

Advocate

BUFFALO (NY) BRANCH

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March 2018

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>



MARCH PROGRAMS

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara & WNY Women's Foundation



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Dr. Lori V. Quigley

THE HAUDENOSAUNEE WOMEN: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Thursday, March 8, 2018

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Medaille College
Main Building Lecture Hall
18 Agassiz Circle
Buffalo, NY 14214

Join us for a presentation on the Haudenosaunee Women. Dr. Lori V. Quigley is a member of the Wolf Clan and grew up in the Allegany Seneca Nation of Indians. She will share her mother's, as well as her own, personal story to help the attendees gain a deeper appreciation of the role that Haudenosaunee women continue to play in contemporary society and their role in the future.

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP no later than February 26th
Email Lilyen Mascellino: lilyenm@gmail.com

The deadline for each issue of the *Advocate* is the 10th of the previous month. Send articles to Laurie Eikemeyer via email:

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



Tech Savvy 13

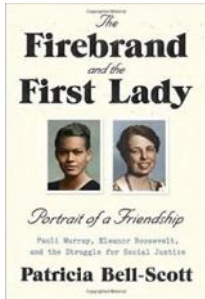
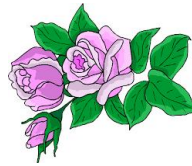
March 17, 2018

Volunteers Still Needed!

More Information on Page 5

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY BETTY PREBLE



Black History Month, Women's History Month. How appropriate that they be right next to each other on the calendar. So many injustices and inequalities of opportunity follow both.

founder of NOW and one of the first wave of women Episcopal priests.

We know much about Eleanor, but not so much about this friendship. I wonder if Pauli influenced Eleanor's decision to resign from the Daughters of the American Revolution because they would not allow the famed African-American singer Marian Anderson to perform in a building they owned.

As I've been reading the book, it is discouraging to see how long the fight for justice and equity has gone on and how we currently seem to be going backwards.

The book is written by a former AAUW Fellow, Patricia Bell-Scott, Ph.D. One of the purposes of the iAdelante! program is to spotlight engrossing stories and writing by women from all backgrounds. Periodically members are also connected to some of the featured authors through web discussions. Check the website (<https://www.aauw.org/resource/adelante-book-of-the-month-club/>) for more information.

One final thought in view of recent events—"What Would Eleanor Do?"

I don't know how many of you participate in the iAdelante! Book Club on the national AAUW website, but the book that was chosen for February (*The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice*) is especially appropriate given the current political climate. It's interesting to see the righteous impatience of the young Pauli Murray (I want to read more about her – this was a fascinating introduction!) for change and the attempts on the part of Eleanor Roosevelt to achieve goals without destroying the bully pulpit she had as First Lady.

Pauli was, among many roles in her lifetime, an activist working against both Jim Crow and what she called "Jane Crow", an attorney (who had not been allowed to do post-graduate work at Harvard because of her gender,) co-

ANECDOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

BY BARBARA CARIER, HISTORIAN

34 YEARS AGO...

Our Branch newsletter for November 1984 contained several articles urging us to vote and to be aware of issues concerning the Equal Rights

Amendment to the US Constitution. Congress had voted on the ERA in 1983, and Congressmen Kemp and Nowak had voted NO, while Congressman LaFalce

had voted YES. Senator Moynihan voted YES while Senator D'Amato voted NO on the Civil Rights Act of 1984. This Act was legislation designed to protect women, minorities, elderly, and disabled from discrimination. AAUW had strongly urged support of this bill.



The New York Assembly voted on a state ERA in 1984 and Assemblymen Eve, Schimminger, Sheffer, and Hoyt voted YES, while Assemblymen Gorski, Kean, Pordum, Paxon, and Graber voted NO. Our branch Legislative Chair was Anne Montes. She urged us not to be discouraged at these defeats, and to turn our anger into energy to work on future issues for women's rights.

In 1984 women earned only 59 cents to every \$1 men earned.

Former Buffalo Branch President Carol Stull was honored by the State University of New York as the Advisory Council's "Outstanding Woman in Community Service." Carol also served as AAUW New York State President.

THE BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE

is published monthly, September to June, as a bulletin of events for members and as an update on AAUW issues and programs.

