



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

NYS District 1

# Buffalo Branch Advocate

December 2006  
<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>  
716-559-3037



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## December Branch Program

**Diva-by-Diva performance by O'Connell & Co.**

**Cabaret in the Square Theatre**

**Monday December 11, 2006, 7:30 P.M. (note-NOT Wed, Dec 13)**

Tickets are \$18.00 for members, \$20.00 for others.

Snyder Square - 4476 Main Street ( corner of Main and Harlem Rd.)

Reservation deadline December 6, 2006 (form on pg 15)

This production of Diva-by-Diva will be produced especially for AAUW. It's possible some of our members will be a part of the cast, and Mary-Kate O'Connell will weave AAUW into a portion of the show. We encourage you to bring guests. We are committed to selling 50 tickets. The house can hold up to 95. No actual tickets are given out. It is open seating. Your name will be on a list at the door. Seats will be sold on a first come basis so get your checks in early, before the December 6th deadline. We look forward to an evening of fun and laughter.



There is a restaurant at Snyder Square called Cafe-in-the-Square where you might consider having dinner before the show. Call them at 839-5330 for separate reservations if you choose to do that.

Read more about the production at <http://www.oconnellandcompany.com/diva.html>.

Coming in **January**—a breakfast meeting with a presentation on the needs of and services available for elderly women. (See details on pg 15)

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## Presidents' Message

Every year we say we cannot believe it is the Holiday season already. Where has the year gone?! We are always on a treadmill and I am a prime example. One day I counted 17 volunteer positions I had. Needless to say, as Co-President this year, some of those have had to go. I need to find "quiet time" this month for reflection and not get caught up in the commercialism.

Of course, we will be out purchasing "educational" toys for children and grandchildren, but I hope you will remember what the season is really about and not let stress take over. One way to relieve seasonal stress is to come to the production of "Diva by Diva, A Celebration of Women" on December 11 at the Cabaret in the Square Theatre. O'Connell & Co. is performing the show that night just for our AAUW branch. Please invite your friends to come along, too. Mid-way through the month, we will all benefit from some light-hearted comedy, I am sure.

At this time of year, we tend to reflect on our lives and where we are headed. We think about what we have accomplished this year and look to the New Year- 2007. The theme of the District 1 Conference this fall was "Initiating Positive Societal Through Lifelong Learning." I hope I will always be able to enrich my life by learning new things. I was retired before I learned to do step aerobics and kick boxing. Now I look forward to my time at the BAC each week. I play in a handbell choir at church and just recently learned to play "four-in-hand," two bells in each hand. I am so proud of myself. Wouldn't life be boring if we were not constantly learning!

We have so many opportunities for "lifelong learning." Classes are offered in Adult Education in most school systems. Elderhosteling has become quite popular, involving such things as making maple syrup, playing bridge, hiking, or visiting all parts of the globe. If you have questions about Elderhostels, talk to Maryalice Seagrave, who is an expert. She has taught classes in Elderhosteling

and gone on 25-30 herself.

Check out the Study/ Interest Groups on page 4. This is a wonderful way to try something new and make new friends at the same time. We offer everything from gourmet dining to interesting discussions on books and current events. Think about attending one of the groups this month.

Remember the Annual Scholarship Book Sale, too. You can find books covering every topic imaginable. You can sit in your own living room and meet a new person in a biography, explore a new country, learn a new craft, find a new recipe, listen to music, watch a movie all because of a trip to the book sale. We are sorting books for the next book sale now. When you come to help, you can purchase that special book you might just come across and don't have to wait until May 30. Come and see us on Tuesday mornings at the Kensington Bailey Neighborhood Services Center, 995 Kensington Ave. Members of the Book Sale Executive Committee are there from 9:30-12:30 to explain the process. The building is quite comfortable and the staff very accommodating. You'll have good conversation and a lot of fun.

Have a wonderful Holiday wherever you will be celebrating.

'Til next month, *Mary*

Do you have suggestions for the branch, but maybe are not on the board or a committee where you feel you can share your thoughts? Call us or send a email anytime. We are here to serve you this year as your Co-Presidents.

