



Buffalo Branch Advocate

April 2009
<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>
716-559-3037



NYS District 1

Highlights:

- Pg 1 - April Program, NYS Convention
- Pg 2 - President's Message
- Pg 3 - Interest Groups, Tech Savvy, Email updates
- Pg 4 - Membership Info, Member/General Info
- Pg 5 - LWV Program
- Pg 6 - Booksale Corner
- Pg 7 - May Luncheon, New Members
- Pg 8 - Dates to remember

The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the previous month.

Articles received after that may not appear in the next issue.

Please send articles to Betty Preble via e-mail:

betty.preble@gmail.com

If you would like to receive the *Advocate* via e-mail, please also email Betty with that request.

Spring is coming - time for Gardens!

The April program will be a discussion of “**Herbs and Well Being**”, presented by master gardener Carol Harlos. Information will be presented on herbs, bulbs, perennials, annuals and notes from a garden which is a potpourri. The program will be held **Saturday morning, April 4 at 10am at the Audubon Library**. Registration information below.



What comes to mind when you think of herbs? Rosemary, sage, and thyme? The world of herbs is huge, historical, and sometimes hilarious. Come to hear Carol Ann's talk where she will demystify, amuse, and inform you about the many different species of herbs which she grows in her Western New York garden and which you will want to grow after hearing her talk.

It's not too late to sign up for the NYS



Convention - April

24-26 at the beautiful and historic **Sagamore** in Bolton Landing near Lake George. Details and registration information available on the AAUW-NYS website (aauw-nys.org).



Registration form for April 4 Branch Program. Send to:

Judy Malamas, 379 Sagewood Terrace, Williamsville, NY 14221 by March 28, 2009

Questions: Call Judy at 632-0461 or e-mail at tsagewood@aol.com

My check in the amount of \$ _____ (\$5.00 per person) payable to the AAUW Buffalo Branch is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Names of Guests: _____

*Please indicate any special needs: _____

I would like a ride to the meeting - please circle → Yes No

President's Message

Yes, I know it is April and I am thinking ahead to the important events coming up, the annual book sale and the achievement awards luncheon. Yet I find myself reflecting on the events of March 2009.

Women's History Month records the contributions of women, a significant heritage to inspire us. International Women's Day, March 8th, we celebrated our global sisterhood and on March 7th, our 4th Annual Tech Savvy was a huge success.

These occasions brought back memories of the women who influenced and encouraged me, and enriched my life.

Alison Des Forges was one of those women. Before she became a heroine of the International Human Rights Movement, she was a student, a mother and a community leader. I met Alison back in the '70's when she was advocating for the Montessori Magnet Program. She would ride her bike to the downtown offices of the Buffalo Board of Education to negotiate with the school officials. Once the school was established, you could find her at the school, sitting on the floor with children, designing a map of Africa and teaching them how to do research. Today my daughter Jennifer remembers Alison, remarking "I had such a great woman for a teacher". Throughout those years, Alison continued to research the events in Rwanda, a mission that began for her in 1963, when she spent the summer teaching Rwandan refugees. Eventually she wrote a book on the genocide in Rwanda, *Leave None to Tell the Story*, received a MacArthur Fellowship and became senior researcher for Human Rights Watch. Her colleagues recall that in all her meetings with world leaders, she was fearless, yet charming and humble. The AAUW Buffalo Branch honored her in 2002.

The International Women's Day event celebrated women refugees who live in Buffalo. Beatrice Ufitingabier (Rwanda), Andriana Kapular (Bosnia) and Lay Lay Moe (Burma) told the stories of how they managed to escape impossible circumstances to achieve a better life in the United States and Canada.

These women reminded me of the immigrant women I knew as a young girl; women who left Europe because of the poor economic conditions or autocratic governments in their homelands. These women taught me feminism as I observed how they looked out for each other and forged a new home in America. They also taught their children how to celebrate life with wonderful ethnic and cultural traditions including foods, song, language, and proverbs.

During the events of Tech Savvy 4 I met some young students from Grover Cleveland High School, an international school attracting students from all over the world. I spoke with three young girls born in Somalia who escaped to Kenya with their families and who now make their home in Buffalo. They spoke with enthusiasm and confidence about their education. Earlier, I came upon two young 8th graders who stopped me to ask if I would change their schedule so they might stay together for the day. They were afraid to be separated. I did change their schedules as they wished and I gently encouraged them not to be afraid. I sure hope they met up with the girls from Somalia.

