



NYS District 1

# Buffalo Branch Advocate

February 2007  
<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>  
716-559-3037



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Deadline for the March issue is February 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.

## Join us in celebrating February Black History Month

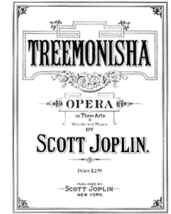
**The Buffalo AAUW branch** joins the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library in presenting these family-friendly and FREE events at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library (Jefferson at Utica St) at 6:00p.m. on two Wednesdays:

**Feb. 14** - view the DVD of **Scott Joplin's** musical *Treemonisha*

**Feb. 21** - don't miss this **Selected Performed Readings** of Pat Conroy's *The Water Is Wide* featuring **Joyce Carolyn** along with youth actors. In addition, there will be selected clips of the movie DVD.

Invite your families and friends to join you at these events: **no reservations needed**. You may wish to come early to look at the library's Afro American Research Center.

*Treemonisha* takes place in September 1884 on a plantation in Arkansas. Treemonisha is a young, educated black woman who refuses to accept the superstitions of the community. When the local conjurers try to sell her adopted mother a "bag of luck," Treemonisha denounces the conjurers, who retaliate by kidnapping her and attempting to throw her into a wasp's nest. Her beau, Remus, rescues her at the last moment and they return to the community. Accepted by her peers, she leads a campaign to educate the people around her. Note - Joplin biographer Edward A. Berlin, has stated that *Treemonisha* may have mirrored details from Joplin's own life - specifically, that Joplin taught himself music fundamentals on a piano in the white home where his mother worked just as the title character in the opera receives her education in a white woman's home



*The Water Is Wide* takes place on a South Carolina island which is nearly deserted, haunting and beautiful. Across a slip of ocean lies South Carolina. But for the handful of families on Yamacraw island, America is a world away. For years the people here lived proudly from the sea, but now its waters are not safe. Waste from industry threatens their very existence—unless, somehow, they can learn a new life. But they will learn nothing without someone to teach them, and their school has no teacher. Here is Conroy's extraordinary drama based on his own experience—the true story of a man who gave a year of his life to an island and the new life its people gave him.



It's a lesson in racial bias in education.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 "It's an historic moment for the women of America. It is a moment for which we have waited for over 200 years."  
 NANCY PELOSI, on the occasion of being sworn in on becoming speaker of the House. (NY Times Quote of the Day 01/05/07)  
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## Presidents' Message

I hope you were pleasantly surprised when you received the January and February newsletters. A new look for a new year! We can all benefit from a new look every now and then.

One of the long-term Strategic Planning goals established last year was to increase participation in branch events, study groups and committees. The Book Sale Committee is very good at doing this. The Personnel Empowerment duo of Weidemann and Stringer contacted all members with letters, postcards and phone calls asking for assistance for the Book Sale. Each member can contribute in some way, by sorting books, contributing "goodies" for workers, being a table chair, making a contribution toward table rentals, staffing a position at the sale, etc. Members are already working together gathering and sorting books. Sometimes they even go out to lunch afterwards. Come join in the fun.

If you attend a study group, invite a friend to go with you. Several people have joined the Buffalo Branch because they were involved with a study group that they really enjoyed each month. I know a few of the study groups have dinner planned with their meetings. The old saying holds true every time, "Feed them and they will come." Pick a part of the AAUW mission that most interests you and attend one of our committee meetings. You may be surprised to find that you are quite passionate about the things they are discussing and can't wait to go back. Maybe you will get acquainted with another member you didn't know well beforehand and plan to attend meetings together.

Sandra Bush is putting a committee together to organize a Transitions Conference in the future. Contact her if that interests you. She is looking for enthusiastic people with new ideas to share. Tamara Brown is reorganizing our mentoring program and is looking for members to mentor students. People are also needed to read loan, scholarship, and award applications at various times during the year. Tech Savvy will be held Saturday, March 17, 2007 and many people are needed to make that a success. The Buffalo Branch has so many facets that every member should find something she can delve into with gusto. We join AAUW to broaden our horizons and share our personal gifts.

