



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, Mar 6, 5:45 pm
Christ United Methodist
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

Annual Meeting

Sat. May 4
Westwood Country Club
(Details next month)

AAUW National Convention

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

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Buffalo Branch

CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is held annually 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.

The 2013 Theme — **The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum**

A young speaker, Megan Battin will talk about her eye-opening experiences in working to develop schools and medical facilities in Uganda.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013

MILOS RESTAURANT
5877 MAIN STREET
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221

5:15pm
Cash Bar, Dinner Buffet

Cost \$30.00 per person
Reservations- Carol A. Griffith
(See form on page 6)

Call to Convention

Please consider joining us at the AAUW-NYS Convention at the High Peaks Resort in beautiful Lake Placid April 26-28, 2013. The weekend will be packed with opportunities for networking, learning, and fun for all. Lisa Maatz, our dynamic national AAUW director of public policy and government relations, will be the keynote speaker Friday night. AAUW's own Addie Russell, NYS representative from the 118th Assembly District, will be the second keynoter Saturday evening. Eight great workshops, panels, speakers, and some "frivolous" time will all add to the fun. Please check the AAUW-NYS website (<http://www.aauw-nys.org/>) for details and registration forms. Plan to join us! If you would like to be a delegate from the branch, there are still openings – just contact Betty Preble (betty.preble@gmail.com) and ask to have your name added to the list. I hope to see you all there!

— Betty Preble

Barb's Beliefs

Note from the Editor:

Barb's Beliefs will not appear in the March Advocate due to her illness upon her return from a trip to Israel. She is recovering nicely (we hope) and send her our very best wishes to get well soon.

THE 2013 BOOKSALE

The book sale's greatest needs at this time are BOXES and BOOKS. Libraries have shared their sale leftovers giving us a substantial inventory but, as I have noted in the past, this project is an insatiable beast and we need to keep feeding it. The next great need is a sale site. We are awaiting word on the prospects for securing last year's venue, but that is still a question mark.



It would be nice to have a Plan B. If you have any ideas contact Betty Preble.

— Pat Swift MacClennan

Velma Cobb Scholarship

Velma Cobb Selection Committee will meet in the library of Ebenezer United Church of Christ on Tuesday, March 19 at 3 PM. The entire process should take about 2 hours. Refreshments will be provided.

If you can participate, please contact Betty Krist (kristbj@verizon.net) or 675-4059 so she can plan accordingly.

This is an important and delightful task as it is heartwarming to see what our local high school senior girls have already accomplished and exciting to know that we are helping at least two of them achieve their dreams!

—Betty Krist

Betty's Rambles

There's nothing half so real in life as the things you've done...inexorably, unalterably done.
—Sara Teasdale

As I look forward to March (and the coming, hopefully, of spring and the end of the cold!), I am overwhelmed by all the opportunities for action (and FUN) in our community. Women's History Month is always busy, but it seems even more so this year.

In this issue of the Advocate are an invitation to our annual International Women's Day celebration plus volunteer information for two signature projects:

- Sister to Sister was started by AAUW back in 1997 with the first conference in Philadelphia. The Buffalo Branch didn't waste any time, joining the party in 1998 and helping to sponsor conferences every year since then. This is a great chance to both network with other organizations and help girls at the same time – to say nothing of having fun! We all joined in the “shimmy” class last year and I wonder what will take its place this year?
- Tech Savvy as it exists today is Buffalo's own. AAUW spotlighted the need for STEM encouragement for girls and we (led by Tamara Brown) ran with it! There are other branches doing STEM events, but nobody has anything quite like our conference. However, that will change – there are plans to roll out our model to ten other branches across the country within the next year.

In addition, be thinking ahead to what you'd like to help with at the booksale. We'll hopefully have the site settled by the time you read this and it'll be time to start signing up for the many jobs that need to be done.

I've also tried to keep branch members updated on other activities in the community which mesh with our goals. Try them! Whatever you choose, don't just sit back – DO!

— Betty Preble

Buffalo Interest Groups

Sunday Book Club

When: Sunday, March 31st at 3:30 p.m.

Where: Sweetness 7, 301 Parkside (across the street from the main zoo entrance.)

