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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.

Something you'd like to see in the newsletter? Let us know! Send a message to Laurie Eikemeyer!



62ND ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BOOK SALE! JUNE 1 - 5



Northtown Plaza
(Old Carolina Furniture Store)
3155 Sheridan Drive, Amherst

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need many helping hands during and after the sale. If you can help, please call Judy Weidemann at 655-3649.

For more information, look online at <http://www.aauw.buffalo.edu/booksale.htm>

The Annual Book Sale is our biggest fundraiser! Proceeds from the book sale fund scholarships and grants to assist women attending college, plus our community projects, especially Tech Savvy and Sister-to-Sister.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH 2016 WELCOME DINNER

**Welcome our new members
and celebrate the beginning of a new program year on
September 26th!**



In addition to presentations of the Jacquie Walker and Olga Lindberg Scholarships, our program will include informative presentations about our Annual Scholarship Book Sale and announcements about programs and interest groups for 2016-2017.

This annual casual supper is our members' opportunity to invite a guest or two who might be interested in joining our terrific Buffalo Branch. Come enjoy the catered dinner and opportunity to meet our newest members!

Please see information and respond with dinner selection on the Reservation Form on page 4 by September 20th.

CAROL'S CORNER: AN EXCITING YEAR

What an exciting year the Buffalo Branch experienced! We held interesting programs, ranging from nutrition and exercise fitness to cross-cultural experiences to a "Read to Succeed" presentation. New interest groups were introduced which included a Culinary Delights dinner group and the Happy Wanderers exploring attractions in Western New York. Our Branch-sponsored events included hosting the District 1 Meeting, Tech Savvy, and the International Women's Day dinner. Social events were enjoyable functions that included a "pot luck" dinner and a Victorian holiday luncheon and fashion show.

Our branch awarded several scholarships, loans, and grants which benefitted women and girls in Western New York. We collected personal care items for the Family Justice Center and feminine hygiene products to assist the UB student affiliate branch with donations to a homeless shelter. Our branch donated a basket of local items for the AAUW-NYS Legal Advocacy Fund raffle at the AAUW-NYS convention.

Our annual Book Sale is approaching which is our major fundraiser. All proceeds from the Book Sale are distributed locally and nationally to scholarships, grants, and community projects.



As the year closes, I want to thank all the members who served the Buffalo Branch in any way. The successes that we have had this year would not have been possible without the hard work of our members. So many of you gave of your time, talents, and energy to further the mission of AAUW. It is truly appreciated.

I hope everyone enjoys their summer, and we'll see you in September!

Carol Golyski,
Co-President

CYNTHIA'S INSIGHTS: OUR EMERGING LEADER



I am sure everyone by now knows that Laurie Eikemeyer was chosen as the AAUW Buffalo Branch Emerging Leader for 2016. But, in case you didn't know, let me introduce her to you.

We can't say enough about our 2016 Emerging Leader, Laurie Eikemeyer. She is a graduate of Canisius College and is employed as a Business Applications Development Manager. Laurie joined the Buffalo Branch of AAUW in 2011 and in 2014, was elected Fundraising Treasurer of our annual used book sale event. She has done an excellent job of keeping track of all income and expenditures. Recently, she agreed to continue in that position for another two years.

In 2014, she also stepped forward and took on the responsibility as editor of our monthly newsletter, the Advocate. Since then each edition of the Advocate is superbly prepared and edited. She has taken the initiative to add photos of the columnists as well as a compre-

hensive list of all monthly activities. Laurie always meets the deadlines and the newsletters are sent out both electronically and by mail.

Ms. Eikemeyer is a trained Salary Negotiation Facilitator for AAUW's Start Smart/Work Smart program. She volunteers for the AAUW's Annual Tech Savvy conference held each year.

Recently, Laurie was a Buffalo Branch delegate to the AAUW-NYS Convention held this year in Saratoga Springs, NY. At that time, she was appointed editor of the AAUW-NYS newsletter, the Focus, for the coming year.

