



# Buffalo Branch Advocate

NYS District 1

Happy Birthday AAUW – celebrating 125 years in 2006!

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



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**Multiple Opportunities this month for learning and sharing—and more coming up!**  
See pages 7- 8 for more details and page 9 for registration forms.

### Meet New Friends—Take some time for FUN!

Meet and greet our new branch members at J.P. Bullfeathers (1010 Elmwood) on Thursday, November 2 from 4:30 to 6:30.



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### Friends of Women’s Rights National Park, Inc.

and

### Buffalo Branch AAUW

Present

A SENECA FALLS DIALOGUE, “*The Plight of Refugee Women and Children*”  
Thursday, November 9, 2006, 6:30 p.m.



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### History Lives at BECHS

Join us on Saturday, November 18 at 1:00 p.m. as we tour both the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society “That Bloomin’” Exhibit at the Pan Am Building on Nottingham Court and the Pan Am Exhibit at the Resource Center on Forest Avenue. We’ll also get an opportunity to learn how things are stored at the Society and celebrate AAUW’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



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Looking ahead to **December**—a Diva-by-Diva performance by O’Connell & Co. just for us!

Coming in **January**—a breakfast meeting with a presentation on the needs of and services available for elderly women.

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## Presidents' Message

Dear Members,

I'm writing this letter in October, but thinking ahead to November, a month when we observe two days that are very important to all Americans: Election Day and Thanksgiving.

Allow me to speak of Thanksgiving first. You probably, like me, are a person with a very long list of things to be thankful for, and that in itself, is something to be thankful for! One of the items on my list is the Board of AAUW Buffalo Branch. This is my second year attending board meetings and I want you to know how thankful I am for the many, many hours they devote to the job with sincere dedication. Also on my list are all the members who devote their time, talents, and ideas toward making the Buffalo Branch of AAUW one that tries very hard to make all our goals successful. Thank you!

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th. I hope it finds every one of you exercising your voting privilege. Consider taking your children or grandchildren with you when you go. It's easy when you are strongly in favor of one candidate over another and harder to get yourself to the polls when you're really not behind someone for a particular office. But we never can accept that as an excuse. Please remember what Cheryl Papa, the head of NYS LAF, said at our Potluck, "Women's issues will be decided in the courts." Make sure you are an educated voter, especially when it comes to court positions.

Have you thought of attending a board meeting???? Remember, you are very welcome. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at Daemen College in the Business Bldg. Room 103 at 6:00.


Have you considered bringing a friend to a study/interest group or to one of our programs???? That is how many of us became members of AAUW. Think of how you became

a member and use that method to introduce someone to AAUW.

As always, I encourage you to read this issue word for word and keep it handy to refer to throughout the month.

Till next month,

Judy

P.S. The Book Sale Committee  is asking all Interest/Study groups to consider donating their May meeting time to sorting books for the book sale. If you already have planned a program for that month maybe you could arrange another time when you could come. Turn it into a social affair. Maybe you could meet for lunch or dinner and then car pool to the sorting site. It doesn't have to be a commitment of all or no one. Two hours given by a few means so much. We are thanking you ahead for your time.

*Mary Kellner and Judy Malamas*

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



Deadline for the December issue is November 10. Please send articles to Betty Preble via e-mail, betty6935@adelphia.net. Articles received after that date will not appear in the December issue. Also send her a request if you wish to receive a copy of the newsletter via e-mail..

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## Thank-you speech of Kari Mergenhagen, our Olga Lindberg Scholarship Winner

It's a distinct honor for me to be here today before such a distinguished audience. The emotion I'm feeling is overwhelming.

The scholarship you've awarded me has gone miles to validate an on-going struggle to overcome obstacles that have tested my faith, my patience, and my perseverance. I suppose, however, that such obstacles are par for the course when you aspire to be a successful woman in the professional arena. And like the path so many of you have tread before me, my faith, my patience, and my perseverance are often the only weapons a woman has when she sets out to make her way in the world.

Women in the professional realm, women like my mother, and my grandmother before her, are an inspiration to me, for their example and their support show me that it is possible to realize what the sociologist Abraham Maslow called "self-actualization." This state of being reflects the truth that with hard work and with shoulders to lean on, an individual can truly make the most of his or her potential.

My journey has taken me from nearly the waning moments of my own life to the heights and joys of academic and personal triumph. I can remember being literally too weak to stand, but I'm proud to say that my family, friends, and this community have been helping me up ever since.

