



May 2011

716.559.3037 - aauw.buffalo.edu

May Program: Awards Luncheon & Annual Meeting

Join us at the historic Roycroft Inn to celebrate another year with the AAUW Buffalo Branch. 2011-2012 elected officers will be installed. We will also recognize our 2011 Achievement Award Winner, Mary Travers Murphy, for her work as Executive Director of the Family Justice Center of Erie County. 25 and 50 year branch members will be recognized, and we will meet our Velma Cobb Scholarship winners. The meeting is open to the public and we encourage you to bring guests. The event details are as follows:



The Roycroft Inn

40 South Grove Street, East Aurora

Saturday, May 14, 2011

11:30 am Registration

12:00 Luncheon, Awards, Annual Meeting

Parking is available in lot across the street from the Inn

Lunch includes chef's choice of starch and vegetable where appropriate, as well as *Inn-Made* breads, lemon sorbet, and freshly brewed coffee, tea and soft drinks.

- Roycroft Cobb Salad with chopped egg, bacon, Gorgonzola cheese, scallions, avocado, grilled chicken and basil dressing served with soup du jour
- Inn-Made Country Vegetable Cheddar Quiche served with fresh house salad
- Poached Salmon lightly poached in white wine, served with a lemon tarragon sauce and fresh house salad

Registration form for the May 14 Luncheon

Mail to: Beverly Schwiegerling, 130 Rolling Green Lane, Elma 14059 by **Saturday, May 7, 2010**

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Cobb Salad _____ @ \$24 = _____ enclosed

Quiche _____ @ \$24 = _____ enclosed

Salmon _____ @ \$24 = _____ enclosed

Names of Guests: _____

Questions: contact Bev Schwiegerling 652-7182 or schwieg@roadrunner.com

Directions to the Roycroft Inn:

Take Thruway exit 54 (Rte 400.) Exit from Rte. 400 at Rte. 20A / East Aurora. Turn right off the exit onto Rte. 20A, which becomes Main Street. Continue through the Village and turn left onto S. Grove St. The Inn is on the left at 40 S. Grove St. Park in the lot across the street from the Inn.

Dates to Remember:

- **Wed, May 4**, 6:00 pm, Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church in West Seneca
- **Sat, May 14**, Annual Meeting and Luncheon
- **Wed - Sun, June 1-5**, 57th Annual Book Sale, pgs. 4-5
- **Wed, Jun 8**, 6:00 pm, Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church in West Seneca
- **Thurs-Sun, June 16-19**, AAUW National Convention
- **Fri-Sun, July 15-17**, AAUW-NYS leadership conference at Cazenovia College

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President's Message

The book sale site is being cleaned and made ready for the book sale. Please put the book sale on your calendar for the times that you will be able to work. Contact Judy Weidemann at JWeide7170@aol.com or call her at 655-3649 to sign up.

Deputy Elizabeth Fildes from the Erie County Sheriff's Office and Program Director of the WDNY Human Trafficking Task Force & Alliance, spoke passionately about the problem of human trafficking and its associated crime. "Traffickers generate billions of dollars in profits every year while victimizing millions of the most vulnerable people around the globe." Those of us who attended this meeting were very impressed with the relevance to our community, as Ms. Fildes described cases right here in our own communities. Thank you Peggy Meinel for organizing this meeting for us.

The NYS AAUW Convention in Long Island provided those who attended with many new ideas. Barbara Carier and I were delegates for the Buffalo Branch. Our State officers from the Buffalo Branch, Betty Preble, Ruth Fierro-King and Lillis McClean, were there working hard. Ruth was re-elected Treasurer for NYS. Congratulations to Ruth.

Marguerite Collesano provided two beautiful baskets from the branch for the LAF auction, and Joan Eschner assembled a third. I put together a display for the Branch that featured the wonderful programs held by the branch since September, and our co-sponsored events with Homeless Connect, Sister to Sister, and Tech Savvy.

The May luncheon is our next event. Beverly Schwiegerling is chair and has put together a wonderful event for us. Eileen Hartmann, President of NYS AAUW, will install our officers. We are delighted that she agreed to come. Please take this opportunity to meet her.

We will be installing newly elected officers, and discussing a bylaws change. This is your chance to participate in the business of the Branch. This is the first annual meeting of our new entity American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch. Inc. Remember to send in your reservation and invite a friend to join you. Remember one member and one friend could become TWO members.

Remember AAUW promotes equity, education and philanthropy for women and girls throughout their lives.

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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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.

