



AAUW BUFFALO ADVOCATE

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

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Dates of Note

Tues, Nov 6
VOTE

Board Meeting
Wed, Nov 7, 5:45 pm
Christ United Methodist
Church

AAUW 101
Mon, Nov 12
6:30 pm
Christ United Methodist
Church

Holiday Luncheon
Sat, Dec 1, 11:30 am
Salvatore's Italian Gardens

AAUW NYS Convention
Fri-Sun, April 19-21
High Peaks Resort

AAUW National Convention
Sun-Wed
June 9-12, 2013
New Orleans, LA

AAUW 101

*What you always wanted to know about AAUW
but were afraid to ask!*

Monday, November 12

6:30 pm-9:00 pm

Christ United Methodist Church

350 Saratoga Road (Harlem at Saratoga)

Eileen Hartmann, past AAUW-NYS president, aided by Buffalo board members will lead a discussion, explore issues, and answer questions.

What does National AAUW mean to me? How about State?

What does it mean to be a board member?

What can we do to ensure that AAUW and AAUW-Buffalo are still strong years from now?

What is the big teal machine?

What's the difference between Funds for Education and the Educational Opportunities Fund?

Why do we have two branch budgets?

Why does our branch have so much money? Why do we have so many accounts?

What scholarships/grants/loans do we offer? Who chooses the recipients?

Please let Betty Preble know if you are planning to attend. Email (preferable) betty.preble@gmail.com or phone 716.662.0608.



Celebrating the Holidays with Friends

Bring in the upcoming Holiday season at the famous Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Enjoy the musical entertainment and meet or reconnect with your friends. A sit down luncheon is provided with three menu choices at \$22 per person.

Saturday, December 1, 2012
Salvatore's Italian Gardens
6461 Transit Rd. (at Genesee St.), Depew, NY 14043
Registration: 11:30 AM
Deadline for reservations: November 26, 2012

Indicate your menu choice, complete the form on back page, and mail with your check to:

Joan Trinchera, 84 Pleasant Ave., Hamburg, NY 14075

Barb's Beliefs

“Nothing will ever be attempted, if all possible objections must first be overcome.”

— Samuel Johnson, Essayist, Lexicographer

When we are asked to participate in some new venture, don't we always think first of all the reasons not to say yes? And those might really be good reasons. Family commitments, work situation, shrinking free time, the coming holidays, etc. I know. I do it too. And I'm retired! Those of us who have shown ourselves to be efficient get asked over and over to help in other projects, committees, and planning.

It's easy to get into the habit of saying no. One problem is that we close ourselves into a smaller world if we don't reach out sometimes. Another thing to consider is that by being involved with church, school, AAUW, and other activities, we are setting an example for our families and our friends. We are telling them what is important to us, and by example, what has value. It encourages others to do similar things.

There are always going to be reasons why we can't do something, but maybe it's time to try something new. The Buffalo Branch Nominating Committee is starting the search for new elected officers. Is there something you might like? Think about it. Call us and ask some questions. Don't try to overcome all possible objections first. It won't happen and it doesn't need to happen.

Barbara Carier

Betty's Rambles

Last month I participated in the voter registration drive sponsored by the League of Women Voters. What an eye-opener! Although we registered several people that day, two incidents stood out in my mind. One was a young woman who asked, rather hesitantly, if former felons could vote. She didn't think so, but someone had told her she could so she asked. We checked and were delighted to tell her that, at least in New York, once the prison and probation times have been completed she could once again register. She was so excited that her younger life as a "bad girl" (her words) didn't mean that she could never vote again. At the other end of the spectrum was an older woman who answered tersely "no" when I asked if she was registered. I got the same response when I asked if she'd LIKE to register. There's not much one can do – we certainly don't force people to register or to vote – but it was then discouraging to hear her talking with someone else about the problems she was having with "the system." She saw no connection between an imperfect system and her ability to have a voice in changing it.

I hope all our AAUW members have made that connection. The percentage of members overall who are registered is much higher than the national average, but it's not 100%. And even those who are registered may decide on November 6 that "it's too cold today," or "I'm too busy," or "my vote won't matter." Please remember – our foremothers fought long and hard to get us the vote AND there are many times throughout history where ONE vote made the difference. PLEASE VOTE!

Betty Preble

AAUW BUFFALO ADVOCATE

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Co-Presidents: Barbara Carier, Betty Preble

Advocate Publisher | Editor: Vicki Marshall

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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.