Community is a word that's taken on deeper meaning for me in the last three years, and even more so in the last three weeks as I've begun my rotations at the Buffalo VA Hospital. A concept like "the medical community," resonates with me as I see educated professionals striving to meet the needs of those suffering the darkest of hardships. As someone who has experienced both sides of a community comprised of devoted professionals, I feel both a debt for my opportunities

and a responsibility to live deliberately so as to share the lessons I've learned with the people I come in contact with, whether they be my patients, colleagues, or strangers on the street.

What you have done for me has shown me witness to what I have felt in my heart since I was a little girl, that work and focus, when added to faith, patience, and perseverance can strengthen character, save lives, and create miracles.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this honor, I'll do my best to make you proud.

*Submitted for Kari by Lyn McDonald,  
Olga Lindberg Scholarship Chair*

**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 (fscneck@adelphia.net, 835-6945) or Michele Maddox (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—November Schedules

Note: 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: Wed, November 8, 6 p.m.

Where: Talking Leaves, 3158 Main at Winspear, Buffalo

Parking behind store and at Wilson Farms

Celebrating “Native American Heritage Month”

Book: “*American Indian Ballerinas*” by Lili Cockerville Livingston (U. of Okla Press, 1999)

Facilitator: Janis Quinn, Seneca-Cayuga/Cherokee

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

### Group: American Biographies

When: November 14, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Eggertsville Snyder Library, 4622 Main St., parking off Burroughs

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

Book: “*The Unfinished Presidency: Jimmy Carter’s Journey Beyond the White House*” by Douglas Brinkley

Facilitator: Nancy Ryther

Contact: Mary Fiore (886-6727)

### Group: Great Decisions Discussion Group

When: Thurs, November 2, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church, Main Street, east of Youngs Road

Topic: “Pandemics and National Security”  
Group Leader for discussion: Ingrid Wetherbee

Contact: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

### Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

When: Wed, November 29, 6 p.m.

Where: Plaka’s Restaurant, Delaware Avenue,

Kenmore

Topic: “*Death at LaFenice*,” by Donna Leon

Discussion Leader: Shirley Havice

Reserve: Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

### Group: Education and Equity

When: Tues, November 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Amherst Library, 5571 Main St., Williamsville

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

### Group: Dinner by the Book

See details on pg 5

### Group: Gourmet Food

Various Locations and Times (see pg 6)

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

### Group: Green Thumbs Gardening

When: November 9, 7 p.m.

Where: Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library, 2580 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga

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 or [aikotler@earthlink.net](mailto:aikotler@earthlink.net))

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Below is the schedule for **Dinner by the Book**. Note that we will be meeting at My Tomato Pie for all months except December when we will be meeting at the Plaka Restaurant and May when we will be meeting at the Olympic Restaurant.

We LOVE to READ! Regular members: Margaret Fischer, Mary Anne Grady, Suzanne Grossman, Margaret Haas, Norma Heimerl, Mickey Hice, Maryann Hope, Sandy Ihlefeld, Lee Jordan, Patricia Keller, Karen Kolb, Julianna LaMar, Joan Lardner, Judy Malamas, Jan Marino, Norma Millar, Eloise Moran, Jeanne Petersen, Carole Reid, Jane Riga, Joan Spencer, Cherie St. Pierre, Karen Stephenson, Lynne Tauriello, Marilyn Todd, Fran Witnauer.

2006-07	BOOK & AUTHOR	LEADER/PLACE
Wed, Nov 15	<i>THE TROUBLE WITH ISLAM TODAY</i> by Irshad Manji	Lee Jordan My Tomato Pie
Wed, Dec 13	<i>THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL</i> by Phillippa Gregory	Fran Witnauer Plaka Restaurant
Wed, Jan 17	<i>THE FALLS</i> by Joyce Carol Oates	Maryann Hope My Tomato Pie
Wed, Feb 21	<i>ORDINARY HEROES: A Novel</i> by Scott Turow	Cherie St. Pierre My Tomato Pie
Wed, Mar 21	<i>SNOWFLOWER &amp; THE SECRET FAN</i> by Lisa See	Sandy Ihlefeld My Tomato Pie
Wed, Apr 18	ANNUAL BOOK SELECTION for 2007-2008 **Come with 2+ book suggestions for 07-0	Members of the Book Club/My Tomato Pie
Wed, May 16	<i>BEYOND THE SKY &amp; THE EARTH</i> <i>A JOURNEY INTO BHUTAN</i> by Jamie Zeppa	Marilyn Carmichael Olympic Restaurant
Wed, Jun 20	<i>THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING</i> by Joan Didion	Judy Malamas My Tomato Pie

Notes: Dinner by the Book is open to all AAUW members and their guests. Co-Leaders are Leona Barback at 633-1982 and Marilyn Carmichael at 875-6817 (mccarmichael45@aol.com).

