



NYS District 1

Buffalo Branch Advocate

January 2008
<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>
716-559-3037



Highlights:

- Pg 1 - January Meetings
- Pg 2 - President's Message, College/University
- Pg 3 - NYS Articles
- Pg 4 - Interest Groups and Action Groups
- Pg 5 - Booksale Corner, Public Policy, Transitions Conference
- Pg 6 - LAF Highlights
- Pg 7 - United Nations
- Pg 8 - Dates to Remember

Climate Change and What It Means For You

Join us Wednesday, January 30, 2008, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst for a stimulating discussion on the implications of global warming for us and future generations.

Walter and Nan Simpson, founders of the Western New York Climate Action Coalition, will present an information-packed program to show what we can do to stave off some of the more shocking effects of climate change.

The discussion will continue after their presentation when refreshments will be served. There is no charge for the meeting.

The church is located at 6320 Main St. in Williamsville, just north of Youngs Road and the ECC North campus. There is a large parking lot in the rear.

Background Information

There is general agreement that climate change is going to be a life-altering event. A steady stream of scientific reports links global warming with widespread coastal erosion, flooding, food and water shortages, increasingly destructive storms and loss of species. Without intervention, the prognosticators say, all this will be upon us within a couple of decades. We already see it beginning.

Wealthy nations, those responsible for most of the carbon emissions that are accelerating the earth's temperature spikes, are in the best position to insulate their citizens from the most damaging effects of climate shocks. But no one is immune to the global disruptions that will accompany a world-wide scramble for vanishing resources and habitable environments.

Some climate change is inevitable but there are strategies to delay its onset and avoid the worst consequences and global warming scenarios.

Branch members and guests can learn how individuals, governments and businesses can reduce greenhouse gases and save energy on a small and large scale at the Jan. 30 program.

Walter and Nan Simpson, founders of the Western New York Climate Action Coalition, will share the

information they have assembled from training at Al Gore's Climate Project and their research. Long time environmental activists, the Amherst couple lives in a solar powered house and strives for a carbon neutral lifestyle.

Walter Simpson, University at Buffalo's award-winning energy officer and director of the UB Green Office, holds masters' degrees in philosophy and environmental studies. He is a certified energy manager and has been accredited as a professional in green building design by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), a green building design rating system established by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Nan Simpson, a registered nurse and health and wellness educator, has a bachelor's degree in American studies from UB.

Their presentations are flavored with intelligent discourse, abundant information, their passion and their delightful sense of humor.

Pat Swift MacClennan

President's Message

The chance is one in ten. For every ten girls in high school, one will drop out before graduation.

Ten years later, chances are that she is significantly less able to be self sufficient than those who finished high school and college. In fact, she will earn about half as much as a college graduate-- about \$1 million less over her lifetime.

I agree. New Year's is a time of new beginnings-- and the chance for each of us to provide chances for new beginnings to others. Others --like the one girl who may be considering dropping out of high school or another three or so who graduate high school but never plan to attend college.

That's one promise of the New Year for AAUW. The Velma Cobb Scholarship program provides funds to two bright, exceptional young women graduating from high school. The Velma Cobb program is one example of the ways which AAUW provides real chances for education and equity.

There are many opportunities to provide chances within AAUW. You may choose to spend about five hours annually on a scholarship committee, spending the day with 300 girls and their parents at *Tech Savvy*, or working on the Book Sale. It's what I like to call *your AAUW*. Regardless of how you spend your time in the branch, it's less about the specific task and more about your giving a chance.

Leona tells me that sometimes it's good to take a chance on people... I agree. As the New Year dawns, my thoughts are all about chances. I am looking forward to all the ways AAUW will provide chances to others in 2008 and I look forward to working with each of you in *your AAUW*.

Have a blessed, peaceful, wonderful New Year.

Tamara



I need your help!

I am recruiting college/university affiliate AAUW members. If you know a senior administrator contact from one of the area colleges, please call me.