Our lives in Buffalo are enriched with many remarkable women. Come to work with them at the annual book sale and come to meet them at the Annual Achievement Award Luncheon.


Kudos to the women who volunteered to organize these events, especially to Tamara Brown, Betty Preble and Leona Barback for Tech Savvy 4; and Lillis McLean and Judy Weidemann for International Women's Day. Your efforts got me thinking about the women in my life and I am certain this is true for many members.

Sincerely,
Marguerite Collesano



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

President: Marguerite Collesano
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) or Nancy Langer (984-5146 or nmlanger@aol.com)

For renewal questions, contact VPs Membership Retention, Kristin Bojanowski (kaybee74@gmail.com, 873-7387) or Michelle Norris (gootzilla@msn.com, 877-5484)

April 2009
Vol. CXIX No. 8
Circulation 250

Buffalo Branch Study/Interest Groups - Schedules for the Month

Study groups are an excellent way to form friendships, network, educate yourself 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 or von104@roadrunner.com.

American Biographies

When: **Thursday, April 9, 2009, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

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

Choice of 3 books on Mrs. Lincoln:

- 1) *The Lincolns*, by Daniel Epstein
- 2) *Mrs. Lincoln*, by Katherine Clinton
- 3) *Mary Todd Lincoln*, by Jean Baker

Discussion Leader: Sue Oliver

NOTE: No further meetings until September 10 when we will be discussing *No Ordinary Time* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Discussion Leader: Jean Sylvester

Contact: **Jean Sylvester:** 838-6780 or

jeangroversylvester@yahoo.com

Co Contact: **Lillis McLean:** 873-7467 or

lillismclean@live.com

Clueless Mystery Book Club

When: **Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**

Where: The Plaka Restaurant, 2904 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore

Annual Book Selection for 2009-2010

Come with 2 book selections!

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

Dinner by the Book

When: **Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 5:30 pm**

Where: The Plaka Restaurant, 2904 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore

***** NOTE NEW LOCATION *****

Annual Book Selection for 2009-2010

Come with 2 book selections!

Facilitator: Judy Malamas

RESERVATIONS: Fran Witnauer 688-5708 or

Grandmafran44@yahoo.com

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Leona Barback, 633-1982 or barleo@roadrunner.com or Marilyn Carmichael, 228-8626 or

mcarmichael45@aol.com

Green Thumbs Garden Group

When: **Saturday April 4, 2009, 10am**

Where: Audubon Library, 350 John James Audubon Pkwy, Buffalo 689-4922

Branch program with Carol Harlos, master gardener

Contact: -Diane Silvestro, 631-3349 or

belvoir6@hotmail.com

Knitting Group

When: **Thursday, April 23, at 3:00pm**

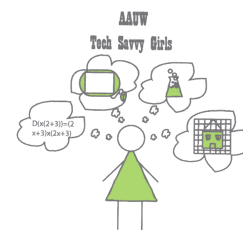
Where: Sheridan Drive @ International Drive and Evans Rd.

(*Please contact Karen for exact location)

Contact: **Karen Howard, 480-3652** or kkhoward@roadrunner.com

A very special Thank You...

Thanks to the fifty members and friends who volunteered on Saturday, March 7, for Tech Savvy 4 and for all the hard work leading up to the event. A special thanks to all of the event chairs who made this day a success... You have helped many girls in Western New York to chart their pathway to success....



JME.

Tamara Brown, Tech Savvy Chair

AND A BIG THANKS TO TAMARA FOR ORGANIZING SUCH A WONDERFUL DAY!

E-Mail Changes - please update your rosters:

Caren Shapiro - carenshapiro@verizon.net

Pat Baker - pbbaker217@roadrunner.com

2009 AAUW National Convention

Breaking through Barriers

June 26-28, 2009
St. Louis



MEMBERSHIP!

Our Members Report:

Give a Grad a Gift

Bergie Lebovitch, NYS Membership VP

It is that time of year, when we start thinking about the college graduations of our friends, daughters, granddaughters, etc. What to give them.....? How about a **free** membership in your favorite organization! As a member, you are entitled to a gift of a one year's membership for your graduate. That is a \$49.00 savings, and think about all of the networking power such a new member will get....