We hope you have been enjoying the wide variety of programs we have this year. The "Diva by Diva" performance in December was a lot of fun. There

are two events this month at the Frank P. Merriweather, Jr. Library, February 14 and 21. We even have wine tasting in April! The International Women's Day dinner is always a wonderful event. Remember to put March 8, 2007 on your calendar for dinner at Samuel's Grand Manor. The branch partners with many organizations in the community in preparation of this annual dinner. Bring all your friends. The Book Sale Committee will also have books available for purchase that evening.

Another way to learn about the branch and contribute your expertise is service on the board. The Nominating Committee is currently looking for next year's officers. If you have any suggestions or wish to volunteer your services, contact Janet Fowler, Chair, or Judy Clare, Diane Sina, Cherie St. Pierre, or Marilyn Todd. There are many appointed positions on the board as well. The position of College/University Rep is still open this year. I would be glad to tell you what is involved in that position.

We are so lucky to belong to the Buffalo Branch of AAUW because it offers to many opportunities for enrichment and service. Let's help it grow and flourish.

'Til next month, *Mary*

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



### **Please note - Schedule Change:**

**April 16 (changed from the 18th which was listed in your branch roster) will be an Event at Premier on Delaware - to raise Funds for LAF, and to share some good times with friends and have some samples of good food and spirits! Stay tuned for more information, but please mark the change on your calendars!**

## MEET THE BOARD:

### Stacey Johnson is the Education and Equity Chair.

Her role is to implement the mission of promoting education and equity for all women and girls through branch activities. There have been monthly meetings of those interested in this topic starting in March, 2006. In March, 2007 we expect to actively participate in the Sister to Sister Program chaired by Suzanne Oliver and Tech Savvy for Girls, chaired by Tamara Brown. Both of these programs are promoted by the Association as ways to gain equity for girls.

Stacey is a former president of the Buffalo Branch, has served as VP for Program and has participated on the Board in different capacities. The very first interest group she participated in was Women as Agents of Change, which led her to develop keen interest in AAUW long term. At the State level she has served as the College/University Relations Chair and she was also on a National AAUW committee to help resolve some of the issues that made it difficult to recruit colleges and universities as members. In April, 2006 she acted as workshop leader coordinator for the State Convention in Saratoga Springs, and will do the same for the 2007 NYS Convention.

## Book Sale News

Sorting continues at the Kensington Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, 995 Kensington Ave. in Buffalo. The sorting takes place each Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 12:30. Books may be dropped off Monday through Thursday from 9:30 to 3:00. Simply ring the front door and ask for the custodian, Marks. He will show you where to take the books.

Sorting at The Waters in East Aurora will take place on February 23 and March 23 from 9:30 to 12:30. All sorters are invited to lunch at Judy Weidemann's home after working on February 23. Contact Judy for more information (call 655-3649 or e-mail [JWeide7170@aol.com](mailto:JWeide7170@aol.com)).

The Book Sale committee has decided to make gift certificates to the Sale available in \$5 denominations. They will be available soon. What a gift giving opportunity!

When you pick up books, be sure to ask if the donor needs a receipt. We are required to ask because of our tax status. The donor may decline to take the receipt.

*Judy Weidemann*

## Velma Cobb Update

Applications for the Velma Cobb Scholarship have been mailed to the guidance offices of all the high schools in Erie County. **Please encourage any senior girl who fits the criteria to apply.** The deadline is February 10, 2007.

All high school senior girls attending an Erie County high school are eligible. Criteria includes:

- a grade point average of 90 or above
- plans to attend any accredited 2 or 4 year college in the fall of 2007
- three letters of recommendation
- an application (including an essay)
- an official transcript

The scholarship award amount will be \$1,000 each for 2 winners (for a total of \$2000).

