



NYS District 1

Buffalo Branch Advocate

June 2007

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

716-559-3037



Highlights:

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The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the previous month. Articles received after that will not appear in the next issue.

Please send articles to Betty Preble via e-mail:

betty.preble@gmail.com. (note new address, please!)

The next issue will be for September - deadline August 10.



It's That Time!!!

The Fabulous 53rd

Scholarship Book Sale

May 30 – June 3, 2007

Sheridan Plaza

3248 Sheridan Drive

Between

North Bailey Avenue
and Sweet Home Road

(Same location as last Year)

We need YOUR help!

More information on page 9



Presidents' Message

Dear Members,

Due to the unbelievable dedication of our board members, committee chairmen and "worker bees", the Buffalo Branch has earned the coveted Platinum Award from NYS AAUW for the fourth year in a row. Buffalo, Islip Area, Poughkeepsie, and Westchester branches each won Platinum recognition, but Buffalo was the only branch to win in every category. You can be so proud of yourselves!

During our presidency we have come to appreciate the hours and hours that some members devote to this organization without any expectation of recognition. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Our very best wishes go to our new board. We know they will do a fantastic job in keeping the Buffalo Branch prosperous, vibrant and a treasure to Western New York.

Thank you for a wonderful year,

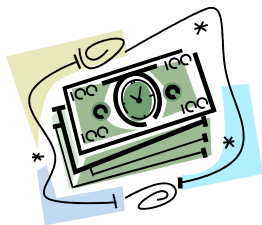
Mary and Judy

(kellneraauw@yahoo.com
and tsagewood@aol.com)



AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You should already have received your 2007-2008 membership renewal letter and information form which were mailed in April. Please remember to review the information on the form which matches what we currently have in our database. This enables us to send you the Advocate newsletter and other relevant materials, as well as print your correct personal details in the Roster. If you did not receive a renewal letter and form (Honorary Life Members were not sent forms), please contact Freddie Cheek at 835-6945 or fscheek@adelphia.net.



April Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The NYS Convention will be held on April 27-27, 2007. Anita Kunkle and Jan Vine will be included as delegates. Judy Clare will present a slate of officers for 2007-2008 year at the May Luncheon. Janet Fowler reported that we are still looking for someone for the position of Funds for Education treasurer.

An internal audit will take place for the treasurers' books.

It was brought to our attention that the AAUW relationship with the International Federation of University Women will end in December.

Educational Accounts and Charitable Projects

Ingrid Wetherbee reported that some of the Funds for Education have been distributed. A report was given regarding the Book Sale. We received a check from Miss Siiri Puust to be used to assist a deserving student at a college or university.

Susan McClary presented the names for the Velma Cobb 2007 Scholarships.

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, 652-7182)

For renewal questions, contact VP Membership Retention,

Freddie Cheek (fscheek@adelphia.net, 835-6945) or

Michele Maddox (maddoxm@adelphia.net, 882-2925)

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

June 2007

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Buffalo Branch Honored at NYS Convention

Yes, the Buffalo Branch is still Platinum! For the fourth time, the branch received the highest 21st Century Recognition – Platinum, for excellence in mission-based programming and advancing the cause of equity for women and girls. We were the only branch to win platinum in every category of the application:

- Membership Development, for excellent work in incorporating Membership Development into the program of AAUW
- Leadership Development, for incorporating Leadership Development into the Branch programming
- Visibility, for excellent work in furthering the visibility of AAUW
- Diversity (Outreach to Diverse and Underrepresented People or Groups), for incorporating Diversity into Branch programming
- Campus / Community Outreach, in recognition of outstanding work with local communities and educational institutions
- Technology and Communication, in recognition of its use of technology in furthering the goals of AAUW 2006-2007

Other awards received:

- Newsletter of Excellence 2006-2007 for Buffalo Branch “Advocate”
- First place in total contributions in 2006 to the Educational Foundation
- Educational Foundation Award for second place in per capita contributions to the Educational Foundation in 2006
- Educational Foundation Award for efforts to sustain and advance education and equity for women and girls
- International Affairs Award for Innovative International programming 2006-2007
- Fourth place in total contributions to the Legal Advocacy Fund
- LAF Star Branch for \$5 or more per member to the Legal Advocacy Fund
- Emerging Leader – Susan Clements

Congratulations, Buffalo Branch for another banner year at the NYS Convention.

