

We Gather to Welcome Old Friends and New Members



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AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH 2016 FALL 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 Rd. at Saratoga Rd.)

New members will be invited by some of the continuing members and every member will enjoy hearing from them.

Program:

- Registration
- Dinner
- Welcome by Co-Presidents, Cynthia Mehary and Carol Golyski
- Remarks: new members; Membership VP Diane O'Brien and Program VP Lillis McLean
- Scholarship presentations to Jacquie Walker and Olga Lindberg Scholarship winners
- Book Sale report
- Buffalo Branch Interest Group report

Fall Program Reservation Form

Dinner Menu (Select One for each person):

- 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

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

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!



CAROL'S CORNER: AN EXCITING YEAR

Welcome to our new program year! I hope all enjoyed their summer and will make plans to participate in our Buffalo Branch's upcoming programs and activities.

I attended the AAUW NYS Summer Leadership Conference which was held at Cazenovia College in July. We were housed in the college dormitories and experienced collegiate life for



the conference weekend. The focal topics were Building Leadership and Programming for Success. The format included general sessions, roundtables, and breakout sessions. Social activities were incorporated into the program and this gave participants a wonderful networking opportunity. I met so many interesting women at the conference and had a great exchange of ideas with New York State members.

At our September Welcome Dinner, we will be collecting food items to help fill the food pantry at the Family Justice Center. A list of much

needed items is located in a separate article in this edition of our newsletter. Please assist victims of domestic abuse by donating an item or two.

Carol Golyski,
Co-President

SAVE THE DATE

AAUW NYS District 1 Meeting
Saturday, October 8, 2016
In Jamestown, NY
Topic: Leadership

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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Cynthia Mehary

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Betty Preble

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

Send address changes to:

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

2016-2017 BUFFALO BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Nominating Committee	Kate Collins, Marilyn Carmichael, Joan Eschner, Barbara Engler



BUFFALO BRANCH SEPTEMBER STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

Dues Reminder



REMINDER DUES ARE OVERDUE

It's that time! *If the mailing label on this issue has asterisks by your name, we do not have a record of having received your 2016-2017 dues.* If we do not receive your dues, you will miss out on Advocates, meetings, events, and interest groups.

Please send your check, along with any change in address/phone number/email address to **Freddie Cheek, 406 Maynard Drive, Amherst, NY 14226-2929.**

Please contact Freddie or Barbara Weber (blweber50@verizon.net) or Pat Miceli (pwmiceli@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

When: Thursday, Sept. 1st at noon
LUNCH ONLY.

Where: Grapevine Restaurant, 2545 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst

What: Group to talk about possibilities for the coming year!

RSVP: Betty Preble at 662-0608 or email betty.preble@gmail.com.

Upcoming: In October, Lunch at Mulberry's in Lackawanna, then a drive to Derby for a 2 pm tour of Graycliff (tentative plan). Check websites for information:

<http://graycliffestate.org> and
<http://Mulberryitalianristorante.com>

Date tba - let Betty know if you're interested.

Suggestions for future trips most welcome.



BEAD WEAVING & JEWELRY MAKING

When: Thursday, Sept. 15th 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 668-5466 or cell 725-7839 or by email

blweber50@verizon.net



DINNER BY THE BOOK

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

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst

*Interior closed room reserved for the book club

Book: **BREAKING NIGHT** by Liz Murray

Leaders: Diane O'Brien, Facilitator

Lynne Rapin, Discussion Leader

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



KNITTING GROUP

When: Wednesday, Sept. 7th 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 kkhoward@roadrunner.com



WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wednesday, Sept. 14th at 6 pm

Where: Milos Restaurant, 5877 Main St., Williamsville

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

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or by email BPLibby1@verizon.net by Sept. 12th.



CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

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

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

BOOK: **SLOW HORSES** by Mick Herron

Facilitator: Barbara Libby

Contact: Suzanne Grossman at 837-8769



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

AAUW member, **Phyllis Galie**, is a violinist with the Amherst Chamber Ensemble. Several branch members have enjoyed her previous performances. The group will present a *Chamber Music Concert*, "An Intimate Afternoon," on September 25th at 3:00 pm. On October 2nd at 3:00 pm they will perform "Beethoven's Violin Concerto" with special guest soloist Samuel Barton Rothberg. The group will perform at a NEW VENUE - *Trinity Performing Arts Center* at Trinity United Methodist Church, 711 Niagara Falls Blvd, corner of



Longmeadow, Amherst, NY. The concerts are free, but your generous donations help ACE provide great music.

The annual Opening Night Gala with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra will start with dinner at 5:00 pm at Kleinhans Music Hall on September 17, 2016. Featured will be "An Evening with Joshua Bell," celebrated violinist. On September 24, 2016, the BPO will present "John Williams Masterworks" starting at 8:00 pm. The Shea's Performing Arts Center starts

its season with "Finding Neverland" playing from October 7-15, 2016.

The Irish Classical Theatre starts its season with "Sweet Bird of Youth" by Tennessee Williams playing from September 16 - October 8, 2016.

Judy Weidemann



THE BEST BOOK SALE EVER!

The 62nd annual Scholarship Book Sale once again outdid itself – the best ever!

Led by the executive committee of Roberta Travis, Cindy Koch, Mary Georger, Janet Ostrow, Judy Huber, and Betty Preble, we took in a record \$74,000 including presales. Of course, there were expenses. The major ones were rent (\$4000,) moving books and materials between Kensington-Bailey and the sale site (\$5760,) printing and postage (\$700,) table rentals (\$5500,) rent at K-B (\$1000,) and security (\$1221.) Still, we netted around \$55,000. \$5000 of that will go to the winner of our Jacquie Walker scholarship, while another \$3500 goes directly to our Funds for Education account. The rest will support some of our other scholarships and grants plus community programs such as Tech Savvy and Sister-to-Sister.

The sale could not continue every year without the continued dedication of past committee members. I know I'll miss some and I apologize, but I certainly want to mention Pat Baker, Pat Swift-MacClennan, Judy Clare, Jill Brown, Judy Weidemann, Jean Hubbard, Barbara Carier, and Sue Oliver. They make things look so easy!

Once again our members and other volunteers came through for us. 110 of our members (more than half) participated in some way, and another 68 non-members joined in the party. The hours spent are staggering – 871 at Kensington-Bailey, 2406 during the pre-sale setup period at the site, 1089 during the sale itself, and then another 60 during cleanup – 4,426 hours!!! That includes **four** people with at least 250 or more hours, plus another **five** with between 100 and 250 hours. And we know that's an understatement since people often forgot to sign in. It takes a lot of people and a lot of work to organize and sell an estimated **181,000 books!**



NEW BOOK SALE SORTING SITE!
Calvary Episcopal Church in Williams-ville. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Stop by starting Sep 20 to see our new digs and maybe help!

Although we were biting our nails in March, not having yet found a site, we ended up with the best one in anyone's memory. The former Carolina Furniture Store was almost exactly the right size – and it was clean and light! The parking situation was a dream-come-true. There were problems with the air-conditioning system, but the property manager (WS Development) made it OK by sending out industrial fans! And there was one room without lighting, but three handy husbands (Chris Georger, Peter Ostrow, and John Preble) managed to string floodlights from above, which took care of that problem. Of course, there was the problem of the two breaks, but Roberta Travis and the Amherst police made sure that things were secured properly afterwards. We are just grateful the intruders didn't start a fire!

The left-over process this year was in cooperation with Discover-Books.com, a company recommended by Jan Vine, who knew of them through work with the Schenectady Branch. (Networking pays!) We had to pack the books, but they took care of everything else. That brought in another \$1000 – they will donate some, sell some online, and recycle the rest. We hope to work with them again this coming year.

