

- ☐ **Women in STEM Summit** at UB
April 23 See page 8
- ☐ **AAUW Buffalo Branch Annual Meeting** at Buffalo Yacht Club on
May 16 See page 4
- ☐ **AAUW Buffalo Branch Booksale - Books and Volunteers Needed!**
Booksale **May 27-31**
See page 7

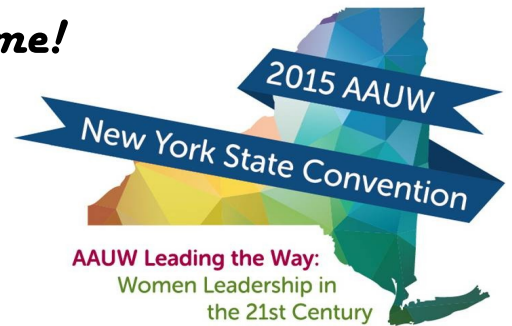


It's Convention Time!

It's coming! It's coming!
The AAUW NYS annual convention
takes place in Buffalo on
April 17-19, 2015.

WHERE: Byblos Niagara Resort and Spa,
Grand Island, NY

Register Online: <http://www.aauw-nys.org/convention.htm>





AAUW
BUFFALO BRANCH

Advocate
April 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!

AAUW-NYS CONVENTION

A CELEBRATION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO BRANCH AAUW



- **Friday night** will feature a video highlighting the history of our branch.
- **Saturday** will feature the business meeting, a panel of women municipal leaders, an LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) speaker at lunch, and a choice of five fantastic workshops later in the afternoon.
- **Sunday** we finish up with district caucuses and meet Eleanor Roosevelt.

AND, there is all that time to socialize with other members! Let's show the rest of the state what a great branch we are. Please register now!

The full agenda can be found on the website at http://aauw-nys.org/convention_forms.htm

We are working hard to provide a number of workshops and activities to interest all of you. Workshops will address topics such as:

- **21st Education Issues and Challenges**
- **Voting Rights: "Women and the Vote: Past, Present, Future" - Note: CLE Accredited!**
- **Cultivating Women Candidates**
- **Domestic Violence and Women's Self-Empowerment**
- **Eleanor Roosevelt and Leadership "Eleanor's Alphabet Soup"**

Don't miss this exciting opportunity! Keep checking the state website (<http://www.aauw-nys.org/convention.htm>) for updates!



President's Perspective

Our trouble is that we do not demand enough of the people who represent us. We are responsible for their activities. . . . we must spur them to more imagination and enterprise in making a push into the unknown; we must make clear that we intend to have responsible and courageous leadership.

Eleanor Roosevelt

The words above, written by Eleanor Roosevelt, were published in 1963 – over fifty years ago. Has anything changed? Our state school system is close to paying more, for poorer results, than any other state. Many of our local school boards are in an “us vs them” mode rather than acting cooperatively in the children’s best interests. Our health care system is far from perfect, but our legislators quibble over semantics rather than make constructive suggestions. The US Congress is in what seems to be a permanent state of internal war. The state legislature appears to be rife with corruption. I won’t even touch the issue of terrorism other than to say I hope there’s more positive action behind the scenes than there appears to be. One could be truly depressed about the state of the world these days!

So – what can we do? What are we doing? We are trying to make a difference for the future! In Marian Deutschman’s article in this issue (read it – it’s excellent, as always) she reported on the “Women Empowered to Lead” conference that we co-sponsored at UB on Saturday, March 7. The previous week our national organization had held an “Elect Her” conference at UB, inspiring and helping young women to become politically active on campus with the hope that they will continue that activity into their “real” lives. Earlier that week several of us had driven to RIT to observe a “\$tart \$mart” conference, another national AAUW program to help young women to get a fair starting salary when they get that first job. We’re giving out scholarships to make sure that women are educated. We’re holding Tech Savvy 10 to encourage young women to break through the gender-bias in technology. We’re holding Sister-to-Sister to make sure that young women know they have a support system when they make the difficult decisions. We discussed the changing roles of women at our IWD program. AND – we’re holding our 61st annual book sale to both help pay for all this and to provide a community service via easy access to reading materials. We are providing responsible and courageous leadership – now we need to make sure that our elected officials are doing the same!

