



## February Program: Telling Stories Campus Sexual Assault & Intimate Partner Violence—A Dramatic Arts Event

Join us at our February Program, a light evening addressing a very weighty topic.

AAUW has always been a leader in addressing issues that create barriers to equity and education. Friday, February 4, we continue the tradition with this enlightening, informative program.

Recent studies show that around 32% of college students are victims of domestic violence and AAUW statistics suggest that 20-25% of college students, mostly female, are victims of rape or attempted rape.

The evening will include Lauren Germain performing part of her play, *Telling Our Story*, about a young woman's experience with a sexual assault. We will also screen a short documentary, starring Mariska Hargitay. *Telling Amy's Story* gives insight into the life of Amy, a Penn State college student who suffered violence at the hands of her husband. Both UB Wellness and the Family Justice Center will conduct short panel discussions around the topics. Student and community resources will also be available, and informal discussion will continue over coffee and sweets.

The Branch received a \$1,000 grant from AAUW national LAF in support of this program. The Family Justice Center, UB Gender Institute, and UB Wellness are co-sponsoring this program.

There is no cost to attend but reservations are required. Attendance is limited to 200. For a ticket register online at [www.aauw.buffalo.edu/fjc-conference.html](http://www.aauw.buffalo.edu/fjc-conference.html) by Friday, January, 28.

Questions? Call 716-558-5281 Want to Volunteer or partner? Call 716-949-2413

### Program details:

**Friday, Feb 4, 2011, 6pm - 10 pm, University at Buffalo Center for the Arts**

**6 pm Reception**

**7 pm Program Begins**

***Telling Our Story*, a play by Lauren Germain on Campus Sexual Assault**

**Screening of *Telling Amy's Story*, a film about Domestic Violence / Intimate Partner Violence starring Mariska Hargitay**

**9:30 pm Coffee, Desserts, Discussion**

### Dates to Remember:

- **Fri, Feb 4**, Domestic Violence-Campus Assault, UB Center for the Arts
- **Wed, Feb 2**, 5:45, Board Meeting at The United Way
- **Wed, Mar 2**, 5:45, Board Meeting at The United Way
- **Tues, Mar 8**, International Women's Day Dinner, Samuel's Grand Manor, pg. 5
- **Sat, Mar 12**, Tech Savvy 6, pg. 4
- **Sat, Mar 26**, Sister-to-Sister
- **Sat, Apr 2**, Human Trafficking Event, pg. 6
- **Tues - Thurs, Apr 15-17**, NYS AAUW Convention, pg. 7
- **Sat, May 14**, Annual Meeting and Luncheon
- **Wed - Sun, June 1-5**, 57th Annual Book Sale, pg. 4
- **Thurs-Sun, June 16-19**, AAUW National Convention

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Telling Stories Event – Member Registration Form—please mail **BEFORE** February 1, 2011

Return form to: Tamara Brown, 2723 Christopher Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_



## President's Message

Happy New Year! Another holiday season has passed us by and there is still so much more to do.

Lauren Belfer, author of *A Fierce Radiance* and our featured speaker at the January luncheon, attracted an audience of over 100 people. The luncheon was a fundraiser for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. How wonderful that so many attended to hear Lauren speak and to support the Fund.

Since the 1980s, LAF has supported more than 60 women in academe in their pursuit through the courts to gain tenure and who believe that their tenure denial was based on sex discrimination. This is a fraction of those who are denied tenure but leave without pursuing a lawsuit. The support of AAUW has been of tremendous value in bringing these cases to light.

January 20<sup>th</sup> at the WNED studios our branch co-sponsored a Community Forum on Public Education "Race to the Top: Hope or Flop," with the League of Women Voters. Public education is an AAUW public policy priority; we help to shape policy by keeping the issues before the public. Dr. Paul Theobald, Interim Dean of the School of Education at Buffalo State College, spoke on "What role should the federal government have in public education?"

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, AAUW is sponsoring an event at UB: "Domestic Violence – campus sexual assault" and is free and open to the public. The event will be held at the UB Center for the Arts.

International Women's Day is coming up and Lillis McLean and Carol Griffith have planned a wonderful dinner and program for you at Samuel's Grande Manor on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Tech Savvy on March 12<sup>th</sup> and Sister to Sister on March 26<sup>th</sup> will keep us busy the rest of the month.

Thanks to Diane Silvestro, chair of the ad hoc committee on Scholarships-Strategic Planning - she and her committee are working to streamline our scholarships, and to recommend marketing and publicity for the scholarships. We want to reach out to the community so that meritorious girls and women needing financial support know about the scholarships that the Buffalo Branch awards each year. Members can help in this latter effort by letting others know about the scholarship offerings found on our website [www.aauw.buffalo.edu](http://www.aauw.buffalo.edu).