\*\*\*FOR RESERVATIONS, please call Fran Witnauer at 837-5887 or email her at [grandmafran44@yahoo.com](mailto:grandmafran44@yahoo.com)

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## International Relations Study Group

“The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality”. *Dante*

It is unlikely that any AAUW members are neutral about Darfur, Iraq...

Share your perspective, process new information and gain some clarity about global affairs. Ideas on topics and activities welcome. (I have some of my own). Specific actions, as agreed upon by the group, will follow discussions.

Contact: Lillis McLean, Convener—873-7467

Time and place to be established at the convenience of interested AAUW members. I'll get back to you quickly, please call by November 1 or thereabouts.

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## AAUW Buffalo Gourmet Food Interest Group

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If you have an interest in this group contact Sylvia Volk, co-chair (881-1424 or [artisans\\_company@yahoo.com](mailto:artisans_company@yahoo.com).) Future plans include RTru-Teas on ElmwoodAve., Fiddlehead's on Allen St., visiting food markets (Premier Foods with our LAF fundraiser, Guercio's, a wholesale food supplier, Asian and Latino stores) and more.

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*Sylvia Volk*

## AAUW Celebrates 125th Anniversary

November 28, 1881 Marion Talbot and Ellen Richards invited 15 women, all college alumnae, to a meeting in Boston, MA. They wished to form an organization of female college graduates who would encourage other women to seek higher education.

The "Association of Collegiate Alumnae" was officially organized the following January with 65 founding members who were graduates of eight colleges and universities. By 1884, local branches of the Association were approved and the Buffalo Branch was formed in 1890.

The Association of Collegiate Alumnae and the Southern Association of College Women merged to become the American Association of University Women in 1921.

You may read more about the history of AAUW on the national website. Go to [aauw.org/museum/history](http://aauw.org/museum/history).



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## Details of Upcoming Programs

**Buffalo/Niagara Chapter, Friends of Women's Rights National Park, Inc.**

*and*

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

Present

**A SENECA FALLS DIALOGUE**

***"The Plight of Refugee Women and Children"***

November 9, 2006

at the Karpeles Manuscript Museum, 453 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY

6:30 Registration and Refreshments

7:00 Panel Presentation: Allison DesForges, Jeanette Ludwig, Sister Maureen Quinn

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Upon our 1 PM arrival at the BECHS Nottingham Campus, our group will be divided into two with half staying there and the other half going via Laidlaw bus to the Forest Avenue location.

At about 2 PM the groups will exchange location again via Laidlaw bus. At 3PM both tour groups will reassemble back at the auditorium for final presentations and information.

Light refreshments will be served to celebrate AAUW's Anniversary!

You may wish to plan to spend some time after the tour at the BECHS Gift Shop.

Cost of the event is \$10.00. Reservations must be made by November 10. Check the reservation form elsewhere in this newsletter.

Here are some facts about what might a visitor expect to see? Moose hair embroidery on ladies' slippers; gold-threaded Chinese embroidery and Tuscaroran embroidered moccasins. A copper luster ware vase; a Victorian scrapbook with die-cut flower pictures; butter molds; framed hair wreaths; footwarmers; wrought iron castings. China that is hand-painted and china that is done by machine, as transferware was, Buffalo Pottery, English yellow ware, Arts and Crafts style Wellworth from Rochester, New York. Flora across the decades, even the centuries, will be depicted on such diverse items as a late nineteenth century Native American cradle board -- still stunningly colorful with bright flowers on an azure blue beaded background with red wool and green trim—to a bright red 1940s bakelite jewelry pin.

