

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



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Upcoming Events

December 7: Board Meeting

December 10: Humorous Holiday
Luncheon

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

December 2005

December Program

Ho, Ho, Ho! A Humorous Holiday Luncheon



December 10

Salvatore's Italian Gardens

Transit & Genesee in Depew



Featuring Comedy Diva Christine O'Leary

Bring your favorite jokes!

\$25 per person

Reservations must be received by December

Call Diane Silvestro at 631-3349 to RSVP

December Program information on page 3 reservation form on page 11

President's Message

Fifty years ago, this month, a single act of defiance by a young woman in Alabama provided an impetus for what is commonly regarded as the "modern" civil rights movement.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus upon demands of the bus driver. Her refusal and subsequent arrest sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott on December 5, lasting 381 days.



It was not her first challenge to the unfair system. Twelve years prior, Mrs. Parks had been forced off a bus by the same driver for refusing to adhere to the practice of paying the driver, then getting off the bus to reboard through the back door. Nor was Mrs. Parks the first person to refuse to give up her seat. Fifteen year-old Claudette Colvin had been arrested eight months before for the same offense. Mary Louise Smith was also arrested in October of the same year. However, the combination of her moral character, quiet reserve, and what some would term savvy

Deadline for the January issue is December 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 January issue.

provided a fitting answer to the call of a time finally come.

A need....Preparation....The right moment....Action.

Mrs. Parks spent a great portion of the remainder of her life providing opportunities to motivate young people to reach their highest potential through a model of quiet strength.

Last month, Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was laid to rest at the age of 92. Her legacy of quiet dignity, strength, and commitment remains. May we all be so inspired to act as a catalyst in our own unique way.

Over the next few months, AAUW members will be asked to commit our time and talents to create opportunities

(Continued on page 3)



BUFFALO BRANCH NEWSLETTER is published monthly as a bulletin of events for members and as an update on AAUW issues and programs.
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Editors: B. Krist & B Preble
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Ho Ho Ho Holiday Reservation Form

For reservations, call Diane Silvestro at 631-3349 or email belvoir6@hotmail.com
Make checks payable to "AAUW Buffalo Branch" and mail to Diane Silvestro, 6 Belvoir Road, Williamsville, NY 14221-3614. **Payment must be received by December 1, 2005**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

Please reserve _____ seats at the luncheon for me,. My (our) menu choices are:

Amount enclosed: _____

Cost: \$25 per person

Menu choices:

- Fresh Salmon poached and served with a lobster dill sauce
- Chicken Wellington, chicken breast stuffed with wild rice, mushrooms, wrapped in a flaky pastry and baked
- Penne Ala Roma, sautéed in olive oil, wild mushrooms, garlic, onion, tomatoes, artichokes, basil and spices.

RESERVATION FORM FOR LAF HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

Pickup at the Holiday Luncheon December 10th at Salvatore's

Simply Certificates \$25 each Quantity Requested _____ X 25 = \$ _____

Poinsettias:

- 4 ½" \$ 4.00 X _____ (Number requested) = \$ _____
- 6 ½-7" \$ 7.00 X _____ (Number requested) = \$ _____
- 8" \$ 13.00 X _____ (Number requested) = \$ _____
- 10" \$ 23.00 X _____ (Number requested) = \$ _____

Total order \$ _____

Deadline November 26th for reservation and payment

Make checks Payable to AAUW-LAF
Return reservations and payment to
Sharon Pilarski, 23 Fairway Lane, Depew, New York, 14043
Call 651-0663 if you have questions

(Muse Continued from page 9)

Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) was a child prodigy, who studied Latin and English grammar under her father's tutelage. Well-educated, she was able to support her family upon the death of her father. Situated in various experimental schools in and around Boston and Providence, Fuller became a regular of a small bond of thinkers including Thoreau, Emerson and Whitman. Later known as the Transcendentalists, they met in each other's homes, as well as in favorite bookstores. In the succeeding years, Fuller became the first self-supporting American woman journalist.

She wrote these words in her book, *Women in the Nineteenth Century* (1845):

"Many women are considering within themselves what they need and what they have not... Women must leave off asking (men) of being taught and led by men... and being influenced by them, but retire within themselves and explore the groundwork of life..."

They need ... a much greater range of occupation than they now have, to raise their latent powers..."

Her book became a classic of American feminism which directly influenced the Seneca Falls movement.