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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Assistant Editors: Judy Weidemann, Barbara Carier, Betty Preble

For prospective or new member questions, contact:

Membership Recruitment VP, Diane O’Brien, obnfam@roadrunner.com.

Send address changes to:

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

Happenings...



Coming events which may interest you:

Apr 10 – The Lennon Sisters at Riviera Theater

Apr 16-26 – Say Goodnight, Gracie at 710 Main Theater

Apr 17 – Glenn Miller Coffee Concert - BPO at Kleinhans

Apr 21-26 – Kinky Boots at Shea’s

Apr 25 – Paul Anka at Seneca Niagara Casino

May 2 – Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons at Seneca Niagara Casino

June 2-14 – Book of Mormon at Shea’s

Aug 2 – Bonnie Raitt at The Center for the Arts

Aug 9 – Kenny G at the Riviera Theatre

Theater Contact Information:

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

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



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

Seneca Niagara Casino - Niagara Falls, NY, www.senecaniagaracasino.com/entertainment

The Center for the Arts at UB – 645-ARTS, www.UBCFA.org

Barbara Carier

Buffalo Branch March Study/Interest Groups

KNITTING & CROCHET GROUP

When: **Wednesday, April 8 from 2-4 pm.**

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 khoward@roadunner.com



The Knitting & Crochet group is asking for donations of handmade items of any kind to be donated to the Cornerstone Manor for homeless women and children throughout the calendar year. Thanks for your home-made donations to the knitting & crochet group for such a good cause. Any member of the Knitting group would gladly accept your donation.

DINNER GROUP

When: **Wednesday, April 8 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: **BOSS Steakhouse**, 1735 Hertel Ave., Buffalo 551-6499 www.bossbuffalo.com

Facilitator: **Maria Coppola**

RSVP to Maria by April 6th

Contact: 289-8149 or marcoppola@gmail.com



SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

When: **Sunday, April 12 from 4-6 pm**

Where: **Sweetness 7 Café** on Parkside, across from the zoo, on-street parking available

Book: ***The Selected Works of TS Spivet by Reif Larsen***

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



DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: **Wednesday, April 15 at 5:30 pm**

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

BOOK SELECTION FOR 2015-2016

**All members are asked to bring at least two books to recommend for selection to the club reading list for next year.*

Facilitator: **Fran Witnauer**

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



CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: **Wednesday, April 22 at 5:30 pm.**

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

BOOK SELECTION FOR 2015-2016

**All members are asked to bring at least two books to recommend for selection to the club reading list for next year.*

For further information, please contact **Suzanne Grossman** at 837.8769.



FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS

Marilyn Carmichael, mcarmichael45@aol.com or 228-8626 (cell)

DUES REMINDER

Dues Renewal Notices will be sent out in April. Please send your dues in promptly!



PLANNING FOR 2015-16 PROGRAM

Planning for the 2015-16 Branch Program is underway. If you have ideas or wish to host a program, please write to Betty Krist (kristbj@verizon.net)

We need a site and chair for the September "pot luck" and in October we will be hosting the District Meeting.

Our most successful programs have focused on our mission. Let's get creative!



EQUITY for women and girls
through advocacy, education,
philanthropy, and research



NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce nominations for the Buffalo Branch AAUW 2015-2016 Board:

Co-presidents:

Carol Golyski and Cynthia Mehary

Co-vice presidents for Program:

Sonia Falkowski and
Lillis McLean

**Co-vice presidents
for membership
retention:**

Patricia Miceli and Barbara Weber

Branch Treasurer:

Suzanne Licata

**Chamberlin Fund and Funds for
Education Treasurer:**

Betty Preble

Nominating Committee:

Barbara Carier, chair,
Barbara Engler, Judy Malamus

Submitted by:

Lillis McLean, current chair and
members: Cynthia Mehary, Suzanne
Licata, Yvonne Curry and Judy
Weideman.



AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING

When: Saturday, May 16, 2015

Where: The Buffalo Yacht Club, 1 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201

11:30 - Registration

12:00 - Luncheon, Awards, Annual Meeting (including election of officers)

Menu (each selection is \$20.00)

Rolls and Butter

Coffee, Tea, and Soft Drinks

Choice of:

- ◇ **Grilled Balsamic Chicken salad** – Mixed greens, Sliced apples, dried cherries, crumbled bleu cheese, candied nuts, balsamic vinaigrette
- Or
- ◇ **Vegetarian Quiche** – served over Mixed Greens

Dessert

AAUW Buffalo Branch Annual Luncheon Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate your meal selection:

____ **Grilled Balsamic Chicken Salad** Or ____ **Vegetarian Quiche @ \$20.00**

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

PLEASE MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK BY MAY 6, 2015 TO:

Joan Eschner, 30 Meadowbrook Drive, Elma, NY 14059

2015 EMERGING LEADER

In case you haven't met her, let us introduce our 2015 "Emerging Leader," Suzanne Licata!

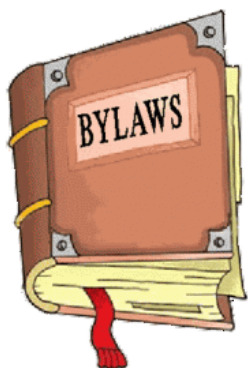
Every year, the various NYS branches are encouraged to honor an "emerging leader" at the state convention. These are "AAUW members who demonstrate leadership potential through their enthusiasm, creative ideas, and commitment to AAUW's mission." This year we are pleased to honor Suzanne Licata as our representative to this elite group.

Sue joined our branch in 2009, first with one of the book groups, but then she jumped into the branch arena with both feet. She took over the whole hard-cover fiction section (24 tables!) for our annual book sale and organized it beautifully. She then, additionally, spent a year on the book sale executive committee and has become our "layout" person, analyzing and plotting the table layout for the site each year. On top of that she has been a key member of the nominating committee for the past four years and now has voluntarily taken on the position of Operations Treasurer for the next two years. Sue has been a joy to work with, and we are delighted to honor her this year.



2015 Emerging Leader, Suzanne Licata

BYLAWS CHANGES



Every once in a while bylaws and other governing rules of any organization need to be adjusted to accommodate changes in laws and customs, etc. When New York (the state, not AAUW) passed its "NYS Non-Profit Revitalization Act" in December 2013, it prompted our board to review our own branch bylaws – and ended up necessitating some changes. The proposed amendments will be voted on at our annual branch meeting in May and are available now for review on our branch website. See <http://aauw.buffalo.edu/> and click on the "Branch Tools and History" button on the left. If you are unable to see them, or if you have questions on them, please contact Betty Preble.

The changes are mostly minor – we took advantage of the review process to clean up some minor issues. However, there are three significant modifications –

1. The formation of the board itself. In the past, everyone who was asked to hold a position was considered a board member. The "quorum" of the board (the number of people who had to be in attendance in order for a vote to be legal) was based just on the elected positions. This was inappropriate and needed to be changed. The quorum is required to be based on the entire board, not just a portion of it. Our proposal is that the quorum be a majority of the board.
2. The change outlined in #1 brought its own problem. There are many people who are willing to serve in different branch leadership capacities but are unwilling or unable to commit to attendance at board meetings. Without a majority of the board members in attendance (the quorum,) business could not be officially conducted. We are proposing that any of the current appointed leadership positions may be held by a board member (a director) or a non-board member (chair, committee member, etc.) The appointments, when made, would specify whether or not the person was accepting board position. Of course, the off-board appointees would always be invited, as are all members, to attend board meetings but would not have a vote.
3. Voting by email is now allowed, and the process is considered the same as voting in writing. Such a vote, though, requires participation by everyone eligible to vote. The rationale, which is the same as voting in writing, is that there is no ability to debate the question so it must be clear that everyone has participated in the decision.

