



January 2011

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January Program: Legal Advocacy Fund Benefit

The AAUW Buffalo Branch will host its Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Benefit on Saturday, January 15th at The Protocol Restaurant in Williamsville. The event begins at 11:30 am.

This is the only LAF fundraiser this year, so please mark your calendar and plan to help support this vital aspect of AAUW that continues to help us break barriers. There will be a cash bar and non-members are welcome, as always.

Author, Lauren Belfer will present "*Fact into Fiction: Writing A Fierce Radiance*." Jonathon Welch of Talking Leaves books will be on hand to sell copies of the book. Lauren will be happy to sign books at the event. 15 to 20 percent of the total book sales will go to the LAF.



Lauren Belfer

Dates to Remember:

- **Wed, Jan 5**, 5:45 pm, Board Meeting, United Way of Buffalo, 742 Delaware Ave.
- **Sat, Jan 15**, LAF Fundraising Luncheon, Protocol Restaurant
- **Thurs, Jan. 20**, Forum on Public Education (see pg 5)
- **Fri, Feb 4**, Domestic Violence-Campus Assault, UB Center for the Arts (see pg 3)
- **Tues, Mar 1**, Deadline for Velma Cobb scholarship applications
- **Tues, Mar 8**, International Women's Day Dinner, Samuel's Grand Manor
- **Sat, Mar 12**, Tech Savvy 6
- **Sat, Mar 26**, Sister to Sister
- **Sat, Apr 2**, Human Trafficking Event, International institute, 864 Delaware Ave.
- **Sat, May 14**, Annual Meeting and Luncheon
- **Wed - Sun, June 1-5**, 57th Annual Book Sale

Registration form for the January LAF Fundraiser

Mail to: Judy Malamas, 379 Sagewood Terrace, Williamsville, NY 14221 by January 5, 2011

My check in the amount of \$ _____ (\$25.00 per person) payable to the AAUW Buffalo EF is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Entree choice _____ Grilled chicken & gorgonzola over tossed greens
 _____ Salmon with Dill Sauce
 _____ Pasta with Vegetables

Guests are welcome. Please provide guest names and their lunch selection on a separate sheet of paper.

I am unable to attend the luncheon but enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to LAF.

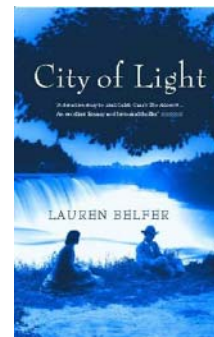
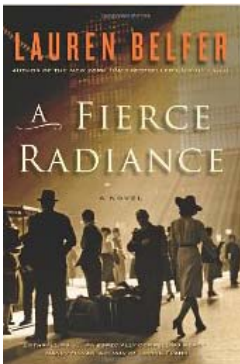
\$5.00 of luncheon fee is a donation to the Legal Advocacy Fund.

About Lauren Belfer

In her new novel, *A Fierce Radiance*, Lauren Belfer envisions New York City in 1941 as seen through the lens of a *Life Magazine* photographer. Her protagonist, Claire Shipley, has assignments that range from shooting the latest

Rockette to photographing a young father whose life might be saved by penicillin. Belfer's debut novel, *City of Light*, based in Buffalo, NY, was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Belfer was born in Rochester, New York, and grew up in Buffalo, where she attended the Buffalo Seminary. At Swarthmore College, she majored in Medieval Studies. After graduating, she worked as a file clerk at an art gallery, a paralegal, an assistant photo editor at a newspaper, a fact checker at magazines, and as a researcher and associate producer on documentary films. She has an M.F.A. from Columbia University.



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President's Message

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and are ready for an exciting new year. We have much to look forward to this year.

Our December event was a pleasant beginning to the holiday season, with Danielle DiStefano entertaining us with opera arias and popular songs.

At the Branch Holiday gathering I took the liberty to quote from Hillary Rodham Clinton, for our newly named AAUW Buffalo Branch Hillary Rodham Clinton Fellowship. For those not at the meeting I would like to share her words with you:

"We are, all of us exploring a world none of us understands...searching for a more immediate, ecstatic, and penetrating mode of living...for the integrity, the courage to be whole, living in relation to one another in the full poetry of existence. The struggle for an integrated life existing in an atmosphere of communal trust and respect is one with desperately important political and social consequences...Fear is always with us, but we just don't have time for it." – from her commencement speech, Wellesley 1969.

From Women's Rights are Human Rights' Speech Beijing China: 1995: "If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, it is that human rights are women's rights – and women's rights are human rights. Let us not forget that among those rights are the right to speak freely – and the right to be heard."

"One thing we know for sure is that change is certain. Progress is not. Progress depends on the choices we make today for tomorrow and on whether we meet our challenges and protect our values." Hillary Rodham Clinton (Living History)

"Our lives are a mixture of different roles. Most of us are doing the best we can to find whatever the right balance is...For me, that balance is family, work, and service."

Hillary Rodham Clinton did not swerve from her speech so long ago in 1969, as she progressed

in life.

