

BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

NYS District 1

716.559.3037 - aauw.buffalo.edu

April 2012

AAUW FINANCE PROGRAM

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012

“IT’S NOT YOUR MOTHER’S RETIREMENT”

8:30 AM (registration) to Noon

Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem and Saratoga Roads,
Buffalo, NY 14226

The Buffalo Branch is pleased to be able to present an overview of an increasingly complicated issue facing today’s women – financial planning for a comfortable and successful retirement and why early planning is essential. Topics include Social Security changes, gifting your assets, estate planning by an eldercare attorney and an overview by member Ruby Williams. The cost is \$5.00 per person and refreshments are included. Pre-registration is required due to space limitations. Please plan to join AAUW members and guests for this informative workshop.

Deadline for registration is April 25, 2012. Send this form and your payment to Joan Trinchera, 84 Pleasant Ave., Hamburg, NY 14075. Questions may be addressed to Ruby Williams, 837-5903.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING @ \$5.00 _____

NAME OF GUEST(S): _____

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BUFFALO BRANCH AWARDS LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 12

Join us at the elegant Garret Club for a delicious lunch and celebration of the Buffalo Branch. There will be an election of officers and recognition of this year's Achievement Award winner. The meeting is open to the public and you are encouraged to bring guests.

In addition to presenting the Achievement Award, we will be honoring 25 and 50 year branch members. We will also present Membership Awards, the Buffalo Branch Recognition Award, Educational Foundation Named Gift Recipients, plus winners of our Velma Cobb and Dorothy Payne Scholarships and Catalyst for Change Awards.

Place: The Garret Club, 91 Cleveland Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. Details on pg 4 and reservation form on pg 7

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Barb's Beliefs

Do you read the newspaper? Listen to/watch the news on radio/television? Read your AAUW mailings? Surely you read about topics on which you have an opinion. Maybe you even get upset or angry at something you hear discussed on talk radio. Or on one of those "talking heads" shows on TV. I sure do!

Part of being an informed citizen, an intelligent person, is knowing what is going on in your town, your country, your world. And so we form opinions.

If you really care about those opinions, you might feel that you want others to share them. You might want your government officials or your neighbors to share your opinions. How can you do that? Well, here's one idea: *Write for the newspaper!*

I'm sure you read the Opinion pages in the *Buffalo News*. Have you ever seen an article or a letter to the editor written by one of your friends? I have! So I know we can get something published where thousands will read it. Look at **My View** beside the "official" editorials. It's a first-person column open to all Western New York writers. Your article should be about 600 words, including some personal storytelling along with the argument you are presenting. Do more than just tell your opinion.

A second place you could express yourself is the **Another Voice** column. That's the one at the bottom of the editorials. It's a little shorter... just 475 words. You should have some background or expertise in the subject.

On the opposite page, next to the syndicated columnists, you see **Everybody's Column**, the letters to the editor. Here you can write up to 300 words with your opinion about a topic, usually something that's currently in area news. Your facts must be accurate, and you must include your name, address, and phone number.

Maybe your first or second try won't get published. It's OK. Keep at it. It will be so exciting to see your name when your opinions are published in the paper!

Barbara Carier

Betty's Rambles

March is a busy month for AAUW, but it brings an even busier spring season with the state convention, a program on finances that couldn't be more pertinent in this economy, our annual meeting, and of course our BOOKSALE! I've been going to the meetings of the booksale committee this year and wish you could all join us, at least as mice in the corner, listening to these busy and dedicated women. I've never been to a meeting where a need came up without someone (or multiple someones) immediately saying "I'll look into that" or "I'll cover that" or "Do you need help with that?" In addition to attending meetings, volunteering to do the needed jobs (and following through on the promises!), several committee members and other "regular" volunteers are at the sorting site faithfully at least once a week – plus the special trips to collect from libraries, etc. It is truly a joy and a privilege to work with these wonderful women. I hope you all appreciate them.

Now, as we come to crunch time, I hope you will help to do your part in this, our major fundraiser. There are lots of requests for your help in the booksale corner. And we will need it! There are TONS of books to work on. I won't go into details, but we will need helping hands with everything from cleanup of the site to moving boxes of books to the appropriate tables to sorting, sorting, sorting. If you're not able to help with the physical labor perhaps you can assist with calling, providing much appreciated refreshments, coordinating efforts, helping fund the table rentals, etc. This is the money that allows us to do our work in the community and fulfill our mission – advancing equity through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research – both at the local and national levels. I'll be sorting regularly – hope to see many of you there!

Betty Preble

THE BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE

is published monthly Sept-June as a bulletin of events for members and as an update on AAUW issues and programs.

