

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.

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on January 24, 2005
Moving? Please contact Betty Preble at 662-0608



Buffalo Branch
Betty Preble
6935 East Quaker Road
Orchard Park, NY 14127

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Upcoming Events

Wednesday February 2, 5:15 p.m.
Board Meeting

Friday, February 4, 7:30
Old Chestnut Film Society
Madame Curie

Monday, February 7, 2005
Public Policy Meeting

Sunday, February 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Native American Program
and desserts

Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 p.m.
International Women's Day
program & dinner



American
Association of
University
Women

Buffalo Branch Newsletter

NYS District 1



February 2005

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

February Program

Native American Program History and Traditions of the Haudenosaunee

Sunday, February 13, 2005
2:00 PM

School House Commons,
1005 Grant Street,
(just north of Amherst Street)

Featured presenter

Janine Huff,

Tonawanda Seneca,
Hawk clan

8750 Main Street, Clarence, New York 6:00 PM

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Our speakers include:

Nancy McGlen, PhD and Meredith Reid Sarkees, PhD
Co-authors *Women and Foreign Policy*

March
Program

*International
Discussion*

WOMEN AND FOREIGN POLICY

International Women's Day Celebration
Reception and Dinner

More information on page 3. Reservation form on page 11

President's Message

The state of our membership concerns me. It was brought to my attention at our last board meeting that of the last two years 63 new members, only 40% renewed their membership. Why did so many not renew? Is it because we did not get them involved? Are we not offering enough programs to keep their interest? Are we a different organization from what they thought we were when they joined? I realize some people join but do not wish to be very active, by their own choice. Others join because they love our book sale and want to be involved in it, wish to partake in one of our study groups, or be active in one of our annual conference programs such as Transitions or Sister-to-Sister. They join to become involved. (See related article on Study Groups and Membership on page 7 in this newsletter.)

We plan to send a letter to those that have not renewed asking them why they didn't. However, if any current members know a reason why members have not renewed, I would really like to hear from you. Some of these past members may be your friends, relatives or coworkers. Our AAUW Branch is a large one, and a very active branch in public policy matters, community activities, and

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 February issue.


scholarship programs.

In my last month's message I gave everyone a New Year's resolution to bring in a new member. At that point in time I did not know our membership retention was in such a poor state. My resolution now is to get behind the matter and find out why members are not renewing and vow to do something about it.

We have two very interesting monthly programs coming up – "History and Traditions of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) People in February and International Women's Day in March. Articles detailing both are in this newsletter.

Be proud of your Branch and the AAUW mission. Promote both as often as you can.

Janet Fowler



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

American Association of University Women
 President: Janet Fowler (884-8698)
 Editors: B. Krist & 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 2005
 Vol. CXIV No. 2
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Reservation Form

February Program - Sunday, February 13, 2005

*Native American Program
 History and Traditions of the Haudenosaunee*

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Guests(s) _____

Cost: \$8.00 per person **Make checks payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch**
And send to Norine Borkowski, 1A Hickory Hill Road, Williamsville, NY. 14221
Reservations due by Monday, February 7, 2005

Reservation Form

*International Women's Day
 Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

Cost: \$35/person

Dinner Choices:

Chicken Samuel _____

Roasted Salmon _____

Linguine with pesto and Portobello mushrooms _____ Total enclosed _____

**Reservations and checks to: Cathy Weiss (688-6181) 70 Fennec Lane,
 East Amherst, NY 14051**

Make Checks payable to AAUW, EF and mail by February 22, 2005

Buffalo Branch Study/ Interest Groups

Group Leaders: Please send study group information to Barbara Carrier, 295 Lakewood Pkwy, Amherst 14226, 839-0933 (h), 858-2884 (w), or bcARRIER@adelphia.net.

