



April 2010

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April Dinner Program - FABULOUS FIRST LADIES

We have admired their leadership, copied their styles, and questioned their actions. We all have a favorite first lady, and no matter who she is, we can all agree that the role of this leading lady has evolved over the years, with each woman developing her role in a slightly different way.

The April dinner program will continue our celebration of Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday with an enlightening discussion at the historic Twentieth Century Club, taking a look at Three American First Ladies, their roles in activism, and the impacts they made.

Michelle Obama's impact and America's reception of her will be examined by the authors of the nationally famed book *Go Tell Michelle*. Drs. Peggy Brooks Bertram and Barbara Seals Nevergold will discuss their collection of letters to Michelle Obama from women across the country and Mrs. Obama's impact based upon her first year in the White House.

Abigail Fillmore will be portrayed by Mrs. Esther Kopp of the Millard Fillmore Home. Mrs. Kopp, whose personal research into this First Lady is sure to be enlightening, will give an entertaining view of this Mrs. Fillmore, about whom little is known.

Eleanor Roosevelt will be presented by our own branch President, Marguerite Collesano, who will reflect on Mrs. Roosevelt as a first lady well known for her activism and impact. Marguerite will surely provide some little known facts about this beloved first lady.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

5:30 Registration

6:00 - 8:00 Dinner & Discussion

Twentieth Century Club, 595 Delaware Avenue at Franklin Street

~ Menu ~

Special Salad & Red Snapper Bisque

Duet of Chicken in Phyllo with Chicken Mousse & Crab Cake (vegetarian option available)

Herb-Roasted Baby Red Potatoes & Vegetable Medley

Peach Melba

About the Twentieth Century Club

The Twentieth Century Club was the first club run by women for women in the United States. Established in 1894 the Club is dedicated for the advancement of women through education and the arts. Founder Charlotte Mulligan was known for active participation and philanthropy. Still present today, these qualities are evident through their motto "let deeds show."

We look forward to seeing you there!

-Chairs Tamara Brown and Sharon Minklein



Dates to Remember:

- **Wed, Apr 7**, April Board Meeting, 6:00 pm at Ebenezer UCC
- **Tue, Apr 20**, April Dinner Program
- **Fri-Sun, April 23-25**, AAUW-NYS Convention, Cooperstown, NY
- **Sat, May 15**, Annual Awards Luncheon, Fanny's
- **Wed-Sun, June 2-6, 2010** - 56th Annual Book Sale
- **Fri-Sun, July 9-11, 2010** - NYS Leadership Conference

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Registration form for the April 20 Fabulous First Ladies Dinner Program
Return to Tamara Brown, 2723 Christopher Blvd, Hamburg, NY 14075 by April 10, 2010

My check in the amount of \$_____ (\$40.00 per person) payable to the AAUW Buffalo Branch is enclosed.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Names of Guests: _____

I would like a ride to the program - please circle: Yes No

President's Message

Recently I received a call from a high school classmate to help organize our 50th High School Reunion. What a milestone! This gives me pause to reflect on the historical and social changes that have occurred for women in my lifetime, and to enjoy a special sense of celebration during Women's History Month.

Yes, we celebrate the breakthrough nominations and the election of women to political office, but more importantly, we celebrate the fact that women now have significant power to have their voices heard. In so many ways, women impress their viewpoints on the changing issues of our times.

Changes in women's role was feared by many, for change is unsettling and destructive to traditions to say the least. Each of us in our culturally created role were made safe. But Anne Tyler (*Accidental Tourist*), in the words of her male hero, wrote "be wary of a false sense of security".

I remember a conversation I had in 1980 with a scholar while attending a conference of the Italian-American Historical Association. We had a challenging conversation about women's roles and finally, he said to me, "But Marguerite, who will make the dinner soup?" I looked him in the eye and confidently said, "We'll make the soup together! We'll share the task and that will leave both of us time to pursue other things!"

Surfing the 'net I looked up "Chaos Theory", which has intrigued me, especially in its application to social theory. I found an essay written by Sandra L. Bloom, MD, Community



Works. Her book is *Chaos, Complexity, Self-Organization, and Us*. She writes, "In place of a mechanistic view of the universe, we are encouraged to see the

playful interdependency of all beings, best represented by the trickster image that has played such a vital role in all cultures throughout time, demonstrating how creativity can overcome the odds, bend the rules, think and move "outside the box". It is time for such a change...just as our linear and reductionistic solutions to the complex problems of corporate globalization fail to save the planet..., the human species discovers – or rediscovers – the power of subtle change... we come to recognize that all life is truly and irrevocably interconnected and that our salvation lies in giving up the struggle for control and turning ourselves over to a loving life in each other and the world around us."