May, 2011

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Buffalo Branch Study & Interest Groups

Schedules for the Month:

The Buffalo branch offers a variety of interest groups. Study Groups afford opportunities for new friendships, fun, and sharing your skills and interests. Anyone having an idea for a new study group starting Sept. 2011, please contact Anita Kunkle, 649-8863 or amkun05@msn.com.

American Biographies:



No May meeting. For June, prepare by reading any book about Mary Todd Lincoln.

Questions: Contact Lillis, 873-7467 or lmclean366@yahoo.com

Clueless Book Club:

When: Weds., May 25, 6 PM

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Topic: *Overture to Death*, by Ngaio Marsh, or any Ngaio Marsh book

Facilitator: Shirley Havice

To reserve: Suzanne Grossman, 837-8769

Dinner by the Book:

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

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Book: *The Postmistress*, by Sarah Blake, 2010

Leader: Sandy Ihlefeld

Facilitator: Alice Russ

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

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

Knitting Group

When: Thurs., May 26, 2 P.M.

Where: Barnes & Noble, 4401 Transit Road

Leader: Margaret Fischer, 632-8269, margaretif@roadrunner.com.

Coffee bar and refreshments are available.



New Members

Tara A. Crotty

96 Delham Avenue (Upper)
Buffalo, NY 14216
Tel: 716 258-0118 (Cell)
taracrotty@yahoo.com

Dr. Rhianna Rogers

1279 Walden Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14211
Tel: 716 939-2751 (H)
716 686-7842 (W)
Rhianna.Rogers@exc.edu

Andrea Short

433 Winspear Avenue (Upper)
Buffalo, NY 14215
Tel: (Cell) 716 618-9609
adshort@buffalo.edu

Dr. Marian Deutschman

4485 Arondale Rd.
Williamsville, NY 14221
Tel: 716 634-2412 (H)
(W) 716 878-4132
mardeu@roadrunner.com

Important 2011-2012 Dues Information

On Saturday, April 16, the NYS AAUW voted to raise state dues by \$3. This will be reflected in your 2011-2012 dues statements.

By now you should have received your dues renewal letter. Dues need to be sent in by May 30 in order to guarantee your listing in the 2011 roster. If you have questions, or did not get the mailing, contact the VP for Membership Retention, Susan McClary, at 636-2854. Please leave a message or feel free to email her at smclary2@verizon.net.

For all new members, Susan McClary, VP for Membership Retention, sends out a copy of the current roster when you join. If you did not receive one recently, please be sure to call her at 636 2854 or email her smclary2@verizon.net.

Funding period for Grassroots Grants is now open

The AAUW Buffalo Branch, Inc. announces its 2011 Grassroots Grants Program for the Buffalo Niagara Region. The goal of the grants program is the promotion of equity, gender awareness and lifelong learning. Five to seven grants of up to \$1,500.00 each will be awarded in the categories of: Individual Projects, Community Organizations and/or Neighborhood Enrichment Programs and High School Leadership Projects.

The Buffalo Niagara Region consists of the Western New York counties - Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany.

For additional information please visit:

aauw.buffalo.edu/grassrtgrant.htm

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 9, 2011

Book Sale Corner

by Pat Swift MacClennan



We have the site. We have the books. All we need now is you!

Movers have transported in excess of 150,000 books from Kensington Bailey to 2309 Eggert Road in the Town of Tonawanda. Most have been sorted into categories; many still need to be sorted and more are expected to be donated before the cut-off date of May 21.

We will need sorting help right up to May 31, the eve of opening day. From June 1 through June 5 volunteers will be needed for three shifts each day. If you have not filled out the volunteer coupon that was published in the April Advocate, please do so soon. We have included it again in this issue in case you misplaced it. Or feel free to call Judy Weidemann at 655-3649.

Pre-sale sorting and setup will be held weekdays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, with the exception of Tuesdays when the site will be open from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. Sorting will also take place on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm., with the exception of May 14. The number of books already collected indicates this sale will set a record for merchandise and maybe even for revenue. A lot depends on you!

VOLUNTEER COUPON

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

Return this coupon to: Judy Weidemann, 21 Nye Hill Rd. East Aurora, NY 14052, call her at 655-3649, or e-mail to JWeide7170@aol.com

Book Sale Shift Volunteer Sign-up

The Book Sale is Wednesday, June 1 through Sunday, June 5. Please sign up as soon as possible. Job Descriptions are on the AAUW Website: aauw.buffalo.edu. 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

Mon: 9:00 - 12:00 (clean up)

OTHER IMPORTANT BOOK SALE NEEDS:

Table Donors: Consider donating \$15 for each table. You can donate more than one and will be acknowledged at the Sale. Made checks payable to AAUW Buffalo. Send to Leona Barback, 62 Lynn Lea, Williamsville, 14221.

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.