The 2007 AAUW NY State Convention was held April 27-29 at the beautiful Gideon Putman Resort and Spa in Saratoga Springs, NY. Stacey Johnson, Mary Kellner, Anita Kunkle, Lillis McLean, and Jan Vine represented the Buffalo Branch as delegates. Tamara Brown attended as NYS Educational Foundation VP, Betty Preble as NYS Communications Director, and Suzanne Oliver as a past state president. We also saw Analine Hicks and Ann Bish, Buffalo Branch members who now reside in Niskayuna, NY.

We took three baskets for the LAF raffle, a basket of books, a basket of entitled “Champagne, Chopin and Chocolate,” donated by Judy Weidemann, and a knitting basket donated by Sharon Pilarski.

The next state convention will be held April 25-27, 2008 at the Otesaga Resort Hotel in the historic village of Cooperstown, NY.

Displaying some of the certificates awarded to the Buffalo Branch are branch attendees (front, left to right) Tamara Brown, Mary Kellner, Stacey Johnson, (back, left to right) Sue Oliver, Anita Kunkle, Betty



Preble and Lillis McLean.

Buffalo Branch Study/Interest Groups - Upcoming Schedules

Study groups are an excellent way to form friendships, network, learn 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)

Group: ¡Adelante! diversity book/discussion
When: June 13, 6 p.m.
Where: Talking Leaves Bookstore, 3158 Main Street, Buffalo

Book: *Blood Sisters: A Novel of an Epic Friendship* by Mary Jacobsen (Harrington Park Press, paperback, 2006)

Facilitator: Katie Jones, Master's degree candidate at SUNY/Buffalo

Summer meetings:

- July 11, 6 p.m. at Talking Leaves Bookstore, discussion of *Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust* by Barbara Rogasky (Holiday House, revised edition, 2003)
- August 8, 6 p.m. at Frank J. Merriweather Public Library, Jefferson and Utica, Buffalo, discussion of *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges (Scholastic Press, 1999)

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

Group: American Biographies

When: June 12, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Eggertsville Snyder Library, 4622

Main Street. Parking is off Burroughs.

Note: Accessible by Metro Bus Routes 48, 49 and 30

Book: Your choice of a biography of Jane Addams, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and founder of Hull House.

Discussion Leader: Nancy Ryther

Contact: Mary Fiore (886-6727)

Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

Joint Meeting with Dinner by the Book

When: June 20, 5:30 p.m.

Where: My Tomato Pie, Northtown Plaza, between Sheridan and Eggert in Tonawanda

Book: *The Year of Magical Thinking*, by Joan Didion

Discussion Leader: Judy Malamas

Reserve: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

Group: Current Events

Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

Group: Dinner by the Book

Joint meeting with Clueless - see particulars there.

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

Group: Education and Equity
Contact: Stacey Johnson (885-2486 or Jhnsn@buffalo.edu)

Group: Green Thumbs Gardening
Pot Luck Garden Supper, Thursday, June 14 - 6 PM at Perry Hoffman's, 20 Northwood Drive, Kenmore, NY (details on pg 5)

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

Group: Knitting Group

When: 4th Thursday, 2-4 p.m.

Where: Higher Grounds, Sheridan Drive, west of Millersport

Contact: Adrienne Kotler (688-0740)

Quilting and Downtowners study/ discussion groups have been proposed. We need at least six committed members to seek approval by the Board of Directors of a new group.

- If you are interested in the quilting group, please contact Mary Christ, amazingracesq@yahoo.com.
- If you are interested in the Downtowners, please contact Karen Barktowiak, karen@compeerbuffalo.org.

Have a great summer!

*Janice Barber,
Study Group Coordinator*



PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

AAUW Buffalo Public Policy Committee holds monthly meetings on FIRST MONDAYS at lunchtime starting at NOON.

The June agenda will include:

- (1) Plans for actions and/or events for the next 12 months
- (2) Voter Education -
 - a) Kids Voting (K-12)
 - b) Teens Voting
 - c) August 26 - Women's Equality Day - 19th Amendment.

The next meeting will be on Monday, JUNE 4, 12:01 PM, at the Family Tree Restaurant, serving Greek and American food. The restaurant is located at 4346 Bailey Ave. Eggertsville, NY 14226 (between Main and Sheridan; two blocks south of the intersection of Bailey Ave with Eggert Rd.).

Please let me know that you are coming so that I can reserve for you. Please call or e-mail me: 716-634-5053 / tgessner@acsu.buffalo.edu.

MEMBER INPUT IS WELCOME. SEE YOU THERE!