If you do care to check on these changes, please also take a look at some of the historical documents we have available on the website. We have a rich history, of which we should be proud!

2015 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

*Since 1940, the Buffalo Branch of AAUW has annually selected an outstanding woman or women of the Buffalo/Western New York area whose attainments, character, and achievement merit recognition and that dignify the position of women in the community. Many of our recent winners are still making a difference in our community. Those names, which will be familiar to Western New Yorkers, include **Barbara Park Leggett, Julia Weidemann, Maryann Saccomando Freedman, Mary Travers Murphy, Jacquie Walker, Tamara Brown, Drs Barbara Seals Nevergold and Peggy Brooks-Bertram, Joann Falletta, Miriam Dow, and many more.** We are proud to continue this tradition with the announcement of **Donna Fernandes, president and CEO of the Buffalo Zoo** as our Achievement Award winner of 2015.*

We are delighted to announce our 2015 Achievement Award Winner, the president and CEO of the Buffalo Zoo – Donna Fernandes, Ph.D.



Interested in animals her whole life, **Donna M. Fernandes** grew up in Norton, Mass., where she spent a great deal of time exploring acres of undeveloped forest that surrounded her parents' home. She knew at a

young age that she wanted to pursue an animal-related career, and while taking an animal behavior course her junior year of high school, she set a high goal by deciding to pursue a doctorate in the same field.

After graduating from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass. in 1977, she attended Brown University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology in 1981. She continued on with her education at Princeton, where she received a master's degree in biology in 1984 and a doctorate in ecology, evolution and behavior in 1988. After a year of postdoctoral study at the University of Liverpool, Donna returned to the

United States, where she entered the zoo world as Curator of Research at the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston. A short time later, she was promoted to oversee the education and volunteer programs.

In 1996, she was recruited by the Wildlife Conservation Society to serve as the Curator of Animals at the Prospect Park Wildlife Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., and one year later, she was promoted to oversee both the Animal and Education departments. As part of the Wildlife Conservation Society, better known as the Bronx Zoo system, Donna also led two teacher safaris to Africa and served as National Public Radio's resident animal expert.

Donna left Prospect Park in 1999 to attend the Simmons School of Management in Boston, where she received her master's degree in business administration in 2000. Later that year, Donna came to the Buffalo Zoo, where she accepted her first job as President/CEO.

Since her arrival in Buffalo, Dr. Fernandes has completed an exciting new master plan, raised \$36 million in capital funds and opened several new exhibits including *Vanishing Animals, EcoStation, Otter Creek, Sea Lion Cove, M&T Bank Rainforest Falls, Delta Sonic Heritage Farm, and a new Entry Plaza.*

In addition to her duties at the Buffalo Zoo, Donna is an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Buffalo and is a part-time instructor at Canisius College. She also teaches in the Harvard Business School Club of Buffalo's management and nonprofit management programs. She is in great demand as a speaker for many local organizations.

Donna currently resides in Buffalo with her husband, Robert Savage, and her dog, Darcey.

BOOK SALE REPORT

With the acquisition of a site, the countdown to the May 27 opening of the 61st AAUW sale has begun. After a long search for alternatives, leaders settled on the site of last year's sale in Burlington Plaza. There are many advantages to working in a familiar venue and the action begins on April 6 when crews will start cleaning and hanging signs. In a tentative schedule tables will arrive April 9 and books will be moved on April 10. Sorting will begin sometime after that (watch for e-mails.) Meanwhile there still are lots of books to be sorted at Kensington Bailey and those will need to be packed up by April 9.