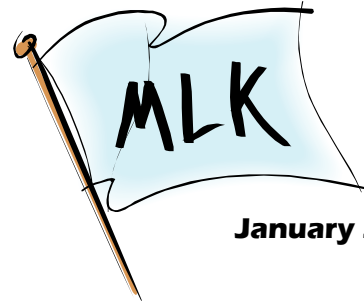


I would love help with this, and we all know that knowing the decision makers can improve our chances of gaining college affiliate members.

Michele Maddox

College/University Relations Director

716/882-2925, maddoxm@dyc.edu



January 21, 2008

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

President: Tamara Brown

Publisher/Editor: Betty Preble

Assistant Editors: Judy Weidemann and Betty Krist

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@roadrunner.com or 652-7182)

For renewal questions, contact VP Membership Retention,

Kristin Bojanowski (kaybee74@gmail.com, 873-7387) or

Michelle Norris (mnorris@mtb.com, 877-5484)

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

January 2008

Vol. CXVIII No. 5

Circulation 280

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

MEMBERSHIP BUILDING AND YOU!

Membership in AAUW in New York State has increased in branches in the past year. How about that good news!

The Association continues to offer incentives for current members who wish to bring in new AAUW branch members and one of those perks offered is the opportunity for you to have your name on the Association website Hall of Fame as the recruiting member. In my opinion this whole membership building initiative is competitive from state to state and NYS should shine.

Can you participate and bring in a new member to your branch? Yes, you can! Recruit a new member and your branch Membership VP and Treasurer can make sure your membership number and name are added to the form to zip off to Washington and make sure you appear on the electronic Hall of Fame. Just ask them about the process and they can gladly assist you as the forms have been provided to all MVPs through the mail and on the www.aauw.org website.

The perks to each branch for participating in the Keys to the Future: Every Member Get A Member Campaign: growth in NYS and branch membership, credit to you, branch recognition, and NYS membership accolades.

I encourage all of you to go to the www.aauw.org



website and see all that there is to learn about this campaign and while you are there view all of the new features of the updated website.

Enjoy and benefit from the offerings of our incredible organization and be part of the campaign to build membership because equity is still an issue. We must keep our message of equity alive through our involved and informed membership.

Let's Grow!

*Eileen Hartmann
AAUW NYS VP Membership*

"I Am One"

by Jann Mirchandani, AAUW NYS Program VP

So often we read articles or talk to friends and neighbors about what's wrong with our world and our communities and are left feeling overwhelmed and powerless. We think, "What can I do?"

There is plenty we can do. We can empower ourselves and our friends and neighbors by making use of resources like the Capwiz link and the Two-Minute activist on the Association website and letting others know these resources are there. We can – and should – get involved in Branch planning and programming.

If you have an issue or area of interest and the branch is not involved yet, talk to your branch president and find out how to get the ball rolling. Consider this, Westchester branch was approached by a new member several years ago about starting a business networking group. The branch now regularly hosts over 20 women at its networking events, has new members join as a result and is being invited to partner with other organizations to support women business owners. Could there be better way of supporting women's economic security?

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do." – Helen Keller

Get involved in your branch programming. You'll be glad you did.

AAUW-NYS Convention Update

Convention is energizing, it is inspiring, it is one of the truly nice things you can do for yourself. Come and enjoy!



Save the date - April 25-27, 2008 at the Otesaga Resort and Hotel in Cooperstown, NY. Come for yourself and to support our own Tamara Brown, who is running for re-election as AAUW-NYS Educational Foundation Vice President!

Buffalo Branch Study/Interest Groups - Schedule for the Month

Study groups are an excellent way to form friendships, network, educate and have fun. If you are interested in joining any of the groups below, please see the "contact" person associated with that group. For further information please contact Yvonne Curry, study group coordinator: 716-553-3925 - von104@sprynet.com.