*Mary Kellner and Judy Malamas*  
(kellneraauw@yahoo.com and  
tsagewood@aol.com)



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## Branch Member in the Spotlight

As I was reading the Fall, 2006 issue of my UB alumni magazine, "UB Today," I was delighted to see a full page picture of Joan Eschner. Joan was featured for her support of the gifted math program at UB. Her friend, Dr. Betty Krist helped found the program in the Graduate School of Education.

Joan received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics in 1994 as an outstanding teacher in the elementary grades. She is retired from teaching 5th grade at West Seneca East Elementary and was the Buffalo Branch newsletter editor and publisher for the last 10 years. Joan remembers working on the 100th anniversary celebration of AAUW, Title IX, Public Policy, the current bylaws, and printing many invitations, programs for events, and the yearly program booklets for the branch. Joan is a valued member of our branch and is currently serving on the board as Bylaws Chairman.

Betty Krist is also a valued member of the Buffalo Branch. She has served several years as College/University Representative, two terms as VP Program and is co-chairing Tech Savvy for a second year. She continues to serve as an assistant editor of the newsletter.

*Mary Kellner*

### Historical Tidbits

In 1964, a high school dropout earned 64 cents for every dollar earned by an individual with at least a high school degree. In 2004, the high school dropout earned only 37 cents for each dollar earned by an individual with more education. (Cecilia Elena Rouse, Princeton University & National Bureau of Economic Research.)



Deadline for the January issue is December 10. Please send articles to Betty Preble via e-mail, [betty6935@adelphia.net](mailto:betty6935@adelphia.net). Articles received after that date will not appear in the next issue.

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

Co-Presidents: Mary Kellner and Judy Malamas  
Publisher/Editor: Betty Preble  
Assistants: Judy Weidemann, Betty Krist, Adrienne Kotler  
Send address changes to:

Freddie Cheek  
406 Maynard Drive  
Amherst, NY 14226-2929  
For prospective or new member questions, contact VP Membership Recruitment, Bev Schwiegerling. ([schwieg@adelphia.net](mailto:schwieg@adelphia.net), 652-7182)

For renewal questions, contact VP Membership Retention, Freddie Cheek ([fscheek@adelphia.net](mailto:fscheek@adelphia.net), 835-6945) or Michele Maddox ([maddoxm@adelphia.net](mailto:maddoxm@adelphia.net), 882-2925)

AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and positive societal change.

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## Buffalo Branch Study/Interest Groups—December Schedules

Note: Study groups are an excellent way to form friendships, network, educate and have fun. If you are interested in forming a new study group, please contact Janice Barber, study group coordinator (837-4558 or 849-6500 or [jbarber@btattys.com](mailto:jbarber@btattys.com))

### Group: ¡Adelante! Diversity Book/Discussion group

When: December 13, 6 p.m.

Where: Talking Leaves, 3158 Main at Winspear, Buffalo

Parking behind store and at Wilson Farms

Book: *"The Tortilla Curtain"* by T.C. Boyle (Penguin publishing, 1996)

Facilitator: Mayra Lopez-Maldonado, *Sigma Lambda Alpha Advisor*

(See more info on pg 5)

Contact: Sylvia P. Volk (881-1424 or [Artisans-company@yahoo.com](mailto:Artisans-company@yahoo.com))

### Group: American Biographies

No December meeting

Next Meeting: January 9, 1:30 p.m.

Next Book: *"Carl Sagan: A Life"* by Keay Davidson

Contact: Mary Fiore (886-6727)

### Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

No December meeting

Next Meeting: January 24, 6 p.m.

Next Book: *"The Hot Rock"* by Donald Westlake

Reserve: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

### Group: Dinner by the Book

When: December 13, 5:30 p.m.

Where: Plaka Restaurant, Kenmore

NOTE: Change in location for this meeting only. If there is bad weather, check with Plaka to see if the event is proceeding.

