

BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

NYS District 1

716.559.3037 - aauw.buffalo.edu

January 2012



JANUARY PROGRAM

WOMEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2 PM

On **Saturday, January 21, at 2 PM** we'll have a chance to find out more about the Women's Health Initiative from co-director Dr. Jean Wactawski-Wende. The meeting is in the Hearth Room of **Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main Street, West Seneca**. Convenient parking is available in church parking lots across the street and adjacent to the church.

Join us for this informative session learning about recent developments. As always, friends are welcome!

Afternoon tea will be served at no cost. A free will offering will be taken. Please contact Betty Krist at 675-4059 or kristbj@verizon.net by January 14 to make a reservation so we can be sure to accommodate everyone.

If you'd like to help by making some of the tea sandwiches, cookies, scones, or the like, please contact Betty. We also need hostesses who can help serve and of course set-up and clean-up.

This will surely be a good opportunity for learning and a fine way to spend a cozy afternoon with good friends!



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

WOMEN IN SPORTS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 10 AM

Amy Moritz, a Buffalo News sports reporter as well as an adjunct professor at both Niagara University and D'Youville College, will be the featured speaker for our February program with the topic "Women in Sports." She will talk about the historical influence of women in sports and the women's sports movement as well its portrayal in the media. Attention will then be paid to today's female athlete and the journey she must negotiate between being media savvy and empowering. Location and more details in the February *Advocate* – be sure to save the date!

Also watch for local celebrations of the 26th annual Women and Girls in Sports Day on February 1!

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Barb's Beliefs

"Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises." Demosthenes, statesman

Are you thinking of making some resolutions for the New Year? Many of us are. It's traditional and sometimes even useful. Of course most resolutions fade and die before we reach the desired goals. Too bad. Do you try again? Sometimes I do, but nothing seems to give the same impetus as the beginning of a new year. So let's talk about making some resolutions.

Usually they have to do with losing weight or losing a bad habit. Maybe you want to spend more time with friends and family. Do you want to get organized? Learn something new? Get in shape?

How are you going to reach these goals? It's tough! You've tried before, probably, but maybe there's another way to accomplish the goal, different from the techniques you tried before. Pick one small part of what you want to do – something that can be accomplished fairly soon. Lose that first 5 pounds, instead of all 20... call two old friends, and start to feel that you are getting in touch again... go out for a jog twice and you'll begin to feel that you might run that marathon after all... substitute one favorite junk food with something nutritious... you get the idea. Start small and it's easier to keep at it.

It also helps to plan what you're going to do. Tell a friend and ask for moral support! Think about what you did before, especially if it didn't work, and try something different. If you slip and have a bad day, don't worry. Just start again.

You know I hope you will resolve to become more active in AAUW, to work on the book sale sorting, to go to one of the book group discussions... even to volunteer to help with one of our award-winning activities. Co-president Betty Preble has some great ideas in her message to you. It would be so good to see more new faces – or more familiar ones – at the next meeting, or the one after that. Buffalo Branch is already a fantastic group of women. You won't regret it! Begin something great with us!

Barbara Carier

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.

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Betty's Rambles

What's in YOUR resolution list?

Have you thought about AAUW in conjunction with your lists of resolutions for the New Year? There are all sorts of opportunities, both to work on AAUW issues and to have more fun with other members! First of all, the nominating committee is working to select candidates for several offices for the next two years (2012-2014). The membership recruitment VP, Secretary, Chief Financial Officer, Education & Program Accounts Treasurer, Fundraising Treasurer, Scholarship Chair, Nominating Chair (one year) and two nominating committee member positions are all open. Some of the current office holders may run for re-election, but not all of them are eligible to do so. If the nominating committee calls you, please consider saying "yes". Or, better yet, contact chair Stacey Johnson (jhnsn@buffalo.edu) or one of the other members ([Sue Licata](#), [Lillis McLean](#), [Leona Barback](#) and [Yvonne Curry](#)) to volunteer!

Besides holding office, there are many jobs that need extra hands! Consider helping with one of the monthly branch programs (contact [Joan Trinchera](#)), Tech Savvy ([Tamara Brown](#)), or Sister-to-Sister ([Sue Oliver](#)). Or working on one of the scholarship committees ([Susan McClary](#)). Do you like to chat on the phone? Perhaps you could check the branch voicemail regularly and contact the appropriate people to respond to the messages. And, of course, the more the merrier for book sorting and managing ([Judy Weidemann](#).)