- Co-Presidents: Barbara Carier, Betty Preble
- Publisher/Editor: Selma Bektesevic
- Assistant Editors: Betty Preble, Judy Weidemann, Barbara Carier

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, Marguerite Collesano, VP of Membership Retention, at 853-6480 or mcollesano@aol.com.

April 2012
Vol. XXXII, No. 8
Circulation 200

BUFFALO BRANCH STUDY AND INTEREST GROUPS

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 or 632-0461.

Schedules for the Month:

Clueless Book Club

When: Wed, Apr. 25, 2012, 6 pm
Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Annual book selection for 2012-2013
To Reserve: Suzanne Grossman at 8378769

Dinner by the Book

When: Wed, Apr. 18, 2012, 5:30 pm
Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Facilitator: Fran Witnauer
Annual book selection for 2012-2013
To Reserve: Fran Witnauer, 688-5708 or Grandmafran44@yahoo.com.

The Knitting Group

When: Wed., Apr. 11, 2-4 pm
Where: Barnes & Noble on Transit near Main St.
Contact Leader: Margaret Fischer, at 632-8269 or margaretjf@roadrunner.com
All knitters – beginners or advanced – are welcome to join us.

Restaurant-of-the-Month Group

Restaurant: Le Metro
Where: 5110 Main Street, Walker Center, Amherst, NY 14221
When: Sun., Apr. 29, 5:30 PM
Questions: Contact Maria, at marcoppola@gmail.com
RSVP: by Thur., Apr. 26 via email or call 716-289-8149
About the Restaurant: Le Metro is an artisan French bistro that is comfortable and welcoming. It offers fresh baked breads, exceptional wines, classic favorites, and innovative specials. Dinner entrees starting from \$20; salads, sandwiches and pizza starting at \$12.
Separate checks are available.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS CO-SPONSORED BY AAUW

SEMINAR

The Buffalo/Niagara Chapter of Friends of Women's Rights National Park is planning its annual event: a presentation about Matilda Joslyn Gage, "She Who Holds the Sky: Matilda Joslyn Gage" by Sally Roesch Wagner, Director of the Matilda Joscelyn Gage Center in Fayetteville, New York.

Matilda Joslyn Gage, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony were called the "triumvirate of the movement", yet Matilda has been all but written out of history. Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, the foremost authority on Gage, enlightens us about this amazing woman "lost from history".

Thursday, April 12th, 2012 at Karpeles Manuscript Museum
Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

7:00 Dessert and Coffee
7:30 Talk by Sally Roesch Wagner

Free and Open to the Public!

THE ERIE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN PRESENTS WOMEN'S WORTH WORKSHOP

April 17, 2012 (Pay Equity Day) 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Jacobs Executive Development Center
672 Delaware Avenue ▪ Buffalo, New York 14209
(Free parking available off North Street behind building)

The gap between sexes continues to plague the American workforce. Did you know that in 2010, women earned only 78% of what men earned? The purpose of this workshop is to raise awareness and provide tools that will empower you in negotiating pay that reflects your worth. You will learn how to educate yourself on what your skills, talents and abilities are worth in the marketplace and learn how to negotiate effectively. This workshop is free with limited seating available on a first come, first served basis. Hurry and reserve your spot today at csw@erie.gov or call 716.858.8307.

Be Informed! Be Inspired! Be Empowered!

NOMINATIONS

The following slate for officers for 2012 was presented for the Nominating Committee by Stacey Johnson, Nominating Committee Chair, to the Board of Directors on March 7th for approval. The Board voted to approve the slate, and it will be presented at the annual meeting in May for the Members' vote.

2012 AAUW Buffalo Branch Slate of Officers
Membership Recruitment VP – Cynthia Mehary
Chief Financial Officer – Michelle Norris
Secretary – Taylor Page
Education and Program Treasurer - Ruth Fierro-King
Fundraising Treasurer – Barbara Libby
Scholarship Chair – Susan McClary
Nominating Committee chair – Lillis McLean
Nominating Committee members - Judy Weidemann, Ruby Williams

Committee members: Stacey Johnson, Chair; Leona Barback, Yvonne Curry, Susan Licata, Lillis McLean,

MAY LUNCHEON DETAILS!

11:30 registration, with musical entertainment
by Paul Sciabarrasi

12:00 Luncheon, awards, annual meeting

Parking: Enter from Cleveland Ave. or from Auburn Ave. There is a long driveway next to the Garret Club and parking in the back. Both entrances have a handicapped accessible entrance.

