



Buffalo Branch Advocate

NYS District 1

June 2013

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

716-559-3037

Highlights:

- Pg 1 - Booksale
- Pg 2 - Presidents' Messages
- Pg 3 - Interest Groups, AAUW Funds Report, Potluck Announcement
- Pg 4 - Membership Corner
- Pg 5 - Women in STEM!
- Pg 6 - Dates to remember

The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the previous month.

Articles received after that may not appear in the next issue.

Please send articles to Vicki Marshall via e-mail:

goya@roadrunner.com

Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



OUR FABULOUS 59th BOOKSALE!!!

May 29 – June 2, 2013

Office Depot Plaza

2309 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, NY

(intersection of Sheridan Drive and Eggert Road)

If you have not yet signed up to help, please contact Judy Weidemann—jweide7170@aol.com OR 655-3649. We need all hands on board!

If for some reason you cannot physically help at all, please consider making a donation towards the cost of the tables we have to rent.. Contributions may be sent to the booksale treasurer:

Barbara Libby, 93 Melody Lane, Tonawanda, NY 14150.

The other thing we need is customers! Be sure to tell your friends and take bookmarks to your gym/beauty parlor/doctor's office/workplace. Put the news on your Facebook page!

Sale hours will be:

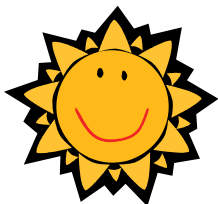
Wednesday—Saturday, 9am—8pm

Sunday, noon—5pm

Have a great summer!

Our next issue (September) will be produced in August.

Don't forget the AAUW-NYS summer leadership conference and AAUW Day at Chautauqua! Details on the AAUW-NYS website!



Here's what the Sale site looked like on May 15—lots of work done, but more to do!



Barb's Beliefs

"The key is not to prioritize what is on the schedule, but to schedule your priorities."

--Stephen Covey

This is my last President's Message to you. I have really enjoyed this past term sharing the position with Betty. She's a pleasure to work with! Thank you to members for placing your confidence in me for yet another term. I was a member only about 6 years when I was first elected president in 1977. I served a second term starting in 1987, a third term with Ann Hicks in 1998, and now this fourth term with Betty in 2011. This one really is my last.

You may be asking yourself why I accepted this many terms. Yes, it was a lot of work. But the fact is that the longer I served the branch, the stronger my dedication became to the mission of AAUW. I got to know more and more of the delightful women who were also steadfast and devoted to AAUW. I served on the state board and met loyal and enthusiastic women from all across the state who shared a love of AAUW as the members of my own branch did. I represented AAUW in community organizations and was proud to discover the high regard with which AAUW is held by other agencies and organizations. So I'm not going anywhere. I'll be at meetings, luncheons, etc. just like you. Together we can keep Buffalo Branch strong, the largest branch in New York State and the top NY contributor to the funds of AAUW. I hope you're as delighted with our branch as I am!

The quotation above? I'm hoping to live the rest of my life remembering it. I certainly have tried to prioritize AAUW!

Barbara Carrier



Betty's Rambles

"One can never pay in gratitude; one can only pay 'in kind' somewhere else in life."

-Anne Morrow Lindbergh

As the 2012-13 year draws to a close, I am grateful for so much, much of which I cannot "pay." For the most part I dare not name names because I know I'll miss some.

I am grateful to Barbara Carrier who gave another two years of her life to leadership in AAUW so that I would not have to do it alone. Her partnership and support have been invaluable.

I am grateful to the wonderful group of women who agreed to serve on the board for the past two years and gave all they could to the job.

I am grateful to the extraordinary members and friends without whose unending work the booksale would not be surviving.

I am grateful to the many members who stepped up to help when someone couldn't do her job. It's people like that who keep the branch going!

I am grateful to my patient husband who, as long as I remind him what's happening each day, is willing to roll with the punches even if it means lunch and/or dinner on his own or very late.

So, how shall I pay? Anything other than AAUW does not seem to be an option since this does tend to be a full-time job and you have honored me by asking me to continue for another two years. That leaves doing the best job I can and leaving it two years from now in the best position I can. I have lots of ideas, and am eager to get started this summer. Please help me! Any ideas or suggestions are welcome – just send them along! I thank you all for the year and look forward to a summer of relaxation in preparation for a busy 2013-2014!

Betty Preble



THE BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE is published monthly September-June as a bulletin of events for members and as an update on AAUW issues and programs.

