

# Buffalo Branch Advocate

NYS District 1



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

May 2010

716.559.3037 - [aauw.buffalo.edu](http://aauw.buffalo.edu)

## Announcing... our May Luncheon



### Our 2010 Annual Meeting Features:

- Election of Officers
- Woman of Achievement Award
- Scholarship and Membership Awards

Come meet your friends at this gala, celebrating another successful year for the Buffalo Branch!

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Fanny's Restaurant

3500 Sheridan Drive, Amherst

12 Noon

Deadline May 8, 2010

### ~ Luncheon Choices ~

#### *Chicken Francaise*

Boneless, skinless chicken breast dipped in a light egg batter, sautéed and served in a lemon and white wine sauce

#### *Vegetable Lasagna*

Fresh pasta layered with ricotta cheese and fresh vegetables, in a plum tomato sauce

#### *Chicken Caesar Salad*

Grilled chicken breast sliced and served over Caesar salad

### Registration form for the May 15 Luncheon

Mail to: Beverly Schwiegerling, 130 Rolling Green Lane, Elma 14059 by **Saturday, May 8, 2010**

My check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the AAUW Buffalo Branch EF is enclosed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Francaise \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$24 = \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Lasagna \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$24 = \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Chicken Caesar Salad \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$22 = \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Names of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Dates to Remember:

- **Sat, May 15, 12 noon** - Annual Lunch Meeting at Fanny's Restaurant
- **Tues, May 18, 6:00 pm** - Program planning meeting, Alice's Kitchen - see pg 3
- **Tues, May 25, 5:30 pm**, New Member Meeting
- **Wed-Sun, June 2-6** - 56th Annual Book Sale!
- **Wed, June 9, 6pm** at Ebenezer Church, Joint outgoing and incoming board meeting
- **Fri-Sun, July 9 - 11**, Summer Leadership Conference, Cazenovia College

### Inside this issue:

MAY PROGRAM	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
INTEREST GROUPS	3
VOTING INFO!	4
BOOK SALE CORNER SISTER-TO-SISTER	5
"MY TECH SAVVY EXPERIENCE"	6
NEW MEMBERS	7
FINANCIALLY FIT UPDATE	8
MEMBER RENEWAL FORM	9

# President's Message

---

Dear Members,

When you receive this newsletter, quickly make your reservation to attend the Annual

Achievement Awards Luncheon, Saturday, May 15, 2010. As you know, this is also our annual business meeting and the membership will vote on the revised by-laws. The Governance Committee, under the direction of Betty Preble, has reviewed the by-laws this past year and now the document is ready to present to the general membership. The revisions clarify various Articles and comply with the by-laws of the national organization. Your vote is therefore very important.

Also, the slate of officers for 2010-2011 will be presented and the officers will be installed. I'm sure you will want to attend in order to give your support to our new President, Anastasia Johnson.

Special thanks to Tamara Brown, Chairwoman of the Nominating Committee, and members Bertha Boston, Peggy Meinl, Joan Trinchera, and Judy Weidemann. In addition to soliciting candidates, the Committee participated in a special "It's Just Coffee" invitational event to introduce AAUW to some of our newer members with high potential for leadership.



Also, you do not want to miss honoring our Achievement Award Honoree, Jacquie Walker, Anchor, Channel 4 News. She is being hon-

ored for her professional work, community service, and for all the help she has given our Branch to publicize the Book Sale.

Finally, I want to alert members about a new research report, *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*, published on Monday, March 22, 2010, by AAUW. According to the report, while women are increasingly prominent in medicine, law and business, there are still few women scientists and engineers. Eight key research findings point to environmental and social barriers, including stereotypes, gender bias, and the climate of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities that continue to block women's participation and progress in these fields.

Visit: [www.aauw.org/whysofew](http://www.aauw.org/whysofew) for more information on the report.

Sincerely,

*Marguerite Collesano*

“With the new  
day comes new  
strength and new  
thoughts .

- *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.

- President: Marguerite Collesano
- Publisher/Editor: Maria Coppola
- Assistant Editors: Betty Preble, 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 Bev Schwiegerling, VP of Membership Recruitment, at 652-7182 or [schwieg@roadrunner.com](mailto:schwieg@roadrunner.com). Or for renewal questions, contact Susan McClary, VP of Membership Retention, at 636-2854 or [smclary2@verizon.net](mailto:smclary2@verizon.net).