Mark your calendars for May 31 - June 4, our 63rd sale! And be prepared to start collecting and sorting Tuesday and Wednesday mornings starting Sep 20-21. Details (and a more comprehensive report of this year's sale) should be on the website as you read this.

Betty Preble
Book Sale Executive Committee





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Eck

Address: 75 Lyrae Drive,
Getzville, NY 14068

Home phone: 689-4771

Cell phone: 444-5925

E-mail: sjeck3435@gmail.com

Degrees:

- SUNY College Fredonia BA English 1971
- SUNY College Buffalo MA English 1976

Occupation: Retired college administrator

Skills & Interests: Listserv Management, Community Action, Cultural Interests, Dinner by the Book, Sunday Book Club, WNY Culinary Delights.

Judy Hagan

Address: 76 Wellington Court
Williamsville, NY 14221

Phone: 359-5860

E-mail: jhagan1950@verizon.net

Degrees:

- BS Special Education/
Elementary Education 1968
- MS Special Education 1975

Occupation: North Tonawanda Public Schools, Meadow Elementary

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

Janie MacDonald

Address: 34 Argyle Avenue
Amherst, NY 14226

Home phone: 838-8359

Work: 625-6300

E-mail: janiemacdonald@yahoo.com

Degrees:

- Buffalo State MS Creative Studies 2004
- Buffalo State BS Business 1992
- Buffalo State BA Psychology 1984

Occupation: Instructor at Bryant & Stratton, Getzville.

Skills: Copy Editor, Event Arrangements, Marketing.

Interests: Community Action, Diversity, Public Policy.

Felicia Parker

Address: 266 Oakmont Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14215

Cell phone: 352-7666

E-mail: Parkerbumbums2@aol.com

Degrees:

- Daemen College BS, English/Public Relations 1985
- Medaille College MS, Elementary Education 2008

Occupation: Teacher

Committees & interests: Book Sale, Community Action, Cultural Interests, Diversity, Human/Civil Rights, Sister-to-Sister, Tech Savvy, Dinner by the Book

Elizabeth Starks

Address: 5547 Via Marina
Buffalo, NY 14221

Home phone: 860-9497

E-mail: ladystars@verizon.net

Degrees:

- SUNY at Buffalo BA Psychology 1973
- Trocaire College AAS Nursing 1975

Occupation: Retired RN

Interests: Community Action, Cultural Interests, Diversity, Human/Civil Rights, International Relations, Sister-to-Sister, Tech Savvy, "Clueless" Mystery Book Club, "Dinner by the Book" Club, Knitting, iAdelante! Book Club, Bead Weaving/Jewelry Making, Happy Wanderers, Other: Antiques and Collectibles, Downtown Lunch Group, Cooking, Music, Foreign Language.



Dominica Vito

Address: 1505 Maple Road
Williamsville, NY 14221

Phone: 630-7074

E-mail: dom.vito58@gmail.com

Degrees:

- Buffalo State College BS Education 1966
- Erie Community College AA Nursing 2004

Interests: Book Sale, Community Action, Cultural Interests, International Relations, Newsletter Committee, Program Committee, Sister-to-Sister.

Deborah Woepfel

Address: 8370 Bridlewood Dr.
East Amherst, NY 14051

Home phone: 741-8755

Cell phone: 998-8755

E-mail: debwoepfel@gmail.com

Degrees:

- State University of NY @ Buffalo, BA English Secondary Education 1972
- Canisius College MS, Special Education 1997

Occupation: retired

Skills & interests: Event Arrangements, Book Sale, Cultural Interests, Diversity, International Relations, Publicity, Sister-to-Sister, Dinner by the Book Other: Antiques and Collectibles, Cooking, Music.

LET'S GET OUT THE VOTE!

I can't be the only AAUW member who is having difficulty convincing a Millennial (and others) in the family to **vote on November 8**. Voter turnout in this country has been abysmal but it usually improves to around 50 percent (still discouraging) in presidential years. You must admit that this year is unique in many respects.

