

BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

NYS District 1

716.559.3037 - aauw.buffalo.edu

May 2012

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 Opportunities Fund 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 and reservation form on pg 4.

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AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH PRE-BOOK SALE EVENT NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBER HAPPY HOUR

An occasion to meet, mingle, and network

Book Sale Site - 2309 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, NY, Office Depot Plaza, just north of Sheridan Road

Tuesday, May 22, 2012 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments, browse, and purchase books

6:15 p.m. Listen to a ten-minute presentation about the Book Sale

1. Meet board members and various AAUW Buffalo Branch study group and committee chairs.
2. Buy new and used books (collectibles excluded) before the Book Sale opens to the public on May 30.
3. Pay no admission fee.

All members are invited!

Please RSVP to Cynthia Mehary for planning purposes at camehary@roadrunner.com

AAUW 58TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BOOK SALE

Wednesday, May 30 – Sunday June 3, 2012

2309 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, NY, Office Depot Plaza, just north of Sheridan Road

Hours for the Sale: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday

1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday

Admission: Wednesday morning \$10

Wednesday afternoon and evening \$5.00

Thursday through Saturday \$1.00

Sunday (Free)

Proceeds benefit the national AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund, local scholarships, loans, & grants, and community outreach projects such as Tech Savvy and Sister-to-Sister.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Barb's Beliefs

Fix your eyes forward on what you can do, not back on what you cannot change." -- Tom Clancy, Author

It seems I have lost a lot of friends lately. Our member Lyn McDonald was my buddy. I'll miss her. Two people at my church have passed and another shirttail relative died just yesterday. If I dwell on these losses too much, I feel depressed. But then an AAUW meeting of one kind or another comes along, and I go out to take care of business. I see my other friends, and you all make me feel not alone, not depressed. I am reminded again of the importance of the work we do, and I enjoy doing it! All of you are a gift to me and I thank you.

Do you feel that way sometimes? I hope AAUW is as important to you as it is to me. Do you realize how important our group is? Do you know how we have changed the history of gender relations in our society? Our daughters and granddaughters will live in a different world because of the work we have done in our communities, our schools, and our corporations. Some of the steps have been small and halting, while other advances have come in dramatic form. Remember Title IX? We worked on that! Just the fact that you went to college was a giant step. Remember the theory that higher education was harmful to women's health? In 1885, AAUW's foremothers sent a detailed survey to *all 1,290 women college graduates* in the United States. They were seeking an answer to whether women were harmed by education. You know the answers. You aren't infertile, unmarriageable, sickly, or paralyzed with anxiety because of your degree.

Just thinking about how vital we have been over the last 130+ years cheers me up. I hope it does the same for you. It should.

Barbara Carier

Betty's Rambles

As I'm sitting here in early April, I have to reflect on all that's happened over the past month – Women's History Month. What a wild time! In addition to many smaller occasions, the "biggies" had to be the International Women's Day dinner, Tech Savvy, and Sister-to-Sister.

The International Women's Day dinner moved very successfully to a new location, Milos Restaurant. The food and service were superb, the surroundings were elegant yet comfortable, and the speaker was great! Filomena Critelli spoke passionately of the status of women in Pakistan and was joined in conversation by some guests from that region. If you weren't there, you missed something special – kudos to Carol Griffith.

Tech Savvy, in its seventh year, went beautifully. About 500 girls and 150 adults learned more about STEM opportunities and some of the skills needed to succeed in any career. This program continues to grow, but will now have to cope with the loss of its leader – Tamara Brown's new position will take her to a new home in Connecticut. She promises to stay involved and we intend to hold her to that!

The month ended with Sister-to-Sister. Since Buff State was undergoing extensive renovations, the event was moved this year to D'Youville College. Chair Natasha Perkins and her committee had everything moving smoothly in spite of the change. The girls (and the adults) had a great time. Learning some salsa added to the fun!

I look forward to seeing you all at our May luncheon AND THE BOOKSALE!

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.