May 2010

Vol. CXX No. 9

Circulation 220



# 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. 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 meeting in May to give participants Book Sale time.

### Dinner by the Book

**Selection:** *Vivaldi's Virgins* by Barbara Quick

**When:** Wednesday, May 19th, 5:30 pm

**Discussion Leader:** Cherie St. Pierre.

**Facilitator:** Jan Marino.

**Where:** Dandelion's, 1340 N. Forest Rd. at 5:30

**Questions:** Contact **Leona Barback**, 633-1982 or via email at [barleo@roadrunner.com](mailto:barleo@roadrunner.com)

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

### Clueless Mystery Book Club

**Selection:** *State of the Onion* by Julie Hyzy

**When:** Wednesday, May 26th, 6:00 pm

**Where:** Friendly's, 4350 Maple Road

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



### Knitting Group

No meeting in May. The group will go to the Book Sale site to sort instead of meeting. No date yet selected.

**Questions:** Contact Karen Howard at 874-1389 or by email at [khoward@roadrunner.com](mailto:khoward@roadrunner.com).



### Writing Workshop Group

All are welcome! No writing experience necessary.

**When:** Thursday, May 20th at 2:00 pm

**Where:** Café 59, 59 Allen Street at Franklin St.



**Questions/sign up:** Call Linda Drajem at 553-0864 or email her at [Ldrajem@roadrunner.com](mailto:Ldrajem@roadrunner.com)

---

## Interested in planning our 2010-2011 Programs?

Please come to Alice's Kitchen, 3122 Sheridan Dr, Amherst, NY 14226, on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Bring your ideas! If you can't make it, you can either call Yvonne Curry (716-553-3925) or email her at: [yon104@roadrunner.com](mailto:yon104@roadrunner.com).

Your input is important!

## Employment Opportunity

The League of Women Voters Buffalo Niagara will be hiring a new office manager soon. It is a part time position. The person hired needs to possess computer skills and good communication skills. More information can be found on the League website [www.lwvbn.org](http://www.lwvbn.org).

# Times, they are a-changin'!

A VOTE WILL BE  
TAKEN AT THE  
MAY ANNUAL  
MEETING. THE  
ISSUES AT HAND  
ARE HERE FOR  
YOUR REVIEW.

In last month's *Advocate* there was mention of a vote that will be taken at the May annual meeting. Most of the board members are familiar with these questions, since they've been discussed all year, but many branch members may not even be aware of the issues at hand. There are two:

1. About ten years ago it was recognized that the branch was limited by its lack of a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. That status, granted at the Federal level, allows outside contributors to take a tax deduction for sponsoring projects and events. As a result, in November 2002, several branch members worked hard to legally set up a separate entity called the "Educational Accounts and Charitable Projects American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch Inc." It was constructed in such a way that its membership was identical to the membership of the branch itself, so its existence is probably unknown to many of us. However, it does have its own state certificate of incorporation and bylaws. For several reasons, its purposes were stated in specific terms which resulted in unanticipated limitations on its activities.
2. The current bylaws of both entities – the branch and its "Educational Accounts" – needed some streamlining and changes.
  - a. We were advised that the branch finances should have one person who is responsible for overseeing the various accounts.
  - b. There are some positions whose job functions have changed to the point that a different officer structure is needed. This is partly due to changes which have been made at the national level.
  - c. The presidency has been a one-year job, meaning a new person had to be recruited each year. The proposed bylaws changes

this to a two-year term like other offices.

The proposals which will be put before the memberships are to merge the two entities into one, creating a 501(c)(3) organization known as the Buffalo Branch of AAUW with more general purposes, and to have this single organization adopt a new set of streamlined bylaws. Votes will be taken twice since both the branch and the "Educational Accounts" memberships must vote on them even though it's the same people.