The Board is working hard for you, our Branch members, to ensure wonderful programming, prudent oversight of our scholarship funds, leadership training, and bringing new members into the Branch. We appreciate your involvement in our branch activities, and look forward to seeing all of you at events, interest groups, committee meetings and book sale sorting. Let me know if you wish to work in any area of our Branch activities. We can use volunteers; just let us know of your interest.

Remember – one member and one guest = 1 member + 1 potential member. Do your best to encourage your friend or acquaintance to join.

Let's keep our enthusiasm for our mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Sincerely,  
Stacey Johnson

### 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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February, 2011  
Vol. CXXI No. 6  
Circulation 200



# Buffalo Branch Study & Interest Groups

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## 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 the group below. She will be able to provide you the information you need to get started. Remember, guests are welcome, but at a limited number of meetings for each interest group. If you would like to suggest a new Study Group or bring back an old one, please contact our branch Study Group coordinator Anita Kunkle @ 649-8863 or email [amkun05@msn.com](mailto:amkun05@msn.com).

### American Biographies:

No February meeting. Meetings resume in March.



### Clueless Book Club:

**When:** Weds. Feb. 23, 6 P.M.

**Where:** Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Boulevard

**Book:** "The Case of the Missing Servant," by Tarquin Hall

**Facilitator:** Kate Collins

**Leader:** Suzanne Grossman (837-8769)

**Facilitator:** Diane Burns

**Discussion Leader:** Sharron Doerr

**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).

**To reserve:** Contact Fran Witnauer, 688-5708, or [Grandma-fran44@yahoo.com](mailto:Grandma-fran44@yahoo.com).

### Knitting Group

**When:** Thurs., Feb. 24, 2 P.M.

**Where:** Barnes & Noble, 4401 Transit Road

**Leader:** Anita Kunkle @ 649-8863 or email [amkun05@msn.com](mailto:amkun05@msn.com).

Please note change to 4th Thursday. All knitters are welcome - beginners to skilled.



### Dinner by the Book:

**When:** Weds. Feb. 16, 5:30 PM.

**Where:** Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Boulevard

**Book:** "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave," by Frederick Douglass

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## A CALL FOR CANDIDATES: 2011-2012

Please volunteer your name or the name of a member for office. E-mail [mcollesano@aol.com](mailto:mcollesano@aol.com) or call 853-6480. The nominating committee is looking for enthusiastic members to join the board for the next two years. There is a special need for candidates with experience in finance.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Meeting to Select Velma Cobb Scholarship Winners

Everyone is invited to participate in the selection of Velma Cobb Scholarship winners on Thursday, March 24 at 7 PM in the library of Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main Street, West Seneca. Park in the lot across the street and enter through the main vestibule. The library is downstairs and to the left. If you're planning to come, please tell Betty Krist [kristbj@verizon.net](mailto:kristbj@verizon.net) or 675-4059. Thanks for participating in this important activity.

# Tech Savvy Conference: Saturday, March 12, 2011

The sixth annual Tech Savvy conference is next month. On Saturday, March 12, we will welcome about 500 girls and 250 parents and teachers.

The conference is designed to inspire middle school girls to pursue STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, and math)—and to provide adults with relevant information. Tech Savvy features 20 workshops for the girls. This year, we will also have 5 new savvy skills workshops, introducing critical life success skills and a special panel discussion for the adults. Teachers will also have the chance to learn new techniques to develop their students' spatial skills.

This year's conference theme is *Tech Savvy Girls Without Limits: Anything, Anywhere*. Our keynote speaker is certainly a woman whose career has no limits. Susan Chapman, Senior Vice President of American Express, is responsible for Global Real Estate & Workforce Enablement. Her engineering background and combination of lots of experiences take her all over the world building --- building real estate, building business, and building better ways for people to work better.

## You can participate in Tech Savvy:

- Join us for the reception on Friday, March 11
- Join us for the adult activities—including the

panel and/or Spatial Skills training—or keynote speech by American Express' Susan Chapman at 2 pm.