Every year, various NYS branches are encouraged to honor an "emerging leader" and we are proud to have selected Laurie Eikemeyer as our Emerging Leader. She has and continues to demonstrate leadership potential through her enthusiasm, her creativity, and her commitment to AAUW's mission. She has been a joy to work with, and we are delighted to honor her this year. Congratulations to Laurie Eikemeyer!

Cynthia Mehary,
Co-President

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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Co-Presidents:

Carol Golyski
Cynthia Mehary

Publisher/Editor:

Laurie Eikemeyer

Assistant Editors:

Judy Weidemann,
Barbara Carier,
Betty Preble

For prospective or new member questions, contact:

Membership Recruitment VP,
Diane O'Brien, email:
obnfam@roadrunner.com.

Send address changes to:

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



BUFFALO BRANCH MAY STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

Dues Reminder



It's that time!!! If you have not paid your **2016-2017 dues**, you must pay them **soon** to continue your membership benefits.

Please send your check, along with any change in address/phone number/email address to:

**Freddie Cheek,
406 Maynard Drive,
Amherst, New York
14226-2929.**

Please contact Freddie or Barbara Weber or Pat Miceli if you have any questions.



KNITTING GROUP

When: Wednesday, June 8th
2-4 pm.
Where: Barnes and Noble Café on Transit Rd. near Main St.
What: Bring your knitting and/or crochet project
Contact: Karen Howard at 480-3652 or email khoward@roadrunner.com



BEAD WEAVING & JEWELRY MAKING

When: Thursday, June 16th, 1-3 pm
Where: Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, Conference Room
1030 Losson Rd., Cheektowaga
What: Bring your current project to work on
RSVP: Barbara Weber at 725-7839
Or by email blweber50@verizon.net



WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wednesday, June 8th at Noon.
Where: Romeo & Juliet's Café, 2512 Sheridan Dr., Town of Tonawanda
RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or by email BPLibby1@verizon.net by June 6th.



NOTE: This summer, there will be encore visits to some of the restaurants we have visited. Everyone is welcome. If you are interested, email or call Barb and you will be put on a list to be notified about the visits. Don't miss out! This is fun!

DINNER BY THE BOOK

***Note new location through June 2016**

When: Wednesday, June 15th at 5:30 pm.
Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst
*Interior closed room reserved for the book club
Book: **Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger**
Leaders: Pat Keller, Faciliator
Barbara McGovern, Discussion Leader
RSVP: Fran Witnauer at 688-5708 or by email grandmafran44@yahoo.com



CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wednesday, June 22nd at 5:30 pm.
Where: Bob Evans Restaurant, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd.
BOOK: **The Roundhouse by Louise Erdrich**
Facilitator: TBD
Contact: Suzanne Grossman at 580-7453



¡ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB

AAUW'S diverse group of books that highlight women's issues. Join us whether you have read the book or not. We welcome all members and prospective members.
The June meeting is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.



SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

The Sunday Book Club is taking a vacation and is looking for a new leader for the group. Special thanks to **Karen Huffman-Kelly** for the years of devotion and inspiration she offered the AAUW members who attended. If you would be interested in taking over the leadership of this wonderful book club, I'd be glad to help you get it started. Thank you.



Contact: Marilyn Carmichael at 228-8626

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

New AAUW Interest Group to explore WNY treasures, well-known and otherwise.
When: Thursday, June 16th at 11 am.
What: **Sign up yourself for the Darwin Martin House tour at 11am.** Reservations fill up quickly, so call in [856-3858](tel:856-3858) or reserve online (www.darwinmartinhouse.org). We'll go afterwards to the Parkside Meadow restaurant for lunch (<http://www.parksidemeadow.com/>). Call Betty Preble at 662-0608 or email betty.preble@gmail.com with questions, to let her know you're coming, or to be notified of other summer outings.



We welcome all current and prospective members to attend any of our Study/interest group activities.