Book: *"The Other Boleyn Girl"*, by Philippa Gregory

Reviewer: Fran Witnauer

Next Book: *"The Falls"* by Joyce Carol Oates

Reserve: Fran Witnauer (837-5887 or

[Grandmafran44@yahoo.com](mailto:Grandmafran44@yahoo.com))

### Group: Education and Equity

No December meeting

Contact: Stacey Johnson (885-2486 or [Jhnsn@buffalo.edu](mailto:Jhnsn@buffalo.edu))

### Group: Great Decisions Discussion Group

No December meeting

Next meeting: February, 2007

Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

### Group: Gourmet Food

Various Locations and Times

Contact: Sylvia P. Volk (881-1424 or [Artisans-company@yahoo.com](mailto:Artisans-company@yahoo.com))

### Group: Green Thumbs Gardening

When: December 14, 7 p.m.

Where: Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library, 2580 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga, across from St. Joseph Hospital

(See program topics on pg 5)

Contact: Janet Fowler (884-8698 or [Janalanf@aol.com](mailto:Janalanf@aol.com))

### Group: Knitting Group

When: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 2-4 p.m.

Where: Higher Grounds, Sheridan Drive, west of Millersport

Contact: Adrienne Kotler (688-0740)

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## AAUW Green Thumbs Garden Group announces topics for the next several meetings.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Reinstein Library on Harlem Road the 2nd Thursday of each month .

Dec. 14 – Plants native to Western New York and the benefits of growing native plants

Jan. 11 – Progressive gardening (4 seasons of flowers and interest)

Feb. 8 – Betty Howell will present: Dormant Season Shrub Pruning

Mar. 8 – The beauty and ease of summer bulbs

Apr. – TBD (possible road trip to a greenhouse)

May – Container gardening

June – TBD (possibly a joint meeting with the new Gourmet Dining Group (This could be our June luncheon/supper set up in someone’s yard with a garden.))

Another topic under consideration is “insects and diseases of plants” and how to identify and treat them.



**¡Adelante! Book/Discussion Group - The AAUW-Buffalo Branch** group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month (except February, '07) at 6:00 p.m. at Talking Leaves Bookstore, 3158 Main St., Buffalo, 14215, across from the Lake Effect Diner (parking behind the store or next to Wilson Farms. Call Sylvia @ 881-1424. Join us... and support our facilitators from the local community who have a close association with the book’s subject matter.

About our December author: “Go tell it to the Valley!” (Publishers Weekly) Boyle's latest concerns two couples in Southern California, one a pair of wealthy suburbanites, the other illegal immigrants from Mexico. A hot topic in light of our current discussions revolving around U.S. Immigration Laws.

Upcoming: January 10, 2007 “Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX: The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America” by Karen Blumenthal, Simon & Schuster/Atheneum (2005)

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## MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS!

**Leona Barback** is the VP of the Educational Foundation. Her duties include acting as liaison with the State and Association Educational Foundations and managing the local foundation, ensuring there is a program held annually (the Book Sale) to raise funds. In addition, she acts as administrator of the local foundation, ensuring the 501(c)(3) portion of the branch budget reflects the Association's priorities. Her fiduciary responsibilities also include maintenance of the Foundation finances—the checking account plus various CD's and investment accounts.

She has a master's degree in mathematics and spent most of her career involved with computers, from programming through managing technology staff and systems. Currently retired, she is actively involved with the local branch as co-chair of the Dinner by the Book group and a member of the Great Decisions and Knitting Groups. In addition she is on the committees for Tech Savvy, the Scholarship programs, Transitions and, of course, the Book Sale.

Most mornings you can find Leona exercising at the Tonawanda Aqua Center where she will be swimming, doing water aerobics, Yoga or Pilates. She is married to Wolis (Wally) Barback, a retired teacher and a pharmacist, and has two grown daughters who followed in their mother's footsteps; both in computer related fields.

