

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

Dates to Note

Wednesday, April 2, 5:45 pm

Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St. in West Seneca

Saturday, April 12

Financial Fitness! See pg 1 for details

Friday-Sunday, April 25-27 - AAUW-NYS Convention in

Ellenville, NY

(see aauw-nys.org)

Saturday, May 3

Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon (see pg. 8 for res.)

Wed-Sun, May 28-June 1

BOOKSALE! Burlington Plaza on Niagara Falls Blvd

Fri-Sun, July 25-27

AAUW-NYS Summer Conference at Cazenovia College

In This Issue

April & May Programs

Page 1

President's Perspective

Page 2

Happenings & Emerging Leader

Page 3

Common Core: Two Perspectives

Page 4

Book Sale

Page 5

LAF, Grassroots, Officers

Page 6

Chamberlin Funds & Interest Groups

Page 7

Reservation Form May Luncheon

Page 8

Financial Fitness for Women

Ensuring your financial health is a marathon, not a sprint.

Join us for a lively and informative discussion of women's financial health and learn how to protect your financial future.

April 12th 2014

Daemen College - Schenk Hall

8:30am - Registration

9am - 1:00pm

Track One: Economic Self-Sufficiency and Asset Building

Dr. Diane R. Bessel from Daemen College will discuss the recently released Shriver Report and draw parallels to women living in Buffalo & Erie County.

Ms. Karyn Hausknecht-Yeltman of Belmont Housing Resources of WNY will describe the role of asset building and credit in strengthening the financial position of women across the life course.

Track Two: Estate Planning & Social Security for Women

Professor Tony Szczygiel from UB Law will explore the keys to a sound financial retirement – starting with Social Security and expanding on long-term care expenses.

Melissa Bader, Esq. will define estate planning and discuss its importance while encouraging individuals to put their plan in place.

Light refreshments will be served.

DONATION: \$10.00

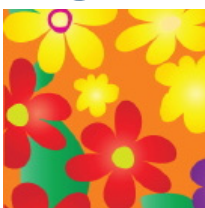
SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE REGISTER NOW

Please RSVP by April 4th by calling 839-8515 or emailing psiebold@daemen.edu.

Please direct other questions to Ruby Williams, at rubywill@buffalo.edu.

This event is co-sponsored by Daemen College Sociology and Social Work.

MAY Program



Join us at the elegant **Westwood Country Club, Windows on the Green Restaurant, May 3**, for a delicious lunch and celebration of the Buffalo Branch.

There will be an election of officers and recognition of this year's Achievement Award winner.

The meeting is open to the public and you are encouraged to bring guests.

In addition to presenting the Achievement Award, we will honor 25 and 50 year branch members. We will also present membership awards, the Buffalo Branch recognition award, educational foundation, named gift recipients, and winners of our Velma Cobb and Dorothy Payne Scholarships and Catalyst for Change Awards. See page 8 for reservations.

President's Perspective

"One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done."

— Marie Curie

This surely wraps up in one sentence the way I feel every year about this time in AAUW. March is a wonderfully busy month!! As I write this, we've been represented at the "Sit with Me" event at UB (encouraging women in computing careers) and the kickoff expo for Women's History Month at the downtown library. On International Women's Day we learned about the history and customs of tea as well as the progress (and lack thereof) in the National Park Service as far as women's history is concerned - while having a delicious assortment of tea sandwiches and desserts, by the way. We are represented on the Channel 7 "Aging is for Everyone" series. We have a booksale site!



"Sit With Me"

Still to be done, just in the next few weeks, is a LOT.

- "Tech Savvy" and "Sister-to-Sister" were great successes, but only because of the excellent planning of those committees. The work is done, the lists were finished, and items were crossed off in a timely manner.
- Now that we have a site for the book sale, the detailed planning and work for that begin. We will need the support of all our members to make it our 60th annual success!
- Several of the scholarship committees will be meeting to sift through the applications and make the hard decisions regarding awards. That work is always inspiring, but also frustrating – we only have a certain amount of money and there are so many wonderful young (and, sometimes, not so young) women and men applying!
- The April program on "Financial Fitness for Women" promises to be a great source of financial guidelines.
- The May luncheon, honoring Barbara Park Leggett as our Achievement Award winner plus many branch members, is always fun! I was thrilled that Lois Dabney has agreed to install the incoming officers. Be sure to sign up soon and bring a friend!

I do see much that remains to be done and we need everyone to help – come work with us to do it!

—Betty Preble



AAUW Buffalo Branch President, Betty Preble kicks off Women's History Month at the library.



BUFFALO ADVOCATE

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President: Betty Preble

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Assistant Editors: Betty Preble, Judy Weidemann,
Barbara Carier

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Amherst, NY 14226 or email fscheek@verizon.net.

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



Happenings...

