



Buffalo Branch Advocate

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



NYS District 1

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.

AAUW Buffalo Branch Annual Awards Luncheon and General Elections Saturday, May 3, 2008 - Harry's Harbour Place Grille



The afternoon will begin at 11:15 where the Past and Future merge in the Optional Pre-Luncheon Experience. Join us for "Mimosas with Mary" an enjoyable time to converse with Mary Burnett Talbert, who began advocating for the rights for women of color in 1899 here in Buffalo. Chat with her about her vision for women and her role as an advocate when the rights of women-- especially women of color-- were practically non-existent. Net proceeds will benefit the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Following, the Awards Luncheon will recognize the accomplishments of those present and the expectation of future greatness. A lovely menu featuring entrée choices of Stuffed Chicken Marsala, Almond Crusted Salmon Filet or Vegetarian Wellington served with salad, roasted baby red potatoes and seasonal vegetables will be served while you enjoy the scenic river view at Harry's Harbour Place Grille.

For Information please call Judith Anderson, Luncheon Chair, at 655-1993. Please send reservations by April 24 to Judith using the form below.

Read on page 9 about our 2008 Women of Achievement **Dr. Barbara A. Seals Nevergold** and **Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram**, founders of the Uncrowned Queens Institute for Research and Education on Women, Inc.

Reservation Form - deadline April 24, 2008!:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please mark your entrée choice:

- Stuffed Chicken Marsala** (*Stuffed breast of chicken, topped with a mushroom marsala sauce*)
- Almond Crusted Salmon Filet** (*Served with fresh vegetables, with herbed amaretto beurre blanc*)
- Vegetarian Wellington** (*Mixed vegetables and herbs wrapped in a baked puff pastry, served with our house red sauce*)

Cost: Luncheon, \$28.00 + Optional pre-luncheon experience & drinks, \$10.00 (LAF benefit at 11:15)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send to: Judith Anderson, 8 Woodbrook Drive, #4, East Aurora, NY 14052.

President's Message

*'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

-from *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou

One of my favorite Bible passages comes to mind. The passage refers to the joy that a woman has when she's found something she's lost-- a coin, I believe. Such a simple reconnection causes her to call all of her friends and rejoice.

The scripture always makes me smile. I similarly recall the happiness of a very good friend who had found a lost earring that she had treasured for years. Whenever I think of the passage, I reflect on how even in Biblical times it was recognized that women have a *special* touch for celebration. May is all about celebration for the branch. It's a time that we recognize a phenomenal woman-- our woman of achievement. A woman who has worked to further our mission and advance equity and education. This month, we are pleased to honor two such fabulous women: Dr. Barbara Nevergold and Dr. Peggy Brooks Bertram of the Uncrowned Queens Institute.

A few years ago, the branch was introduced to their local historical project to recognize unknown heroines and the successful publication of a series of books about women who have built communities in Western New York. However, that only touches the surface. Since the time of that branch presentation, Uncrowned Queens has been launched in Oklahoma, New York, the DC area, and Pennsylvania. As well, the duo has started *Queens in the Wings*-- a recognition and encouragement of early displays of service by girls in Western New York.

Their passion in this woman-centered project inspires me. I look forward to celebrating their success with you at the Annual Luncheon.

Who inspires *you*?

Fondly,

Tamara



PERSONALS

The branch sends condolences to Bertha Boston and Barbara Carrier on their recent family losses.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to Carol Battle, who has returned home after a bone marrow transplant.

We send our sympathy to the family of Louise Sapien who died last September.

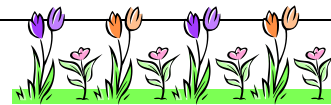
AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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 by **May 15, 2008**.

For questions about renewing your membership, contact Kristin Bojanowski (879-2116) or Michelle Norris (877-5484).



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 Schwiagerling. (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.

May 2008
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Please Welcome our New Members!

