

AAUW BUFFALO ADVOCATE

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

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Dates of Note

Board Meeting

Wed, Feb 6, 5:45 pm
Christ United Methodist
Church

February Program

Feb 16, 10:00 am
Rev. Allison Stokes, Ph.D.
Ebenezer Church

March Programs

March 8,
Intl Women's Day
Dinner at Milos
Registration Form pg 6
March 16,
Tech Savvy at UB
March 23, Sister-to-Sister
at Buff State

AAUW NYS Convention

Fri-Sun, April 19-21
High Peaks Resort

AAUW National Convention

Sun-Wed, June 9-12
New Orleans, LA

Saturday, February 16, 2013 at 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Allison Stokes, Ph.D.

Feminist Pioneers in Religious Pluralism

Ebenezer UCC - 630 Main Street West Seneca, NY

Join us to hear Rev. Stokes speak about the first World's Parliament of Religions convened in Chicago in 1893 as part of the Columbian Exposition (often called "the Chicago World's Fair"). Remarkably, many of the speakers were women—almost 10%. At a time when the voices of women were not often heard in public places, and



when women were not accepted as religious leaders, these pioneers broke with accepted conventions.

Sadly, the contribution of women to the World's Parliament in 1893 is a story that has gone untold for over 100 years. The speaker looks forward to sharing research from her ongoing, book-length study, *Feminist Pioneers in Religious Pluralism*.

Rev. Stokes is Founding Director of the Women's Interfaith Institute. In November she celebrated 31 years of ordination in the United Church of Christ. There will be a small charge of \$5 and light refreshments will be served.

Please reserve by **February 9th** and send checks made out to Buffalo Branch AAUW to:
Joan Eschner, 30 Meadowbrook Dr., Elma, NY 14059-9524

The Family Justice Center

The Family Justice Center provides free services for domestic violence victims and their children through an extensive collaboration with 13 partner agencies, all located at one secured, comfortable location, where victims can get all the services they need to safely escape abuse. More details may be found on their website at: www.fjcsafe.org including times for tours. If you haven't been on a tour, it's the perfect way to see and learn about the incredible work that goes on at the Family Justice Center. Tours are one hour long-guaranteed. And you will be dazzled. There is also a satellite facility in Orchard Park to serve Southtowns residents.

Currently the community is zeroing in on a site in the Northtowns in anticipation of opening a Northtowns Family Justice Center satellite.

Executive director Mary Murphy (whom some of you may have heard at one of our AAUW functions) said "We're looking for volunteers to help renovate the eventual

See more on page 4

Barb's Beliefs

I am a great believer in
luck, and I find that
the harder I work, the more
I have of it.
—Thomas Jefferson

I'm writing this in January, the month of new beginnings and new planning. I hope you made some plans for yourself as I did.

But more than just planning, I have become aware of how full my life is. On Christmas morning I was surrounded by all my children and all my grandchildren. Chaotic? Sure. But wonderful! And for 50 years I had my husband too, surely a blessing not found in all lives. But now the kids have gone home and have taken the grandkids and granddog. My husband passed on a few years ago. So I'm here alone. Wait! I'm not alone. I'm surrounded by friends! Between my church and Buffalo AAUW, I know and see hundreds of people each week. Yes, I'm lucky to have them!

But is it luck? Did they just chance to fall into my life? Well, no. I had to do the work to get out there and be part of their lives first. Being an active member of a religious group or a community organization takes more than luck. I know people who are satisfied to sit at home and not make the effort. Their lives are getting smaller and more closed in all the time. That's not my choice, and I think, not yours. You want to be part of AAUW and what it stands for, and you have already made some efforts to show that. Do you want to have more luck? more success? Attend the next meeting. Say yes when the Nominating Committee calls you. Contribute some books for our book sale. Ask a friend or neighbor if she is interested in joining. Work a little for Buffalo Branch and you'll find that your luck improves!

— Barbara Carier

Betty's Rambles

"You must do
the thing you
think you cannot
do."—Eleanor Roosevelt

"And the trouble is, if you don't risk anything, you
risk even more." — Erica Jong

Yes, it's a risk to try to do things you think you can't. But as this new year begins, what better time to make the attempt? There are officers in our AAUW branch who have tackled – with wonderful success – things they'd never done before. Our booksale is being managed by a group of women, none of whom had been on the steering committee before. Two new members are cheerfully heading sections of books that they know, but not like an expert. People are chairing scholarships that they've not worked on. Our members are accepting these challenges, fortified with the knowledge that other branch members are there to help, to support, to empathize with the inevitable occasional failure.

