

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



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## ***Upcoming Events***

**October 29:** Tour Frank Lloyd Wright's  
Darwin Martin House

**November 8:** Kids Voting

**November 2:** Board Meeting

**November 14:** Women of the Americas  
Dinner

**November 20 :** College Bound Awards.

**December 7:** Board Meeting

**December 10:** Humorous Holiday  
Luncheon



# Buffalo Branch Newsletter

NYS District 1

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

November 2005



## ***November Program***



American  
Association of  
University  
Women

The Buffalo/Niagara Chapter of the Friends of  
Women's Rights National Park and  
The Association of University Women Buffalo Branch  
Present

### ***“Status of Human Rights for Women of the Americas” Dinner Event***

*Focus on Women of Latin America*

*November 14, 2005*

*Cash Bar: 6:00PM Dinner 6:30 PM*

*Shanghai Red's*

*Templeton Terrace (at foot of Erie Basin Marina)*

*Buffalo, NY*

November Program information *see enclosed invitation*  
December Program information *on page 3 reservation form on page 11*

# President's Message

Greetings, everyone.

Autumn is a bittersweet time for me. I love the change in colors and the start of the crisp- - but hopefully not *too* crisp-- evenings. However, I miss the warm days of summer and being able to tend to my garden. What I won't miss about my gardening Saturdays: the weeds. This year, I had a particularly tough battle with thistle. (I won't say which of us *really* won!)

This summer, in an effort to rid myself of thistle, I tried pulling and chemicals. Thinking that there must be something else to quickly solve the problem, I resorted to a book. (Have you ever noticed that many of us in AAUW turn first to books for answers?) The book told me to pull the weeds and to use chemicals. More interesting, I noted, was the book's definition for weed: *anything that you don't want in your garden.*

What an empowering, liberating thought.... One that meanders its way through my mind back to a conversation with Judy W. on providing girls with *multiple possibilities.* Can you imagine what a difference it makes for a girl or woman to define what's real, appropriate, and possible for herself?

Deadline for the December issue is November 10. Please send articles to Joan Eschner via e-mail at [jmeschner@att.net](mailto:jmeschner@att.net). Articles that are received later than the above date will not appear in the December issue.

I'm pleased to say that the preparation that filled my first months of this branch year has gone well. We've committed ourselves to a plan of work and have appropriated funding for the plan. We've also agreed to bond cooperatively with sister branches to make our district stronger. Along with continuing established programs, we are piloting new endeavors. All of this is purposed to create that difference for women and girls.

Please support this month's activities as you are able; I always enjoy the chance to chat and learn.

-Tamara

### Special Thanks to..

the organizing committee and members who attended the Fall District Conference!



**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 & J. Weidemann  
Publisher: Joan Eschner (655-1322)

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## Reservation Form

For reservations, call Diane Silverstro at 631-3349 or email [belvoir6@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

## Buffalo Branch Supports Sister Branch in Hurricane Katrina Relief

Members of the Buffalo Branch responded quickly to an appeal at the September Potluck and raised slightly over \$1000 to support Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The Mobile, Alabama AAUW Branch is helping to support shelters and provisions for about 2000 people left homeless from the disaster. The Mobile branch is working in conjunction with the Bay Area Women Coalition, a non profit group.

In addition, members also collected clothing that will be provided to hurricane survivors who have relocated to the Buffalo area.

In terms of this partnership with the Mobile AAUW Branch, our members and board felt that it was fitting to support a sister branch's effort. It is no surprise that AAUW members are lending support in that region, and members of the Buffalo branch were generous in support of their efforts. Thank you!

## Need Information?

Remember: Contact information for all board members can be found in the handout provided at the potluck. Also, names and phone numbers can always be found in the roster.

(Amendment Continued from page 9)

them over the objections and veto of the Governor. If approved by the voters this November, this constitutional amendment will allow the legislature more time to review the executive's proposed budget; create a "contingency budget" (essentially the previous year's budget) that automatically kicks in when there is no agreement on a budget at the beginning of the state's fiscal year; and creates a fiscal stabilization fund to boost the amount of funds held in reserve to help pay for school aid.