Book to be discussed: *Mudwoman* by Joyce Carol Oates. 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, March 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, March 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Bob Evans 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Facilitator: Margaret Fischer

Book to be discussed: *Gorky Park* by Martin Cruz Smith. To reserve call Suzanne Grossman at 837-8769

Dinner By The Book Club

When: Wednesday, March 27th at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Bob Evans 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Discussion leader: Diane Burns

Book to be discussed: *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs*

Tonight by Alexandra Fuller. To reserve call Fran

Witnauer at 688-5708 or email at Grandmafran44@yahoo.com

AAUW and the UNITED STATES BUDGET

During these tough budgetary times, AAUW calls on Congress to come together around a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include the harmful spending cuts of sequestration. AAUW is opposed to spending cuts that attempt to balance the nation's budget on the backs of vulnerable Americans, including students, women, and working families.

AAUW believes that any agreement must be balanced. We shouldn't cut programs for the young, the old, and the vulnerable while protecting cuts to other programs. Any agreement must include additional revenues, not additional hardships.

Second, AAUW believes any agreement should create capacity, not destroy it. While some argue that Pell Grants for college students or job training for displaced workers is too expensive, think about how much human potential we would lose if we didn't provide these opportunities. A few dollars spent today can create hundreds of dollars for our economy in the future.

Finally, AAUW strongly believes that any package must honor the commitments we've made to one another. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are promises that we've made as a society — no one should starve or die because they're too poor or too old. Congress needs to leave these programs alone.

We face difficult decisions as a country. But this argument isn't just about numbers — it's about who we are and who we

want to be as a country. AAUW urges our elected officials to enact a sensible, balanced proposal that allows our economy to grow and lets Americans live in dignity and prosperity.

What is the Federal Deficit? The deficit is the difference between the money federal government takes in, called receipts, and what it spends, called outlays, each year. The federal government generates revenue through income, excise and social insurance taxes as well as fees, according to the U.S. Department of Treasury's Bureau of the Public Debt.

The spending includes Social Security and Medicare benefits along with all other outlays such as medical research and interest payments on the debt. When the amount of spending exceeds the level of income, there is a deficit and the Treasury must borrow the money needed for the government to pay its bills.

How the Government Borrows The federal government borrows money by selling Treasury securities such as T-bills, notes, inflation-protected securities and savings bonds to the public. The government trust funds are required by law to invest surpluses in Treasury securities.

What is the National Debt? The amount of the Treasury securities issued to the public and to the government trust funds is considered that year's deficit and becomes part of the larger, ongoing national debt. One way to think about the debt is as the government's accumulated deficits, the Bureau of the Public Debt suggests.

— Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair



Our Daughters Carry On

In Cameroon, girls' education generally holds less value than boys' education. Girls often leave the educational system before completing secondary school. Girls are frequently sent to work in the fields or market to help support the family, or they may be married in their early teens. Each year that a girl stays in school reduces her risk of health problems related to HIV or early pregnancy and increases her likelihood of eventually having a healthy family. A2Empowerment, a nonprofit company founded in 2008 by Buffalo natives Anne Cheung and **Anne Rapin**, provides educational scholarships and support to girls in Cameroon so that they may increase their knowledge and empower themselves to lead healthier, more productive lives.

A2Empowerment works with Peace Corps Volunteers in Cameroon to identify and award scholarships to young women based on need and merit, with a priority placed on selecting girls in the later years of high school when they are at a higher risk of dropping out. Peace Corps Volunteers continue to mentor the scholarship recipients throughout the year through monthly meetings where academic progress is monitored and life skills topics are covered, such as critical thinking, money management, and women's health maintenance. In addition, scholarship recipients are asked to give back to their communities by tutoring younger students or presenting topics to the community on women's empowerment or health issues.

Since its founding in 2008, A2Empowerment has awarded over 200 scholarships to young women in Cameroon. In 2013, A2Empowerment plans to award over 80 scholarships in 8 of the 10 regions of Cameroon. Approximately \$65 USD covers tuition and school fees, as well as school supplies and books in some cases, for a year of school for one student. All overhead costs are covered by the company co-founders, so the full amount of all donations is put towards scholarships. To find out more about A2Empowerment please visit:

www.a2empowerment.org.