Education and Equity

Education issues are a major focus for AAUW. As we heard from Buffalo Schools Superintendent Williams at the opening meeting in September, Buffalo schools face an uphill battle in getting our students appropriate access to challenging education, i.e. AP courses in Buffalo high schools, as well as meeting expected learning standards. The hurricane disasters illuminated the need to have public education make herculean efforts to make sure that children's education is as uninterrupted as possible. Higher education suffered as well in these disasters. Our branch members reached out to the Mobile Alabama Branch by making a donation so that they could continue to help their community recover from the hurricane disaster. Buffalo Branch members are active in so many ways that impact education, including but not exclusive to our efforts to have the successful book sale scholarship fund raiser every year.

I hope to put together a committee after January to discuss education issues that we can identify and work on for the next year and a half of my term as Equity Chair. If you are interested in participating please call me at 885-2486, or e-mail me at jhnsn@buffalo.edu

Stacey Johnson

(President's Message continued from page 2)

for education and equity. Please consider your answer to that call.

Until next year, have a blessed, peaceful, relaxing holiday season.

Looking forward to seeing you at the humorous holiday celebration.

-Tamara

Ho, Ho, Ho! A Humorous Holiday Luncheon Make Your Reservation Today!



Join AAUW Buffalo Branch at Salvatore's Italian Gardens on Saturday, December 10 for "**Ho! Ho! Ho! A Humorous Holiday Luncheon.**" Tickets are \$25 and may be reserved by sending in the reservation form on page 11 in this newsletter. Deadline to reserve your seat is December 1, 2005.

In these turbulent times, we need a



good laugh more than ever. That's why I've arranged for one of the funniest people I know to entertain us

at our holiday luncheon. **Christine O'Leary** comes from Portland, Maine and has been honing her comedic skills for the past 3 years at various venues in New England. A former social worker, she is following her passion to be a professional comedian and has appeared at fundraisers, corporate events, in comedy clubs and on TV. Bring your best jokes, and Christine will help you to "tell it funny."

This is a great time to relax with friends and just enjoy each other's company. Tables for 8 are available if you want to come with a group. And don't forget to order your poinsettias, which benefit the LAF.

Susan Clements, VP Program



Hoops! UB Women's Basketball

**Group Outing
Save the Date:**

February 8, 7:00 p.m.

Join AAUW Buffalo Branch for a group outing to see a UB Women's Basketball Team vs. Central Michigan on February 8, 2005. We are working with the UB Women's Athletic Department to celebrate Girls & Women in Sports Day. More details to come in the next newsletter!

Help Make a Difference

December brings our year to a close. As it does, we become contemplative of what the year has meant to us. At the same time, we also look forward to what the New Year will bring. Much of this will be beyond our control and left to the vagaries of life. On the other hand, we have control over many of the choices we make. We can make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others.

December is a month in which gift giving is heralded. As the year draws to a close, we give added attention to contributing to the charities of our choice. I would like you to give serious consideration to making the Legal Advocacy Fund a charity of your choice.

Since its inception in 1881, AAUW has worked for equity in education. As women entered the job market, AAUW worked to promote equity within the labor force. As it became obvious that equity would not be truly achieved without pursuing it through the legal system, the Legal Advocacy Fund was born. Twenty-four years have passed. Progress has been made. However, our job has not been completed. Equity is still an issue. Money will be needed to make it a reality. Support women who are fighting discrimination in higher education. The power is in your purse!

You can help LAF and solve some Holiday shopping problems at the same time. A contribution to LAF would be the perfect gift, make checks out to AAUW LAF and mail them to me. Or contribute by participating in the two fundraisers we are sponsoring. See order form on page 11.

Sharon Pilarski

Book Sale Update

The annual Book Sale doesn't officially begin until May 31, 2006 but we are hard at work in preparation. You won't believe all the boxes of books we have already sorted that are stored in Marion Fay's garage! Thanks to all who gathered at her house on some beautiful fall days. We brought our lunch and enjoyed socializing. If the weather holds, we will also be sorting at Jean Hubbard's house before Thanksgiving.

Judy Weidemann has arranged for us to sort books at The Waters in East Aurora Tuesday, November 29, 2005 beginning at 9:30 am. We plan to go to lunch at the Ivy Cottage in Wales Center. Carpooling to East Aurora would be a good idea. The Lord Amherst parking lot on Main Street or Transitown Plaza at Main and Transit have been suggested as meeting places. Call Co-Chairs Mary Kellner (741-8127) or Cathy Weiss (688-6181) if you can come sort books, if you need directions, if you would like to carpool, or if you need a reservation for lunch.