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS

Marilyn Carmichael,
mcarmichael45@aol.com
Or call 228-8626

LET'S GATHER TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

AAUW Buffalo Branch Welcome Dinner Celebrating Our 126th Year

Welcome our new members
and celebrate the beginning of a new program year!

Monday, September 26, 2016 at 5:30 pm
Christ United Methodist Church
350 Saratoga Road 14226
(Harlem at Saratoga)

Program:

- Registration
- Dinner
- Welcome by co-presidents, Cynthia Mehary and Carol Golyski
- Remarks: new members; membership chair, Diane O'Brien and Lillis McLean
- Scholarship presentations, including Jacqui Walker and Olga Lindberg Scholarship winners
- Book Sale report
- Buffalo Branch Interest Group report
- Closing

Fall Program Reservation Form

Dinner Menu-Select One:

_____ Lasagna

_____ Roasted Chicken

_____ Stuffed shells-vegetarian

Included: tossed salad, rolls and butter, dessert, new members' cake, birthday cake, coffee and tea

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Please return check for \$12.00 per meal payable to "AAUW Buffalo Branch" by September 20, 2016 to: Lynne Rapin, 1383 Seneca Creek Road, West Seneca, NY 14224. Please indicate menu choice for each if reserving for multiple people.

Questions? Lynne Rapin (863-8519) or Lillis McLean (873-7467)



To the Editor:

I would like to thank Carol Golyski and Cynthia Mehary for honoring me with the Branch Recognition award this year. It is indeed a compliment to be praised in this way. And I'm not going to be shy – I have done a lot of work this past year. However, I am fortunate in that I can. I've been blessed with good health, a fair amount of energy, a husband who cheerfully (usually) tolerates meals at odd hours, etc. Not all our members are so fortunate; they are unable to help out as much. But if we all just do what we can, we'll make progress in furthering our AAUW mission. I think of the people who come to sort books, but have to sit because they can't stand that long. Those who aren't much with a computer but will help registering people at a program. Those who can't leave their homes for long, but can and do make phone calls. Those who can't contribute monetarily to a cause, but use the AAUW "Two Minute Activist" to support it. Those who are completely unable to help physically but can write a small check. Let's recognize all those who "do what they can" to help our organization stay relevant into the future.

Betty Preble



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



AAUW ONLINE

FIND AAUW ON THE WEB:

Buffalo Branch:

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

New York State:

<http://aauw-nys.org>

National:

<http://aauw.org>



ON FACEBOOK:

Buffalo Branch:

<https://www.facebook.com/aauw.buffalo>

New York State:

<https://www.facebook.com/aauw.nys>

National:

<https://www.facebook.com/aauw.national>



ON TWITTER:

New York State:

<https://twitter.com/AAUWNY>

National:

<https://twitter.com/AAuW>

AAUW Online Museum:

<http://history.aauw.org/>

Christina Ebeling

100 North Lake Drive,
Orchard Park, NY 14127
Home phone: 830-8709

Email: cme77@roadrunner.com

Degrees:

- University of Wisconsin at Madison BS Elementary Education 1973
- State University of NY at Buffalo MA Education 1989
- SUNY Ph.D. (standing) Education 35 credits Occupation: Elementary Teacher, BBED, Retired

Committees & groups: Human/civil rights, Sister-to-Sister, Knitting group (would like to learn), Sunday Book Club, WNY Culinary Delights, Bead weaving/Jewelry Making

Ms. Linda Jenkin

5170 Brookfield Lane,
Clarence, NY 14031
Cell phone: 913-1579

E-mail: cats5170@gmail.com

Degrees:

- SUC at Buffalo, BS Spanish 1974
- University at Buffalo, MS Spanish Education 1977
- SUC Buffalo, MS Earth Science 1987

Occupation: Retired Educator, Author, Environmentalist

Groups: Book Sale Committee

Kesha Lanier

419 Capen Blvd.,
Amherst, NY 14226
Home phone: 862-3556
Work phone: 645-2266

Email: Kelanier@buffalo.edu

Degrees:

- Canisius College MS Organizational Communication & Development 2003.
- University at Buffalo BS Health and Human Services 2001.