The committee is asking that donations be deferred until the sale site is opened.

This is crunch time for volunteers. There always is some cleanup to be done in buildings that have not been used

recently, so please come April 6-8 to lend a hand. Bring a broom, dustpan, pails, and cleaning rags. Able bodies are needed when the tables are set up and books are moved onto those tables. There is still a need for some table/section chairs. Contact Judy Huber. Sue Oliver is looking for shift supervisors. Check your schedules for days and times you can work at sorting before the sale and fill shifts during the sale. If every member worked just one shift during the sale, staffing problems would end. Descriptions of all the jobs can be found on www.aauw.buffalo.edu First come, first served. Sign up at the sale site when you come to sort or be prepared to say "yes" when Judy Weidemann and her committee call for volunteers during the sale.

Looking ahead, if you know anyone who would like to take our leftover books, contact Betty Preble.

Pat Swift MacClennan



UB ELECT HER PHOTOS FEB. 28, 2015



Left: Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes shows off her UB-WomenWin t-shirt.

Women account for less than 30 percent of the nation's elected officials and, worse, women of color account for less than 5 percent, according to the American Association of University Women (AAUW.)

To reduce the gender disparity in politics, the University at Buffalo hosted Elect Her, a day-long program that encourages and trains college women to run for student government and future political office.

UB was chosen by the AAUW to be one of the six new schools from across the nation to hold the program, which drew nearly 50 applicants. Fifty campuses will host Elect Her sessions in 2015.

Below: Erie County Legislator, Betty Jean Grant, urges UB-Women to run for office.



Below: UB Student government panel shares nuts and bolts of running for office at UB



Above: Elect Her Organizers and Guest Speakers sport their UB-WomenWin t-shirts



BOOK SALE TABLE CHAIR REPORT

It is almost time for our annual BOOK SALE. I am the Table Chair which means that I am responsible for finding a chair for each of our 35 categories. Most of last year's table chairs are returning but there are a few openings. Some chairs for large categories are asking for an assistant or two. If you have ever considered getting more involved with the book sale, this is your chance! It is a lot of work but a lot of fun, and you will make great new friends. The book sale is May 27 - May 31. The tables must be ready for the sale on the evening of the 26th. Let's talk.

Judy Huber 688-8170



WOMEN IN STEM SUMMIT

The University at Buffalo is excited to host their inaugural

Women in STEM Summit

Thursday, April 23, 2015 • 8:30 am - 12
Student Union • UB's North Campus

This half-day seminar will:

- ◇ Celebrate accomplishments of women in STEM
- ◇ Increase participation and develop potential of women in STEM
- ◇ Build relationships and share experiences among women in STEM

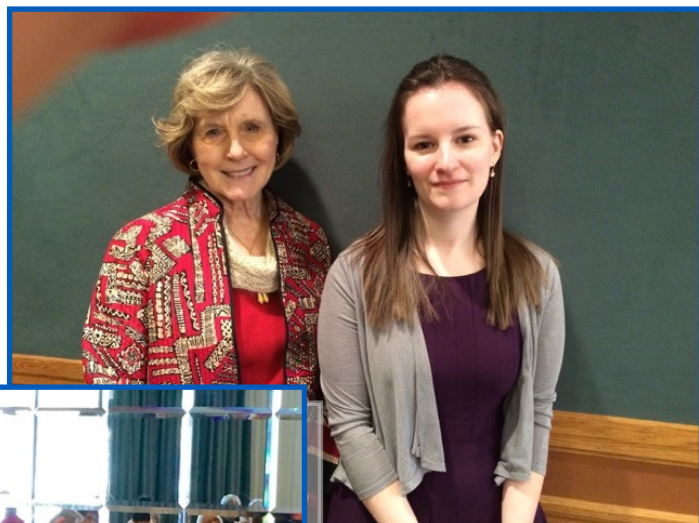
For more information visit their website at:
<http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/womeninstem/>

