



February 2014

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE

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The deadline for each issue of the *Advocate* is the 10th of the previous month. Send articles to Vicki Marshall via e-mail: goya@roadrunner.com. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line and cc Betty Preble: betty.preble@gmail.com

Something you'd like to see in the newsletter? Let us know—send a message to those same two people!

BUFFALO-NIAGARA = PROGRESS? WOW!!!

Thursday, February 6, 4 pm

Buffalo-Niagara Partnership Office, 665 Main St, #200

Parking available across the street for a small fee.



Come meet one of the movers/shakers who have made this difference in our community! Dottie Gallagher-Cohen is the first woman to be named president and CEO of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, the region's employer-funded economic development organization and the regional Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to joining the Partnership, she was president & CEO of **Visit Buffalo Niagara**. As Senior Vice President of Marketing for **The Buffalo News**, she was honored with the New York State Governor's Award for excellence in media and served on the executive committee of the Yahoo! Newspaper Consortium. Currently, she is on the regional advisory board of **Univera Health Care** and **Visit Buffalo Niagara**. Dottie received her undergraduate degree from Towson University (Baltimore, Maryland) and her MBA from the University at Buffalo.

Please call (675-4059) or email (kristbj@verizon.net) Betty Krist by Feb. 3 so we know how many people to expect for name tags and food. Please also let her know if you need any accommodations. As always, guests are welcome.

Looking Ahead: Saturday, March 8, 11:30 am

Social for **International Women's Day**

Christ United Methodist Church (Parlor), Harlem at Saratoga

Buffet serving of finger foods and desserts, coffee and tea provided by "Everyday Gourmet."

Featured speakers:

- Kimberly Szewczyk, new chief of interpretation and education, Women's Rights National Historical Park.
- Pat Dowling, owner of "High Societea"

Send your check for \$22 (payable to AAUW-Buffalo Branch) to Carol Griffith, 18 Union Common, Williamsville, NY 14221. Please include your phone number and/or email address. Questions? Call Carol at 810-0269.



President's Perspective

"You're helping young women achieve our dreams!"

Danielle DiStefano, at the January program

Spring begins the REALLY busy season for AAUW. Women's History Month celebrations, International Women's Day, Tech Savvy, Sister-to-Sister, an April finance program, the state convention, our May luncheon and, of course, the BOOKSALE are all approaching quickly. We have members working hard on all these important programs.

In the hustle and bustle of those activities, though, let's give ourselves a pat on the back for the scholarship activity that's also ramping into high gear now. The spring application forms are all posted on the website and some applications have already been received! Our committee chairs will be asking for assistance to help evaluate these applications. It's always inspiring to see the work our young women are doing—and it feels great to be able to "help them achieve their dreams."

I'd also like you to be aware of the opportunities listed on this page. Our branch does LOTS of good things, but we all know they don't happen by themselves! Was one of your New Year's resolutions to do more for yourself and your community? There are plenty of ways to do both through our many branch activities. Have fun while doing good things! Whatever your interest, there's a way YOU can help, be it making a few phone calls, maintaining a database, posting on our Facebook page, helping with the scholarship committees, or setting up a formal meeting. Let us know what YOU would like to do—and please say "yes" when the nominating committee calls!

Betty Preble

Stay warm!

Suggestions/Ideas Wanted!

For over forty years, the Buffalo Branch has honored one or two women from the community (some AAUW members, some not) who have made a difference in the life of this area. We welcome suggestions for our honoree for this year. There is a nomination form on the website (aauw.buffalo.edu) in the "Branch Tools" section, or just send suggestions to Betty Preble—betty.preble@gmail.com or 662-0608.



AND

"First Crush"

What attracted you to AAUW? Members are asked to share their stories in 100 words or less on why AAUW's mission matters to them. Members who post their stories to the AAUW Buffalo Branch Facebook page by February 14, 2014 will be eligible to win a bag of Hershey's Chocolate Kisses. The member whose story receives the most 'Likes' as of February 28, 2014, will be awarded the Cupid's Cup at our May luncheon. In the event of a tie, Board members will select their favorite crush. Contact Kathleen Murphy (kathleen@kathleenmurphy.me) with questions.

AND

Don't forget to contact nominating chair Lillis McLean if you have a suggestion for nominees for office for 2014-16! The open positions were listed in the January *Advocate*.

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.