Ms Mary Theeman Spohn
112 Woodshire South
Getzville, NY 14068
H: 688 2308
W: 639 7595
mt.spohn@verizon.net

Susan Ross
748 Ashland Ave
Buffalo, NY 14222
H: 886 1768
susross9@aol.com

Barbara Bernardis

900 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
H: 884 1806
abbeybernardis@verizon.net

Ms Ann Vecchio
920 Woodstock
Tonawanda, NY 14150
H: 694 7211
W: 880 2210
C: 228 5237
vecch0723@gmail.com



Amanda Verrastro's e-mail is
verrast@gmail.com

And please note in your roster:



Volunteers Still Needed

As the AAUW Buffalo Branch Annual Awards Luncheon & General Election approaches we are still in need of hostesses for the event. The hostesses place the decorations on the tables and greet and seat our guests.

If you haven't gotten involved as a volunteer yet it's a great way for our newer member to get to meet the Branch.

To volunteer contact Judith Anderson (655-1993 or judie851@aol.com).

SAVE THE DATE

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!

Date: Saturday, June 28

Location: Clearfield Library Hopkins Road, Amherst

Time: 10:00 - noon

Susan McClary

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

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

When: **Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 1:30 pm**

Where: Amherst Library, Snyder / Eggertsville Library, 4622 Main St. Snyder, NY.

Book: *Mothers of Invention*, by Drew Gilpin Faust

The book poses some interesting theses on these women's effects on the war and on the roles of women in the south from that time on.

Discussion Leader: Lillis McLean

Contact: **Jean Sylvester** (838-6780) or **Lillis McLean** (873-7467 or lillismclean@hotmail.com)

Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

When: **Wednesday, May 28, at 6:00 pm**

Where: The Plaka Restaurant, 2904 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, NY

Facilitator: Margaret Fischer

Book: *The Thin Man*, by Dashiell Hammett

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

Group: Dinner by the Book

When: **Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at 5:30 pm**

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

Facilitator: Judy Malamas

Topic: Annual book selection for 2008-2009. Please come with at least 2 recommendations for books to be read by the study group for next year.

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

Group: Green Thumbs Garden Study

When: **Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 6:30 pm**

Where: Lockwoods Greenhouses, 4484 Clark St.,

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

A report was given about up coming programs. National dues will be going up by \$2. We are not sure about State dues. There was a discussion about updating the website. We are looking for nominations for the Athena award and Achievement Awards winner for the May Luncheon.

Hamburg, NY 14075

Topic: Tour and then we will pick out and purchase our group plant for the year.

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

Group: Gourmet Food Interest Group

When: **TBA**

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, May 22, 2008, at 2:00 p.m.**

Where: Sheridan Drive @ International Drive and Evans Rd.

(*Please contact Karen for exact location)

Topic: We will be making items for the City Mission/Cornerstone Manor. They can use a variety of items and will take whatever we make. If you would like to donate yarn or finished items please call.

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

All applications are out for the Velma Cobb Award. Jackie Walker has placed our Book Sale on her website

FEBRUARY

UB will be a University Partner with AAUW. Susan McClary will be our Emerging Leader for 2008.

Education Accounts and Charitable Projects

We will be sorting on Tuesdays and Saturdays for the Book Sale.

BRANCH ACTION GROUPS

PUBLIC POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT

Take a break from the book sale and join the Public Policy social for good conversation and food

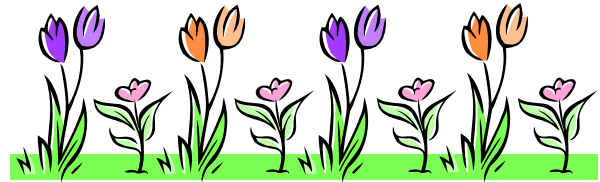
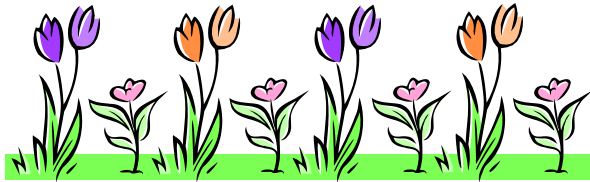
Wednesday, May 14, between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. at
Family Tree Restaurant,
4346 Bailey Av, Eggertsville, NY 14226

to reserve, e-mail or call Teresa (tgessner@buffalo.edu or 716-634-5053)

Education and Equity

will meet May 13th at 6 pm at the Plaka Restaurant, 2904 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore NY 14217.

