

AAUW-NYS Convention celebrating the Buffalo Branch's 125th Anniversary April 17-19 See page 6

- Save the date for **Sunday, March 8th** as we celebrate International Women's Day with a special presentation "*Declaring Equality: Renewing a Legacy.*" See details on page 4.
- Save the date for **Saturday, March 14th** as we celebrate Tech Savvy's 10th Year: *Tech Savvy Girls: Brilliant and Resilient.* See page 3.
- The 18th **Sister to Sister Summit** will be held at Buffalo State College on **March 28th.**



BUFFALO BRANCH



February 2015

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

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The deadline for each issue of the *Advocate* is the 10th of the previous month. Send articles to Laurie Eikemeyer via e-mail: laurie.eikemeyer@gmail.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!

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

TASTE OF EBENEZER/AAUW

Join us as we partner with **Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca (www.EUCC.org)** in the "Taste of Ebenezer/AAUW" on **Saturday, February 7 at 11:30 am.**

This is our LAF fundraiser.

Tickets will be sold at the door until the food runs out. ***Come hungry!***

Adults suggested donation - 5 tickets/\$5, Children (5-12) - 3 tickets/\$2, Children under 4 free.

Coffee, tea, water, milk are free.

Bring a friend!

Proceeds will be split proportionally between EUCC and AAUW Buffalo Branch.

Pre-registered cooks please arrive by 10:30 am.

Please contact **Betty Krist** (675-4059, kristbj@verizon.net) with any questions.





President's Perspective

"The future belongs to the people who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

Happy New Year!

I know by the time you read this we will be well past the middle of January and firmly settled into what will no longer be a "new" year. As I write this, though, it seems like everything I read has to do with resolutions and the future. And those are important to think about. But for now I'd like to go a bit into the past, AAUW Buffalo's past, to be specific.

While thinking about heading to the archives at UB for our December program, I re-read the stories of our branch founders – those who "believed in the beauty of their dreams" and wanted to collectively work on the Association of Collegiate Alumni (ACA, predecessor to AAUW) purpose of "practical education work, for collection and publication of statistical and other information concerning education, and in general, for the maintenance of high standards of education." In 1890 there were only eight women in Buffalo who were college graduates and five of them - Harriet Ransom Milinowski, Lena Hill Severance,

Mary

M. Wardell, Maude Austin, and Ella C. Lapham formed the nucleus of our branch. One of those names caught my eye, since we have a family history book called "The Laphams in America." Could it be that I was related to Ella? Indeed, as it turned out, we are! If my calculations are correct, this founder of our illustrious branch and I are fifth cousins, twice removed!

From the very beginning our members were involved with helping the University of Buffalo, setting up child care centers, aiding libraries, etc., trying to make a positive difference for Buffalo. We proudly carry on that tradition today. Are you helping?

As you read through those names and the rest of our history (there's a lot on our branch website – click on the "Branch Tools and History" button on the left to get to the page where the documents are listed,) let us know if you have a more personal perspective on any of these wonderful women.

In addition, if you have other branch historical documents, please let us know! We would love to both add them (or copies of them) to our archives AND use them to help celebrate our anniversary.

Betty Preble

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Send address changes to:

Freddie Cheek, 406 Maynard Drive, Amherst, NY 14226-2929 (fscheek@verizon.net)



Happenings...

Coming events which may interest you:

Feb 3-7 – Ricky Nelson Remembered at Fallsview Casino, Niagara Falls, Ontario

Feb 8 – The Latin Beat with Tom Halpin, violin, at Amherst Symphony

Feb 17-22 – Chicago at Shea's Performing Arts Center

Feb 20 – Eastman Organists' Day at UB Slee Hall

Mar 6-7 – Garth Brooks with Patricia Yearwood at First Niagara Center

Mar 18-29 – The Phantom of the Opera at Shea's

Mar 21-22 & 27-28 – Beethoven Festival at Kleinhans

Apr 10 – The Lennon Sisters at Riviera Theater

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

Fallsview Casino – Niagara Falls, Ontario www.fallsviewcasinoresort.com

Irish Classical Theatre – Andrews Theatre, 625 Main St., 853-4282, www.irishclassicaltheatre.com

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

Nickel City Opera (at Riviera Theatre) – 67 Webster St., North Tonawanda www.nickelcityoperaco.com, 692-2413 www.RivieraTheatre.org

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



TECH SAVVY CONFERENCE: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015

THIS YEAR, WE'LL HELP GIRLS BE RESILIENT

Buffalo AAUW Tech Savvy

The Original Tech Savvy!