*Susan McClary*

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

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Publisher/Editor: Betty Preble

Assistants: Judy Weidemann, Betty Krist, Adrienne Kotler

Send address changes to:

Freddie Cheek

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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 *advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

February 2007

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## Buffalo Branch Study/Interest Groups—February Schedules

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

### Group: ¡Adelante! diversity book/discussion

Two events for Black History Month both at Merriweather Library, Jefferson and East Utica in Buffalo  
When: February 14, 6 p.m. “*Treemonisha*,” a movie of an opera by Scott Joplin

When: February 21, 6 p.m. Performed selections by Joyce Carolyn and additional actors using the book “*The Water is Wide*” by Pat Conroy (Bantam, 1987)  
March Selection: “*Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed Modern America*” by Karenn Gore Schiff (daughter of Al Gore), Miramax-Weinstein, 2006

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

### Group: American Biographies

When: February 13, 2007, 1:30 p.m.  
Where: Eggertsville Snyder Library, 4622 Main Street, off Burroughs  
Note: Accessible by Metro Bus Rts 48, 49 and 30  
Book: “*American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*,” by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin  
Facilitator: Jean Sylvester

Contact: Mary Fiore (886-6727)  
**Note** - the March selection will be “*The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town*”, by John Grisham

### Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

Meeting: February 28, 6 p.m.  
Where: The Plaka Restaurant, 2904 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore  
Book: Sherlock Holmes books by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
Discussion Leader: Jean Hubbard  
Next Book: “*On Beulah Height*” by Reginald Hill  
Reserve: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

### Group: Education and Equity

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

### Group: Gourmet Food

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

### Group: Current Events

When: February 1, 1:30 p.m.  
Where: Unitarian Universalist Church, Main Street, east of Youngs Road

Topics: “The Baker Committee Report on Iraq”, “Nancy Pelosi, first woman speaker of the House of Representatives” and “No Child Left Behind: Progress or Not.”

Facilitator: Suzanne Grossman  
Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

### Group: Dinner by the Book

When: February 21, 5:30 p.m.  
Where: My Tomato Pie, Northtown Plaza, Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda

**NOTE:** If there is bad weather, check with restaurant to see if the event is proceeding.

Book: “*Ordinary Heros: A Novel*” by Scott Turow  
Reviewer: Cherie St. Pierre  
Next Book: “*Snowflower and The Secret Fan*” by Lisa See

Reserve: Fran Witnauer (837-5887 or [Grandmafran44@yahoo.com](mailto:Grandmafran44@yahoo.com))

### Group: Green Thumbs Gardening

When: February 8, 7 p.m.  
Where: Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library, 2580 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga, across from St. Joseph Hospital  
Topic: “Dormant Season Shrub Pruning” presented by our member and Master Gardener, Betty Howell.  
Contact: Janet Fowler (884-8698 or [Janalanf@aol.com](mailto:Janalanf@aol.com))

**Note** - The March meeting date has been changed to Thursday, March 15 in order not to conflict with the International Women's Day program. We will resume our regular meeting schedule of the 2nd Thursday of the month in April. The March 15 meeting topic will be “The Beauty and Ease of Summer Bulbs”.

### 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)





## Diversity Report

**Black History Month** is celebrated annually in the United States in the month of February and in the United Kingdom in October.



Carter G. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week in 1926 because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Later on in 1976, as the nation reached its bicentennial, the week was expanded into an entire month. However, February has much more than the Douglass and Lincoln birthdays to show for its significance in black American history. For example:

- February 23, 1868: W.E.B. DuBois, important civil rights leader and co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was born.
- February 3, 1870: The Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed, granting Blacks the right to vote.
- February 25, 1870: The first Black U.S. Senator, Hiram Rhodes Revels, took his oath of office.
- February 12, 1909: The NAACP was founded by a group of concerned and moderate Black, Jewish and White citizens in New York City.
- February 1, 1960: In what would become a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, North Carolina, college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter.
- February 21, 1965: Malcolm X, the militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death by three Black Muslims.

History books had barely started covering black history when the tradition of Black History Month was started. At that point, most representation of blacks in history books was only in reference to the low social position they held, with the exception of George Washington Carver. Black History Month can also be referred to as African-American History Month, or African Heritage Month.