This is a great way to get acquainted with other AAUW members. If you miss the November luncheon, we will be going back to The Waters another time. It is vital that all members give more time behind the scenes in preparation for the next sale. If you would be willing to look up "specially priced" books online at home, we have several boxes already.

Velma Cobb

Velma Cobb applications will be distributed to Erie County High School Counselors by December 1, 2005. If you know any High School Seniors interested in this scholarship, tell them to contact the guidance councilor at their school.

Muse and Minerva

By Marguerite Collesano

Seneca Falls, 1848, a milestone historical event occurred when women's rights advocates drafted a manifesto, *The Declaration of Sentiments*. Decades before, women had been speaking and writing their way into the public sphere, and with this declaration they asserted their right to vote!

Beginning in the 1830's American women were intensely active in the struggle for emancipation and argued their right to speak in public places. Maria Weston Chapman's poem, *The Times that try Men's Souls*, exclaims mockingly...

(women have)... taken a
notion to speak for themselves,
and are wielding the tongue
and the pen;

they've mounted the
rostrum;
the termagant elves,
and – oh horrid! Are talking
to men!

Sojourner Truth (c.1797-1883) was one of the most effective orators of her time. Born into slavery, in New York, she was called Isabella. After she fled to freedom in 1827, she took the last name of the family that protected her, Van Wagener, and settled, as a domestic servant, in New York. There she also worked with an evangelical preacher. In 1843, she traveled alone on tours and became "Sojourner Truth". She spoke for oppressed people with humor and courage, as evident in the story of her response to allegations that she was a man.

"Well, children where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights... That man says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches... Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! I have ploughed and planted,... I could work as much and eat as much as a man and bear the lash as well... I have borne thirteen children, and seen them most all sold off to slavery...

(Continued on page 10)

(Diversity continued from page 7)

In the spirit of DIVERSITY, we sometimes do not think of “disability” as a category to include within “diversity.” It is the hope of current interested members to foster a discussion and action plan on how to include this segment of society as members of our local branch.

Some “food for thought” may be found at the AAUW National web site www.aauw.org. Visit this site for other useful and important facts and information.

by Sylvia Volk, Chair

October Board Meeting Highlights.

Legal Advocacy Fund: Sharon Pilarski updated us on the LAF funding raising efforts which will include: Simply Certificates (for Restaurants) for the cost of \$25 and the sale will begin in November. Further Holiday Plants will be offered again this year with the pick-up at the Holiday Party.

Awards for Girls – Michele Norris updated us that letters went out to the recipients regarding the program on November 20th at Canisius College. She encouraged members to attend. The admissions people from Canisius College will also be in attendance.

2006-2007 Scholarship Committee Charge Tamara Brown updated us that the

Olga Lindberg and Dorothy Payne responsibilities have been outlined. Lyn McDonald has been asked to chair the committee. A motion, by Cathy Weiss and seconded by Judy Malamas, was made to charge the Scholarship Committee. The motion was passed.

Membership Recruitment: The Board voiced its concerns regarding membership retainment. We need to recruit younger members. Update is out on brochure which revised the study and interest groups. We are asking new members for input for meeting and networking venues. Michele Maddox wrote letter to new members for their input. Currently there are 213 paid members.

Welcome New Members

Christine M. Buscaglia
1106 Netherton Ct
East Amherst, NY 14051
Home: 688 2861

Nicole A. Hamm
2727 Christopher Blvd.
Hamburg, NY 14075
Home: 649 5198

Sue Naylor
136 Sky Hi Drive
West Seneca, NY 14224
Home: 675 7428

Knitting Group Selects Community Service Project

This year the knitting group selected hat, scarf and mitten sets as their community service project. The sets will be donated to a family that has been relocated due to the hurricanes or to an inner city elementary school so that the children will be able to participate in recess.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Adrienne Kotler at 688-0740 or aikotler@earthlink.net. or come to the meeting on January 24th.

Kids Voting Thank You

A thank you is in order for Jane Riga, Barb Elmer, Carol Griffith and Suanne Pasquarella (a friend) for volunteering to help with the Kids Voting program at School #81 on Election Day

These women assisted students who came with their parents to cast their own votes for selected candidates. The Kids Voting program consists of classroom civics lessons culminating with the opportunity to cast a Kids Vote on Election Day. This experience could very well make a positive difference in the attitude of these young people when they reach voting age.