For information call Stacey Johnson, 885-2486.



Reentry/Alternative Sentencing Program My Visit to Providence House

Recently I visited an organization located in Brooklyn, New York whose mission in part is “to provide shelter and support to homeless, abused and formerly incarcerated women and their children”. The majority of women suffer from mental illness or addictions. The purpose of the visit was to gain insight into the reason Providence House, Inc., a configuration of services initiated in 1979 by the sisters of St. Joseph, was more successful in rehabilitative efforts compared to similar programs as measured by the recidivism rate of the clients.

That seemingly tall order became vastly simple after spending the afternoon with the Sisters, staff and residents of the home. For it became clear that even the tiniest of exchanges among the group was directed by a foundation, which is based not only upon respect and kindness, but most of all upon (believe it or not) the commonality of all human beings.

More to the point, the atmosphere in Providence House is calm and hopeful but realistic in the awareness of how immensely difficult reentry is because of all of its many pitfalls. But perhaps it is because of this experienced knowledge that the Sisters are not just willing to struggle but continue to fight even more passionately. It appears that this takes place not only with each potential or real set back of their programs but with each hardship encountered with even one single women and child.

On May 17, in a workshop at Erie Community College, City Campus, Srs. Janet Kinney and Connie Kennedy of Providence House, Inc. will be the keynote speakers and will describe their configuration of services that evolved in a fashion responsive to each need that emerged. Buffalo branch members are welcome with \$5.00 to defray the cost of lunch. Because the seats are limited pre-registration is necessary. The workshop is co-sponsored By Action for Mental Health, Inc and the Buffalo Unit of the League of Women Voters and will take place between 9am and 3pm.

We are **grateful for a grant from AAUW** that partially funds the event.

Submitted by Therese Warden, Chair. Reentry/Alternative Sentencing Committee, LWV/BN
Call Abbey Bernardis at 884-1806 or abbeybernardis@verizon.net for reservations.

Book Sale Corner

BOOK SALE NEWS



By now you have received the Blue Booklet asking for Volunteers at the Book Sale. We hope the replies are flying through the mail to Barbara Emer. Remember, you can also bring your reply to the May 3 Luncheon.

It is such good news that we do have a site. It is in the Crawford Furniture Plaza located at Sheridan Drive and Sweethome Road in Amherst behind the Tim Horton's.

All members are invited to an Open House at the site on Wednesday, April 30, 2008 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. If you will be coming, phone or e-mail Judy Clare at 633-1294 or Clare273@cs.com.

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.

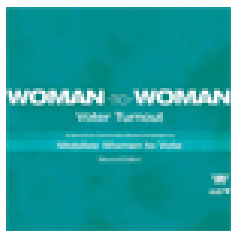
A member of the Channel 4 news team since 1983, Walker took over the anchor position in 2002. The Michigan State University graduate's professional performance has earned her numerous Emmy nominations and two first place awards for general excellence of individual reporting from the New York State Associated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

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.

