



Buffalo Branch Advocate

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



NYS District 1

Highlights:

- Pg 1 - Booksale & Summer Program
- Pg 2 - President's Message
- Pg 3 - Interest Groups, Convention Report
- Pg 4 - Membership Corner
- Pg 5 - Booksale Corner, Chamberlin/Funds for Education Update
- Pg 6 - 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.



OUR FABULOUS 55th BOOKSALE!!!

May 27 - May 31, 2009
 Office Depot Plaza, 2309 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, NY
 (corner of Sheridan Drive and Eggert Road)
 If you have not yet signed up to help, please contact Barbara Emer - 833-9144. We need all hands on board!

AUGUST TEA PARTY

You are invited to a Social and Cultural Event
 at the home of
 Judy Weidemann
 21 Nye Hill Road, East Aurora, NY
 Saturday, August 8, 2009
 from 2-4 PM

Two of our members, Linda Drajem and Marjorie Norris, have published collections of poetry and will read from their work. You are invited to come to hear them. Feel free to also bring something to read - original or not.

The East Aurora Village Singers will also perform.

You may bring tea time food (sandwiches or dessert) or send \$5.00 to Judy Weidemann using the coupon below.

Have a great summer - next issue (September) will be out in August.



Registration form for August 8 Summer Tea.

Send to: Judy Weidemann, 21 Nye Hill Road, East Aurora, NY 14052 by July 30, 2009

Member Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

My contribution will be (Please check one):

- I will bring teatime food (please specify _____)
- pay \$5 (check to AAUW Buffalo Branch, enclosed).

Questions? Contact Judy at 655-3649 or jweide7170@aol.com.

President's Message

Outside, the day was sunny and bright to match the spirit of the members and guests who attended the Annual Meeting and Achievement Awards Luncheon on May 2; the lovely setting of the Westwood Country Club and the violin music provided by Derrick Voigt (Williamsville North Student) enhanced our Celebration of Women.

There was much for our members to be jubilant about! I was handed a stack of Certificates awarded to our Buffalo Branch at the New York State Convention in April:

- 21st Century Platinum Award for excellence in mission-based programming and advancing the cause of equity for women and girls.
- Newsletter of Excellence Award
- 1st Place STEM Program Award for "Tech Savvy"
- Educational Foundation Awards, 1st Place for Overall Giving in NYS, 1st Place for per-capita Giving in NYS, and Top Ten Branch in the country for total contribution to the Educational Foundation
- Top Ten Branch for total contribution to the Legal Advocacy Fund and top 5% of increased giving to the Fund
- Recognition for increasing branch membership in the Member get a Member Campaign

In addition, our own Ruth Fierro-King was elected NYS Treasurer. Congratulations to the members who made our program so successful this past year.

Tamara Brown was honored at the luncheon as our 2009 Woman of Achievement, a worthy recipient as a model for young women in her professional work, community involvement and as a leader in our Buffalo Branch.

Honorees included our 25-year members for 2009: Ruth Auer, Karen Stephenson, and Janet D. Vine. The Velma Cobb Scholarship recipients, Laura Kleemann and Jessica Shatzel, were also present.

The 2009 Branch Recognition Award was awarded in memoriam to our past president, Janet Fowler (1946-2008). Her daughter, Gwen, and Alan's daughters, Lori, Heather, and Michelle, were present to receive the award in honor of their mother.

The Slate of Officers for 2009-2010 was presented by nominating chair Tamara Brown, and Barbara Parks Carier, former member of the NYS Board and 3-term President of the Buffalo Branch, installed the officers.

I would like to thank all the members and friends of the Branch who made the Award Luncheon so successful.

As the new year begins, we take inspiration from the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "Our own success, to be real, must contribute to the success of others". We are a part of the many women's associations throughout the US and the world. At their best, they encourage women and guide the next generation of young women so that their talents will make a better world.

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 Schwierling. (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)

June 2009
Vol. CXIX No. 10
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

American Biographies

No further meetings until Thursday, Sept 10, 2009

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

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, June 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**

Where: Friendly's Restaurant, Maple Road at Sweethome Road

Book: *The Merlot Murders* and / or *Chardonnay Charade* by Ellen Crosby

Facilitator: Jean Hubbard

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

NYS Convention:

Moving the Mission Forward

Several Buffalo members (Tamara Brown, Sue Oliver, Ruth Fierro-King, Joan Trinchera, Lillis McLean and Betty Preble) recently attended the AAUW NY State Convention at the Sagamore in Lake George. We were lucky to have unseasonably warm, sunny, near-perfect weather.

