



Buffalo Branch Advocate

NYS District 1

June 2008
<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

Please also contact her if you would like to receive the Advocate via e-mail.



It's That Time!!!

The Fantastic 54th

Scholarship Book Sale

June 4 - June 8, 2008

Crawford Furniture Plaza

3386 Sheridan Drive

at Sweet Home Road

(NEW LOCATION!!!)

We need YOUR help!

If you have not yet signed up to volunteer, please contact Barbara Emer, (mail to 250 Capen Blvd. Amherst, NY 14226 or email emerbj@roadrunner.com or phone 833-9144). There's a job that's right for YOU!

More information on pages 6-7

President's Message

You almost wouldn't think it could happen.

Last month, a violinist left his 285-year old *Stradivarius* in a taxicab. He was so exhausted that, upon exiting, he left the \$4 million instrument.

What may be even more surprising is that this is about the third time that a musician has left a valuable instrument in the last couple of years. I guess that this proves that it's fairly easy to forget-- almost anything.

We are about to embark on one of the busiest projects of the year-- the booksale. This is not a surprising circumstance. The branch is always busy. Over this year, the branch has been especially busy. And I know that your own personal lives have been filled with the necessities of life. In the backdrop of life, there are still the challenges to equity-- sustaining Title IX, extending educational opportunities to underserved populations, combating pay disparities.

As I look at June and at the end of a wonderful year, I am grateful that in the midst of already busy lives, you have chosen not to forget the importance of advancing equity. Thank you for giving whatever time you have had to the branch and our mission.

And people are paying attention. This year you have stretched the name of AAUW throughout the community. More people know about your branch and your good works. Take a look at the upcoming *Outlook*. I am proud that we were asked to feature one of our projects-- a project with parallels to the latest research of the AAUW Educational Foundation. I think this is well-deserved recognition of the work that we do.

At the end of this AAUW year, I know that our community and beyond are better places because of your myriad contributions of time and resources. Thank you for not forgetting to be the voice of equity and for your generosity in time, resources, and spirit. And, much gratitude for your faith in my leadership.

See you at the booksale,

Tamara



AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewal letters for 2008-2009 were recently mailed to everyone. Please note that national dues have increased to \$49, up \$2 from last year.

In addition to completing the dues form, please take the time to review the contact information we currently have in our database. This enables us to send you the newsletter and other relevant materials. Also, let us know about your interests so we can link you to appropriate groups and programs.

Send your completed dues and information sheets, along with payment, to Freddie Cheek as soon as possible - it makes more work for the treasurer when renewals come in late.

For questions about renewing your membership, contact Kristin Bojanowski (879-2116) or Michelle Norris (877-5484). If you did NOT receive your renewal notice, please contact Freddie Cheek (835-6945 or fscheek@roadrunner.com)



A HUGE THANK YOU from the branch to Tamara Brown for her leadership and dedication over the past year.

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, 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.

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Thank you to Judith Anderson and the entire luncheon committee for a wonderful annual meeting last month!

AND



Thank you to those who supported Transitions this year!

Tamara

Junior League Volunteer Update...

For those of you were AAUW-Buffalo volunteers at the 2007 Junior League Open House event, you may have wondered which local organization the money was designated for.

It has been announced that the event raised \$225,000.00 and was presented to officials from Gerard Place.

Gerard Place, a 14-unit transitional shelter for homeless single parent families in Buffalo's Bailey-Delavan neighborhood, opened in 2000 and is operated by 12 congregations of Women Religious in the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo.

Look for another opportunity to volunteer for this event next year in 2009. And, once again, a heartfelt thanks to those of you who donated your time in 2007.

*Sylvia Volk, 2007 Decorator Show House
AAUW-Buffalo Volunteer Chair*

Branch Volunteers Wanted!

Our new officers have been elected (see pg 5) and our new president, Janet Fowler is putting together her new board. There are many jobs, big and small, both on and off the board. If you are interested in helping out in any way (board position, Pot Luck Chair, Annual Luncheon Chair, Scholarship Program chair, listserve manager, etc), please contact Janet at 884-8698 or Janalanf@aol.com. Remember the old saying "Many hands make light work" - you can help make that work light!