Recent News from the Association



Thanks to critical donor support AAUW has released a second edition of Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout: A Manual for Community-Based Campaigns to Mobilize Women to Vote. The manual may be downloaded from the Association website -

http://aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/voter_ed/

Did you know? The Association has adopted a new logo - the familiar triangles are still there, but it now features "AAUW" rather than the full name. There are both vertical and horizontal versions available. The old logos are still fine, but feel free to download the new ones from the Association website for use on stationery or business cards -

http://aauw.org/member_center/tools/graphics.cfm



AAUW

Slate of officers for AAUW-Buffalo 2008-2009

The nominating committee presents this slate of officers, to be voted on at the May Luncheon:

President Elect	
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

Submitted by the 2007 Nominating Committee

Joan Eschner, Chair
Joan Trinchera
Judy Malamas

Lois Dabney
Sue Oliver

Some recent branch activities:



Kim Baglio discussed Identity Theft April 8



Girls in "Do You Know" at Tech Savvy in March

"Queenie" Rivers discussed the Underground Railroad in February



LEADERSHIP FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

2008 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

June 5-7, 2008

Georgetown University | Washington, D.C.

Join the Roadtrip to Leadership - **Encourage** young women you know in your community to visit our website to learn more: <http://www.nccwsl.org>. From the website they can join our Facebook group and recommend the conference to friends.

Recognizing our quiet workers

There are so many wonderful activities going on in the branch, and the quiet workings of the Community Relations Committee are to be commended.

Chair Bertha Boston and Lois Dabney recently visited with the ladies of the Waterfront Nursing Home. This project, continued from last year, is an important outreach of the Branch.

In February, the Committee visited with the ladies at their *Red Hat Tea*. Each resident received a card from the Branch during this special visit. In April, the Committee discussed the special needs of elderly women with a representative from Veteran's Hospital. The Committee plans to continue their visits at Waterfront and will continue to explore important issues.

Some members have supported this fun project by donating red hats for these special teas. If you would like to join the committee or become involved in any way, please call Chairwoman Bertha Boston.

Again, special thanks to this committee for keeping AAUW in our community in a very special, meaningful way.

Tamara Brown

Velma Cobb Scholarships

This year I had the privilege of chairing the Velma Cobb scholarship, which I found to be very rewarding. After the committee reviewed the applications we narrowed the selection down to seven. Then we were faced with an even bigger challenge. All seven candidates could have easily been selected as Velma Cobb recipients. Nevertheless, we could only choose two. As difficult as the decision was, the votes were in, and we had our top two candidates.

One of the Velma Cobb winners is Melissa Hayes of Mount Mercy Academy. Melissa's goal is to become a cardiovascular surgeon. She would like to attend Harvard University, and then go on to medical school. With her passion for language and science, Melissa will be working in the United States, but volunteering her services abroad in relief efforts.

Kayla Ann Maxwell of Williamsville North High School is another winner of the Velma Cobb scholarship. Kayla has been accepted at the University at Buffalo, and plans to study Biological Sciences, pursuing a career in cancer research. After graduating from college, Kayla would like to work at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, focusing on genetics and pharmacology. Her ultimate goal is to find a cure for cancer.

Both Melissa and Kayla are high honor students, and have a strong involvement in many community services, i.e., SABA, Mercy hospital, Habitat for humanity, Special Olympics, and Juvenile Diabetes. With their commitment to giving back to society I'm sure these recipients will do well as future leaders.

Connie Combs - Chair



Chamberlin Loan Fund and Funds for Education

The branch's Chamberlin Loan Fund and Funds for Education is accepting applications for its interest-free loans and grants that go to Western New York women and men enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs in accredited colleges and universities. Deadline for applications is June 1, 2008.

Awards of up to \$3,000 are given on the basis of academic achievement, financial need, and potential for achieving academic goals. Funds are provided by bequests to the branch and proceeds of the annual Scholarship Book Sale.

Applications for Chamberlin Loan Fund and Funds for Education loans and grants are available at www.aauw.buffalo.edu or by writing to the Chamberlin Loan-Funds for Education chair, American Association of University Women, Buffalo Branch, PO Box 397, Amherst, N.Y. 14226-0397. Prospective applicants also may request applications at Chamberlinfund@yahoo.com. or by calling 559-3037.