Welcome New Member

Ms. Gwen Collier

337 Phyllis

Buffalo, NY 14215

Phone: 716 931-5073 Hm

Phone: 716 893-4433 wk

Phone: 716 390-9235 cell

E-mail: collielib@yahoo.com

Degrees: Bachelors in English UB 1991, Masters in Library Science UB 2000

- Cynthia Mehary, VP Membership Recruitment

Buffalo Interest Groups — November

Our interest groups are up and running and welcome any of you to join one or more. You don't have to attend every meeting. Stop in and try one out to see if it meets one of your interests. I have a list of members that at one time or other have expressed an interest in being a part of a restaurant group. What we need is someone to step forward and offer to get the first meeting organized. It's my job to help you do that. It is so easy. This group could meet for lunch or dinner. There are no rules. Think about it and contact me at tsagewood@aol.com or 632-0461. Anyone with other ideas such as movie, gardening, cards, or non-fiction group feel free to give me a call as well.

Judy Malamas

Knitting Group

Date: Wednesday November 7th from 2-4 pm
Location: Barnes & Noble on Transit near Main St.
Contact person: Margaret Fischer 632-8269 or margaretjf@roadrunner.com All knitters are welcome, from beginners to those who are skilled.

Dinner By The Book Club

Meets Wednesdays at 5:30 at Bob Evans Restaurant at 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd near the 290.

Wednesday *Little Princes*
November 14 By Conor Grennan
Discussion leader Cherie St. Pierre
Contact Fran Witnauer by phone 688-5708 or email Grandmafran44@yahoo.com for reservations.

Clueless Group

Meets Wednesdays at 6:00 at Bob Evans Restaurant at 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd near the 290.

Wednesday *The Monkey's Raincoat*
November 28 by Robert Crais
Discussion Leader Kate Collins
Contact Suzanne Grossman, 837-8769 for reservations.

News and Notes



Booksale Cindy Koch confirmed that our K-B sorting site is an election polling place and they will be using the "coffin room." We will NOT be sorting on Tuesday, Nov 6 and discourage people from bringing books that day. Rather than sort or bring books, PLEASE VOTE.

Achievement Award Nominations

The Buffalo Branch of AAUW has a long-standing tradition (at least back to 1940) of honoring an outstanding local woman at our May luncheon. A committee will be established to choose this year's honoree, but your suggestions are welcome! There is a nomination form available on the branch website – look on the homepage for "Branch Tools." Please think about the outstanding women in your life and send us the information requested. See the roster for the list of those who have been honored in the past.

Officer Elections

The following officers will be elected in May 2013:

- President
- First VP – Program
- Third VP – Membership Retention
- Operations Treasurer
- Chamberlin/FFE Treasurer
- Nominating Chair (one year)
- Two members, nominating committee

All except the nominating committee chair position are two year commitments, from July 2013 through June 2015.

Anyone interested in serving or with suggestions for candidates should contact the current nominating committee chair, Lillis McLean.

“Are Voters Losing their Voice in our Government?”



Lee Coppola & Marian Deutschman



Dr. Sally Wagner



Deborah Michaux



Janet Massaro & Craig Bucki

First, a HUGE thanks to the committee who worked so hard on pulling the day together! Marian Deutschman took on the task of assembling the morning panel, which was outstanding. Sue Oliver worked with the NYS Council on the Humanities to bring Dr. Wagner for the afternoon. Others who should take credit for the wonderful program are Terri Parks, Joyce Bol, Barb Carier, Joan Trinchera, and Betty Preble. Those of you who couldn't attend missed a great day!

Lee Coppola, who moderated the morning panel, did a masterful job of managing the questions for the panel, both his own and those from the audience. He should be invited to moderate the presidential debates. Panel members Craig Bucki, Debora Michaux and Janet Massaro were all knowledgeable and persuasive in their responses and comments.

The afternoon talk, by Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, gave us more of the details of the life and work of Matilda Joslyn Gage, one of the “triumvirate” leaders of the early suffragists. Members of the audience who had heard Dr. Wagner before and those who had never heard of Ms. Gage both commented on learning more from this talk. Most striking was the variety of causes and beliefs in one person – suffrage, civil rights, religious freedom, and involvement in the Haudenosaunee culture.