College/University Contacts

I am recruiting college/university affiliate AAUW members. If you know a senior administrator contact from one of the area colleges, please call me. UB has joined this year and we'd love to add more to the list!

*Michele Maddox
College/University Relations
Director
716/882-2925, mad-
doxm@dyc.edu*

Program Planning

Do you have a topic you'd really like to see covered at a branch program? A cause you think the branch really should be involved with? You are AAUW and you can make it happen!

There will be an initial planning meeting to help develop programs for next year. All AAUW - Buffalo branch members are invited to attend and contribute suggestions for the 2008-2009 calendar of events. Chairs for each of these events will also be solicited at this meeting. We may not even need a second meeting! Please contact Susan McClary if you are planning to attend (or if you cannot attend but have suggestions) - eeyore123@verizon.net or 636-2854.

Date: Saturday, June 21

Location: Clearfield Library Hopkins Road, Amherst

Time: 10:00 - noon

Susan McClary

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

There will be no meeting until September 11, 2008

Contact: **Lillis McLean**, 873-7467 or
lillismclean@hotmail.com

Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

Contact: **Suzanne Grossman**, 837-8769

Group: Dinner by the book

When: **Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at 5:30 pm**

Where: Spilio's Family Restaurant, 5175 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY 14221 633-2040

Facilitator: Marilyn Carmichael

Discussion Leader: Colleen Frey

Books: *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin and / or *A Year by the Sea* by Joan Anderson

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

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

Group: ¡Adelante! Diversity Book/Discussion Club

When: TBA

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

Group: Knitting Group

When: **Thursday, June 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m.**

Where: Sheridan Drive @ International Drive and Evans Rd.

(*Please contact Karen for exact location)

Topic: Any item for City Mission and Cornerstone Manor

Contact: **Karen Howard**, 874-1389 or kkhoward@roadrunner.com

Group: Green Thumbs Garden Study Luncheon, details to be determined.

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

Group: Gourmet Food Interest Group

When: TBA



Action Groups

Education and Equity

For information please contact **Stacey Johnson** at 645-2414, x 108 or jhnsn@buffalo.edu.

Public Policy

For information please contact **Teresa Gessner** at 634-5053 or tgessner@buffalo.edu.

Remembering Friends



As our year comes to a close, let's not forget to keep in touch with our long-term members. Some are not able to get out as easily as they used to but would appreciate visits and/or cards and/or phone calls. Your roster lists our honorary life members – let's make sure we continue to honor them!

New Officers for AAUW-Buffalo 2008-2010

The following slate of officers was elected at the May Luncheon on May 3:

President Elect (one year)	<i>Marguerite Collesano</i>
VP Membership Recruitment	<i>Beverly Schwiegerling and Nancy Langer</i>
VP Educational Foundation	<i>Betty Krist and Betty Preble</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Leona Barback</i>
Nominating Committee Chair	<i>Tamara Brown</i>



The following elected officers were elected in 2007 and will be serving through 2008-09:

President	Janet Fowler
VP Programs	Susan McClary
VP Membership Retention	Michelle Norris and Kristin Bojanowski
Branch Treasurer	Anita Kunkle
Corresponding Secretary	Barb Carier
Funds for Education	Lyn McDonald

Congratulations to all!

Convention Highlights:

Lilly Ledbetter, who for two decades was paid less than any man in her position by Goodyear Tire, spoke about her ongoing struggle to receive back pay. The Supreme Court has ruled that since she did not file suit within 180 days of receiving the first discriminatory paycheck (even though the company forbade employees to reveal their salaries) she is unable to ever collect any back pay. A bill in Congress to make the 180 day clock start after each act of discrimination failed to get enough votes in the Senate to avoid a filibuster or override a veto threat.

Claire Schuster, a tenured Associate Professor of Nursing at Berea College, also spoke of her suit for sex discrimination in pay.