Occupation: UB Office of Equity, Diversion, and Inclusion.

Committees: Community Action, Diversity, Sister-to-Sister, Tech Savvy.

Jayne Murray

350 Ruskin Road,
Snyder, NY 14226
Home Phone: 839-1917
Cell: 310-8817

e-mail: jymurray@roadrunner.com

Degrees: - St. Mary's Jr. College (now college of St. Catherine) Associates Degree Nursing 1981

- Daemen College, BA Social Work 2004

- State University at Buffalo, MSW Social Work 2005

Occupation: Social worker/grief counselor

Groups: Book sale committee



AAUW-NYS CONVENTION

The AAUW—NYS Convention was attended by 8 members of the Buffalo Branch. Below, Laurie Eikemeyer receives recognition as the Buffalo Branch Emerging Leader from Mary Lou Davis, District Director. Right, Betty Preble with state board member, Donna Seymour, outgoing Public Policy Vice President.



WELFARE AND ITS MYTHS

The Wikipedia definition of "**Welfare Queen**" states that it is a pejorative phrase used in the United States to refer to people, usually women, who are accused of collecting excessive welfare payments through fraud or manipulation. It's a term that dates back to the Reagan era.

As it turns out, the majority of welfare fraud is committed not by the poor people who receive the benefits, but by managers and government officials misappropriating welfare funds. Even so, welfare fraud only accounts for an estimated two percent of the budget -- significantly less than virtually any private sector business.

Welfare is government aid that is intended to help people who have little to no income, including the working poor. It is aimed primarily at families with children, older individuals, and those who are disabled. It can include cash assistance, food stamps, and Medicaid. In some states, welfare might also take the form of vouchers, credits, or grants. To be eligible for welfare in the United States, a person must apply, provide proof of financial need, and meet certain federal and state requirements. He or she typically must be a legal citizen or resident, have a Social Security number, and be seeking employment, training, or education.

Among the poorest of the poor—single mothers living below the poverty line with minor children to support, 39.7 percent of AFDC clients are Black single mothers, and 38.1 percent are White women with children. Food stamp recipients are 37.2 percent Black and 46.2 percent White. Medicaid benefits are paid to 27.5 percent Black recipients compared to 48.5 percent White clients. What's life like at the poverty line? It's one impossible choice after another—between food and medicine,

getting to work, or paying the heating bill.

Some elected officials want the state to tighten up on what sorts of food people getting public assistance benefits can buy, eliminating "junk food" like cake, candy, soda and "luxury items" such as steak and lobster. One NYS Senator is sponsoring a bill that "would help low-income families and individuals stretch their grocery budgets and eat more healthy foods, as well as protect taxpayer dollars by limiting the use of EBT cards for the purchase of junk food and luxury items."



"The goal of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is to help low-income consumers make wise and healthy food choices—however in New York State, SNAP beneficiaries are able to use their taxpayer-funded EBT cards to purchase things like soda, candy, cake, and other types of junk food and luxury items," said the Senator.

Another Senator wants to further restrict where and how public assistance recipients can use their benefits. His bill would establish a series of escalating penalties for each failure to comply with the laws and rules that govern the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, such as prohibitions against using benefits for cigarettes and alcohol. It would also require recipients to look for work and be able to prove it.

The Office of Temporary Disability Assis-



tance, which is designated as the state agency that works with the United States Department of Agriculture on the supplemental nutrition program, formerly called Food Stamps, would determine which items would be prohibited.

Our welfare state has grown over time; federal social safety net spending per capita has more than quadrupled since 1970. The expansion, though, has disproportionately gone not to the unemployed and very poor, but to the working "near-poor" and the middle class. That's partly because of demographics (a large share of social spending goes to elderly people, whatever their incomes, and the United States is aging), and partly because of policy changes (e.g., imposing five-year caps on how long most families can receive welfare payments). Despite making up only 42 percent of the qualified population, middle class White folk end up with 69 percent of the benefits. Programs like Medicare and Social Security dwarf benefits to the young and unemployed.