- Volunteer for all or part of the day. (We need about 50 volunteers for the day between 7 am and 5 pm)

## Upcoming Planning Dates for Tech Savvy 6:

- Tuesday, February 22: Tech Savvy Meeting 5:45 pm – 7 pm at the United Way (corner of Delaware Avenue & Summer in Buffalo)
  - February 23: Last day to register for Tech Savvy. Volunteers need not register for the conference. Please let Tamara know when you plan to volunteer during the day (morning, afternoon, all day).
  - Thursday, March 3: Tote Bag Stuffing, Name Tag Assembly, and Bag Stuffing (Lots of Help Needed!) Afternoon start time at the United Way. (Dress comfortably; pizza served.)
  - Saturday, March 12: Tech Savvy, UB North Campus Meet at Student Union. Ample Parking in Furnas Lot.)
- Questions about Tech Savvy? Call Tamara Brown at 649-9871

Conference Information website: [www.aauw-nys.org/Bufalo/techsavvy-info.htm](http://www.aauw-nys.org/Bufalo/techsavvy-info.htm)

## Tech Savvy Participation – Registration Form

Please mail to Tamara Brown, AAUW, PO Box 311, Buffalo, NY 14201-0311 before Feb 23, 2011

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

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

\_\_\_\_ Planning to help stuff tote bags on Thursday, March 3 (United Way, 742 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo)

\_\_\_\_ Planning to attend Tech Savvy Reception at 5:30pm on Friday, March 11 (No cost to attend)

\_\_\_\_ Planning to Volunteer at Tech Savvy, Saturday, March 12

\_\_\_\_ Morning shift (7am – 12pm)      \_\_\_\_ Afternoon shift (11 am – 4pm)      \_\_\_\_ All day

Available other times: \_\_\_\_\_

### For those not volunteering on Saturday, March 12:

\_\_\_\_ Attending Tech Savvy adult session, including morning refreshments, lunch, tote bag and materials - Please include \$5 payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch EF.

\_\_\_\_ Attending Tech Savvy 4-hour teacher training on spatial skills, including morning refreshments, lunch, tote bag and materials - Please include \$5 payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch EF

## Book Sale Corner

by Pat Swift-MacClellan



Activity at the book sale sorting site has resumed in earnest after the holiday break, and the turnout of helpers indicates many of our members have resolved to volunteer their services to this worthy cause. It is always nice to see new faces and we especially look forward to seeing yours. Hours are 9:30 to 12:30 every Tuesday and Wednesday at 995 Kensington Ave. (The Kensington-Bailey Neighborhood Services.)

We still need books and have lots of bookmarks to publicize that fact. If you have a place to distribute them, or just want a few for your friends, let us know. We will get them to you. Also, if you have any ideas or leads for a sale site, let us know soonest.

We are counting on the 2011 sale, our 57th, being the most successful ever. With your help that will happen.



The American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch  
presents its 10th Annual International Celebration

# 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day

**Tuesday, March 8, 2011**

5:30 p.m. social gathering

6:00 p.m. dinner

Samuel's Grande Manor  
8750 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221

**Featuring speakers  
from Haiti: Its Past,  
Present and Future**



## Registration Form

Cost: \$30 per person (Please make checks payable to AAUW/Buffalo Branch)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Dinner Choices:

Chicken Normando (basil wine and herbs): \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon: \_\_\_\_\_ Pasta with Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this registration form and checks by March 1 to:  
Lillis McLean, 366 Victoria Blvd., Kenmore, NY 14217  
716-873-7467

# Human Trafficking Seminar: Saturday, April 2, 2011

Breakfast Seminar on the "Human Trafficking"

Guest Speaker:

Ms. Elizabeth Fildes, Director of the Western District of New York

Human Trafficking Task Force & Alliance

Saturday, April 2, 2011

International Institute, 864 Delaware Avenue

10:00 Registration & Refreshments

The cost to attend is \$5. A continental breakfast will be provided. RSVP to Peggy Meinel if you plan to attend at 834-0439 or via e-mail at [aurorapm1219@aol.com](mailto:aurorapm1219@aol.com). Payment will be accepted at the event.

This is an initiative of the New York State AAUW, My Sister's Keeper. This has been a two year awareness effort looking at the tragedy of human trafficking and the needs of oppressed women throughout the world. Suggested reading on this issue is "Half the Sky" by Nicholas Kristof.

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## Girls drawn to single-gender Technology classes at Fairport

by Ernst Lamothe Jr., Staff Writer, Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

Three middle school girls shuffle into class and sit side by side in the second row. They open up their individual laptops. Within seconds, 15 more female students file in, sit down and start discussing their project. Even before class begins and teacher Liz Brown gives the first instructions of the day, the students are working.

Using Google SketchUp, the students design a three-dimensional home. The classroom noise never reaches above a murmur despite students working together.

The girls are among more than 50 students this year who participated in the first of a two-year single-gender technology program at three Fairport schools — Martha Brown, Johanna Perrin Middle School and Minerva DeLand, a ninth-grade school. Next school year, Fairport High School begins an all-girls architecture course.

