



IN THIS ISSUE

- December Program 1
- Co-Presidents' Columns, Help Wanted 2
- Study/Interest Groups, What's Happening..... 3
- Public Policy Report..... 4
- November Program photos, Book Sale, New Members, Start Smart/Work Smart..... 5
- Tech Savvy..... 6
- Belva Lockwood Program 7
- Upcoming Dates to Remember..... 8

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!



DECEMBER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Holiday Music and Classical Pieces

Sunday, December 11, 2016

2:00 pm

The College Club*

264 Summer Street (Off Elmwood Ave.)

Buffalo, NY



Jimmy Burger, a senior at Tapestry High School, is an aspiring concert pianist who was invited by the Buffalo Philharmonic to attend their Master Classes with visiting artists and was a student at the Eastman School of Music last summer.

Refreshments after the concert will be finger foods, desserts, wine, coffee, and tea.

Parking: Please carpool. The College Club has street parking only. Valet parking if needed when you arrive. Call Evelyn at 748-5884.

* The College Club has been a residence for women for more than 100 years. We will learn a little of its history after the concert

RESERVATION FORM

RESERVATION MUST BE IN BY Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Name _____

Phone _____

Please send your check made payable to "AAUW Buffalo Branch" for \$20 per person to:

**Lynne Rapin
1383 Seneca Creek Road
West Seneca, NY 14224**

CAROL'S CORNER

GIVING THANKS

As our calendar year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all our members who have contributed to the success of our Buffalo Branch in furthering the mission of AAUW as well as our programs and activities. Everyone's efforts are appreciated.



I would also like to wish all our members a wonderful holiday season. May you share many memorable celebrations with family and friends. For anyone travelling, may you arrive and return safely. May each of you have a healthy and prosperous new year.

I look forward to your participation in the Buffalo Branch in 2017!

Carol Golyski,
Co-President

HELP WANTED FOR NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Once each month, we need someone to help with the snail-mail distribution of the Advocate. No, you don't need to create it – Laurie is already doing a fantastic job on that! The tasks to be done are getting it printed (OfficeMax is quite accommodating,) print the labels (there's an online postal service program to do that,) take all of that out to Lancaster HS where a class of disabled students will fold/tape/label them, then pick them up and take them to mail at the main post office on William Street.

Please contact Betty Preble (662-0608) if you could help with that occasionally. I can walk you through the whole process!



CYNTHIA'S INSIGHTS

WOMEN WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE

First, I would like to congratulate one of our members, Ms. Fern Beavers, for her participation as co-chairperson of the **Remembering African American Veterans** unveiling which took place Tuesday, November 1st at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library. This special exhibit honored deceased African American Veterans of Western NY. Fern has worked diligently with AAUW Buffalo as chairperson of the Catalyst for Change Scholarship.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FERN BEAVERS.

Second, the Rochester Institute of Technology will host author, legal scholar, and civil rights attorney Michelle Alexander at its annual "Expressions of King's Legacy Celebration" Thursday, January 26, 2017. Ms. Alexander is the author of the book, "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." This book is a must read book for those interested in Civil Rights issues.

And third, a comment on a recent article in the AARP newsletter entitled "A Commitment to Serve." At the tender age of 65, Susan Schneider decided to pursue her dream of becoming a Peace Corps volunteer. She is presently teaching English in Tanzania. Presently the oldest Volunteer is Alice Carter at the age of 87 serving in Morocco. Initially, Peace Corps recruited young recent college graduates to serve in the many programs and countries abroad. Now the US Peace Corps is actively seeking more volunteers over the age of 50. It values older volunteers for their wealth of life and professional experience and their ability to connect with those in the communities where they serve.



We, as women of AAUW, continue to serve and work towards our mission, vision, and purpose.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Cynthia Mehary,
Co-President



THE BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE

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**Women Making
a Difference**

WHAT'S HAPPENING

View **580** Nativity Sets from **58** Countries

Saturdays and Sundays 1 until 4 pm
December 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18,
31 and January 1, January 7 & 8, 14
& 15

To arrange weekdays, please contact Fr. Roy at 852-2076. Groups are encouraged: school children, seniors, parish organizations, etc. SS. Columbia-Bridget at 75 Hickory, corner of Eagle, one block south of Clinton, downtown.