Furthermore, giving benefits to the unemployed stimulates the economy. If you give money to people who are on the verge of destitution, they're going to end up spending it immediately, because they're probably way behind on rent, bills, and the food. That money goes right back into the private sector.

Marian Deutschman,
Public Policy Chair

Program Photos

A Special Thank You

Many thanks to Lynne and Ann Rapin, Mary Crocker, Betty Preble, Tahmina Rehman, Barbara Carier and Christ United Methodist Church, Joan Eschner, Madeeha Almashadany, Pam Kefi, Leona Barback, Marian Deutschman, Renee Szarowicz, Carol Griffith, and Judy Weidemann for their many contributions to our programs this year.

Lillis McLean
Program Vice President



Ann Rapin and Cynthia Mehary at our IWD A2Empowerment presentation (left).

International Women's Day March 8, 2016

Lynne Rapin introducing her daughter, Ann Rapin of A2Empowerment (below).



Public Policy Program April 24, 2016

Marian Deutschman (left), AAUW Buffalo Branch Public Policy Chair and Anne Ryan, Executive Director of "Read to Succeed"

AVAILABLE BRANCH STUDY GROUP READING LISTS FOR 2016-2017

2016-2017 DINNER BY THE BOOK



5:30 pm—Dinner followed by book review and discussion.

Date	Book/Author	Facilitator	Discussion Leader
9/21/2016	BREAKING NIGHT by Liz Murray	Diane O'Brien	Lynne Rapin
10/19/2016	A FINE BALANCE by Rohinton Mistry	Mary Ann Hope	Judy Huber
11/16/2016	HALF OF A YELLOW SUN by Ngozi Chimamanda Adichie	Sue Licata	Mary Crocker
12/21/2016	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS by M. L. Stedman	TBD	TBD
1/18/2017	THE BOYS IN THE BOAT by Daniel James Brown	Frances Witnauer	Diane O'Brien
2/15/2017	THE ROSIE PROJECT by Graeme Simsion	Lynne Rapin	Stacey Johnson
3/15/2017	AND AFTER THE FIRE by Lauren Belfer	Judy Malamas	Leona Barback
4/19/2017	BOOK SELECTION FOR 2017-2018	Mary Crocker	
5/17/2017	THE LAKE HOUSE by Kate Morton	Leona Barback	Frances Witnauer
6/21/2017	LEAVING TIME by Jody Picoult	Karen Kolb	Marilyn Carmichael

Questions?

Please contact Leona Barback 633-1982 or Marilyn Carmichael 228-8626.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please contact Fran Witnauer by phone at 688-5708 or email at Grandmafran44@yahoo.com.

2016-2017 CLUELESS BOOK CLUB



All meetings will be at 5:30 pm at Bob Evans Restaurant, 1925 Niagara Falls Boulevard near the I-290.

DATE	BOOK & AUTHOR	FACILITATOR
9/28/16	SLOW HORSES by Mick Herron	Barbara Libby
10/26/16	DEATH OF A GENTLE LADY by M. C. Beaton	Suzanne Grossman
11/30/16	SINS OF THE FATHERS by Lawrence Block	Pat Miceli
12/28/16	OPEN SEASON by C. J. Box	Suzanne Taeger
1/25/17	THE UNQUIET DEAD by Ausma Khan	Paula Salamone
2/22/17	MALLETS AFORETHOUGHT by Sarah Graves	Kate Collins
3/22/17	WICKED AUTUMN by G. M. Malliet	Karen Howard
4/26/17	BOOK SELECTION FOR 2017-2018	
5/24/17	THE TOOTH TATTOO by Peter Lovesey	TBA
6/28/17	IRON LAKE by William Kent Krueger	Frances Witnauer

Please contact Suzanne Grossman at 580-7453.

