

# Buffalo Branch Advocate



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

NYS District 1

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

September, 2011

## Welcome to AAUW 2011-2012

### ANNUAL AAUW POTLUCK

The AAUW Buffalo Branch is pleased to invite you to our first event of the year. Our annual "Potluck" will be held on Monday, September 19. The Jacquie Walker and Olga Lindberg Scholarships will be presented.

Our program will include remarks by past recipients of AAUW award monies as well as informational presentations about Study Groups, our Annual Scholarship Book Sale and upcoming Programs for the 2011-2012 year.

This annual supper is our members' opportunity to invite a guest or two who might be interested in joining our terrific Buffalo Branch.

**This year's event will feature a catered dinner and each member is asked to bring a dessert that will serve 8 people. Here are the event details:**

#### KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE BUFFALO BRANCH

Monday, September 19

Christ United Methodist Church

350 Saratoga Road (Harlem at Saratoga), Amherst, NY 14226

5:30 – 8:00PM

Complete the form below and mail with your check.

#### Inside this issue:

September Potluck	1
Presidents' Messages	2
Interest Groups	3
Legal Advocacy Fund	3
2011-12 Book Groups	3
Book Sale Report	5
Table Donors	6
Dues Reminder	6
Chautauqua Day Report	7
Historic Advances at Risk	7
Public Policy Report	8
Convention Report	8
October Program - "Oliver" – <b>early registration deadline!</b>	9
Dates to Remember	9



#### Let's Celebrate!

Registration form for Annual Potluck Dinner, September 19, 2011

Registration at 5:30PM, Program starts at 6:00PM

Mail to: Marguerite Collesano, 120 Rivermist Dr. Buffalo, NY 14202 by September 14, 2011

My check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$8.00 per person) payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch is enclosed.

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

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

I would like a ride to the Potluck – please circle one:      Yes                      No

## Presidents' Messages

After a busy (and hot!) summer, we are eagerly looking forward to the beginning of another AAUW year. We have a fantastic bunch of women who have accepted leadership positions and we anticipate a wonderful array of activities and programs! You're seeing one of the first changes right here – brand-new member Selma Bektesevic has volunteered to pick up the reins of the *Advocate* from Maria Coppola. With each new editor comes a new look, which keeps it fresh and interesting!

Coming up, of course, is the annual "potluck" on September 19. Details are on the front page. This year we'll be emphasizing what AAUW is all about and invite you to bring guests to join in the fun. There will be plenty of time for socializing and catching-up with old friends – but please be sure to welcome guests and new members as well.

If there's something that you think the branch should be doing, please contact either my teammate Barb or me before September 14. That evening we will be reviewing our five-year old strategic plan to see what needs to be "tweaked", and we'll certainly want to incorporate your ideas.

I'll close with the well-known quote:

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."* —**Margaret Mead**

Let's keep our mission in mind and work towards changing our global community.

*Betty Preble*

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As Betty and I have been making plans and talking to new Board members, I've been reminded once again of the dedication so many of us have to making this group effective and influential. Indeed the full list of those who have agreed to work on some aspect of the organization this year has reached 35, with a few more to come. That's incredible! Some are veterans (like me!) and some are brand new!

We are a wide-ranging group, an umbrella covering the full gamut of women's interests and concerns. With so many members involved, we can stay informed and alert to what is happening. Be sure to read each issue of the *Advocate* as our representatives make us aware of issues in all areas. You are sure to find something provocative, something fascinating, and something inviting in every issue this year!

*Barbara Carier*

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### 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.

- Co-Presidents: Barbara Carier, Betty Preble
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For prospective or new member questions, contact Cynthia Mehary, VP of Membership Recruitment, at [camehary@roadrunner.com](mailto:camehary@roadrunner.com).

Or for renewal questions, contact Susan McClary, VP of Membership Retention, at 636-2854 or [smclary2@verizon.net](mailto:smclary2@verizon.net).

September, 2011

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# Buffalo Branch Study and Interest Groups

## Schedules for the Month:

The Buffalo branch offers a variety of interest groups. They afford opportunities for new friendships, fun, and sharing skills and interests. Anyone having an idea for a new study group starting this year, please contact Judy Malamas, [tsagewood@aol.com](mailto:tsagewood@aol.com) or 632-0461. Some suggestions are listed below

Suggested topics are:

- Restaurant of the Month
- Movies and More
- Political Inquiry
- Non-fiction book club
- Gardening
- Card group (bridge, hearts, canasta etc.)

We need at least five members to form a new group. There will be sign-up sheets at the Pot Luck in September.