Black History Month exposes the harms of racial prejudice and cultivates Black self-esteem follow-

ing centuries of socio-economic oppression. It is an opportunity to recognize the significant contributions people with African heritage have made and continue to make in such areas as education, sports, medicine, art, culture, public services, economic development, politics and human rights. Woodson, creator of Negro History Week, hoped that the week would eventually be eliminated, when African-American history would be fully integrated with American history.

### United Nations Adopts Disability Treaty

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a landmark International Disability Treaty, the first human rights treaty of the twenty-first century. The treaty will protect the human rights of the 650 million people living with disabilities across the world. The Treaty specifically recognizes equal access to education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning. Article 30 would ensure the ability to engage in sport, recreation and leisure is a human right. Under the Convention, States parties would guarantee that persons with disabilities enjoyed their inherent right to life on an equal basis with others (article 10). They would ensure the equal rights and advancement of women and girls with disabilities (article 6) and protect children with disabilities (article 7). Children with disabilities would have equal rights, would not be separated from their parents against their will, except in their best interests, and would in no case be separated from their parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or the parents (article 23). Countries that ratify the Convention will be required to take affirmative measures, striking down discriminatory laws and enacting new ones, to ensure active inclusion of persons with disabilities in recreational, leisure and sporting activities. See <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/ga10554.doc.htm>



*Sylvia Volk*

## Looking ahead to Tech Savvy<sup>2</sup>!

Have you heard that our AAUW mission statement has changed? The new mission statement reflects the importance of advocacy for AAUW. Join the branch on March 17 as we have the chance to promote equity - equity in the sciences and other technological fields for girls and women.

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 (EF) 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.



The conference is held as a part of the Tech Savvy<sup>2</sup> conference. The conference opens with a welcome from UB President John Simpson and concludes with an inspirational address from Catherine Dee, author of *The Girls Book of Success*. Christy Corbett will speak at 10:55 am. Highlights of the adult schedule are listed below.

Feel free to attend the entire day or part of the conference. See page 7 for a registration form.

*Tamara Brown*

### **Tech Savvy - Adult Session Schedule**

- 8:15 Registration; pickup tote bags & Light Breakfast
- 9:30 Welcome
- 10:00 Video, Discussion, & Information Table Introduction
- 10:40 Visit Informational Tables
- 10:55 Morning Workshops (one of two offerings)
  - Parent/Grandparent/Guardian Workshop***  
Partnership for Success: A panel will discuss ways to partner with schools, community organizations, and professionals to be prepared academically and financially for your child's college education.
  - Teacher/Counselor/Leader/Interested Adult Workshop***  
Promoting STEM Careers & Equitable Education with Christy Corbett, Research Associate for the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation .
- 11:45 Profile of Success - Elizabeth Casciani, Vice President North American Operations for Praxair Inc
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:00 Visit Information Tables
- 1:20 Plan for Success: Working with Teachers & Counselors - High school counselor Kathy Boerner
- 1:45 What do I do for Success?  
A time for questions and answers--plus, updates from last year's Tech Savvy participants!
- 2:00 Inspirational Address - Catherine Dee

### ***TS<sup>2</sup> - TECH SAVVY!***

*Tapping into Our Technological Future*

#### **REGISTRATION FORM FOR ADULTS**

Please print clearly the information below. Include a check or money order for \$5.00 per attendee payable to "AAUW Buffalo Branch EF".

*\$5 registration fee includes lite breakfast, lunch, conference materials, tote bag, book, and other gift items.*

Mail to: AAUW Tech Savvy Attn.: T Brown

P.O. Box 311

Buffalo, NY 14201-0311

**Registration is limited. Please register before February 25, 2007**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Parent  Teacher  Interested  
Adult

Street/ PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, NY Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to take the free, optional tour at UB (at approximately 3:30 pm)?  Yes  No

Do you plan to take the free shuttle to the North Campus from the South Campus?  Yes  No

Physically-disabled Accessibility and/or Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

### **December Branch Board Highlights**

Dr. Don Sabo, Director of the Center for Research on Physical Activity, Sport and Health at D'Youville College, presented a proposal on a research project on Title IX. The board voted to fund the research project with \$5000.