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

Group: American Biographies
When: Tuesday, February 8, 2005
Topic: Edward R. Murrow and the Birth of Broadcast Journalism by Bob Edwards – for March read the second half of Truman by David McCullough
Where: Eggertsville Library, 4622 Main St.
Facilitator: Mary Fiore
Contact: Nancy Ryther (884-8324)



Group: Bridge Biddies
When: Cancelled indefinitely. If you and a friend are interested in playing, call 839-3701 or email maggieb@peoplepc.com.
Topic: Casual bridge playing



Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club
When: February 23, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.
Topic: The Yellow Dog by Walter Moseley
Reviewer: Fran Witnauer
Contact: Fran Witnauer (837-5887 or 856-3150) or Sue Grossman (837-8769)



Group: Dinner by the Book Discussion Group
When: Wednesday, February 16, 5:30 p.m.



Where: Plaka Restaurant,
2904 Delaware Ave. in Kenmore
Topic: The Glass Palace by
Amitav Ghosh
Reviewer: Cherie St. Pierre
Reservations: Fran Witnauer (837-5887 or 856-3150) fwitnauer@buffaloplac.com

Group: Knitting Group
When: Tuesday, February 22 from
7-9 p.m.
Where: Clubhouse, 4100 Stonegate Ln.,
Williamsville, behind Wehrle Golf
Dome
Contact: Adrienne Kotler (688-0740)
aikotler@earthlink.net
Project: Afghan for Haven House



Group: Travel Group
Mission: To organize 1 or 2 trips per year that interest existing and prospective members of AAUW Buffalo
Contact: Bev Schwiegerling (652-7182) and watch the Newsletter for announcements
schwieg@adelphia.net

Save the Date

**The Annual May luncheon
will be held on Saturday, May
7th. Details will be coming in
future newsletters.**

February Program Focus on Native Americans

The Diversity Committee, in an effort to assist in helping all of us become more informed about other races and cultures, is presenting a Native American program to authentically celebrate the history and traditions of the original settlers in Western New York.

Most Americans are aware of Native American contributions such as corn and tomatoes. Few of us realize, however, that the U. S. Constitution also has roots in Native American culture, particularly in the model of government originally developed by what we know as the Iroquois Confederacy.

Janine Huff, Tonawanda Seneca, Hawk clan is the featured presenter for this program. She will provide us with the information to understand the values, beliefs and traditions that the Haudenosaunee seek to maintain. Her topics will include the underlying values of the culture, the world view, the Seventh Generation, the concept of creation and the role of women in the community both in the past and the current day. Janine is highly regarded throughout the Native American Community and is often sought to speak at conferences and trainings. In addition, there will be an opportunity to see displays of native dress, beading, and basketry and to sample corn soup, strawberry juice and Indian cookies.

Brighten a February Sunday afternoon by

joining us at Native American Community Services, located in the School House Commons, 1005 Grant Street, just north of Amherst Street. Parking is at the side of the building. Parking spaces closest to the building are reserved for the handicapped and the senior residents.

The program begins at 2:00 PM with registration and refreshments. The cost is \$8.00 each for members and guests. Reservations and checks made out to AAUW Buffalo Branch are due by Monday, February 7, 2005 and should be mailed to Norine Borkowski, 1A Hickory Hill Road, Williamsville, New York 14221-2538.

March 8 International Women's Day Celebration to Feature Report from Sri Lanka

Drs. Meredith Reid Sarkees and Nancy McGlen will be speakers for the International Women's Day Celebration and Dinner on March 8, 2005. They are co-authors of *Women and Foreign Policy: The Insiders*.

Dr. Sarkees is a Fellow with the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership at St. Mary's College in Indiana. She is the author of two books including *Women and Foreign Policy: The Insiders*. She is also the author of numerous articles and book chapters on women in foreign policy, women and peace and the correlates of war. She has spent the last two years interviewing women foreign policy leaders in nations around the world.

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Dr. Sarkees has traveled to Sri Lanka three times in the last year including the month after the tsunami. We will hear a first hand report on the conditions in Sri Lanka after the tsunami.