Go to www.AAUW.org, click on the member center, scroll down the left-hand side and click on Give a Grad a Gift, then fill out the boxes and hit the send button. What could be easier? If you know where your graduate is going to be "settling" think about increasing the gift with a State fee of \$10.00 (NYS) plus the local branch's fee to start her off in our powerful organization. If you need any additional assistance, please speak with one of your Membership Vice Presidents.

National Dues are now partially tax-deductible!

AAUW National dues for both branch members and members-at-large (MALs) for FY 2010 **will remain at \$49**. This was approved by the AAUW Board of Directors at their October 2008 meeting (*see note below)

Beginning April 1, 2009, of the \$49 AAUW national individual member dues, \$46 is tax deductible ; \$3 goes to support your AAUW Lobby Corps and election-related activities and are not tax deductible. Student Affiliate dues will continue to be \$17, \$16 of which will be tax deductible for the same reason. * Due to the operational streamlining that has occurred since 2003 Convention and the additional streamlining with the reorganization, effective July 1, 2009 (FY10), the board has decided that a further dues increase is not needed at this time.

From **Linda Brodsky**, who was supported by our AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund in her fight for equity:

"My website and blog are running and thanks to the help of the AAUW I am able to continue the fight for gender equity. I have listed the AAUW as a major organization fighting for gender equity.

I would like to invite all the branch members, their family and friends to look me up at www.lindabrodsnymd.com and to read my blog at www.thebrodskyblog.com

Without the help and support of AAUW at a critical time, I would never have made it through the litigation. I intend to continue my work and hope that the membership will be there with me. The fight is not over".

From **Don Sabo**, who has worked tirelessly for equity for women, especially in the sports arena:

*See link below for **Women's e-News** article derived, in part, from the research report "Go Out and Play: Youth Sport in America". It's the 2nd piece they've done on this gender issue. Please share with parents, coaches, advocates and educators.*

Girls' Sports Opportunities MIA in City Schools

By Carla Murphy - WeNews correspondent

Some New York urban girls are benefiting from an advocate and coach who helped New York City public schools kick off double-dutch jump-rope competitions this month. But critics say there aren't enough Ruth Paynes to go around. Second of two stories.

<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm?aid=3952>

From **the International Women's Day Brunch** -

Did you know that Canisius College is partnering with the WNY Peace Center, Pax Christi WNY, the Interfaith Peace Network, the Buffalo Diocese Peace & Justice Commission, the Islamic Society of Niagara Frontier, Rabbi Drorah Setel and others in the Iraqi Student Project? This project enables Iraqi students who cannot continue their education at home to do that here or at one of the other participating colleges and universities across the country. They need money, of course, but also participation in the local support group. Contact Bill Marx at paxchristiwny@aol.com.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
BUFFALO NIAGARA INVITES YOU TO

***"The Heat Is On —
Climate Change and Emerging Policies"***

**SPEAKER: MARY G. WILSON
LWVUS PRESIDENT**

MODERATOR: BOB SHIBLEY, UB ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING
PANELISTS: KRISTIN CAMPBELL, BSC POLITICAL SCIENCE
DAVID KOWALSKI, CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVIST
KATE FOSTER, REGIONAL INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009

RECEPTION: 5:00-6:30 PM

SPEAKER & PANEL: 6:30-7:45 PM

**BURCHFIELD PENNEY ART CENTER
1300 ELMWOOD AVENUE, BUFFALO, NEW YORK**

THIS SPECIAL EVENT HONORS



TAFFY TARBELL (1921-2007)

AN OUTSTANDING LEAGUE LEADER WHO SPEARHEADED THE SPRAWL CAMPAIGN

\$20 PER PERSON INCLUDES ADMISSION TO GALLERY, TOURS,
PARKING, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND PROGRAM. CASH BAR.
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LWVBN,
MAIL TO: LWVBN, 1272 DELAWARE AVE., BUFFALO, NY 14209-2401

DEADLINE APRIL 15

THIS EVENT CONDUCTED BY LWVBN HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE LWVNYS EDUCATION FOUNDATION TAFFY TARBELL MEMORIAL FUND.