Menu: Pea and Pear Soup

Crepes with chicken, spinach, and mushrooms plus assorted vegetables

Vegetarian choice- Spinach pie with pine nuts, feta cheese, and tomatoes provencal

Lemon Ice Box Cake

Coffee, tea, water

For participant registration form see pg. 7.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Wed, Apr. 4, 5:45 pm** – Buffalo Branch **Board Meeting**, Ebenezer United Church of Christ, West Seneca
- **Thurs, April 12, 7 pm, Matilda Joslyn Gage Lecture.** Details on pg 3
- **Tues, April 17, 8 am, Pay Equity Day** Program entitled "Be Informed, Be Inspired, Be Empowered". Details on pg 3
- **Fri-Sun April 20-22 AAUW-NYS Convention**
Location: Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, Rochester, NY. Details on the AAUW-NYS website (aauw-nys.org)
- **Sat., April 28, 8:30 am – Branch Program: "It's not your Mother's Retirement"**
Location: Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem at Saratoga
Details on pg 1
- **Wed. May 2, 5:45 pm** - Buffalo Branch **Board Meeting**, Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem at Saratoga
- **Sat, May 12 – Branch Annual Meeting at the Garret Club**
- **Wed-Sun, May 30-June 3 – BOOKSALE!!!**

Condolences... to the family and friends of Lyn McDonald, who lost her fight with cancer on March 14. Lyn had been an active member of our branch for ten years and will be sadly missed.

NEW MEMBERS

Teresa Marie Ober

49 Johnson Park Apt 6, Buffalo, NY 14201

Cell: 607 227-8920

E-mail: tmo26@cornell.edu

Education: BA Psychology, Cornell University 2011

Marcia Turley

421 Delta Rd. #1, Amherst, NY 14226

Phone: 716 913-3892

E-mail: marciaalt@aol.com

Education: MS Teacher Education Buffalo State 1974, BA Liberal Arts, SUNY Buffalo 1970

BUFFALO BRANCH OF AAUW GIVES A HELPING HAND TO UNITED HANDS OF HOPE

In December, the board voted to use \$3000 of the bequest from Carol and Charles Jamieson to support a new foundation – United Hands of Hope. This new organization is to aid and shelter the victims of human trafficking in WNY. The founder of United Hands of Hope is Sheriff's Deputy and AAUW member Elizabeth Fildes, who spoke to the branch last spring about this issue.

Western New York has become an intensive hub of trafficking in sex trade. *The crime of human trafficking occurs across the US and throughout the world*, but it is **also on our doorstep**. Western New York is a center of trafficking in sex trade, farming, labor and domestic service. Whenever there is high poverty, family disintegration, and large immigrant populations, vulnerable people are lured into employment that can be demeaning and life threatening. The crime of human trafficking in its many forms occurs within our city limits and in surrounding areas. As a border town, Buffalo imports and exports victims, including residents of our city, into modern day slavery. In the US approximately 17,000 persons, primarily women and children, are trafficked each year. The worldwide number is 12.3 million.

The funds will be used for educational purposes such as computers and books to benefit the victims who will live in the proposed shelter. We are very pleased to help this cause to provide recovery services to domestic survivors of human trafficking. It very nicely fits under the overall mission of AAUW and the My Sister's Keeper project of NYS AAUW.

Lillis McLean, Sue Oliver and Betty Preble presented the check on March 14.



Pictured left to right: Elizabeth Fildes, Sheriff Howard, Betty Preble, Sue Oliver

As Public Policy chair for our local branch of AAUW, I have the occasional opportunity to participate in a White House-hosted conference call that is arranged by the Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator of AAUW in Washington, DC. The most recent call in early March (Women's History Month) provided a broad update and overview of some of the administration's projects and initiatives addressing women's issues and gender equity. Most of the call was in "listen only" mode but following the presentation by three key women at the White House, we were given an opportunity to ask questions.

Although the presentations were off the record, many of the issues related to women can be accessed by going to the White House website to see the agenda of the White House Council on Women and Girls. This site highlights the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Equal Pay Task Force and other initiatives to address the disparity in equal pay. Women, on average, still make 23 cents less on each dollar earned by their male counterparts, and women of color and women with disabilities earn even less.

Other issues address women in business and violence against women. Women play an important role in our nation's economic recovery. Forty years ago women owned only five percent of small businesses. Today they own nearly 30 percent, but they need assurance of an equal playing field when competing in the business world.

Since passage of the Violence Against Women Act, there is a new generation of young people who face the threat of abuse. Young women, ages 16-24, experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault. A 2009 study of sixth-grade students found that 25 percent thought it was acceptable for boys to hit their girlfriends. A Teen Dating Violence Helpline has a "chat" function that is answered by teens to provide the information they need. Social networking can be used to change attitudes. Social networking and text messaging are the preferred communication methods of American teens. There is evidence that teen girls text fifty times more than boys. Although we did not discuss bullying in our conference call, these intentional acts of aggression with the goal of hurting the victim have become a pervasive form of violence often involving cyber harassment.