In addition, if the amendment is approved, the following budget reform legislation will automatically go into effect:

- An Independent Budget Office, with leadership chosen jointly by the legislative leaders, would provide independent fiscal analyses and certify that a contingency budget is balanced. If not, automatic across-the-board reductions (with some exceptions) are put in place.
- The legislature would be allowed to amend the contingency budget subject to the governor's line item veto.
- A two year appropriation for public education would be required.
- Greater budgeting reporting by the executive would be mandated.
- Health Care Reform Act Fund would be placed within the budget.
- The State's fiscal year would begin May 1, not April 1.

This constitutional amendment and auxiliary legislation is supported by NYS/AAUW, Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, and the New York Public Interest Research Group. It would bring New York in line with procedures in most of the other states.

## Welcome New Members

### **Karen Bartkowiak Peffer**

90 Cheltenham Drive, Buffalo, NY 14216  
874 9815

### **Linda E Williams**

1416 Foggy Glen CT, Silver Spring, MD  
20906

### **Yvonne Curry**

172 Hamlin Rd., Buffalo, NY 14208  
882 1704

### **Krista Johnson**

34 Rana Ct., Buffalo, NY 14221  
689 1802

### **Diane Gayles**

209 LaSalle Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214  
834 9579

### **Jennifer E. Gayles**

29 Benwood Avenue #49, Buffalo, NY 14214  
837 3450

### **Diane J Eckert**

215 Huntington Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214  
837 7641

### **Grace Little**

153 Forest Edge Drive, East Amherst, NY 14051  
689 3826

### **Oluwatosin Kolade**

70 B Embassy Square Apt 2, Tonawanda NY 14150  
629 3990

### **Janet C. Helfrich**

246 Washington Hwy, Snyder, NY 14226  
839 2066

### **Kristin Nesbitt**

646 Delaware Road, Buffalo, NY 14223  
873 0736

## November Program

Please see enclosed invitation

## December Program

### HO! HO! HO!

## A Humorous Holiday Luncheon

Join AAUW Buffalo Branch for a hilarious holiday event with food, friends and fun on Saturday, December 10, 2005 at

Salvatore's Italian Gardens,  
6461 Transit Road. Depew, NY - 12 Noon.  
Cost is \$25.00 per person.



Get ready to laugh, because we are going to be entertained in style by Christine O'Leary, Comedy Diva from Portland Maine. Previously a social worker,

Christine decided to pursue her dream of being a professional comedienne, and has performed for numerous corporate and nonprofit clients throughout the New England area. In 2003 she was voted "Portland's Funniest Professional," and has spent the last summer doing standup

comedy in the resort town of Ogunquit, Maine. Bring your best jokes, too - Christine will help you access "your inner comedienne!"

About Christine:

- Winner of "Portland's Funniest Professional" comedy contest
- Learned very early to consider 2 or more people "an audience"
- Lifelong motto: "Everyone's entitled to a Christine O'Leary show"
- As a little girl, made everyone laugh at marriage encounter family workshops and cookouts
- Voted most dramatic and funniest in junior high school
- Did public speaking and emceed benefits and festivals in the New England area
- Identified as social-working sweetheart
- Has been back to the comedic well 20+ times - the Motherland, Ireland (good craigh)
- Had life changing moment - met Tim Ferrell
- Was transformed from "steal the show at the cocktail party girl," to working comedienne

For reservations, call Diane Silverstro 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.



## Sister -to- Sister

The 9th Annual Sister to Sister Summit for Girls is being planned. The date is Sat. March 25, 2006. The place, as always, is Buffalo State College. Any AAUW members who are interested in helping with this great project can contact Sue Oliver at 652 1230 or [gsoliver@worldnet.att.net](mailto:gsoliver@worldnet.att.net).

We need people to help on the committee for the Summit, on the committee for the Mentoring Event, and we also need Board members. According to our bylaws we need to have at least 3 AAUW Buffalo Branch members at all times. At present we have Carol Griffith, Susan Clements, Peggy Meinl, and Sue Oliver on the Board. We would love to have more members of the branch involved in this great project!