MARCH PROGRAM PHOTOS: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Above: Betty Preble, Nadia Sharam, Melinda Grube, Coline Jenkins

Below: Pauline Dyson and Sara Goff,
Olga Lindberg Scholarship winner



Left: Conversation among Nadia Sharam, Coline Jenkins (Elizabeth Cady Stanton's great-great granddaughter) and Elizabeth Cady Stanton (as portrayed by Melinda Grube) at IWD 2015.

Power and Women

How do you define power? How did you develop your power? What role does power play in your professional life? In your personal life? How do you exercise your power and for what purpose?

These are the thought-provoking questions that were part of a recent Friday evening discussion at the downtown library with a group of women in various stages of their lives and careers. Some defined power as having influence. Influence refers to persuasion and voluntary conformity. Others see power as pushy and controlling, with a potential for coercion. Power permeates organizations. To exercise control over a mass of people, organizations have a set of formal or informal rules. Strategic interests are protected by creation of power differentials between those with power and those without it. At some point, disagreement may occur and that disagreement may prompt the use of personal power and influence. We all want some power, not necessarily to have control over others, but we do all want to have some control over ourselves. Not having power leaves one feeling dependent, trapped, and frustrated. Some of the women shared their personal experiences with feelings of powerlessness as well as with successes often built on relationships and networking. It's clear that women need to empower one another.

The next day I attended a session at the University at Buffalo that included the student chapter of AAUW as a cosponsor, primarily targeting university juniors and seniors on the

issue of leadership. The title of the program was **"Women Empowered to Lead: Advocacy, Leadership and Gender."** Mary Travers Murphy, executive director at the Family Justice Center, addressed the power issue from the domestic violence perspective, introducing the use of power and control in our personal life. The next speaker was Erin Heaney, executive director of the Clean Air Coalition of WNY, who spoke about exercising power in the form of a successful strategic advocacy plan to accomplish significant change in the corporate environment of a polluting Tona-wanda Coke plant. The corporation was eventually ordered to pay \$24 million for what a judge called "singularly inexcusable" conduct that created a public health crisis.

The third speaker, Arlene Kaukus, director of UB Career Services provided information on the art and value of successful networking and learning from OPE (other people's experience.) This session was followed by introducing the students to a dozen women in different stages of successful careers. This led to lunch and a real networking opportunity for the students with women who had personal experiences related to power and influence. In the early stages of careers, perceived feelings of powerlessness can emerge out of unfulfilled expectations and a lack of participation and autonomy. Students learned that power is accumulated as a result of performance in job-related activities. Visibility is crucial to enhance power, and mentoring can be critical to an individual's and an organization's success. On the

whole, this was a good weekend with reminders and lessons for all of us, regardless of age and career choice.

Marian Deutschman,
Public Policy Chair



EQUAL PAY DAY

We "celebrate" this occasion every April on a day known as [Equal Pay Day](#), which is the symbolic day when women's earnings ([78 cents](#) to men's dollar) finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year.

Equal Pay Day is a powerful occasion to raise awareness and organize action around the gender pay gap in our communities.



Equal Pay Day 2015 will fall on Tuesday, April 14, so mark your calendar! How will you "celebrate"?

Wear RED on Equal Pay Day to symbolize how far women and minorities are "in the red" with their pay!

Learn more on the AAUW website: <http://www.aauw.org/article/how-to-equal-pay-day/>

...and AAUW quick facts on the gender pay gap: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/quick-facts-on-the-gender-pay-gap/>

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Wednesday, April 1, 5:45 – Buffalo Branch Board Meeting, Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem at Saratoga in Snyder

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

July 24-26 - AAUW-NYS Summer Conference at Cazenovia College



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 empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential .

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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