So, there you have it! What I contemplated while attending the events during Women's History Month. I wish to thank Lillis McLean, Judy Weidemann, and Carol Griffith for planning the International Women's Day Lunch on March 6, 2010. Also, congratulations to Tamara Brown and her exceptional committee for Tech Savvy 5. Your efforts are making changes big and small. And finally, CHEERS! to all the women who make sense out of chaos.

Sincerely,
Marguerite Collesano

You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, "I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along." You must do the thing you think you cannot do.

- *Eleanor Roosevelt*

THE BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE

is published monthly Sep-June as a bulletin of events for members and as an update on AAUW issues and programs.

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April 2010
Vol. CXX No. 8
Circulation 220



Buffalo Branch Study & Interest Groups

Schedules for the Month:

Have you considered joining a study or interest group? They are a great way to meet people, network, learn and have some fun. You can join one by contacting the person listed below for each group who can provide you any information you need to get started. Remember that guests are welcome at a limited number of meetings for each interest group. Also, you are required to be a branch member in order to actively participate in AAUW sponsored groups. If you would like to suggest a new Study Group or bring back an old one, please contact Study Group coordinator Anita Kunkle @ 649-8863 or email amkun05@msn.com.

American Biographies No meeting in April or May to give participants book sale time.

Dinner by the Book

Book selection for next year is planned.

When: Wednesday, Apr 21st, 5:30 pm

Where: Dandelions Restaurant, 1340 North Forest Rd

Questions: Contact **Leona Barback**, 633-1982 or barleo@roadrunner.com

RESERVATIONS (REQUIRED): Contact Fran Witnauer, 688-5708 or Grandmafran44@yahoo.com

Clueless Mystery Book Club

Annual book selection. Please come with two or more suggestions.

When: Wednesday, Apr 28th, 6:00 pm

Where: Friendly's, 4350 Maple Road

Questions: Contact Suzanne Grossman: at 837-8769



Knitting Group

Anyone interested in knitting, beginner to advanced, is welcome to join the group.

When: Wednesday, Apr 14th, 2 PM

Where: Barnes & Noble, 4401 Transit Road

Questions: Contact Karen Howard at 874-1389 or by email at khoward@roadrunner.com.

New Interest Group: Writing Workshop Group

Both writers and non-writers are welcome!

When: Thursday, April 29th at 2:00 pm

Where: Café 59, 59 Allen Street at Franklin Street

Questions/sign up: Call Linda Drajem at 553-0864 or email at Ldrajem@roadrunner.com



In Memoriam...

Sadly, we announce the loss of three members:

Ann Egan passed away on February 12. Dr Egan had been a member since 1987 and taught at both Buffalo State College and the University at Buffalo. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Margaret (Maggie) Haas passed away on March 8. She had been a faithful member for many years. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 15th, at 11:00 a.m. at North Presbyterian Church, corner of N. Forest Road and Union Road in Williamsville.

Diane Sina died on March 10. Dr Sina had been a member since 1991. She worked at ECC from 1957 until 2009 - 103 semesters. She taught over 3 generations of students and families and was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award.

Annual Awards Luncheon: May 15th

Please mark your calendar for our Annual Awards Luncheon, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 15th, at Fanny's Restaurant on Sheridan Drive. Additional details will be forthcoming.

March Correction

Warmest thanks to **Diane Silvestro** who contributed the article, "HISTORY REPEATS?" The article offered a glimpse into the origins of AAUW, a retrospective on Marion Talbot, and a look at the similarities between social issues then (late 1800s) and now. Diane's name was inadvertently omitted during editing last month.



Book Sale Corner

Dear Buffalo Branch Members,

The anticipation is high! The 56th Annual Buffalo Branch Scholarship Book Sale is around the corner - June 2 - 6, 2010. Because we have had the good fortune to be able to sort at Kensington Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, many hundred boxes are sorted and ready to be moved to the Sale Site. We have the same Site as last year, The Office Depot Plaza at Sheridan and Eggert Road.

