



# Buffalo Branch Advocate

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



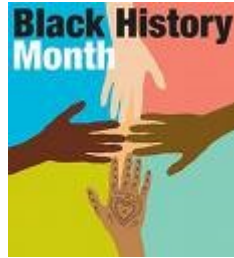
NYS District 1

## Highlights:

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**The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the previous month.** Articles received after that may not appear in the next issue.

Please send articles to Betty Preble via e-mail:  
[betty.preble@gmail.com](mailto:betty.preble@gmail.com)



## CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On Saturday, February 7 we will spend a relaxing and educational morning, 10am-noon, at the Audubon Library with Deb Naybor discussing the lives of some famous and not-so-famous women. Light refreshments will be served.

The books she plans to cover are:

- *Alice Walker: A Life* by Evelyn C. White
- *Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston* by Valerie Boyd
- *Jazz Cleopatra: Josphine Baker in Her Time* by Phyliss Rose
- *Warrior Poet: A Biography of Audre Lorde* by Alexis DeVeaux

What do these African American Icons have in common?

What does the past history of African American women have to teach us today in this time of dynamic change?

How do the biographers of each of these women compare in their approach to telling the stories?

Come learn!

The reservation form is below. **Please note that there is a February 2 deadline, and we must have a minimum number reserved in order to hold the program.** If the numbers are insufficient, the meeting will be cancelled and those who have reserved will be notified.

### Registration form for February 7 Branch Program. Send to:

**Sharon Meer, 123 Kingsview Court, Williamsville, NY 14221 by February 2, 2009**

Questions: Call Sharon at 689-9114 or e-mail at [rsmeer@verizon.net](mailto:rsmeer@verizon.net)

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

Washington Update, a weekly e-mail article from the AAUW Public Policy and Government Department, reports how the AAUW is involved with the changes occurring in Washington, D.C. this month. The PPGD has submitted documents to the transition team highlighting AAUW federal policy priorities. AAUW says "in fact, AAUW has already been working closely with the President-elect's transition team to ensure that breaking through educational and economic barriers for women is on top of their agenda".

Included in the documents are AAUW's recommendation for pay equity and workplace opportunity legislation, improving access to higher education, and family friendly work-life policies.

Specific recommendations include:

- A Labor Department pay equity analysis of all federal jobs, to identify where women are underpaid for work that requires similar education, experience and skills.
- Improving and expanding the Pell Grant Award Program
- Increase funding for Campus Child Care Programs
- Diversifying the Professoriate – especially in research universities



## I need your help!

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](mailto:maddoxm@dyc.edu)

I clearly remember a televised press session of President John F. Kennedy in the early 1960's, when reporter Helen Thompson asked Kennedy the question, "What is his administration doing for women?" Laughingly, with a twinkle in his eye, he responded, "Apparently not enough!" Most women had no clue that the government should address their specific issues. Not the case in 2009! Many national organizations now give a voice to women so that they may scale the barriers to achieve economic equality.

Sincerely,

*Marguerite Collesano*



Late Breaking News - The House of Representatives has passed the Pay Equity Bill - contact your senators to complete the implementation of this important bill!

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

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For prospective or new member questions, contact VP Membership Recruitment, Bev Schwiegerling. ([schwieg@roadrunner.com](mailto:schwieg@roadrunner.com), 652-7182) or Nancy Langer (984-5146 or [nmlanger@aol.com](mailto:nmlanger@aol.com))

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

February 2009  
Vol. CXIX No. 6  
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.

### Group: American Biographies

When: **Thursday, February 12, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

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

Book: *American Bloomsbury* by Susan Cheever

Discussion Leader: Margaret Haas

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

[jeangroversylvester@yahoo.com](mailto:jeangroversylvester@yahoo.com)

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

[lillismclean@live.com](mailto:lillismclean@live.com)

### Group: Clueless Mystery Book Club

When: **Wednesday, February 25, 6:00 p.m.**

Where: Friendly's 4350 Maple Road, Amherst, NY14226

Book: *Death in an Orchid Garden* and/or *Death of a Political Plant* by Anne Ripley

Facilitator: Norma Millar

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

### Group: Dinner by the book

#### Please *welcome* our newest members

Mrs Mary Crocker  
375 Parkhurst Blvd.  
Buffalo, NY 14223  
H 838 2796  
W 856 3150  
C 868 3178  
[mlcrock@msn.com](mailto:mlcrock@msn.com)

Mrs Suzanne S. Licata  
25 Hyledge Dr.  
Amherst, NY 14226  
H 837 1074  
C 622 9096  
[slicataG@roadrunner.com](mailto:slicataG@roadrunner.com)

Our sympathies to the families of two members and friends we have lost this past month - Carol Battle and Gretchen Stringer. We remember them fondly and will greatly miss them.