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Advocate is on the web! Available on our website at:

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>*

Please note all personal information is removed from the online version.

BOOK SALE REPORT

BY JAYNE MURRAY AND
JOAN KERNAN



It has been an exceptionally slow January for our book sorters. We have had a drip, drip, of donations with one exciting three-car haul of children's books. You can imagine how gleeful our workers are when they are inundated with novels, mysteries, paperbacks, media, etc. to categorize, research, and pack. Instead of a 'snowmageddon' why not a 'bookageddon'? We need BOOKS!

Sorting hours are Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 9:30-12 noon at 20 Milton St. in Williamsville.

Note: There will NOT be evening sorting on Tuesday, March 20th.

With the book sale less than 3 months away, the hunt for a sale site has become more urgent. If you see a large (approx. 16,000 sq. feet) empty storefront, please write down the address of the building, plus the name and phone number of the agent on the For Lease sign (or take a cell phone photo.) Contact Janet Ostrow at jkostrow@verizon.net or Beth Ann Frazer at bangel255@yahoo.com Also, if you know of any real estate agents who might help with the search, please let us know.

**Book Sale Dates:
May 30 - June 3, 2018**

BUFFALO BRANCH MARCH STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

We will resume wandering soon. Mary Ellen Shaughnessy welcomes your suggestions.



WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Tues., March 13 at 6 pm
Where: Curley's Restaurant, 647 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna, NY
What: AAUW Interest Group for members to share dinner and conversation.
RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or bplibby1@verizon.net by March 12



KNITTING GROUP

Suspended for the time being.



BEAD WEAVING & JEWELRY MAKING
No meetings in January, February and March.



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

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wednesday, Mar. 21 at 5:30 pm

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

Book: *Necessary Lies* by Diane Chamberlain
Facilitator: Diane O'Brien
Discussion Leader: Lynne Rapin
RSVP: Fran Witnauer at 688-5708 or grandmafran44@gmail.com.



CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 1 pm. (note the new time)

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

Book: *Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware
Facilitator: Pat Miceli
RSVP: Suzanne Grossman at 580-7453.



Questions? Contact Judy Huber
688-8170 or email
judyhuber62@yahoo.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BY DIANE O'BRIEN, VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Rosalind Kochmanski

9679 Golden Aster Court
Clarence Center, NY 14032-9188
Phone: 741-2342
Cell: (619) 886-8816
Email:
Rosalindandmike@yahoo.com

Degrees:
Concordia University
BA Management and Communication 1994
Concordia University MBA Business 1996
Retired
Interests: Event Arrangement, Marketing, Scholarship, Book Sale, Cultural Interests, Program Committee, Scholarship Committees, Sister-to-Sister.
Interest groups: Clueless Book Club, Dinner by the Book, Sunday Book Club, WNY Culinary Delights, Happy Wanderers.

Lynette Sigrist

194 Glen Oak Drive
East Amherst, NY 14051
Phone: 688-4815
Cell: 983-9231



Email: lsigrist@roadrunner.com

Degrees:
Fredonia State BS Elementary / Secondary Education 1970
Canisius College MS Elementary Education/Counseling 1973
Retired Teacher

Committees: Book Sale, Cultural Interests, Diversity, Human/Civil Rights, Sister-to-Sister.
Interest Groups: Dinner by the Book, WNY Culinary Delights, Happy Wanderers.

Evelyn Swarts

25 Greenside Drive
Grand Island, NY 14072
Phone: 773-7385
Cell: 472-7162
Degrees:
Gettysburg College BA Biology 1963
Brown University MAT Genetics 1967
Committees: Book Sale, Diversity, Human/Civil Rights.
Interest Groups: Dinner by the Book, WNY Culinary Delights, Happy Wanderers.

PUBLIC POLICY: ALL WOMEN NEED TO HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

BY MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN, PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR

While some conservatives may be happy with the first year of this administration with the tax cuts, deregulation, and the appointment of a record number of conservative judges, others look at the multiple levels on which the president functions. There is the daily controversy that distracts the press and then there is the other level – what is being done while we're not looking.

