

BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

NYS District 1

716.559.3037 - aauw.buffalo.edu

October, 2011

MUSICALFARE PRESENTS THE MUSICAL "OLIVER"

AAUW Buffalo Branch and the Dickens Fellowship are sponsoring a night at MusicalFare on Thursday, October 13, 2011, at 7pm. The cost is \$30 per person. This cost is a \$5 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

If you did not reserve by September 15, 2011, please contact Judy regarding availability of tickets.

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

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AAUW-NYS DISTRICT ONE CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2011 - Registration: 9:30am

Location: Jamestown Community College North County Center, Bennett Rd., Rte.60, Dunkirk
(Turn right coming off the Thruway onto Rte.60)

Program: Film: *'Iron Jawed Angels'* (two hours long) followed by a discussion led by Rose Sebouhian

- Katja von Garnier's *"Iron Jawed Angels"* tells the remarkable and little known story of a group of passionate and dynamic young women, led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and her friend Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor), who put their lives on the line to fight for American women's right to vote.
- Rose Sebouhian is a member of the Chautauqua County League of Women Voters and the Dunkirk-Fredonia Center for Peace and Justice.

Menu: Assorted Quiche; Pastries (muffins, Danish, scones); Fresh Fruit; Assorted Juices, Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$10/person. You may pay at the door.

RESERVATIONS BY SEPTEMBER 28, 2011, TO pmwestman@yahoo.com

Note: The Chautauqua County League of Women Voters has also been invited to attend.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Barb's Beliefs

Have you ever moved to a new neighborhood? Did you find yourself a new church, synagogue, or mosque? The best way to meet people and begin to feel a part of the larger group, I'm sure you discovered, was to join a small group that interested you and to take small steps toward becoming integrated into the larger group. The same thing is true with AAUW. Maybe you have been a member for only a year or three, or you have returned after some years of absence. Maybe you have been a member but were so involved with your job or your family that you didn't have a lot of time to give AAUW. No matter. At any point in your AAUW life, you can find a new friend, a new interest, or a new way you can serve your community. Read your local and state newsletters, the *Advocate* and *Focus*. Read the national magazine, *Outlook*. You are sure to find some topic that you find fascinating! Or read the newspaper and watch for a situation that is just crying out for someone to improve a mess! Maybe you really want to take some action. Remember, you don't have to do it alone! AAUW and Buffalo Branch in particular have others like you who have ideas about a new way to tackle a problem or even to just have fun!

Try it!

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

This summer found us doing quite a bit of travelling, the last trip being a cruise with some old friends. She is severely disabled from a cruel, incurable disease and is confined to a power wheelchair. We had not seen them in quite a while, and during that time she has become an outspoken and persistent advocate for accessibility. I had not really realized how much of our world is based on the assumption that everyone has eyes, ears, arms, legs, and a body that function "normally." It is embarrassing to watch an argument posed by someone who thinks it's OK to just say "sorry, we just can't" when it's obvious that he CAN do something to make things right, something as little as finding a wedge to put at the end of the gangplank so that her wheelchair can navigate it and she can get off the ship! (He found it!) Our friend is strong mentally and can handle the argument, but why should she have to? The laws and ADA rules are there; why should there have to be a fight to get them observed?

One could say the same thing about Title IX and any number of other things that AAUW has fought for over the years. On page 7 of this issue is an article written by the AAUW-VA president for their *Virginia Vision*. It's an excellent reminder of all the things that this wonderful organization (including our Buffalo Branch, one of the oldest!) has accomplished. Our challenge is to continue the hard, sometimes thankless work and thus honor those women who paved the way for us.

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

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 or 632-0461.

Clueless Book Club

When: Wed, Oct 26, 6 pm

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Facilitator: Karen Howard

Book: *I Dreamed I Married Perry Mason* by Susan Kandel

To Reserve: Suzanne Grossman, 837-8769

Dinner by the Book

When: Wed, Oct 19, 2011, 5:30 pm

Where: Bob Evans, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Book: *March* by Geraldine Brooks

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

The Knitting Group

When: Thurs, Oct 27, 2-4 pm

Where: Barnes & Noble on Transit near Main St.