The Sale Site will be open on April 19, 2010 for continued sorting. We look forward to welcoming members to sort. Many more books will be dropped off at the Sale site, so plan on lending a hand. The Site will be open for sorting Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We will be open on Tuesday evenings until 8:00 PM. We will be open on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will be closed on May 15, the day of the Branch Luncheon. If this is a first time for you, experi-

enced sorters will be there to help.

Part of the great tradition of the Book Sale is the high amount of member participation. The shift schedule is included in this Newsletter. We are suggesting that members volunteer for 3 shifts. All volunteer help is welcomed, however.

Return the Volunteer coupon to Barbara Emer. We are looking forward to another exciting and productive Sale. We have accomplished so much good with the proceeds of the Sale each year!

See you at the Sale Site!

Pat Baker

Leona Barback

Judy Clare

Barbara Emer

Pat Swift

Judy Weidemann

PRE-SALE Sorting and Setup

Starting April 19. Drop in whenever convenient – for an hour or a full day!

Weekdays: 9:00 - 5:00, except 9:00 - 8:00 on Tuesdays

Saturdays: 9:00 - 1:00 (except May 15)

Book Sale Shift Volunteer Sign-up

The book sale is Wednesday, June 2 through Sunday, June 6. Please sign up as soon as possible. We need to ensure that our staffing needs are met. Sales shifts are:

Wed: 8:30-1:00, 12:45 - 5:00 and 4:45 - 8:15

Thurs-Fri-Sat: 8:45 - 1:00, 12:45 - 5:00 and 4:45 - 8:15

Sun: 11:45 - 3:00 and 2:45 - 6:00

Note: Job Descriptions are on the AAUW Website: aauw.buffalo.edu.

Book Sorting Continues...

Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of The Book Sale. You can read all about that elsewhere in this edition of the *Advocate* and, it is hoped, you will read it and respond promptly.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, 995 Kensington Avenue, your presence is still highly desired. Sorting will continue at that location until at least the end of March at which point we hope you all will follow us to Sheridan Drive and Eggert Road and help ready the building for the main event.

In case you missed earlier announcements, sorting times at Ken-Bailey are Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 until 12:30. Do not come empty handed: there is a need for boxes, not too big, in which to pack our

humongous number of books. A core of very hard working, talented, attractive (even in their well-worn work clothes) and cheerful volunteers has kept pace with the task and we anticipate that if this trend continues, all the books will be ready for the movers.

If you, or anyone you know, plan to donate books, we ask that you hold off delivery until after April 1 when they may be dropped off directly at the sale site. It is getting a little cozy at Kensington Avenue and you might save us a dime or two on moving expenses by waiting. If you or the books can't wait, we will be at Kensington Avenue Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to take your offerings.

IMPORTANT BOOK SALE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Besides the need for shift volunteers (see pg. 4) we have additional needs. They are:

Table Donors: Consider donating \$15 for each table. More than one table can be donated. Table donors will be acknowledged at the Sale. Please send table donations to Leona Barback, 62 Lynn Lea, Williamsville, 14221. Checks may be made payable to AAUW Buffalo, EF.

Good Guys: We desperately need strong men before the Sale and immediately after it to set up and take down tables and do other "heavy work." Contact Judy Weidemann at 655-3649

or JWeide7170@aol.com, to volunteer husbands, sons or friends.

Refreshments During The Sale: Book Sale workers appreciate the availability of food and drink during the Sale. Contact Judy Weidemann to volunteer.

Computer Specialists: We need people willing to check out customers on the computer in order to keep their names on our mailing list. Computer literate volunteers are needed for this job. Call Judy Weidemann to volunteer.

VOLUNTEER COUPON

I will work at the Book Sale on the following days and times:

Return to Barbara Emer, 250 Capen Blvd, Amherst, 14226, or email to emerbj@roadrunner.com

ETHICS IN ALBANY?

Interfaith Impact of New York State, Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara and the American Association of University Women present:

ETHICS IN ALBANY?