Proclamations were received from Erie County Executive Joel Giambra, NY State Assemblyman Sam Hoyt and Mayor Byron Brown naming November 28, 2006, "American Association of University Women Day." A congratulatory letter was also received from Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton for the 125th Anniversary of AAUW. Publicity Chairman, Kristin Bojanowski, was thanked for sending letters to several public officials.

The Scholarship Committee presented the guidelines for the Dorothy Paine scholarships and revised guidelines for the Olga Lindberg scholarships. Letters were sent out for the Velma Cobb scholarship.

A letter of support will be sent in support of Jimmy Rowe's request for an AAUW Community Action Grant.

### **AAUW-NYS Convention**

April 27-29, 2007



The Gideon Putnam Hotel and Spa in Saratoga Springs will again host the 2007 convention. If you were unable to join us last year, you missed a fabulous time. **Be sure to save the weekend.**

Two wonderful speakers will address us at the dinners and eight exciting workshops are planned in addition to an EF walk/treasure hunt, the traditional LAF basket auction and some FUN time.

More information and registration forms are available on the state website - [aauw-nys.org](http://aauw-nys.org). Just click on the "Convention" tab for continually updated information.

## AAUW LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING INSTITUTE

The AAUW Leadership and Training Institute, a 501 (c)3 organization, was launched in 2003 because women and girls continue to be underrepresented in leadership and key professional positions. To promote the total woman, programs are offered in economic self-sufficiency, leadership development, career advancement, and technical skill development.

Financial literacy for women is a key part of the mission, since financial skills are critical to women's economic security. A multi-faceted program is being developed to address women's financial situations throughout their lives, including the college years, middle-age, while juggling careers, caring for children and aging parents, and retirement.

The institute's literacy program supports such activities as campus action projects, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and interactive teleseminars. Participants in the "webinars" join a telephone conference call while following along on the Internet.

AAUW currently provides a variety of leadership resources to members and nonmembers. You may read about the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute and resources that are provided on the national website [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). If you place an order from Amazon.com from the AAUW website, you will save money and AAUW will receive a percentage of the sale. These are some of the books available on the website:

Book, Esther Wachs. *Why the Best Man For the Job is a Woman: The Unique Female Qualities of Leadership*.

Boswell, Laura. *The Quotable Business Woman*

Bridges, William. *Making the Most of Change*

Gallagher, Carol A. & Galant, Susan K. *Going to the Top: A Road Map for Success From America's Leading Women Executives*.

Gilberd, Pamela Boucher & Haynes, Audrey Tayse. *The Eleven Commandments of Wildly Successful Women*.

Mary Kellner

## BUFFALO BRANCH POSITIONS FOR THE 2007 - 2008 YEAR

The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to fill the following positions for the 2007 – 2008 Board of Directors. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in holding one of these positions please advise one of the committee members (below) as soon as possible as we wish to fill the slate of officers by the end of February. If you would like more information on any of these positions, also please feel free to contact one of the committee members.

### Positions to be filled:

- President – Elect – one year term
- Program VP – two year term
- Membership Retention VP – two year term
- Treasurer (Branch) – two year term
- Chamberlin Loan Funds & Funds for Education Treasurer – two year term
- Nominating Committee Chair – one year term

### Committee members:

Janet Fowler – JANALANF@aol.com 884-8698

Judy Clare – clare273@cs.com 633-1294

Diane Sina – dsina4188@aol.com 851-1567

Cherie St. Pierre – cherstpier@adelphia.net 837-7679

Marilyn Todd – mariltodd@aol.com 691-4423

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## PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

AAUW Buffalo Branch's standing Committee on Public Policy will hold monthly meetings ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH at NOON.