### Public Policy Meeting

The Public Policy Committee will meet on Monday, November 7 at Perkins Restaurant, 8444 Transit Rd. Amherst, NY. at 5:30 PM. Planning for the March 8, 2006 International Women's Day Celebration will continue. All members are welcome. For further information call Cathy Weiss at 688-6181 or Judy Weidemann at 655-3649.

### Kids Voting

There is still time to volunteer for Kids Voting on Election Day, November 8, 2005. The Buffalo Branch is responsible for Kids Voting at School 81, 140 Tacoma Street in Buffalo. Call Judy Weidemann at 655-3649 if you can volunteer for a few hours.

## To All New Buffalo Branch AAUW Members

You will be receiving both an e-mail and a letter in the near future. The Membership Recruitment/Retention Committee is interested in knowing your interests as well as inviting you to join in meeting other new members. Please take a moment to complete and return the new member survey.

Michele Maddox and Beverly Schwiergerling

### Book Sale Survey

The good news is that replies to the Book Sale Survey which was in the September Newsletter were insightful and full of good suggestions. The bad news is that only 18 were received. We need the input and interest of all to make our Book Sale truly successful. Additional blank copies of the survey will be available at all the programs in the near future. Please take the time to fill one out if you haven't done so.

### Condolences to the Family and Friends of Yvette Goodloe

Buffalo Branch members were saddened to learn of the death of Yvette Goodloe on September 25, 2005. Yvette was an active member of the branch and a good friend to many members. She will be missed. Our sympathy goes to her husband, Dr. Samuel Goodloe, Jr., her two children and her grandchildren.

## International News

On October 7, 2005, the Senate of the United States of America gave its advice and consent to ratification of the *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*. This trafficking in persons (TIP) protocol is a component of the worldwide effort to combat modern-day slavery. It seeks to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and promote anti-trafficking cooperation among nations.

After the protocol has been signed by President Bush, it must be counter-signed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice before being deposited at the United Nations.

The entire protocol may be found at: [http://www.uncjin.org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/final\\_documents\\_2/convention\\_%20traff\\_eng.pdf](http://www.uncjin.org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/final_documents_2/convention_%20traff_eng.pdf)

-taken from release published by The Academy for Educational Development [[www.aed.org](http://www.aed.org); [www.humantrafficking.org](http://www.humantrafficking.org)]

## International Relations Group

The International Relations Committee will have its last discussion for 2005 on Wednesday, November 9. Join Isabel Marcus and the Global Issues group as they discuss issues related to women across the globe. The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst.

## An Invitation

The Skaneateles AAUW Branch has invited members of the Buffalo Branch to **Celebrating Women in Art**, to be held on Sunday, November 13, from 1:00 - 6:00, at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Skeateateles. The annual show will feature over fifty area artists (works in oils, watercolors, sculptures, photography, fabric art, furniture, jewelry, pottery), and many items will be for sale. If you're in the area, members of the Skaneateles Branch would love the opportunity to meet fellow AAUW members.

## November Ballot: New York State Constitutional Amendment

Off the books budgeting, of which the Health Care Reform Act is the largest, mask the true level of state authorized and imposed receipts and spending, resulting in a loss of accountability to policymakers and taxpayers. Also, there is currently no failsafe in place in the event that the two branches of the legislature and the governor cannot agree on a new budget in a timely manner. When New York State's budget is not passed on time, school districts and local governments must guess at how much aid they will receive and borrow money in the meantime.

After twenty years of late budgets, this year the Republican-controlled State Senate and the Democratic-controlled State Assembly agreed to a package of budget reforms and passed