Coming events which may interest you:

April 6 – John Fullam, BPO Principal Clarinetist at Amherst Symphony

April 11 & 12 – Hotel California: Tribute to the Eagles at Lancaster Opera House

April 15 – Carol Wincenc, flute at UB Dept of Music

April 26 – David Blaine, magician at UB Distinguished Speaker

Apr 29-May 4 – Disney’s Beauty and the Beast at Shea’s

June 6-June 22 – Les Misérables at Lancaster Opera House

June 19-15 – Evita at Shea’s

July 7 – Glenn Miller Orchestra at Artpark

July 31-Aug 8 – Mary Poppins at Artpark

Aug 21 – The Kingston Trio at Artpark

—Barbara Carier

Theater Contact Information:

710 Main Theater (formerly Studio Arena, now affiliated with Shea’s), Main St. at Tupper, 829-1154, www.sheas.org

Amherst Symphony – 633-4606 www.amherstsymphony.com

Artpark – Lewiston 754-4375, www.artpark.net

Kavinoky Theater – 320 Porter Ave., 829-7668, www.kavinokytheatre.com

Kleinhans Music Hall – Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, 885-5000, www.bpo.org

Lancaster Opera House – 21 Central Ave., Lancaster, 683-1776, www.lancopera.org

MusicalFare Theatre (at Daemen College), 4380 Main St., 839-8540, www.musicalfare.com

Shaw Festival – Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. 800-511-SHAW, www.shawfest.com

Shea’s Performing Arts Center – 646 Main St., 847-0850, www.sheas.org

UB Department of Music – 645-2921, www.slee.buffalo.edu

UB Distinguished Speaker Series – www.buffalo.edu/dss er

Emerging Leader



Marian Deutschman

Every year at the AAUW-NYS Convention, individuals from each branch are honored as “emerging leaders.” Our board has chosen Marian as our honoree for 2014. Marian joined the branch in January 2011, just over three years ago. She brought a wealth of knowledge and experience from her years of active service in the League of Women Voters plus her career as an educator at Buff State. She immediately agreed to take on the Public Policy position and has written monthly informative columns for the Advocate ever since then. But more than that, she has taken the lead on committees and programs, worked on the scholarship committees, and in general is there whenever we need a cool, calm, knowledgeable head. We are grateful to have her and proud to honor her in this way.

Editor’s Note



The deadline for each issue of The Advocate is the 10th of the preceding month. Send articles to Vicki Marshall (goya@roadrunner.com.) Please make sure to put “AAUW Buffalo Advocate” in the subject line and cc: Betty Preble (betty.preble@gmail.com.) Is there something you would like to see in the newsletter? Let us know and send a message to Vicki and Betty. Thank you.



Education: Common Core

—Barbara Carier

Last November, this column presented some information about the Common Core standards for education in Buffalo and across America. The arguments continue. Public schools in 45 states (including New York,) four territories, and the District of Columbia have adopted and are implementing the fewer but more rigorous target skills in math and English language arts. Only Texas, Virginia, Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Puerto Rico have not yet adopted the standards.

Over the years, educators and families have discovered that there has been a wide variety in curriculum and in the definition of proficiency from one part of the country to another. With American K-12 education falling so far behind the rest of the world in the last 40 years, it was felt that requirements had to be strengthened in order to compete in the world. The Common Core drafting process relied on teachers and standards experts from across the country. In addition, many state experts came

together to create the most thoughtful and transparent process of standard setting.

Nevertheless, we hear daily in the media objections to the new standards. Some of them are articulated by parents who object to the testing protocols. Other demurrals come from politicians who want the standards rejected or their implementation delayed. Citizens are left with confusing impressions and few facts. Information may be found on the Internet at www.corestandards.org or other sites.

We AAUW members are keenly interested in education, for ourselves and for those coming along to take our places. This is why we use so many of our resources to provide grants and loans to students in WNY, the USA, and the world. This column would welcome members' views about the Common Core standards and would be pleased to share opinions in subsequent months. Please send your thoughts to bcarier@roadrunner.com.

—Marian Deutschman

Public Policy: Common Core



What is the AAUW position on Common Core Standards? AAUW strongly supports high-quality public education for all students. All students should graduate high school ready to succeed in their next steps. AAUW supports states' voluntary adoption of Common Core standards. If states choose not to adopt these official standards, AAUW urges them to adopt similarly robust and comprehensive standards. All students deserve a world-class education, no matter where they live.

Origins and Current Status. The National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) developed Common Core and continue to lead the initiative. The federal government had no role in the development of the Common Core and has no role in its implementation. The initiative is a state-led effort, and adoption of the standards is in no way mandatory.

Common Criticisms. Much of the criticism stems from the myth that Common Core mandates that states adopt a set curriculum. States are not required to adopt Common Core. If a state does adopt Common Core, its schools are able to design their own teaching to meet the standards.