For those of you who would like more information on these issues check out www.whitehouse.gov for a wealth of additional information on the administration's initiatives related to women and girls.

Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair



BOOKSALE CORNER

We have our Book Sale site and now are ready to roll with the help of all the branch members. The 58th Annual Buffalo Branch Scholarship Book Sale will take place from May 30 – June 3, 2012. We have the same site as last year, the Office Depot Plaza at Sheridan Drive and Eggert Road.

The site will be open on April 16, 2012 for continued sorting. We look forward to welcoming members and volunteer non-members to sort. Sorters may buy books, except collectibles, while they sort. We have been busy sorting at the Kensington Bailey Depot since last September. Many more books will be dropped off at the Sale site, so plan to lend a hand. The site will be open for sorting Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. We will be open on Tuesday evenings until 8:00 pm. We will be open on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will be closed on May 12, 2012, the day of the Branch Luncheon. If this is the first time for you to sort, experienced sorters will be there to help. You do not need to sign up ahead of time for sorting. Just come by. Each shift has a supervisor. If you are able to be a shift supervisor, please contact Judy Weidemann at JWeide7170@aol.com or 655-3649.

Part of the great tradition of the Book Sale is the high amount of member participation both during preparation and at the Sale. We are suggesting that members volunteer for three (3) shifts during the Sale; however all volunteer help is welcome.

The volunteer coupon found on page 7 is to be used for volunteering during the Sale. Return the volunteer coupon to Judy Weidemann. We are looking forward to another exciting and productive Book Sale. We have accomplished so much good with proceeds of the Sale each year! See you at the Sale site.

Book Sale Steering Committee: Judy Clare, Cindy Koch, Barbara Libby, Sue Licata, Peggy Meinel, Pat Swift, Judy Weidemann, and Cathy Weiss.

PRE-SALE Sorting and Setup

Starting April 16, 2012 – drop in whenever convenient – for an hour or a full day!

Weekdays: 9:00 – 5:00 except 9:00 - 8:00 on Tuesdays

Saturdays 9:00 – 1:00 (except May 12)

We are in need of very hard working, talented, attractive (even in their well-worn clothes) and cheerful volunteers! ☺

Book Sale Shift Volunteer Signup

The Book Sale is Wednesday, May 30 through Sunday June 3, 2012. Please sign up as soon as possible. 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

Note: Job Descriptions are on the AAUW Website: aauw.buffalo.edu

IMPORTANT BOOK SALE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Besides the need for shift volunteers, we have additional needs:

Table Donors: Consider donating \$15 for each table. More than one table can be donated. Table donors will be acknowledged at the Sale. Please send table donations to Barbara Libby, 93 Melody Lane, Tonawanda, NY 14150. Checks may be made payable to AAUW Buffalo.

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 JWeide7170@aol.com or 655-3649 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.

Tech Savvy Women or Men: We need people willing to check out customers on the computer in order to keep their names on our mailing list. Computer literate volunteers are needed for this job. Call Judy Weidemann to volunteer or note your willingness to volunteer for this job on the coupon.

Judy Weidemann, Steering Committee

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

An LAF case was featured in a film called *The Invisible War* which was shown at the Sundance Film Festival. This is a documentary film about the widespread problem of sexual assault in the military. The Department of Defense estimates that about 19,000 military service women and men were sexually assaulted and raped in 2010. The documentary features several of the plaintiffs from the LAF-supported lawsuit *Cioca v. Rumsfeld*, including the lead plaintiff, Kori Cioca. It also features her attorney, Susan Burke. The documentary premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January and earned the Audience Award.

Sue Oliver, AAUW Funds Chair



Co-President Barbara Carier at the Women's History Expo at the downtown library on March 1.

Book Sale – Volunteer Coupon

Questions about Book Sale? Contact Judy Weidemann at JWeide7170@aol.com

For more info refer to AAUW Website: aauw.buffalo.edu

Name _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

- ____ Table Donors (Day: _____ hours: _____)
- ____ Good Guys (Day: _____ hours: _____)
- ____ Refreshments during the Sale (Day: _____ hours: _____)
- ____ Tech Savvy Women or Men (Day: _____ hours: _____)
- ____ Pre-Sale Sorting and Setup (Day: _____ hours: _____)
- ____ Book Sale Shift Volunteer Signup (Day: _____ hours: _____)

Please send this form to:

Judy Weidemann, 21 Nye Hill Rd. East Aurora, NY 15052

Registration Form for the May 12 Luncheon

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Crepes with chicken _____ @\$25 = _____ enclosed

Spinach pie with pine nuts _____ @\$25 = _____ enclosed

Please mail this form and checks by May 5, 2012 to
Joan Trinchera, 84 Pleasant Ave., Hamburg, NY 14075

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.



Breaking through Barriers

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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