Additional information is available at <http://www.bechs.org/>

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November 9, 2006

at the Karpeles Manuscript Museum, 453 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY

6:30 Registration and Refreshments

7:00 Panel Presentation: Allison DesForges, Jeanette Ludwig, Sister Maureen Quinn

### November Program: History Lives at BECHS

Join us on Saturday, November 18 as we tour both the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society "That Bloomin'" Exhibit at the Pan Am Building on Nottingham Court and the Pan Am Exhibit at the Resource Center on Forest Avenue. We'll also get an opportunity to learn how things are stored at the Society and celebrate AAUW's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Upon our 1 PM arrival at the BECHS Nottingham Campus, our group will be divided into two with half staying there and the other half going via Laidlaw bus to the Forest Avenue location.

At about 2 PM the groups will exchange location again via Laidlaw bus. At 3PM both tour groups will reassemble back at the auditorium for final presentations and information.

Light refreshments will be served to celebrate AAUW's Anniversary!

You may wish to plan to spend some time after the tour at the BECHS Gift Shop.

Cost of the event is \$10.00. Reservations must be made by November 10. Check the reservation form elsewhere in this newsletter.

Here are some facts about what might a visitor expect to see? Moose hair embroidery on ladies' slippers; gold-threaded Chinese embroidery and Tuscaroran embroidered moccasins. A copper luster ware vase; a Victorian scrapbook with die-cut flower pictures; butter molds; framed hair wreaths; footwarmers; wrought iron castings. China that is hand-painted and china that is done by machine, as transferware was, Buffalo Pottery, English yellow ware, Arts and Crafts style Wellworth from Rochester, New York. Flora across the decades, even the centuries, will be depicted on such diverse items as a late nineteenth century Native American cradle board -- still stunningly colorful with bright flowers on an azure blue beaded background with red wool and green trim—to a bright red 1940s bakelite jewelry pin.

Additional information is available at <http://www.bechs.org/>

## December Branch Program

Diva-by-Diva performance by O'Connell & Co. at Cabaret in the Square theatre

Monday December 11, 2006, 7:30 P.M. 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

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. 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 that you might consider going to that evening before the show. You would make reservations on your own if you choose to have dinner there the night of the performance.



Read more about the production at

<http://www.oconnellandcompany.com/diva.html>.

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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, bacon, country pork sausage, pastries, coffee, tea and juice.



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✂MEETING REGISTRATION FORMS✂

**A SENECA FALLS DIALOGUE - "The Plight of Refugee Women and Children"**

November 9, 2006, 6:30 p.m. - Cost \$8.50 per person  
Please make checks payable to "Friends of Women's Rights National Park"  
Mail to: Catharine Weiss, 70 Fennec Lane, East Amherst, NY 14051, Phone: 688-6181  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation Form for **History Lives at BECHS, November 18, 2006 1 PM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost \$10.00 per person Total included \_\_\_\_\_  
Return reservations **by November 10** to  
Betty Krist, 116 Iris Avenue, West Seneca, NY 14224-2747  
Call Betty (675-4059) if you need assistance. Make checks payable to AAUW, Buffalo Branch.

**Reservation Form for Diva-by-Diva - December 11, 2006**

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 payable to the AAUW - Buffalo Branch. **RSVP by January 13.**  
Mail to: Peggy Meinel, 96 Mafalda Drive, Buffalo, NY 14215  
Questions: Call Peggy at 834-0439 or e-mail at [aurorapm1219@aol.com](mailto:aurorapm1219@aol.com)  
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## Educational Foundation Fellowship & Grant applications now available.



The Buffalo Branch will again be giving \$15,000 toward the Association Educational Foundation fellowships and grants. The funds come from the annual book sale. We are encouraging local scholars to apply. These grants and fellowships are:

**American Fellowships** support women doctoral candidates completing dissertations or scholars seeking funds for postdoctoral research leave from accredited institutions.

These include:

- **Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowships** offer one-year support for women who will have earned a doctoral degree by Nov. 15, 2006.
- **Dissertation Fellowships** are available to women who will complete their dissertation writing between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008.
- **Summer/Short-Term Research Publication Grants** fund women, college and university faculty and independent researchers to prepare research for publication.

**Career Development Grants** support women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the work force. Special consideration is given to AAUW members, women of color, and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields.

**Community Action Grants** provide seed money to individual women, AAUW branches and AAUW state organizations, as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. Applicants must be U.S citizens or permanent residents

**Selected Professions Fellowships** are awarded to women who intend to pursue a full-time course of study at accredited institutions during the fellowship year in one of the designated degree programs where women's participation traditionally has been low

**International Fellowships** are awarded for full-time study or research to women who are not United States citizens or permanent residents. Both graduate and postgraduate study at accredited institutions are supported.