The next two meetings, on Feb. 5 and Mar. 5, will be held at the Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave. Eggertsville, NY 14226 (two blocks south of the Bailey/Eggert intersection).

For more information call/e-mail:

Teresa Gessner

(716-634-5053/tgessner@buffalo.edu)

or Karen Stephenson

(716-835-6271/ro99step@adelphia.net).

Contact Karen for lunch reservations.

Please join us when you can!



## BOOK SALE FUNDS SPENDING

Do you ever wonder how all those funds earned by the Book Sale are spent? Let me give you an idea.

First a large portion is donated to the national Educational Foundation for various scholarship and community grant programs. One of our aims is to have our contributions assist candidates from the Western New York area. This year the board designated its money to be utilized for community grants. At the same meeting the board gave our unqualified backing to a grant submission by a local group which will help local low income single women and refugee women in inner city areas become fiscally aware through a structured financial program designed for the targeted population. Certainly this fulfills the AAUW mission of "life long learning and positive societal change". Hopefully, they will receive the grant and this money will come back to our community.

Next we give to local scholarships. This year \$9,000 was designated for Funds for Education which is frequently given as grants along with the Chamberlin Loans for college women in financial need.

Then there are the newer **local** scholarships, grants and awards we give out:

- **College Bound Awards** for the Buffalo Public Schools 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls who present a creative project or essay to show their goals toward going to college. These are for \$50 each for up to 10 girls.
- **Catalyst For Change** - three \$3000.00 educational scholarships for Buffalo Niagara region female students who have demonstrated success in a grass roots effort that has effected positive change for women or girls
- **Grassroots Grants Program** - the promotion of equity, gender awareness and lifelong learning. Five to seven grants of up to \$1,000.00 each are awarded in the categories of Individual Projects, Community Organizations and/or Neighborhood Enrichment Programs and High School Leadership Projects.
- **Emergency Fund** - up to \$500 for an emergency educational need by an area student.

In addition, the fund supports such wonderful programs as:

**Mentoring** - \$700 for a program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls desiring to go to college and their parents or guardians.

**Tech Savvy** - \$7000 for a workshop for girls in grades 6-9 plus parents and teachers, to be supplemented by grants from Praxair and the University at Buffalo.

**Sister to Sister Summit** - \$1000 for a speak-out session for teen girls to discuss various issues relative to their lives.

**Title IX** - \$5000 for a grant for research by Dr. Don Sabo at D'Youville College to help keep Title IX viable

**Transitions** - \$200 for a program for non-traditional women students returning or going to college

None of these scholarships, grants, awards and programs could be accomplished if it were not due to the tremendous amount of work being done by the Book Sale Committee and the wonderful volunteers.

The effort in sorting and bringing books to storage is done all year long. If we want it to continue year after year, we need fresh faces to help in the effort. If you cannot lift or bend there are still paperbacks that need sorting. If you are at all physically able to help, please contact Judy Weidemann at 655-3649 or [JWeide7170@aol.com](mailto:JWeide7170@aol.com). If you cannot help in this manner, a donation towards the rental of tables will help offset a major overhead cost. Make checks payable to AAUW-EF Buffalo Branch and send to EF-VP, PO Box 311, Buffalo, NY 14201-0311.



*Leona Barback*



## YOUR LAF DONATIONS AT WORK

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund does not give direct legal assistance, but it does offer referrals through a network of attorneys and experts. Network partners provide initial consultations to individuals considering or conducting sex discrimination litigation against colleges and universities. Each year, LAF receives hundreds of calls from individuals and their attorneys and friends who seek legal advice. The Network - more than 300 participants in 48 states and the District of Columbia - provides plaintiffs and potential plaintiffs with the information they need to make the best decisions about their legal recourse. Referrals to Network participants are provided at no charge and network participants are encouraged to provide a consultation free or at a reduced rate.

Network partners include attorneys with expertise in sexual harassment, pay equity, and other areas. Network experts, who are often called on as potential expert witnesses, specialize in areas relevant to sex discrimination such as the psychological effect of discrimination on professional women, and institutional practices that can be discriminatory.