### Clueless Book Club

**When:** Tuesday, Sept. 27, 6pm

**Where:** Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

**Facilitator:** Karen Howard

**Book:** *The Eye of the Wolf* by Margaret Coel

**To Reserve:** Suzanne Grossman, 837-8769

### Dinner by the Book

**When:** Wednesday, Sept. 21, 5:30pm

**Where:** Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

**Book:** *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

**To Reserve:** Fran Witnauer, 688-5708 or [Grandmafran44@yahoo.com](mailto:Grandmafran44@yahoo.com).

**Questions:** Leona Barback 633-1982 or Marilyn Carmichael 228-8626

### The Knitting Group

**When:** Thursday, Sept. 22, 2-4pm

**Where:** Barnes & Noble on Transit near Main St.

**Contact Leader:** Margaret Fischer, at 632-8269 or

[margaretjf@roadrunner.com](mailto:margaretjf@roadrunner.com).

Coffee bar and refreshments are available.

Beginning knitters through those who are very skilled are welcome.

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## Legal Advocacy Fund

When Co-President Betty Preble and I attended the Association convention in Washington D.C. in June one of the first presentations we heard was from one of the plaintiffs in the WalMart case which was then before the Supreme Court. She was there speaking to the convention along with one of the lawyers working on the case. A great number of women who worked or are still working for Walmart were asking to be able to band together and bring a class action suit against Walmart for alleged discrimination in getting promotions and salary raises. One of the amicus briefs for the plaintiffs was from AAUW.

We now know that the women lost their plea for a class action suit and will have to proceed in smaller groups to take action against the company.

This is one example of the work of AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund to help women who face harassment and/or discrimination in the work place.

Last year Dinner by the Book hosted a luncheon and talk by Lauren Belfour. This event was a very successful fund raiser for LAF.

We need to find a successful fund raiser for this coming year. I have already received some very good suggestions. Since we can never have too many good fund raising ideas, surely this very intelligent group of women can come up with some more ideas! Perhaps we will have some left over for the future.

Thanks in advance,

*Sue Oliver*

## 2011-2012 Book Group Schedules

(Always check the monthly newsletter to be sure that things have not changed!)

**Clueless** meets at 6 pm at Bob Evans Restaurant, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Contact: Suzanne Grossman, 837-8769

Date	Book	Author
Tues, Sep 27	<i>The Eye of the Wolf</i>	Margaret Coel
Wed, Oct 26	<i>I Dreamed I Married Perry Mason</i>	Geraldine Brooks
Wed, Nov 30	<i>The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie</i>	Alan Bradley
December	<i>No Meeting</i>	
Wed, Jan 25	<i>End in Tears</i>	Ruth Rendell
Wed, Feb 15 (Joint Meeting with Dinner by the Book)	<i>A Fierce Radiance</i>	Lauren Belfer
Wed, Mar 28	<i>Your Royal Hostage</i>	Antonia Fraser
Wed, Apr 25	Annual Book Selection 2012-2013	
Wed, May 23	<i>Among the Mad</i>	Jacqueline Winspear
Wed, June 27	<i>Material Witness</i>	Robert K Tanenbaum

**Dinner by the Book** meets at 530 pm at Bob Evans Restaurant, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Contact: Leona Barback 633-1982 or Marilyn Carmichael 228-8626

Date	Book	Author
Wed, Sep 21	<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	Rebecca Skloot
Wed, Oct 19	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte
Wed, Nov 16	<i>Sarah's Key</i>	Tatiana De Rosnay
Wed, Dec 21	<i>Annie's Ghosts</i>	Steve Luxemberg
Wed, Feb 15 Joint Meeting with Clueless)	<i>A Fierce Radiance</i>	Lauren Belfer
Wed, Mar 21	<i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i>	Isabel Wilkerson
Wed, Apr 18	Annual Book Selection 2012-2013	
Wed, May 16	<i>All But My Life</i>	Gerda Weissman Klein
We, June 20	<i>Mudbound</i>	Robert K. Tanenbaum

# 57th Annual Book Sale Report



Once again the news is that the AAUW Buffalo Branch Annual Scholarship Book Sale was a great success. Slightly more than \$69,000 was realized. This amount included pre-sales as well. Expenses need to be paid out of that amount. This should leave us with more than \$50,000 to use for our pledge to the National AAUW Hilary Clinton Fellowship, local scholarships and community projects. The amount brought in was \$5,000 more than last year.