1,000 Bags - Paper in Plastic: We need these for the bag sale held on the sale's final day. The committee is asking all members to request paper and plastic when shopping at grocery stores. We are looking for 'standard' size bags (like those at Wegmans) and bring them to the sale!

Bylaws Change Overview

by Betty Preble

The governance committee has been meeting for over a year to update our bylaws and position descriptions. Now that we are ONE 501(c)(3) entity, we can divide the financial chores as best fits our branch. The committee has recommended several positions – a Chief Financial Officer who oversees all the treasurers, a branch treasurer who handles dues and “operational” expenses (PO boxes, voicemail, insurance, newsletter, etc), the Chamberlin/Funds for Education treasurer who keeps track of the various grants and (more time-consuming) loans/loan repayments, the fundraising treasurer who at this point handles the booksale, special project treasurers who may be appointed as needed to handle special events AND a fourth elected treasurer who handles programs/projects/scholarships/national funds. That fourth treasurer was named the “Treasurer for national AAUW Funds and other local Scholarships” in the bylaws adopted last May and which went into effect on Feb 16 when our merger was complete. The governance committee is recommending, and the board has endorsed, a revision of that name to “Education Accounts and Program Treasurer”. This will be presented for a vote at the annual meeting in May. If you have questions or comments on this proposal, please contact the governance committee through: Betty Preble, betty.preble@gmail.com, 662-0608.

Slate of Officers 2011– 2012

- Co-Presidents - Betty Preble and Barbara Carrier
- First Vice President (Program) - Joan Trinchera
- Third Vice President (Membership Retention) - Marguerite Collesano
- Branch Treasurer - Joan Eschner
- Chamberlin Loan Funds & Funds for Education Treasurer - Claudia Kania
- Fundraising Treasurer - Barbara Libby
- Scholarship Chair - Susan McClary
- Nominating Committee
 - Chair - Anastasia Johnson
 - 2 Year Members - Yvonne Curry, Leona Barback
 - 1 Year Members - Sue Licata, Lillis McLean

Some board positions have changed due to branch restructuring. As a result, some of the positions elected this year are for only one year. Those positions will be filled next year for two year terms, resuming the normal overlapping two year terms.

March Board Meeting Highlights

By Taylor Page

- The merger between AAUW Buffalo Branch and Education Accounts and Charitable Projects has been finalized; therefore, this meeting was the last meeting as two separate entities
- The board approved providing free lunches at the annual luncheon for only scholarship recipients and one guest for each of them
- Betty Preble presented the Buffalo Branch AAUW, Inc. position descriptions
- Pat Swift-MacClennan sent letters to the two Chamberlin Loan applicants stating that their applications were approved by the Board
- Diane Silvestro proposed several suggestions by the Scholarship committee including residency requirements and ID requirements
- Ruby Williams is the Dorothy Payne scholarship chair. She will be updating the application and reaching out to the Buffalo school districts

RECRUITMENT NEWS

by Cynthia Mehary

Did you know there are several discount programs available to help you recruit new members?

You can “**Give a Grad a Gift (GGG)**.” This program lets members give a recent Graduate a free National AAUW Membership within two years of the student’s graduation from college. There is no better way to introduce a new graduate to AAUW and expose them to all we do at a national level.

How about helping us “**Shape the Future (STF)**?” Guests who join while attending an AAUW community event can join and save 50 percent off the current national dues. All they have to do is sign their name on the guest referral list, complete an application, and pay the reduced amount at the AAUW function.

There is also the **Member-Get-A Member (MGM)** Campaign. Through this campaign, members are encouraged to recruit one new member. Try inviting someone to an AAUW function. Once you get someone in the door, chances are they’ll be drawn to getting involved.

MGM. STF. GGG. Three wonderful ways to get new grads involved and help shape the future of this wonderful organization and guarantee a sustainable and ever growing Buffalo Branch.

SISTER-TO-SISTER 2011: “MIND, BODY, AND SOUL”

by Sue Oliver



The 14th Annual Sister-to-Sister Summit was, once again, a great success. In spite of the Sister-to-Sister website crashing, word got out and the girls had a great day the morning and afternoon sessions.

We wish to thank the following AAUW volunteers who responded to our appeal for help, including Ruby Williams, Ellen Moomaw, Doris Cummings-Ford and Yvonne Curry. Thank you also to Peggy Meinl, our Fundraising Treasurer, and Betty Preble, our technology expert.

I am very happy that we will be recognizing Vanita Evans, Natasha Perkins, Toni Benjamine, and Ellen Troutman for their continuing work on Sister-to-Sister at the May luncheon.

