

Advocate

BUFFALO (NY) BRANCH

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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!



IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

Dear Members,

As chairman of the Nominating Committee, I must inform you that the future of the AAUW Buffalo Branch is in jeopardy. Since September, the Nominating Committee has been searching for candidates to fill eight offices. We were able to fill seven of them. The office of president remains open. We will not be able to continue our mission and provide scholarships without a president to lead the way.

We approached 19 members based upon recommendations. They all declined. We, as a committee, have done all we can.

Now it is time for you to help the branch stay alive. Can you be the one who bravely steps forward? We presently have co-presidents. One of those co-presidents, Cynthia Mehary, has very kindly offered to stay on if someone will be her other co-president. Maybe we need to think outside the box. There are former office holders who are willing to be your mentors. Talk to other members. We are willing to consider any proposals you might have.

I have faith that one or more of you will come through for the sake of our branch.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Malamas
phone: 632-0461
email: tsagewood@aol.com



AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH PRESENTS

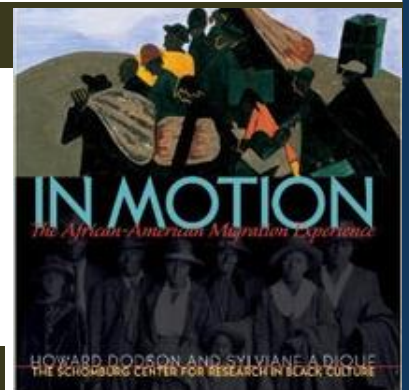
FEBRUARY - THE GREAT MIGRATION:
AFRICAN AMERICAN MIGRATION
TO BUFFALO 1910-1960

Presenters

Sharon R. Amos, Ph.D.: Buffalo Genealogy Society
of the African American Diaspora, President

Michelle Ragland: Buffalo and Western New York
History Group

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



CAROL'S CORNER by Carol Golyski, Co-President

Several years ago, I was watching an episode of M*A*S*H in which the character Captain Benjamin "Hawkeye" Pierce talked about how Dr. Charles Drew, an African American physician, had discovered a method of preserving the plasma portion of blood for therapeutic purposes but bled to death as a result of an automobile accident because he was denied admission to an "all-white" hospital. This captured my attention with my background in clinical laboratory science! I spent several weeks learning about blood typing, cross matching and blood component therapy during my hospital blood bank rotation. My first job was working in a plasmapheresis center.

As African American History Month approaches, I decided to research the life and accomplishments of Dr. Drew. Charles Drew was born in 1904 in Washington, DC. After graduating from Amherst College, he received a Master of Surgery and Doctor of Medicine degree from McGill University in Montreal. Upon returning to the US, he was a resident at Freedmen's Hospital which was founded in 1862 to provide medical treatment to former slaves. (Freedmen's Hospital is

now known as Howard University Hospital.) Dr. Drew continued his studies at Columbia University where he was the first African American to receive the Doctor of Medicine degree.

As a surgeon, Dr. Drew developed a method of separating and storing the plasma portion from whole blood. When stored separately, plasma and red blood cells have a longer shelf life. In his research, Dr. Drew discovered that plasma transfusions were not dependent on the blood type of either the donor or recipient. The antigenic determinants for blood types (such as A, B, AB, and O) are found on the membranes of red blood cells thus requiring type-specific red blood cell transfusions. Dr. Drew is credited with outfitting trucks with refrigeration to provide mobile blood donation facilities. During World War II, Dr. Drew was a consultant in battlefield transfusion therapy and later became project director for the American Red Cross. He resigned in protest when the US War Department issued a directive that only blood from donors of Caucasian origin be given to soldiers. The irony of



this mode of thinking is that medical personnel cannot tell the ethnic origin of a patient by looking at a tube of blood or by observing a drop of blood under the microscope.

