



AAUW BUFFALO ADVOCATE

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

In This Issue

January Program	1
Presidents' Messages	2
Buffalo Branch Award	2
Interest Groups	3
New Members	3
AAUW Funds & Photos	4
Public Policy	5
February Meeting	6
Member Survey	7
Holiday with Friends	8

Dates of Note

Board Meeting

Wed, Jan 2, 5:45 pm
Christ United Methodist
Church

January Program

Jan 17, 7:00 pm
Nadia Shahram
Audubon Library

February Program

Feb 16, 10:00 am
Allison Stokes
Ebenezer Church

March Programs

March 8, Intl Women's Day
Dinner at Milos
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

January 17, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

Nadia Shahram

*Muslim Women's Status as Mothers and
Daughters in Courtrooms*

Audubon Library - 350 John J. Audubon Drive - Amherst, NY 14228

Join us to hear Nadia Shahram, author of the novel, *Marriage on the Street Corners of Tehran*, discuss the latest information on the status of Muslim women as mothers and daughters in courtrooms. Shortly after the events of September 11, 2001 Ms. Shahram started questioning the role of Muslims in the image of Islam. As an independent Muslim activist and scholar, Ms. Shahram traveled extensively around the world, including her native country of Iran, interviewing Muslim families to gather information on the variations in the practice of family laws in different Muslim cultures. While visiting Iran Ms. Shahram attended Islamic courtrooms, witnessing first-hand the implementation of Islamic Law and its gender biased interpretations.

As a result of her extensive research with court cases, in April 2010 Ms. Shahram published her first book. The novel is based on true stories of women's experiences of the interpretation of Islamic Family and Criminal Laws as they are currently being practiced in modern Iran.

A practicing lawyer and mediator, Ms. Shahram is a board member of New York State Council on Divorce Mediation, board member of Family Justice Center, and a member of the Women and Erie County Bar Associations. She has received an award from Business First as one of the most influential women in Western New York for her work with women. Her private practice is dedicated to matrimonial mediation with private offices in Amherst, New York. Ms. Shahram also teaches a course at the University of Buffalo Law School, "The Effects of Religion and Culture on Family and Criminal Laws."

Copies of Ms. Shahram's novel will be available for purchase at the meeting. You can view a video of her discussing her novel at youtube.com.

Please email either Sue Licata (slicata@roadrunner.com) or Judy Weidemann (jweide7170@aol.com) to reserve a spot at the meeting. **There is no charge.**

Please plan to join us for this informative program.

Barb's Beliefs

“Long-range goals keep you from being frustrated by short-term failures.”

–J.C. Penney, Retailer

Are you expecting me to urge you to make and keep some New Year's resolutions? I suppose I should, but it's discouraging for me since I'm no good at it too. Those short-term failures are disheartening and make it difficult to start over.

I am reminded of Thomas Edison. Everyone has heard of the hundreds of experiments he conducted to produce a viable filament for his light bulb. What if he had been so depressed that he gave up? Mary Anderson invented the windshield wiper. Do you think she had short-term failures in that process? Dr. Grace Hopper developed the first user-friendly business computer software program (COBOL.) Most certainly she had to start over more than once, yet she collected honorary degrees from thirty universities. Stephanie Kwolek invented the Kevlar that we use in bulletproof vests and suspension bridge cables, among other things. It's five times as strong as steel and must have taken years of work to develop. Even AAUW didn't begin as the organization we know today. It has reinvented itself multiple times in its 131 years.

OK. Let's agree to try. Whether it's to develop a new interest, lose some weight, clean out the closets, finish that project at work that has been annoyingly slow, or (add your own here...) we can try. Let me know if you achieve something of which you can be proud, and I'll let you know how I do, too. And don't forget to keep Buffalo Branch in your plans.

Happy New Year!

Betty's Rambles

Accept the pain,
cherish the joys,
resolve the regrets;

then can come the best of benedictions –

“If I had my life to live over, I'd do it all the same.”