First, we need to make sure citizens are registered and educated so they can actually exercise their right to vote effectively. AAUW has been a strong voice promoting education and equity for women and girls since 1881, influencing public debate and taking positions on the fundamental issues.

Second, check online to consult the AAUW Action Fund voter guides for the issues of particular importance to women and girls such as nonpartisan information about candidates' positions on equal pay, education, campaign finance, and reproductive rights. Candidates' positions on the issues are determined using their voting records, public statements, and campaign position papers, as well as information posted by trusted sources on the Internet. All campaigns are contacted via e-mail in advance of publication.

Please be assured that AAUW Action Fund voter guides are provided as a public service and are **not intended to be an endorsement of any candidate or political party**. No AAUW policy position is implied by the descriptions of these issues. There is a complete member-endorsed Public Policy Program for more information and you can contact **VoterEd@aauw.org** with any questions.

Unfortunately some states have taken initiatives to make it more difficult to vote, and there is room for improvement in other states such as New York. The Voter Empowerment Act could improve voter registration. For example, we have the technology to add nearly

two million New Yorkers to the voter rolls and keep them up to date, but we still use pen-and-paper registration forms that are mailed to the Board of Elections. Online registration needs to be expanded and automatically updated when a citizen moves within New York State. Early voting could give voters more opportunities to make their voices heard. Over two-thirds of other states allow voters to cast a ballot before Election Day.

But how do we get them out there to vote on November 8?

IT'S MY VOTE



A A U W A C T I O N F U N D

The AAUW Action Fund *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard* campaign harnesses the power of AAUW members to register and turn out women voters, especially millennials. We can take steps to ensure that voters know the registration rules in their state, their voting rights, and what to bring to the polls on Election Day. (Remember those who turned out for the primary and were disappointed when they were

unable to vote.) There are nonpartisan issue forums, debates, and meet-the-

candidate events in the communities. AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund provide materials and tools to engage and motivate voters, including It's My Vote buttons, issue-based stickers, social media efforts, and regular mailings and e-mails with pertinent election information.

On a personal level, why not offer to take a friend, family member, or millennial to their polling place and take time to celebrate your achievement over a drink or dessert?

Marian Deutschman,
Public Policy Chair

IN MEMORIAM



Our sympathies are extended to the families of:

Sylvia Volk, who passed away July 24, 2016. Sylvia had served as diversity chair and most recently the leader of the branch ¡Adelante! book group.

Addie Lou Herr, who passed away on July 30, 2016 at the age of 97. Addie Lou became an Honorary Life Member in 2004 and was a past President of the Buffalo Branch.

Catharine Weiss, who passed away on August 20, 2016. Cathy was an Achievement Award winner in 2013, past President of the Buffalo Branch and book sale stalwart.

HELP THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER STOCK THEIR SHELVES!

The Family Justice Center's Northtowns location on North French Road in Amherst needs help in stocking their food pantry shelves. Our Branch will be **collecting food items at the September Welcome Dinner** on September 26th to assist victims of domestic abuse.

The following items are needed:

- Dry cereal
- Granola bars
- Canned soups/vegetables/fruit/tuna fish
- Macaroni and cheese
- Baby food
- Rice
- Pasta
- Shampoo/personal care products (travel or full size)
- Diapers
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Individual juice boxes
- Single portion snacks

Please note: The Family Justice Center is no longer accepting donations of greeting cards.



Family Justice Center
YOU'RE SAFE HERE

Member Spotlight



CLASS NOTES

Co-President **Cynthia Mehary** was recently listed in Class Notes (select 90's) for Buffalo State College alumni magazine: <http://1300elmwood.buffalostat.edu/issue/2016/summer/classnotes> which includes her accomplishments in AAUW leadership.