The Sister-to-Sister Committee would also like to thank the Book Sale Committee for donating books appropriate for teen girls to the Summit. One of our traditions is to give the girls books. This year, in addition to the books donated by the Book Sale Committee, we were able to purchase paperback dictionaries to give to each girl and the parents attending the special parenting session.

Loan & Grant Application Reminder

by Pat Swift MacClennan

Applications for the branch’s interest-free college loans and grants are due June 1. Pass on this information to your family, friends, colleagues and students. Funds for Education money is available to male as well as female students. Chamberlin Funds are for women only.

Applications for Chamberlin Loan Fund and Funds for Education loans and grants are available at www.aauw.buffalo.edu or by writing to the Chamberlin Loan-Funds for Education chair, American Association of University Women, Buffalo Branch, PO Box 397, Amherst, N.Y. 14226-0397. Prospective applicants also may request applications at Chamberlinfund@yahoo.com. or by calling 559-3037.

Emerging Leader AAUW Buffalo - Maria Coppola

by Stacey Johnson

Maria Coppola joined our branch in 2009 and has been an active member since then. She chairs Public Relations, is the editor of the *Advocate*, our Branch newsletter, and is a member of the Board of Directors.

Maria is creative, proactive member. She has been working with the chair of our scholarship committee, which is strategizing our scholarships for the future. Maria is also developing the best ways to reach out to the community and build awareness of our scholarships, grants and loans to those who can most benefit from them. As chair of our Holiday event in December, Maria found a venue very accessible to our members, and she developed a program which brought music and camaraderie to our members.

By showing versatility in the skills that she brings to our Branch, we are pleased to be able to nominate Maria as our Emerging Leader for 2011.

2011 Achievement Award Recipient: **Mary Travers Murphy** by Judy Weidemann

Mary Travers Murphy, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center of Erie County, will receive the 2011 Achievement Award from AAUW Buffalo Branch at the May 14 luncheon. The Family Justice Center provides one-stop, wrap-around services for victims of domestic violence and their children. At the Family Justice Center, domestic violence victims can meet with a prosecutor, speak to a trained counselor, have injuries documented in the forensic medical unit and arrange for a safe and secure shelter. In February of 2011, a Family Justice Center Orchard Park Satellite Office for victims of domestic violence was established under Mary's leadership. Since assuming Directorship of the Family Justice Center she has made it her mission to connect with the community to make the services of the Center familiar to all in western New York.



Mary Travers Murphy was formerly a consumer affairs journalist and was part of Action 7 News team on WKBW-TV. In 2005 she was elected to a four year term as town supervisor of Orchard Park, New York, the town's highest elected office.

AAUW Buffalo Branch is pleased to honor Mary Travers Murphy for her accomplishments and to give recognition to the work of the Family Justice Center.

Almost half-a-century on, women's wages still lag By Kathleen Murphy

It took eight years for the United States to send a man to the moon once we declared our intentions. So why is it taking so much longer to close the wage gap between men and women? Both agendas served national interests, but only one was claimed as a priority.

It has been 48 years since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law. In 1963, women earned 59 cents on average for every dollar their male colleagues earned. In 2009, women earned 77 cents on average for every dollar their male colleagues earned. Yes, women are better off today, but the gap remains significant. The remaining wage gap of 23 percent exceeds the gain of 18 percent made during the previous 48 years.

At the present rate of progress, it will take another 50 years to close the gap. April 12 is Equal Pay Day, which was established in 1996 to acknowledge the persistence of the wage gap. It symbolizes how much longer a woman has to work to earn the same pay as her male colleagues earned the previous year.

Ten years after graduation, the wage gap widens. This research indicates that the wage gap cannot be dismissed because of personal choices or qualifications. It also exposes the myth of meritocracy. There are structural barriers in place preventing women from achieving pay equity with men. These barriers are worse for minority women.

Wage discrimination has significant financial consequences. More households today depend on women's incomes, suggesting that wage discrimination is not exclusively a women's issue. With more than 70 million women working, wage discrimination hurts families that are already struggling because of the recession. Lower earnings also jeopardize future economic security because of reduced benefits from Social Security and pension plans. As a result, women stand to forfeit \$210,000 of earnings during their lifetime.

Congress had the opportunity to correct the limitations of existing fair pay laws by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would close loopholes, strengthen incentives to end wage discrimination and protect workers against retaliation for inquiring about employers' wage practices or disclosing their own wages. This bill was defeated by a procedural vote in the Senate in November. It's time to raise our voices in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. Fifty more years is too long to wait.

Kathleen Murphy is a member of the American Association of University Women, Buffalo Branch. Her article above, part of the national AAUW "Voices" project, was published in the Buffalo News..

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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