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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, May 23, 2012, 6 pm

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Book: *Among the Mad* by Jacqueline Winspear

To Reserve: Suzanne Grossman, 837-8769

Dinner by the Book

When: Wed, May 16, 2012, 5:30 pm

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Facilitator: Sandy Ihlefeld

Annual book selection for 2012-2013

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

The Knitting Group

When: WedMay 9, 2-4 pm

Where: Barnes & Noble on Transit near Main St.

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

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

Restaurant-of-the-Month Group

No meeting.

NEW MEMBER

Sandra A. Talley

134 Northland Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14208

Phone: 716 882-8548

Email: satalley@aol.com

Degree: BBA Computer Science/
Management Science; 1984 Kent State U.
MBA Marketing/Entrepreneurship 1995
Indiana University

15TH ANNUAL SISTER-TO-SISTER EVENT

The 15th Annual Sister-to-Sister Event was held this year on March 31st and for the first time took place on the D'Youville College campus. 143 girls between the ages of 8 and 16 plus 25 adults participated in a variety of morning "chat rooms" dealing with pertinent issues that our young women face on a daily basis. Some of these chat room topics included: self esteem, date violence, bullying and healthy life style habits. Afternoon activities included a bullying forum, step dancing demonstration and Salsa dancing lessons. And I might add that our AAUW volunteers learned a step or two during the Salsa demonstration.

Natasha Perkins, Membership Manager of the Western New York Girls Scouts, and AAUW member, was again this year's chairperson and coordinator. Ellen Trautman, Project Director from the Buffalo Federation of Neighborhoods (BFNC) organized the Parent Track presentations. Special thanks to AAUW volunteers Sue Oliver, Stacey Johnson, Betty Preble, Taylor Page, Ruby Williams and other volunteers from various social service agencies throughout our community.

Peggy Meinel, Sister-to-Sister Treasurer

GIVE A GIFT - GIVE A MEMBERSHIP

It's GRADUATION season, and with that comes the question of gifts. How about the beginning of a lifetime of friendship in AAUW? Through the national Give-A-Grad-A-Gift program you can (at no cost to yourself) give someone a FREE one-year national membership. The website is <https://svc.aauw.org/join/gradgift.cfml>.

AAUW-NYS has also chosen to waive one year's dues for "GGG" recipients. As a result, for only \$15 (our branch dues) you can gift someone a full year's membership in our branch! Please note that only members can be the providers of these gifts and they must be given within two years of the recipient's graduation.

Think about it for your daughters, granddaughters, friends, nieces, etc – a great deal for all!

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. The rear entrance to the parking lot
is directly opposite #762 Auburn Ave.

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
provençal

Lemon Ice Box Cake

Coffee, tea, water

For participant registration form, see below.

See also pg. 7 for information on our 2012
Achievement Award Winner!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **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**
- **Tues, May 22, 5:30 pm, New and Prospective Member Happy Hour.** Everyone is invited. Details on pg 1
- **Wed-Sun, May 30-June 3 – BOOKSALE!!!**



- **Wed, June 6, 5:45 pm –Buffalo Branch Board Meeting**, Ebenezer United Church of Christ, West Seneca
- **August 8 – August 19 – we'll be on display at the County Fair! Details next month – be ready to volunteer to be there for a few hours – free admission!**

Registration Form for the May 12 Luncheon

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

AAUW Buffalo Branch Selects Three “Catalyst for Change” Scholarship Awardees

The Buffalo Branch of the American Association of University Women is pleased to announce the awardees for the Catalyst for Change Scholarship. This \$3,000 scholarship is awarded to one female student in each of three categories. The Catalyst for Change Scholarship is awarded to students who have demonstrated success in a grassroots effort that has effected positive change for women or girls. The 2012 Catalyst for Change Scholarships are awarded to:

A High School Student entering college next year or matriculated in post-secondary program:

Rahel Belete, a student at Cheektowaga Central High School, has been accepted at Nazareth College in Rochester, where she plans to study Pharmacy or International Relations. A native of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Rahel initiated the Human Rights Club at her high school. She participated in the “Home Again Project,” working with Journey’s End refugee agency to furnish a home for a family of refugees from Nepal. Rahel’s goal is to set-up a non-profit organization to help people suffering around the world, with an institute for children and the elderly, providing food, shelter and education.

