

BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

NYS District 1

716.559.3037 - aauw.buffalo.edu

March 2012

The American Association of University Women
Buffalo Branch
presents its 11TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, March 8, 2012, 5:15 pm

5:15 p.m. social gathering; 6:15 p.m. dinner; 7:30 p.m. program

Guest Speaker - Filomena M. Critelli, Assistant Professor
University at Buffalo School of Social Work

Topic: Past, Present and Future of Pakistan (Focus – Women & Children)

Location: Milos Restaurant (Formerly known as The Little White House)
5877 Main Street, Williamsville, New York 14221

For Dinner Registration see pg. 7.

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TECH SAVVY Conference: Saturday, March 17, 2012 This year... It's a Really GOOD Thing!

The seventh annual Tech Savvy conference is around the corner! On Saturday, March 17, we will welcome about 500 girls in grades 6-9 plus 250 parents and teachers. This year we also launch the *Tech Savvy Girls on a Roll* program for 10th-12th graders....We are expecting fifty 10th grade girls for SAT prep.

The Conference is designed to inspire middle school girls to pursue STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, and math)—and to provide adults with relevant information. *Tech Savvy* features 20 workshops for the girls plus six savvy skills workshops, introducing critical life success skills such as negotiating, business dress and interview preparation, and ethical decision making. Since *Tech Savvy* is not just for students, adults will enjoy a special panel discussion and a special *meet the author* session with Dr. Diann Jordan, biologist, professor, and author of *Sisters of Science*. Girls will find out about all of the GOOD they can do by practicing STEM careers. See more about the *good* theme on Pg. 6.

You can participate in Tech Savvy in several ways:

- Join us for the reception on Friday, March 16 – Mingle with other volunteers, workshop leaders, and the out-of-town guests!!!
- Join us for the adult activities on Saturday, March 17.
- Volunteer for all or part of the day on March 17. (more than 50 volunteers are needed for the day between 7 am and 5 pm)

For participant registration form see pg. 7.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Barb's Beliefs

"Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous patience."

– Hyman Rickover, Admiral

If you haven't yet read the article our Public Policy Chair Marian Deutschman has written for this month's *Advocate*, please take a few minutes for it. AAUW is launching a new GOTV, or Get Out the Vote, drive. We Americans, and particularly we women, need to let ourselves be heard again and encourage, no... *insist* that people we know get registered and informed about the issues in next fall's election. It's time for "courageous patience" while we talk to family members, acquaintances, neighbors, and others about the matters important to us. If you want to write a letter to the editor of any little or large newspaper, the AAUW website will have some talking points you might choose to include. If you want to speak at a public forum, there are encouraging hints for you. The time to start thinking about this is *now*, not in September or October.

If you want to campaign for a particular candidate, you may do that in your own name, not in the name of AAUW. If you want to campaign for an issue, of course you may do it in your own name, but check the AAUW website. Perhaps it is one of the issues where our national association has a position, and then you may speak using the name of our group if your comments support the national position. Using the name of AAUW will add weight to what you say because of the reputation of AAUW.

Dr. Deutschman speaks of millennials, the 18-31 year olds who may or may not have gotten into the habit of voting. Others, too, need some encouragement. Have you or has someone you know moved? Did you/they register to vote in the new location? This is an easy place for you to start your own patient but courageous work for our government to adopt good ideas. We can make a difference in our society by our involvement, but "good ideas are not adopted automatically." It takes dedication and determination. AAUW can help.

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.

- 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.

Betty's Rambles

Did you know? That 100 years ago this month Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls together in Savannah, Georgia, for the first-ever Girl Scout meeting?

What do AAUW and the Girl Scouts have in common? Everything! Including, of course, a love of cookies – but that's beside the point.

- The Girl Scout mission: "Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place."
- The AAUW mission: advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Sounds like a lot of overlap to me! As AAUW works to make sure that the opportunities are there for every woman and girl to achieve her potential, Girl Scouts works to make sure that their members take advantage of those opportunities and grow into women who will continue that work. What synergy!