February 2014, Vol. CXXIV, No. 6, Circulation 200

President: Betty Preble

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Betty Preble

For prospective or new member questions, contact:

Membership Recruitment VP, Cynthia Mehary,
camehary@roadrunner.com.

Send address changes to: Freddie Cheek, 406 Maynard Drive,
Amherst, NY 14226-2929 (fscheek@verizon.net)

Buffalo Branch Interest Groups

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: **Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 6 pm**

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

Book: ***The PMS Outlaws* by Sharon McCrumb**

Reviewer: **Stacey Johnson**

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



DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: **Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 5:30 pm**

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

Book: ***Below Stairs* by Margaret Powell**

Discussion Leader: **Lillis McLean**

Facilitator: **Judy Malamas**

Reservations: **Fran Witnauer 688-5708** or [Grandma-
fran44@yahoo.com](mailto:fran44@yahoo.com)



KNITTING GROUP

When: **Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2-4 pm**

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

What: **Bring your knitting and/or crochet project or just come to be inspired and join our conversation. We'd love to welcome you!**

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



SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

When: **February 23, 2014 4 – 6 pm (change of date due to Valentine's Day)**

Where: **Sweetness 7** on Parkside, across from the zoo

Book: ***Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay**

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



FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Marilyn Carmichael, mcarmichael45@aol.com or
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.

See pages 7-8 for a review of the December fun!

Booksale Corner

This year will mark the 60th anniversary of the AAUW Buffalo Branch's annual book sale. To say we are excited would be an understatement.

From sheer longevity, the sale has become almost a community event. I am guessing we might find some customers who remember the first sale; certainly many have been coming for dozens of years. And many of our members recall the early days of bookselling. As the sale has grown, so has our reputation for offering great books and great bargains to the book-reading public. This year, more than ever, we want to spread the word about our history, our mission, and our fund raiser. We are looking for ideas and help.

Branch public relations chair Kathleen Murphy has come up with some great ideas that the book sale committee will be exploring. Kathleen is suggesting a 60-60-60 theme involving showcasing 60 different books from those donated and highlighting them in some fashion on the 60 days prior to the sale. Her proposal includes a number of ways to implement the concept, including use of the Web site and study groups.

The sale always has depended on the hard work and ingenuity of the members, so please add your voices and talent to making the 60th special!

Pat Swift-MacClennan



Interest Group and/or Service Project Suggestion:

Do you like to sew? Would you like to work on something really easy but incredibly useful?

What is Days for Girls?

It is about education, safety, and dignity. Days for girls empowers by giving days of education, days of health, days of safety, and days of dignity. We do this by direct distribution of **sustainable feminine hygiene kits** by partnering with nonprofits, groups, and organizations, by raising awareness, and importantly, by helping impoverished communities start their own programs to supply kits and training. Together with our network of thousands of exceptional volunteers and partners, we have reached tens of thousands of girls and women in over 60 nations on 6 continents. It's working.

Imagine...

What if not having sanitary supplies meant DAYS without school, DAYS without income, DAYS without leaving the house? Girls use leaves, mattress stuffing, newspaper, corn husks, rocks, anything they can find...but still miss up to 2 months of school every year.

See <http://www.daysforgirls.org/> and think about it!

Tech Savvy Conference: Saturday, March 15, 2014

This year... Tech Savvy Girls Shine with Confidence from the Inside Out!

The 9th annual Tech Savvy conference is around the corner! On Saturday, March 15, 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 this is 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 26 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 the best of ways to instill confidence within the girls in their lives. We are also planning a very special “play experience” for educators with a team from Learn Fresh, a group that inspires new ways of encouraging education by appealing to children’s interests!

Confidence is Key!

TS9 continues 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 confidence, truly, our girls won’t underestimate their potential!

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

- *Volunteer and help with Tote Bag Stuffing on Thursday, February 20, starting at 3 pm at the United Way in Buffalo (Delaware Avenue)*
- *Join us for the reception on Friday, March 14, at 5:30 at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott on Millersport – Meet the keynote speaker and other volunteers.*
- *Join us for the adult activities on Saturday, March 15. and stay to hear Linda Cureton’s keynote address. Registration begins at 8:30 am, and the sessions begin at 10 am.*
- *Volunteer for all or part of the day on March 15. (We need more than 50 volunteers for the day between 7 am and 5 pm.)*



About our Keynote Speaker: Linda Cureton, former Chief Information Officer, NASA

Linda Cureton is the former Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). There, she led one of the best Information Technology organizations in government. Linda served as principal adviser to the NASA Administrator, providing insight and technology leadership to some of the most brilliant scientists and engineers in the world. Now, Linda is the CEO of Muse Technologies, Incorporated. She is also the author of *The Leadership Muse*, an educational and inspirational book that outlines lessons for today’s heroic leadership journey.