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**Sharon Pilarski** is the VP for the Legal Advocacy Fund. In her position she helps to promote measurable change impacting the lives women and raise awareness and funding for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

She recently concluded one career at the Erie County Department of Social Services and is now employed at Fidelis as the Director of Facilitated Enrollment. She has her Master's Degree in Human Resource Management, earned at State University of New York College at Buffalo. In her new positions she is responsible for ensuring compliance with enrollment programs. She serves as a facilitator between departments engaged in enrollment activities and as a liaison between external partners and Fidelis.

Traveling is one of Sharon's favorite activities along with golf, cooking, sewing and walking.

She has one son who has his bachelors degree and is employed in management.

Sharon has been on the Board of Directors of Homeowners Association since 2000 and currently serves as President.

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**DID YOU KNOW? The following is the 1st of a series about AAUW diversity, excerpted from the Association AAUW website: Chronology of AAUW's Diversity Initiatives: (thru 1980's)**

In the 1940s, AAUW took one of its first steps toward becoming a multicultural organization. After some branches refused to admit black members, the AAUW Board of Directors revised the bylaws to state that branch bylaws must conform to Association bylaws. This ensured that no branch could institute policies of discrimination when the Association bylaws opposed such policies.

Clearly, this wasn't enough. Since 1981, AAUW has been working in earnest to become a truly inclusive organization. This is not an exhaustive list of national actions to increase diversity, but does show the overall efforts and direction of AAUW's commitment to multiculturalism and diversity.

**1972:** The AAUW Educational Foundation establishes the Selected Professions Fellowships Program, targeted to women of color.

**1981:** Delegates at the AAUW Convention in Boston adopt strategic 10-year goal to increase and diversify AAUW's membership.

**1987:** Multi-Ethnic Diversity Task Force is appointed by President Sarah Harder to explore barriers to membership in AAUW affecting African American women.

**1988:** Diversity statement is drafted and passed by delegates at the 1988 Conference of Division Presidents. The statement, which is to be published on all AAUW materials, reads: "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, or disability."

- A diversity panel at Conference of Division Presidents meets overwhelming success.
- The diversity statement proposed at the Conference of Division Presidents is adopted by the AAUW Board of Directors.
- The AAUW Educational Foundation Board of Directors adopt their own diversity policy including a diversity statement: "In principle and in practice, the AAUW Educational Foundation values and supports diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability." The Association and Foundation boards of directors participate in diversity training.

**1989:** Diversity themes, such as breaking the hidden barriers to diversity, are explored through a number of workshops at the Washington, D.C. convention.

- Progress on achieving the two-year goals is assessed by the AAUW Board of Directors.
- A Board Diversity Working Group is appointed by AAUW President Sharon Schuster.
- The AAUW Board of Directors participates in diversity awareness training.
- First of annual diversity awareness workshops organized for the national office for staff is held and a Staff Diversity Team is formed.

*Sylvia Volk, Diversity Chair*

**DID YOU KNOW? The following is the 1st of a series about AAUW diversity, excerpted from the Association AAUW website: Chronology of AAUW's Diversity Initiatives: (thru 1980's)**

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Clearly, this wasn't enough. Since 1981, AAUW has been working in earnest to become a truly inclusive organization. This is not an exhaustive list of national actions to increase diversity, but does show the overall efforts and direction of AAUW's commitment to multiculturalism and diversity.

**1972:** The AAUW Educational Foundation establishes the Selected Professions Fellowships Program, targeted to women of color.

**1981:** Delegates at the AAUW Convention in Boston adopt strategic 10-year goal to increase and diversify AAUW's membership.

**1987:** Multi-Ethnic Diversity Task Force is appointed by President Sarah Harder to explore barriers to membership in AAUW affecting African American women.

**1988:** Diversity statement is drafted and passed by delegates at the 1988 Conference of Division Presidents. The statement, which is to be published on all AAUW materials, reads: "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, or disability."

- A diversity panel at Conference of Division Presidents meets overwhelming success.
- The diversity statement proposed at the Conference of Division Presidents is adopted by the AAUW Board of Directors.
- The AAUW Educational Foundation Board of Directors adopt their own diversity policy including a diversity statement: "In principle and in practice, the AAUW Educational Foundation values and supports diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability." The Association and Foundation boards of directors participate in diversity training.