In April of 1950, Dr. Drew was in route to a medical conference with two colleagues when the car he was driving veered off the road and overturned three times. He suffered severe trauma and was taken to the hospital where records indicated that he did receive a blood transfusion. Sadly, he succumbed after a few hours following admission. Fortunately, his colleagues survived.

At the time of his death, rumors spread about Dr. Drew being denied hospital admission and blood transfusion. At this time in history there were segregated hospitals. Hollywood further perpetuated that myth with a comment in the aforementioned television show. The Drew family wrote letters to the staff at the hospital thanking them for all of their efforts to save Charles's life.

Dr. Drew is considered the founder of modern blood banking and his discoveries have benefitted countless patients. It is befitting to acknowledge his contributions during African American History Month.



Is it Hidden "Mathematical Figures" Or Hidden African American "Female Figures"

Once again STEM is with us. Have you seen the movie *Hidden Figures*?

Based on the book by Margot Lee Shetterly, *Hidden Figures* is the story of four African American women during the years from 1950 through the 1960's who were engineers and mathematicians. These women worked at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton, Virginia. At that time, before technology as we know it today, these highly intelligent women were known as "Human Computers." They used pencils, slide rules, chalk, black boards, and adding machines to calculate/compute the numbers that would

CYNTHIA'S INSIGHTS By Cynthia Mehary, Co-President

launch rockets and astronauts into space. They were originally math teachers employed in the segregated public schools of Virginia and, as professionals, were able to fill the labor shortages of World War II.

The movie and book captures the history of World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Space Race. *Hidden Figures* follows the lives of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African American women, as they participated in some of NASA's greatest successes, as well as the challenges they faced in working in a segregated environment.

This is a must-see movie and a must-read book. I understand that only one of these women survives today and, along with Margot's father, were both able to tell the story which was hidden for all those years.

Did you know that all four of them were sorority members of the well-known national AKA Sorority? This sorority is the largest African American sorority in the US and has been in existence for over 100 years.

Let me close as usual by saying that AAUW will continue to encourage women and girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM.) But we must remember that women have always had an impact on society in the STEM area. The story told in *Hidden Figures* is just one example.

In January we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In February we will celebrate African American History, and in the month of March, Women's History, as well AAUW's annual Tech Savvy conference.

AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH PRESENTS

AFRICAN AMERICANS' MIGRATION TO BUFFALO

1910 - 1960



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017 12:00 - 4:00 pm
COLORED MUSICIANS CLUB 145 BROADWAY
BUFFALO, NY 14203

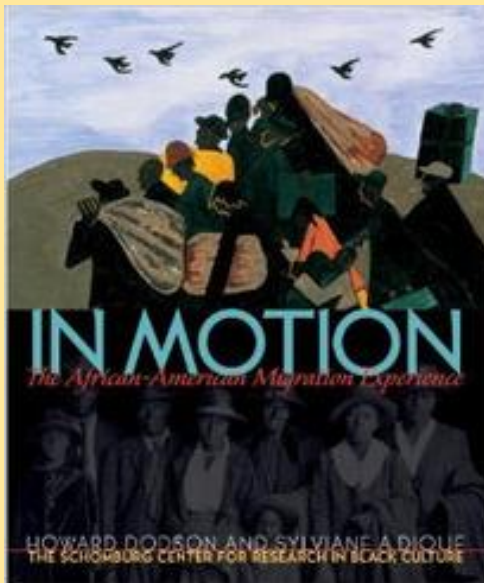
PRESENTERS

SHARON R. AMOS, PhD
Buffalo Genealogy Society of the African Diaspora,
President

MICHELLE RAGLAND
Buffalo and Western New York
African American History Group

EVENT INFORMATION

COST: \$15
LUNCH AND TOUR OF THE COLORED
MUSICIANS CLUB MUSEUM



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

FEBRUARY PROGRAM RESERVATION FORM

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cost: \$15 per person. Mail check payable to "AAUW Buffalo Branch" to:

Fern Beavers
54 Jasper Drive
Amherst, NY 14226

RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY February 13, 2017



ATTENTION MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS NEED-
ED TO SERVE ON

THE CATALYST FOR
CHANGE SCHOLARSHIP
COMMITTEE

If Interested please send
name by e-mail to:

Fern.Beavers@gmail.com

BUFFALO BRANCH FEBRUARY STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Please give a warm welcome to our new members:

Ines Stuckert

2300 Fix Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
Phone: 418-5487
E-mail: inesstuckert@gmail.com
Degrees:

University of Michigan MS
Chemical Engineering 2010
University of Michigan PhD
Chemical Engineering 2013
Occupation: Praxair
Interests: Community Action,
Cultural Interests, Diversity,
Educational Equity, Human/Civil
Rights, International Relations,
Public Policy, Tech Savvy
Study Groups: ¡Adelante! Book
Club, Professional Networking,
Foreign Language

Jane Van Deusen

5633 Truscott Terrace
Lake View, NY 14085
Phone: 980-6059
Cell: 982-4509
E-mail: jane@vandeusen.org
Degrees:
Buffalo State College Bachelors
Art Education 1973
University at Buffalo Masters of
Education Elementary 1978
Occupation: Retired art teacher
Interests: Community Action,
Cultural Interests, Diversity,
Educational Equity/Legal Advocacy,
Human/Civil Rights

**Women Making
a Difference**

KNITTING GROUP

When: Wednesday, Feb. 8th
(weather permitting) 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
kkhoward@roadrunner.com



WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wednesday, Feb. 8th at
6 pm

Where: Pasion Restaurant,
153 Elmwood Ave.

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

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or
bpilibby1@verizon.net by Feb. 6th.



THE HAPPY WANDERERS

When: Thursday, Feb. 9th for
LUNCH at NOON. We will
meet at Curley's Grill,
647 Ridge Rd. in Lackawanna

PROGRAM: Suzanne Tager has arranged for a
docent-led tour of Our Lady of Victory
Basilica at 1:30.

The Basilica is at 767 Ridge Rd.,
Lackawanna

RSVP: Suzanne Taeger at 835-8907 or
suzannemllr3@gmail.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING

By Judy Weidemann

Shea's Theatre

646 Main St. Buffalo, NY
14201, 847-1410

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

February 16, 2017 7:30 pm
February 17, 2017 8:00 pm
February 18, 2017 2:00 and 7:00 pm
February 21, 2017 7:30 pm
February 22, 2017 7:30 pm



Amherst Chamber Orchestra (ACE)

Trinity United Methodist Church
711 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst, NY
Classical Journey

February 19, 2017 at 3:00 pm
Concerts are free of charge

There are no February programs at the Irish
Classical Theatre nor at the Kavinoky
Theatre.

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wednesday, Feb. 15th at
5:30 pm.

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

Book: *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion.

Facilitator: Lynne Rapin

Discussion Leader: Stacey Johnson

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



CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wednesday, Feb. 22th at
5:30 pm.

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

Book: *Mallets Aforethought* by Sarah
Graves

Facilitator: Kate Collins

RSVP: Suzanne Grossman at 580-7453



BEAD WEAVING & JEWELRY

MAKING : *No meetings in Jan., Feb.,
or March.*



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

**We welcome all current and prospec-
tive members to attend any of our
study/interest group activities.**

VELMA COBB SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The announcement and applica-
tion for Velma Cobb Scholarships
are available on our website
<http://aauw.buffalo.edu/loanindex.htm> so
please encourage any eligible students to
apply by the March 1 deadline.



Everyone is invited to participate in the selec-
tion of Velma Cobb Scholarship winners. If
you'd like to participate in this enormously
uplifting activity, viewing the remarkable ac-
complishments of WNY girls, please contact
Betty Krist at kristbj@verizon.net or 675-
4059. We need to select a date, time, and
location between March 11 - 25 convenient to
all who choose to participate.