Dr. Nancy E. McGlen is Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Niagara University. Dr. McGlen has written and spoken extensively on women in politics and the academic profession. She is the co-author of four books including, *Women, Politics and American Society*, 3rd ed. and *Women and Foreign Policy: The Insiders*. In March 2002. She served as Chair for the first Niagara County Institute for Public leadership, a YWCA program to train women for public leadership. Currently she serves on the Leadership Committee for the Niagara County Commission on the Status of Women and as a board member for the YWCA of Niagara County. She has been a speaker on women's issues for numerous clubs and organizations in the Buffalo/Niagara area.

AAUW NYS Convention April 15 – 17, 2005 Turning Stone Resort, Verona, NY

Registration Deadline: MARCH 18, 2005

It is already the time of year to think about attending the AAUW NYS Convention. The convention is open to all members. AAUW NYS has a special convention planned for April 15-17, 2005 at Turning Stone Casino Resort on the Oneida Indian Nation in Verona, NY. The resort is located on beautiful property that will offer great walks, golf, spa, heated

pool, and, of course, a casino. Add to this an exciting AAUW Convention with outstanding speakers, stimulating workshops and interesting AAUW women and you have the perfect weekend.

The registration form is on NYS website www.aauw-nys.org/convention. For a full description of the weekend and workshop topics, visit the website.

(See more information on page 9.)

Buffalo Board Responds to World Crisis

In response to a memo from the State AAUW Board, the Board of the Buffalo Branch voted at its January 5th meeting to send a donation of \$500.00 to the US Fund for UNICEF as our way of responding to the tsunami disaster. While initially money in this fund will go towards medicine, food, water and shelter, donations will also target rebuilding the infrastructure such as schools and providing educational materials.

If you have delayed contributing to the relief efforts, perhaps you would like to send a personal donation to the following address: U.S. Fund for UNICEF, 333 East 38th St, New York, NY 10016 and indicate that you are a member of AAUW. For more information about the fund and its efforts to assist the tsunami victims, visit www.unicefusa.org.

Supporting the survivors to rebuild their lives, is a contribution in keeping with our mission to support issues of importance to promote positive societal change.

(Study Groups Continued from page 8)

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 an abundance 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 for the group's enjoyment or even at branch events.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP for the retired women who do not like night driving.

LO-CAL/LO-CARB GOURMET - share recipes for heart healthy foods. Develop, prepare, and share low calorie or low carb or lo calorie meals.

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

Think about it.

Submitted by Bev Schweigerling and Janet Fowler

Public Policy Meeting

The Public Policy Committee will meet on Monday, February 7, 2005, at 5:30 PM at Perkins Restaurant, 8444 Transit Rd. E. Amherst, NY. The discussion will center on plans for the celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2005. Call Cathy Weiss (688-6181) or Judy Weidemann (655-3649) for more information.

THE DEADLINE APPROACHES!!!

March 18, 2005 is the deadline for AAUW NYS convention and hotel registration! Don't miss the opportunity to share ideas; enter stimulating discussions; meet Nancy Rustad, AAUW Association President; and enjoy a fun weekend with other members of AAUW.

**AAUW NYS Convention at
Turning Stone Resort, Verona, NY
April 15-17, 2005!**

Two nights lodging, six meals, welcome reception, breaks, meeting rooms as well as taxes and gratuities all for \$295 per person double occupancy!

All information is available at www.aauw-nys.org.

Betty Harrel & Margaret Nijhuis,
Convention Directors

(Study Groups Continued from page 7)

benefit of battered women, these are all learning experiences or experiences where someone in our society benefits. Study and Special Interest Groups are in many ways the backbone of our branch. They are also a networking tool.