It's the tenth anniversary! The tenth annual Tech Savvy conference is around the corner! On **Saturday, March 14**, we will welcome about 500 girls in 6th–9th grade for the middle school program and approximately 100 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 22 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 build resilience within the girls in their lives. Our special guest for the adult session is Stacie Gregory, who is completing her doctoral studies in engineering education. A budding expert in stereotype threat, Ms. Gregory will detail some new research around stereotype threat among women in STEM.

In this special 10th anniversary program, we are welcoming back some of your favorite speakers from the past nine years! Several of our keynote speakers are returning to celebrate with us, including **Sonya Summerour Clemmons**, **Dr. Anne Roby**, and **Camille Alleyne**. And, look forward to hearing from one of our former Tech Savvy Girls!

Ready for Resilience?

TS10 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 research, we know that women in STEM often face stereotypes—and they react to these stereotypes in various ways. We want girls to be prepared and to develop the brilliance and resilient exterior to withstand the pressure and shine! Like pearls, Tech Savvy girls are brilliant and resilient!

You can participate in Tech Savvy in several ways:

◇ **We are asking members to pen simple (1-2 line) notes of inspiration to girls:**

What would you tell a middle- or high school girl to always remember?

If you are willing to write 20 or 30 such notes, please contact Ruby Williams (rubywill@buffalo.edu or 837-5903) before February 1, and Ruby will set you up with the note cards!

- ◇ **Volunteer and help with Tote Bag Stuffing on Friday, Feb 27, starting at 3 pm at the United Way in Buffalo (Delaware Avenue) – Time and Date are tentative.**
- ◇ **Join us for the reception on Friday, March 13, at 5:30 at the Ramada on North Forest – Meet the keynote speaker and other volunteers.**
- ◇ **Join us for the adult activities on Saturday, March 14 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 14.**

(We need more than 50 volunteers for the day between 7 am and 5 pm.)

Please return your registration form (on page 7) before February 14th.

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.

Linda Cureton was born and raised in Washington, DC, and went to DC public schools, attending Duke Ellington School of the Arts studying trumpet, French horn, and piano. In 1980, she graduated from Howard University with a BS in Mathematics. She later received a Master of Science degree and post-Masters advanced certificate in Applied Mathematics at Johns Hopkins University.

Linda is a leader in her community and serves on a number of advisory boards and works within a number of organizations. She has received recognition for many of her efforts, including mentoring in technology areas. In addition to her other work, Linda enjoys her love of music through a small home-based business that provides piano lessons where she teaches with her mother. She lives in Maryland with her mother, her husband of 21 years, and his grandson.



See Next Page for Upcoming Planning Dates

Upcoming Planning Dates for Tech Savvy 10

- ◆ Committee Conference Calls on February 5 (6:30 pm) and February 21 (9:30 am)
- ◆ Friday, Feb 27, starting at 2 pm and continuing through the evening: Tote Bag Stuffing (**Lots of Help Needed!**) (Dress comfortably; pizza served.)
- ◆ Friday, March 13: Reception at Ramada Inn and Conference Center (on North Forest) at 6 pm.
- ◆ Saturday, March 14: Tech Savvy at UB's North Campus (Meet at Student Union... Ample Parking in Furnas Lot.)



International Women's Day



MARCH
PROGRAM

AAUW Buffalo Branch Celebrates: International Women's Day, March 8, 2015 "Declaring Equality: Renewing a Legacy"

Adam's Mark Buffalo Hotel & Event Center

120 Church Street, Buffalo NY 14202

Registration, networking, cash bar at noon

Lunch served at 12:30; Program at 1:30 pm

The Public is Welcome



Photo by Dave Duprey

Attorney Nadia Shahram and Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Dr. Melinda Grube) offer a unique conversation.