*(Amendment Continues on page 10)*

## Highlights from the September 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting:

- 2004-2005 Programs: Susan Clements outlined and presented the 2005-2006 Programs with the following change: Equity for Women Brunch is postponed until next year and replaced with "Osteoporosis and Joint Health" to be presented January 14, 2006. The December Holiday Gathering will be held at Salvatores and Susan is trying to secure a comedian for our entertainment. Tech Savvy Girls Program initial plan is developing well. Other possible events will be Shakespeare in the Park and Computer Tips & Tricks.
- Membership Count Update: Freddie Cheek reported that the current membership is: 145 Branch members; 17 Honorary Lifetime Members; 4 Friends of the Branch; 13 Lifetime Members; 3 Dual Members, Primary; 4 Dual Members, Secondary; 3 Student Affiliates which totals 189 members.
- Publicity: Kristen Bojanowski distributed recent press releases for the Potluck Dinner and the Darwin Martin House event. Uncrowned Queens will publicize the Seneca Falls trip. The Downtown Post Office Box will be the official Branch P.O. Box. It is P.O. Box 311, Buffalo, NY 14201-0311. Other P.O. boxes are used for specific purposes. It was agreed that all Press Releases should be sent out to the publicity chair only (Kristen), and a policy should be written to clarify this.

Kristen is also looking for reporters.

- Study Group - Gardening: Janet Fowler handed out a description for a new study group. The Gardening Group would meet every second Thursday with the first meeting scheduled for October 13th.

## College Bound Awards

The College Bound event is a first-time event by our scholarship committee. We will present AAUW's new College Bound Awards to our winners, who are 7th and 8th grade girls in the Buffalo Public Schools on November 20, 2005. The girls and their guests are invited along with any AAUW members who would like to attend. It is a free event.

We are also inviting members to bring any girl they know who is in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grades. All is free of course. We must have a response from all attendees. Those interested should contact Michelle Norris at 877-5484.

The location of this event is the Faculty Dining Room in the Canisius College Student Center that is on Hughes Avenue. Walk, turning left down Jefferson Avenue immediately past the College toward downtown and then turn immediately left turn onto Hughes Avenue. It is suggested that attendees park at the meters on Main Street as there is no parking fee on Sundays.

## Please Contribute to the Legal Advocacy Fund

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (a program of the AAUW Educational Foundation) is supporting *Doe v. Berry College*, a case in which a student at Berry College is suing the school in violation of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. The law states that when put on notice of sex harassment and assault, schools have a legal responsibility to remedy the situation.

The attorney representing the plaintiff stated, "This case at a small college in Georgia is indicative of the problem of sexual harassment and assault on college campuses across the country. Holding Berry College accountable under the law will demonstrate that Georgia is serious about equal educational opportunities for all."

Doe alleges that a male student of the college sexually assaulted her in the fall of 2001. After following the instructions of campus police and reporting the incident as directed in the school's policy on harassment and assault, Doe claims that nothing was done by Berry College to remedy the situation. Doe returned from studying abroad in 2004, and reported that the male student then attacked, tortured, and raped her.

Students have a right to pursue their education without fear of sexual harassment and assault. We hope that Berry College will rise to the challenge of the law and begin to create a harassment-free campus.

You can help LAF and solve some Holiday shopping problems at the same time. A contribution to LAF would be the perfect gift. LAF is also doing 2 fundraisers - selling \$25 Simply Certificates (\$2.50 goes to LAF) a perfect gift, good at 150 Merchants, restaurants, ski resorts, and golf courses.

**Poinsettias will also be for sale. Reserve now, pickup at the Holiday lunch.**  
**4 ½" pots \$4.00; 6 ½-7" - \$7.00; 8"- \$13 and 10" \$23.00.**



Deadline November 24<sup>th</sup> for reservations and payment for both. Call Sharon Pilarski at 651-0663 or email [sapfair@adelphia.net](mailto:sapfair@adelphia.net) to put in your order.

## Calling All Those Interested in Diversity:

The AAUW-Buffalo Branch Diversity Committee is looking for interested members to draft a proposal for use of the National "Diversity Tool Box" exercises during branch meetings in order to highlight the diversity of the Buffalo Branch members and its future membership. If you are interested in meeting during the month of November, please e-mail Sylvia Volk, Diversity Chair, at [artisans\\_company@yahoo.com](mailto:artisans_company@yahoo.com) and also let me know what day and time of the week would be most convenient for you.