The Amherst Chamber Ensemble (ACE) is presenting a concert, **My Music Doth Magnify My Heart** on December 21, 2016 at 7:30 pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic Church, 4125 Union Road, corner of Genesee, Cheektowaga.

Shea's Performing Arts Theatre, 646 Main Street, Buffalo, NY ([1-800-745-3000](tel:1-800-745-3000)) has scheduled the following performances in December 2016:

- Dec 3: **The Piano Guys**
- Dec 8: **Love Jones the Musical**
- Dec 10: **Once**
- Dec 13 - 18: **A Christmas Story**

Charles Dickens' **The Chimes** is playing at the Road Less Traveled Productions, 500 Pearl Street, Buffalo, NY (629-3069).

Performances are from December 2 - 18, 2016 on Thursday/Friday/ Saturday at 7:30 pm and on Sunday at 2:00 pm.

Judy Weidemann



BUFFALO BRANCH DECEMBER STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

Program: Jean Hubbard has arranged for a docent-led tour of the Botanical Gardens on Thursday, Dec. 8th to see the poinsettia show!



First, we will meet at Ilio DiPaolo's at noon for lunch, 3785 South Park Ave. in Blasdell.

<https://iliodipaolos.com/>

Then we will drive to the Botanical Gardens for the tour, 2655 South Park Ave., just north of Ridge Rd. <http://www.buffalogardens.com/>. The price of the guided tour is \$11 per person.

RSVP: Betty Preble at 662-0608 or email betty.preble@gmail.com. We need a firm commitment by Mon. Dec. 5th.

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wed. Dec. 14th at 6 pm.

Where: Pasion Restaurant, 153 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo.



What: AAUW Study Group for members to share dinner and conversation.

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or bplibby1@verizon.net by Dec. 12th.

KNITTING GROUP

When: Wednesday, Dec. 14th from 2-4 pm.

Where: Barnes and Noble Café on Transit Rd. near Main St.

What: Bring your knitting and/or crochet project.

RSVP: Karen Howard at 480-3652 or email khoward@roadrunner.com



DINNER NY THE BOOK

When: Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 5:30 pm.

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst
Interior closed room reserved for the book club.

Book: **The Light Between Oceans** by M.L. Stedman

Lynn Tauriello - Discussion Leader

RSVP: Fran Witnauer at 688-5708 or grandmafran44@yahoo.com



BEAD WEAVING & JEWELRY MAKING

No meeting in Dec. Happy Holidays and see you in the New Year!!



CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wednesday, December 28th at 5:30 pm.

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

Book: **Open Season** by C.J. Box

Facilitator: Suzanne Taeger

RSVP: Suzanne Grossman at 580-7453



For General Questions, contact **Judy Huber** at 688-8170 or email judyhuber62@yahoo.com

We welcome all current and prospective members to attend any of our study group activities.

SAVE THE DATE



WOMEN & POWER

APRIL 21-23, 2017 AT THE
DOUBLE TREE INN, SYRACUSE

PUBLIC POLICY

What is keeping our college graduates from climbing the wealth ladder?

This spring, an estimated 2.8 million university graduates will enter the U.S. workforce with bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees just as America's unemployment rate hits its lowest level in nearly seven years.

By 2020, millennials will be an estimated 46 percent of all U.S. workers. They face higher university tuitions and student loan debt than ever before, as well as stiffer competition when they enter the workforce. They are getting lower earnings compared with the nation's median income, versus people of that age a decade ago. They are delaying important life decisions, like getting married, buying a home, and starting a family.

The trend toward a greater level of education for most Americans is encouraging. However, the rewards are not keeping up with the costs. University graduates are entering the job market saddled with an average \$33,000 in student loan debt. At the same time, tuitions are unlikely to fall, even though universities are having trouble reaching enrollment goals, and lower birth rates are expected to make that worse.

A Georgetown study suggests colleges need to do a better job of preparing graduates for the workforce, and recruiters need to be more transparent in hiring.

The rise of student debt has had an impact on homeownership among recent college graduates, but a new report from Fitch Ratings shows that education loans are not the only barrier. The credit rating agency examined factors influencing home buying decisions for people ages 18 to 35,

and concluded that stagnant wages, appreciation in home prices, conservative lending, and rising student loan balances are all making it difficult for millennials to create wealth through homeownership.