Please join the Girl Scouts in celebrating their centennial – if Girl Scouts is part of your personal past, consider joining them in July for a "Rock the Falls" singalong! Read about it on the GS website: <http://www.gswny.org/pages/rockthefalls.aspx>

In the meantime, please join us at all the activities we have planned for the coming month – our International Women's Day dinner on the 8th, Tech Savvy on the 17th, Sister-to-Sister on the 31st, plus all the various interest groups, book sorting, and scholarship deliberations. As you gather with friends on these occasions, give some thought to what you're getting out of and giving to AAUW – and what more you might want. If you're interested in an area, start an interest group! If you have a program idea, contact the program VP and join the group in planning for next year! If there's a big project you think the branch should be spearheading, give Barb or me a call - this is YOUR branch and we want YOU to be proud to say you're an active member!

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, Mar. 28, 2012, 6 pm

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Discussion Leader: Stacey Johnson

Book: *Your Royal Hostage* by Antonia Fraser

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

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

Dinner by the Book

When: Wed, Mar. 21, 2012, 5:30 pm

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Facilitator: Lynne Tauriello

Discussion Leader: Judy Malamas

Book: *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel
Wilkerson

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

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

The Knitting Group

When: Wed., Mar. 14, 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: Hirsch's Restaurant

Where: 8445 Main Street, Williamsville, NY
14221

When: Sun., Mar. 25, 5:30 PM

Questions: Contact Maria, at
marcoppola@gmail.com

RSVP: by Thur., Mar. 22 via email or call
716-289-8149

About the Restaurant: Hirsch's is a cozy restaurant located on Main Street in Clarence. It is a casual dining spot with something for everyone and in the winter there is a lovely fireplace. On Sundays, there is a dinner special on 3 or 4 entrees, and the special is for a full dinner that includes soup, salad, sides and dessert all for \$9.99. It's a great deal and always good food!

Separate checks are available.

SISTER TO SISTER

The Sister to Sister Summit – number 15 – will be held at D'Youville College on Porter Avenue on Saturday, March 31. We are once again addressing issues that challenge teen girls and also talking to parents about the need for further education for their daughters including health issues and more. We will use the college student center and classrooms in other buildings for the event. For the first time, we are not at Buffalo State but that is because they are doing a much needed renovation of their Student Union. Please let me know if you can volunteer your time on Mar. 31. Our greatest need for help is in the morning starting at 8am. Let me know if you can help by calling me at 652-1230 or emailing me at gsoliver@verizon.net

Sue Oliver

LAF FUND RAISER

The Legal Advocacy Fund Raiser at the state convention in Rochester is going to be a raffle of purses. Susan B. Anthony said that "a woman's purse is a symbol of her economic independence." Thus far we have 3 purses to take to convention. One is really a tote bag with kitchen items (we could use an apron or oven mitt to help fill the bag), an evening purse with shawl and movie tickets, and a fifties purse with fifties items in it. If you have a gently used designer purse – perhaps it was given to you and it isn't your style- you can donate it to the raffle. You might include some handcream, a small perfume, use your imagination. I will talk about this and accept donations at the Feb meeting. Of course, you can always add a donation to your dues or just give me a check! Anything \$50 or more will get you listed in the program at convention.

Sue Oliver

SCHOLARSHIPS!

CHAMBERLIN REPORT

Twelve Western New York college students will receive a total of \$38,000 in interest-free loans and grants after the Branch board approved recommendations of the Chamberlin Loan Fund/Funds for Education committee on Feb. 1.

Interviews for the Dec. 1 cycle were conducted at three sessions during January.