Last year Linda Suchocki listed in the newsletter several ideas for Study groups that have been formed in other branches. We are open to forming new groups in our branch. They may have as few as five members. Peruse the list below of study group ideas. If you would like more ideas, click on <http://www.aauw.org/about/branches.cfm>; click on a state and then a branch. Many branch websites list their study groups. Send your name, address, phone number, email and the name of a study group that is of interest to you to: Barbara Carier, 295 Lakewood Pkwy, Amherst 14226, 839-0933 (h), 858-2884 (w), or bcarier@adelphia.net. She will publish a list of possible study groups along with the names of people who have indicated an interest in the next newsletter. One person in each group will be randomly designated as the contact person. The contact person will make arrangements for the first meeting. This meeting could possibly be electronic via email!

To form a study group, state the purpose and expectations of the group as well as the approximate number of people interested and send it to Barb Carier, Study Group Coordinator. If the Board approves, your meetings will appear in our monthly newsletter. It's that simple!

I plan to submit a proposal myself, once my term as President is over, for a Garden Group. Many have expressed interest in one. If someone wishes to form this group sooner than next fall,

please, by all means, take the lead and do it now. I will be an active member of that group.

Some ideas for other groups to consider:

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

WONDER WOMAN - issues facing women who work, raise families, maybe go to school and have to balance all of the above. That's also a great networking experience.

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

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 a group could be formed to do crafts throughout the year, making something to enjoy and take home, and sharing your talents with others in the group.

(Study Groups Continued on page 9)

Buffalo Branch Mourns the Loss of another Past President, Volunteer, and Achievement Award Winner

Lucille M. Peterson of Kenmore, a retired elementary school teacher who was active in the community, died December 16, 2004 in Kenmore Mercy Hospital. She was 87.

Born Lucille Mattern in Buffalo, she earned her degree from Buffalo Normal School. She taught in Dutchess County, and for more than 10 years in Kenmore Public Schools.

Lucille was President of the AAUW Buffalo Branch from 1956 – 1958. She also served several years on its Achievements and Awards committee and as Newsletter Editor. She was honored as one of our Achievement Award Recipients in 1980. Lucille was also our Branch's UNICEF Representative and International Representative.

Mrs. Peterson was a former board member of Channel 17, and secretary to the board until 1979. In 1976, she wrote a two-part series of the history of WNED-TV, which was featured in its official magazine. She was a member of the Buffalo Council of World Affairs and UNICEF. She received a 1000 hours volunteer pin from the Red Cross, where she was an aid in the blood donor center. She was an organist at St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo and a member of its choral society. She often sang with the Schola Cantorum Society. Her musical interests also led to a membership in the Women's Committee for the Buffalo Philharmonic.

2005-2006 Program Planning Meeting

The first planning meeting for Branch's monthly programs for September 2005 to May 2006 will take place on Thursday, February 24, 2005, at Perkins Restaurant, 8444 Transit Rd. (near intersection with Klein Rd.), East Amherst. The meeting will start at 5:30 PM. Please come with your suggestions and ideas, and help select the best ones to be featured as events of the mentioned months.

Call Teresa (634-5053) for further information or to inform that you are coming to the meeting.

New Member

AAUW Buffalo Branch welcomes the following new member.

Mrs. Aimee J. Wieler-Gunn
95 Highland Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Sympathy Extended

The Buffalo Branch extends its sympathy to Marion Elmer on the death of her son, Thomas R. Elmer. Thomas died on December 30, 2004, after a 3 1/2 year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was a partner in the law firm Brick, Brick & Elmer and an avid boater

HIGHLIGHTS from December 1, 2004 AAUW Board Meeting:

- The International Woman's Day celebration will be held on March 8, 2005 at Samuel's Grand Manor. Save the date. Flyers are complete. Nancy McGlynn, PhD and Meridith Reid Sarkees, PhD of Niagara University will speak on Women and Politics.
- Membership Retention: A discussion took place over the concern that a number of persons have not renewed membership. Betty Preble requested that members make follow-up phone calls to acquaintances who have not renewed.
- Chamberlin Loans Update: Sandra Williams Bush informed us that five applications for Chamberlain loans were received. Interviews are scheduled for January.
- Velma Cobb Update: Leona Barback reported that the interview process for the 2004 scholarships is still under way. Three candidates have been interviewed and two more candidates have yet to be interviewed.
- Education Foundation: Leona Barback updated us on the accounts and requested input as to how the Branch contribution of \$25,000 to the EF should be distributed. She emphasized the importance of having the commitment of funds in the Association by January. The Branch voted to split the contribution in a Branch named fellowship as follows: \$10,000 to the Eleanor Roosevelt fund; \$10,000 to the American Fellowship and \$5,000 unrestricted.
- Olga Lindberg Committee: Janet Fowler stated that letters have gone out to financial institutions and banks for proposals. Three have been received and three are still