Policy changes being made in Washington will have enormous impact on women's health. The administration announced it would allow employers to opt out of covering birth control claiming that there is no medical need for contraceptives. A number of politicians oppose providing contraception. The Obama administration generally required employers to cover all forms of birth control approved by the Food and Drug Administration. With the new rules, the Trump administration said that some people would not receive coverage or payments for contraceptive services. There are many essential nonsexual reasons for birth control including for women whose lives would be endangered by pregnancy, or who have endometriosis, excessive bleeding, severe menstrual cramping, or polycystic ovary disease.

Political maneuvering could make contraceptives more unaffordable and inaccessible. A number of politicians who hold extremely conservative views are trying to roll back legislation and impose their views on women, rather than allowing women to make decisions about their health based on current laws and their own beliefs, as well as the recommendations of their personal physicians. Some conservatives and religious groups said the new rules would allow them to live out their religious beliefs. Surveys show that 99% of women—and 98% of Catholic women—have used contraception other than natural family planning (rhythm method.)

Disparities in access to health care and outcomes are significantly different between black and white women. For example, in New York City, black women have a much higher risk of pregnancy-related complications and deaths – 12 times higher than white women. It may be due to poverty as well as lack of knowledge and lack of access to healthy diets and good care. Black women also have a higher risk of diabetes, high

blood pressure, preeclampsia, and hemorrhage. According to the CDC, 20.1 million women in the U.S. are at risk for unintended pregnancy and in need of publicly-funded contraception.

Health care is also a growing problem in rural areas which are suffering from closures of hospitals and shortage of all staff, especially physicians. Rural women have a 64% higher rate of pregnancy-related deaths than those who live in the city. At the height of the Zika outbreak,



House Republicans tried to strip funding from the Title X Family Planning program, which provides sexual/reproductive health services to about 4.1 million patients and prevents about 1 million unplanned pregnancies each year.

A key to reducing abortion and poverty, and empowering women, is comprehensive sex education. There is good evidence that comprehensive programs are effective, yet the government has spent \$2 billion on ineffective abstinence-only programs. Lack of knowledge and access to contraceptives drive unplanned pregnancies and abortion. The administration announced it was rescinding Obama-era guidance that made it harder for states to defund Planned Parenthood. During his first week in office, Trump reinstated the Global Gag Rule, restricting \$8.8 billion in U.S. foreign aid for health programs. This action severely limits the ability of non-governmental organizations to take U.S. funds and work to ensure that women have access to the healthcare they need. Don't be distracted by issues such as the vulgarity in administration statements. It isn't about words but about actions.

SCHOLARSHIPS GALORE!

All branch members should be aware of the variety of local scholarships, interest-free loans and grants that the branch offers. Here is a summary, with the general qualifications, deadlines, and the names of our wonderful chairpeople.

The **Buffalo Branch** Scholarship provides educational assistance (\$2,500 each) to two girls graduating from a high school in Erie or Niagara County, based on academic/extracurricular excellence. Betty Krist is the chair and will be reviewing the applications with her committee on Saturday, March 24 at 1pm at Ebenezer UCC. Application deadline March 1.

The **Olga Lindberg** program offers scholarships (\$10,000 and \$5,000) to those in their 4th year of college or beyond. Chair Pauline Dyson. Application deadline April 1.

The **Catalyst for Change** program offers scholarships (\$3,000 each) for women who have made, or promise to make a difference in their community. Chair Fern Beavers. Application deadline March 31.

The **Jacquie Walker** scholarship (\$5,000) is for women in college involved in community service. Chair Judy Clare. Application deadline July 15.

The **Grassroots Grants Program** offers funds (\$1500 each) for individuals leading projects or research promoting equity, gender awareness, and lifelong learning for women and girls. Chair Ruby Williams. Application deadline April 15.

The **Chamberlin and Funds for Education program** offers grants and interest-free loans (up to \$5,000) to women and men already in college. Offered twice per year – deadlines Dec 1 and May 1.

Details and applications for all are available on the website - <http://aauw.buffalo.edu/>. Please urge your young friends to apply and please call the chair or Director Carol Griffith if you'd like to help with one of these!