Receiving awards are:

- Colleen Burczynski, Erie Community College dental assistant student, \$2,500 grant.
- Jennifer Carroll, a D'Youville College nursing student, \$3,000 grant.
- Getrude Chimhungwe, working on a doctorate in pharmacy at University at Buffalo, \$1,000 grant and \$2,000 loan.
- Latasha Colbert, a Bryant and Stratton College business major, \$2,000 grant.
- James Delventhal, Houghton College youth ministry student, \$1,500 grant, \$1,500 loan.
- Lee Ann Denne, an Erie Community College occupational therapy student, \$2,000 grant.
- Natalie Do, a D'Youville College physician assistant student, \$3,000 grant.
- Madelyn Henry, graduate nursing student in UB, \$2,000 loan and \$1,000 grant.
- Jeannette King, working for a combined bachelor/master's degree in athletic training and sports medicine in Long Island University, \$1,500 loan and \$1,500 grant.
- Grace Mukupa, completing doctorate work in global gender studies at UB, \$3,000 grant.
- Ronald Sigeti, completing research for a doctoral dissertation at UB, \$3,000 FFE special needs grant.
- Elizabeth Suchan, a graduate student in mental health in Canisius College, \$2,500 grant and \$500 loan.

Participating in interviews were Marguerite Collesano, Joan Trinchera, Diane Silvestro, Michelle Norris, Karen Howard, and Susan McClary.

Pat Swift MacClennan, Chamberlin Fund chair

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Wed, March 7, 5:45 pm** – Buffalo Branch **Board Meeting**, Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem at Saratoga
- **Thur., March 8, 5:15 pm, International Women's Day Celebration**
Location: Milos Restaurant, 5877 Main St. Williamsville
Contact: Carol A. Griffith
- **Sat, March 17 Tech Savvy 7**
Location: UB
- **Sat, March 31 Sister to Sister**
Location: D'Youville College
- **Thur, April 17, 8 am, Pay Equity Day Program** entitled "Be Informed, Be Inspired, Be Empowered"
Location: Jacobs Executive Development Center, 672 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209. Sponsored by Erie County Commission of the Status of Women, Canisius Women's Business Center, AAUW, Junior League, National Association of Women Business Owners, and Western New York Women's Fund
- **Fri-Sun April 20-22 AAUW-NYS Convention**
Location: Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, Rochester, NY
- **Sat., April 28 – Branch Program.** Information in the April *Advocate*.
- **Sat, May 12 – Branch Annual Meeting at the Garret Club**
- **Wed-Sun, May 30-June 3 – BOOKSALE!!!**

GRASSROOTS GRANTS PROGRAM

The Buffalo Branch announces the open application period for its Grassroots Grants Program. Five to seven grants are available in amounts up to \$1500 each in three categories: Individual Projects; Community Organizations and Neighborhood Enrichment Programs; High School Leadership Projects. Details, criteria and applications can be found at <http://aauw.buffalo.edu/grassrtgrant.htm>. Deadline for applications is March 15, 2012 with award in May, 2012.

Joan Trinchera, Grassroots Grants Chair

IT'S MY VOTE: I WILL BE HEARD!



BOOKSALE CORNER

The AAUW Action Fund is about to launch an "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard" voter education and turnout campaign. Programs, activities, and events will continue through November 2012. To learn more about the campaign, check out the AAUW website www.aauwaction.org. Although AAUW members are expected to continue to turn out to vote at high rates as they have in the past, the AAUW Action Fund is gearing up for a high energy campaign targeting young women of the millennial generation. That's the population that has been coming of age during the last ten years, those who are 18-31 years old. There are as many millennials as there are baby boomers and the goal is to get them into the lifelong habit of voting. Fewer of them participated in 2010 as compared with 2008.

In general, women can have greater power and influence because they are casting ballots in greater numbers and with more consistency than men. The Action Fund is recruiting on-the-ground staff to help coordinate volunteer activities and voter education efforts. It is a well-funded campaign with dedicated staff. The objective is to educate, engage, and register millennial women voters across the country. The issues of particular interest to this generation include jobs, pay equity, college aid, healthcare, violence against women, and access to birth control. AAUW's *Woman-to-Woman Manual* can provide help for recruiting volunteers, building coalitions, and coordinating volunteer education efforts. Watch for public service announcements that will be available on the internet and hope to go viral. More resources will be coming as we get closer to the election. Get your creative juices going because these events for millennials can be as diverse as town hall meetings or happy hours.

Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

Note: A meeting has been set up to discuss with the local League of Women Voters how we might collaborate on this project. Watch for details in upcoming issues and on the website!

DIVERSITY NOTICE!

A committee for Diversity for the Buffalo Branch will be formed over the next month. Anyone interested please contact Lillis McLean, 873-7467 or lmclean366@yahoo.com.

By now most of you know that through the skillful negotiations of Cathy Weiss the 2012 book sale has a home. It is a familiar site, having served us for the past two sales. The Office Depot Plaza building, 2390 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda, is accessible and large enough to accommodate our inventory, which last year exceeded 100,000 items, our workers and, most importantly, our customers. We will have access to the building on April 1st or shortly thereafter, at which point the services of many volunteer members will be needed for the clean-up and set up. Stay tuned to the Web site for frequent updates.

Meanwhile, book donations have picked up and once again there is lots of work for those who help with sorting and packing at the Kensington Bailey Neighborhood Services site, 995 Kensington Ave. We are there every Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 9:30 until noon. Join us if you can – and PLEASE BRING BOXES!

Volunteers turned out for a pick-up at Audubon Library late in January and at the Eggertsville Library in mid-February. The library donations alleviated the famine we have experienced since before the holidays, but this sale is an insatiable beast and we need to feed it right up until late May. Keep your eyes open for potential donors and keep spreading the word.

Looking ahead, sale chairs are putting out a plea for plastic bags (the kind you put paper bags in on bag day). Thanks to the work of Sue Licata and the generosity of Office Max, we have an ample supply of paper bags. Now the word is: save your supermarket plastic.

Vinyl records have been on the "No" list for donations for a few years but the book sale committee has decided to accept them this year. We are not soliciting them but will not turn them away. In the past, they have been a hard sell and offering them this year may indicate if that situation is changing.

Finally, Peggy Meinel is examining the multitude of activities that go into putting together this project, which over the past half century has grown phenomenally. An all-volunteer effort that grosses from \$60,000 to \$80,000 annually and requires year-around dedication by its planners and workers, performance has relied heavily on the individual and collective memory and experience of those involved. Peggy wants to put it all on paper (or an electronic file) that will be accessible to members and especially, future book sale committees. Anyone with expertise is invited to help.

Pat Swift-MacClennan, Booksale Committee

TECH SAVVY CONFERENCE



Head + Heart = Hustle

This year's conference theme is "Tech Savvy Girls Doing Well by Doing Good." This year we partner with Echoing Green, an organization that has funded \$30 million in support of social entrepreneurship projects. Vice President Lara Galinsky will lead the girls (and all of us!) in a motivational closing ceremony based upon their Work on Purpose project. The girls will receive a copy of Lara's book which features real stories of how real people have pursued their passions as a vocation while benefitting society. We have been working closely with Linda Kay Klein at Echoing Green who will also join us for the day and speak with our parents.

Upcoming Planning Dates for Tech Savvy 7

- Thursday, March 1: Tote Bag Stuffing, Name Tag Assembly, and Bag Stuffing (Lots of Help Needed!) Afternoon start time at the United Way. (Dress comfortably; pizza served.)
- Saturday, March 17: Tech Savvy at UB's North Campus (Meet at Student Union... Ample Parking in Furnas Lot.)

WHY TECH SAVVY?

A Note of Thanks from Tamara Brown

I was asked to write a few words (unlikely!) about what the trip to the White House was like. Before I answer that, I have to say, "thank you." Of course that is thanks for all the calls, notes, and well wishes because of the White House Champion of Change accolades. But more, it is a heart-felt thank you – because you have appreciated Tech Savvy long before recognition came from without. So, as I said on the White House blog, the words that describe my reaction to this Champion of Change award: Surprised.