On the fun side, please keep in mind the upcoming AAUW-NYS convention. It's been a long time since it's been in such a convenient location for us – it will be held April 20-22 at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, just outside Rochester. The theme this year will be, appropriately for the location, the Women's History Trail. Our own "[Uncrowned Queens](#)" will be presenting one of the workshops. Details will be in the next issue of the NYS *FOCUS*, and updates are continually being added to the state website (www.aauw-nys.org/convention.htm). It's always fun to network with other AAUW members and to see what other branches are doing – I hope you'll join us there!

My resolution? Try to keep up with all of our active members!

Betty Preble

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.

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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, Jan. 25, 6:00 pm

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Facilitator: Shirley Havice

Book: *End in Tears* by Ruth Rendell

To Reserve: Suzanne Grossman, 837-8769

Dinner by the Book

When: Wed, Jan. 18, 2012, 5:30 pm

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Discussion Leader: Maryann Hope

Book: *Annie's Ghosts* by Steve Luxemberg

To Reserve: Fran Witnauer, 688-5708 or
Grandmafran44@yahoo.com.

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

The Knitting Group

When: Mon, Jan. 23, 2-4 pm

Where: Barnes & Noble on Transit near Main St.

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

All knitters – beginners or advanced – are welcome to join us.

Restaurant-of-the-Month Group

Restaurant: Citta di Millitello

Where: 760 Wehrle Drive, Cheektowaga, New York 14225

When: Sun., Jan. 30, 5:30pm

Questions: Contact Maria Coppola at
marcoppola@gmail.com

To Reserve: by Friday, January 28 via email or call 716-289-8149

About Restaurant: The menu is filled with wonderful authentic Italian and Sicilian selections. The atmosphere is casual and the parking is easy.

Link to Citta di Millitello menu:

<http://www.militellos.com/menu/welcome.html>

Separate checks available.

Movie Watchers Group

No meeting. The group will be disbanded due to lack of interest.



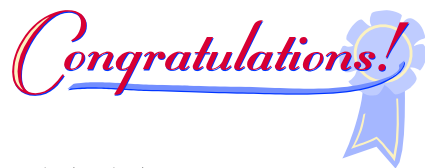
BOOK SALE CORNER

Book collection and sorting at Kensington-Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, 995 Kensington Ave. has resumed after the holiday recess. A fantastic turnout of volunteers in early December has pretty much cleared our stock of unsorted books and, as usual, we are begging for more. Keep us in mind in your conversations with family and friends who may want to weed out their collections and do help us spread the word to all those book-loving strangers out there via our bookmarks.

The committee was busy prior to the holidays making plans for the big move to the sale site, wherever that may be. Sue Licata, table chair, will be contacting some of you about taking responsibility for a category. Please respond in a timely fashion. While we are all hoping to recapture last year's site, there is nothing definite yet. If you know of an alternative, we will be happy to hear from you.

Meanwhile, book sale workers who attended a session with book –dealer Kevin Ransom on researching and pricing collectible and new books have a lot of knowledge to share with any members who would like to get involved in this aspect of the sale preparation. Give Judy Weidemann or Cathy Weiss a call and they will tell you how to do this.

Pat Swift-MacClennan, Booksale Committee



To Tamara Brown!

Excerpts from Tamara's original note of Dec 3:

Hello.

I came back (*from a trip*) to several notes & calls that the White House was trying to get in touch with me. (That doesn't happen everyday!) After verifying that this really was the White House-- and not a 40th birthday joke-- I was happy to find out that I am being awarded as a **Champion of Change**, part of the President's Winning the Future initiative. This week's champion category is Women in Science Technology Engineering & Math, something that I care a little about!

Many of you have been so instrumental in Tech Savvy and other efforts, so I hope you will be pleased to see this recognition of what really can't be done by one person alone-- and to see the opportunity to join with others from across the country on such an important effort.

The White House will release the official press release, and you can see my blog about Tech Savvy and STEM issues (yes, I am going to blog) on the White House website soon.

The event will be streamed live on Friday, Dec 9 at 3:30 EST, so please "join" me then at www.whitehouse.gov/live. This will also be available on YouTube shortly after the event.