LATE BREAKING IMPORTANT AAUW NEWS

BY BETTY PREBLE

By the time you see this, you should have received an email from the national AAUW office regarding some proposed bylaws changes. As the message noted, this is a highly unusual move for the organization. In my over fifty years of membership this is the first vote I've ever seen outside our regular national election timeframe. I only mention this to recognize the urgency that the national board gives these issues. They strongly endorse all three of the proposed changes in order to keep AAUW vital as an organization and enable us to increase our impact in advancing equity for women and girls. I must also note, though, that some members feel that this is just an attempt to push through the third issue when few are paying attention.

The proposed amendments address:

- creating three-year staggered board terms at the national level
- opening national board service to those outside of the AAUW membership
- eliminating the degree requirement for membership.

While rationale and details for each proposed amendment can be found on the [AAUW website](https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/) (see <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>), the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level.

The first two proposals would bring AAUW's board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal — to eliminate the degree requirement for membership — has come before the membership for vote several times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at

(Continued on page 9)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

BY JUDY WEIDEMANN



Albright- Knox Art Gallery
1285 Elmwood
Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222
882-8700

"We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965 - 85"
Through May 27, 2018

Amherst Chamber Ensemble
711 Niagara Falls Blvd,
Amherst, New York
see acemusic.org
"Chamber Orchestra Concert"
Sunday, March 4, 2018, 3:00 pm

Burchfield Penney Art Museum
SUNY Campus
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14220
878-6011
"Charles Burchfield : the Ohio Years 1893-1921"
"Milton Rogovin: A Trip to Chile: 50 Years After"
Both through March 25, 2018

Irish Classical Theatre
625 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14203
853-7668
"The Night Alive" by Coner McPherson
This is a mischievous and merciless study of the daily existence of a small group of low-life Dubliners.
Through March 25, 2018

The Kavinoky Theatre
320 Porter Avenue
Buffalo, New York
829-7668
"Ben Butler"
Part comedy, part historical drama - an escaped slave shows up at Fort Monroe demanding sanctuary.
Through March 25, 2018

Shea's Theatre
646 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14202
847-1410
"Something Rotten" This is a lively musical comedy.
Plays March 6 - March 11, 2018

MusicalFare
on the Daemen College Campus
4380 Main Street, Suite 123
Amherst, New York 14226
839-8540
"Smoky Joe's Café"
Features 40 of the greatest rock 'n roll songs ever recorded.
Through March 11, 2018

Call individual theatres for performance times and tickets.

APRIL PROGRAM: MEET THE PHARMACIST



April 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Audubon Branch Library
350 John James Audubon Pkwy.
Amherst, NY 14228

Join us on April 12th, as we meet with Wegman's Pharmacist, Ronald Rambally. He will be addressing the questions which AAUW members submitted to him in the fall, as well as taking questions from the floor.

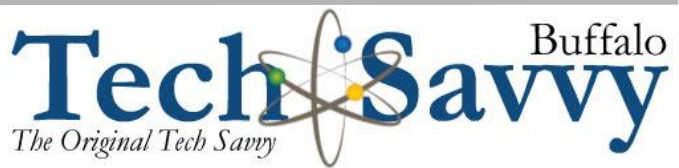


RSVP: Space is limited to first 60 people & the program is free.

Email Lilyen Mascellino by April 4th to reserve your seat at: lilyenm@gmail.com

Refreshments will be provided.

Tech Savvy 13: Saturday, March 17, 2018 Adult Session Details Announced!



You can still join the crew! We need YOUR help to make the thirteenth year of Tech Savvy a lucky and best-ever event!

This year's theme is **I AM a Tech Savvy Girl.... Ingenious, Innovative, Insightful.** 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 girls to pursue STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, and math)—and to provide adults in their lives with relevant information. *Tech Savvy* features 20+ workshops for the middle school girls plus four savvy skills workshops, introducing critical life success skills such as advocacy, negotiating, interview preparation, and ethical decision making.

This Year's Keynote Speaker: Margot Sandy



Our 13th keynote speaker is Margot Sandy. You may remember Margot from her early days at Tech Savvy; she served as a workshop leader during her stay in Western New York. Margot now travels the world while running her own company, In The Now, LLC. Prior to launching her enterprise, Margot was a senior mechanical engineer at Brookstone and product development engineer at Fisher-Price.

Margot earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in engineering from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she now teaches as an adjunct professor. She is also the author of *If You Build It, Life Will Come* and has launched a new social enterprise, *828 Movement*, to support America's urban schools.