Joan McIntosh

A good friend of ours died just before Thanksgiving. We've lost friends and family before, but somehow this one hit harder than usual. Perhaps it was because he always seemed so full of energy and life, so happy to be living, to be enjoying his young grandsons, to be looking forward to a wonderful retirement with his loving wife in just a few years. But a heart attack is a formidable foe, and it often wins.

When things like this happen, it reminds us how precious life is. It shouldn't be wasted on pettiness or unkindnesses. Our friend, although he freely spoke his mind and did things his way (that song was sung at the funeral!), always kept the feelings of other people in mind. I propose that each of us include somewhere in our New Year's Resolutions a vow to be kind, to be considerate, to “pay things forward”. We are all here only a short time – let's make sure that we are living life the way we'd like to be remembered.

I wish all of you a wonderful New Year and look forward to seeing you at all our wonderful 2013 programs!

Betty Preble

Branch Receives Washington Honor

The Buffalo Branch has received an American flag, one of 130 which were flown above the US Capitol building on January 14, 2012. This date was the 130th anniversary of the first meeting of the organization that was to become the American Association of University Women. Buffalo was selected to receive this flag as the oldest AAUW branch still in existence in New York State. Our longstanding commitment to AAUW's mission is being honored, as we continue our efforts to improve opportunities for women and girls across the city, state, country, and globe.

We are looking for creative ideas about the use of this 3x5, high quality flag. If you can envision a way to display it so it isn't just left in a box, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Betty Preble at betty.preble@gmail.com or Barbara Carier at bcarier@roadrunner.com. Without a permanent office with a flagpole, we should be imaginative and innovative with this unique acquisition.

AAUW BUFFALO ADVOCATE

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Co-Presidents: Barbara Carier, Betty Preble
Advocate Publisher | Editor: Vicki Marshall

Assistant Editors: Betty Preble, Judy Weidemann, Barbara Carier

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

We will meet at:

Sweetness 7, 301 Parkside (across the street from the main zoo entrance) on Sunday, Jan. 27th at 3:30 p.m.

We will start by reading:

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

If you have any other suggestions, please let me know, and we can choose a different book, or just read the suggestion for the next month.

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, January 9th 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, January 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Bob Evans 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Facilitator: Stacey Johnson

Book to be discussed: *Hard Time* by Sara Paretsky

To reserve call Suzanne Grossman at 837-8769

Dinner By The Book Club

When: Wednesday, January 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Bob Evans 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Discussion leader: Marilyn Todd

Book to be discussed: *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand

To reserve call Fran Witnauer at 688-5708 or email at Grandmafran44@yahoo.com

News and Notes

Welcome New Members

Ms. Shirley Niedermeyer

214 Fruitwood Terr.

Williamsville, NY 14221

Phone: 716 631-9716

E-mail: Shirley.niedermeyer@gmail.com

Education: BS, Elementary

Education Buffalo

State College, 1968, Masters,

Elementary Education,

Buffalo State College, 1971

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Ms. Ruthe Olds Furie

7151 Combs Drive

Hamburg, NY 14075-6701

Phone: 716 649-1292

E-mail: ruthefurie@aol.com

Degrees: BS in Art Ed., Buffalo

State College, 1963, MS in Art Ed,

Buffalo State College, 1968

Occupation: Retired

Ms. Catherine Irish

6145 McKinley Parkway Unit 25

Was a member of National and now also Branch

Hamburg, NY 14075

Phone: 716 2021295 H

716 824-8900 W

716 359-2358 Cell

E-Mail: cassieirish@gmail.com

Degree: BS Industrial & Labor

Relations. Cornell University 1991

Occupation/Business: HR Director

Multisorb Technologies

Welcome Back

Jessie Givens, 15 Peach Tree Rd.

Cheektowaga, NY 14225,

jgivens425@gmail.com

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.

Watch for additional information in the February Advocate.

