

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 December 20, 2005
Moving? Please contact Freddie Cheek, 835-6945**



Education Accounts &
Charitable Projects AAUW
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Buffalo, NY 14201-0311

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Upcoming Events

January 4: Board Meeting

January 14: The Care and Keeping of
Healthy Joints

February 8: Hoops



Buffalo Branch Newsletter

NYS District 1

Buffalo Branch Home Page
<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>
716-559-3037

January 2006

January Program

The Care and Keeping of Healthy Joints

Saturday, January 14, 2006

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall, Deerhurst Presbyterian Church,

257 Deerhurst Park Blvd., Kenmore

Cost: \$5.00

RSVP to Diane Bishop, 877-5674 or

lane.bishop@unb.ca

January Program information on page 3 reservation form on page 15

President's Message

Resolutions, goals, new plans. The New Year is often associated with change. In my childhood when I was dissatisfied that the world had not arranged itself to my original expectations, my mother would remind me *the only thing that is constant is change*.

Change was not unfamiliar to AAUW in 2005. The assembly voted at the June national convention to change membership requirements opening membership to those holding associate and equivalent degrees. Prior to this vote, there were many discussions both nationwide and at the branch level.

Nationally, the membership was slightly in favor (60%) of changing the membership requirements. In our branch, the tables were slightly reversed; our branch membership was slightly in favor (60%) of keeping the membership requirements. Prior to the national convention, the board resolved that whatever the final vote we would actively support the national direction. We also wanted -- regardless of the vote outcome-- to engage those holding and working towards associate degrees so that they could realize the maximum benefits of education and self-sufficiency.

Deadline for the February issue is January 10. Please send articles to Joan Eschner via e-mail at jmeschner@att.net. Articles that are received later than the above date will not appear in the February issue.

To that end, I am pleased to announce that Bryant and Stratton College is joining AAUW as a college/institutional member. Certainly, Bryant and Stratton educates a number of women in pursuit of associate and bachelor degrees-- many returning to school a few years after high school graduation. The college hosted our most recent *Transitions* conference, and the administration fully embraces AAUW's national theme encouraging economic self sufficiency. They look to partner with AAUW to encourage their students to do well in their studies, to pursue challenging careers, and to continue the path to a bachelor's degree and beyond. We look forward to providing networking opportunities for the students and to

(Continued on page 3)



American
Association of
University
Women

BUFFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

President: Tamara Brown (649-9871)
Editors: B. Krist & B Preble
Publisher: Joan Eschner (655-1322)

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406 Maynard Drive
Amherst, NY 14226-2929

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December 2005
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Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

Cost: \$35/person (Checks may be made out to AAUW/Buffalo Branch EF)

Dinner Choices:

Chicken Marsala _____

Roasted Salmon _____

Pasta Primavera _____

Total enclosed _____

RESERVATIONS and CHECKS TO: **Judy Weidemann (655-3649)**

21 Nye Hill Road

East Aurora, New York, 14052

by March 1, 2006

(Muse Continued from page 9)



(President's Message continued from page 2)

providing the benefit of our experience to help students along their path. Please join me in welcoming Bryant and Stratton to AAUW!

I am excited about our recruitment of new individuals as well -- almost thirty to date. Members seem to be the best recruiters. Please continue to suggest AAUW to your friends and associates. It will be a privilege to honor in May the member who has successfully recruited the most members, starting with the January program. Thank you for doing your part for your organization; it is shaping up to be a wonderful year where we will achieve our goals together!

I hope to see everyone at the January health program. It will be a program filled with information for everyone!

*My best wishes for a peaceful,
blessed 2006,*

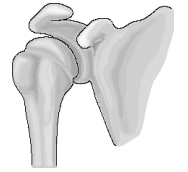
-Tamara



Healthy Joints

There will be a presentation by the Knee and Hip Center of Kenmore Mercy Hospital on January 14th, 2006 beginning at 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on the subject of "The Care and Keeping of Healthy Joints." A healthy snack will be served. Location will be Fellowship Hall,

Deerhurst Presbyterian Church, 257 Deerhurst Park Blvd., Kenmore. The presentation will cover three main areas: the anatomy of joints, preventative care for joints, and the decision to replace a joint. The presenter favors an informal presentation style with ample opportunity for questions. Does genetics play a role? What role do weight, exercise, and nutrition play? Are over-the-counter joint medicines like chondroitin and glucosamine any use or just hype? What are the signs that we need to turn to a specialist? It should be a really informative morning. Cost per person is \$5.00, payable by check in advance to either Adrienne Kotler (AAUW Treasurer) or Diane Bishop. Reservation form can be found on page 15. Questions can be sent to dbishop@robshawjulian.com.