Patricia Smith, New York State Commissioner of Labor, related her efforts to enforce the minimum wage law on behalf of employees of New York City grocers (receiving \$250 a week for 72 hours work), deliverymen for A&P and Gristedes (paid \$2 an hour), and bathroom attendants in nightclubs and restaurants (no pay; charged \$25 to \$50 a week for the opportunity for tips). She pointed out that legislation is useless without enforcement, and enforcement requires budgeted money.

Christianne Corbett, Research Associate at AAUW's

national office, gave a preview of the upcoming report, "Where the Girls Are". Both genders and all ethnic and income groups have been making gradual but steady improvement in test scores, with boys continuing to do better on average in math and girls higher on average in verbal skills. Since white, Hispanic, and Asian males continue to attend college in larger numbers than females in the same groups, the so-called "boy's crisis" turns out to be more specifically a crisis for black men, who are far less likely than black women to earn degrees.

Carolyn Donovan, AAUW's representative to the United Nations, updated us on her efforts on women's education, the status of women, and women's human rights. She has worked to include "and girls" in each statement for women's rights. She pointed out that the United States is the only major nation of the 7 countries who have not ratified CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

*Peggy Kelland,
Incoming Program VP, AAUW-NYS*

Book Sale Corner

BOOK SALE NEWS



Books are still coming in and we need help sorting all of them! If you have not signed up to help, please contact Barb Emer (email emerbj@roadrunner.com or phone 833-9144). The site this year is much more

pleasant, so please come join us any day.

Sorting shifts are:

Every Weekday: 9:00 to 1:00, 1:00-5:00, and Tuesdays 5:00 to 8:00

Every Saturday: 9:00 to 1:00

If you cannot come for a full shift, even an hour or two is a help!

And don't forget to sign up for a shift at the sale itself, June 4-8.

The new location is in the Crawford Furniture Plaza located at Sheridan Drive and Sweet-home Road in Amherst behind the Tim Horton's.

Jacquie Walker Returns!

WIVB-TV's news anchor Jacquie Walker, a long-time supporter of AAUW's Scholarship Book Sale, will be honorary chairwoman of the 54th annual sale June 4 through 8.



This will be the popular newswoman's second stint with the sale which she has promoted with generous publicity for the past several years. Walker became the sale's first honorary chairperson when she accepted the post for the 50th anniversary sale.

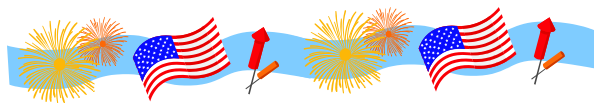
A member of the Channel 4 news team since 1983, Walker took over the anchor position in 2002. The Michigan State University graduate's professional performance has earned her numerous Emmy nominations and two first place awards for general excellence of individual reporting from the New York State Associated Press.

Her community activism has been recognized by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Conference for Community & Justice, Amherst Chamber of Commerce, Leukemia Society of America, New York State Junior Chamber of Commerce and Kevin Guest House.

She and her husband, Mike, have two sons.

Fun Fact: Jacquie was among the NASA applicants vying to become the first journalist in space!

Book sale coordinator Judy Clare said Walker's association with and support of the Buffalo Branch has contributed to the success of the book sale and has greatly enhanced its public image.



Dorothy Payne Scholarships

What do YOU want in your newsletter?

Please contact the editor, Betty Preble (betty.preble@gmail.com) with comments, suggestions, contributions, etc. The branch newsletter is for the branch - I need to know what you want!

Thanks - *Betty*

The money we earn from our booksale every year goes to a variety of scholarships and loan funds, both local and through the Association. There are also a few which are funded by bequests. One of these, the Dorothy Payne 2008 Scholarship, is now accepting applications. There are three grants available:

- One \$5000 grant for urban public high school student
- Two \$2500 grants for students in a "Tech Savvy" field who are pursuing or have attained their 2 or 3 year Associate Degree.

The deadline for Applications is 6/21/08, for Recommendations and Transcripts 7/1/08. Questions may be directed to Michelle Norris - mnorris@mtb.com.

Thank You

A big **thank-you** to the following people who have volunteered to chair tables at the booksale. We couldn't do it without them!