BUFFALO BRANCH ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND MEETING AT THE ROYCROFT INN

The Annual Luncheon and Meeting was held on May 7th at the Roycroft Inn in East Aurora. A wonderful luncheon was enjoyed by all.

Achievement Award Winner Dr. Teresa Gessner was present along with her daughter Julia, who shared her mother's legacy.



Teresa Gessner with her daughter Julia

Election of officers was held and new officers were installed into their respective offices by AAUW-NYS Past President, Sue Oliver.

Some members also enjoyed a tour of the Roycroft campus led by docent Robb Maier.



Julia Gessner, Teresa Gessner, and Judy Weidemann



Catalyst for Change Scholarship winners Annie Nicole Mandart and Katherine Ann Czerniejewski and Velma Cobb winner, Alyssa Dzik



Betty Preble receives Branch Recognition award.



Judy Malamas, Sue Oliver, and Natasha Perkins



Betty Preble, Barbara Carier, Laurie Eikemeyer, and Sue Oliver.



Newly installed officers: Laurie Eikemeyer, Joan Eschner, Diane O'Brien, Carol Griffith, Judy Malamas, Mary Crocker, and Lynne Rapin.

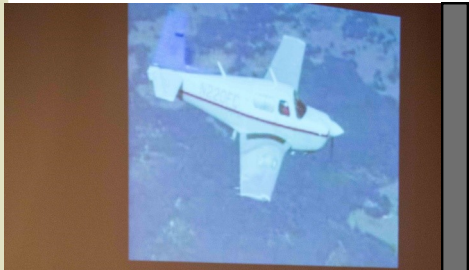


Fern Beavers during Catalyst for Change Scholarship presentation.



Members enjoy learning the history of the Roycroft.

A Big Tech Savvy Thank you!



What a bright future you made for about 500 girls, parents, and teachers in March!

Special thanks to all of the committee chairs, members, and volunteers who made the day wonderful, safe, and enlightening. We had more than 100 members and friends volunteering for the day—and about 75 workshop presenters and session leaders.

We continue to be amazed by the support and generosity of those who come to join us from afar. CarolAnn Garratt, a woman who has, literally, soared around the world, stopped in and made a wonderful impression on the audience. Buffalo native Bonnie Seaton returned with colleague Holly Ryer from NASA, and both wowed the girls. See

pictures of CarolAnn and more glimpses of the day below.

Special thanks also to our donors who help make this program possible:

- AAUW Buffalo: \$5,000
- Praxair: \$23,000, with an additional gift of \$2,500 for bolt-on programming
- Baxter: \$2,500
- UB Engineering: \$1,500
- IEEE: \$200

Do you want to help with next year's Tech Savvy ?

We'll decide soon about any summer activities. Planning sessions for Tech Savvy 12 will begin in August. So, if you want to get involved, please call Tamara at 949-2413.



The Centenarians: We Have a Story to Tell

AAUW Buffalo Branch awarded funding in 2015 to The Links Incorporated, Erie County (NY) Chapter to support ongoing research related to the longevity of women, especially women of color, residing within the Buffalo and Niagara region. The grant focused on capturing the history of ten (10) living centenarians. The project chronicled their unique lifestyles for the past 100-plus-years as they recollected historical moments and family legacies. These stories underscore the struggles of people in bondage, and the actions they took in an attempt to seek and secure their own rights of suffrage and equality. The stories will be preserved in a soft cover booklet and presented in a media presentation entitled, *The Centenarians: We Have a Story to Tell*.



On Saturday, March 19, 2016 at the Ramada Amherst/Getzville Hotel and Conference Center, the centenarians and their family members were the honored guests of The Erie County Links, Women's History Month Program. This venue introduced the centenarians who received proclamations from the offices of the Mayor, State Senator Kennedy, and Council President Darius G. Pridgen. A musical tribute from the students of Muhammad's School of Music highlighted the evening.