Excited. Humbled. Then, challenged.

Challenged because of the opportunity to further a conversation. Challenged to find answers to an important, national problem. Challenged, really, to ask the right questions. Questions, after all, are what really spur the STEM practitioner... and all of us at AAUW.

Tech Savvy isn't just about the event. Tech Savvy is about creating a culture. A culture that provides girls with multiple possibilities for their future. A culture and an environment – home, school, industry—that is supportive of diversity in STEM.

What's the problem? Simply: Girls continue to reference society's gender-stereotypical views of STEM. Females are disproportionately represented in many STEM fields; too many young women exit undergraduate engineering programs. Industry retention of female talent is low. The result: Lack of a sufficient STEM "pipeline". What's at stake? For women, the consequences include a very real economic impact and the inability to reach full professional potential. These consequences are weighty. However, there is another compelling consequence. An insufficient STEM pipeline results in an under-competitive national workforce. This is not a women's issue; it is a national concern.

So one more important, final question: Where and when do we begin? We do what we have always done in AAUW Buffalo. We make magic happen for the girls. Students leave Tech Savvy pondering how they can solve future problems – resource shortages, medical challenges, disaster preparedness. Hopefully, they leave with more questions, than answers—and lots of enthusiasm and the support to start working on those questions.

I spent the morning at the White House before the telecast with leaders from many areas and with White House staff from the Office of Women & Girls and the Office of Science and Technology. As I write this note, I am planning for a follow up call with the White House next week. Our work grows as we enlarge our program, and I don't know where that will take us. However, I am confident of one thing: That AAUW Buffalo will be there on March 17—and always for the good of future women in our community so that those girls can change the world. So, thank you for all of your efforts and for giving me the chance to be that voice for you at the White House.

Tech Savvy 7 Participation – Registration Form

Please mail before March 5

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Questions about Tech Savvy? Call Tamara Brown at 649-9871

Conference Information website: <http://www.aauw-nys.org/buffalo/techsavvy.htm>

Name _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

_____ Planning to help stuff tote bags on Thursday, March 1 (United Way, Delaware Avenue, Buffalo)

_____ Planning to attend Tech Savvy Reception at 5:30 pm on Friday, March 16 – No cost to attend

_____ Planning to Volunteer at Tech Savvy (Saturday, March 17) – Shift times will be confirmed.

Morning shift (7am – 12pm)

Afternoon shift (11 AM – 5pm)

All day (7am – 5 pm)

Available other times: _____

For those NOT volunteering on Saturday, March 17:

_____ Attending Tech Savvy adult session, including morning refreshments, lunch, tote bag and materials - Please include \$5 payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch.

Please register ASAP. Please send this form to:

Tamara Brown, 2723 Christopher Blvd. Hamburg, NY 14075

CORRECTIONS

Roster Corrections

- Suzanne Grossman – address: 300 Fries Road
- Judy Huber - judyhuber62@yahoo.com
- Joan Trinchera – phone# is 649-9469 (correct on pg 2, incorrect on pg 38)

Other corrections needed? Please contact Freddie Cheek at fscheek@verizon.net.

NEW MEMBERS

Katherine Matos

205 Marine Dr. #5C Buffalo, NY 14201
716 548-3026
katherinematos18@gmail.com
Nursing Graduation: May 2013, ECC

Danielle DiStefano

3067 Eden, NY 14057
716 992-9264
Presently attending SUNY Fredonia

Registration Form for International Women's Day Dinner

Buffet Dinner: Appetizer - Soup, Main Course - Baked Greek Style Chicken, Milos Salmon, Mediterranean Style Pasta, Italian Style Green Beans, Dessert - Ice cream

Cost \$35.00 per person (Please make checks payable to AAUW/Buffalo Branch)

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Number Attending: _____ Total enclosed: _____

Please mail this form and checks by March 1, 2012 to
Carol A. Griffith - 18 Union Common,
Williamsville, New York 14221 (716) 810-0269

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

AAUW



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