**1989:** Diversity themes, such as breaking the hidden barriers to diversity, are explored through a number of workshops at the Washington, D.C. convention.

- Progress on achieving the two-year goals is assessed by the AAUW Board of Directors.
- A Board Diversity Working Group is appointed by AAUW President Sharon Schuster.
- The AAUW Board of Directors participates in diversity awareness training.
- First of annual diversity awareness workshops organized for the national office for staff is held and a Staff Diversity Team is formed.

*Sylvia Volk, Diversity Chair*

**SAVE THE DATE**

New York State Convention

April 27-29, 2007

The Gideon Putnam Hotel and Spa in Saratoga Springs will host the 2007 convention. If you did not join us last year, you missed a fabulous time. Make sure to save the weekend. Plans are being made and information will be out in the New Year. The Spa City offers shopping, art, history, and golf. The Gideon Putnam is one of Saratoga's historic hotels nestled in the state park. Look for more soon.

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**Upcoming Conventions!**

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On June 29—July 2 the  
*Phoenix is rising in Arizona*



2007 AAUW  
National Convention

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National Convention



## Have you tried AAUW's Two Minute Activist?

Now that the elections are over, it's no time to sit back and say "We're done" for a while. Your representatives need to be thanked for working on issues important to AAUW - and they need reminders of how important those issues are. If you have access to the internet you can easily participate in this program.

Simply go to the following website: <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/>

There you'll have the opportunity to learn about current issues including what's being voted on TODAY and to contact your representatives and local media to be sure YOUR voice is heard!

Also on the Association website is a wealth of information on the various long-term issues. Simply point your browser to: [http://www.aauw.org/issue\\_advocacy/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/index.cfm).

The Power of ONE Vote does not stop with the elections!

### Members, Mark *YOUR* Calendars for Tech Savvy<sup>2</sup>

#### Research Associate from National AAUW EF to Present at Conference

This year, Tech Savvy is really not *just* for students.

Join the Buffalo Branch on Saturday, March 17, 2007, at SUNY Buffalo's Student Union as we welcome Christy Corbett, Research Associate for the AAUW Educational Foundation. Ms. Corbett will discuss the issues involving women and girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) areas and AAUW's participation in the National Girls Collaborative Project, a multi-organizational project supported by the National Science Foundation.

Ms. Corbett will also preview research to be published in the upcoming AAUW research report *Where the Girls Are*, expected to be released at the National Convention in July.

The AAUW Educational Foundation is known as a national leader in quality research on issues involving equity for women and girls. The Buffalo Branch is a long-time supporter of EF and we look forward to opportunity for insight into the Foundation's current research activities.

Registration forms for Tech Savvy will be available in the January issue.

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**LAF is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** In the late 1970's, a group of women professors and coaches, having been denied tenure, chose to fight. After initiating the lawsuit, Zahorik, et al. v. Cornell University, they went to AAUW's Ithaca branch. Recognizing the emotional and financial support these women needed made it impossible for the AAUW members in Ithaca to ignore their plight. Branch members, under the leadership of Elva Volbrecht, took the courageous stand to make a difference. They went to our AAUW Association. Funds were collected to support the litigants, marking the origin of LAF. Since 1981 LAF has been a tax- deductible way to raise such supportive funds. Over the next 25 years, 1.3 million dollars has been raised and over 100 cases have been supported. We can be proud to be part of the state that initiated such a difference!

Recently, Cornell recognized that the representation of women faculty in the university's science and engineering departments falls too far below the level of female doctorates produced nationally. The National Science Foundation awarded a \$3.3 million grant to Cornell to begin November 1, 2006. Cornell Provost Carolyn Martin said, "**The presence of greater numbers of female faculty at Cornell will have a transformational impact at a national level**". Is this not what we have been saying all along?