Details of all materials will be available on the branch website – [aauw.buffalo.edu](http://aauw.buffalo.edu) (Look at the "branch tools" buttons on the left side of the homepage). These materials will include the old bylaws of both the branch and the "Educational Accounts" entities, the proposed new bylaws, the "plan of merger" and "frequently asked questions". If you would like a paper copy of any of these documents, please contact Betty Preble (662-0608 or [betty.preble@gmail.com](mailto:betty.preble@gmail.com)). If you have any questions or comments, please contact any of the committee members –

Betty Krist, 675-4059, [kristbj@verizon.net](mailto:kristbj@verizon.net)

Marguerite Collesano, 853-6480, [mcollesano@aol.com](mailto:mcollesano@aol.com)

Bev Schwiegerling, 652-7182, [schwieg@roadrunner.com](mailto:schwieg@roadrunner.com)

Susan McClary, 636-2854, [eeeyore123@verizon.net](mailto:eeeyore123@verizon.net)

Judy Weidemann, 655-3649, [jweide7170@aol.com](mailto:jweide7170@aol.com)

Betty Preble, 662-0608, [betty.preble@gmail.com](mailto:betty.preble@gmail.com)

Please note that this same team is updating the policy book and position descriptions. Those are also available on the website – if you have suggestions for those please also feel free to contact us.

## Slate of Nominees — AAUW Officers 2010-2012

The nominating committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for office. Each of these positions, unless noted as one year, is a two-year term (2010-2012):

- President 2010-2011 (1 year): Anastasia Johnson
- Presidents-elect (1 year): Barbara Carrier & Betty Preble
- 2nd Vice President (Membership Recruitment): Cynthia Mehary
- EF Vice President: Betty Krist
- Recording Secretary: Taylor Page
- Corresponding Secretary: Elizabeth Casciani
- Nominating Committee Chair (1 year): Marguerite Collesano
- Nominating Committee Members (1 year): Kristin Bojanowski & Donna Fitzgerald, as well as two additional candidates, to be presented at the luncheon.

Each of these positions, unless noted as one year, is a two-year term (2010-2012).

## Book Sale Corner

By the time you read this dozens of AAUW members will be spending their days sorting and arranging thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, games and puzzles in preparation for the Fantastic 56th Book Sale. We hope you will be joining them and that you are among those who already have signed up to work when the sale is open.

Books were moved from the sorting site on Kensington Avenue on April 15, and sorting and set up will continue at 2309 Eggert Rd. (Office Depot Plaza at Eggert and Sheridan Dr.) until June 1. Stop by weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays) or on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and lend a hand.

It is all for a good cause. The thousands of dollars raised each year by this project support seven local scholarships and interest-free loan programs in excess of \$55,000 last year. Book Sale proceeds also supports several grants to community organizations

and funds the Branch's contribution to national AAUW's fellowships that amounted to \$16,000 this year.

This is awesome. Every member can take a bow.

Check out the jobs available for the sale dates June 2 through June 6. There are three shifts every day Wednesday through Saturday and two shifts on Sunday that need to be filled. A description of the jobs can be found on the Website, [www.aauw.buffalo.edu](http://www.aauw.buffalo.edu). Please sign up for shifts using the coupon below.

New members will get a first-hand look at the collection in its nearly-completed setup when they meet at the site May 25 at 5:30 p.m. They and members who join them will be invited to shop from 6:30 to 8 p.m. when they may purchase any items except collectibles. Remember, hard cover books sell for \$1 and paperbacks go for 50 cents.

Pat Swift-MacClennan, Booksale Committee



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

### VOLUNTEER COUPON:

Please choose your sales shift(s) below:

Wed, June 2	Thurs, June 3	Fri, June 4	Sat, June 5	Sun, June 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 8:30am – 1pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45am – 1pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45am – 1pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45am – 1pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:45am – 3pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45pm – 5pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45am – 5pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45am – 5pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45am – 5pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:45pm – 6pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45pm – 8:15pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45pm – 8:15pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45pm – 8:15pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45pm – 8:15pm	

In addition, we need people to help clean up the morning of Monday, June 7. Please indicate if you can help. We especially need STRONG people to help take down tables and re-box the leftover books.