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Buffalo Branch Study/Interest Groups

Clueless Mystery Book Club

When: **Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.**

Where: **Bob Evans Restaurant - 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd**

Book: ***Still Life*** by Louise Penny

Discussion Leader: **Suzanne Grossman**

Contact: **Suzanne Grossman: 837-8769**

Dinner by the Book

When: **Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 5:30 pm**

Where: **Bob Evans Restaurant - 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd**

Book: ***City of Dreams: A Novel of Nieuw Amsterdam***
by Beverly Swerling

Discussion Leader: **Nan Scinta**

Reservations: **Fran Witnauer 688-5708** or Grandma-fran44@yahoo.com

Knitting Group

When: **Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.**

Where: **Barnes & Noble** on Transit near Main St.

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



FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Judy Malamas, 632-0461 or tsagewood@aol.com



News from the AAUW Funds Chair

Those of us who attended the NYS Convention April 26-28 in Lake Placid were in a very lovely spot with some great women and interesting presentations and discussions.

The Legal Advocacy Fund fundraiser was very successful. Several thousand dollars was raised. You will get the exact numbers when I get them from the LAF Chair Roli Wendorf.

We also heard from Kimberly Davis who is an LAF plaintiff who experienced sexual assault while serving in the US Air Force, NY Air National Guard for 23 years. She is part of one of the AAUW-supported lawsuits, *Hoffman et al v Panetta et al*, filed by attorney Susan Burke. LAF is currently very focused on the problem of sexual assault in the military, as well as the lawsuits pending against Walmart for discrimination in pay and promotion. Unfortunately, the stories remain similar: good work reviews but difficulty getting promotions, inequitable pay raises, and lack of respect from male colleagues. AAUW is not giving up! With our continued support both in advocacy and financial giving, we will continue to help these women to get their just desserts.

Sue Oliver, Funds Chair

Save the Date - September 23- New Program Year Begins



We'll be back at Christ United Methodist Church for our Annual "Potluck." Notice the date is **one week later** than in the past. We'll be presenting Jacquie Walker, Olga Lindberg, and Dorothy Payne Scholarships and "our" NCCWSL gals will have a report as will our fabulous booksale committee. The dinner will again be catered and the cost will remain at \$10.00. Complete details will be in the September *Advocate*. Plan to meet old friends and new as we kick-off an exciting program year.

Thanks,
Betty Krist



Sue Oliver with
EOF Honoree
Laura Wright

Membership Corner

AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Membership renewal letters and dues forms for 2013-2014 were recently mailed to all Buffalo Branch members.



In addition to completing the dues form, please take the time to review the contact information we currently have in our database. This enables us to send you the newsletter and other relevant materials.

Send your completed information sheets (with any comments you might have,) along with payment, to Freddie Cheek as soon as possible. Please consider adding a donation to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF.)

For questions about renewing your membership or if you have not received your renewal materials, contact Cynthia Mehary, camehary@roadrunner.com or 833-7198.

LEADERS NEEDED!

One of the real benefits of membership in AAUW is the privilege of working with many other women who care about the mission of the organization. We are a multi-faceted group, each person doing her/his part in making things happen. With that in mind, please consider volunteering for a position in leadership, either on or off the board.

If you are interested in a new challenge, please contact Betty Preble (662-0608 or betty.preble@gmail.com.) There are many jobs, big and small—what would YOU like to do?

BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS

The national AAUW convention is approaching - it will be June 9-12, in New Orleans. Branch members Barbara Carier and Nan Scinta will be attending. If you have questions or comments regarding the many significant items which will be explored, please contact one of them to make your feelings known. AND—if you haven't voted, please remember to do so before June 10! See the most recent *Outlook* for details.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED!

The following people were elected to office and installed at the May Luncheon. All are two year terms unless otherwise noted.:

- President: Betty Preble
- Vice President for Program: Betty Krist
- Vice Presidents for Membership Retention: Barbara Weber and Patricia Miceli
- Branch Treasurer: Tahmina Rehman
- Funds for Education/Chamberlin Loan Fund Treasurer: Nan DiBello
- Nominating Committee:
 - Lillis McLean, Chair (1 year)
 - Sue Licata
 - Yvonne Curry

These terms will begin July 1, 2013.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Ms. Constance Mercurio

213 Rochelle Park
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Home: 833-7464
Cell: 725-7668
constance_123@verizon.net

Ms. Sonia M. Falkowski

135 Capen Blvd.
Amherst, NY 14226
Home: 837-8923
sonim7fal@roadrunner.com

Mrs. Anne Haberer

12 Foxwood Row
Depew, NY 14043
Home: 668-0830
Work: 517-2148
Cell: 866-6163
amhaberer@msn.com

Ms. Earnestine McDonald

66 Cary Street
Buffalo, NY 14201
Home: 852-1288
em1288@roadrunner.com

WOMEN IN STEM!