VOTER EDUCATION SPECIAL - VIEW A DVD ABOUT NEW VOTING MACHINES and show it to your friends

You can borrow from me, or Judy Weidemann, a DVD "Bought & Sold" which shows the importance of choosing paper ballot based Optical Scan voting machines as opposed to Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting systems.



It is noteworthy that on May 3, 2007 Florida Legislature passed the legislation that will replace touch-screen voting machines with optical scan machines statewide for Election Day voting and early voting sites. Sadly, in NY State the DREs are still being pushed - e.g. uncertified DREs from Liberty Election Systems and their Dutch partner Nedap are to be used in Troy NY in the upcoming May 15, 2007 School District Election (see www.VoteTrustUSA.org).

Teresa Gessner

**Good Luck to the New Board
for 2007-2008!**

Mary & Judy



Green Thumbs Garden Group plans June Pot Luck event

The Green Thumbs Garden Group is planning a pot luck garden supper event on Thursday, June 14 at member Perry Hoffman's home, in her lovely garden, 20 Northwood Drive, Kenmore, NY. This will be a joint meeting with the Gourmet Dining Group and some of the pot luck items will include edible flowers. All group members attending are asked to bring a food item. Pot luck supper will begin at 6 PM. A plant exchange is also planned for the meeting. For details and directions, contact group leader Janet Fowler at 884-8698 or email at janalanf@aol.com.

Diversity Report

We invite all members and their friends to join us for the June AAUW Buffalo's ¡Adelante! G,L,B,T (Gay / Lesbian / Transgender / Bisexual) Awareness Month Book/Discussion Group at 6:00p.m. on Wednesday, June 13th at Talking Leaves, 3158 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14214. Join Kietie Jones as our Facilitator discussing *Blood Sisters: A Novel of an Epic Friendship* (Paperback - Publisher: Harrington Park Press). This recently published book by Mary Jacobson, psychotherapist and consultant in private practice deals with the story of two women.

Emily Ashmont is blunt, cynical, fiercely committed to her work, and straight. Val Summers is romantic, sweet, immensely idealistic, lesbian, and in love with Emily. The book tells the tale of these two unforgettable women and their decades-long friendship that deepens into an epic story all its own. Told through personal letters that reveal each woman's innermost thoughts and desires, the novel chronicles their intimate friendship from the 1970s through the 1990s. It spans the years illustrating the trials and tribulations of lifelong friends as they search for life's meaning, meeting problems head-on while showing the depth and courage of their hearts as well as the uniqueness of their relationship.

Look for our July 11th book: *Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust* by Barbara Rogasky, Holiday House, (Revised Edition) 2002. Location and Facilitator T.B.A. Rogasky presents information about the causes, ghettos, concentration and death camps, non-Jewish victims, resistance, "rescuers," the fate of the most notorious of the Nazis, and anti-Semitism and hate groups today. It includes facts unavailable at the time of the initial printing, such as sections on the regular German army's involvement in the atroci-



ties, and the treatment of homosexuals. The final chapter includes new sections on hate-group use of the Internet and Holocaust denial.

Wednesday, August 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Frank J. Merriweather Public Library, Jefferson St. and Utica St. we will look into *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges, Scholastic Press, 1999: Suitable for youths and adults. Surrounded by federal marshals, 6-year-old Ruby Bridges became the first black student ever at the all-white William Frantz Public School in New Orleans, Louisiana, on November 14, 1960. Perhaps

never had so much hatred been directed at so perfect a symbol of innocence--which makes it all the more remarkable that her memoir, simple in language and rich in history and sepia-toned photographs, is informed mainly by a sort of bewildered compassion. A personal, deeply moving historical documentary about a staggeringly courageous little

girl at the center of events that already seem unbelievable.

We look forward to a full summer of relaxing, vacations, and time for even more reading. If you would like to be on the Diversity Planning Committee for 2007-08, please contact me early in the summer. We thank all of you who have taken the time to attend our book discussions, our February Black History Month events and the repeated viewing of *Treemonisha* on National Library Day.