Other Speakers for the Adult Session

Erin Prangley, AAUW national public policy director, will be joining us and will help kick off a session in positive and negative images of women and girls.

Khalil Fuller and **Nick Monzi** will join us from *Learn Fresh*. The group provides fresh approaches to learning. Khalil is the founder of the organization and has developed a basketball-based board game which helps develop math skills. This NBA Math Hoops game is being used across the country, and teachers who attend the session will have a special “play” experience during the day.

Upcoming Planning Dates for Tech Savvy 9

- Committee Conference Calls on January 30 (6:30p), February 15 (9:30a), February 27 (6:30p), and March 6 (6:30p)
- Thursday, February 20, starting at 3 pm and continuing through the evening: Tote Bag Stuffing at the United Way (**Lots of Help Needed!**) (Dress comfortably; pizza served.)
- Friday, March 14: Reception at Buffalo Marriott at 5:30
- Saturday, March 15: Tech Savvy at UB’s North Campus (Meet at Student Union... Ample Parking in Furnas Lot.)

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR REGISTRATION FORM!



**2014 NYS AAUW Convention
April 25 – 27, 2014**

A World of Wellness
**Honor's Haven Resort
Ellenville, NY**

See aauw-nys.org for details
Registration open NOW!!

LAF NYS Convention Fundraiser

Every year at the AAUW-NYS Convention there is an auction of items of some sort to benefit the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Each branch is limited to three items.

The items can be purses, baskets, or other in any combination. Suggestions for any of the above will be gratefully appreciated. Also, if you have something you would like to donate, such as an item that could be raffled individually, or any items you would be willing to donate to go into a purse or a basket, please contact me by phone or email. Whatever donations our items bring are accredited to the total amount of LAF donations from our branch.

Thank you for whatever help you can give.

Sue Oliver, Funds Chair
652-1230, gsoliver@verizon.net

What is AAUW Doing?

AAUW just finished another busy year advocating for women and girls. In case you missed them, here are a few of the things that have been accomplished or are works in progress:

- AAUW helped lead the fight for passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The Lobby Corps and individual members visited congressional offices. Members from around the country sent thousands of messages to congress. Without AAUW, campus sexual assault measures would have been overlooked in this legislation.
- Thanks to the advocacy of AAUW and the National Council for Women and Girls in Education (which AAUW chairs), the Department of Education reaffirmed in a letter to all school districts that pregnant and parenting students are entitled to the same educational opportunities as their peers.
- AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz was the recipient of the Winn Newman Award from the National Coalition for Pay Equity. A previous winner was Lilly Ledbetter.
- AAUW members have joined with congressional leaders to
 - advocate for a new Women's Economic Agenda. AAUW members from Florida, Texas, NEW YORK, Maryland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, California, and Washington have spearheaded this campaign by hosting high-profile issue forums with top congressional leaders. We will be hearing more about this soon.
 - AAUW joined the movement to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. In addition to sponsoring a women's luncheon that week, AAUW snagged a seated ticket for a member of the Lobby Corps who was also a Freedom rider – to attend the celebrations on the National Mall.
 - AAUW provided important research to the U.S. Department of Labor on the status of women in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Influential American Women report. AAUW also weighed in on the original report done by the Presidential commission on the Status of Women at Eleanor Roosevelt's invitation.

It should always do your heart good to be reminded of how dedicated and busy this organization is as it is striving to fulfill its mission.