Join us on **Sunday March 8**, for luncheon and reenactment of **Buffalo attorney Nadia Shahram**, and **Dr. Melinda Grube** representing **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, a convenor of the first women's rights movement.

Nadia Shahram is an author, activist, Moslem women's rights advocate, and president of The Coalition for the Advancement of Moslem Women, a not for profit organization to help women with issues such as domestic violence. **Dr. Melinda Grube**, an historian and adjunct professor who has studied Stanton's works and life extensively. She uses her knowledge to bring Stanton to life. This remarkable discussion, entitled "**Declaring Equality: Renewing a Legacy**," crosses religious traditions (Moslem and Christian), cultures (Iranian and American), and even centuries (19th – 21st).

Plated luncheon includes vegetable soup, assorted rolls and butter, coffee & tea service and served dessert. \$26. Parking in the adjacent ramp is free with ticket to be provided. Please choose from:

- ◆ Pan-Seared Chilean Sea Bass drizzled with passion fruit sauce, served with mint pesto risotto with asparagus, or
- ◆ Vegetable stuffed Portobello mushrooms with port butter glaze

Direct all questions to Betty Krist kristbj@verizon.net. If you'd like to distribute materials, we'll try to accommodate your needs.

Send reservations by **February 28** to **Judy Weidemann, 21 Nye Hill Road, East Aurora NY 14052**

(Please fill out reservation form on next page)

Buffalo Branch February Study/Interest Groups

SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

When: **Sunday, February 8** from 4-6 pm
 Where: **Sweetness 7 Café** on Parkside, across from the zoo, on-street parking available
 Book: **BLOOD WILL OUT** by **Walter Kim**
 Contact: **Karen Huffman-Kelly** at 839-4754 or kshk152@yahoo.com for questions or more information.



DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: **Wednesday, February 18** at 5:30 pm for dinner before the book review.
 Where: **Bob Evans Restaurant Mtg. Room**, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst
 Book: **WALDEN ON WHEELS** by **Ken Ligunas**
 Discussion Leader: **Stacey Johnson**
 Facilitator: **Mary Crocker**
 Reservations: **Fran Witnauer** 688-5708 or [Grandma-fran44@yahoo.com](mailto:fran44@yahoo.com)



KNITTING & CROCHET GROUP

When: **Wednesday, February 11** from 2-4 pm. (note this change in the schedule)
 Where: **Barnes & Noble Cafe** on Transit near Main St. in Amherst
 What: *Bring your knitting and/or crochet project or questions*
 Contact: **Karen Howard** 480-3652 (cell) or kckhoward@roadunner.com



The Knitting & Crochet group is asking for donations of hand-made items of any kind to be donated to the Cornerstone Manor for homeless women and children throughout the calendar year. Thanks for your homemade donations to the knitting & crochet group for such a good cause. Any member of the Knitting group would gladly accept your donation or call **Marilyn Carmichael** at 228-8626.

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: **Wednesday, February 25** at 5:30 pm.
 Where: **Bob Evans Restaurant Meeting Room**, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst
 Book: **CONSIGNED TO DEATH OR LETHAL TREASURE** by **Jane K. Cleland**
 Facilitator: **Barbara Libby**



For further information and questions, please contact **Suzanne Grossman** at 837-8769

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS

Marilyn Carmichael, mcarmichael45@aol.com or 228.8626 (cell)

DINNER GROUP (New & not to be missed)

When: **Wednesday, February 11** at 6:00 pm
 What: A monthly gathering of members and guests who want to try new restaurants and enjoy each other's company. Current events and getting to know each other are always topics of discussion.
 Where: **Rizotto Ristorante**, 930 Maple Rd., 204-4455, www.risottoristorante.com
 Facilitator: **Maria Coppola**
 Contact: 289-8149 or marcoppola@gmail.com



In Gratitude



We are grateful to our former member **Clarine Radt** who left the branch a \$5000 bequest for our "educational fund and various scholarships." The scholarship committee has been asked to develop a proposal for the use of this money. If there are branch members who knew Clarine well and have ideas about how she might like the funds utilized, please contact the Scholarship Director **Maureen Kanaley** (Kanaley@buffalo.edu) with suggestions.