The delay in homeownership plays a role in wealth creation. Home equity has historically been the greatest contributor to lifetime wealth creation for Americans, and a critical driver of consumer spending. It ac-

counted for roughly 70 percent of the total net worth of homeowners 65 and older in 2011, according to the most recent data from the Census Bureau. That may change over the next 20 years if fewer young people buy homes or delay the purchase. The long-term financial impact of sacrificed home-equity creation could be significant.

The millennial road to wealth creation is filled with obstacles. While nominal wages for recent university graduates climbed 13 percent between 2007 and 2015, rents across the country rose 22 percent, and average student loan balances rose 60 percent during the same period. High rents and debt payments erode the discretionary income needed to save for a down payment. Sluggish income growth doesn't help. It's no wonder homeownership has declined the most among people under 35, falling from 41 percent in 2000 to 34 percent this year, according to census data.

What experts are saying about housing affordability

As the economy strengthens, mortgage rates are likely to rise. Rising mortgage rates are inevitable, and that will reduce

affordability further. Even when interest rates are low, if prices rise too fast, buyers will be kept out of the market. We don't have enough affordable homes for sale or rent.

When affordability deteriorates, it makes it harder for people to buy a home or to save for a home, but it also has a psychological impact that makes people less comfortable buying a home.

The housing recovery has pushed home prices higher, with the median national home price reaching \$247,700 in June, the highest recorded since the National Association of Realtors began tracking prices in 1968.

Twenty percent of all households had student loan debt in 2013, up from 12 percent in 2001. The National Association of Realtors estimates that student loan debt delays homeownership by five years.



An analysis by University of Michigan economics

professor Susan Dynarski concluded that by the time graduates hit their 30s, when many people finish paying off their college loans, their chances of buying a house are about the same as graduates without debt. That observation is consistent with findings from Fannie Mae that said older millennials (those over 28) are purchasing homes at a faster pace as the housing market continues to recover. The message is: Pay your student loan on time every month if you plan on being a homeowner.

Marian Deutschman,
Public Policy Chair

NOVEMBER PROGRAM



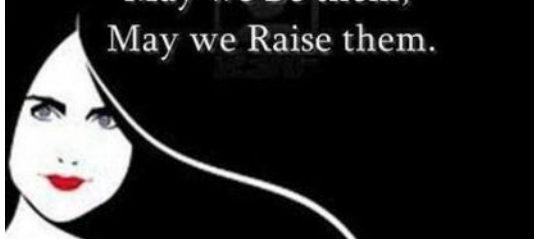
Assunta (Sue) Ventresca R.N., M.S.N. is director of Health Related Services for Buffalo Public Schools .



Marian Deutschman, Ph.D.

Here's to **STRONG WOMEN**,

May we Know them,
May we Be them,
May we Raise them.



BOOK SALE NEWS

While book sale sorting hours will be somewhat limited this month, we might want to give a little thought to the future. On your shopping trips, keep your eyes open for empty buildings, or those housing temporary businesses, that might be a prospective site for the 2017 book sale. Sale coordinators will begin a site search early next year and need all the help you can give them. Contact Betty Preble or Marianne Crapol.



Meanwhile, sorting will continue at the Calvary Episcopal Church, 20 Milton St., Williamsville, through Dec. 22. Happy Holidays.

Pat Swift-MacClennan
Book Sale Executive
Committee

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Jane M. Dietz

872 French Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
Cell phone: (502)558-7149
e-mail: janedietz@hotmail.com

Degrees:

SUC Buffalo BS Exceptional Education 1971
SUC Buffalo MS Mental Retardation 1976
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Level B
License Administration 1978

Retired

Interests: Cultural Interests, 'Clueless' Book Club, 'Dinner by the Book' club, hiking (Happy Wanderers?)

Carol Scime

473 Fries Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Phone: 768-5600 Text: 807-4896
e-mail: cscime730@gmail.com

Degrees:

Canisius College BA Elementary, Special Education 1977

SUNY at Buffalo Masters Education 1992

Interests: Book Sale, 'Dinner by the Book,' WNY Culinary Delights, Happy Wanderers

YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AAUW's Start Smart and Work Smart programs are designed to **empower women** with the skills and confidence to successfully negotiate their salary and benefits packages. By learning strategies and practicing effective language, participants gain valuable skills they can use throughout their lives — well beyond their next negotiation.