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara
Program: *"The Heat is On — Climate Change and Emerging
Policies"*

April 30, 2009

Please reserve _____ places @ \$20 per person. Enclosed is a
check for \$ _____
made out to LWVBN.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Please mail this coupon with your check by April 15 to
LWVBN, 1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

Katherine "Taffy" Tarbell

The League of Women Voters lost an accomplished leader and tireless advocate when Katherine (Taffy) Tarbell died in 2007. Taffy died on Independence Day, fitting for a woman whose life was committed to public service and to carrying out the League's mission of promoting an active and informed citizenry.

Taffy graduated from Wellesley College in 1943, worked as a field examiner for the National Labor Relations Board, completed a master's degree in Public Administration at the University of Minnesota in 1949, and married Ted Tarbell in 1952. When she left the NLRB to raise a family, she began a new "career" as a League member.

Mary G. Wilson

Mary G. Wilson is the president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). During her 20 years of service with the League of Women Voters, Ms. Wilson has held leadership positions in national, state and local Leagues.

Professionally, Ms. Wilson is an attorney with 30 years of experience in diverse fields of practice including litigation, regulatory compliance, corporate and environmental law, and employment law. As in-house counsel for two large private companies (EG&G Mound Applied Technologies, Inc., and Ecology & Environment, Inc.) and two federal agencies (U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), she has provided legal and policy advice to top level management as well as directed both in-house legal staff and outside counsel.

In 1986, Ms. Wilson was recognized with the "Woman of the Year" award from the U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque.

Ms. Wilson graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana with a B.A. in 1972. She resides in Albuquerque and Albo, New Mexico.

She helped found the LWV Kenmore and was one of its presidents. She also served as vice president of the LWV of New York State.

When the local Leagues in the Buffalo area merged into the LWV of Buffalo/Niagara, Taffy became chair of the Local Government Committee. In that capacity, she spearheaded an Education Campaign on Urban Sprawl. She single-handedly obtained more than \$100,000 in grants for the campaign. The campaign won local, state and national awards in public education from the American Planning Association. Under her guidance, a position on urban sprawl was adopted by the LWVNYS in 1999, and the LWV Buffalo/Niagara published "At Taxpayers' Expense: How Government Policies Encourage Sprawl in Erie and Niagara Counties."

In 1995 Taffy Tarbell was quoted in 75 Years of a Great Idea, A History of The League of Women Voters of New York State: "Citizens feel, with justification, that big business, the special interests, the powerful lobbies have gotten control of government and that they no longer have much of any say. The League's program of serious study, consensus and then action on issues models the way for citizens to regain that control."

Booksale Corner



The 55th annual Scholarship Book Sale will be held in a building at 2309 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda. The site, in the Office Depot Plaza at the intersection of Eggert Rd. and Sheridan Dr., will be available from March 23 until June 6. A

moving date has not yet been set but the committee hopes to begin sorting at the site by April 8.

The committee is asking that persons wanting to donate books hold off delivery until the sale site is opened. The sorting site at 995 Kensington Ave. is reaching overload. Sorting there continues on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and help is particularly needed on Wednesdays. Stop by between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for as much time as you can spare and your help will be very much appreciated.

When sorting begins at the sale site sorting volunteers will be need from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; (9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays) and 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays.

A schedule for staffing at the sale, May 27 -31, will be included in the Blue Books which every branch member will be receiving in the mail shortly. The books also contain information on the sale and volunteer opportunities available. You will be asked to commit to at least one of the jobs listed. For those unable to contribute time, skills and energy to the sale, a contribution to the cost of renting tables will be most welcome.

Pat Swift MacClennan

Not getting your *Advocate* in a timely manner?

There have been several reports of members not getting their *Advocate* until 10-14 days after they have been mailed. We have been told that this is a LOCAL post office issue - it is suggested that you talk with your neighborhood post office about the problem. Another option is to sign up to get the *Advocate* via email - just send a message to the editor - betty.preble@gmail.com.



Have YOU voiced your opinion?