PUBLIC POLICY

By Marian Deutschman
Public Policy Chair

TEACHING CIVICS

Are we raising Americans who are historically illiterate? To properly understand our country, we must know our country's history. Studies tell us that nearly one in five high school seniors thinks that Germany was an ally of the United States in World War II. Graduating seniors in some of our leading colleges and universities cannot correctly identify words from the Gettysburg Address. They don't know how Abraham Lincoln fought slavery or why Martin Luther King Jr. was in a Birmingham City Jail.



If our national goal is to ensure that students are college and career-ready, core subjects are certainly important to prepare them for an advancing economy. However, our public school system should also ensure that students are capable and knowledgeable citizens. We need to recognize the important role that citizenship and character education play in social and emotional development, in skills such as collaboration, communication and problem solving, workforce and career exploration, and post-secondary aspirations.

While every state addresses civic education in some way, 47 states and D.C. address civic education in statutes generated through legislative action. However, laws vary considerably from state to state in the degree to which statutes mandate civic learning goals, curriculum, and assessment. Some states have significant directives on civic and character education in state law, while others prefer to establish minimum guidelines and allow local school districts to develop and implement coursework and assessments.

According to the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, civics and government were common classes in American high schools until the 1960s. These classes emphasized current issues and the role of citizens in the government and community. What we have now in many schools is simply a general course on American government. As a result, today's students

know little about their government. Last year, the National Assessment of Educational Progress tested a national sample of eighth grade students in civics. Only 23 percent of those students scored at or above the proficient level.

The results also differed along socioeconomic and racial lines. Of eighth graders whose parents graduated from college, over a third scored at or above the proficient level. However, for those with parents who graduated from high school (but did not attend college), that number was only 10 percent. Similarly, 32 percent of white eighth graders scored at or above the proficient level, while that rate was only 9 percent and 12 percent for their black and Latino peers, respectively. With such gaps, it's not surprising that minorities average significantly lower voter turnout rates.

Voter turnout is also much lower for young voters – highlighting the need for improved civics education. Since 2000, the average voter

turnout rate in presidential elections is 59 percent, but for voters ages 18 to 24 that rate is only 43 percent. Meanwhile, voters 65 and older have turned out at 71 percent. Turnout among young voters has not always been so poor. In 1964 and 1968, for example, the turnout for voters ages 18 to 24 (who had the benefit of more civics education) was over 50 percent. As of 2010, that age group (over 13 percent of the voting population) has consistently failed to have an appropriate political voice since the decline of civics education.

In an effort to address this crisis in civic knowledge, some states are taking action. The governors of Arizona and North Dakota have signed bills that will require high school students to pass a citizenship test to graduate, but some feel this approach is misguided. First, simply adding an additional testing requirement without addressing the current curriculum just creates an additional burden for teachers. Second, the United States' citizenship test is not a high-quality assessment. It consists of 100 basic questions with pre-approved answers that

ask test-takers to "name one branch of the government," or know how many amendments have been made to the Constitution. These memorization-style questions aren't particularly enlightening, and many of the official answers aren't even fully correct.

If states really want to ensure that young adults coming out of high school are competent citizens, they need to implement a robust civics curriculum. Students should be instilled with a strong understanding of their federal, state, and local governments, as well as current political issues. As our nation is increasingly controlled by polarization, identity politics, and unlimited political spending, an educated citizenry is needed now more than ever.

Better civics education helps kids become the type of citizens who will work against inequality in communities that impact things like law enforcement, said Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr. (in the Obama administration.) Voting is obviously a key part of that, said King, a former social studies teacher.



Students need to understand American history, the Constitution, and how government works at all levels. And they need to understand the issues of the day, and be encouraged to volunteer in their communities. He also said students need to understand how to productively make their voices heard by learning to write persuasive letters to the editor or elected officials, or speak at a public meeting.