International Women's Day "Declaring Equality: Renewing a Legacy" *Reservation form*

Name _____ Phone _____

Entrée selection: ___ Sea Bass or ___ Portobello @\$26

Name _____

Entrée selection: ___ Sea Bass or ___ Portobello @\$26

Total \$ _____ Please make check payable to **AAUW Buffalo Branch**

Send reservations by **February 28** to:
Judy Weidemann
 21 Nye Hill Road
 East Aurora NY 14052

BOOK SALE REPORT



Book sale volunteers returning to work in the New Year were greeted with a huge stack of donated books that need to be sorted and packed. As a result there is a huge need for boxes and more volunteers to fill them. Liquor store boxes are a mainstay but better quality boxes (such as bankers' boxes) make packing easier and quicker and are less likely to damage the books. If you have some extra boxes, of any variety, take them to the sorting site, 995 Kensington Ave., any Tuesday or Wednesday between 9:30 a.m. and noon. Also, we still need a site for the 2015 sale.

If you have any ideas, Betty Preble would like to hear them.



Pat Swift MacClennan

2015 AAUW New York State Convention

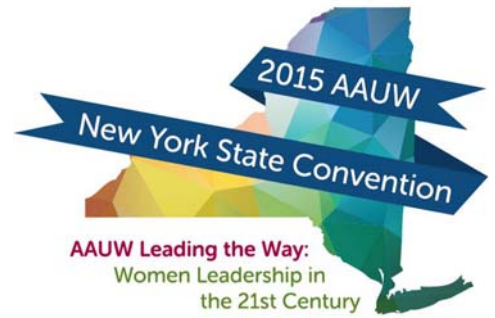
AAUW Leading the Way: Women Leadership in the 21st Century

WHEN: April 17th-19th, 2015

WHERE: Byblos Niagara Resort, Grand Island, NY

Special Recognition:

A celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Buffalo Branch AAUW



Workshops will address topics such as:

- 21st Century Education Issues
- The Trials, Tribulations, and Triumphs of Women Elected Officials: Women Leading NY into the 21st Century
- Countdown to the Century of Women's Right to Vote in the US
- Domestic Violence and Women's Self-Empowerment
- Eleanor Roosevelt and Leadership
- And more!

AAUW develops women leaders by strengthening their sense of empowerment. Don't miss this exciting opportunity!

FUNDS REPORT: Accolades for AAUW

Before we start our advocacy activities for 2015, I would like to share some of the successes AAUW and LAF achieved in 2014.

In recognition of AAUW's coordinating role in the women's advocacy community to update federal hate crimes prevention legislation, the White House invited **AAUW VP of Government Relations Lisa Maatz** to speak on a panel during a three hour event marking the fifth anniversary of the legislation that eventually passed, (the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr.) **Hate Crimes Prevention Act**.

Following persistent advocacy from AAUW members and visits from our Lobby Corp, the **Paycheck Fairness Act gained six more co-sponsors in the Senate**.

AAUW members outdid themselves yet again when it came to Equal Pay Day activities around the country! For **Equal Pay Day 2014**, AAUW members organized more than **250 Equal Pay Day activities in at least 43 States**.

AAUW helped focus the conversation on **the gap in salaries for coaches of men's and women's teams** during the 2014 basketball tournaments. Our winner for both brackets, the Uni-

versity of Dayton, surprised fans by making it to the Elite Eight!



AAUW and AAUW Hawaii successfully urged President Obama to posthumously award the **Presidential Medal of Freedom to Hawaii congresswoman and longtime AAUW member Patsy Mink**. Mink was the first woman of color elected to Congress in 1964 and was a co-author of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.

UB was selected as one of the colleges hosting an **Elect Her – Campus Women Win** in 2015 which will train women to run for student government and future political office.

These are just a few of the things AAUW is working on and/or accomplished in 2014!

Future articles will contain info on the AAUW focus for 2015, both new and continuing efforts.

We should all be proud of this great organization and continue to support its efforts to better the lives of women and girls!