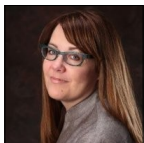
WINNER, WINNER

We have an Erie County Fair blue ribbon winner! On 8/10/16 **Barbara Weber** was awarded a blue ribbon for an Aran tweed poncho submitted in the first time knitting category. Barbara is a member of the Buffalo Branch AAUW Knitting Group, and thanks the knitting group for its support and encouragement with this project and its submission.



BRIDGING THE STEM GENDER GAP

Kathleen Murphy, a member of the AAUW Buffalo Branch, was recently featured in an article in the *UB Reporter* which highlighted her work as co-founder of the UB Women in STEM Cooperative. The cooperative encourages UB women to pursue careers in STEM. To read the full article visit: <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/stories/2016/07/women-in-stem-cooperative.html>.



AAUW NYS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT

The AAUW NYS Summer Leadership Conference is held annually for officers, board members, and interested members of all branches within New York State. Cazenovia College hosted the conference and it was an ideal location. Cazenovia is approximately 20 miles southeast of Syracuse which makes a great central location for attendees. Cazenovia Lake is picturesque and a short walk from the campus. The Village of Cazenovia has a charm of its own with independently owned shops and restaurants.



Four members of the Buffalo Branch attended: Laurie Eikemeyer, branch Fundraising Treasurer, newsletter editor



and AAUW NYS newsletter editor; Lynn Rapin, branch Secretary; Melissa White, Branch College/University Representative and District 1 Coordinator; and Carol Golyski, branch Co-President.

Participants stayed in suites of a dormitory and had individual rooms with a shared living area, kitchen, and bathroom. Meals were offered in the main campus dining hall, which was a short stroll among the attractive buildings of the campus.

The weekend program started with dinner on Friday and continued through lunch on Sunday. There was ample time to attend sessions and socialize with other AAUW members from

across the state in a relaxed and casual setting. There was an ice cream social one evening and a game night the other evening.

The conference theme was "Building Success with Smart Ideas" with a focus on programming and leadership. The theme of *Building Leadership and Programming for Success* was incorporated into the general sessions, round tables, and breakout sessions. Participants also learned of the Start Smart/Work Smart Program, which empowers women to seek fair salaries and close the wage gap.

One of the guest speakers was author Dede Emerson, who will be publishing her second book entitled *And for My Next Act, from Be-*

hop to the UN and Beyond. She was born and raised in Minnesota and ventured into New York City to study music at Julliard. She became a successful jazz pianist. After seeing poverty and misery in third world countries, she became an economic development officer for the United Nations. Her slide show was entertaining and informative. Dede is a member of the Westchester Branch and resides in Ossining, NY.

One of the advantages of attending a state meeting is the networking opportunities with members from other branches. Members share ideas of successful strategies for various branch activities such as programs, membership recruitment, and fundraising activities.

Carol Golyski
Co-President

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

CASA is actively recruiting volunteers to work with the Family Court System. Volunteers are assigned to cases of abuse and neglect and are involved as advocates for the best interests of the children involved.

Further information is available on their web site: [http://www.casaforchildren.org/site/.c.mtJSJ7MPiSE/b.5301303/k.6FB1/About Us CASA for Children.htm](http://www.casaforchildren.org/site/.c.mtJSJ7MPiSE/b.5301303/k.6FB1/About%20Us%20CASA%20for%20Children.htm) or contact:

Marilyn Herbert-Bublyk
Volunteer Supervisor CASA
Mental Health Association of Erie County
999 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209
716-886-1242 ext. 340
MHB@ErieMHA.org



Upcoming Dates to Remember

Sept. 7 at 6:15 pm - Board Meeting at Daemen College

Sept. 26 - Annual Fall Welcome Dinner at Christ United Methodist Church

Oct. 8 - District 1 meeting in Jamestown

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



**NEW BOOK SALE
SORTING SITE!**
Calvary Episcopal Church in Williams-ville. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Stop by starting September 20 to see our new digs and maybe help!

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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