Cynthia Mehary, Co-President of the Buffalo Branch of the AAUW, joined other program sponsors, ADM Management Group, Incorporated, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Western New York, and M&T Bank in congratulating the honorees.

On Thursday, May 5, 2016, the president of the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora, Sharon Amos, PhD, and Urban Legacy Filmworks owner Doug Ruffin, presented a media production: *The Centenarians: We Have a Story To Tell*. The presentation consisted of a collection of vignettes highlighting the stories of each of the Centenarians: **Irene Breckenridge, Artie Brown, Thelma Onelia Arrington Hickmon, Pearl Lew-**

is, Amanda Pugh Jackson, Mamie Lang Kirkland, Margaret (Margie) M. Richardson, Mary Lee Jones Reid, Brunette Washington, and Lottie Bell Williams, describing the spirit of courage and perseverance demonstrated as they and their ancestors struggled in an attempt to seek and secure their own rights of suffrage and equality. The production was viewed by approximately 175 friends and family members during the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Fron-

tier's 39th Annual Family History Dinner at Emerson School of Hospitality. AAUW members present were Patricia E. Baxter, Cynthia Mehary, and Lillis C. McLean.

The next phase of the project will be a book signing event to be held the third week in June 2016 at the Nash House. For the final phase of the project, an intergenerational project is planned to include junior and senior high school students.

The project will be cataloged and preserved at such places as the Monroe Fordham Regional History Center and Frank E. Merriweather Buffalo and Erie County Library.

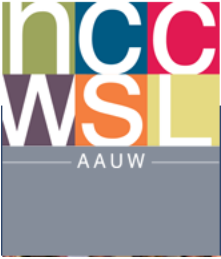
This project provides the AAUW Buffalo Branch, under the leadership of branch co-presidents Carol Golyski and Cynthia Mehary, an opportunity to promote mission based programs and equity/diversity for women through relevant research.

Fern Beavers,
Grassroots Grants Chair



AAUW UB STUDENT BRANCH

The UB AAUW Branch had a fantastic year marked by awesome advocacy efforts! Events like UBLead, ElectHer, and HappyPeriod give us the opportunity to reach out to students, spread the AAUW message, and make a positive impact within our community.



As the year comes to a close, we are fortunate to have three UB students attending this year's AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

(NCCWSL): **Chelsea Whitney** is attending as our ElectHer ambassador, **Francesca D'Alessandro** is our National Scholarship recipient, and **Sarah Dow** is our 2016-17 branch presi-

dent. We hope to use this amazing experience to mold our initiatives regarding the upcoming school year!

The UB Branch extends a heartfelt thank you to all of the Buffalo Branch members. Thank you for your support this year! We look forward to working with you throughout the 2016-2017 school year.

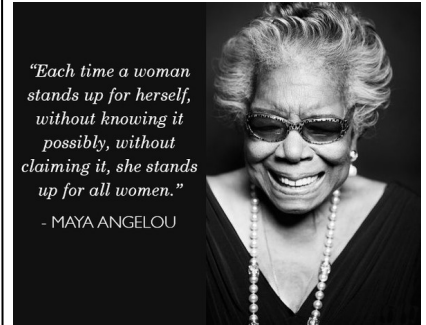
Have an awesome summer!



2016-2017 BUFFALO BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-President	Carol Golyski
Co-President	Cynthia Mehary
Program Vice President	Lillis McLean
Membership Recruitment VP.....	Diane O'Brien
Membership Retention Co-VP	Patricia Miceli
Membership Retention Co-VP	Barbara Weber
Secretary/Parliamentarian	Lynne Rapin
CFO	Barbara Libby
Operations Treasurer	Suzanne Licata
EAP Treasurer	Mary Crocker
Fundraising Treasurer	Laurie Eikemeyer
Chamberlin/Funds for Ed. Treasurer	Betty Preble
Scholarship Director	Carol Griffith
Nominating Committee Chair	Judy Malamas
Nominating Committee	Kate Collins, Marilyn Carmichael, Barbara Engler, Joan Eschner

HERE'S TO
Strong Women
MAY WE KNOW THEM.
MAY WE BE THEM.
MAY WE RAISE THEM.