The business began Friday evening with a presentation on the proposed bylaws changes by Sally Chamberlain, a candidate for president of the Association. Following the dinner was the keynote speech on Pay Equity by Jill Birdwhistell, the Chief of Strategic Advancement for AAUW. Later, the resolutions caucus focused on an energetic but unsuccessful effort by the Kingston Branch to implement a resolution favoring the retention of our lever-voting machines in NYS.

Marguerite has mentioned in her president's message the numerous awards won by Buffalo, most of which were announced at the awards breakfast Saturday morning. The business meeting was highlighted for us by the election of our own Ruth Fierro-King as NYS treasurer for 2009-11.

Dinner by the book

When: **Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 5:30 pm**

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

Book: *Water for Elephants*, by Sara Gruen

Discussion Leaders: Lynne Tauriello and Norma Heimerl

Facilitator: Mickey Hice

RESERVATIONS: Fran Witnauer 688-5708 or

Grandmafran44@yahoo.com

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Leona Barback, 633-1982 or

barleo@roadunner.com

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

mcarmichael45@aol.com

Green Thumbs Garden Group

Watch your e-mail for June events!

Contact: **Diane Silvestro**, 631-3349 or

belvoir6@hotmail.com



Knitting Group

When: **Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 3:00 pm**

Where: Sheridan Drive @ International Drive and Evans Rd.

(*Please contact **Karen** for exact location)

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

kkhoward@roadrunner.com



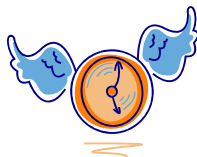
Lunch on Saturday was an LAF celebration. Thanks to Marguerite, Pat Baker and Pat Swift MacClennan, our three LAF baskets together raised over \$100, which will go towards our 2009 contribution. The guest speaker at the LAF luncheon was Coach Roderick Jackson, an LAF supported litigant. As coach of the girls' basketball team at Ensley High School in Birmingham, Alabama he found that the girls' team was not receiving equal opportunity and complained about it, which resulted in him losing his job. After a long legal battle to protest retaliation under Title IX, the

(Continued on page 5)

Membership Corner

AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Membership renewal letters and dues forms for 2009-2010 were recently mailed to all Buffalo Branch members.



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, 2009**. Please consider adding a donation to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF).

For questions about renewing your membership or if you have not received your renewal materials, contact Kristin Bojanowski (879-2116) or Michelle Norris (877-5484).

Board Members Needed!

One of the real benefits of membership in AAUW is the privilege of working with many other women who care about the mission of the organization. We are a multi-faceted group, each person doing her/his part in making things happen. With that in mind, please consider volunteering for a position on the board. At publication time we needed people for each of the following positions:

- Legal Advocacy Fund - educate the branch about the program and manage a fund-raiser of some sort.
- Education and Equity - educate the branch about issues in the news regarding education and equity.
- College/University - liaison with our local college/university members (UB) and recruit others
- May Luncheon - work with the president and program VP on logistics of the annual meeting luncheon
- Diversity - educate the branch regarding issues of diversity
- Study Group Coordinator - gather monthly information to give the newsletter publisher and coordinate the development of new groups

If you are interested in one of these (or other) positions, please contact Marguerite Collesano (853-6480 or mcollesano@aol.com). Most of these people serve on the program committee, so work should start soon!

Please welcome our newest member:

Dr. Marianne Sullivan
435 Willow Green Drive
Amherst, NY 14228
H 691 3425
W 645 3180 x105
C 706 8066
mks@buffalo.edu

BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS

The national AAUW convention is approaching - it will be June 26-28, in St Louis. Branch members Tamara Brown and Betty Preble will be attending. If you have questions or comments regarding the many significant items which will be discussed and voted on, please contact one of them to make your feelings known. Some radical changes are being proposed for our organization and it's important that our ideas are heard!

New Officers Elected!