*"I think that  
Wherever your journey takes you  
There are new gods waiting there  
With divine patience -  
And laughter."*

*-Susan Watkins*

When: **Wednesday, February 18, 5:30 pm**

Where: Café in the Square 4476 Main St. Amherst, (839-5330)

Book: *Back When We Were Grownups*, by Anne Tyler

Facilitator: Fran Witnauer

Discussion Leader: Leona Barback - 633-1982 or

[barleo@roadrunner.com](mailto:barleo@roadrunner.com)

**RESERVATIONS:** Fran Witnauer - 688-5708 or

[Grandmafran44@yahoo.com](mailto:Grandmafran44@yahoo.com)

#### FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Leona Barback - 633-1982 or

[barleo@roadrunner.com](mailto:barleo@roadrunner.com)

or **Marilyn Carmichael** - 228-8626 or

[mcarmichael45@aol.com](mailto:mcarmichael45@aol.com)

### Group: Knitting Group

When: **Thursday, February 26, at 3:00pm**

Where: Sheridan Drive @ International Drive and Evans Rd.

(\*Please contact Karen for exact location)

Contact: **Karen Howard**, 874-1389 or

[kkhoward@roadrunner.com](mailto:kkhoward@roadrunner.com)

### Junior League Decorator Show House Volunteering Opportunity

The Junior League of Buffalo has asked our AAUW-Buffalo Branch members to participate once again in the 2009 15th Junior League Decorator Show House.

The 2009 Show House is the Wallace Estate designed by E.B. Green located at 697 LeBrun Road in Eggertsville, NY. The two times for volunteering are Sunday, May 3, 1:45p.m. - 5:30p.m. or Saturday May 16, 9:30a.m. - 1:30p.m.



If you are interested in taking part in this exciting event, contact Sylvia Volk prior to February 10th at 881-1424 or [sylviafolk.aauw@yahoo.com](mailto:sylviafolk.aauw@yahoo.com).

2009 AAUW National Convention

# Breaking through Barriers

June 26-28, 2009

St. Louis



## PLAN NOW!

Details on the AAUW website - <http://www.aauw.org>

### **AAUW in the 21st Century**, by Ruth Z. Sweetser and Barbara L. O'Connor

Please read the letter from our national presidents on pages 5 and 6. Our future as an organization is at stake - we have shrunk, we are aging. Are we still relevant? This convention will help determine our future - or lack thereof.

### **COME ONE! COME ALL!**

**AAUW-NYS Convention!**

*April 24 - 26, 2009*

*The Sagamore, Bolton Landing*

Check out the workshops and speakers for the AAUW NYS convention April 24 to 26 on the NYS website - <http://aauw-nys.org>. The Sagamore is an ideal setting for productive AAUW NYS meetings and networking opportunities.



If you **REGISTER EARLY** at the hotel you will have chances to win a **\$100 gift certificate** to The Sagamore Spa. The winner will be drawn on Friday evening. The Spa provides a full range of European style spa ser-

vices including treatments, massage, sauna and whirlpool. Those who register at the hotel by February 1 will receive 4 chances, February 15 - 3 chances, March 1 - 2 chances and March 15 - 1 chance to win the gift certificate. **Look on the AAUW NYS website to find information to register on the internet or print a form to mail.** Every branch president will receive a complete packet of information to share.

*Ed. Note - our own Ruth Fierro-King will be running for the NYS treasurer position. Plan to come to support her!*

### **Your national EF dollars at work!**

The 2008-09 Campus Action Project provides a platform to address some of the educational barriers faced by low income and minority girls and young women.

Eleven teams from around the country were selected to implement projects based on recommendations from the AAUW Educational Foundation research report *Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education* that was released in spring 2008. The selected projects focus on college preparation and readiness; promoting studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) among women and girls; and encouraging young women to be leaders in their communities.

And one of the winners is: **SUNY Oneonta!**

Decreasing Barriers, Planting SEEDS: Success in Education through understanding Equity and Diversity in Students - The ten student CAP team members (themselves from minority/low income households) will produce a 30-minute documentary featuring interviews with students from the target population about issues and barriers they faced in attending college and how some of those barriers are overcome. The team will create an accompanying toolkit with additional information about specific strategies for overcoming barriers. They will present the video and toolkit at several campus events and plan viewings and discussions at local high schools.