Pat Swift MacClennan



Barbara Ann Seals Nevergold

2008 AAUW Buffalo Branch Women of Achievement

Barbara A. Seals Nevergold, Ph.D.

and

Peggy Brooks-Bertram, Dr. P.H., Ph.D.



Peggy Brooks-Bertram

Dr. Barbara A. Seals Nevergold and Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram founded the Uncrowned Queens Institute for Research and Education on Women, Inc. in 1999. Initially established as a project of the Women's Pavilion Pan Am 2001, the goals of Uncrowned Queens were to commemorate the history of African and African American

involvement in the Pan American Exposition of 1901 and to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of African American women during the period of and in the one hundred years since the fair. Drs. Bertram and Nevergold quickly realized that the magnitude of the project and the significance of their efforts to collect, disseminate and archive the histories of African American women and the local African American community represented a major undertaking of a regional history project that required the establishment of a sustainable organization.

Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. She received her first doctorate from The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. She received a second doctorate in American Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Bertram is the founder and CEO of Jehudi Educational Services, an independent consulting firm specializing in K-12 curriculum development, staff development, training, and conference and seminar planning. She is a specialist in grant writing and proposal development in health care, history, education, and environmental health.

Dr. Bertram is an independent scholar in African American women's history, and is a well-known lecturer and only known authority on the life and writings of Drusilla Dunjee Houston. She authored numerous editorials from 1989-1995 on the Buffalo Board of Education and other topics for The Buffalo Challenger newspaper. In addition, she is Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University at Buffalo.

A native of Louisiana, **Dr. Barbara A. Seals Nevergold** moved to Buffalo, New York with her family in 1947. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in French Education at the State University College at Buffalo and has two Master's degrees; one in French Education and one in Counseling Education from the University at Buffalo. In addition, she earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree at UB in Counseling Education. She has studied in Quebec, Canada at Laval University and in France at the University of Dijon.

She has been employed by several organizations that have served the interests of women, children, and families. She served as Director of Student Support Services at the University at Buffalo's Educational Opportunity Center. She also is an instructor at Empire State College where she teaches courses in Domestic Violence, Counseling, Marriage and Family, Human Sexuality, Cultural Diversity, Child Welfare, and Human Service Delivery Systems.

Dr. Nevergold has authored several published articles including "*Fantastic Color and Special Effects: The Seals Ebony Studio*" in the Spring 2002 edition of Western New York Heritage Magazine; "*To Be an Instrument for Their Voices: Finding, Writing, and Sharing Family Histories in Afro-Americans*" in New York Life and History (Volume 25, Number 2, July 2001); and "*Transracial Adoption: In the Child's Best Interest?*" in African American Women's Health and Social Issues, Catherine F. Collins, Editor.

Individually, Drs. Bertram and Nevergold have received numerous community service and educational awards as well as many joint honors for the Uncrowned Queens Project. They continue to move positively toward their ultimate goal--to export the model nation-wide to build a network of Uncrowned Queens.

Biographical Information from Uncrowned Queens and BuffaloBooks websites

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, Apr 30, 5-7 pm - Open House at the Book Sale site (see pg 6)

Sat, May 3 - Annual Luncheon Meeting at Harry's Harbour Place Grille (see pg 1)

NOTE - this date was incorrect in the March issue

Wed, May 7, 5:30 pm - Board Meeting, United Way

Tues, May 13, 6 pm - Education & Equity (see pg 5)

Wed, May 14, 4:30-6:30 - Public Policy (see pg 5)

Sat, May 17, 9am-3pm - Re-entry Program (see pg 5)

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

Sat, June 28, 10 am - Program Planning Meeting, Clearfield Library, Hopkins Road, Amherst

Fri-Sun, July 11-13 - AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference, Delta Lake

Note - There will be a joint board meeting: in June
Time & Place TBD

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on April 21, 2008.
Moving? Please contact Freddie Cheek, 716-835-6945.



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

Non-Profit
Organization
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Return Service Requested