An undergraduate having obtained junior status, and admitted into a post-secondary program:

Tara Feuerstein is a senior at the University at Buffalo working towards a degree in Neuroengineering. She has been accepted into University of Rochester, Drexel University and University at Buffalo Masters programs. She plans to also study for a MBA to prepare her for a leadership role in running a science or engineering oriented company. Tara is an active mentor to other female Engineering students, and is involved in the student environmental movement at UB. As a member of Engineers for a Sustainable World, Tara participated in the creation of a community garden on the east side of Buffalo. She helped to form, and was president of, the UB Chapter of the Biomedical Engineering Society. She states that she wants to inspire people to “take part in environment helping activities, take up leadership roles and show girls they are smart and capable.”

A non-traditional or graduate student admitted or matriculated in post-secondary program:

Emily Keddie is a student in the Graduate School of Education, Department of Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology at the University at Buffalo. She is in the third year of a five-year PhD program in School Psychology. Her dissertation concerns the comprehensive effectiveness of a prevention group, “Girls Growing Through Wellness and Balance.” This two year project is a primary prevention program for high school girls at risk of eating disorders, anxiety, and low self-esteem. She has presented her findings in a workshop at the New York Association of School Psychologists statewide conference and will present at the national convention in February. Emily states, “It is my hope that by reaching as many young women as possible directly, I will not only make a difference in their lives but indirectly in the lives of their sisters, friends, and future daughters.”



Chamberlin Loans/ Funds for Education

June 1 is the next deadline for students residing in or attending college in Western New York who have completed at least one year of college to apply for the Chamberlin Loan/ Funds for Education interest-free loans and/or grants of up to \$3,000. Information and application forms are available on www.aauw.buffalo.edu. Additional information can be obtained by calling 559-3037 or e-mailing chamberlinfund@yahoo.com

Loans and grants are awarded twice a year and students may reapply annually for up to four years. Funds for this program are provided by members’ bequests, private donations, and proceeds of the Branch’s annual used book sale opening May 30. AAUW members (except for those serving on the board) and their children are eligible, and we urge you to pass on this information to your friends, relatives, students, and colleagues.

SCHOLARSHIPS (CONT.)

Velma Cobb Scholarship Awards Recipients

The Velma Cobb Scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors, based on academic and extracurricular excellence.

Velma Cobb Scholarship Winner **Emily Thurnherr** is graduating with a weighted average over 100% from Holland High School. She's been active in 4H for many years and her activities there have given her unique leadership opportunities. Currently she is Vice President. As a 4-year recipient of athletic scholarship awards, she's been a standout in field hockey and sportsmanship. While tutoring at her home school, participating in the Drama Club and volunteering at St. Joseph's Hospital and at her church, Emily has learned many time management skills as well as patience and self-assertiveness. Next year Emily will be chemistry major at Rochester Institute of Technology. She then hopes to obtain a doctorate in pharmacy leading to a research or clinical career.

Velma Cobb Scholarship recipient **Amanda Sledz** is graduating this year from Lancaster High School with a 4.0 average. There she has been a member of the Math, Science, and French Honor Societies, taking leadership roles in them all. Amanda has been honored as Science Student of the Month at not only her high school, but for all of Erie County. As clarinetist and vocalist Amanda has performed with the Lancaster Marching Band, Lancaster Pit Band, and the Folk Choir at her church. She's been part of the Lancaster Youth Bureau and a volunteer at Lancaster Library, Gilda's Club, and Hospice. She has been awarded the Clarkson University Achievement Award and the Marie R. Ignatz award for volunteer service.

Amanda's elementary school years were marred by serious scoliosis and she dealt often with the unkind actions of her classmates. After surgery and a long recuperation, she's set her sights on an undergraduate biology major with the intent of becoming an orthopedic surgeon.

Dorothy Payne Scholarship Recipients

The Dorothy Payne Urban Public High School scholarship is merit and needs based.