The good news is also the amount of participation by our branch members, the number of community volunteers who joined with us and the community awareness of this Sale. We have kept careful records of branch participation. 128 members participated. That is about 60% of our members. Their combined hours totaled about 41,000. We also had 60 family and friends of branch members help with the work. Anita Kunkle helped recruit volunteers for the pre-sale sorting and for work during the Sale. Thank you for a great job, Anita. Many members brought friends to help sort and work the sale. This is becoming quite common. An incentive for these volunteers is that volunteers may buy books during their sorting time. Of course they are exposed to our branch and we have had a few who have joined the branch. Thanks to word of mouth, our own printed publicity and the wonderful publicity given by Channel 4's Jacquie Walker, the community has come to feel ownership of the Sale. Many customers have reminisced about past sales, remembering various locations and describing wonderful books that they have acquired during past sales. We are indeed a community event!

Cathy Weiss secured the Office Depot Plaza site for us once again. We were concerned about the size of the site being diminished from a year ago. John Krebs, Cathy's contact at DDR, had a wall torn down for us creating an annex which served our needs well. Judy Clare, Site Manager mapped out that area and in fact supervised all the details leading to and including the Sale once we moved into Eggert Road. She is doing that again for 2012, for which we are grateful.

A few months before the Sale we received some unsettling news from National AAUW. We were informed that a law had been passed saying that no children's books published before 1986 could be sold to children under 12 years of age. The reason is that there is a possibility of lead in the printers ink used before that date. Laura Wright, armed with a magnifying light, patiently went through all the children's books so that we could comply with that law. These books could be sold to adults, so we sent the pre-1986 books on to GIGGIL to be sold. Through the efforts of the American Library Association, that law has just been repealed.

We sent out a call for "Good Guys" and once again they came to our rescue. They were so useful in picking up large donations of books, putting up our signs, setting up and taking down tables and managing heavy boxes, and even washing our windows. We could not manage without Larry Clare, Dick Emer, Jim Falletta, Fred Howard, Ron Kellner, Phillip Page, Carl Rassman, Mike Marino, Paul MacClennan, Bill Powers, and John Preble. David Binko was an invaluable helper.

Table chairs did their usual fantastic job and we even recruited a few helpers during sorting time. Dr. Don Birdd, Professor Emeritus at Buffalo State College chaired the Science Table. He also sorted out textbooks which we donated to the Center at Buff State named for him. The Center is devoted to studying the history of Science Curricula. He appreciated the donation and we appreciated his help.

Continuing a tradition started last year, Membership Recruitment chair, Cynthia Mehary, held the New Members Event at the Book Sale Site on May 24. New and Prospective members were welcomed, served refreshments, and introduced to the Book Sale. They were invited to shop and encouraged to volunteer to help. Many did sign up.

GIGGIL, the internet company which takes our leftover books is a gift to us. Last year Leona Barback, former Sale Treasurer, reported that we received more than \$2,000 from them from internet sales of our books. Very early on the day after the Sale, the GIGGIL truck arrived to take the leftovers. We eagerly await the incoming checks.

(Continued next page)

## Book Sale Report (Con't)

Part of the Steering Committee met in early August to select the winner of the Jacquie Walker Scholarship. The award will be given at our Pot Luck Dinner on September 19, 2011. We hope Jacquie will be there to present the award. We have just learned that Jacquie Walker is being inducted in to the Buffalo Broadcaster's Hall of Fame on September 22, 2011. What a well-deserved honor.

The Steering Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped continue the tradition of success for our Book Sale. We also want to thank Leona Barback who is leaving as Book Sale treasurer. She did such a thorough, careful job and over the years organized the Treasurer's committee into the smooth running operation it is now. She will be replaced by Barbara Libby.

Now we begin to plan for the 58<sup>th</sup> Sale. Sorting will begin at Kensington Bailey Neighborhood Services, 995 Kensington Avenue in Buffalo the week of September 18. It will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. If you would like to sort, but are unsure how to do it, just show up. Old hands will be there to show you.

*Judy Weidemann*

for the Steering Committee - *Judy Clare,  
Barbara Libby, Sue Licata, Peggy Meinl, Pat  
MacClennan, Cathy Weiss*

## Dues Reminder!



The start of the 2011-12 year is upon us and we are looking forward to a year's worth of exciting, informative, and enjoyable programs. AAUW Buffalo Branch also offers terrific study and interest groups and the camaraderie of like-minded women. We want to remind our members that the 2010-11 member year expired on July 1.

If you have double asterisks next to your name on the address label, it indicates that we had not received your dues as of the mailing of this newsletter. If you do not renew, next month's issue will be your last, so please mail in your dues. We want you all to keep receiving our newsletters so that you don't miss out on a single event. Please send dues to Freddie Cheek, 406 Maynard Drive, Amherst, NY 14226.