Lauren Belfer, author of *A Fierce Radiance*, is our featured speaker at the LAF luncheon on January 15th, chaired by Leona Barback. Ms. Belfer is a graduate of Buffalo Seminary. You will be able to buy her book at the luncheon and get it signed as well. I hope that you will bring someone who may be interested in joining AAUW. This should be a wonderful introduction to our program.

Put February 4th on your calendar for a special program arranged by Tamara Brown, on Sexual Harassment on Campus. This is at UB Center for the Arts, and promises to be a wonderful program. If you are not already aware that this is a problem on campuses this will inform you about AAUW's position on this and other matters concerning Education, Equity, and Justice for women and girls of all ages. This event is free and open to the public, and again members' guests are welcome.

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, 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.

- President: Stacey Johnson
- Publisher/Editor: Maria Coppola
- Assistant Editors: Betty Preble, Judy Weidemann, Betty Krist

Send address changes to: Freddie Cheek, 406 Maynard Drive, Amherst, NY 14226-2929. You

can also email her at fscheek@verizon.net

For prospective or new member questions, contact Cynthia Mehary, VP of Membership Recruitment, at camehary@roadrunner.com. Or for renewal questions, contact Susan McClary, VP of Membership Retention, at 636-2854 or smclary2@verizon.net.

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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. She can provide you any information you need to get started. As always, guests are welcome 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 Study Group coordinator Anita Kunkle @ 649-8863 or email amkun05@msn.com.

American Biographies:

No meeting in January.

Clueless Book Club:

When: Weds. Jan. 26, 6 P.M.

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Boulevard

Book: "Body on the Beach," by Simon Brett

Facilitator: Sue Yarborough

Leader: Anita Kunkle @ 649-8863 or email amkun05@msn.com.

Dinner by the Book:

When: Weds. Jan. 19, 5:30 PM.

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Boulevard

Book: "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand," by Helen Simonson

Facilitator: Karen Howard



Discussion Leader: Margaret Fischer

Questions: Leona Barback, 633-1982 or barleo@roadrunner.com, or Marilyn Carmichael, 228-8626 or mcarmichael45@aol.com.

To reserve: Contact Fran Witnauer, 688-5708, or Grandma-fran44@yahoo.com.

Knitting Group

When: Thurs. Jan. 13, 2 P.M.

Where: Barnes & Noble, 4401 Transit Road

Leader: Anita Kunkle @ 649-8863 or email amkun05@msn.com.

Please note change from Wednesday to THURSDAY. Knitted items will be packaged for delivery to Haven House. We plan to donate lap robes, prayer shawls, baby blankets, mittens and scarves. If you have knitted good to donate, bring them to the meeting or phone Anita Kunkle.



SAVE THE DATE

Telling Stories: Campus Sexual Assault & Intimate Partner Violence: A Dramatic Arts Event

- Friday, Feb 4, 2011, 6pm - 10 pm
- University at Buffalo Center for the Arts
- 6 pm, Reception, 7 pm, Campus Sexual Assault
- "Telling Our Story", an Original Play by Lauren Germain
- Focus on Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence
- Screening of "Telling Amy's Story", starring Mariska Hargitay
- 9:30 pm, Coffee, Desserts, Chats
- Attendance is free. Reservations are required. Limit 200 guests.

Register and get an e-ticket at www.aauw.buffalo.edu/fjc-conference.html

To volunteer or for details, call Tamara Brown at 716-649-9871.

This Branch received a grant from the national AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund to support this program. AAUW Buffalo Branch, Inc. joins with Family Justice Center of Erie County to present Telling Stories.

Velma Cobb Scholarship

The Velma Cobb Scholarship Application is up on our website. Please make this opportunity known to any female graduating high school senior in Erie County who has at least a 90 grade point average (3.5/4.0) and who will be attending an accredited 2 year or 4 year college full time in the fall.

We expect to give two \$1,000 scholarships. Completed applications must be received by March 1 and winners will be notified by May 1. Questions should be directed to: velmacobb2011@gmail.com or Betty Krist at 675-4059.

Betty will also be looking for volunteers to review applications and select the winners. Watch for additional information in the February Advocate.

Valley Views: Economic crisis stings women around globe

By Geeta S. Desai

By the time Americans began to experience the full impact of the current economic crisis, it had already cut a wide and cruel swath in the developing countries of the world. In these countries, the everyday struggles with wrenching poverty, illiteracy, hunger and disease became exponentially harder. According to the World Bank, approximately 53 million more people were driven into poverty by the end of 2009, bringing the total number of those living on less than \$2 a day to more than .5 billion. And, since the economic crisis is still unfolding many of its effects are still unknown.