*Eileen Hartmann, AAUW-NYS President*

## AAUW in the 21st Century

 by Ruth Z. Sweetser and  
Barbara L. O'Connor

Will 2009 be the year of AAUW's transformation? If so, each of us needs to be reminded that policies and procedures by themselves don't change an organization. Rather, it is YOU, the members, who have the opportunity to move AAUW from a 20th- to a 21st-century organization. Since transformation depends on the human factor, how does this happen?

First, we have to work together and think together as an entire community to ensure that we keep our AAUW Value Promise at all times. When planning branch activities or even personal activities, ask "How does this project or program or activity help keep AAUW's Value Promise?" In other words, how am I helping to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls? Diligence in keeping AAUW's promise will make an enormous difference both in getting results for our mission and in branding our organization.

Whenever you read with your granddaughter, play in a bridge tournament that benefits the AAUW Educational Foundation, host a guest speaker on pay equity at a branch meeting, or write your member of Congress through our Two-Minute Activist portal, you're taking a step to break through barriers. Just asking yourself that question brings a new awareness to and appreciation of our work that is vital to making it succeed—and will help you focus as your branch plans its mission-based programming. When you take that planning up a notch—asking how can my branch join with as many other branches and members as possible to apply our collective influence to a breakthrough—barriers, watch out! With nationwide engagement by members, our results, if documentable, will prove to be powerful and persuasive.

Second, plan to attend the 2009 AAUW National Convention: Breaking through Barriers, June 26–28, in St. Louis. There you'll have the chance to experience the new AAUW firsthand, to see with your own eyes what the future holds for our organization. You'll make AAUW history by participating in the bylaws votes, and, of course, you'll reconnect with old friends and make valuable and enjoyable new connections. But, please, come to convention well versed in the proposed bylaws and rationales; the briefings provide extensive information on these new approaches.

Third, adopt innovative tools and future-oriented thinking about what will make AAUW viable, attractive, and competitive. Yes, organizations compete for the attention and participation of current and potential members. If we are unable or unwilling to see the big picture of AAUW and its needs in 2009 and beyond, we risk the future of the entire organization. So to finalize the corporate restructuring from three separate entities to one tax-exempt umbrella organization (501(c)(3) with a very small 501(c)(4) subsidiary, the Action Fund), we will need to adopt bylaws that support the respective legalities and functions. We also need new ways of operating that recognize updated ways to lead, technology that facilitates administrative work so volunteers can devote themselves to breaking through barriers, 21st-century ways of engaging with each other, and other practices.

A number of these innovative tools have been introduced through the series of [briefings](#) that AAUW has provided since early fall 2008. These tools include the [Programs in a Box](#), which provide how-to's for mission-based programming; the [Membership Pilot Program](#), which will allow leaders to manage their membership records online; and the [Branch and State Local Scholarship Clearinghouse Pilot Program](#), which will help branches market their scholarships and select their recipients from a pool of prescreened applicants. Our new method of submitting a leadership position application will allow members to express general and specific areas for service, along with an inventory of skill sets they can bring to these positions. The type of work expected of the regional director is so valuable that we are revamping and strengthening that role to ensure grassroots engagement for the new AAUW.

At the AAUW state spring meetings, board members and other leaders—champions—will present and facilitate discussion on all these transitions. Be sure to take advantage of this personalized learning opportunity, especially in preparation for the convention in St. Louis.

Each of these changes marks a departure from our business as usual, yet they are all designed to address our organizational shortcomings. It is up to us to take hold of what organizational development teaches us, leave behind AAUW practices and thinking that don't work, and build on AAUW's unmatched legacy to reshape its potential for the future. We need to be smart, as well as educated!

*(Continued on page 6)*

## **Tech Savvy Conference: Saturday, March 7, 2009**

The fourth annual Tech Savvy conference is next month. On Saturday, March 7, we will welcome about 400 girls and their parents and teachers.

The conference is designed to inspire middle school girls to pursue STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, and math). *Tech Savvy* features 20 workshops for the girls and activities for adults as well.

You can participate in Tech Savvy in several ways:

*Join us for an overview of the newest EF research report “Where the Girls Are”  
Join us for the keynote speech by Major Melissa Eslinger at 2 pm.  
Volunteer for all or part of the day.  
(We need about 50 volunteers for the day between 7 am and 3 pm)*

This year’s conference theme is ***Charting a Pathway to Success***. Our keynote speaker is certainly familiar with planning and the importance of charting career paths. Major Melissa Eslinger of the United States Army is a professor of chemistry at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Her military career has included many logistics and planning responsibilities, and her professional interests include the study of bioterrorism and threat agents. Major Eslinger is trained in oncology, epidemiology, and molecular genetics. Major Eslinger completed her graduate studies at Roswell Park Cancer Institute (a division of the SUNY Buffalo Graduate School) and we are happy to welcome her back to Buffalo.