Sylvia Volk

## 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](mailto:jbarber@btattys.com)

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

### Group: Great Decisions Discussion Group

When: November 3, at 1:30 p.m.  
Where: Unitarian Universalist Church, Main Street, 1/2 mile east of Youngs Road  
Topic: "Freshwater and Foreign Policy: New challenges" by P. Gleick  
Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

### Group: American Biographies

When: November 8, 1:30 p.m.  
Where: Eggertsville Library, 4622 Main St. at Burroughs, parking on Burroughs  
Book: "Talking Back" by Andrea Mitchell  
Leader: Nancy Ryther  
Contact: Mary Fiore (886-6727)  
[fioreme@buffalostate.edu](mailto:fioreme@buffalostate.edu)  
Note: No December meeting

### Group: Gardening

When: November 10, at 7 p.m.  
Where: TBA  
Contact: Janet Fowler (884-8698)  
[Janalanf@aol.com](mailto:Janalanf@aol.com)



### Group: Dinner by the Book

When: November 16 at 5:30 p.m.  
Where: Plaka's Restaurant, 2904 Delaware Ave., Kenmore  
Topic: *The First Desire*, by Nancy Reisman  
Facilitator: Marilyn Carmichael  
Reserve: Fran Witnauer (837-5887 or 856-3150w)



[Fwitnauer@buffaloplace.com](mailto:Fwitnauer@buffaloplace.com)

Next Book: *Three Junes* by Julia Glass

### Group: Knitting Group

When: 4th Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.  
Where: Clubhouse, 4100 Stonegate Ln. behind Wherle Golf Dome  
Contact: Adrienne Kotler (688-0740)  
[aikotler@earthlink.net](mailto:aikotler@earthlink.net)

### Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

When: November 30, at 6 p.m.  
Where: Loughran's Restaurant, Main Street, near Harlem  
Book: *Pub books* by Martha Grimes  
Facilitator: Stacy Johnson  
Reserve: Sue Grossman (837-8769)  
Note: No December meeting



Support a  
Study  
Group

## Muse and Minerva

By Marguerite Collesano

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797) and Phillis Wheatley (c 1753-1784) lived and wrote during the historical era of transition that became known as the Age of Enlightenment (1500-1800). New technology and improved methods of research led to an explosion of knowledge. Philosophers applied scientific principles to the study of government and society. They thought that people should use reason to free themselves from ignorance and superstition and such enlightened people could perfect themselves and society.

Okay – I can't escape my training as an Historian – Perspective + Context = Understanding

Phillis Wheatley's African name is unknown. She probably came from the area known as Senegal or Gambia at about the age of seven, when she was purchased directly off a slave ship in Boston by a wealthy tailor, John Wheatley, in 1761. She became the personal servant of Mrs. Susannah Wheatley and because of her precocity was treated well, by the standards of the time. She learned English quickly, studied Latin, as well as the *Bible* and English poetry. In 1773, she was sent to England with the Wheatley's sons and there her only book, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious & Moral*, was published. She returned to Boston and was freed upon the death of the Wheatleys.

An excerpt from a poem to William Earl of Dartmouth, (appointed secretary in charge of the American Colonies in 1772) reveals her feelings on human freedom:

Should you, my lord, while you peruse my  
song,  
Wonder from whence my love of Freedom  
sprung,  
Whence flow these wishes for the common  
good,  
By feeling hearts alone best understood,  
I, young in life, by seeming cruel fate,  
Was snatched from Afric's fancied happy seat:  
What pangs excruciating must molest,  
What sorrows labour in my parents' breast?  
Steeled was that soul and by no misery moved  
That from a father seized his babe beloved:  
Such, such my case. And can I then but pray  
Others may never feel tyrannic sway?

•••

"It is time to effect a revolution in female manners – time to restore to them their lost dignity – make them, as part of the human species, labour by reforming themselves to reform the world". This quote should inspire one to read about the life of Mary Wollstonecraft and read her most famous book, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792). (Or at least excerpts from same, the Introduction and Chapter II)

Mary was an independent woman who left home at the age of 19. She was self-taught and throughout her life helped women in abusive and tyrannical familial situations. She earned a living writing essays for review associated with the revolutionary movements in France and America.

Considering her outrage for the wrongs inflicted upon women, her writing is witty, and enjoyable to read.