## Book Sale Table Donors



*We thank each of them. **Note:** We have a donation in honor of someone and a business sponsor.*

Lois Meyer

Francis Witnauer

Carolyn Day

Tamara Brown

Marguerite Collesano

Anastasia Johnson

Lillis McLean

Barbara Libby

William Powers

Florence Rembold

Peggy Meinl

In Honor Of Cathy Weiss (Sally Metzger)

Leona Barback

Ann Killian

Alliance Advisory Group (Suzanne Novelli)

Lois Dabney

Marie Barker

Caren Shapiro

Kathy Basher

Ruth Auer

Joan Eschner



## AAUW Day at Chautauqua

Tuesday, July 26, 2011, AAUW members were invited to spend the day together at Chautauqua Institution. Thanks to Maggie Irwin from the Jamestown Branch who so successfully put everything together. Women from Bath, Dunkirk, Elmira, Fredonia, State College, PA, and Warren, OH attended the event. Mary Kellner represented the Buffalo Branch. Each person received a welcome packet about Chautauqua when she arrived at the gate.

"21st Century Women: The Road to Social and Economic Growth" was the theme of the week. Those in attendance were privileged to hear Isobel Coleman, a senior fellow for US foreign policy for the Council on Foreign Relations, as they sat in a reserved section of the amphitheater behind the AAUW banner. Coleman had written a book entitled "Paradise Beneath Her Feet: How Women are Transforming the Middle East." She thinks that too many Westerners have expressed surprise at the success of women in bringing about change in the area. She believes that women's rights is a moral and human rights issue. It was a timely topic for AAUW members.

Following lunch at the Welcome Center, Jon Schmitz, Chautauqua Archivist and Historian, addressed the group. Since there were a few women who had not previously visited the Institution, he gave a brief overview of the history from 1873 to the present. He could have taken questions all afternoon, but there were too many other activities around the grounds and members soon dashed off to other areas.

It was a fun and informative day. They all asked to have another AAUW Day next summer. Hopefully Buffalo Branch will support the event in Chautauqua next year.

*Mary Kellner*

## Top Three Historic Advances for Women's Lives Now at Risk

**AAUW has listed ten historic advances which are threatened by the current political climate. The top three are listed below. For the complete list – and the details of the threat to each - go to the national website - <http://blog-aauw.org/hervotes/advances-for-women-at-risk/>**

### **1. Women's Right to Vote (1920)**

The 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1920, guaranteed American women the right to vote, although many women of color did not win full voting rights until 45 years later under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Currently women surpass men both in the proportion and numbers of women who vote.

### **2. Social Security Act (1935)**

Social Security is the bedrock of older women's financial security – virtually the only source of income for 3 in 10 women 65 and older – and a critical source of disability and life insurance protection throughout their lives.

### **3. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**

Taken together, these laws prohibit employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, including pregnancy, and national origin. The Equal Pay Act deals specifically with pay discrimination on the basis of sex. Title VII covers all employment actions, including hiring, promotion, pay, and termination, as well as all of the other terms and conditions of employment. Both have been central to expanding women's economic opportunities and helping women achieve economic and retirement security.

## Public Policy Report

I am in a newly appointed board position for public policy for AAUW. My responsibility is to keep the membership aware of current issues and recommend action when appropriate. The AAUW Action Network suggested attendance at a Town Hall meeting with Congressman Brian Higgins (D-27<sup>th</sup>) at Buffalo State College on August 17. The Network fortified me with several suggested questions which were helpful because I just joined AAUW earlier this year and need to learn the priority areas for advocacy. I attended the meeting and stood in line to ask my questions. For those who may be interested I'm sharing his responses:

**Q: Do you commit to protecting Social Security and Medicare from attempts to cut benefits?**

A: "Social Security is not the problem. Medicare is not the problem. We need to negotiate a favorable rate on drugs with volume discounts. We have a \$500 billion bill for Medicare, \$63 billion for drugs and 44 million beneficiaries. We could save 20 percent or \$15 billion. Our precedent for this model is the Veterans Administration."

**Q: The gender wage gap still stands at 77 cents on the dollar. What is your position on the Paycheck Fairness Act?**

A: "I fully support the Paycheck Fairness Act."

*(Note: Congress failed to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act in 2010.)*

**Q: Will you protect and strengthen Pell Grants and other such programs?**

A: "Of course. I am supportive of programs that provide access to higher education."

*(Note: Changes in graduate student loan financing means that the maximum Pell Grant award level will remain intact for at least the next two years.)*

The AAUW *Washington Update* has many other items of interest to members including summaries on current issues related to the national debt limit, affirmative action, school vouchers, birth control, and Title IX cases, to name a few. We're reminded that Congress has yet to enact any meaningful job creating legislation and hasn't acted on bills that deal with equity for women and girls.