**University Scholar-in-Residence**, located at a college or university, undertakes and disseminates research on gender and equity for women and girls.

Deadlines for applications vary, the earliest being November 15, 2006. If you or someone you know might be eligible, the details are on the Association web site [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org) .

*Leona Barback, Educational Foundation Vice President*

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# Book Sale News

The sorting for the Fabulous 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scholarship Book Sale continues each Tuesday from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Kensington-Bailey Neighborhood Services Center at 995 Kensington Ave. **This location is safe and convenient.** The personnel at the Center are delighted to have us there and to help by taking book deliveries every day Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 to 2:30. Consider coming to the sorting. Several Book Sale committee members are there each Tuesday to “show you the ropes”.

We will also be sorting at the Waters in East Aurora on October 27 and November 17. Some of us like to combine lunch with a trip to East Aurora. Plans will be put in place for that.

*Judy Weidemann*

## Highlights from the September 5, 2006 Board Meeting

All appointed positions were approved. The Branch budget for July 1, 2006-June 30, 2006 was presented by Adrienne Kotler and approved.

Kristin Bojanowski, Publicity Chair, requested information regarding meetings be sent to her when it is submitted for the newsletter. She asked for suggestions of other media outlets she can use to increase the branch visibility. There was a discussion on whether to send the monthly newsletter by e-mail. The newsletter will continue to be distributed by regular mail.

It was decided to present grants to Alden High School, McKinley High School, and the Girl Scouts. Chairman Joan Trinchera asked that the name of the committee be changed from "Grants 2006" to "Grassroots Grants." Lyn McDonald, Scholarship Chair, reported that Kari Mergenhagen was selected to receive the first Olga Lindberg Scholarship and thanked her committee for the many hours they worked in the selection process. Pat MacClennan presented the recommendations for Chamberlin Loans and grants.

*Mary Kellner*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 New York State  
 AAUW Convention  
 April 27-29, 2007  
 We return to the  
 Gideon Putnam  
 Hotel in Saratoga  
 Springs!

### Historical Tidbits

Membership in AAUW peaked in 1955. From then until 1997 we lost 84% of our members. In 1981, AAUW had 190,000 members, but in 2006 we have just under 100,000. Membership loss continues. For this reason, the Buffalo Branch has made "Membership Retention" one of its primary goals.

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## From Branch Member and LAF Litigant Linda Brodsky, MD, Speaker at our September Potluck

September 24, 2006

Linda Brodsky, MD, is Professor of Otolaryngology and Pediatrics, University at Buffalo, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

“The American Association of University Women is the only organization in the world that is committed to helping women achieve equality through equal access to higher education. A four year college degree is but the first step. The AAUW also recognizes the need for women to achieve tenure and occupy administrative policy making positions at all levels of higher education. Sadly, these goals have not yet been achieved.

The Legal Advocacy Fund was established in 1981 to aid women who are forced to go to court to seek redress of this egregious situation. Over \$1 million has been granted to more than 70 cases, most of which have been successful, in helping women fight these most difficult battles.

I never imagined that I would spend my time reading depositions and learning the intricacies of the legal system. It was incredibly difficult to become a surgeon during an era when surgery was not commonly chosen by women medical students as a career choice. Being a litigant is even more difficult. The process is long, tortuous and filled with uncertainty. Many times I thought about giving up, however, when the AAUW LAF chose to support my case, I knew that there were a half million highly educated women who were standing behind me and were counting on me. While the amount of money that is granted is modest, the power of the organization and the belief that my case can make a difference is incredibly sustaining during the long and difficult struggle.

I have a difficult time seeing myself as a victim. After all, I am a physician, a healer. I did not recognize myself as a victim until 9 years ago when I was confronted with the unfair treatment that I received at the SUNY Buffalo medical school. I saw the advantages that male colleagues were given at the start of their careers and the opportunities for advancement that they were given preferentially over me and other women. I could not remain silent. I am committed to seeing this through not only for myself but also for those of you who have worked so hard and are committed to the need to have women recognized fairly for the enormous value we must bring to the world.”