Directions to Deerhurst Presbyterian Church

From the city: North on Colvin, about three lights north of Kenmore Ave. Turn right on Deerhurst at the Church, parking available in lot and on street. Enter side door off parking lot.

From the north: Exit Youngman Highway at Colvin going southbound. Follow the curve of Colvin being careful NOT to leave Colvin. Cross Sheridan Drive, second light further south is Deerhurst with the Church on the corner, turn left onto Deerhurst, parking available in lot and on street. Enter side door off parking lot.

**Hoops! Celebrate Girls &
Women in Sports Day with
AAUW!
Wednesday,
February 8, 2006**



What better way to dispel those winter blues than to cheer for the UB Women's Basketball team as they play Central Michigan? Tickets to this game are free. Yes, that's right, **FREE!** Participate in some or all of these activities:

4 p.m. Women's Expo & Reception - UB Center For the Arts

5 p.m. Panel Discussion: "Count Me In: Current Perspectives on Female Health, Research and Performance"

7 p.m. UB Women's Basketball vs. Central Michigan - Alumni Arena.

The Expo, Reception, Panel and Basketball Game are FREE for AAUW members and their guests. To reserve your seat please contact Susan Clements at 835-1738 or email her at susanjclements@aol.com. For information on additional NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY events at UB, visit www.buffalobulls.com/women.

Tickets will be available for pickup at the door. Just mention you are with AAUW! But you still must RSVP.

Come to one or both events, and show your support for Title IX and women's athletics!

**Plan Ahead for
February is
Black History Month...**

Join us on Saturday, February 11th at 2:30 p.m. at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library for our co-sponsored presentation *From the Souls of Black Folk*, featuring the Paul Robeson Theater Resident Company. Conceived by the Paul Robeson Theater Director Paulette Harris, the production, comprised of six actors/singers, includes selected text from W.E.B. Du Bois's influential book, "From the Souls of Black Folk" interspersed with historical African-American spirituals. A "talk-back" with performers follows the presentation.

A quote from the journal "American Legacy, The Magazine of African-American History and Culture" is as follows: "From The Souls of Black Folk", W.E.B. Du Bois (1903; many editions), is probably the most influential or, at least, most discussed book published by a black American intellectual in the twentieth century.

"It is not strictly a history of African-Americans; indeed, it is almost a synthesis of forms: biography, fiction, historical and economic analysis, and biography.

(Continued on page 5)

Welcome New Members

(Black History month continued from page 4)

Families, adults and youths, are invited to attend this fascinating production, *free* to all. Further information is available by contacting Sylvia Volk, Diversity Chair, 881-1424 or at artisans_company@yahoo.com.

Education and Equity

Stacey Johnson, Education and Equity Chair, will have a meeting with all interested members to discuss issues of concern and interest to those attending. Our goal will be to set a schedule for our meetings, and to determine the focus of the group. The first meeting will be February Monday February 13th, at the Eggertsville Library Community Room, 4622 Main Street, Snyder 14226. If interested, call Stacey at 885-2486 to let her know of your interest, and any special concerns you may have that relate to this topic.

CONDOLENCES

The Buffalo Branch was saddened to learn of the death of Beverly Mooney on November 23, 2005.

Beverly was a long time member of the Branch. She especially enjoyed working on the Book Sale. Our sympathy goes to her husband, Jim and to her three sons.

Velma Cobb

The deadline for Velma Cobb applications must be received by February 1, 2006.

Sharing the Vision

2006

READY, SET, GO!!

Betty Harrel & Margaret Nijhuis

The AAUW NYS Convention 2006 is set to go. The registration forms will be on the website, www.aauw-nys.org (click on button labeled Register or on NYS Convention), the first week in January. Also your branch President will receive a printed copy.

Make special note of the keynote speaker, the workshops offered, the times to have fun, and the times for serious considerations.

There is truly something for everyone – this is a convention of all members and we want to see all of you there.

Gideon Putnam Spa and Resort
Saratoga Springs, NY
April 28 – 30, 2006

Buffalo Branch Study/ Interest Groups

Group Leaders: Please send study group information to Jan Barber, 139 Woodward Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214-2311 or contact her at h (837-4558) or w (849-6500) or jbarber@btattys.com

Note: If you are interested in forming a new study group, please contact the study group coordinator

Group: American Biographies

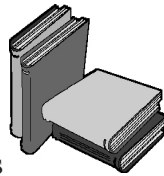
When: January 10, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Eggertsville Library,
4622 Main St. at

Burroughs, parking off Burroughs
Book: "John Muir: Nature's
Visionary"

by Gretel Ehrich and discussion of
books for remainder of the year.