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



Interested in a non-fiction book group?

Sign up at the potluck or contact Suzanne Grossman, 837-8769. Tentative planning meeting set for Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 2 pm.

Movie Watchers Group

Film: *Sarah's Key*

When: Sun., Oct 9, 1:30 pm

Theater: Eastern Hill Mall Cinema

Post film meeting place: Mall Food Court

Leader: Maria Coppola

Questions: Contact Maria at marcoppola@gmail.com

To Reserve: by Wednesday, October 5 via email to Maria

Film overview: Based on Tatiana de Rosnay's best-selling novel, *Sarah's Key* tells the story of an American journalist on the brink of making big life decisions regarding her marriage and her unborn child. What starts off as a research article about the Vel d'Hiv Roundup in 1942 in France ends up as a journey toward self-discovery, as she stumbles upon a terrible secret and discovers the heartbreaking story of a Jewish family forced out of their home, a home that is now their own.

Film subject to change based on changing listings.

Restaurant-of-the-Month Group

Restaurant: Milos

Where: 5877 Main Street, Williamsville

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

Questions: Contact Maria at marcoppola@gmail.com

To Reserve: by Tuesday, October 4 via email to Maria

About Milos: New Greek restaurant that opened over the summer in the Village of Williamsville in the former Little White House

Link to menu:

<http://milosonmain.webs.com/menu.htm>

Separate checks available.

Note – an article detailing these two new groups is on page 5.

CORRECTIONS from last month, with apologies:

Dinner by the Book meets at 5:30 pm at Bob Evans Restaurant, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

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

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

Date	Title	Author
9/21/2011	<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	Rebecca Skloot
10/19/2011	<i>March</i>	Geraldine Brooks
11/16/2011	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte
12/21/2011	<i>Sarah's Key</i>	Tatiana De Rosnay
1/18/2012	<i>Annie's Ghosts</i>	Steve Luxemberg
2/15/2012	<i>A Fierce Radiance</i>	Lauren Belfer
3/21/2012	<i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i>	Isabel Wilkerson
4/18/2012	Book Selection for 2012-2013	
5/16/2012	<i>All But My Life</i>	Gerda Weissman Klein
6/20/2012	<i>Mudbound</i>	Hillary Jordan

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

Contact: Suzanne Grossman, 837-8769

Date	Title	Author
9/27/2011	<i>The Eye Of The Wolf</i>	Margaret Coel
10/26/2011	<i>I Dreamed I Married Perry Mason</i>	Susan Kandel
11/30/2011	<i>The Sweetness At The Bottom Of The Pie</i>	Alan Bradley
1/25/2012	<i>End In Tears</i>	Ruth Rendell
2/15/2012	<i>A Fierce Radiance</i>	Lauren Belfer
3/28/2012	<i>Your Royal Hostage</i>	Antonia Fraser
4/25/2012	Annual Book Selection 2012-2013	
5/23/2012	<i>Among The Mad</i>	Jacqueline Winspear
6/27/2012	<i>Material Witness</i>	Robert K. Tanenbaum

UNITED NATIONS DAY, sponsored by New York State AAUW and Marymount College, is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th. The focus of this year's briefing is "Women's Leadership Building in a Sustainable Economy: Preparing for Rio+20." Details and registration forms are available on the state website.

<http://www.aauw-nys.org/attached%20files/International/AAUW%20NYS%20UN%20Flyer%202011.pdf>





BOOK SALE CORNER

After a lightning speed summer, book sale workers are back on the job. They will be collecting book donations as of Sept. 20 at the sorting site, 995 Kensington Ave., Kensington Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 am.

Members and their friends can stop by the site on those days anytime from 9:30 am until noon to help sort books. Remember to bring boxes if possible.

Just a reminder, the next sale is May 30 to June 3.

The sale treasurer reports \$900+ has been received from GIGGIL as our share of online sales of the leftover books during the summer.

Apologies to Suzanne Grossman, whose name was inadvertently omitted from the Table Donors list in the September *Advocate* – thanks!

Pat Swift-MacClennan

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, this 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.