AAUW's LAF, in its dedication to promoting equity by providing case support, educating colleges and universities on how to improve conditions, and developing *Tenure Denied*, has been significantly responsible for bringing such awareness.

Progress has been made. But is our job done? Have all colleges and universities stopped discriminative practices? NO! Thus, your donations to LAF continue to be most important. If you wish to have your daughters and granddaughters live in a world where equity exists, you need to give of your resources. Please use the power of your purse. We can continue to make a difference!

All donations should be sent to me, Sharon Pilarski – 23 Fairway Lane – Depew, NY 14043 by December 10, 2006. Please make your check out to AAUW LAF – and put Buffalo Branch on the memo line to assure proper credit. You may choose a litigant, if you wish, to whom your donation is dedicated.

Thank you for your generous support,

*Sharon Pilarski, VP LAF*

**We are asking for all our members to support LAF. In this season of "giving", please consider a contribution to this worthy cause. Our Branch goal is \$5.00 per member. Let's reach this goal in 2006 !**

**YOUR DAUGHTERS AND GRANDDAUGHTERS WILL BE GLAD YOU DID**

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## Book Sale News:

The sorting continues! Groups will continue to sort at the **Kensington Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services** building at 995 Kensington Avenue. We will sort on the following Tuesdays: November 28, December 5 and 12, 2006. The sorting will resume after the Holidays on January 9, 2007. Newcomers are welcome. There are enough experienced people at the site to train you. It is possible that additional dates (Monday through Thursday) can be arranged. If another day is more convenient, call Gretchen Stringer at 633-8264 or Judy Weidemann at 655-3649 to discuss.

We will go to **The Waters** in East Aurora, to sort on January 19, February 23 and March 26, 2007. For directions to **The Waters** or to arrange car pooling, call Judy Weidemann 655-3649.

*Judy Weidemann*

### LAF News

Every year the Legal Advocacy Fund recognizes a college or university program that promotes equity on campus for women with a cash reward to continue its efforts. Since 1987, AAUW LAF has recognized more than 38 programs throughout the country for progressive and innovative advancements on behalf of women with its Progress in Equity Award.

This year the 2006 LAF Progress in Equity Award will honor the University of Michigan's College Level Courses at the Scott Correctional Facility for Women. The Scott Prison program offers university certified courses in women's studies, composition, sociology, African American studies, and other subjects to women at the prison.

The end-of-the-year is upon us. As we are celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is ironic that our NYS donations are disappointingly low. Would you consider donating \$25.00 for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary? Every donation is greatly appreciated as it helps create the culture of equality we envision for our future. Help make our dream become reality.

*Cheryl Papa, AAUW-NYS VP LAF*

### America 101 by Bill Moyers

*(a national treasure!)*

Just one excerpt: "A nation that devalues poor children also demeans their teachers. For the life of me I cannot fathom why we expect so much from teachers and provide them so little in return. In 1940, the average pay of a male teacher was actually 3.6 percent more than what other college-educated men earned. Today it is 60 percent lower. Women teachers now earn 16 percent less than other college-educated women. This bewilders me. Children aren't born lawyers, corporate executives, engineers and doctors. Their achievements bear the imprint of their teachers." *Read the entire essay!*

[http://www.tompaine.com/print/america\\_101.php](http://www.tompaine.com/print/america_101.php)

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## BRANCH MEMBERS MADE IT TO FREDONIA!

The District 1 Conference was held Saturday, October 14, 2006 at the White Inn in Fredonia despite the weather here in Buffalo. Several of the Buffalo Branch members were unable to attend because they were bailing water out of their basements or out purchasing generators.

There were balloons and beautiful favors and centerpieces celebration of the 125th anniversary of AAUW. They were grateful to the Buffalo Branch for bringing books to sell.

Tamara Brown, Mary Kellner, and Betty Preble were able to make it to Fredonia. It was a beautiful day when you got to Angola. Betty and Connie Pilato (Jamestown branch) gave an interesting computer presentation showing how to access the NY State website.

