \$3
 Delinsky, Barbara - *Flirting with Pete* \$3
 Deveraux, Jude - *Wild Orchids* \$3
 Patterson, James - *The Lake House* \$4
 Roberts, Nora - *Remember When* \$3
 Steel, Danielle - *Johnny Angel* \$2

Remember Title IX

"I never thought of myself as a tomboy. I'm just a girl who likes sports."

Quote from Suzy Dunn Olympic Snowboarder: 2001 Olympic Gold Superpipe; two-time World Halfpipe Champion; 1998 Olympic Bronze Halfpipe; two-time US Open Snowboarding Champion.

Remember Title IX on March 9th: the law intended to eliminate discriminatory practices in educational institutions.

Sister -to- Sister

The Sister-to-Sister Connection of WNY, Inc., an offshoot of the AAUW, is a non-profit organization of volunteers whose primary mission is to provide young women different settings for exciting new learning opportunities. Our community-based initiative seeks to strengthen girls' voices and identify actions that promote better opportunities for all youth.

The organization provides two primary events each year. The first event, the Sister-to-Sister Summit will be held this year on March 20th. For the past seven years it has been held in conjunction with our partners Buffalo State College and Project Flight. March was chosen for the event in celebration of Women's History Month. Last year was a record breaking year whereby almost 200 hundred girls and 50 parents attended the Summit. This truly exceeded our expectations as well as our budget. This year we are trying to seek alternative funding sources.

The second event is the mini-mentoring project which connects professional women with teenagers to discuss future career prospects. This has been held at the offices of Every Person Influences Children (EPIC).

The AAUW, Buffalo Branch has contributed \$1000 to the 2004 Sister to Sister Summit and the membership of AAUW has been extremely generous to this program. We thank all of you who have made personal contributions. It is not too late to send a personal donation. We have estimated that it costs about \$40 to sponsor a girl to the summit. Checks can be written to SISTER-TO-SISTER. Checks can be mailed to Peggy Meini; 96 Mafalda Drive; Buffalo, NY 14215.

Winter Branch Newsletter

Article 2004

From the AAUW NYS President,
Evelyn M. (Evvie) Currie

As AAUW NYS begins 2004, I am reminded how fortunate we are to have dedicated Branch Newsletter Editors across the state. They are "the eyes and the ears" of AAUW. They arrange the material sent to them by State and Branch Board members in a way that will attract the attention of all of the members. They make sure that the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund are equally represented in newsletter articles. They are the ones who help both active and inactive members to be aware of the AAUW Public Policy issues. They are the real connection between AAUW NYS and the Branches. Without their support, the "Living the Mission" theme of the last two years would not have been a success. Most of the Editors used the logo and the slogan in every newsletter. We on the NYS Board thank them very much for supporting us, as we have led AAUW forward into the 21st Century!

The AAUW NYS Board made the decision to have the AAUW NYS Convention in Albany this year, in answer to requests from members to have it centrally located. We will be very disappointed if every Branch is not represented by at least a carload of members. The program we have planned is informative and exciting. Dr Antonia Novello, the NYS Commissioner of Health, will inspire us in her keynote address Friday night. There will be many opportunities to network with old and new friends. The fun of the EF Walk/Run, the LAF Basket Silent Auction and the Bina Roy Swim can not be matched. If you have never been to a NYS Convention, this is definitely the year to try it!

I'LL SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Chamberlin Loan Report

The Chamberlin Committee is proud to present the latest group of interest free loans and grant recipients. Funds for these come from our Chamberlin Trust fund, Book Sale proceeds, and generous donations from members. The recipients are:

Progymita Banerjee is a graduate student at UB in Informatics and the Library Science program.

Yadira E. Burandt attends Medaille College.
Lacie Dombkiewicz attends SUNY Cortland majoring in Speech Pathology.

Shavonne Faircloth is majoring in Sociology at Buffalo State College.

Donna M. Kempa attends UB majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing.

Samantha Ann Martin plans to attend SUNY Binghamton to study History and Secondary Education.

Nicole S. Schuman is a graduate student at UB majoring in English and Women's Studies.
Bridgette Antoinette Tojek is attending Houghton College studying Veterinarian Science.

Susan Trabert - is working toward permanent certification in Secondary French at Canisius College.

Change of Address

Julia Piquette now lives at 50 Stahl Road,
Apt 245 - Getzville, NY 14068-1569.

Margit Spector - E-mail address was printed incorrectly in the Jnuary issue. It is: margit1234@usadatanet.net.

**Reservation Form For the April Program
Legal Advocacy Fund Awareness**

**Saturday, April 3 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Daffodil's 930 Maple Avenue Williamsville, NY
Deadline - March 27**

Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

Phone: _____

Cost \$20.00 per person

Total enclosed:\$ _____

I am unable to attend the breakfast, but I wish to support the work of the LAF

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

Return reservations to Jayne Harnisch, 8310Vernon Circle, Williamsville, NY 14221 no later than March 27th.

All checks should be made payable toAAUW Buffalo Branch.

**AAUW NYS 2004 Convention Registration Form
April 23-25, 2004
Deadline: March 12, 2004**

Mail to: Linda Suchocki, 207 Fenton Street, Buffalo, NY 14226-3409
Contact via e-mail: suchocki207@cs.com

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Last: First

Preferred first name _____

Address/City/Zip _____

Phone () _____ e-mail _____

First time attending anAAUW NYS Convention

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.

March is Woman's History Month Upcoming Events

Wednesday March 3, -
Board Meeting

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

Tuesday, March 9, -
Public Policy Meeting

Saturday, March 20, - Sister To
Sister Conference

Saturday, April 3, LAF Program

Friday - Sunday, April 23-25, -
AAUW New York State
Convention, Albany

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo NY on February 20, 2003.
Moving? Did not receive the newsletter? Please contact Betty Preble at 662-0608.



BUFFALO BRANCH
Betty Preble
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Orchard Park, NY 14127

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