Sylvia Volk, Diversity Chair

Congratulations to our newly elected leaders:

The following branch members were elected and installed at the annual meeting on May 5:

- President: Tamara Brown
- President-Elect: Janet Fowler
- Program Vice President: Susan McClary
- Membership Retention Co-Vice Presidents:

Kristin Bojanowski and Michelle Norris

- Treasurer (Branch): Anita Kunkle
- Treasurer (Funds for Education): Lyn McDonald
- Nominating Committee Chair: Joan Eschner

**Welcome to our
new members:**

Ms Judith B. Hendee
157 Bennington Rd
Amherst, NY 14226
H: 839 0663
W: 937 5577
jbh4301@aol.com

Dana Greenfield

65 LeBrun Circle
Amherst, NY 14226
dg2085@gmail.com

Rebecca (Becca) Greenfield
65 LeBrun Circle
Amherst, NY 14226
716-860-9019
rz@sas.upenn.edu

**HEARTY THANKS TO JUNIOR
LEAGUE SHOW HOUSE VOLUN-
TEERS:**

A heartfelt thanks go out to all 22+ of us who volunteered at the Junior League's 2007 Show House" The Silverthorne Mansion" Saturday mornings, May 12th and 19th. The League was impressed by such a large group of women, who gave up their Saturday mornings for this major fundraiser in Greater Buffalo.

We were joined not only by our Branch members but neighbors, relatives and friends. This is just one more example of how AAUW-Buffalo members are active in the community.

Sylvia Volk, Coordinator



Branch Honors Judy Weidemann and Cathy Weiss



Judy Weidemann

Two outstanding Buffalo Branch members, Judy Weidemann and Cathy Weiss, were honored by the branch at the May 5 Annual Meeting and Awards luncheon. They were branch presidents together, have co-chaired Public Policy, organized the International Women's Day celebration for the past few years, and have worked on the book sale for many years.

For several years, Cathy has suffered many sleepless nights finding a site for the sale. Each year seems to be more challenging. It is not an easy job



Cathy Weiss

and we all owe her so much.

Last year, Judy and Gretchen Stringer organized the Personnel Empowerment committee for the sale. Judy is the one who sends the letter in the mail so members can indicate how they wish to help with the sale. We thank Judy for arranging storage space for books at Park Associates in East Aurora, arranging the College Bound Awards lunch at Canisius College, and for getting the Roycroft Inn for the May luncheon.

We don't know how they have time, but they also have lives outside AAUW. Judy is a retired school principal and an adjunct professor at Canisius College. She is an avid gardener and on the board of the League of Women Voters.

Cathy has 4 children and 9 grandchildren, is a member of Republican Women, chair of the Amherst Planning board, on the board of the Amherst Senior Center, and the Buffalo and Erie County Girl Scout Council legislative liaison to Albany. She has been inducted into the Western New York Women's Hall of Fame.

Congratulations, Judy and Cathy!

Grassroots Grants

The AAUW Buffalo Branch, Inc. announces its 2007 grants program for the Buffalo Niagara Region in the categories shown below. The goal of the grants program is the promotion of equity, gender awareness and lifelong learning for women and girls. Six to eight grants of up to \$1,500.00 each will be awarded. Previous awardees may reapply but the new submission must be for a different project than previously awarded.

Individual Projects

By female college students pertaining to women's issues i.e.: research, thesis, dissertation, and independent study

Community Organizations and/or Neighborhood Enrichment Programs through not for profits, neighborhood groups and established organizations targeting girls and women in urban settings or public housing projects neighborhoods.

High School Leadership

Projects involving female students and their student counselors. Multi-school projects are encouraged.

The application is available online at aauw.buffalo.edu and the deadline is July 15. Contact Joan Trinchera (Joan_Trinchera@hud.gov) with questions.

Catalyst for Change Winners

At our May 5th annual luncheon we were pleased to present three young women with Catalyst for Change Scholarships. These scholarships are given in recognition of grass roots activism on the behalf of equity for women and girls.

Natalie Edbauer, Senior at Williamsville East High School, will attend University of Pittsburgh in the Fall. Her long term professional goal is to be a pharmacist. Her grass roots activities were with the Girl Scouts, culminating in receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Natalie's community service project set up a resource room in the Erie Country Social Services Building to help provide basic necessities for foster children. A Badge Day for younger girl scouts was held that "informed them about foster care and being a good friend to foster children." The Project "demonstrates



the philosophy of AAUW because it was helping to promote equality among women and girls whether they are from foster families or not."

Amanda Maggiotto, another winner, is a Junior at John Carroll University, in Cleveland Ohio. Her major is psychology. She plans to pursue a PhD in clinical or counseling psychology after graduating from John Carroll University. Amanda plans to work with families, women, and children.

At John Carroll University she served on many committees, supported the ban on date auctions and was involved in other grass roots activities for women on campus. She attended three student leadership conferences, two of which were sponsored by AAUW. She is working with an administrator to bring an all female sexual assault peer education group to campus.