"Educating students about their role in a democracy was one of the original goals of public education in this country and it should remain so today, as our nation becomes more and more diverse," King said. "Civics shouldn't just be an add-on" and can be incorporated into classes other than social studies. For instance, students studying climate change in science class could find out what elected officials plan to do to address the problem. "The biggest and most important outcome of all is that high-quality civic education prepares students to help the nation solve difficult, challenging, complex issues and make it a better, more equitable place to live with genuine opportunity for all," King said.

UPCOMING PLANNING DATES FOR TECH SAVVY 12

- Planning Teleconference: **Thursday, January 26 at 7 pm**
Dial 716-566-5719
Meeting ID: "SAVVY" or 72889
- Planning Teleconference: **Saturday, February 11 at 9:30 am**
Dial 716-566-5719
Meeting ID: "SAVVY" or 72889
- Planning Teleconference: **Thursday, February 23 at 7 pm**
Dial 716-566-5719
Meeting ID: "SAVVY" or 72889
- Tote Bag Stuffing, Name Tag Assembly, and Bag Stuffing (**We need about 20 people to help!**) **Friday, March 3** at United Way on Delaware Ave. Let us know if you would like to be placed on the list of volunteers. (Dress comfortably; pizza served.)
- **Friday, March 17** - Reception at Templeton Landing Restaurant (2 Templeton Terrace, Buffalo - Ample parking in restaurant lot)
- **Saturday, March 18:** Tech Savvy at UB's North Campus (Meet at Student Union... Ample Parking in Furnas Lot.)

Questions about Tech Savvy?

Call Tamara Brown at (716) 949-2413

Sign up to volunteer or participate:

Email Yvonne Curry
yon104@roadrunner.com by February 15 (or mail the form on the next page.)

CHECK OUT the NEW conference information website!

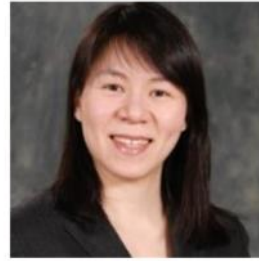
www.originaltechsavvy.org

Tech Savvy Girls: Absolutely, Amazingly, Authentically YOU!

Tech Savvy 12: Saturday, March 18, 2017

Ready for Tech Savvy 12 on Saturday, March 18? 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 with a fun theme that is all about them!

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. Since *Tech Savvy* is not just for students, adults will enjoy fun and enlightening sessions that include the best of ways to help girls to see the bright, fantastic futures that exist and how STEM can help to solve the problems in the future.



Bo Young Lee

Research tells us that girls often don't see themselves in STEM roles, and so this year, we'll focus on how girls don't need to lose themselves while becoming a STEM practitioner.

Our keynote speaker is Bo Young Lee, Global Diversity & Inclusion Practice Leader for Marsh International. Bo loves what we are doing with thousands of young girls and looks forward to being a part of this year.

We also need YOUR help in the following areas. Call Tamara to help in one of these tasks:

- College student relations
- Bus support
- Food Planning
- Summer planning

Help stuff 700 tote bags on Friday, March 3, 3 - 7 pm at the United Way on Delaware

Join us for the reception on Friday, March 17, 6 pm at Templeton Landing Restaurant (2 Templeton Terrace, Buffalo.) Meet Bo, other guest speakers, and other volunteers.

Join us for the adult activities on Saturday, March 18.

Registration begins at 8:30 am, and the sessions begin at 10 am.

Volunteer for all or part of the day on March 18.

(We need more than 70 volunteers for the day between 7 am and 5 pm.)

See Participant Registration Form on Next Page

Mark your calendars for the
**American Association of
University Women**

**New York State
2017 Convention**

**April 21 to 23, 2017
At DoubleTree by Hilton
Syracuse**

6301 State Route 298
East Syracuse, New York 13057
Phone: (315) 432 - 0200

Plan to come early Friday for a tour and High Tea at the **Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation** and a tour of the **J.G. Stickley Museum** in Fayetteville.