The following people were elected to office and installed at the May Luncheon All are two year terms unless otherwise noted.:

- President: Marguerite Collesano (1 year)
- Vice President for Program: Yvonne Curry
- Vice President for Membership Retention: Susan McClary
- Branch Treasurer: Connie Combs
- Funds for Education/Chamberlin Loan Fund Treasurer: Michelle Norris
- Nominating Committee (1 year terms):
 - Tamara Brown, Chair
 - Joan Trinchera
 - Judy Weidemann
 - Bertha Boston
 - Peggy Meinl

These terms will begin July 1, 2009.

Booksale Corner



The 55th Scholarship Book Sale will be held in the Office Depot Plaza at 2309 Eggert Rd. Tonawanda. The new site is located at the corner of Sheridan Dr. and Eggert Rd and books are being collected and sorted there week-

days from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. with the exception of Tuesdays, when it is open until 8 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. until noon. Members are urged to select a work shift from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. If you are working during the day, you might be able to help out at the site on Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings.

The sale will open May 27 and continue through May 31. There is still time for you to sign up to work dur-

ing the sale. You should have received in the mail a list of jobs and a schedule for volunteers from the Volunteer Empowerment Committee chairs.

The success of the book sale depends on every member making an effort to help. Your contribution is what makes the difference in the bottom line.

We could also use some of your friends, especially young, able-bodied males wanting to do some body building lifting boxes of books onto the table.

You have a number of choices in how you want to support the sale and it is important to make a decision soon and return your volunteer sheet so schedules can be completed leaving sale workers with one less thing to worry about. There are hundreds of tasks connected to a project of this magnitude and not a whole lot of people handling them.

Pat Swift MacClennan

NYS Convention Report (Continued from page 3)

Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in his favor in 2005. AAUW supported his case and filed an amicus curiae brief in his favor. The contributions made to LAF help level the playing field for girls and women through cases such as Coach Jackson's.

There was a variety of workshops Saturday afternoon, appealing to the many interests of the attendees. I learned some local history and more about the Association Scholarship and Membership pilot projects.

Dinner that day was the EF gala. There were two speakers at this event (superbly organized by Tamara as NYS EF VP), both current recipients of EF fellowships. The first speaker was Zaara Sarwar from Bangladesh, a PhD student at Syracuse University. Her focus is biofilms, the major cause of infectious diseases caused by pathogenic bacteria. The second speaker, Tina Lee, is from the Anthropology department at CUNY. She is completing her dissertation about New York City's child welfare system. Our EF contributions provide scholarships of \$4,000,000 each year to support deserving women in graduate education.

Sunday morning we heard presentations on specific topics by several branches. Joan Trinchera spoke well of our various fundraising efforts as part of that meeting. That "branch showcase" was followed by

the parents of astronaut Pam Melroy talking about the challenges which faced their ambitious and talented daughter as she moved toward the goal she had had since she was a young girl.

We next learned about the Eleanor Roosevelt Center from its Executive Director Kathleen Durham. Educational and entertaining.

The final event was the presentation of a project by students at SUNY Oneonta, funded by our Educational Foundation. Professor Karen Joest brought three of her students from her mass media class to the convention to show a 39 minute film they had written, filmed, edited and produced. The students had interviewed each other and other young women at Oneonta. They asked searching questions about barriers to education experienced by students who lacked money and about discrimination experienced by black, Hispanic and women of other minority backgrounds from both faculty and students. Their goal was to bring attention and empathy to the problems that all the girls faced, so that they could achieve equity in their pursuit of education.

The convention ended with an invitation to return to the 2008 convention site, the Otesaga (in Coopers-town) in 2010. I'll be there - hope many of you will join us!

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

NOW - 2009-2010 dues are due!

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

Wed, June 10, 5 pm - Joint Board Meeting/Potluck Supper
at Lyn McDonald's home, 345 Hopkins Road, Wil-
liamsville

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

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

Sat, Aug 8, 2-4 pm - Tea Party at Judy Weidemann's - de-
tails on page 1.

Scholarship application deadlines (details on website)-

Grassroots Grants, May 30

Chamberlin Loan Funds/Funds for Education, June 1

Dorothy Payne, June 21

Olga Lindberg, July 2

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on May 22, 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