Sue Oliver
Funds Chair

PAID FAMILY LEAVE



Are we ready for an employee-funded, statewide paid family leave policy in New York State? If the answer is yes, then we need to persuade Governor Cuomo to make it a priority. He must be convinced that it will be good for business and for healthier and more economically secure workers and families. Both parents work in nearly 60 percent of two parent families. That percentage increases to 75 percent for single parent families. Greater numbers of employed workers are caring for both children and aging parents.

Women, as primary caregivers, face gender based inequities in the workplace. Family leave enables men to increase participation in infant and family care. Currently, small businesses are forced to finance employee leave out of their slim profit margins or they are left at a competitive disadvantage in hiring, retention, and productivity of workers.

The Paid Family Leave Insurance Act would add family leave to New York's Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) Program. * Paid family leave benefits will be funded solely through small employee payroll deductions. Paid Leave would give a parent time to bond with a new-

born or a newly adopted child. Fathers or mothers could take time off to a maximum of 12 weeks per year to care for new children or seriously ill family members, including spouses, siblings, domestic partners, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, or in-laws.

Times have changed but the workplace hasn't. Loss of income or a job can put economic stability at risk. The United States stands virtually alone in the world, and New York State lags behind other states, in failing to provide any paid time for workers with a new baby or sick relative. The federal Family and Medical Leave Act offers some help by providing up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave, but coverage is limited to workers employed for a year or longer in firms of 50 or more, leaving out 40 percent of the workforce. Because the leave is unpaid, even those who qualify often can't afford to take it.

The NY Paid Family Leave Insurance bill passed the State Assembly but not the Senate so it must be re-introduced in both chambers. Some of you may have stories to share that provide examples of the burden that fell on you when you had to manage without a paid family leave. I would be interested in hearing

from you. You might also consider sharing your story with your New York State Senator or Assembly member. You can check the following website for further information: <http://www.citizenactionny.org/paidfamilyleave>.**

Marian Deutschman
Public Policy Chair

*The bill must include an increase in the TDI benefit level. New York's TDI benefit floor has been capped at \$170 per week for the past 25 years; this lags way behind family leave benefits in other states, such as New Jersey and Rhode Island, and behind other NY benefits such as worker's compensation. Raising this cap to a modest level would carry an estimated cost of \$1.20 per week per employee; a cost that would be shared between employers and employees.

**Citizen Action NY wants to build support for bills supported by the NY Paid Family Leave Insurance Campaign (www.timetocareny.org). Other alternative bills may be introduced that will appear positive, but will not provide the benefits that families need.

Tech Savvy 10 Participation – Registration Form

Please mail before February 14

Questions about Tech Savvy? Call Tamara Brown at 716-949-2413.
Conference Information website: <http://aauw-nys.org/techsavvybuffalo/>

Name _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

_____ Helping with Bag Stuffing on Thursday, March 5 (3pm – 7pm)

_____ Planning to attend Tech Savvy Reception at 5:30 pm on Friday, March 13, at the Ramada on North Forest – No cost to attend

_____ Planning to Volunteer at Tech Savvy (Saturday, March 14) – Shift times will be confirmed.

1 Morning shift (7am – 1pm)

1 Afternoon shift (noon – 5pm)

1 All day (7am – 5 pm)

1 Available other times: _____

For those NOT volunteering on Saturday, March 14:

_____ 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 14 at the website above.

Please send this form to: Yvonne Curry, 172 Hamlin Road, Buffalo, NY 14208 (von104@roadrunner.com)

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Wednesday, Feb 4, 5:45 pm

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



Saturday, Feb 7, 11 am – “Taste of AAUW Buffalo Branch (and Ebenezer UCC),” - Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St, West Seneca

Sunday, Mar 8, noon – “International Women’s Day” – Adam’s Mark Hotel

Saturday, Mar 14 – Tech Savvy – University at Buffalo

Saturday, Mar 28 – Sister-to-Sister – Buffalo State

Friday-Sunday, April 17-19 – AAUW-NYS Convention at the Byblos Resort and Spa, Grand Island

Saturday, May 16 – AAUW-Buffalo Annual Meeting, Buffalo Yacht Club

June 18-21 - National AAUW Convention in San Diego

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

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

Vision: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

Value Statement: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

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.

Moving? Please contact Freddie Cheek at 835-6945.

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