Michele Bellino is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University at Buffalo and a Presidential Fellow. She plans to work toward motivating US education's curriculum to activate students' consciousness so that they will be inspired to take roles as social activists in their lives."

Her advisor wrote "She is a social activist...who will easily finish her PhD on time and also continue in her social activism for the rights of women." Her work is in Quetzaltenango Guatemala, doing research on young Mayan women's activism and leadership. Michele organized a major event on "Femicide" in Guatemala, inviting the father of a young woman killed senselessly in Guatemala, translating while he spoke to a group of more than 70 students, faculty and staff at UB.

It was a pleasure meeting these young women and their guests, and hearing them talk about their plans for the future. We wish them much success.

Stacey Johnson

Annual Scholarship Book Sale Will Soon Be Here

It's Book Sale time again! This year's book sale begins Wednesday, May 30 through Sunday, June 3, 2007. We will be located in the same storefront as the last three years, 3248 Sheridan Drive in the Amherst Sheridan Plaza between N. Bailey and Sweethome. Thank you to the Benderson Corporation for once again providing a site for the sale.

We hope you are planning to help in some way, by donating snack for the workers during sorting or the sale, sending \$\$ toward the table rental, or serving on the staff. If you are not already signed up to help or received a phone call, contact Judy Weidemann (655-3649 or JWeide7170@aol.com). Many members are needed for all the shifts. We have set the shift times so that you have 15 minutes before you begin to familiarize yourself with the position. If you have a green Buffalo Branch T-shirt or a blue book sale apron, please wear them to help identify you as a member. Our customers will then know who to go to with questions. You may also purchase a T-shirt or apron at the site.

Remember at the grocery store to ask for "paper in plastic" and bring all the bags you get when you are shopping to the book sale site. We counted over 5000 customers last year and that is a lot of bags!

The tables we need to rent are the biggest expense of the sale. We spent over \$3300 this year. If you could help with a donation toward the table rental, please send your check, made out to AAUW Book Sale, to Adrienne Kotler, PO Box 46, Amherst, NY 14226-0046. Just write "Tables" on the bottom of the check.

Help will also be needed Monday morning, June 4, to clean out the room. Our lease expires the day after the sale each year.

The Book Sale is the "bread and butter" of the Buffalo Branch. Without it, we would not be able to present the College Bound Awards, Catalyst for Change scholarships, or community grants. Some of the proceeds from the sale help finance Tech Savvy, Sister to Sister, Transitions, the mentoring program, and various educational programs throughout the year.

Mary Kellner

Kevin O'Neill named Book Sale Honorary Chair

On opening day of last year's Book Sale, when television personality Kevin O'Neill, asked us why we hadn't invited him to be Honorary Chair, we didn't hesitate to take the hint, and are pleased to name him as this year's Book Sale Honorary Chair. A Western New York tradition we all enjoy starting our day watching, Kevin appears on WGRZ-TV's Daybreak feature, Celebrate WNY, on weekday mornings. Voted Favorite TV Personality in Artvoice, Kevin's antics, insight, and wry perspective have been enjoyed for many years, first for 12 years as "The Why Guy" on WIVB-TV, before joining WGRZ-TV in 2006.



Kevin is a graduate of Ithaca College, where he received a BS degree in Television and Radio. He is a WNY native, lives in Amherst, and says he is glad his two daughters are avid readers. He is no stranger to our Book Sale, having broadcast live features stories from the site the past few years. We look forward to seeing Kevin on May 30th, opening day of this year's Book Sale, where he is sure to bring much laughter and fun as he features this premier branch event on his program.

Linda Suchocki

Have you signed up yet
to work at the Book Sale?

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 Dates to Remember

Wed-Sun, May 30-June 3 - Annual Scholarship Book Sale

Mon, June 4 - 9 am, Book Sale clean up

Wed, June 6 - 6 pm, Board meeting at home of Tamara Brown - Picnic dinner with outgoing and incoming board members

Fri-Mon, June 27 - July 2 - AAUW National Convention, Phoenix, AZ

Fri-Sun, July 13-15 - NYS Leadership Conference
Delta Lake

Mon, Sept 10 - Annual Potluck dinner at Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on May 23, 2007.
Moving? Please contact Freddie Check, 835-6945.



Education Accounts & Charitable
Projects AAUW
PO Box 311
Buffalo, NY 14201-0311

Return Service Requested

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Organization
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