Sue Oliver, Funds Chair

Tech Savvy 9 Participation – Registration Form

Please mail before February 10

Questions about Tech Savvy? Call Tamara Brown at 716-949-2413

Conference Information website: <http://www.aauw-nys.org/buffalo/techsavvy.htm>

Name _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

_____ Helping with Bag Stuffing on Thursday, February 20 at the United Way (3 pm – 7 pm)

_____ Planning to attend Tech Savvy Reception at 5:30 pm on Friday, March 14, at the Marriott – No cost to attend

_____ Planning to Volunteer at Tech Savvy (Saturday, March 15) – Shift times will be confirmed.

Morning shift (7 am – 1 pm)

Afternoon shift (noon – 5 pm)

All day (7 am – 5 pm)

Available other times: _____

For those NOT volunteering on Saturday, March 15:

_____ Attending *Tech Savvy* adult session, including morning refreshments, lunch, tote bag, and materials - Please include \$5 payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch. You may also register online by Feb. 20 at the website above.

Please send this form to: Elizabeth Casciani, 57 Cary St, Buffalo 14201

Do You Know the Specifics of What the WEA Will Do?

The full Women's Equality Agenda (WEA) received a push for revitalization in Governor Cuomo's State of the State address. The Governor's renewed commitment reaffirmed the commitment of the New York Women's Equality Coalition to pass WEA into law in 2014 with all the provisions. The Coalition includes the support of 860 women's groups, businesses, religious organizations, medical groups, and advocacy organizations from across the state. AAUW-NYS is a member of the NYWEC Steering Committee.

Briefly, the Women's Equality Act will:

- **Achieve Pay Equity:** The bill would finally shatter the glass ceiling by eliminating the ability of employers to point to "any other factor other than sex" to justify pay disparities and instead require that their pay decisions be based on legitimate reasons. In addition, the legislation would protect an employee's right to share wage information with other employees without being retaliated against.
- **Stop Sexual Harassment in All Workplaces:** The new law would ban sexual harassment in every workplace, regardless of the number of employees, so all workers are protected.
- **Remove Barriers to Remedying Discrimination:** The legislation would allow successful plaintiffs to recover attorney's fees in employment or credit discrimination cases based on sex.
- **End Family Status Discrimination:** The bill would prohibit employers from denying work or promotions to workers simply because they have children.
- **Stop Housing Discrimination for Victims of Domestic Violence:** The new law would prohibit landlords from discriminating against victims of domestic violence.

- **Stop Source-of-Income Discrimination:** This legislation would prohibit landlords from discriminating against tenants based on lawful source of income.
- **Protect Victims of Domestic Violence by Strengthening Order-of-Protection Laws:** The legislation creates a pilot program to allow domestic violence victims to seek temporary orders of protection through electronic means rather than having to appear in person.
- **Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws:** This legislation would, in part, eliminate the requirement that "coercion" be proven in a sex trafficking prosecution when the victims of sex trafficking are minors. In addition, the bill would increase the penalties for trafficking.
- **Stop Pregnancy Discrimination Once and For All:** The legislation would create a specific protection that requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees.
- **Protect a Woman's Freedom of Choice:** This bill would codify existing Supreme Court law to protect a woman's right to obtain an abortion prior to viability, or when necessary to protect her life or health.

New York State needs to update and strengthen laws that secure equal pay for women, provide access to reproductive health care, and freedom from discrimination and violence. Some of these inequities are skillfully presented in a satiric two-minute video entitled "Illegal or Just Sleazy" which is worth a look. It can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqXnqtIjKiQ>

Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

Personals:

Congratulations to our secretary Taylor Page and her husband Phillip on the birth of their daughter Hannah Marie on Dec 15.

Condolences to Elizabeth Casciani, whose father passed away on Dec 27.

Thoughts and good wishes to Vicki Marshall, recuperating at home from a serious gall bladder infection. Also to Bunny Blackstone, recuperating at her home in Florida from triple-bypass surgery.

Contact Information Changes:

- Marianne Sullivan's new email is MarianneKSullivan@gmail.com
- Ruby Williams' new email is rubywill@buffalo.edu
- Judy Clare's new email is clare273@gmail.com. She also has a new cellphone number: 716.697.7331
- Deb Naybor's new address is: 283 Garfield Ave, Angola, NY 14006-9436



CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB—December 3, 2013 Gathering

The **Clueless interest** group is no mystery to those of us who love to read mysteries!

Come and join us for an evening of good food off the Bob Evans menu, which is reasonably priced. From 6 pm to 7 pm, you'll find the AAUW members enjoying each other's companionship. After 7 pm the dedicated reviewer takes the group through the book with good questions and discussion.

Why read mysteries? Suzanne Grossman shared "They challenge the mind" when Kate Collins added "We have a chance to solve problems along with the main characters." The group kindly gave me a copy of a list of "100 favorite mystery books of the century" to get me started. This is a study group I want to join.