In last month's *Advocate*, two pages were devoted to the changes being proposed in the Association which will be voted on at the convention in St Louis this June. The opportunity to make your voices heard (is available in the form of a survey on the NYS website (aaunys.org). Simply go to the website and click on the "Association Bylaws Survey" button on the left side of the homepage. Over two hundred members across the state have taken advantage of this - but Buffalo is near the bottom of the list in terms of numbers of participants. **Do we not care?** The state delegates will be aware of the results of this survey when they vote - let them know how you feel!



College/University Contacts

Help Wanted
I am recruiting college/university affiliate AAUW members. Do you know a senior administrator contact from one of the area colleges? If so, please let me know. The personal contact can make all the difference!

Michele Maddox

College/University Relations Director

716/882-2925, maddoxm@dyc.edu

To Deborah Naybor!



Deb was featured as an "Intelligent Optimist" in the March 2009 issue of *ODE* magazine. An AAUW member, a business owner, a Ph.D. student, a remodeler of her own home and the founder of "Both Your Hands", she is one busy woman! Deb spoke to our branch about her humanitarian foundation as well as discussing several biographies at the February program. Kudos to Deb!

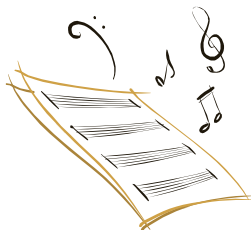
**AAUW Buffalo Branch
Annual Awards Luncheon and General
Elections**

Saturday, May 2, 2009

**Westwood Country Club
772 North Forest Road
Williamsville**

Proceedings

The afternoon will begin at 11:30 with a wonderful chance to mingle over mimosas and enjoy special musical selections. Enjoy a leisurely conversation with fellow branch members. Even more, support the Legal Advocacy Fund with a donation of your choice.



The meeting will begin at noon. The Branch Annual Achievement Award will be presented, and Named Gift Honorees for the Educational Foundation will be recognized. As well, the Branch will elect new officers for 2009-2010.

Luncheon Selection

Guests will enjoy one of three entree selections: chicken, salmon, or vegetarian pasta.

For information please call Judith Anderson, Luncheon Chair, at 655-1993. Please send reservations by April 20 using the form below.

NEW MEMBERS

Ms. Roslyn Collins
473 Winslow Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14211
H: 892 1638
C: 462 9054
Collins6@buffalo.edu

Mrs. Deborah Mack
99 Sussex St.
Buffalo, NY 14215
H: 444 1811
dkimble@buffaloschools.org

Dr. Julie Wiczowski
215 Delaware Rd
Kenmore, NY, 14217
H: 392 3917
W: 878 6424
wiczjka@buffalostate.edu

Mrs. Henrietta Keenan
2850 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14214
H: 836 1462
C: 836 1462

Mrs. Laurie A. Walsh
1719 Linden Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY, 14120
Phone not listed
lwalsh@daemen.edu



Registration form for May 2 Annual Awards Luncheon.

Send to: Ms. Judith Anderson, 8 Woodbrook Drive, Apt. 4, East Aurora, NY 14052 by April 20, 2009

Questions: Call Judith at 655-1993

Member Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Luncheon Selection(s): _____ *Chicken* _____ *Salmon* _____ *Pasta*

Cost: \$25 per person, payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch EF

You may include optional donation, in the amount of your choice, for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Donations to LAF may also be brought to the pre-luncheon social.

Please respond by **April 20** to: Ms. Judith Anderson
8 Woodbrook Drive, Apt. 4
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 655-1993

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, April 8 (corrected), 5:45 pm - Board Meeting, Audubon Library

Sat, Apr 4, 10:00 - noon - Audubon library; Carol Harlos, master gardener, will discuss herbs (information and registration form on page 1)

April 24-26 - AAUW-NYS Convention at the Sagamore on Lake George

April 28 - Equal Pay Day

Sat, May 2 - Annual Awards Luncheon at the Westwood Country Club (information and registration form on page 7)

Sat, May 2 - Sister to Sister at Buff State

Wed, May 6, 5:45 pm - Board Meeting, Audubon Library

Wed-Sun, May 27-31 - **BOOKSALE!** 2309 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda

June 26-28 - AAUW Convention in St Louis, MO

June 30 - 2009-2010 dues are due

July 10-12 - AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference at Hartwick College (new location this year)

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on Mar 24, 2009.
Moving? Please contact Freddie Cheek, 716-835-6945.



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

Return Service Requested

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