### **Upcoming Planning Dates for Tech Savvy 4**

- Thursday, February 5: Tech Savvy Meeting 5:30 pm – 7 pm at the United Way (corner of Delaware Avenue & Summer in Buffalo)
- February 19: Last day to register for Tech Savvy. Volunteers do not need to register for the conference. Please let Tamara know when you plan to volunteer during the day (morning, afternoon, all day).
- Thursday, February 26: Tote Bag Stuffing, Name Tag Assembly, and Bag Stuffing (**Lots of Help Needed!**) 4:30 – 8:00 pm at the United Way. (Dress Comfortably; pizza served at 7:00)
- Saturday, March 7: Tech Savvy at UB’s North Campus (Meet at Student Union... Ample Parking in Furnas Lot.)



The critical question is, How will you help AAUW move into the 21st century? As noted, the forward-looking framework and policies/procedures are being developed for your consideration and decision. How you think about AAUW, its future and its promise, will determine both how you receive proposed changes and, more important, what you do with the new AAUW once it is in place. You—both individually and collectively as the AAUW community—are the agent on which AAUW’s success rests!

The new AAUW is going to be a force to be reckoned with. With a community of nearly 100,000 determined women and men, focused on a single objective—to break through barriers for women and girls—we will be unstoppable.



## Booksale Corner

**Jacque Walker**, award-winning anchor of WIVB-TV, has once again agreed to be honorary chairperson for the AAUW Scholarship Book Sale.

Walker, whose support of community organizations is surpassed only by her professional accomplishments, was the book sale's first honorary chair five years ago when the sale was celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She served again during the 54<sup>th</sup> sale in 2008.

A 25-year veteran of WIVB-TV news, Walker has a string of awards from national, state and local professional organizations for her reporting and documentaries. They include several Emmy nominations and Associated Press Broadcast Association awards. She has been honored for her outstanding community service by close to two dozen Western New York organizations.

In her honorary position with the book sale Walker has given generously of her time and talent and drawing on her volunteer experiences has offered invaluable advice and support.

In other good news for the sale, Leona Barback has taken on the job of book sale treasurer. A long-time

member of AAUW and the Branch's board, Barback is the former Education Foundation vice president and current recording secretary. She brings her expertise in math and technology to what is one of the sale's more demanding jobs.



Book sorting and collections continue at the Kensington Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, 995 Kensington Ave. Members and their friends are invited to help sort Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30.

Donors may drop off books at the site Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. (The hours were incorrect in the December notice.)

*Pat Swift MacClennan*

## SAVE THE DATE

The Buffalo branch will celebrate International Women's Day once again on March 8, 2009. The event will be a champagne brunch at 11 a.m. at Samuel's Grande Manor. We will celebrate the success of refugee women in Buffalo, recognizing these women and the agencies who have helped them. For further information contact Lillis McClean at 874-7367 or Judy Weidemann at 655-3649. More details in the March *Advocate*.



**Registration form for March 8 Branch Program. Send to:  
Judy Weidemann, 21 Nye Hill Road, East Aurora, NY 14052 by Feb 28, 2009**

Questions: Call Judy at 655-4942 or e-mail at [JWeide7170@aol.com](mailto:JWeide7170@aol.com)

My check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 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

*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, Feb 4, 5:30 pm** - Audubon Library - Board Meeting
- Sat, Feb 7, 10:00 - noon** - Audubon Library. February program - see page 1
- Sat, Mar 7** - Tech Savvy 4 at UB
- Sun, Mar 8, 11:00 am** - International Women's Day Brunch at Samuel's Grande Manor
- Sat, Apr 4 10:00 - noon** - Audubon library; Carol Harlos, master gardener, will discuss herbs
- April 24-26** - AAUW-NYS Convention at the Sagamore on Lake George
- Sat, May 2** - Annual Awards Lunch at the Westwood Country Club
- Sat, May 2** - Sister to Sister at Buff State
- Wed-Sun, May 27-31** - BOOKSALE!
- June 26-28** - AAUW Convention in St Louis, MO
- 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 Jan 22, 2009.  
Moving? Please contact Freddie Cheek, 716-835-6945.



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