For the night's review of *THE COLD DISH* by Craig Johnson, Kate Collins told me "the book is even better than the TV cable channel adaption" of the Longmire Series of mysteries of which *THE COLD DISH* is the first in the series. Fran Witnauer told me "The book is set in Wyoming." As a modern mystery and western, it is replete with strong, believable characters, especially the protagonist Sheriff Walt Longmire." She added "The influence of Indian culture is felt throughout the novel in characters, events, and beliefs." Fran convinced me this is a book that I ought to read. I recommend it to the membership. Better yet, come to the next meeting of Clueless and see for yourself. — Marilyn Carmichael 12/3/13



Left to right around the table: Pat Miceli, Barbara Weber, Suzanne Grossman, Fran Witnauer, Jean Hubbard, Karen Howard, Kate Collins, Shirley Havice, Margaret Fischer,, Barbara Libby, Stacey Johnson

KNITTING GROUP—Dec. 11th

I enjoyed a two-hour talk and knit experience with this very special knitting group of AAUW members. All eight of us sat around two tables in the Barnes and Noble Café working individually on our own knitting projects while we talked. Sue Licata showed us her Plymouth wool sweater project that shows off variegated yarns in earthy tones. Barb Paulson and Barbara Weber both were working on a scarf for a worthy charity. Diane Silvestro showed off a wrap for her daughter. Karen Howard likes her prayer shawl she intends to donate to a good cause. Margaret Fischer was knitting a special hat, also in variegated yarns. We learn from each other and share projects. Come and visit and check us out.

— Marilyn Carmichael 12/11/13



Barbara Weber, Stacey Johnson



Diane Silvestro, Barbara Paulson



Sue Licata, Marilyn Carmichael

Margaret Fischer, Pauline Dyson, Karen Howard →



DINNER BY THE BOOK—Dec. 18 Meeting

Fran Witnauer's Holiday Cookie Tin was a feast of choices which is an annual treat for all of us in Dinner by the Book. Thanks, Fran, for always bringing your homemade, scrumptious cookies to highlight our December meeting.

Karen Kolb got us going as our facilitator. She was followed by Leona Barback's review of *Daughters of Rome*, a fictional tale that brings ancient Rome to life during a year of four successive emperors. Kate Quinn told her tale through the eyes of a group of sisters whose lives intersected with the wealthy and powerful men of Rome with profound consequences for each. A rousing discussion occurred, after which all agreed that the book was an alluring novel for those who might otherwise not read or be aware of Roman history.



**Fran Witnauer's cookie treasures
STAR OF THE EVENING?**



Lynne Beller showing off Fran Witnauer's cookie treats



Left to Right> Joan Spencer, Karen Kolb, Alice Russ, Maryann Hope



Stacey Johnson, Sue Licata



Fran Witnauer, Mary Crocker



Judy Malamas, Leona Barback



Marilyn Carmichael, Lynne Beller

Enjoying "our" diva Danielle DiStefano at Siena in January!



Dear Friends!!
We had a ball, it was so much fun meeting all
the members and spending a nice afternoon.
Thank you for having me. I felt honored to be
there and hope they understand how much I
appreciate all of you and all you do.
Hugs,
Danielle



Upcoming Dates to Remember

Wednesday, Feb 5, 5:45 pm

Board Meeting at
Christ United Methodist
Church,
Harlem at Saratoga in Snyder



Thursday, Feb 6, 4 pm

Meet the new Buffalo-Niagara Partnership CEO
and President Dottie Gallagher-Cohen at the
Partnership office—see pg1

Tuesday, Mar 4, 5:45 pm

Board Meeting at
Christ United Methodist Church,
Harlem at Saratoga in Snyder

(Note change of date!)

AND—Save these additional program dates:

Saturday, March 8 – International Women’s Day (see
pg 1)

Saturday, March 15 - Tech Savvy (see pg 4)

Saturday, March 29 - Sister-to-Sister Summit

Saturday, April 12 - Fiscal Fitness!

Friday-Sunday, April 25-27 - AAUW-NYS Convention in
Ellenville, NY (see aauw-nys.org)

Saturday, May 3 - Annual Meeting and Awards
Luncheon

*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 gen-
der, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national ori-
gin, disability, or class.*

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

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

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