Nhi Kha, a promising college freshman from Buffalo's Hutchison Central Technical High School is the proud recipient of a Dorothy Payne Scholarship. Ms. Kha entered the JROTC program in 2008. She excelled in the area of leadership. During her high school tenure she has demonstrated a willingness to persevere and accept new challenges. She brims over with optimism and hope, celebrating every achievement while growing from setbacks to move forward, bettering herself and others in the best way. Ms. Kha has received many accolades from her accomplishments. Her major awards include induction into the National Honor Society (2011), Superior Cadet Award (2011), and American Legion Military Excellence Leadership National Award (2011). In the fall Ms. Kha will be attending SUNY @ Buffalo where she plans to major in Chemical Engineering. We wish her the best.

Hannah Folby, a promising college freshman from Lockport High School is the proud recipient of a Dorothy Payne Scholarship. Hannah is an accomplished young woman. During her high school career she has remained enthusiastic, responsible, and hard working. She has excelled in academics, sports, music, and community service. Hannah's disciplined approach to her academics has allowed her to accomplish her goals. She embraced a challenging curriculum throughout her high school. She has five years each of mathematics and physics which includes SUNY Pre-Calculus, SUNY Physics, NU Calculus, and AP Physics. Hannah was inducted into the National Honor Society (2011) and is Captain of the Varsity Tennis team (2011&2012). She plans to attend Rochester Institute of Technology where she will major in Engineering. We wish her the best.



2012 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

For her many years of advocacy for gender equality and respect, AAUW Buffalo Branch honors **Maryann Saccomando Freedman** as our 2012 Achievement Award winner.

Maryann Saccomando Freedman was admitted to practice law in Buffalo in 1959 and for over 50 years she has been “bold, articulate, and intelligent.” (Matt Chandler, *Law Journal*, October 12, 2011)

Speaking to a symposium in October 2011 to address gender bias in courts, Freedman recalled stories from her early days practicing law that illustrate how far things have come. “No woman would be thrown out of a courtroom today because girls don’t practice in the judge’s court, and that happened to me,” Freedman said. “I was physically removed from the courtroom. The kinds of things that judges and lawyers felt free to say to women then would shock today’s practitioners, and to some degree that behavior still exists.”

From 1977 – 1990 Freedman served in the New York State Supreme Court as Confidential Law Clerk to the late William J. Ostrowski.

In 1961 – 1964 Ms. Freedman was President of the Women Lawyers Association of Western New York.

Maryann was elected the first woman to serve as the President of both the Bar Association of Erie County (1981-1982) and the New York State Bar Association (1987-1988).

She has received many awards in recognition of her service to her profession and the Buffalo community including:

- U.B. Law Alumni – Distinguished Alumnus 1988
- U.B. Distinguished Alumnus 1986
- Buffalo News Outstanding Citizen 1986

She is listed in the International Biographical Centre “Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century” and in 2000 “Outstanding Intellectuals of the Twentieth Century”. Presently she is of counsel at Cohen & Lombardo in Buffalo.

UPDATE ON THE PAY GAP



WASHINGTON – With the release of [*The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*](#), the American Association of University Women (AAUW) unveiled new [state-by-state equal pay rankings](#). Updated for the national observance of Equal Pay Day, which marks how far into the current year women must work to match what their male counterparts earned last year, *The Simple Truth* charts the wage gap in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Ed Note – NYS is 5th, at 83%. Better than average, but NOT SATISFACTORY!

The wage gap is narrowest in the nation’s capital, where women have the best earnings ratio — 91 cents, on average, for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. The state with the worst earnings ratio is Wyoming, where women make 64 percent of men’s earnings. The national average puts women at just 77 percent.

The wage gap costs working women and their families tens of thousands of dollars in lost wages and directly affects women’s retirement security. These numbers are worse for women of color, and *The Simple Truth* examines racial and ethnic breakdowns. White and Asian women earn, respectively, 82 percent and 88 percent of white men’s earnings. African American and Hispanic women earn much less — just 70 percent and 61 percent of what white men earn, on average.

“The gender pay gap is unlikely to go away on its own. Our publications and tools will empower our advocacy on behalf of women and their families,” said Catherine Hill, AAUW director of research. “*The Simple Truth* is a useful resource for women, the media, and society at large as we work to address this stubborn inequality.”

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.

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