However, what we do know is that women more than men are bearing the brunt of this crisis. Women in developing countries have lost their meager livelihoods in farming and manufacturing. Without access to a social safety net and to financial assets like land and housing, many have been forced into prostitution to support their children. Violence against women is once again on the rise in countries that had once seen a decline in crimes against women. Government reductions in educational and health-care programs have all but cut off previous avenues to long-term self-empowerment and financial independence. Worst of all, in the absence of proactive government support, proponents of restrictive patriarchal societies have been able to successfully strip women and girls of basic human rights. For women in developing countries, the global economic crisis symbolizes the end of hope.

So, why should we, in America, care about what happens to women halfway across the world? Women in developing countries work for the industrialized nations of the world of which America is the largest. They work for us. In fact, they do 66 percent of the world's work, producing 50 percent of the world's food and 90 percent of the world's staple food crops. Yet, in the best of times, they earn only 10 percent of the world's income and own less than 2 percent of its land. First, we should care because these employment

terms violate our uniquely American sense of fair play. Second, we should care because societies in which women are illiterate, poor, malnourished and sick are notoriously unstable and represent a gathering storm for America and other developed countries and third, we should care because a global economy built on the backs of the poorest women in the world is immoral and unsustainable.

Admittedly, a solution to the global women's crisis requires the cooperation and help of many governments around the world including the American government, but there are also a number of small and creative ways in which everyday people like us can help. The Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) believes that communities like ours can take the following three actions at the grassroots level to meaningfully participate in solving this problem:

1. We can learn the facts about the status of women in countries that are most affected so that we understand the true nature of their needs.
2. We can learn how our individual and collective actions actually exacerbate the problem. For instance, as global citizens, it is our responsibility to understand where our food, drink, clothes, household goods and services come from, the conditions under which they were produced and whether the people who did the work were treated and paid fairly.
3. We can build a broad awareness about this subject within our communities and speak persuasively for change with our state and federal government officials.

Geeta S. Desai is the president of the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women.

www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=201012070309

Book Sale Corner

by Pat Swift-MacClellan



A happy New Year to everyone from the book sale crew.

The crew finished 2010 with a flurry of activity, including the disposal of a Niagara Falls book store's inventory on Nov. 30. The store's owner skipped a going-out-of-business sale and, facing a lease deadline, offered his remaining new books, an estimated 8,000, to AAUW. An embarrassment of riches for people running out of storage space. GIGGIL came to the rescue. The on-line book peddlers arrived with a huge truck and with the help of several members and their friends the books were sent on their way to hopefully multiple sales. AAUW's book sale receives 75 percent of all the profits GIGGIL makes on our books.

Meanwhile, the holidays will interrupt the sorting process. The site at 995 Kensington Ave. will be closed the weeks of Dec. 20 and Dec. 27. We hope to see you all back on Jan. 4. Hours in the new year will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

—ANOTHER EXCELLENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY—

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara Presents

A Community Forum on Public Education

What role should the federal government have in public education?

“RACE TO THE TOP: HOPE OR FLOP?”

Co-sponsored by

Buffalo State College and American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch

January 20, 2011, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

WNED Studios, Horizons Plaza, Buffalo

Keynote Speaker: Paul Theobald, Interim Dean of the School of Education, Buffalo State College
Author of *“Education Now: How Rethinking America’s Past Can Change Its Future”*
2010 Critics’ Choice Award from the American Educational Studies Association

Panelists:

Donald Ogilvie, District Superintendent Erie 1 BOCES

Claity Massey, Director of King Center Charter School

Sam Radford, V.P. District Parent Coordinating Council

Mike Preskop, Regional Staff Director NYSUT

Moderator: Marian Deutschman Prof. Communications, Buffalo State College

Discussion to follow. Public invited. Snow date January 27th.

For reservations contact Judy Weidemann at 655-3649
or JWeide7170@aol.com by January 19, 2011

SAVE THE DATE

The 100th Anniversary of International Women’s Day will be marked by the AAUW Buffalo Branch on March 8, 2011, with a dinner at Samuel’s Grand Manor beginning at 6:00 PM. An interesting program is planned for this event. For information call Lillis McLean at 873-7467.

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family of Nancy Neff, who passed away earlier this month. Nancy had just joined our branch in September of this year.

Approved November Board Meeting Highlights

By Taylor Page

Branch Board of Directors

The October 16 minutes were accepted.

The Treasurer’s Report for October 2010 was presented and accepted.

Tamara Brown will chair Tech Savvy in 2011

Eco-Trail event was successful and about 20 people attended.

There was no change in membership retention

Betty Preble presented the Policies, Procedures, and Operations for when the merger is finalized. She will make the suggested changes, which will be voted on at the December Board Meeting

Sue Oliver presented a proposal to honor four women involved with Sister to Sister, at the May Luncheon

Education Accounts and Charitable Projects, AAUW Buffalo Branch, Inc. [501c(3) entity]

The October 16 minutes were accepted.

Betty Krist presented the Educational Foundation Report. As of 10/31/10, checking account is at \$3890.86 and the value of EF Holdings at HSBC is \$650,674.59.

Judy Weidemann encouraged Board members to help sort books for the Book Sale and noted that the AAUW book sale earned \$533.21 from GIGGIL

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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