Judy Weidemann

A CLASS ACT

Elizabeth Fuller, one of the Buffalo Branch's two Velma Cobb Scholarship winners for 2005 was featured as “An Outstanding Young Western New Yorker” in the *Buffalo News* on November 6, 2005. A 2005 graduate of Clarence High School, she is now a freshman at Boston University.

The Buffalo Branch's Velma Cobb Scholarship program offers a \$1000 scholarship to two western New York High School Girls each year who are outstanding students, not only academically, but also in their school leadership activities and community service.

During her high school years, Elizabeth was involved with Habitat for Humanity, the Clarence Food Pantry, Girls Scouts and the Salvation Army. In school she was involved in numerous sports, and an officer in class organizations and served as president of her high school's chapter of the future Business Leaders of America.

According to the “Class Act” article in the Buffalo News, she has already made an impression in Boston by arriving to school early and helping clear lots for affordable housing and painting fences in poor neighborhoods as part of the school's First Year Student Outreach Project. She also has made the University Women Novice Crew Team at Boston University

Way to go Elizabeth!

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

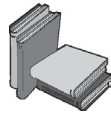
Note: If you are interested in forming a new study group, please contact the study group coordinator

Group: American Biographies

Will not be meeting in December

Next: "*John Muir: Nature's Visionary*"

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



Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

Will not be meeting in December

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

by Mark Haddon



Group: Dinner by the Book

When: December 14, 5:30 p.m.

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

Topic: "*Three Junes*" by Julia Glass

Facilitator: Mary Ann Hope

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

Fwitnauer@buffaloplace.com

Next: "*Atonement*" by Ian McEwan



Group: Gardening

Contact: Janet Fowler
(884-8698)

Janalanf@aol.com



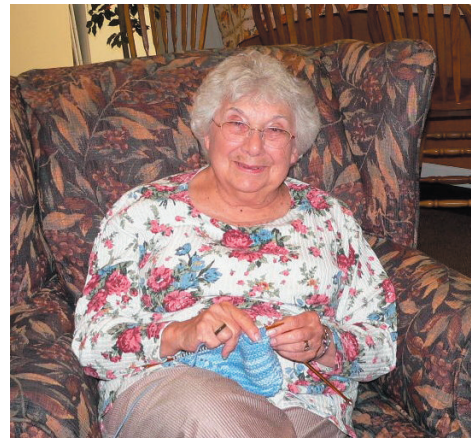
Group: Great Decisions Discussion Group

Will not be meeting in December or January.

Group: Knitting Group

Will not be meeting in December.

Happy holidays!



Photos from the knitting group.

Global Issues

The International Committee will resume sessions focused on Global Issues for Women in February.

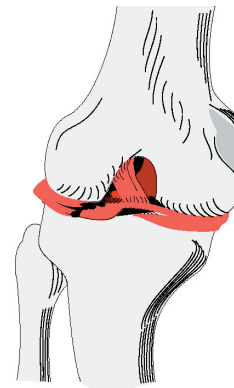
Interested in Mentoring?

The Buffalo Branch is beginning efforts to mentor girls. If you are interested, please e-mail Tamara at TBforAAUW@cs.com.

Save the Date

January 14, 2006

The Care and Keeping of Healthy Joints



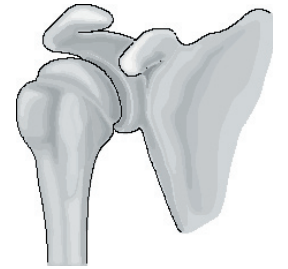
There will be a presentation by the Knee and Hip Center of Kenmore Mercy Hospital on Saturday, January 14, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the subject of "The Care and Keeping of Healthy Joints". A

healthy snack will be served. Location will be the Fellowship Hall, Deerhurst Presbyterian Church, 257 Deerhurst Park Blvd., Kenmore. The presentation will cover 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 of 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. For more information, email Diane Bishop at dbishop@robshawjulian.com.



by Diane Bishop

AAUW-Buffalo Branch Diversity Committee

HEADS UP! Look for the upcoming date in February to attend our joint presentation with St. Augustine Center, Inc. and others of the superb program "From the Souls of Black Folk", performed by six resident members of the Paul Robeson Theater at the downtown Buffalo and Erie County Central Library.

Also, the call for committee participants appeared in our November newsletter and we continue looking for interested members. We also have various members reading the many books from the ¡Adelante! List and we are working on a reading of "To Kill An Indian...." in cooperation with the Erie and Niagara Native American Cultural Center.

(Continued on page 8)