Animals/pets
Art/Architecture
Biography/True Stories
Business/Law
Children
Collectibles/Specially Priced
Cookbooks
Curiosities
Education/Communication
Fiction
Foreign Language
History/Government/Wars
Home /Garden
Humor
Large Print
Literature
Media
Medical/Health
Music
Mystery/Suspense
New Books
Parenting
Paperback Fiction
Paperback Mystery
Psychology/Sociology
Puzzles/games
Reference
Religion /philosophy
Science
Science Fiction/Horror/Fantasy
Self Help
Sports/Games
Travel/Geography

Barb Smith
Cindy Koch
Sue Oliver
Anita Kunkle
Judy Clare
Judy Clare, Bobbie Ross, Jill Brown
Kate Collins
Bobbie Ross
Susan Arrigo
Pat Baker
Carolyn Dole
Pat MacClennan
Jayne Mack
John Evanco
Pat Baker
Ingrid Wetherbee
Mary Kellner
Janet Trinkwalder
Marsha Guillaume
Sue Grossman
Pat Baker
Leona Barback
Lillis McLean
Rose Tarzia
Sharon Meer
Judy Clare
Jean Hubbard
Diane Sina
Carole Reid
Charlie Weiss
Jan Moslow
Judy Malamas
Barb Engler



From the May 3 luncheon.

Those of you who could not attend missed a wonderful afternoon!

←President Tamara Brown with honorees Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram and Dr. Barbara A. Seals Nevergold. Incoming President Janet Fowler addressing the group.→



What will YOUR health care look like in 2020?

"Reaching for Excellence: Community Vision and Voices for Western New York Health Care" seeks to engage Western New Yorkers in exploring possibilities and setting goals for a stronger, improved health care system for the eight-county region.

The initiative seeks to fill a gap in the region in meaningful community-driven health planning and civic engagement by providing a clear mechanism to gather, coordinate and amplify the voice of the user in setting a long-term health care vision. The project's goals are to

- promote broader, informed civic engagement in our communities on matters of health and health care
- give voice on health care priorities to those who use and those who pay for health care
- define a people-driven set of priorities which can be tracked to measure progress toward the desired goals
- learn lessons from other places about ways to improve our health care system.

You are invited to attend one of the conversations being held here in the Buffalo area (invitation to the right). Different health care scenarios will be discussed and you will have an opportunity to share your opinions.

- For more information, please check the website - <http://rx4excellence.org/>



to Betty Krist and Judy Weidemann who have faithfully and helpfully proof-read the *Advocate*

each month. Also to Joan Eschner, who is willing to "sub" when the regulars are unavailable.

And to Claudia Kania and her students at School #84 who assemble and mail the almost 300 copies every month.

You all make my life much easier!

Betty Preble, Editor

Reaching for excellence
Community Vision and Voices
for Western New York Health Care

What Do We Want the Future of Health Care in Western New York to Look Like?

Will the region be able to care for its aging population?
Will the poor and underserved have access to health care?
Will increased focus on prevention improve our health?

Will the quality of health care improve for all, regardless of income or geographic location?
Will we be able to afford health care?



Let's Plan Our Future Together

Join us for a conversation called **1 FRIDAY 4 FUTURES**

to discuss possibilities for stronger, improved health care in Western New York

Host: Buffalo Branch AAUW

Date: Thursday, June 12, 2008

Time: 5:30 - 7 pm

Location: Gilda's Club Western New York, 1140 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

Please RSVP to Judith Anderson, judie851@aol.com or 655-1993

Your input is important to identifying the community's goals for a stronger, improved health care system for the region.
For more information about the Reaching for Excellence initiative and One Friday: Four Futures conversations taking place across Western New York, please visit rx4excellence.org

Public Policy Report

New York State is now a Paper Ballot State!

On May 7th Aimee Allaud, the Elections Specialist of the League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS) informed us about this victory.

On April 23, at our joint meeting with the LWV of Buffalo/Niagara, Dennis Ward, Erie County Commissioner of Elections, told us that due to concerted citizen action Erie County and all but one NY State counties have opted for Paper Ballot OpScan systems. One county chose to order a Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) system. This encouraged DRE machine vendors to file law suits to stay in competition for orders. However their DRE systems were unable to pass the NY State strict certification standards, so by the end of April the vendors withdrew their law suits.