Contact: Nancy Ryther (884-8324)



Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

When: January 25, 6 p.m.

Where: Loughran's Restaurant

Next: "The Curious Incident of the
Dog in the Night-time"

by Mark Haddon

Facilitator: Karen Howard

Next: "Burglars Can't be Choosers"

By Lawrence Bloch

Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)



Group: Dinner by the Book

When: January 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Plaka's Restaurant,
2904 Delaware Ave.,
Kenmore



Topic: "Atonement" by Ian McEwan

Facilitator: Leona Barback

Reserve: Fran Witnauer (837-5887 or
856-3150w)

Fwitnauer@buffaloplace.com

Next: "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter"

By Carson McCullers

Group: Great Decisions Discussion Group

Will not be meeting in January.

Group: The Green Thumbs (gardening)

When: January 13, 7 p.m.

Where: Julia B. Reinstein Library,
1030 Losson Road, Cheektowaga

Contact: Janet Fowler (884-8698)

Janalanf@aol.com



Group: Knitting Group

When: January 24, 7-9 p.m.

Where: Stonegate Clubhouse,
Wherle Drive, Williamsville

Contact: Adrienne Kotler (688-0740)

Support our Interest and Study Groups

(Muse continued from page 11)

the afterlife. Dorothea Brooke married an aging scholar to become wise herself, only to discover she cannot learn from her husband and becomes in her words, "a foundress of nothing".

Woolf however gives the situation a positive spin "Books continue each other." Consider temporary fiction by women "as if it were the last volume in a fairly long series." Unlike Barrett Browning, who once lamented that she looked "everywhere for (poetic) grandmothers, and found none", contemporary writers have a tradition.

Preparing for Next Book Sale

The Book Sale Committee has been receiving many, many boxes of books for the May 31, 2006 book sale. Our storage places are getting full. Let us know if you have a place to store boxes of books, even if you only have room for 10 boxes. Do you have a double garage and only one car in the wintertime? We prefer to store the boxes at ground level so we do not have to carry them up or down in the spring.

We would really like to find some more businesses that will donate storage space. Do you know of a business that will give us a room for storage? Please ask around and remind the business that they would

be donating space to the AAUW Educational Foundation, which is a tax-exempt organization.

We are sorting the books throughout the year so we do not have to spend so much time doing so at the book sale site. By removing the books we will not be able to sell, we will have fewer boxes to move to the site also. We plan to sort books at the Waters in East Aurora the second and fourth Fridays of the month beginning January 13, 2006. After sorting from 9:30 am -12:30 pm, we will go for lunch (optional) at one of the delightful eateries in East Aurora. Call Judy Weidemann (655-3649) with your reservation. If you would like to carpool, call Adrienne Kotler (688-0740) or Cathy Weiss (688-6181). The group that went out in December had a lot of fun.

Let us know if you are available to pick up books when people call to make a donation. You do not need to have a truck or van. Sometimes they only have a few boxes. We also need help packing books at libraries. May we call on you?

Be sure to mark the 2006 Book Sale on your calendar now - May 31, 2006 to June 4, 2006.

Mary Kellner
Cathy Weiss
Book Sale Co-chairs

Muse and Minerva

By Marguerite Collesano

As much as the 19th Century was an age when women asserted their political and social rights, it was indeed a golden age for Women's Literature. Jane Austin, Charlotte and Emily Brontë and George Elliot, each one acclaimed by Virginia Woolf as the "four great novelists", were all 19th Century artists.

When I begin to think about what to write each month, I reflect back to Tamara Brown's pondering request "I want to know more about Jane Austin?" that is (I'm assuming) how is it that these writers are so revered? Why is their work so lasting? Their work is part of the cannon and the media productions of their stories are retold year after year. Of course, this small column can only present a hint to the reasons why their works speak to us today.

The novels they created are only a part of the interest we have for these writers. For me, it is the reality of their daily lives that lends to the enduring respect and fascination I have for these great writers of the Victorian Era.

Virginia Woolf asserts passionately that women writers were unavoidably affected by the strain of living and working within the aesthetic assumptions of male writers. "What genius, what integrity it must have required in face of all the criticism, in the midst of that purely patriarchal society to hold fast to

the thing as they saw it without shrinking. Only Jane Austin did it and Emily Brontë... They wrote as women write, not as men write." (*A Room of One's Own*)

Measured by male's achievements, the women writers experienced anxiety about their "literary authority." Even the greats, like Charlotte and Emily Brontë, and Marian Evans had to publish their works under male pseudonyms (respectively, Currer and Ellis Bell, and George Elliot). Poets like Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Emily Dickinson and Christina Rossetti had to withdraw from the public world. Dickinson refused to publish.