Group: American Biographies

No meeting scheduled for January, 2008

Contact: Jean Sylvester: 838-6780

Contact: Lillis McLean: 873-7467

Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

When: Wednesday, January 23, 2008, at 5:30 pm

Where: Friendly's, 4350 Maple Road, Amherst, NY 14226

Book: *Deadly Appearances* (1990) or *The Wandering Soul Murders* (1992), by Gail Bowen

Contact: Stacey Johnson: 885-2486 or jhnsn@buffalo.edu

Group: Current Events

No meeting scheduled for January, 2008

Contact: Suzanne Grossman: 837-8769

Group: Dinner by the Book

When: Wednesday, January 16, 2008, at 5:30 pm

Where: ** Bob Evans/ Amherst
1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Amherst, NY.
691-0778

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

Facilitator: Marilyn Carmichael

Discussion Leader: Cherie St. Pierre

Book: *The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama

Contact: Fran Witnauer at 688-5708 or
grandmafran44@yahoo.com

Group: Green Thumbs Garden Study

When: Thursday, January 10, 2008, at 7:00 pm

ACTION GROUPS:

Education and Equity - Tuesday, January 15th, 2008 at 6 pm at Plaka Restaurant, 2904 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore NY. Please contact Stacey Johnson - 885-2486 or jhnsn@buffalo.edu.

Public Policy will not be meeting in January. The next meeting will be on Monday, February 11, 2008 at 5:30 at Perkins Restaurant, 8444 Transit Rd., East Amherst.

Where: Gateway/Longview, 6350 Main St.,
Williamsville

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

Guest Speaker: Seymour Sunshine, Master Gardener

Topic: Indoor plant care and propagation

Contact: Janet Fowler: 884-8698 or Jana-lanf@aol.com

Group: Gourmet Food Interest Group

Where & When: January 2008 - TBA

Contact: Sylvia Volk, 881-1424 or
sylviafolk.aauw@yahoo.com.

Group: ¡Adelante! Diversity Book/Discussion Club

Where & When: January 2008 - TBA

Contact: Sylvia Volk, 881-1424 or
sylviafolk.aauw@yahoo.com

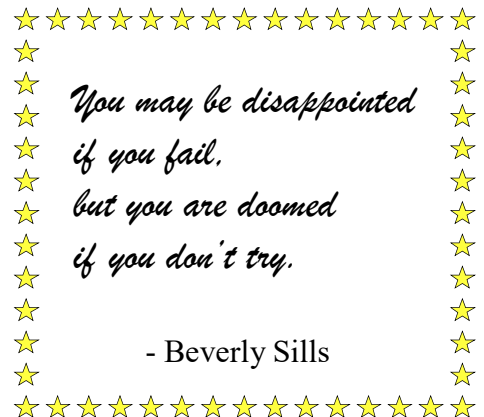
Group: Knitting Group

Where & When: January 2008 - TBA

Contact: Adrienne Kotler, 688-0740 or
aikotler@earthlink.net

Group: YOGA - - (tentative new group)

If interested contact Yvonne Curry: 553-3925 or
von104@sprynet.com



Book Sale Corner

BOOK SALE GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Book Sale Certificates are a great gift for any occasion. They are available in denominations of \$2 and \$5. Contact Karen Howard at 874-1389 for information. You may mail a request to Karen at 150 Warren Ave, Kenmore NY 14217. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope.



Public Policy Update

The Public Policy Committee has been working on a number of initiatives this year. Voter registration forms were distributed to High Schools in Buffalo. An interactive voting video game, "VOTE18" will be offered to local schools.

We are monitoring the progress of the New York State Fair Pay Act (S3936/A2712).

Plans are moving along well for the March 8, 2008 International Women's Day Celebration. Geeta Desai will speak about the current situation of women in India. This event is always a successful one. New committee members are welcome. To join call Lillis McLean (874-7367) or Judy Weidemann (655-3649), co-chairs.