I can help that morning!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Barbara Emer, 250 Capen Blvd, Amherst, 14226, or email to [emerbj@roadrunner.com](mailto:emerbj@roadrunner.com)

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SISTER TO SISTER SUMMIT

All of us who were involved in the preparation and supervision of the 13th Summit and the 160 girls who attended this great event want to thank the Buffalo Branch for their continuing support. We provide information tables that have information about services and job opportunities for girls. We had twelve sessions (the girls could go to two of them) that dealt with such topics as internet safety, appropriate behavior and speech, setting goals for the future, healthy eating, money management and stress reduction. The parents and student teachers and other adults had separate sessions.

AAUW members who volunteered were: Lillis McLean, Peggy Meinel, Nan Scinta, Bertha Boston, Cynthia Mehary, Stacy Johnson, Tamara Brown,

Yvonne Curry, and myself. Thank you all for your help.

The theme for this year was: *My Choice, My Future, My Destiny*. It is so important for these girls to have some help to make good decisions about what they are doing now to prepare for the future and to think about what that future might be for them.

I also want to thank the Co-Chairs of the Summit - Natasha Perkins (Girl Scouts), and Toni Benjamine (Peace of the City Ministries) for their hard work and dedication. Vanita Evans, Chair of the Board and Ellen Trautman who is in charge of the Parent Track have given much time and effort to see that this event is successful.

Suzanne Oliver, AAUW Liason, Fund Raising Chair





## My Tech Savvy Experience, by Judy Malamas

---

EXCERPTS FROM  
ELIZABETH  
CASCIANI'S  
SPEECH AT TECH  
SAVVY ON THE  
TOPIC, "LIFE  
SKILLS OF  
PROBLEM  
SOLVING: WHY  
IT'S IMPORTANT."

One of the many delights I experienced in volunteering at Tech Savvy this year was being able to hear Elizabeth Casciani, V.P. of Operations and Services for Praxair, Inc. Elizabeth spoke to the adults on the topic, "Life Skills of Problem Solving: Why it's Important." She said she loved coming to Tech Savvy because it was fun and she enjoyed being with those who are "passionate about the success of their students and children." At the end of her talk I was so impressed, I told her she should publish her speech. She handed it to me and said, "You do it."

So here is a condensed version. My apologies to Elizabeth if I misrepresent any of her ideas.

Elizabeth spoke about the importance of encouraging and supporting young women to enter the fields of science and technology. Those areas need diversity and they are very lucrative. Engineers solve problems and in fact that is what life is all about for all of us. We solve problems everyday no matter what we do. We gather data, determine which of many options we'll try first keeping in mind the risk factors and then see what happens. Sometimes this is a very quick process and sometimes a slower more deliberate one. The more experience and information you have, the better you get at making correct decisions.

The more complex the problems, the more creative, inquisitive and analytical one must be. This skill can be learned and you can get better and better at it. Once children acquire problem solving skills they will become more confident and responsible in dealing with everyday situations and with conflicts. This is what builds their self-esteem.

How do you help your child develop these problem solving skills that are so important? Elizabeth went on to mention some ways.

1. Model the behavior you want the child to acquire. Example is one of the best ways to teach. Children right through their teens are influenced by what they see you do and say. When you have a conflict with others, how do you work through it together?
2. Do you dictate solutions or do you present options?
3. If the child develops difficulty while solving a problem, do you bail them out or do you provide encouragement, support and guidance to discover options to weigh and decide?
4. Do you try new things yourself and include your kids in these adventures?
5. Do you look at failures as part of learning?

Stopping after failing PREVENTS success. For every success there are 10 failures. Trial and error is an ongoing life process where we arrive at successful solutions Children need to practice this skill.

6. Do you give credit and praise for TRYING when children fail or do you obsess about the failure?
7. Instead of telling children they are smart, compliment the way they tried and persevered until a solution was found.
8. Do you encourage hands-on activities such as puzzles and building toys? Legos are not just for boys!
9. Do you encourage your children to explore a variety of interests and activities?
10. Do you set boundaries?

Other activities that you should model and that children should do that help develop problem solving skills are:

1. Playing games and participating in sports.
2. Making plans, setting schedules, budgeting expenses.
3. Taking things apart and putting them back together.
4. Fixing things and building things.
5. Working puzzles of all kinds.
6. Designing things.
7. Providing options and letting them weigh choices.
8. Encouraging reading , writing and following directions.
9. Encouraging volunteering.
10. Stimulating debate and looking at conflicting views.
11. Asking, "What would you have done differently?"
12. Ask, "If you were in charge what would you do?"
13. Playing devil's advocate.