And they were so humble - Jane Austin defined herself "the most unlearned and uninformed female who ever dared to be an authoress."

Writing in a social setting that insisted that a lady was supposed to be an angel in the house, she could not allow herself to make the kinds of self confident claims for her own creativity that empowered her male contemporaries. (*Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*, 1985)

Have the great novelists frustrated contemporary feminists? Well, YES! Woolf was not happy when the heroines were often compromised. Catherine Earnshaw can only live her passion in

(Continued on page 11)

Mark Your Calendar Now

**The American Association of University Women
Buffalo Branch
presents**

THE FIFTH ANNUAL DISCUSSION

on

WOMEN'S RIGHT'S

In Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the

Founding

of

The United Nations

International women's Day Celebration

Reception and Dinner

Samuel's Grande Manor

8750 Main Street

Clarence, New York

6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

You will enjoy our outstanding and knowledgeable speakers. The meeting is open to the public and we encourage you to bring guests and friends.

January ¡Adelante!Book Selection

Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich (2001). In a portrait of the working poor, the author moves from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, taking a variety of jobs for poverty-level wages. She discovers that even the lowliest jobs require exhausting efforts and that you need two if you want to live indoors.

BOOK SALE SURVEY

Almost 50 AAUW Buffalo Branch members returned the Book Sale survey that was in the September Newsletter. It is not surprising that every single person who answered the survey said, "Yes, we should continue the Book Sale". Some even said that the scope of the Sale should be widened if the personnel was available to handle it.

All agreed that the good that the Sale does is helping us become even more widely recognized in the community. Even more important, it was mentioned over and over that we perform a very valuable service in making new and used books available to the community at a good price.

Some very good suggestions came from the survey. For example it was suggested that the Sale be called the AAUW Buffalo

Branch Scholarship Book Sale. It was also suggested that the tables be moved in earlier for ease in sorting. The survey results have been compiled and the steering committee will be looking over the results carefully.

The main result of the survey is that the membership is firmly behind the Book Sale. It was also recognized that it is not appropriate that just a few members put in many, many hours. The work needs to be spread throughout the Branch. This means that many more members will need to participate in the Sale in a significant way. The Newsletter will keep members informed of the opportunities to help with the Book Sale from now through the Book Sale week. With the help of all of you the Sale will become stronger and better than ever!

Judy Weidemann

Sympathy

Jan Vine's 99 year old mother died in St. Peter's Hospital, Albany, NY early on the morning of December 8, 2005. We send our sympathy to Jan. Jan's address for condolences is :

Jan Vine
14 Pinewood Avenue
Delmar, NY, 12054

ANNOUNCEMENT- Emergency Fund

AAUW's Educational Foundation includes an emergency fund to aid students facing immediate educational-related emergencies.

Definition of "emergency": short term, immediate needs where the situation and timing may not fit with established programs, such as the Chamberlain loan fund. (A dire circumstance is not necessarily an emergency.)

Examples of Emergencies:

Death/ illness

Loss of equipment critical to study

Funding must address the need positively so that situation is alleviated.

Funding is one-time; no repeat funding is allowed. Repayment is not required.. Awards range from \$100-\$500 (Money not used by year end will be returned to general EF fund with goal of re-allocation in the next year, providing availability of funds.)

Funding is open to women pursuing educational goals (individuals, not groups). Women do not need to be a member of AAUW in order to receive emergency funding.

AAUW members may suggest referrals for consideration. Members may be personally familiar with the situation or be aware of

situation through community involvement, social service agencies, etc. Because of limited funding, referrals are not accepted from non-AAUW members. Candidates from the Chamberlain interviews (or other programs) may be referred. A short letter describing the need and the facts regarding the current situation is required.

If you become aware of an emergency situation, please contact Eloise Moran or

Tamara Brown.

International Relations Group

The International Relations Committee will resume meetings in February. If you would like to join Isabel Marcus and the Global Issues group as they discuss issues related to women across the globe, please e-mail imarcus@acsu.buffalo.edu. Meetings are held at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst.

Need Contact Information?

Remember: Contact information for all board members and state representatives, and branch members can always be found in the roster which all members should have received last month. Please contact Freddie Cheek if you did not receive your roster.