Congratulations and thanks to all who wrote, and phoned to our commissioners of Elections and legislators in support of this issue.

*Teresa Gessner and Judy Weidemann,
Public Policy Co-Chairs*

THE SISTER TO SISTER SUMMIT, 2008 BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE, SAT. APRIL 12

The Sister to Sister Summit - a speak-out Summit for and about girls - took place for the 11th time at Buffalo State College.

After perusing information tables in the lobby, the participants were energized by the Girl Scouts. We cannot think of another organization that can energize a group of girls better than the Girl Scouts!

The girls then went to their Chat Rooms. They had many choices of topics, among them such things as healthy relationships, body image, internet safety, nutrition and fitness, money management, stress management, self-expression, and others.

During lunch we had a fashion show whose purpose was to show girls what is the appropriate dress for occasions such as job interviews and interviews for scholarships and internships.

We also had a panel of young men who gave their opinions on issues that face teens. These young men were carefully chosen by Summit Committee members who work with teens.

In the afternoon we had a career fair to give the girls some ideas about the opportunities available in the future. The fair also included companies and agencies that were looking for summer employees.

The day concluded with a presentation by the Teen

Reality Theater group from Planned Parenthood. This group of teens dramatize issues and situations that all teens can face as they make their way through this complex time in their lives. After the dramatizations they answered questions from their audience.

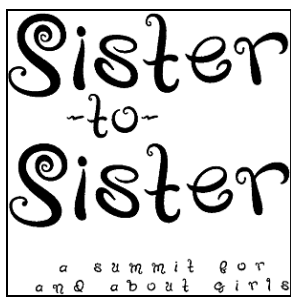
This event happens with the help of the branch and about twenty other agencies and organizations in the community who believe in the need for an event of this type for girls.

Vanita Evans, who is a Community Representative for the FBI and a member of the Federal Women's Program Network Chaired Sister to Sister this year. The Co-Chairs for the Summit were Natasha Perkins from Preventionfocus and Toni Benjamin of Peace of the City Ministries.

Thank you all once again for your continuing support of this great event for girls.

Sue Oliver,

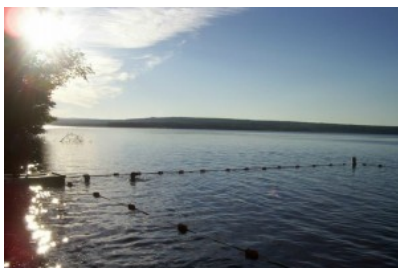
Fundraising Chair for Sister to Sister



Call to Delta Lake!



The annual AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference will be held the weekend of July 11-13, 2008 at the Delta Lake Conference Center near Rome, NY. Think friends, fun, leadership training, casual, meeting AAUW leaders from around the state, time outdoors, learning - the conference is all this and more! AAUW-NYS heavily subsidizes the conference, so the entire weekend (two nights lodging and five meals) is only \$40 per person! This is a chance to really get to know how others are working on the mission of AAUW - nothing fancy, but lots of fun and learning!



More details will be forthcoming - check on the NYS website - <http://aauw-nys.org/deltalake.htm>. The online registration form is linked to that page.

Any questions, contact Tamara Brown or Betty Preble.

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

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 a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Wed-Sun, June 4-8 - Book Sale!

Wed, June 11, 6pm - Joint Board Meeting, Lyn McDonald's home, 345 Hopkins Road, Williams-ville

Thurs, June 12, 5:30-7pm - Conversations on Health Care in WNY, Gilda's Club (see pg 8)

Sat, June 21, 10 am - Program Planning Meeting, Clearfield Library, Hopkins Road, Amherst (see pg 3)

**** Note - date change from last month's announcement!**

Fri-Sun, July 11-13 - AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference, Delta Lake (see pg 9)

Sun, Aug 10 - Deadline for articles for the September Advocate. There are no issues in July and August.

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on May 22, 2008.
Moving? Please contact Freddie Cheek, 716-835-6945.



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Return Service Requested

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