Some of the topics which were highlighted in the panel discussion were:

- The voter ID laws, some of which have been upheld and some of which have been stricken down. Many of those which were stricken by the courts will probably be implemented in the long run since the arguments against them were partly based on a lack of time for the government offices and the general public to accommodate the requirements before

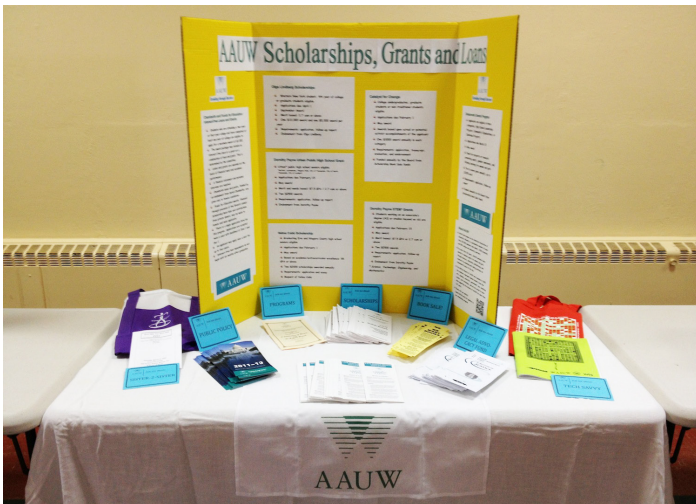
November 6. It was also mentioned that the voter fraud that the ID laws purportedly target is actually less than .00001% of the reported possible fraud. The rest is honest mistakes, most of which would not be addressed by these laws.

- The lack of civics classes in the current high school curriculum was mentioned as a possible cause of low voter participation by younger adults (especially the millennials.) Another factor is the example set by parents – children of parents who vote are much more likely to do so themselves.
- The panel was unanimous on declaring that the computer security industry is not ready, yet, to handle computer voting from home units.
- Campaign finance reform MUST happen. When incumbents leave office, they often take with them their treasure chests, which may be disbursed however they choose. County Executive, Joel Giambra took with him over \$1,000,000 which could certainly influence races. There needs to be some method of making independent entities such as the super-PACs accountable – limit contributions, limit expenditures, and make contributor names public. Public financing of campaigns remains a possibility.
- Campaigns need to be shorter and voting times need to be longer (early voting, absentee ballots.)
- The current ballots in NYS need to be revised and/or the public needs to be better educated in their use. Two-sided ballots should probably be eliminated.
- Women give less money, but more time, to campaigns. Possible reasons – frugality and natural organization skills.



Legal Advocacy Fund

Six purses have been collected for LAF fund raising. Three will be available for the Chinese auction at the December luncheon, and three will be taken to the NYS Convention at Lake Placid next spring. The branch contributions need to be sent to Washington by Dec. 31, so our Holiday event will be a good time to give the branch contributions a boost.



AAUW funds display

We have a good start on contributions of things to go in the purses. Still needed are some items to go in a briefcase and a fancy silver gym bag. I look forward to seeing what comes out of this request!

Just to remind you where your LAF monies go: The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund continues to support current lawsuits which address the problem of sexual assaults on women in the military, Title IX lawsuits around the country, and pay and tenure discrimination suits. In addition, it provides funds for campus programs aimed at eliminating discrimination and harassment problems before they start.

Sue Oliver, Funds Chair

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

November Highlights in US Women's History

Nov 1, 1848 - First medical school for women, the New England Female Medical School, opens; in 1874 it merges with Boston University to become one of the world's first coed medical schools

Nov 8, 1910 - The state of Washington passes a constitutional amendment to permit woman suffrage

Nov 8, 1984 - Dr. Anna L. Fisher, a physician, launches into space as the first American mother and third American woman to fly into space on the shuttle Discovery

Nov 11, 1979 - Bethune Museum and Archives opens in Washington D.C. as a center for African-American women's history, honoring Mary McLeod Bethune

Nov 11, 1993 - The Vietnam Women's Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. Conceived by former army combat nurse Diane Carlson Evans and sculpted by Glenna Goodacre, it honors the 265,000 women who voluntarily served during the Vietnam era

Nov 13, 1938 - Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini is beatified. She is the first American woman citizen to become a saint

Nov 14, 1889 - Journalist Elizabeth Cochran, aka Nellie Bly, sails around the world in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds, beating the fictional record set by Phileas Fogg in Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*

Nov 14, 1903 - The U.S. Women's Trade Union League is established

Nov 14, 1946 - Emily Greene Balch, co-founder of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

Nov 28, 1881 - The first organizational meeting is held for the predecessor group to the American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Celebrating The Holidays With Friends

Saturday, December 1, 2012

Salvatore's Italian Gardens

6461 Transit Rd. (at Genesee St.), Depew, NY 14043



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Names of guests: _____

Menu Choice: _____ Chicken _____ Pork Medallions _____ Portobello Mushrooms

**Please send a check for \$22 for yourself and each guest,
written to AAUW Buffalo Branch, by November 26 to:**

Joan Trinchera, 84 Pleasant Ave., Hamburg, NY 14075

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

Return Service Requested

AAUW



AAUW Buffalo Branch
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Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

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