



## President's Message

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I would like to alert members that at the October Board Meeting a Governance Committee was formed to review the Buffalo Branch By-Laws. Betty Preble will chair this committee and members include Susan McClary, Betty Krist, Bev Schwiergerling, and Judy Weidemann. According to the State By-Laws Chairperson, the changes made previously were insufficient and the model by-laws wording was required in many of the articles. The task is two-fold: to make necessary changes in order to submit the by-laws to the state (ed note - that has been done since no branch vote was required) and to start looking at the long term changes required in our branch by-laws in order to improve the operation of our branch. The changes will be voted on by the membership in May 2010. The Committee welcomes ideas and suggestions. Please contact Betty Preble.

Only recently the Buffalo Branch received two certificates of recognition from the National Board. The Buffalo Branch achieved 10th Place in the Top Ten contributors to all of AAUW's program (2008) areas including the LAF Fund, the Educational Foundation, AAUW, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and the Leadership & Training Institute. Also in 2008, the Branch achieved 1st Place in the Top Ten Funds for Researchers to provide understanding of issues that are important to women and girls. In her letter, Linda D. Hallman, CAE, Executive Director, wrote "Top Ten Branch and State Fundraising awards are AAUW's highest branch and state honors. We know that it is



only because of the ongoing support and commitment of our members and donors that the American Association of University Women can continue to be a leading champion for women and girls. ... my thanks to you and all of the Buffalo Branch members for their strong efforts on our behalf. We are truly grateful for all that you do and all that you have accomplished."

Folk Art relates much of the past of a cultural group—its aims, events, joys and fears, all those concerns that made up their daily life. At the November program, Estelle Anderson, Master Quilt Maker enthralled us with her beautiful quilts and tales of the meaning of the various symbols in her quilts. The symbols on the hanging quilts guided many slaves along the Underground Railroad to freedom in the north and into Canada.

I want to thank Yvonne Curry for planning the program.

I am looking forward to seeing many members at our Holiday gathering at the Friar's Table on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at noon. The Village Singers from East Aurora will entertain us.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

*Marguerite Collesano*

One thing life has taught me: if you are interested, you never have to look for new interests. They come to you. When you are genuinely interested in one thing, it will always lead to something else.

*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

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### THE BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE

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# Buffalo Branch Study & Interest Groups

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## 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. Reminder - guests are welcome at a limited number of meetings of each interest group. To remain an active participant in an AAUW sponsored group, branch membership is required. Anyone having a suggestion for a new Study Group or wishing to re-activate a former one, please contact Study Group coordinator Anita Kunkle @ 649-8863 or email [amkun05@msn.com](mailto:amkun05@msn.com).

### American Biographies

No meetings in December or January - February's book selection will be works by Mary Chestnut

Questions: Call Lillis McLean, 873-7467 or cell phone 830-6709.



### Clueless Mystery Book Club and Dinner by the Book Joint Meeting

**When:** Wednesday, Dec 16, 2009, 5:30 pm

**Where:** Dandelions Restaurant, 1340 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY (688-0203)

**Book:** *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society* by Annie Barrows

**Discussion Leader:** Fran Witnauer

**Facilitator:** Sandy Ihlefeld

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

**FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS:** Contact 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)

### Knitting Group

**When:** No meeting in December

We have been working on a variety of projects for the City Mission and Corner Stone Manor. I will be taking items to them in January. If you have any items that you would like me to add, just let me (Karen Howard) know. They don't have to be just knitted items, I am sure they would appreciate any hand made or store bought items. City Mission and Corner Stone Manor clients include men, women, children and babies. My phone number is 874-1389, my email [kkhoward@roadrunner.com](mailto:kkhoward@roadrunner.com).

### New Interest Group: Writing Workshop Group

Beginning with Garrison Keillor's *Good Poems for Hard Times* we will read some current poems, discuss them, and explore them through freewriting.



We will use poems as starting points but there is no pressure to finish or to share among group members.

**When:** Monthly beginning Thursday, Jan 28 at 3:00 pm

**Where:** Crane Library.

**Questions:** Call Linda Drajem, 553-0864 or [Ldrajem@roadrunner.com](mailto:Ldrajem@roadrunner.com)

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## Please Welcome Our New and Returning Members

Ms Maria Coppola  
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Mrs Rose Marie Tarzia  
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## Did you Know? (from the national website)



Carol Greider, AAUW member-at-large and winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

“AAUW HAS A LONG HISTORY OF SUPPORTING WOMEN IN THE SCIENCES, AND WE ARE THRILLED TO COUNT ANOTHER NOBEL PRIZE WINNER AMONG OUR RANKS.”

LINDA D. HALLMAN,  
AAUW EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

### AAUW Member Wins Nobel Prize

#### Carol Greider Shares Prestigious Award for Physiology or Medicine

WASHINGTON, D.C. – AAUW celebrates Carol Greider, AAUW member-at-large and winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with her two colleagues, Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack Szostak. Greider has been a member of AAUW since 2002.