So, what are YOU doing? If the nominating committee calls, are you immediately thinking "I can't do THAT!?" Have you just casually read past the "help wanted" notices in the newsletter? Have you thought "Well, someone else would be better at that and they'll certainly volunteer"? Perhaps this is the time to stretch yourself and try something new, completely out of your comfort zone!

OR, perhaps you're not quite that brave yet? How about volunteering to help with something? There are several upcoming activities that will need work, Tech Savvy and Sister-2-Sister being the most obvious. And your new president(s) will need board members and committee members – think about what you can do that you don't think you can!

— Betty Preble

AAUW BUFFALO ADVOCATE

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for members and as an update on AAUW issues and programs.

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Send address changes to Freddie Cheek, 406 Maynard Drive,
Amherst, NY 14226 or email fscheek@verizon.net.

For prospective or new member questions, contact
Cynthia Mehary, VP Membership Recruitment, at
camehary@roadrunner.com.

Buffalo Interest Groups

Sunday Book Club

When: Sunday, Feb. 24th at 3:00 p.m.
 Where: Sweetness 7, 301 Parkside (across the street from the main zoo entrance.)
 Book to be discussed: *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis. This an Oprah Book Club 2.0 book.
 Please contact Karen Huffman (kshk152@yahoo.com or 830-5316) if you have any questions or would like to join in.

Knitting Group

When: Wednesday, February 13th from 2-4 p.m.
 Where: Barnes & Noble on Transit near Main St.
 Contact Margaret Fischer at 632-8269 or margaretjf@roadrunner.com

Clueless Group

When: Wednesday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m.
 Where: Bob Evans 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.
 Facilitator: Carlyn Yearly
 Book to be discussed: *Black & Blue* by Ian Rankin. To reserve call Suzanne Grossman at 837-8769

Dinner By The Book Club

When: Wednesday, February 20th at 5:30 p.m.
 Where: Bob Evans 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.
 Discussion leader: Karen Howard
 Book to be discussed: *Iron River* by T. Jefferson Parke.
 To reserve call Fran Witnauer at 688-5708 or email at Grandmafran44@yahoo.com

News and Notes

Welcome New Member

Mrs. Jacki Lamb-Anderson

633 Main Street
 West Seneca, NY 14224
 Phone: 716 675-9731 (h)
 Phone: 716 551-3053 Ext 249
 E-mail: lamb-anderson.jacki@dol.gov
 Degree: B.S. Biology Empire State College/
 SUNY 1981
 M.S. Molecular Bio/Nat. Science/
 SUNY at Buffalo 1989
 M.S. Engineering Science/SUNY
 at Buffalo 1991
 Occupation: Industrial Hygienist

Velma Cobb Scholarship

The Velma Cobb Scholarship Application is up on our website. Please make this opportunity known to any female graduating high school senior in Erie or Niagara County who has at least a 95 grade point average (3.5/4.0) and who will be in full time attendance at an accredited 2 year or 4 year college in the fall. We expect to give two \$2,000 scholarships. Completed applications must be received by March 1 and winners will be notified by April 1, 2013. Questions should be directed to velmacobb2013@gmail.com or Betty Krist at 675-4059. Betty will also be looking for volunteers to review applications and select the winners.

Tech Savvy Joins Tech Trek in Going Nationwide!

In 2013, AAUW will launch a national Tech Savvy pilot program to engage sixth- through ninth-grade girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Ten branches or states across the country will hold these one-day conferences *based on the successful AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch Tech Savvy program, which has been honored by the White House.* The Buffalo branch Tech Savvy will be held at UB on Saturday, March 16th.

(From the December 2012 AAUW Mission & Action e-newsletter)

Here's hoping that all of you looked carefully at the 2012 AAUW Annual Report. It delineates all the ways that AAUW empowers women. You can see how all of us help with our donations and programs that improve and advance the lives of women and girls.



I was particularly struck by the article on page 19 entitled 2012 Accomplishments. Finally Arezou Mansourian, Christine Ng, and Lauren Mancuso won their Title IX suit against UC Davis. The Legal Advocacy Fund started to support this case in 2005, signed on to an amicus brief in 2009, and featured the case in the 2010 report.

The women took on this battle when the school cut the women's wrestling team, alleging that it was part of the school's policy of not sufficiently expanding athletic opportunities under Title IX.

The plaintiffs stuck it out until a settlement was reached in 2011. The plaintiffs believe that one of the reasons they managed to hold out for so long was the support of women from local AAUW branches. These women attended all of the hearings and provided food and moral support.