NEW INTEREST GROUPS

The Buffalo Branch is pleased to launch two new Interest Groups.

The **Movie Watchers Group** is for movie lovers who want to see films regularly or who need an excuse to get out and see more movies. The group will see a movie each month, and then gather at a local coffee shop or other relaxed spot to critique, discuss, and dissect the cultural, historical, controversial themes, issues, or other aspects of the film. Members and guests will be encouraged to share personal reactions, understandings, and thoughts about the film.

Recommendations will be requested and each month, a different member will be asked to lead the post-movie discussion. Members are welcome to bring a friend, spouse, significant other, or to come solo. Reservations will be required and a minimum of five members confirmed to attend by the Wednesday prior. Group communications will be conducted via email.

Proposed meeting schedule: Second Sunday of the month, first showing, which is generally between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM. This year's dates will be Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 11, April 15, May 13

The other new Interest Group is the **Restaurant-of-the-Month** group.

This group will take advantage of the area's great restaurants, offering an opportunity to try new local eateries as well as a variety of ethnic spots, and some known for being interesting, trend-setting, and/or just plain good.

The goal is to offer members a chance to socialize, get to know each other, and discuss current events, politics, global affairs, the economy, or any other topic that comes up. Members are welcome to bring a friend, spouse, significant other, or to come solo.

Recommendations will be gratefully accepted. The month's restaurant choice will be announced in the *Advocate*, where an overview of the cuisine, average cost, location, and whether separate checks are available will be provided. Reservations will be required and a minimum of five (5) member RSVPs by the Tuesday prior. Group communications will be conducted via email.

Proposed meeting schedule: Last Sunday of the month at 5:30 pm. This year's dates will be Oct 30, Nov 27, Jan 29, Feb 26, Mar 25, April 29, and May 27

Maria Coppola

COCKTAILS IN CHARACTER

Shea's Performing Arts Center

Join Literacy Volunteers for Cocktails in Character!

Tuesday, November 1, 2011, from 5:30 - 8:30pm.

Tickets are \$30 presale, and \$35 at the door.

It will be a novel evening, featuring live literary characters, Shea's behind the scenes tours, food & wine tastings from area restaurants, a raffle & silent auction, and a cash bar featuring specialty cocktails. The event benefits Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo and Erie County.

Come as you are in creative cocktail attire or dress as your favorite book character!

Details on costumes, participating restaurants, specialty cocktails and directions will be available at www.CocktailsinCharacter.com.



INFO FOR LITERACY VOLUNTEER TUTOR RECRUITMENT

Are you looking for a new way to serve the community in a very personal way? Consider becoming a Literacy Volunteer!

Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo & Erie County is the region's sole provider of free, one-on-one adult literacy services. They continually recruit, train and support dedicated volunteers who work one-on-one with adults as tutors.

Please contact Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo and Erie County at 876-8991, e-mail Amy Lawrence at amy.lawrence@literacybuffalo.org, or visit www.literacybuffalo.org for more information.

Peggy Meinl, Community Representative

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT FUND

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund is the fund the Association uses to do research and plan projects that address issues facing women and girls. The money is donated by individuals and branches and is used to fund programs of immediate and long term concern to the membership.

When the Association talks about research, they really don't mean primary research done by staff or consultants of AAUW. They are talking about searching and pulling in the results of academic research that pertains to our issues and concerns.

Every two years at the national convention, an Eleanor Roosevelt Award is given to someone working for women and girls.

Some examples are:

- 1995: Myra and David Sadker - gender equity experts, authors of *Failing at Fairness: How America's Schools Cheat Girls*.
- 2001: Nancy Gruver of New Moon Publishing - *New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams* was published to nurture girls' unique voices, strengths and dreams.
- 2004: *Under the Microscope: A Decade of Gender Equity Projects in the Sciences*. This report examines and analyzes more than 400 gender equity projects specifically aimed at increasing the participation of girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. (STEM)

As you can see, projects such as Tech Savvy and Sister to Sister came from some of these publications and research.

You can check the AAUW website for the entire list of Eleanor Roosevelt awards.