## Please Welcome Our New Members

---

Ms. Doris Cummings  
507 Highgate Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14215  
H 400 9634  
Email: doriscummingsford@yahoo.com

Ms. Ruby Williams  
67 Croy Ave  
Cheektowaga, NY 14215  
Wruby72@yahoo.com

Ms. Stephanie S. Jones  
2301 16th Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
H 940 7490, C 940 7490  
Stefoni\_j@yahoo.com

Mrs. Donna Sandretto  
119 Bywater Drive  
Getzville, NY 14068  
H 688 2868  
Masfamily1@juno.com

Elizabeth Casciani  
57 Cary Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
W 879-7721, C 812-0320  
eacalice@hotmail.com

### Shopping Opportunity & New Member Meeting

New members will have their meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 5:30 pm at the Book Sale site. After that meeting, all of our members will be able to buy books, except the collectibles, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Mrs. Daisy Waters  
794 Van Rensselaer Avenue  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
Home 285 4365  
Email dpwaters@buffalo.edu

Ms. Mary Jo Marvin  
615 1/2 West Ferry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
H 445 4414, C 445 4414  
marvm96@yahoo.com

Mrs. Stephanie Collins  
79 Greenhill  
West Seneca NY 14224  
H 674 2837, W 209 6313, C 523 6516  
Scollins@opschools.org

Dr. Margaret Porter  
266 Prospect Avenue  
East Aurora, NY 14052  
655 0050  
phdmoms@gmail.com

Ms. Marshalle Martin  
84 Columbia Blvd.  
Kenmore, NY 14217  
H 873 2071, W 879 2347, C 316 1177  
Shelly\_Martin@praxair.com

Ms. Kathleen Cimasi  
66 Park Circle  
Amherst, NY 14226  
H 835 0781, C 083 3426  
kacimasi@aol.com

"NEW MEMBER  
MEETING,  
TUESDAY, MAY  
25, 2010 ."

# It's that time again! Your annual membership dues for 2010-2011 are due by June 1, 2010.

On the following page is a dues and information sheet for the upcoming year. Please complete the dues form, indicate which type of membership you are renewing, and write your check to AAUW for that amount. We also encourage you to add a donation to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). This program is at the very core of what AAUW represents – equality in the workplace.

In addition, please review your current information to make sure that it is up-to-date and provide any changes, if necessary. We use this form to verify

the information in the member database, and this information is also printed in the roster. It would also be helpful if you could provide your email address for official AAUW correspondence. If you prefer that your email address not be included in the roster, simply indicate that.

Send the completed dues and information sheets, along with your check to Freddie Cheek, 406 Maynard Drive, Amherst, NY 14226. We want to be sure YOUR name is in our roster.

## Financially Fit Update—100 Graduates!

Dear Financially Fit Partners,

I wanted to give you an update on where we are with the program and the exciting progress



that we've made so far this year! Last summer, I sought out and identified three women who were active and respected within their ethnic communities. I contracted them to become Community Liaisons within our new program model, to recruit participants who would most benefit from

our services and to teach the classes in culturally relevant ways, directly in the languages we'd identified as the greatest need. After 8 weeks of training, including 14 intensive sessions together, we launched a new 8-week cycle of Financially Fit at the end of September. This included classes in each of these languages:



Arabic, Somali, Burmese, and Karen, a tonal Burmese language (one of the Liaisons is taking on two different language groups from the same country, offering them on different nights). The week before Thanksgiving, we graduated 47

participants, 46 of who opened checking or savings accounts through our program! We conducted another cycle mid-January to mid-March, graduating an additional 53 students,

52 of whom opened bank accounts. The community response for this program has been immense, and we are continuing to offer these language groups in response to the ongoing need. We are planning on launching our next cycle in April and have been accepting referrals from the community.

Thank you to each of you, our funders and partners, including AAUW who partially



funded us through its Grassroots Grants, for helping to provide this vital financial education to 100 refugees so far! Your support is essential to the success of this program. Attached is our program fact sheet, as well as a few pictures of our Liaisons and participants. I welcome your feedback and questions.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Lipnicki