Another myth is the belief that adopting common standards will bring all states' standards down to the lowest common denominator. *Common Core states have an explicit agreement that no state will lower its standards.*

AAUW believes in holding schools accountable for demonstrating that they are meeting educational goals for all students. Testing is an important measure of student performance, but we know it is both problematic and discriminatory to rely on testing as the sole indicator of student progress.

AAUW is supportive of provisions encouraging the use of multiple measures of student achievement which provide more flexibility. However, accountability must not be lost in the process. Transition to the Common Core will lead to better, fewer, and fairer tests for both students and school.

Importance of Successful Implementation. AAUW urges the public to leave politics out of education reform. The time has come for a facts-based discussion on Common Core content, instruction, and assessment. We need to support the education professionals doing the work of implementing these standards.

Finally, governors, state legislators, and school boards must mirror this commitment by providing the necessary support and funding for implementation of reforms.



Book Sale News

By now most of you know the 60th annual book sale will be celebrated in a new location.

Thanks to the efforts of several on the sale committee, a space in the Burlington Plaza, 1551 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, was secured in early March and set-up work will begin in early April with a move-in date sometime later. Watch the web site (www.aauw.buffalo.edu) for updated information on work schedules and the need for volunteers.

Also, be ready for some phone calls. A table chair is needed for each of the categories in the collection and Judy Huber will be asking for volunteers. Sue Oliver is looking for supervisors

for each of the two sorting shifts that will begin in early to mid-April. The shifts run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily. There may be one evening shift also. It will help a lot if you have the time to take on more than one shift. A lot of workers will be required once the sale opens. Three shifts must be filled each day. Judy Weidemann has the arduous task of filling them and you can make life easier for her if you volunteer sooner than later.

Keep in mind: the success of the branch depends on the sale and the success of the sale depends on you.

—Pat Swift

Book Sale Volunteers Needed

BOOK SALE VOLUNTEER COUPON

VOLUNTEERS WORKED 4,212 HOURS LAST YEAR.

You are needed to equal or surpass that number. We can't do it without you.

Questions about the Book Sale? Contact Judy Weidemann at jweide7170@aol.com or 655-3649.

For more info refer to the AAUW Website: aauw.buffalo.edu

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

_____ Table Donor

_____ Good Guys (Day: _____ hours: _____)

_____ Refreshments during the Sale (Day: _____ hours: _____)

_____ Tech Savvy Women or Men (Day: _____ hours: _____)

_____ Pre-Sale sorting and setup (Day: _____ hours: _____)

_____ Book Sale Shift Volunteer Signup (Day: _____ hours: _____)

Please send this form to:

Judy Weidemann, 21 Nye Hill Rd. East Aurora, NY 14052

Report on LAF Funds Contributed by The Buffalo Branch



LAF fundraiser	\$ 70.00
Donations through dues	713.10
Individual donations	<u>400.00</u>
Grand total:	\$1,183.10

Individual contributors: Ellen Moomaw, Barbara Carier, Carol Griffith, Stacy Johnson, Betty Preble, Kathleen Murphy, Lois Dabney, Judith Clare, Janet Vine, Fredricka Cheek, and Sue Oliver

Thanks to everyone for helping this very worthy cause.

—Sue Oliver, Funds Chair

Grassroots

The Buffalo Branch announces the open application period for its Grassroots Grant Program. Five to eight grants are available in amounts up to \$1500 each in three categories:

1. Individual Projects
2. Community Organizations and Neighborhood Enrichment Programs
3. High School Leadership Projects

The goal of the grants program is the promotion of equity, gender awareness, and lifelong learning for women and girls in the Buffalo Niagara Region.

Details, criteria, and applications can be found at www.aauw.buffalo.edu/grassrtgrant.htm. Deadline for applications is April 15, 2014.

—Carol Golski, Grassroots Grant Chair

Nomination of Officers

The nominating committee will present the following slate of candidates for office for the 2014-2016 biennium:

- **VP, Membership Recruitment – Diane O'Brien**
- **Secretary/Parliamentarian – Lynne Rapin**
- **CFO – Biliana Popjanevski**
- **EAP (Education Accounts and Program) Treasurer – Mary Crocker**
- **Fundraising (booksale) Treasurer – Laurie Eikemeyer**
- **Scholarship Director – Maureen Kanaley**
- **Nominating Chair (one year term) – Lillis McLean**
- **Nominating Committee Members – Cynthia Mehary, Judy Weidemann**

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Lillis McLean, Chair

Sue Licata, Yvonne Curry, Ruby Williams,

Judy Weidemann

Voting will take place at the annual meeting on May 3 and the officers will begin their terms on July 1.