*Marian Deutschman*

## Convention Report

You'd think that without a business meeting, there wouldn't be much point in going to a convention – that's always been the central focus. But you'd be wrong – the 2011 convention in Washington was a fabulous one, with much learning, action and networking.

Of course, the personal highlight for us was the opportunity to run up to the stage to receive one of only four "Breaking through Barriers" awards for Tech Savvy. Kudos to Tamara Brown, who has so expertly organized this program for six years now. The competition was stiff – all the finalists had displays there and many of the other programs were quite impressive.

Whenever the convention is in Washington D.C., a "lobby day" is organized. Thursday afternoon we were briefed on three current issues – the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act, support of the National Women's History Museum, and action to preserve and strengthen Social Security. Friday morning we all piled into buses and went up to "The Hill" to talk with the staff of our senators and representatives. The staff members are mostly young people, but they are bright and quite knowledgeable on the issues.

There were many wonderful speakers and workshops – one of the most engaging was Cynthia D'Amour whose topic was "Lead, Laugh, or Get out of the Way". Later, listening to the story of the Wal-Mart discrimination case from one of the plaintiffs really brought the issue home.

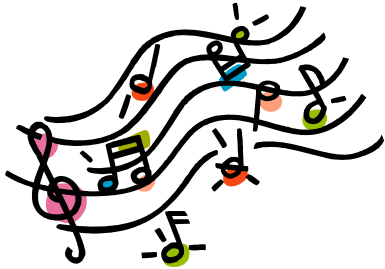
There was no business meeting due to the "one member/one vote" process which was adopted at the 2009 convention in St Louis. There are mixed emotions about that – although the philosophy behind giving everyone a voice is great, the lack of face-to-face debate on the issues and personal contact with the board candidates is a real loss. By the way, the participation rate for both NYS and the organization as a whole was about 14%.

Please do read all about the convention – many of the presentations are available on the national website (aauw.org – type "convention" in the search box) – and give some thought to joining the group at the next convention – June 9-12, 2013 in New Orleans.

*Betty Preble and Sue Oliver*



MUSICALFARE  
PRESENTS THE  
MUSICAL  
“OLIVER”



AAUW Buffalo Branch and the Dickens Fellowship are sponsoring a night at MusicalFare on October 13, 2011. The cost is \$30.00 per person. This cost is a \$5.00 saving over the regular price. Guests are welcome.

MusicalFare is located at the rear of the Daemen College Campus, 4380 Main St. Amherst, NY.

Send your check to: Judy Weidemann  
21 Nye Hill Rd.

East Aurora, NY, 14052

By September 15, 2011 - **Note the early deadline.**

Checks should be made payable to: **AAUW Buffalo Branch**

## Dates to Note:

- Wed, Sep 7, 5:45 pm – Buffalo Branch **Board Meeting**, Christ United Methodist Church, 350 Saratoga Rd. Amherst
- Sun, Sep 11, 12:30-3:30 pm- Interfaith Seminar: “The Moral Empowerment of Women”  
Address: Millenium Hotel  
Contact: Tehmina Rehman, [tehminarehmana@yahoo.com](mailto:tehminarehmana@yahoo.com)
- Wed, Sep 7, 5:45 pm – Buffalo Branch **Strategic Planning**, Christ United Methodist Church
- Mon, Sept. 19, 5:30-8 pm – Buffalo Branch **Annual Potluck Dinner**  
See pg 1 for details
- Sep 30-Oct 1 – National Women’s Hall of Fame Induction, Seneca Falls. Details at <http://www.greatwomen.org/news-and-events/induction-weekend>. Lilly Ledbetter will be honored!
- Wed, Oct 5, 5:45 pm – Buffalo Branch **Board Meeting**, Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main Street, West Seneca
- Oct. 8, 9::30 am - AAUW **District One Conference** at Jamestown Community College  
Speaker: Marcia Merrins, plus the film “Iron Jawed Angels”  
Contact: Pam Westman (Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch) - [pmwestman@yahoo.com](mailto:pmwestman@yahoo.com)  
Details in the Oct *Advocate*
- Oct. 13, 7 pm- **“Oliver”**, presented at the Daemen College Musical Fare Theater at Cost: \$30.00  
Contact: Judy Weidemann at [jweide7170@aol.com](mailto:jweide7170@aol.com)  
Details on this page

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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN



**Breaking through Barriers**

*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.*

**Return Service Requested**

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Moving? Please contact Freddie Cheek, 716-835-6945.

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on August 29, 2011.