Greider, Blackburn, and Szostak “discovered that telomeres are made up of simple, repeating blocks of DNA building blocks and are found in all organisms,” according to a Johns Hopkins University announcement. Understanding this biological process has paved the way to deeper knowledge of cancer and cellular aging.

“AAUW has a long history of supporting women in the sciences, and we are thrilled to count another Nobel Prize winner among our ranks,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. In 1920, AAUW awarded two-time Nobel Prize recipient Marie Curie a grant to assist with her groundbreaking research on radium.

AAUW member Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, was nominated for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his work supporting education for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Greider, who holds a doctorate in molecular biology from the University of California, Berkeley, currently works as the Daniel Nathans Professor and Director of Molecular Biology and Genetics at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Basic Biomedical Sciences. She, Blackburn, and Szostak will attend the Nobel Prize awards ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on December 10.

“Greider and Blackburn have shown that women can break through barriers in science, technology, engineering,

and mathematics,” said AAUW President Carolyn H. Garfein. “Their accomplishment serves as an excellent example of women making valuable contributions and the need that exists for supporting and encouraging great female minds, as AAUW does with our fellowships, grants, and community of successful women.”

In 2009 a record five women were awarded Nobel Prizes. Prior to this year, only 35 women had ever received the honor. Greider and Blackburn were the first two women to simultaneously win the prize in medicine.

The three other 2009 female laureates include Ada Yonath, who is sharing the Nobel Prize in chemistry; Herta Mueller, who won the prize in literature; and Elinor Ostrom, who is sharing the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. Ostrom is the first woman to win the economics prize.

To read what AAUW said on our blog about this year's Nobel Prize winning women, please visit:

<http://blog-aauw.org/2009/10/12/aauw-member-awarded-nobel-prize/>

To view Marie Curie's page in AAUW's online museum, please visit:

[https://svc.aauw.org/museum/history/1920\\_1929/index.cfm](https://svc.aauw.org/museum/history/1920_1929/index.cfm)

## Book Sale Corner

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Books have been arriving at the Kensington Ave. collection and sorting site at a prodigious rate challenging the efforts of volunteers to keep up with the influx. The membership has responded

very nicely to the call for help and the Book Sale Executive Committee thanks all of you who have turned out. If you keep up this pace, especially through the coming holiday season when everyone is so busy, the task will not get out of hand.

To meet the temporary crisis in storage space for unsorted boxes, the committee is willing to extend sorting hours to include some afternoon time. If mornings don't work for you and you could volunteer time between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. some weekday, please let Judy Weidemann know. If enough people can join you someone from the com-

mittee will open up shop for your convenience. Call Judy at 655-3649 or e-mail her at [JWeide71@aol.com](mailto:JWeide71@aol.com).

For now, sorting hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Kensington-Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, 995 Kensington Ave. Books may be dropped off at that site on those days, during those hours. There also is a great need for boxes. If you have any, or a source for some, drop them off at the site. Remember books are heavy and small to medium size boxes are required. Wine and liquor boxes work well.

We expect to have over 100,000 books by the time a sale site is secured. They all will need to be categorized, boxed and labeled before they are moved to the site, where even more will be collected. This is a fantastic project and you will want to be part of it.

*Pat Swift-MacClennan, Booksale Committee*

"TO MEET THE TEMPORARY CRISIS IN STORAGE SPACE FOR UNSORTED BOXES, THE COMMITTEE IS WILLING TO EXTEND SORTING HOURS."

## THE SISTER TO SISTER CONNECTION OF WNY

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The 14th Sister to Sister Summit will be held at Buffalo State College on Saturday, March 27, 2010. The Summit Committee is hard at work planning for this year's event. Kate Allison, Director of the Ophelia Project has agreed to facilitate two sessions for the Summit. This organization deals with relational aggression which includes both direct and subtle ways people manage to make others lives difficult. Bertha Boston has also joined our Sister to Sister group. We are very pleased to have her with us.

Some other things that will be included in the Summit program:

**His Opinion** - A panel of young men who talk about issues that are common to girls and boys in their teen years.

**Teen Reality Theater** - a group of teens who dramatize issues and situations that affect teen girls and then ask for questions and comments from the audience.

**Career Fair** - we ask companies and colleges to be there to talk to girls about their future education. We also ask them to provide applications for summer and after school jobs.

**Chat Rooms** - safe places to discuss issues that affect girls. These are always facilitated by people who work with teen girls from organizations such as Girl Scouts, Buffalo Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services, AIDS Community Services, Eating Disorders Association, etc.

We always need people to help with planning and running the Summit. We also need board members. If you would be able to help out the day of the Summit, we would very much appreciate your help. Please let me know what you would like to do. Thank you for your support.

*Sue Oliver, 652-1230,*  
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Sister  
-to-  
Sister  
a summit for  
and about girls

*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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