Kindest regards,

Tamara

DATES TO NOTE:

- Wed, Jan 4, 5:45 pm – Buffalo Branch **Board Meeting**, Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem at Saratoga.
- Sat, Jan. 21, 2 pm **UB Women's Health Initiative**
Location: Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St, West Seneca
Speaker: Jean Wactowski-Wende, PhD
- Wed, Feb 1, 5:45 pm – Buffalo Branch **Board Meeting**, Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St, West Seneca
- Sat, Feb 25, 10 am – **Women in Sports**
Speaker: Amy Moritz
Location: tba
- Sat, March 17 **Tech Savvy 7**
Location: UB
- Sat, March 31 **Sister to Sister**
Location: TBA
- Fri. April 20-22 **AAUW-NYS Convention**
Location: Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, Rochester, NY

UPDATE on Tamara's Honor!

The Buffalo News used the White House press release for a wonderful [article](#) about Tamara's award, her [blog](#) is now available online, the White House presentation ceremony is now available on [YouTube](#), and [pictures](#) taken by national AAUW staff members are available on Picasa. Links to all of these are available on the branch website – www.aauw.buffalo.edu. Please join us in congratulating her on this well-deserved honor!

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Elena Delgado
47 Harvard Place
Orchard Park, NY 14127
Tel: 716 860-2881
E-Mail: elenad47@verizon.net

Susan Lewandowski
92 Tennyson Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216
Tel: 716 553-3618
E-Mail: suenikki2@aol.com

AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH NOW ON FACEBOOK!

In an effort to reach a more technologically savvy group of individuals and prospective new members, AAUW Buffalo Branch has developed a Facebook page.

The page currently is populated with dates, times, and other information for upcoming events and interest group meetings. It will also be a place to promote scholarship and loan application deadlines, branch news, and other important information that we want members to share with friends, family, and colleagues, so they will in turn share it with their circles of contacts.

And that's the point. The more people we reach with information about AAUW in the Buffalo area and beyond, the larger our influence and potential recruitment pool become.

BUT, just having the page is not enough. We need members to follow it and share it. If you are currently online and have a Facebook account, you can find our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/AAUW-Buffalo-Branch/245371875483291>

Or you can simply search for "AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH" in Facebook and the page will come up. I know a few people from my circle are now following the branch, and that can only grow.

If you are not on Facebook yet, you can easily join by going to www.Facebook.com. There is nothing invasive about the program and you can set your own privacy controls to allow or block as much as you like.

If we want to reach the 20- to 70- somethings in Buffalo and get them thinking about AAUW, this is one really good way to do it. I hope you'll link to our page and share the works and activities of our branch with as many people as possible.

Maria Coppola, Public Relations Chair



IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Sutor passed away on October 27. Ruth was an honorary life member, having joined in 1946! She will be sadly missed by her many friends in Buffalo Branch.

PUBLIC POLICY

The federal Equal Pay Act (EPA) was signed in 1963 when women made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men (based on Census figures of median wages of full-time, year-round workers). Recent surveys have found that women still only earn about 80 cents to men's dollar. This wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family an estimated \$700,000 to \$2 million over the course of her working life. Women are the primary wage earners in more than 1 million households in New York and in two parent households over 60 percent of working mothers earn more than a quarter of their families' income. However, on average, a full time working woman in New York is paid \$40,584 annually, while a full time working man is paid \$49,174 annually.

Women and minorities are often segregated into low-paying occupations. Studies show that the more an occupation is dominated by women or other minorities, the less it pays. Many believe that Pay Equity or compensation based on comparable worth - evaluating and compensating jobs based on their skills, efforts, responsibilities, and working conditions and not on the people who hold the jobs - is a solution to eliminating wage discrimination and closing the wage gap.

In 1985 New York State undertook a study to determine pay inequity for jobs held by State workers and subsequently the Executive took administrative action to eliminate inequities. Other state and local governments have made similar efforts. There are several legislative initiatives to address pay equity concerns in both public and private sector workplaces in New York. The Committees are seeking comment on the problem of pay inequity in New York, the response of State government, pay equity legislation, and other potential solutions.

Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

REMINDER – DUES PARTLY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!

Of the \$49 national dues for regular members each year, \$46 is deductible on your income tax returns. AND – so is the \$15 Buffalo Branch dues (new, with the transformation into a 501(c)(3) organization!) New York State is moving towards a 501(c)(3) status but has not yet gotten there, so the \$13 state dues is NOT deductible!

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.

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.



Breaking through Barriers

Return Service Requested



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