Teresa Gessner and Judy Weidemann

Book Sale News

We appreciate the help that we have been receiving at the Kensington Bailey sorting site. There are many boxes sorted. However many more books need to be sorted and contributions of books continue to come in. As a reminder, when you sort, you get first choice on buying all books except collectibles. It is possible that we might have Saturday sorting. Contact Pat Baker (pbbaker217@aol.com or 634-6640 or) if interested.



Please note: There will be no Tuesday sorting on Dec 25 or Jan 1 - it will resume on January 8, 2008. Sorting takes place on Tuesdays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at 995 Kensington Ave, Buffalo NY.

We have great news! Jacquie Walker of WIVB-TV has agreed to be Honorary Chair of the 2008 Book Sale. She showed great interest in the Sale and gave us much good publicity when she was Honorary Chair several years ago. We do need a publicity chair for the Book Sale. Linda Suchocki who has done the publicity for a number of years will train the new person. Any volunteers?

The Book Sale Committee

AAUW Transitions Conference

The 4th Transitions Conference for women beginning or returning to college will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Educational Opportunity Center on Washington St. in downtown Buffalo. The conference will be a half-day program with many interesting workshops.



The committee is looking for members to work on this exciting event. Help is needed for a variety of committee jobs -- planning for the conference, presenting workshops, outreach, etc. If you are interested in helping women overcome the obstacles facing them and preventing them from attending college, please contact Transitions Chair, Sandra Williams Bush at 867-3631 or swbush@email.com.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND Highlights – 25 Year History

1981

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Board of Directors votes at the June Convention in Boston, MA to establish the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund as a two-year pilot program to provide moral and financial support to female plaintiffs in higher education sex discrimination cases. LAF national office staff is an extension of the Public Policy department at AAUW.

1983

AAUW directs the Board of Directors to establish a permanent Legal Advocacy Fund. To date, LAF has contributed \$8,500 to the Cornell 11 (*Zahorik, et al. v. Cornell University*) and has granted support status to two additional cases: *Penk, et al. v. Oregon State Board of Higher Education* and *Haffer v. Temple University*.

1991

With a generous contribution from LAF-supported plaintiff Colleen Roberts (*Roberts v. College of the Desert*), the LAF Board of Directors began making grants to fund travel for LAF plaintiffs to speak at state and regional AAUW meetings. Based on the enthusiastic response, LAF continues to make a limited number of Plaintiff Travel Grants each year.

1992

LAF supported its first case - *Lever v. Northwestern University, et al.* - to go to the Supreme Court, a case based on sex discrimination and denial of tenure in violation of Title VII of the Civil Right Act of 1964.

1994

LAF Update begins as a single page article in the winter issue of *AAUW Outlook*.

1997

LAF recognizes Lani Guinier as its first *Speaking Out for Justice* honoree at the AAUW June

Convention in Los Angeles, CA. Lani Guinier's 1993 nomination as assistant attorney general for civil rights in the U.S. Department of Justice was withdrawn in a climate of intense controversy. Guinier argued that the existing legal education program in our country serves neither the needs of current students nor the legal profession. LAF continues to present this award biennially during the AAUW Convention to those who have made a significant contribution to the betterment and well-being of women and whose focus of achievement agrees with the AAUW mission and that of LAF.

1997

LAF makes headlines with *Brzonkala v. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, et al.*, a landmark rape case that went to the Supreme Court. Brzonkala sued for sexual harassment under Title IX and also for disparate treatment.

2000

LAF releases *A License for Bias: Sex Discrimination, Schools and Title IX*, a publication issued to dispel the belief that Title IX is a sports equity law and to determine the effectiveness of the current legislation.

2004

Network News, an online publication for LAF network attorneys and experts providing case updates and related information is launched.



2004

Tenure Denied: Cases of Sex

Discrimination in Academia is released, a research report published jointly with LAF and the AAUW Educational Foundation.