This organization was co-founded by the daughter of one of our new members, Lynne Rapin.



The New York state AAUW convention is coming at the end of April. It will be here before we know it. There will be an auction and raffle for purses and other items this year. Our branch has three purses to donate to the fundraiser. One is a fabric bag donated by a Roycroft Renaissance artisan, one is from a women's business project in the third world, donated by Lois Dabney, and the third is a silver tote bag (we have designated it as gym bag) donated by Judy Clare. What I need now are items to go into the purses. Some suggestions are: water bottle for the gym bag, perfume, moisture creams, sweat band (gym bag), towelettes, or movie tickets. Please let me know if you have anything you would like to have put into the purses and feel free to come up with things other than the ones I have suggested. Thanks.

— Sue Oliver, Funds Chair

Planning for the Summit is well on its way with the help of branch members, Girl Scouts, Buffalo Links, Dept. of Health, Planned Parenthood, Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers,

Native American Community Services, and representatives from Canisius College, D'youville, and Buffalo State.

Sister to Sister We need volunteers to work the day of the Summit – Sat. March 23. In particular in the morning to help with registration of the girls, parents, facilitators, and presenters. This year the Summit will be held at the Bulger Communication Bldg at Buffalo State College which is right next to the Student Union where we have held many previous Summits.

Please contact me if you can help at gsoliver@verizon.net or at 652 1230. I will be out of town from Mar. 1 until Mar. 15. so please contact Barbara Olandt at barbo131@Yahoo.com or 832 5143.

This is our 16th Sister to Sister Summit which amazes me every time I think about it! Please give us a little of your time to make this successful once again.

—Sue Oliver, Sister to Sister Volunteer Coordinator

Tech Savvy

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Help Girls Reach Their Dreams

The eighth annual Tech Savvy conference is around the corner! On Saturday, March 16, we will welcome about 500 girls in 6th – 9th grade for the middle school program and approximately fifty 10th-12th graders in the **Tech Savvy** Girls on a Roll program. We are also expecting up to 200 parents and teachers. All in the name of encouraging STEM for girls.

The conference is designed to inspire middle school girls to pursue STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, and math)—and to provide adults in their lives with relevant information. **Tech Savvy** features 20 workshops for the girls plus four savvy skills workshops, introducing critical life success skills such as advocacy, negotiating, interview preparation, and ethical decision making. Since **Tech Savvy** is not just for students, adults will enjoy fun and enlightening sessions that include financial awareness, engineering school preparation, and a special cryogenic demonstration from a technologist at Praxair. AAUW members will certainly enjoy a presentation on the latest research report *Graduating to a Pay Gap* (See more about the dream-inspiring theme below.)

You can participate in **Tech Savvy** in several ways:

Join us — for the reception on Friday, March 15 – Learn about the latest research and mingle with other volunteers, workshop leaders, AAUW national staff, and keynote speaker Dr. Anne Roby, President, Praxair Asia

Join us — for the adult activities on Saturday, March 16. Registration begins at 8:30 am, and the sessions begin at 10 am.

Volunteer — for all or part of the day on March 16. (We need more than 50 volunteers for the day between 7 am and 5 pm.)

Persistence is Key!

This year's conference theme is **Tech Savvy Girls: We don't stop until we reach our dreams.** This year begins a three year focus on some of the critical aspects we can encourage for long term STEM – and overall -- success: persistence, confidence, and resilience. From the *Why So Few* research, we know that being “smart” is not only natural; science and math skills get better with practice. We don't want girls to give up just short of their goal. With persistence, truly, our girls can reach their future dreams.

Graduating to a Pay Gap

One of the hallmarks of **Tech Savvy** is the tie to the research. We are so pleased to feature the latest AAUW research report *Graduating to a Pay Gap*. This report shows the existence of the wage gap as early as one year after college graduation — a call to action to all concerned about equitable pay. Join author Christianne Corbett as she discusses this research at the Friday reception and on Saturday morning at **Tech Savvy**.

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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 **by February 27**,

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

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AAUW



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