**NOTICE** - The 2006-2007 AAUW Buffalo Branch Roster will be mailed to all paid members in November. If you have any changes in your contact information (mailing address, phone numbers, email, etc.) please submit the new information to Freddie Cheek by email ([fscheek@adelphia.net](mailto:fscheek@adelphia.net)), fax (716-831-9320), or mail (406 Maynard Dr., Amherst, NY 14226) by October 29, 2006.

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### Working in the Community

AAUW's Grants 2006 program is pleased to announce that \$1500 checks were recently awarded to:

- Girl Scout Council of Buffalo and Erie County, to fund memberships and to provide financial and transportation assistance to 60 girls in rural and urban settings under their RULE (Rural & Urban Learning Experience) program .
- McKinley Comprehensive High School, to fund a program which seeks to encourage teenage girls to enter the school's building and construction trades curriculum. In addition to educational materials, a girls conference will be held to teach leadership skills. Guest speakers in the building trades will be invited to the conference along with parents and families of the participating students.
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### In Memoriam

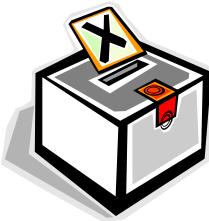
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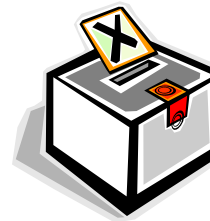
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**Kids Voting** is an award winning program to encourage civic responsibility in young people. Each year AAUW Buffalo Branch members help. Members can volunteer for 3 hour shifts at School 81, located at 140 Tacoma Avenue in Buffalo, on Tuesday, November 7, 2006. Call Judy Weidemann at 655-3649 to volunteer.



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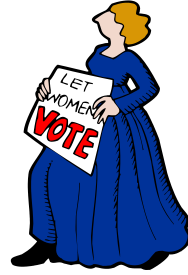
## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

### BE EDUCATED, INFORMED, AND A VOTING CITIZEN!

We haven't always had this privilege—let's not neglect it!

Look for information on issues at: [www.aauw.org/issue\\_advocacy](http://www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy)

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## BECOME A TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST

AAUW's Public Policy Program underscores our mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. For more than a century, AAUW has influenced legislative debate on critical issues such as education, social security, sex discrimination, civil rights, reproductive choice, affirmative action, Title IX, welfare reform, vocational education, pay equity, family and medical leave and health care reform.

*Action Alert* is a bimonthly policy newsletter which provides an overview of action by Congress and the Executive Branch on AAUW priority issues. It is available free for members online in the member center at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). *Action Network* and *Two-Minute Activist* are two components of AAUW's e-advocacy efforts. Anyone with an e-mail address can subscribe to *Action Network* to receive urgent notices to contact their members of Congress.

Using *Two-Minute Activist* takes just two minutes to make your voice heard - one minute to read and one minute to act! Just visit <http://capwiz.com/aauw> or the Association website, [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), and click on "email Congress now" to relate your views to your Congresspersons in Washington - read about the latest issues in Congress, personalize a pre-written AAUW message and e-mail it to your Congresspersons (automatically matched through your ZIP code).

Remember to vote on November 7, and express your opinions regularly using the *Two-Minute Activist* "because equity is still an issue"!

(Informational material was excerpted from AAUW public policy web pages, including Washington Update).

*Karen Stephenson, Teresa Gessner and Mary Kellner*



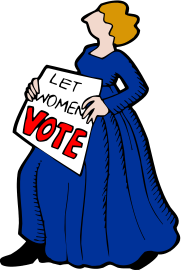
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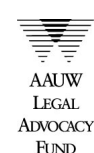
*In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.*



*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

- Wed, Nov 1** - Board Meeting 6 p.m.  
Daemen College, Business Bldg. Room 103
- Thurs, Nov 2** - New member mixer, 4:30-6:30 at  
J.P Bullfeathers, 1010 Elmwood Ave
- Tues, Nov 7** - Election Day - **VOTE!!!!!!**
- Thurs, Nov 9** - 6:30 p.m. - Friends of Women's  
Rights National Parks reception, Karpeles  
Manuscript Museum
- Sat, Nov 18** - 1 p.m.- Tours at the Buffalo &  
Erie County Historical Society
- Tues, Nov 28** - AAUW 125th Anniversary
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Daemen College, Business Bldg. Room 103
- Mon, Dec 11** - Diva by Diva! 7:30 p.m.  
Cabaret in the Square Theatre, Snyder

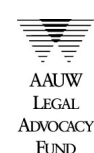
*In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.*



*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.*



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