Three amazing women from the Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch shared their experiences in "lifelong learning." Jacqueline Smith is an artist and still teaches classes. She is also an avid reader and knitter. Joyce Haines is involved in public speaking and acting. Shirley Erbsmehl loves quilting and has traveled to New Orleans to help the victims of Katrina. She was planning to return to the area this fall. They were quite inspiring.

Tamara stressed the importance of mission-based programming and talked about the Buffalo Branch Tech Savvy event. She distributed a lot of material and they all listened intently. Jamestown was so impressed, they plan to hold a Tech Savvy day also. Wendy Present showed pictures of the annual sports day they sponsor for girls in Jamestown.

Each branch contributed a raffle basket with the proceeds going to the Legal Advocacy Fund. Jacqueline Smith, the avid reader, won the book basket from Buffalo Branch.

### Chamberlin Loan Funds and Funds for Education

Please spread the word to your friends, neighbors, colleagues, students that we are offering interest free loans and grants to Western New York women and men doing undergraduate or graduate work in colleges and universities. Dec. 1 is the deadline for applying for loans and grants from the Chamberlin Fund and the Funds for Education.

Applications are available at [www.aauw.buffalo.edu](http://www.aauw.buffalo.edu) or by writing to:

Chamberlin Loan-Funds for Education chair  
American Association of University Women  
Buffalo Branch  
PO Box 397  
Amherst , N.Y. 14226-0397 .

Or e-mail us [Chamberlinfund@yahoo.com](mailto:Chamberlinfund@yahoo.com). Or call 559-3037.

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*Pat Swift MacClennan*

## IT MATTERS HOW THEY COUNT

### THE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE URGES YOU TO CONTACT OUR COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS URGING THEM TO PURCHASE SECURE AND RELIABLE VOTING MACHINES WITH A VERIFIABLE PAPER TRAIL

January 5, 2007, Erie County Election Commissioners, Ralph Mohr (R) and Dennis Ward (D), at 134 Eagle St., Buffalo, NY 14202, will be selecting new voting machines to comply with Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Correct counts of our votes and much of our tax money are at stake. Urge our Commissioners to purchase the system you believe will record and count your vote correctly and verifiably.

Voting machine vendors are fiercely competing for the funds. There is a hard push to sell costly (when considered with all the needed accessories) Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines. Thus far DRE's track record is disappointing. An analysis of 2004 elections revealed numerous malfunctions in many states and localities. Common problems included:

- 1) Electronic voting machines lost or added ballots
- 2) Tabulation software reached 32,767 votes and counted backwards
- 3) Votes jumped to the opponent on the screen
- 4) DREs provided incorrect ballots
- 5) DREs broke down during the election or failed to start up
- 6) Registration data transmission failed
- 7) Memory cards and smart card encoders failed



Machine malfunctions problems were also observed in 9 states that used such systems in 2005 elections ([www.VotersUnite.Org](http://www.VotersUnite.Org)). The above indicate that current DREs are experimental models not vetted for use in elections; and they require costly expert set up, maintenance and monitoring. Some lawsuits are pending ([VoterAction.org](http://VoterAction.org)). There is a move to replace touchscreen DREs with paper ballot precinct-level optiscans with audits, or paper ballots hand counted.

The League of Women Voters New York State (LWVNY) studied and compared effective cost and reliability of DRE machines with Paper Ballot Optical Scan (PBOS) voting machines ([www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)). They recommend: paper-based precinct count optical scan systems, along with a ballot marking device to assist voters with disabilities; such provide a more secure, accurate, recountable and accessible means of voting. Also the systems are vetted and familiar to voters because of their use in standardized tests and NYS Lottery. With the optical scanner located in the polling place, the voter will know instantly whether his/her vote is counted. If a mistake occurs, it can be corrected with the same ballot or a replacement ballot can be issued.

*Teresa Gessner and Karen Stephenson, Public Policy Co-chairs*

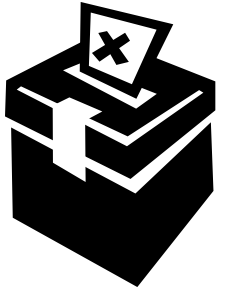
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## OTHER BRANCH ACTIVITIES:

**Public Policy Committee** will meet December 4, 2006, for lunch - 12 p.m. at Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave., Eggertsville.