outstanding. A final decision should be made in January.

- Education Fund Request for Committee: Janet Fowler requested the formation of a committee to distribute \$22,750 in EF funding in four program areas. These areas are: 1) EF Educational Projects; 2) Catalyst for Change; 3) EF Academic Awards for Girls; and 4) an Emergency Fund. The committee will work on qualifications and requirements for scholarships to be awarded in the spring.

Peggy Meisl

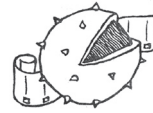
Could Study and Special Interest Groups be a Key to Membership Retention?

It disturbs me to think that so many of our newer members are not renewing their memberships. While some may not agree, Study or Special Interest Groups are a means of encouraging new members and retaining the current members. We have some very good study/special interest groups, but Perhaps more would be an answer to retaining members.

I know there are negative comments that many of the groups do not follow the "mission" of education, learning, positive societal change; but in every study group people do learn. Whether it be about a great person written by an author, a better understanding of a great novel, a better understanding of our diplomatic and political issues, how to play cards, visiting a new place, seeing an old movie, how to knit some new stitches, and even knit for the

(Continued on page 8)

The
OLD CHESTNUT FILM SOCIETY
THE BUFFALO BRANCH of the A.A.U.W. and
KEN-TON COMMUNITY EDUCATION



February 4

Greer Garson as
Madame Curie
With Walter Pidgein, &
Henry Trvers

7:30 p.m. at the Community
Room, Hoover Elementary
(Parking of Sheridan between Colvin &
Delaware
Individual tickets \$5 at the door

New Books for Sale in February

The following new books are currently available from the Book Sale Committee. If you would like a copy, email Mary Kellner at mkellner39@aol.com (741-8127) or Cathy Weiss at cmweiss@adelphia.net (688-6181). Checks may be made out to the AAUW Educational Foundation.

Anonamous – *Imperial Hubris* \$2
Ashwell, Rachel- *Shabby Chic* \$4
Better Homes & Gardens – *Quilting Pieces of the Past* \$5
Demille, Nelson – *Night Fall* \$4
Ellis, Joseph – *His Excellency, George Washington* \$4
Evanovich, Janet – *Metro Girl* \$4

Ferling, John – *Adams vs. Jefferson* \$4
Frank, Thomas – *What is the Matter With Kansas?* \$2
Kellerman, Jonathan – *Twisted* \$4
Kurson, Robert – *Shadow Divers* \$4
Lackey, Mercedes – *Phoenix & Ashes* \$3
O'Connell, Patrick – *Refined American Cuisine* \$8
Sherman, David – *Star Wars- Jedi Trial* \$3
Schulman, Janet – *Your Favorite Seuss* \$10
Walker, Alice – *Now is the time to Open Your Heart* \$3
Good Housekeeping Cookbook \$6

Call for Help

AAUW TRANSITIONS
CONFERENCE
for women returning to College
Friday, March 18, 2005 at
Bryant & Stratton College
40 Hazelwood Drive,
Amherst, NY
Time 9:15 AM to 2:00 PM

The committee is still looking for help with distribution of flyers, stuffing of tote bags, and assistance the day of the conference as workshop moderators, registration personnel, and classroom monitors.

Please contact Janet Fowler, Conference Chair, if you are able to help us out. Email janalanf@aol.com or telephone at 884-8698.