It makes me feel good to know that we are there for each other!

— Sue Oliver, Funds Chair

AAUW & THE FISCAL CLIFF - What's next?

Late on New Year's Day, the House of Representatives passed the Senate bill to pull us back from the so-called "fiscal cliff," the combination of tax and spending changes that could have sent the U.S. economy back into a recession. But this dealt only with the tax changes and merely delayed the spending cuts, which means we still have work to do.

Like any compromise, the deal is far from perfect, but it includes several AAUW-supported provisions that will help women and their families, such as:

- Returning to the Clinton-era tax rates for high-income earners while continuing the current rates for the middle class.
- Extending the "American Opportunity Tax Credit," a \$2,500 tax credit to help college students and their families pay for tuition and related expenses.

- Ending the payroll tax holiday to protect Social Security's long-term solvency.
- Delaying the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts for two months, giving Congress more time to find a way to protect key programs from sequestration.

The automatic spending cuts have been delayed, but they are still dangerous. In the next two months, Congress will need to find a solution to avoid deep cuts to important investments such as education, funding for civil rights enforcement, women's health programs, and workforce training programs.

There will be key moments in the coming debate when we need to urge Congress to protect these important programs from sequestration. AAUW members should keep the pressure on their elected officials.

— Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

The Family Justice Center (from page 1)

volunteer to staff the site, and/or assist with raising funds to cover costs. Volunteer training will be conducted in the Williamsville area."

If you have an interest in joining me to help make a Northtowns site a reality, please contact me at 636.2854 or smcclary2@verizon.net.

— Susan McClary

From the National Women's History Project (www.nwhp.org/news)

February Highlights in US Women's History

- **Feb 1, 1978** - First postage stamp to honor a black woman, Harriet Tubman, is issued in Washington, DC
- **Feb 4, 1987** - First National Women in Sports Day is celebrated by Presidential Proclamation
- **Feb. 12 1869** - the Utah Territory passes a law allowing women to vote
- **Feb 15, 1921** - The Suffrage Monument, depicting Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, and carved by Adelaide Johnson, is dedicated at the U.S. Capitol
- **Feb 15, 1953** - Tenley Albright is the first American woman to win the World Figure Skating championship
- **Feb 17, 1870** - Esther Hobart Morris became the first American woman Justice of the Peace
- **Feb 24, 1912** - Henrietta Szold founds Hadassah, the largest Jewish organization in American history, focusing on healthcare and education in the Israel and the US
- **Feb 24, 1967** - Jocelyn Bell Burnell makes the first discovery of a pulsar, a rapidly rotating neutron star
- **Feb 25 1986** - Corazon Aquino sworn in as the first woman President of the Philippines
- **Feb 27, 1922** - US Supreme Court upholds the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which guarantees women the right to vote

THE 2013 BOOKSALE

The 2013 booksale is fast approaching and we have yet to find it a suitable home. We could use some help from our vast and mobile membership. Keep an eye out for a vacant building in a busy plaza or neighborhood with lots of parking and a "for lease" sign on it. Check out the phone number on the sign and pass the information to someone on the sale committee. If you have a friend in the real estate business pick his or her brain for leads. You can be this year's hero.



We also need books. The inventory is running low and we want to keep our many volunteers busy. Sorting and packing books now saves a lot of time and work at the site.

Readers Digest books are a tough sell but lots of people like them. If you are one of them or know someone or an organization that wants them, we have a couple of boxes at the sorting site, 995 Kensington Ave. They are free. Call Betty Preble.

— Pat Swift MacClennan

From the well attended January meeting, Nadia Shahram, author of the novel, *Marriage on the Street Corners of Tehran*, discussed the latest information on the status of Muslim women as mothers and daughters in courtrooms.

Her novel was a composite of women she met in Iran. The sexual discrimination is just incredible, even in the courts.



Judy Weidemann, Nadia Shahram, Sue Licata

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
Buffalo Branch

CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is annually held on March 8 to celebrate women's achievements throughout history and across nations. It is also known as the United Nations (UN) Day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013 - 5:15 pm

Cash Bar, Appetizers, and Buffet Dinner

MILOS RESTAURANT

5877 MAIN STREET

WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221

Cost — \$30 per person

Reservations- Carol A. Griffith, 18 Union Common,

Williamsville, New York 14221

810-0269 cag2002@roadrunner.com

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Reservations: _____ Email: _____

Moving? Please contact Freddie Cheek, 716/835-6945

Return Service Requested

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