Sue Oliver, AAUW Funds Chair

A LOOK BACK

Usually the words we hear in AAUW are ones like “Look to the Future” and “Spring Forward.” But I’d like us to take a minute and —Look Back. AAUW is 130 years old this year, and our past is an inspiration. Our history made us what we are today. We all know the story of how AAUW’s first research in the 1880’s refuted the prevailing opinion that women’s health was too delicate to withstand the rigors of four years of college. That was only the beginning of AAUW’s groundbreaking studies and projects that were often ahead of the times. Consider a few:

- Almost 100 years ago AAUW issued its first pay equity study in 1913.
- In 1921 we lobbied for independent citizenship for married women (!).
- 1932 saw us lobbying for access to contraceptives for married women and in 1935 to legalize dispensing of contraceptive information by physicians.
- Long before museums did it, AAUW promoted public education on the arts by organizing exhibits in the late 1930’s that traveled throughout the U.S. to towns and small cities that didn’t have an art museum.
- AAUW set up a Refugee Aid Fund in 1940 to assist university women fleeing European dictatorships, for which AAUW had a letter of thanks from Albert Einstein.
- AAUW leader Virginia Gildersleeve was the sole female member of the group that wrote the United Nations Charter after WWII, and she led in creating the UN Commission on Human Rights.

AAUW’s early and ardent support for the UN was awarded with Permanent UN Observer status.

- In 1949, 16 years before the Civil Rights Act, convention delegates amended the AAUW Bylaws to clearly state that all college women graduates were eligible for membership, regardless of race.
- AAUW began lobbying in 1969 for a woman appointee to the Supreme Court (took 12 years to get Sandra Day O’Connor).
- In 1972 AAUW was instrumental in the passage of Title IX with AAUW member Patsy Mink (HI) co-authoring the bill.
- In 1983 we began seven years of lobbying for the Family & Medical Leave Act.
- 1991 saw the release of —*Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America*, which generated enormous publicity. AAUW’s Initiative for Educational Equity was the national catalyst for major changes in the education of girls in our schools.

We should be very proud of AAUW’s past achievements, but honoring our past doesn’t mean resting on our laurels. AAUW’s history must motivate us to keep moving forward. This organization was founded by women who knew you have to educate and lobby and act to move women along. That is still our mission: keep pushing and breaking the barriers to women’s education and equity. So Look Back at what our AAUW foremothers accomplished and keep building on that foundation.

Caroline Pickens, AAUW-VA President

Congratulations!

We are happy to report that Jacquie Walker was honored this year by being inducted into the Buffalo Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame on September 22, 2011. Jacquie has been an invaluable partner for the book sale for several years now.

http://buffalobroadcasters.com/hof_2011.asp

Our Sympathies to branch members Barbara Walleshauser on the death of her husband on May 29, Sue Licata on the death of her father, on Aug 21, Judy Clare on the death of her mom on Aug 29 and Linda Suchocki on the death of her mom on Sept 18.



SCHOLARSHIPS!

Jacque Walker Scholarship

Meagan Allers, a junior at SUNY Fredonia, is the winner of the 2011 AAUW Buffalo Branch Jacque Walker Scholarship, presented at the Pot Luck on September 19, 2011. Requirements for the scholarship are a high grade point average and a high degree of Community Service. Meagan has fulfilled both requirements. Since she was a young girl, Meagan has been involved in community efforts. She has received numerous awards both in high school and in college for her Community Service. Her most outstanding Public Service Commitment has been as President of Fredonia for St. Jude. During her 2 year term, the group has raised over \$25,000 for St. Jude's Hospital. She has been in charge of numerous fund raisers for St. Jude's and was able to visit the hospital last year as the college's representative to see where the money is going.

We are proud to be able to award this Scholarship to honor a committed young woman and to also honor Jacque Walker, who has been so helpful in giving our Book Sale publicity.

Judy Weidemann, Book Sale Steering Committee

Olga Lindberg Scholarships

June 2011

The American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch presented awards at the first meeting of the 2011-2012 season.

Melissa Brown is a graduate student in the MSW program at the University at Buffalo, where she has completed her first year of study. She received her BS *cum laude* in psychology from Grove City College, Grove City, PA.