Achievement Award



We are delighted to present **Barbara Park Leggett** as our Achievement Award Winner for 2014. She will speak at our annual meeting on May 3 and we look forward to hearing her!

Ms Leggett, as the Executive Director of Explore & More Children's Museum, has led the museum from its start as a grassroots, neighborhood organization in historic East Aurora to its current role as a regional attraction undergoing continuous growth. Over the past several years, the museum has tripled the number of children reached, doubled the staff size, and developed comprehensive plans for a solid future. In 2012 she accepted the National Association of Children's Museum's Promising Practices Award for the museum's creative and education Culture Days in-school programs. Also in 2012 the museum was selected by Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation as the premier cultural attraction at Canalside.

More details next month, but plan now to attend the luncheon and prepare to be inspired!



Chamberlin Funds

The Chamberlin | Funds for Education have been awarded. Congratulations to the following women:

Lauren Billotti, a graduate student in Physical Therapy at Daemen College whose goal is to open up her own clinic to work with high school athletes and work with accident prevention and rehab; graduating May 2015.

Margaret Bruso, enrolled in Genesee Community College's Nursing Program; goal is to receive Associates then go on for Bachelors Degree in Nursing; graduating June 2015.

Lawanda Childers, whose goal to earn a degree in LPN from Genesee Community College and work at a higher paying job and go on for an RN; graduating December 2015.

Emily Kraft, a sophomore at Daemen College majoring in History; goal is to attend graduate school and eventually have a career in Public History. She will be attending a Washington Internship institute in the fall for a semester which focuses on Public Service, Leadership, and Professional Development.

Taylor Kunkle, a senior at Seton Hall in Physical Therapy; goal is to open a Physical Therapy Practice; graduating June 2014.

Liz Lessner, a graduate student at University of Buffalo in Media Arts; goal is to receive a Master in Fine Arts; requesting funds to participate in a month long residency at Guapamacataro Center for Art and Ecology in Michoacan, Mexico; graduating May 2015.

Marissa Pearson, a sophomore at Daemen College studying Graphic Designs; goal is to receive a Bachelor in Fine Arts and to own and run a Graphic Design Business; graduating June 2016.

Sarah Spitznagle, a sophomore at University of Buffalo in Pharmacy Program (Doctorate); goal to receive Pharm D, participate in 2 residencies in specialized fields and become a Clinical Pharmacist; graduating May 2018.

Tanisha Wheatley, a graduate student at Daemen College in Doctorate Program for Physical Therapy. Her goal is to work in an outpatient clinic and in the future open own clinic; graduating May 2015.

Brittany Williams, a senior at University of Buffalo majoring in English; goal is to be an English teacher or College professor, specializing in Reading Comprehension and writing; graduating May 2014.

—Katie Collins

Interest Groups

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 5:30 pm

Where: Bob Evans Restaurant Mtg. Room, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst

Book: BOOK SELECTION for 2014-2015 Season

** All members are asked for their suggestions

Contact: Suzanne Grossman: 716-837-8769



DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wednesday , April 16, 2014

Where: Bob Evans Restaurant, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst

Book: BOOK SELECTION for 2014-2015 season

** All members are asked to bring

their suggestions to our annual planning meeting

Reservations: Fran Witnauer 688-5708 or

Grandmafran44@yahoo.com



KNITTING GROUP

When: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 2-4 pm.

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

What: Bring your knitting and/or crochet

project Contact: Margaret Fischer at 716-632-8269 or margaretjf@roadrunner.com



SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

When: Sunday, April 27, 2014

Where: Sweetness 7 on Parkside, across from the zoo

What: *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

Contact: Karen Huffman-Kelly at 839-4754 or kshk152@yahoo.com



FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Marilyn Carmichael, mcarmichael45@aol.com or 716.228.8626 (cell). Calling

on all AAUW Branch members to attend any study

group of their choice. Have you checked one out yet?

The groups are well worth your time. You will enjoy the

camaraderie of your fellow AAUW members.



In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation 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, philanthropy, and research.



BUFFALO BRANCH AAUW ANNUAL LUNCHEON
Westwood Country Club, Windows on the Green Restaurant
 772 North Forest Rd., Williamsville
Saturday, May 3

11:30 - Registration
 12:00 -luncheon, Awards, Annual meeting

Menu
 Vegetarian vegetable soup
 Menu Choices: Chicken and spinach salad,
 Roast pork with pan gravy, Roasted vegetable pie
 NY style Cheesecake & Beverages

My check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Chicken and Spinach salad @\$25 _____ enclosed
 Roast Pork with pan gravy @\$25 _____ enclosed
 Roasted vegetable pie @\$25 _____ enclosed

Please mail this registration form and checks by April 26 to:

Sharon Meer
 123 Kingsview Road
 Williamsville, NY 14221

www.aauw.buffalo.edu

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

Return Service Requested

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