2005

LAF supports its 100th case providing over \$1.3 million in funding for its plaintiffs.

2005

LAF supports its first male case to go to the Supreme Court – *Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education*, a case based on sex discrimination and retaliation under Title IX.

2007

LAF supported plaintiff, Dr. Janet Conney is awarded \$4 million from her sex discrimination suit against the



Regents of the University of California. Conney had sued the university, along with three former male colleagues, for sexual harassment, retaliation, and pay inequity.

For additional information see www.aauw.org/Advocacy

*Mildred DeWitt,
AAUW-NYS LAF VP*

CTAUN CONFERENCE:

The Committee for Teaching About the United Nations will present its 10th annual conference, "Teaching and Learning in an Interdependent World", on Friday, February 1, 2008, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. This conference, for interested educators and administrators at all levels and disciplines as well as all concerned citizens, will provide resources for enriching curricula, school activities, and community involvement. Five AAUW members were involved in the planning.

This year's conference, from 9:15 to 5:30, will include prominent speakers from the United Nations and other organizations on Climate Change, Intercultural Understanding, and Implementation Strategies.

See http://www.teachun.org/main_conf.html for details and registration information. Registration deadline is January 16.

*Peggy Kelland,
AAUW-NYS International Relations Director*



*We the Peoples
of the United Nations...
United for a Better World*

UNITED NATIONS BRIEFING:

On Wednesday, November 28, approximately 40 AAUW members, including 7 from Kingston, joined with the League of Women Voters in a Briefing at United Nations Headquarters in New York City on "The Effects of War on Women Around the World".

Xandra Kayden of the LWVUS pointed out that in 1900 5% of war casualties were civilians; by 2000 this had increased to 75%. Sylvia Hordosch of the Social Affairs Office of the United Nations reported that increased violence against women often precedes armed conflict. Sexual violence against women is an increasingly common part of war itself, and it does not automatically end with a ceasefire. In peace negotiations women's issues are often ignored or postponed. Women's security depends on the rule of law, democracy, equity, education, and opportunity.

Donna Bhagwandin, Gender Advisor in the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that sexual violence is used as a deliberate tactic of war and also occurs when there is a complete breakdown of order, as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Sudan. The UN Initiative against

Sexual Violence in Conflict, involving 12 UN agencies, is working to stop the spread of sexual violence from one conflict to other conflicts. The UN is raising awareness to make this a priority; coordinating action within countries; and accumulating data to use for early warning, prevention, and protection.

Violence has its roots in discrimination. A change of attitude is needed in the media and in the community. The data indicates that when top civilian and military leaders come out publicly against sexual violence and state that perpetrators will be punished, it sets the standard. A legislative framework complying with human rights, an effective police force, and a modern judicial system are all essential for enforcement.

*Peggy Kelland,
AAUW-NYS International Relations Director*

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 .



AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

The AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Wed, Jan 9, 5:30 pm - Board Meeting, United Way
- **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!**

Tues, Jan 15, 6pm - Education & Equity, Plaka Restaurant

Wed, Jan 30, 7 pm - Branch Mtg - Walter and Nan Simpson will present a program on climate change, energy conservation and a green lifestyle at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst. Details on page 1

Wed, Feb 6, 5:30 pm - Board Meeting, United Way

Mon, Feb 11, 5:30 pm - Public Policy, Perkins Restaurant

Sat, Mar 8 - International Women's Day Dinner - Samuel's Grand Manor - "Modern India: Sacred Cows and High Tech Businesses".
Save the date!

Fri-Sun, Apr 25-27 - AAUW-NYS Convention at Cooperstown, NY

Please note the change of location for "Dinner by the Book" and "Green Thumbs". Details on page 4.

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on December 21, 2007.
Moving? Please contact Freddie Cheek, 716-835-6945.



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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 1078

Return Service Requested