Melissa plans to become a licensed social worker "for children with life-threatening or chronic illnesses and their families." It is her life goal to "improve lives and empower individuals to succeed, despite the hardships they are facing."

She volunteered at Buffalo's Women and Children's Hospital in the playroom, and had clinical experience at Olmsted Center for Sight. She worked as a personal aide in the Erie 1 BOCES summer school program.

Her references say that Ms. Brown is "an excellent student, as well as a warm and caring person...she possesses the qualities needed to apply herself to successfully advance her professional development..;" she is exceptional in the classroom; .."has a strong record of extracurricular, internship, and work experiences"; she "excelled in her dedication to provide the best social work mentor and supervisor...and demonstrated a commitment to quality and excellence using best practice as her benchmark at all times."

Felicia Cao was a graduating senior, at the time of her application, a double major in biochemistry and Asian Studies at University at Buffalo. She is a UB Presidential Scholar and will matriculate in the MD/PhD program at Baylor College of Medicine, and plans a career in academic medicine as a physician scientist.

Her awards include the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, UB Dean's List 2007-2011, Mortar Board (Pi Sigma Alpha,) an honor society which recognizes college seniors for leadership, scholarship, and service.

Her work at Roswell Park led her to be included as a co-author of several published articles.

She participated in UB Study Abroad Program in China.

She volunteered at Hospice Buffalo and at Roswell Park chemotherapy and infusion clinic.

Her references speak highly of her genuine interest in medicine and in caring for others; her scholarship is reflected through her inclusion as author in published articles; her excellent paper on the diverse effects of the one child policy on women's status in China in the 1980's. Her paper "is a pleasure to read...well organized and written, and draws on the best research on the topic."

Stacey Johnson, Olga Lindberg Chair

Note – a committee has been established to make recommendations for the use of the Carol Jamieson bequest (~\$10,000). If you have suggestions, please contact one of the committee members – Barb Carier, Sue Oliver, Joan Trinchera, Maria Coppola, Marguerite Collesano, or Betty Preble – before their Oct 25 meeting.

PUBLIC POLICY: WOMEN AND THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

The proposed American Jobs Act needs to be thoroughly studied and analyzed. Here are some of the points that are being made in order to appeal to women.

- The jobs bill will cut taxes for over 900,000 women small business owners.
- It will allow 280,000 teachers to keep or return to their jobs. This would have an especially large impact for women, who make up 78 percent of America's K-12 teachers. It would also help modernize 35,000 of the schools where they work, and where our children learn.
- It will put construction workers back on the job repairing our nation's roads, bridges, dams, airports and schools, while creating specific employment and job training opportunities for groups that are underrepresented in the construction profession – including women.
- It will extend unemployment insurance, helping 2.6 million women in danger of losing their benefits.
- It will provide states with support for summer jobs programs for low-income youth, including the 15.6 percent of women ages 16 to 24 who are unemployed. In 2012 and 2013, this program would support year-round jobs, as well.
- It will cut payroll taxes for an estimated 77.9 million working women throughout the country, leaving them with more money to support their families, and spend in their communities.

Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

DATES TO NOTE:

- 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 North County Center
Speaker: Rose Sebouhian, plus the film "Iron Jawed Angels"
Contact: Pam Westman (Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch) - pmwestman@yahoo.com
Details on page 1
- Oct. 13, 7 pm- "**Oliver**", presented at the Daemen College MusicalFare Theater
Cost: \$30
Contact: Judy Weidemann at jweide7170@aol.com
Details on page 1
- Wed., Nov. 9, 2 pm at the United Way **Preservation Buffalo Niagara** presentation on the National Preservation Conference held in Buffalo/Niagara in October
Details in November *Advocate*
- Sat., Dec. 3, 11:30 am in the Canisius College Faculty Dining Room **Holiday Gathering**
Details in November *Advocate*

Sat., Jan. 21, 2 pm at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main Street, West Seneca
UB Women's Health Initiative
Speaker: Jean Wactowski-Wende, PhD
Details in January *Advocate*

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 Check, 716-835-6945.

This newsletter was delivered to the William Street Post Office, Buffalo, NY on September 26, 2011.