A few weeks ago I took a day trip to Ithaca to attend the Ithaca Branch's welcome luncheon for all first year women graduate students who have come to Cornell and Ithaca College from other countries. They were asked to state their name, the country they come from, and what they were studying. The group is a veritable UN representing countries from all over the world.

Two young women were asked to give a more detailed account of their studies. The first was a young woman from Macedonia who was at Cornell on a Humphrey Scholarship which is funded by the US State Department. She is an economist here to study agricultural marketing techniques.

The second speaker was from Sweden. She is the recipient of an AAUW International Fellowship, doing research in the departments of Ecological Studies and Ornithology on the effect of environment on bird populations. She was very grateful for the fellowship as it allows her to do the final lab work and write her dissertation without having to do additional teaching.

This is just one example of our Educational Opportunity Funds at work. When we finish funding the Hillary Rodham Clinton American Fellowship it too will help deserving young American women to achieve their educational goals.

-Sue Oliver, Funds Chair



Wish you could all have been there for a delightful luncheon with good AAUW friends. Robin Miller's music provided just the right touch to add to the holiday spirit.



More photos on page 8

AAUW & THE FISCAL CLIFF

AAUW supports a balanced approach to preventing the fiscal cliff. If the automatic spending cuts known as sequestration occur, programs supporting educational opportunities, women's health, and civil rights would suffer massive funding cuts. In terms of the tax changes that make up the fiscal cliff, AAUW strongly supports ending the Bush-era tax rates and returning to the Clinton-era rates for high-income earners, while continuing the current rates for the middle class. AAUW strongly prefers the reinstatement of the Clinton-era rates instead of extending the payroll tax cut "holiday." AAUW looks forward to working with Congress and the administration to resolve the fiscal cliff in a balanced way that promotes and protects education, civil rights, and women's rights.

This may be an appropriate time to remind members of some of the positions of AAUW:

The AAUW believes that everyone is entitled to health care that is high-quality, affordable, and easily accessible.

No woman should be left out of the benefits and protections of the Affordable Care Act because of where she works or attends school.

AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services. AAUW believes that improved pregnancy prevention programs, new technologies, and access to complete reproductive health services enhance women's reproductive choices, which leads to improvements in women's health care around the world.

AAUW believes that quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society. We advocate an equitable, bias-free public education system and responsible funding for all levels of education. A strong federal commitment to education is especially necessary in difficult economic times.

AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services.

AAUW believes that **having the most accessible, accurate and detailed information will encourage action specifically tailored to improve outcomes for those schools falling behind.** School districts, educators, and policymakers cannot create the right solutions if they do not have the right data to truly know what segments of the population need help.

AAUW opposes voucher systems, which divert funding away from public schools. AAUW stands firmly by the belief that the country should provide an excellent education for all children, not private school vouchers for a few.

AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination on the basis of sex and pushes for the equal treatment of

women in the military — not only in combat but also in the promotion of robust anti-harassment and anti-assault policies and access to health care, including contraception and abortion.

AAUW supports the expansion of full-range benefits to same-

sex domestic partners and spouses, as well as the addition of provisions to the Family and Medical Leave Act to provide job protection, important family responsibilities, and coverage for caregiving for same-sex partners and spouses.

AAUW is committed to supporting "fairness in compensation, equitable access and advancement in employment, and vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes." A recent study released by AAUW shows that just one year out of college, millennial women are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to their male peers even when they do the same work and major in the same field. Women are attending college at higher rates than men, graduating in greater numbers and earning higher grades. Part of the unexplained pay gap is likely due to gender discrimination.

FEBRUARY 16 MEETING



Rev. Allison Stokes, Ph.D, Founding Director of the Women's Interfaith Institute in the Finger Lakes will give an interesting and enlightening talk. The mission of the institute is "Women supporting women of diverse faiths in generating spiritual leadership, scholarship and service." Please mark your calendars for February 16, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. at Ebenezer Church, 630 Main Street West Seneca, NY.