Contact Karen Stephenson, 835-6271, ro99step@adelphia.net.

Now is the time to start planning for the **Transitions Conference** to be held in the Fall 2007. Women comprise the majority of college students today, and students over the age of 40 are the fastest growing segment of the college population. However, many women face significant barriers to their educational success as they often have to balance family and work responsibilities. The Transitions Conference offers mature women the resources to overcome barriers and achieve educational success through a variety of workshops and networking opportunities.

If you would like take part in planning and/or participating in the Transitions Conference, please contact Sandra at 867-3631 or swbush@email.com The next Transitions Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Audubon Library, 350 John James Audubon Parkway.

*Sandra Williams Bush, Transitions Chair*

## Edu- cation and Equity –

At the November 13th, 2006 meeting, held at The Plaka Restaurant in Kenmore, Suzanne Grossman spoke about Sister to Sister, and Tamara Brown spoke about Tech Savvy. These are conferences which will be coming up in the Spring. The Education and Equity Committee would like to support these as the action part of our work this year, by volunteering to help with each conference. These programs promote the empowerment of women and girls through education.

In January we will continue our discussion from the November meeting and we hope that others will be interested in working on one or both of these programs.

The January 2007 meeting will be January 8, 6-8 p.m. at The Plaka 2904 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore. Please RSVP to Stacey Johnson 885-2486, or e-mail jhnsn@buffalo.edu

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*Stacey Johnson*

The American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch

Presents

**A Breakfast Program to Discuss  
the Needs & Services  
for Elderly Women**

Saturday, January 20, 2007

at the Airport Holiday Inn

4600 Genesee Street

9:30 Registration

10:00 Presentation by Pam Krawczyk

Director of Senior Services, Erie County Department of Services

Cost - \$13 per person for a Breakfast Buffet which includes: scrambled eggs, fresh fruit salad, French toast, home fried potatoes, beef hash, ham, pastries, coffee, tea and juice.



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✂MEETING REGISTRATION FORMS✂

**Reservation Form for Diva-by-Diva - December 11, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of seats \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ members@\$18, \_\_\_\_\_ others @\$20)

Make checks payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch and send them **by December 6** to:  
Adrienne Kotler, P.O. Box 46, Amherst, New York 14226 - 0046

**Reservation Form for Jan 20, 2007 Presentation**

Please make checks (\$13 per person) payable to the AAUW Buffalo Branch. **RSVP by January 13.**

Mail to: Peggy Meinl, 96 Mafalda Drive, Buffalo, NY 14215

Questions: Call Peggy at 834-0439 or e-mail at [aurorapm1219@aol.com](mailto:aurorapm1219@aol.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

✂MEETING REGISTRATION FORMS✂

**Reservation Form for Diva-by-Diva - December 11, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of seats \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ members@\$18, \_\_\_\_\_ others @\$20)

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*In principle and 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 education and equity for all women and girls, lifelong 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.*



*The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.*

### Upcoming Events

- Tues, Nov 28** - AAUW 125th Anniversary
- Mon, Dec 4** - Public Policy Mtg 12 noon, Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave
- Wed, Dec 6** - Board Meeting 6 p.m. Daemen College, Business Bldg. Room 103
- Mon, Dec 11** - Diva by Diva! 7:30 p.m. Cabaret in the Square Theatre, Snyder
- Tues, Dec 12** - Transitions Committee 6 p.m., Audubon Library
- Wed, Jan 3** - Board Meeting 6 p.m. Daemen College, Room TBA
- Mon, Jan 8** - Education & Equity Meeting 6 p.m. Plaka Restaurant, 2904 Delaware Ave.
- Sat, Jan 20** - Breakfast Branch Program 9:30 a.m. to Discuss the Needs & Services for Elderly Women, Airport Holiday Inn

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