Save the Date!
Join us at
Cazenovia!

**Building Success
with Smart Ideas**
Focus on Programming and
Leadership



Sum- mer

**Leadership
Conference**
July 22-24, 2016
Cazenovia College
Cazenovia, NY

- ◆ 3 days of learning, planning and fun.
- ◆ AAUW members from across the state.
- ◆ Beautiful upstate location.
- ◆ All members of AAUW are invited.

Read about it and register on the
AAUW-NYS website:
www.aauw-nys.org



Katherine Ann Czerniejewski is the 2016 recipient of the AAUW – Buffalo Branch’s Catalyst For Change Scholarship for the category of Female College Undergraduate Student. Katherine currently attends the State University at Buffalo and her senior project is related to Biomedical Engineering. She and three other classmates are currently working on redesigning an endoscopic introducer – a tool used in most endoscopic surgeries to provide access to the brain’s fluid space.



Katherine Ann Czerniejewski

She has embraced programs that have affected positive change for women. For example, she co- led a STEM camp for high school students, participated in a data collection exercise to gain knowledge of ways female students perceived UB’s undergraduate recruitment efforts. In 2015, Katherine collaborated with two other classmates and founded TINKER – a summer program for female high school students. It has a focus on closing the gender gap in engineering by debunking the stereotypes typically preventing females from pursuing engineering careers. She was awarded a Business Fellowship as a result of her participation in the entrepreneurship boot camp at UB.

In Summer 2016, Katherine will be attending Johns Hopkins University focused on obtaining a MS degree in Bio-engineering. Additionally, she has plans to travel to a developing country to help with reducing identified barriers to health issues. Katherine demonstrates outstanding leadership potential, projects a passion for service, has great purpose and commitment toward service and advancing the inclusion of women, especially in the area of STEM.

Annie Nicole Mandart is the 2016 recipient of the AAUW – Buffalo Branch Catalyst for Change Scholarship for the category of Female Graduate Student. Annie currently attends Pennsylvania State University- World Campus and works at WNED I WBFO. Annie attended Hobart and William Smith Colleges for her undergraduate studies. Hobart and William Smith Colleges pro-

vided her an opportunity to travel to areas such as Chennai, India; areas of California; Beijing, China; and Bangalore, India for internships and Maastricht, the Netherlands, for a semester abroad. The aforementioned experiences have provided opportunities to enhance Annie’s skills in a variety of areas and capacities.

In her role as an advocate, Annie has affected positive change for girls. In her position as an English teacher in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Annie worked with her students to create a culture of respect, understanding, and change. Annie worked closely with the girls in her five classes to develop their identities while helping them overcome boundaries and obstacles they had faced for many years. Her work helped female students find their voices. Annie consistently advocated for the girls in her school in the face of adversity, always working toward creating a safe space for educational advancement. It was because of her



Annie Nicole Mandart

spirit of bravery, moral commitment, sense of empowerment, and voice of justice, that Annie’s efforts were successful. She served as a pillar of strength and the answer to why it is important to advocate for what is right. Annie’s involvement in organizations such as AAUW Buffalo Branch, the Blue and White Society at Pennsylvania State University, and the alumni/ alumnae organization at Hobart and William Smith Colleges speaks to her genuine passion and desire to create communities of change.

Upon completion of her Master of Public Administration degree in August 2017, Annie plans to seek a leadership role that helps further education and opportunity for girls in the community.

Annie is involved, an excellent role model, and exemplifies true activism.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

June 1-5 - Annual Book Sale in Northtown Plaza

June 8 at 6:15pm - Board Meeting at Daemen College

July 22-24 - Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia

Sept. 26 - Annual Fall Welcome Dinner



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.

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