Rev. Stokes is Founding Director of the Women's Interfaith Institute. She has served as Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at the University of Rochester, Protestant Chaplain at Ithaca College, Associate University Chaplain at Yale, and Vassar College Chaplain. She was also pastor of the West Stockbridge Congregational Church in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts for 13 years. In November she celebrated 31 years of ordination in the United Church of Christ.



Booksale

As a new year begins we look forward to increased book sale activity at 995 Kensington Ave. As most of you know sorting is held Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. until noon. We also will be collecting books on those mornings from 10 to 11:30. Volunteers are welcome, especially those bearing boxes.

As fond as we are of Kensington Bailey, we do need to find another site for the sale and we are looking for leads. A large storefront in a location convenient to potential customers is most desirable. If it is free, that is more desirable. Contact Betty Preble or Barb Carrier with your suggestions.

Sale proceeds benefit a variety of AAUW programs and the board has voted to again allocate \$5,000 to the Jacquie Walker Scholarship. Jacquie had already accepted an invitation to work with the sale in 2013.

-Pat Swift MacClennan

We are sorry to learn of the passing of member Carmen Ticconi on October 8, 2012. Carmen battled cancer with dignity for several years. A former teacher, Carmen devoted her life to the care of her special needs daughter and her church. We wish comfort for her friends and family.

Member Survey

On the following page (7) is a survey to help determine the path that the branch should be taking over the next few years, as well as determining the skills we have available to make sure we can follow that path. You have answered some of these questions before, but interests and capabilities change. Please take a few minutes to either fill this out on paper OR go to the branch website where an online version will be posted. Answer the questions and then send them back either via mail or email to: Betty Preble, 6935 East Quaker, Orchard Park, NY 14127, betty.preble@gmail.com.

AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH MEMBER SURVEY

Note - Responses will be used ONLY for branch purposes. No information will be shared without permission. Unless otherwise noted, please check all the choices that apply.

1. What type of overall branch programming do you prefer?

- AAUW mission-based
 - Social with entertainment
 - Community information
 - Local issues
 - International issues
 - Some social, some serious in same event
 - Other (please specify)
-

2. What time is best for you for branch programs? (Please rank 1-4, best to worst)

- Weekdays during the day
- Weekdays in the evening
- Weekend mornings
- Weekend afternoons

3. What skills would you be willing to contribute to branch work?

- Listserv Management
- Website Management
- Social Media maintenance (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Event arrangements (centerpieces, nametags, registration, venue coordination, etc.)
- Marketing/Publicity/Public Relations
- Computer Graphics/Word Processing
- Financial Management (treasurer positions)
- Copy editing
- Database Management

4. What branch social involvement would you be willing to help with?

- Telephone reminders of upcoming events
- Telephone calls requesting assistance for a project or program
- Membership renewal reminder telephone calls in the spring
- Coordinate rides to programs
- Hostess at branch programs

5. There are some once-in-a-while jobs that need to be done regularly. Would you be willing to:

- Check one of our three Post Office boxes once a week or so?
- Check the voicemail system twice a week or so?
- Manage the printing/ mailing process for the newsletter once per month?

6. What current branch activities interest you?

- Book sale committee
- Community action
- Cultural interests
- Diversity
- Educational equity
- Human/civil rights
- International relations
- Program committee
- Public policy
- Publicity/public relations
- Scholarship committees (evaluate applications)
- Sister-to-Sister Summits
- Tech Savvy

7. What interest groups intrigue you?

- "Clueless" mystery book club
 - "Dinner by the Book" book club
 - Knitting
 - Others (please specify interest such as antiques and collectibles, downtown lunches, music, cooking, foreign language, etc.)
-

8. What new ideas do you have for future programs, and who do you know that might be a good presenter?

9. What suggestion do you have for meeting venues?

Name _____
Email or phone _____



Holiday Luncheon 2012 Salvatore's



**You missed a lovely time.
Sorry you weren't there.**

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

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