There has been a **exciting response** to these programs in Western New York. As a result, we are in need of **trained facilitators**. How can you become a salary negotiation facilitator? It's simple! **AAUW provides training to AAUW members for free!**

Become a Salary Negotiation Facilitator

To become a trained facilitator, visit: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/salary-negotiation-workshops/facilitator/> and sign up for one of the 1.5 hour online training sessions.

Need information about **becoming a facilitator** or **hosting a workshop**? Please contact me.



Laurie Eikemeyer
AAUW Salary Negotiation Facilitator
440-7596

because
equity
is
still
an
issue





SAVE THE DATE FOR TECH SAVVY 12!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 18, when we will host Tech Savvy 12.

Our keynote speaker is Bo Young Lee, Global Diversity & Inclusion Practice Leader for Marsh International. Bo has more than 15 years of Diversity & Inclusion and organizational development experience, both internally as a diversity leader and as a consultant. Bo Young understands the nuanced complexity of driving diversity in an organization, embedding it into core people, business and operational functions, and the need to balance innovation with communication, education, and collaboration. She holds an MBA from New York University Stern School of Business and a BBA *magna cum laude* from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business.

That is the “bio” Bo. I had the pleasure of seeing the “real” Bo—wife, mother of Annabelle, yoga instructor, and marathoner—speak at an event about championing diversity, and Bo told a wonderful story about her own young daughter’s very early sense of self-empowerment, which was discouraged by teachers. Bo’s response was

something like this: “The world does enough throughout women’s lives to erode self-confidence. If my daughter has an extra healthy amount to start, I won’t take it out of her; she’ll need it for the world along the way!” Don’t you agree?

Bo loves what we are doing with thousands of young girls and looks forward to being a part of this year focused on the Amazing, Authentic You!

We also need your help! Please call Tamara if you would like to join this year’s committee. We’ll have teleconferences

starting in December—and we already need people to help with college student relations, reception planning, adult session planning, bus support, food, and summer planning just to name a few. So, if there’s an area that seems interesting, it does need the amazing, authentic you to help.

Thanks for all the ideas to date. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Tamara Brown
Phone [716-949-2413](tel:716-949-2413)

Save the Date



Tech Savvy brings STEM to Girls in Buffalo

As a chemical engineer, Tamara Brown knows how important it is that young girls be exposed to careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. To achieve this goal, the two-time president of the AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch founded Tech Savvy. Now in its twelfth year, Tech Savvy is a one-day conference designed to introduce girls in grades six through nine to the endless opportunities presented by STEM careers. The event is held at the University at Buffalo and has a lasting impact on the girls and the community.

AAUW NATIONAL ELECTIONS

ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE



Have You Commented Yet on AAUW’s Bylaws and More?

You can influence what will be on the 2017 AAUW National Election ballot by commenting on proposed amendments and resolutions — or suggesting your own. Now’s your chance to help guide AAUW’s work!

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>





AND



PRESENT



**BELVA LOCKWOOD:
TRAILBLAZER FOR WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP**

Presented by

Maryann Saccomando Freedman, Esq.

Wednesday, December 7, 2016
6:00 p.m.

The Buffalo History Museum
One Museum Court, Buffalo, NY

Free and Open to the Public

Sponsored by:

AAUW - Buffalo Branch

The Erie County Commission on the Status of Women

Friends of Women's Rights National Historic Park

Buffalo/Niagara Chapter, FWRNHP

Zonta

League of Women Voters

Buffalo/Niagara WomenElect

Daemen College Women's Studies Program

Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

www.buffalopresidentialcenter.org



Upcoming Dates to Remember

Dec. 4 at 6:15 pm - Board Meeting at Daemen College

Dec. 11 - December Program at the College Club

April 21-23 - AAUW-NYS Convention in Syracuse

May 31-June 4 - Annual Book Sale - location TBA

June 14 - 17 - AAUW National Convention in Washington, DC



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.

Return Service Requested

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