Reforming Our State Government: A Legislative Forum

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1-4 PM

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO PARISH HALL

695 Elmwood Avenue

SPEAKER: BLAIR HORNER, Legislative Director, NY Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)

MODERATOR: BARBARA KLOBERDANZ, League of Women Voters

PANELISTS:

REV. DR. RICHARD S. GILBERT, Minister Emeritus, Unitarian Universalist of Rochester

BOB MC CARTHY, Buffalo News Political Reporter

ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN, New York State Senator, 31st District

Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information please contact ellenmoomaw@gmail.com or call 716-652-1608

To the AAUW Women:

As I look back at the semester, I realize more that it has been because of your generosity that I have been at the place I wanted to be. I could not resist the urge to say thank you again for awarding me the Olga Lindberg Scholarship. I wish you all, great holidays.

Sincerely,

Gertrude Chimhurgue

Times, they are a-changin'!

A committee has been hard at work this year to do a major streamlining of our bylaws and to transform the branch into a single tax-exempt (501(c)(3)) entity.

Amongst the proposed changes are returning the presidency to a two-year term and eliminating the president-elect position, combining the two secretarial positions into one and combining the LAF chair and EF VP positions into one chair of AAUW National Funds (liaison to the national office for the philanthropic work of the Association). In addition, the fiscal structure is projected to have one chief financial officer with individual treasurers reporting to her.

More details will be available in the May Advocate and the complete proposal will be on the

website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of the committee members:

- Betty Krist, 675-4059, kristbj@verizon.net
- Marguerite Collesano, 853-6480, mcollesano@aol.com
- Bev Schwiegerling, 652-7182, schwieg@roadrunner.com
- Susan McClary, 636-2854, eeyore123@verizon.net
- Judy Weidemann, 655-3649, jweide7170@aol.com
- Betty Preble, 662-0608, betty.preble@gmail.com

Scholarship Winner Passes Her Knowledge

Deborah Naybor has been busy thanks to AAUW Buffalo scholarships. In 2006, she was the winner of the Catalyst for Change scholarship and was able to complete her master's degree in Humanitarian Services Administration at the University of Connecticut in 2007. In 2008, she was able to continue her education thanks to the Olga Lindberg Scholarship and is pursuing her PhD in Global Gender Studies at the University of Buffalo.

Deb still works full time, running her land surveying business in Alden, NY and also works to help the poor through her nonprofit organization, Both Your Hands. AND she is currently teaching *Women in Leadership* at UB! "It's a big commitment but I love my studies and get so much out of teaching." Deb has a 3.97 GPA and was recently awarded the SUNY Chancellor Award for Excellence. She will graduate in May with a MA in Global Gender Studies and plans to complete her PhD in 2012.

Deb has put her knowledge to work helping others. Each semester, when assigned a presentation for a class, she engages her classmates in "making it real" and designs a program to help poor women. In 2009, Deb and a classmate from India designed *On My Own*, a project to help young women who are abandoned or widowed learn new skills. They applied for a grant with their "theoretical" program and received \$5000 from the Odin/Berkina Foundation. The funds purchased 15 sewing machines and hired a trainer. The local community donated space to use as a training center. In January, Deb traveled to India to visit 50 young women and girls who are learning to sew. She heard their stories of survival in the poor village, met with village elders and led the girls through a process to design their own next steps. The village chiefs will donate land to build a community training center and the girls will start a business center where they can learn computer skills, continue sewing and provide business services such as copying, laminating and typing.

Deb has involved classmates in raising funds

for Haiti and Chile, as well as for the International Institute of Buffalo's refugee program. She is currently working with her fellow students to develop a tree nursery and plantation in northern India and a program which will provide women farmers in Uganda with digital audio education on agriculture and health issues. "I'm excited about Co-Op Audio, which has the potential to provide education programs to rural women around the world through university volunteers who can upload MP3 players with relevant, local language education programs."

"Honestly, I could not have done all this without the AAUW scholarships," she states. "I would have had to choose between traveling to work with women in India and Africa or going to school. I pay for my own travel so that all donations to Both Your Hands can go to the women in need and I just couldn't have been able to pay tuition as well." Deb is planning her dissertation research on the impact of women's land rights on poverty and women's ability to care for their family and themselves. "I can't wait to get started. I believe it's a ground breaking study which will help make policy changes toward giving women the right to own land. My classmates and professors are supportive, innovative, and we are a strong community. With AAUW and UB behind me, I know I can make a difference in the world."



Contributed by Ruth Fierro-King

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, philanthropy 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.



AAUW

Breaking through Barriers

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