Last year, boys made up 92 percent of Fairport high school tech classes. District officials were disturbed by the statistic and developed the single-gender program, which has thrived, quadrupling the number of girls enrolled in tech classes this year.

District officials marvel at how a new school concept has taken hold. Among its advantages, the single-gender setting provides girls an avenue to success in technology without feeling intimidated or

bullied by their male peers.

"In an all-girls class, you see them immediately get started in class, work faster and pay better attention," said Brown, Martha Brown technology teacher. "It's a special sight to see."

About 540 public schools nationwide offer single-sex academic classes, according to the U.S. Department of Education. While doing his research, David Allyn, a special assignment administrator for Fairport schools, said he discovered no other Monroe County public school had a similar all-girl technology program. Single-sex public school classes have expanded recently in Buffalo and Syracuse.

The push continues for more women to enter engineering. The fields of aerospace, civil, computer science and mechanical engineering have less than 15 percent women. Women outnumber men in college, but are not always encouraged to enter male-dominated professions. Engineering jobs are being outsourced to foreign-trained professionals because the U.S. can't produce enough native computer analysts, programmers, Web designers, architects and scientists, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## NYS AAUW CONVENTION, APRIL 15-17, 2011

Peggy Kelland, NYS/AAUW

Join other AAUW members from around New York State at the Glen Cove Mansion for a weekend of inspiration and fun. Keynote speaker AAUW President Carolyn Garfein will be joined by LAF Program Director Holly Kearl and EOF recipient Amrita Bahl. The public policy panel will feature two bankruptcy court judges, and workshops will be offered on pay equity, STEM education, fair trade, women of the American Revolution, and nutrition.

On a lighter note, you'll have the opportunity to take a tour of Teddy Roosevelt's home Sagamore Hill, stroll around the lovely grounds of the Glen Cove Mansion on the EOF Walk, play military bridge, exercise with Zumba, swim in the pool to raise money for Heifer International, and replace those lost calories at the lavish meals, coffee breaks, and President's Reception.

Sunday will be a sharing of AAUW ideas and experiences, starting at the Counterpart Breakfast with State Board members and invited speakers; continuing with the Branch Showcase of successful programs; and concluding with a panel of members who went with official AAUW delegations to Cuba and Israel. The weekend concludes with a relaxing luncheon with old and new friends. See you there!

Registration materials are on the state web site [aauw-nys.org](http://aauw-nys.org) and available from your branch president.

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## Margaret Mead: Fore-mother Extraordinaire

By Linda Drajem

According to anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Human nature is potentially aggressive and destructive and potentially orderly and constructive." In the Dec 16th edition of *More.com* AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman wrote an article celebrating Margaret Mead's birthday. She would have been 109. Mead's only daughter, Mary Bateson has written a book, *Composing a Further Life: The Age of Wisdom*. We can only wonder what insights age would grant Margaret were she celebrating this birthday.

The article reminds us of this woman who was a tireless scientist, author, and teacher all her life. Her groundbreaking study of Samoan adolescents, *Coming of Age in Samoa*, shattered the blinders of ethno-centrism. In her years living in Samoa, studying and interviewing primarily women, she discovered the ease with which women transitioned to adulthood. Her account of women's casual sexual activity offended many in the U.S. and caused criticism of Mead's methodology. She taught at the New School and Columbia University, and was the second female president of the American Association of Advancement of Science and the Curator of the American Museum of Natural History.

A life-long feminist, AAUW honored her with an Achievement Award in 1978 shortly before she died. Her open-minded devotion to science changed the field of anthropology. As Linda Hallman said, "As we work to make that dream a reality for women and girls everywhere, I hope we give new life to Margaret Mead's legacy. Mead is still an inspiration for women to break through barriers and achieve their goals." We can be proud that AAUW fosters projects that support women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math, and other endeavors to achieve their dreams. As Mead famously said: "A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

To read Linda Hallman's article, visit [www.more.com/2009/26958-honoring-a-founding-mother-of](http://www.more.com/2009/26958-honoring-a-founding-mother-of)

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## Approved December Board Meeting Highlights

By Taylor Page

The final Policies, Procedures, and Operations of AAUW Buffalo Branch Inc. were accepted.

The Board agreed to co-sponsor with the League of Women Voters Buffalo/Niagara, the Community Forum on Public Education "Race To The Top: Hope or Flop?" – "What role should the federal government have in public education," to be held on January 20, 2011 at the WNED studio.

The motion to include Vanita Evans, Ellen Trautman, Natasha Perkins, Toni Benjamine, Sue Oliver, and all deceased people in the past year as honorees for the Educational Foundation, was accepted.

*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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