**Registration Now Open!
Register Online at
<http://aauw-nys.org>**



BOOK SALE CORNER

By Betty Preble,

Book Sale Executive Committee

January always brings crunch time to the book sale committee as we prepare for the sale itself.



The first concern, as always, is the site – and we need everyone to help. As you drive around town (especially in the northtowns area), please watch for “for lease” signs. If it looks like it would be the right size (at least 16,000 sq. ft.,) please note the location and the name/phone number of the company handling the lease, then send that information to either Betty Preble (betty.preble@gmail.com) or Marianne Crapol (mariannecrapol@mac.com). We'll be happy to research and follow up on any leads!

In the meantime, we can always use more books and good boxes at the sorting site. Please drop them off Tuesday or Wednesday mornings between 9:30 and noon at Calvary Episcopal Church, 20 Milton St in Williamsville. Stick around for a bit to help sort if you have the time!

We look forward to seeing everyone working once we move into the site!

MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE *At the AAUW-NYS Convention*

By Eleanor Aronstein, President, Schenectady AAUW

AAUW-NYS Convention will be held in Syracuse on April 21-23.

A highlight of **Friday will be a tour and high tea at the Matilda Gage Foundation followed by a tour of the Stickley Museum.** We will recognize the efforts and achievements of Gage by focusing on her life and her work.

Matilda Joslyn Gage was born in Cicero, New York in 1826. Gage received a liberal education and became a prolific writer in the cause of both abolition and women's rights. She co-authored with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony the first three volumes of *A History of Woman Suffrage*. She also addressed her own concerns about male dominance within Christianity with the publication in 1893 of *Woman, Church and State*. Her efforts to document the historical 1848 Seneca Falls Convention resulted in her publication in her newspaper (*The National Citizen and Ballot Box*) of portions of *A History of Woman Suffrage* as recorded by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Gage was a hands-on activist, frequently

attempting to vote, defending the rights of other intrepid women who dared approach the ballot box! And she is primarily responsible for securing women the right to vote in school board elections!!! In 1880, she became the first woman to vote in Fayetteville under that law.



While it would be several decades before women's voting rights became secure, progress is measured incrementally - and we would be remiss if we didn't offer our homage and respect to this intrepid woman. Her lifelong motto, which is engraved on her cemetery grave stone, is ***There is a word sweeter than Mother, Home or Heaven, that word is Liberty.***



Tech Savvy 12 Participation – Registration Form

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

NEW!!!! Conference Information website: www.originaltechsavvy.org

Name _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

_____ Helping with Bag Stuffing on **Friday, March 3 (3 - 7 pm)** at United Way on Delaware

_____ Planning to attend Tech Savvy Reception at **6 pm on Friday, March 17**, (Location: Templeton Landing Restaurant) – No cost to attend

_____ Planning to Volunteer at Tech Savvy (**Saturday, March 18**) – Shift times will be confirmed.

Morning shift (**7 am – 1 pm**)

Afternoon shift (**noon – 5 pm**)

All day (**7 am – 5 pm**)

Available other times: _____

For those NOT volunteering on Saturday, March 18:

_____ 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. 15 at the website above.

Save a stamp.... You may email this information to Yvonne, or alternately, send this form to:

Yvonne Curry, 172 Hamlin Road, Buffalo, NY 14208 - email yon104@roadrunner.com or call 553-3925

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Feb. 1 at 6:15 pm - Board Meeting at Daemen College

Feb. 18 - February Program at the Colored Musicians Club

Mar. 8 - International Women's Day program at UB Center for Tomorrow

Mar. 18 - Tech Savvy at UB

April 21-23 - AAUW-NYS Convention in Syracuse

May 13 - Annual Meeting and Luncheon at Protocol Restaurant

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

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



**Empowering Women
and Girls**
Since 1881

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 1078

AAUW Buffalo Branch
PO Box 894
Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