Women have made tremendous progress in education and the workplace during the past 50 years, including in scientific and engineering fields.

However, women are underrepresented in many science and engineering occupations. Although women make up more than half of working biological scientists, they make up less than 7% of mechanical engineers.

AAUW reports, based on interviews with top researchers and a review of the large body of academic research literature, social and environmental factors clearly contribute to the underrepresentation of women in science and engineering.

We all know that there are biological differences between men and women, but there is no clear link between any of these differences and the underrepresentation of women in science and engineering.

In contrast, we have a lot of evidence that culture can make a difference. For example, an ongoing study of mathematically precocious youth finds that thirty years ago there were 13 boys for every girl who scored above 700 on the SAT math exam at age 13; today that ratio has shrunk to about 3:1. This rapid rise in the number of girls identified as “mathematically gifted” suggests that culture, specifically how we cultivate math and science achievement in girls, makes a difference in girls’ achievement in these areas.

Dr. Joshua Aronson, a psychologist at New York University, shows that negative stereotypes about girls’ and women’s abilities in math and science persist and can adversely affect their performance in these fields through a phenomenon known as stereotype threat.

Stereotype threat arises in situations where a person fears that their performance will be evaluated based on a negative stereotype. For example, a female student taking a difficult math test might worry that if she performs poorly her performance will reinforce the stereotype that women are not good at math. This added burden of worry can adversely affect her performance.

In one experiment, researchers gave a math test to female and male college students with similar math abilities. Half the group was told that men generally perform better than women on the test (the “stereotype threat” condition) and the other half was told that there were no gender differences (the “no stereotype threat” condition). Women performed significantly worse than men in the “threat” situation, but women and men performed equally well in the non-threat condition.

If gender differences in performance were due to innate

gender differences in math, then women would perform worse than men even in the no stereotype threat condition. This result has been shown hundreds of times in other experiments, not just with gender but with race and ethnicity as well.

There are some simple ways to lessen this negative impact by changing the environment. These include:

- Exposing girls to successful role models in math and science to combat the negative stereotype.

- Explicitly talking to students about stereotype threat has resulted in improved performance.

Research shows that even individuals who consciously reject negative stereotypes about women in science often still believe that science is better suited to men at an unconscious level. These unconscious beliefs may be more powerful than explicitly held beliefs simply because we are not aware of them.

These beliefs may influence girls’ likelihood of participating in math and science and contribute to bias in these fields in education and the workplace – even among people who support gender equity.

The report presents research showing that not only do most people associate math and science with “male,” they often hold negative opinions of women in “masculine” jobs, like scientists or engineers.

Research at New York University shows that people judge women to be less competent than men in “masculine” jobs, unless women are clearly successful in their work.

When a woman is clearly competent in a masculine job, she is considered to be less likable. Because both likability and competence are needed for success in the workplace, women in science and engineering fields can find themselves in a double bind.

Recommendations

First, raise awareness about bias against women in science and engineering. Once men and women are aware that bias exists in these areas, they can work to interrupt the unconscious thought processes that lead to bias. For women in particular, knowing that gender bias exists in science and engineering fields can help them understand that if they encounter social disapproval, it is likely not personal.

Additionally, research shows that clear criteria for success and transparent evaluation processes are helpful for anyone subject to bias, including women in science and engineering fields.

Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair



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 and research .



Achievement Award Winners
Cathy Weiss and
Judy Weidemann

Upcoming Dates to Remember

NOW - 2013-2014 dues are due!

AAUW Booksale

Wed, May 29-Sun, June 2
Old Office Depot Bldg
Sheridan Plaza
2309 Eggert Road, 14150

Board Meeting

Wed, June 5, 5:45 pm
Ebenezer United Church of Christ, West Seneca

AAUW National Convention

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

**AAUW-NYS Summer Conference

Fri-Sun, July 19-21
Cazenovia College

**AAUW Day at Chautauqua

Monday, July 29

Board Meeting

Wed, Sep 4. 5:45 pm
Ebenezer UCC, West Seneca

AAUW Buffalo "Potluck"

Monday, Sep 23
Christ United Methodist Church

** See the AAUW-NYS website for details!

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

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