Litigation battles are exhausting and expensive; the toll on personal, professional, and financial resources is heavy. Network partners can advise plaintiffs and potential plaintiffs on the following:

- Identifying whether they have a claim for sex discrimination
- Locating research reports, statistics, and other resources
- Gauging the strength of their suit and pinpointing legal strategies
- Determining alternatives available to fight the sex discrimination
- Assessing the ramifications and consequences of their options

As a service to Network partners, LAF provides a listserv through which those in the network can exchange resources and ideas with their fellow colleagues in the field. They can access an electronic newsletter that delivers the latest developments in court cases and research concerning gender equity issues in higher education.

Thank you for your donations - past and future - the girls in our lives depend on it!

*Sharon Pilarski*

### CAN YOU HELP?



Kensington Bailey Neighbor Housing Services (NHS) will be a Free Tax Preparation Site from January 23 to April 15 and is looking for volunteers to serve as tax preparers. The program is sponsored by the Economic Self-Sufficiency Coalition and is intended to assist low to moderate income persons.

The program will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings (5-8 pm) and Saturdays 9am-4pm at 995 Kensington Avenue, Buffalo, 14215. Ideally, volunteers will commit to one day a week for twelve weeks but any level of participation is welcome. Training sessions are scheduled.

For information, please contact Roseann Scibilia, 836-3600.

Please note - these are the people who donate space for us to sort books for the booksale. This is our chance to help them out!

*Our thoughts are with member **Peg O'Brien** who was recently hospitalized after a stroke. Best wishes for a full recovery!*

### DID YOU KNOW?

By 2040, 50% of the US population will be non-white.

40% of US population growth is the result of immigration.

Minorities today make up less than 14% of all collegiate faculty

Fewer than one in 10 Black or Hispanic students who enter New York City high schools graduate four years later with a coveted Regents diploma.

*The New York Times*, November 30, 2005



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

presents

The Sixth Annual International Women's Day Celebration and Discussion

**Economic Self Sufficiency for Women in East Africa**

*Micro Financing Based on the model created by Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Laureate*

**Samuel's Grande Manor**

8750 Main Street  
Clarence, NY

**Thursday, March 8, 2007, 6 p.m.**

Speakers will be:

**Arthur and Alison Hyde**

Founders of Crossroads School in Kenya

**Deb Naybor**

Founder of BothYourHands

Helping Women and Children Worldwide

Winner of the AAUW "Catalyst for Change" Scholarship

**Katherine Mang-Haag**

Mother's Clubs of Tanzania

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$35/person (Checks made payable to AAUW/EF)

**Dinner choices (number of each):**

Chicken Supreme \_\_\_\_\_ Poached Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Pasta Primavera \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

RESERVATIONS and CHECKS TO:

**Judy Weidemann, (655-3649) 21 Nye Hill Road, East Aurora, NY 14052 by March 1st**

Questions - contact Judy, (655-3649 or JWeide7170@aol.com)

*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 advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research .*



*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

### February - Celebrating Black History Month

**Wed, Feb 7** - Board Meeting 6 p.m. Daemen College, Duns Scotus Hall, Room 221

**Wed, Feb 14** - "Treemonisha" - Branch Program 6 p.m., Frank P. Merriweather, Jr. Library

**Thurs, Feb 15**- Education & Equity meeting with Tech Savvy committee, 5:45-7 p.m. - United Way

**Wed, Feb 21** - "The Water Is Wide" - Branch Program 6 p.m., Frank P. Merriweather, Jr. Library

**Wed, Mar 7** - Board Meeting 6 p.m. Daemen College, Duns Scotus Hall, Room 221

**Thurs, Mar 8** - International Women's Day Dinner , Samuel's Grande Manor

**Sat, Mar 17** - Tech Savvy<sup>2</sup>- SUNY Buffalo North Campus

**Sat, Mar 31** - Sister to Sister Summit, SUNY College at Buffalo

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on January 21, 2007.  
Moving? Please contact Freddie Check, 835-6945.



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