Adult Session Focus This Year: Courageous Conversations!

Since *Tech Savvy* is not just for students, adults will enjoy fun and enlightening sessions that include the best of ways to help girls in their lives. This year, we will focus on how parents can talk to girls about everything they hear—from sexual harassment in the workplace to disparaging views of women. How do we equip girls with the tools they need and the confidence to enter what may be considered a hostile environment? How do men and women equip themselves for the realities of today's workplace (and "lifeplace.") Join us—and encourage an adult to attend Tech Savvy's adult session this year!

Upcoming Dates for Tech Savvy 13

- Tote Bag Stuffing, Name Tag Assembly, and Bag Stuffing (**We need about 20 people to help!**)
Confirmed date: Wednesday, March 14, starting at 3:30 pm 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 16, at 6:00 pm – Reception at UB's Center for Tomorrow
- Saturday, March 17: 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 aauwtswny@cs.com
CHECK OUT the conference Information website! www.originaltechsavvy.org

Tech Savvy 13 Participation – Registration Form **Mail in by February 28 OR email aauwtswny@cs.com**

Name _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

- Helping with Bag Stuffing at United Way on Delaware (Wednesday, March 14)
 Planning to attend Tech Savvy Reception at 6:00 pm- Friday, March 16, (Location: UB Center for Tomorrow)— No cost to attend
 Planning to Volunteer at Tech Savvy (Saturday, March 17) – Shift times will be confirmed.
 Morning shift (7am – 1pm) Afternoon shift (noon – 5pm)
 All day (7am – 5 pm) Available other times: _____

For those NOT volunteering on Saturday, March 17:

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 28 at the website above.

Save a stamp.... You may email this information by February 28, or send this form to:
AAUW Buffalo Branch (Attn: Tech Savvy Volunteer) P.O. Box 894, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

CORNING – GAFFER DISTRICT CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

BY KIMBERLY EDGAR, CONVENTION CO-DIRECTOR

This year's convention hotel is located in the Gaffer District of Corning and is in the heart of Corning's Attractions for Convention Attendees and guests to explore by walking, riding the free Corning Visitor's Bus, or driving your car.

Our traditional Friday afternoon pre-convention activity will be held at the *Corning Museum of Glass*.

Two sessions of sandblasting workshops involving decorating a drinking glass are planned. Attendees

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS

can pick either the 1:30 pm or 2:30 pm workshop times on their registration forms. The museum has docents throughout to help guide you through the expansive site featuring many glassmaking demonstrations by professional gaffers and exhibitions, plus a fun gift shop to visit.

Registration is through the Convention Registration Site at \$30 per person by Sunday, April 8, 2018. Individuals do not need to attend the convention to participate in this pre-convention activity. All registered participants must pick-up their convention badges which serve as the museum admission ticket from the Radisson Hotel prior to going to the museum.

On both Saturday and Sunday mornings of the Convention, we will be offering both a guided tour of the Gaffer District and nearby Chemung Riverfront and an exercise walk starting at 6:30 am from the hotel lobby. No registration will be required for the walks; however, attendees who donate at least \$10 to AAUW Action Fund will receive a special NYS AAUW gift.

Throughout the weekend, the hotel indoor pool will be available for the annual swim laps for AAUW Action Fund.



On Saturday afternoon, Yoga Instructor Kim Knapp will be leading a gentle yoga class as one of the afternoon workshops. Please note your interest in this workshop on your registration form and please bring exercise clothes and a yoga mat.

*On behalf of the Convention Planning Committee, we invite you to join us for this **Moving Onward Empowering Women Weekend** in Corning.*



On Sunday afternoon, we have arranged for a post-Convention docent-led activity at the *Rockwell Museum* starting at either 1:00 pm or 1:45 pm for \$9.50 per person through the Convention Registration Site by Sunday, April 8, 2018. You do not need to attend the convention to participate in the museum tour. All registered participants must pick-up their convention badges which serve as the museum admission ticket from the Radisson Hotel prior to going to the museum.

After the *Rockwell Museum Tours*, you can stop at the *Corning Museum of Glass* to explore their Earth Day Nature Academy Celebration with hands-on exhibits before heading back home.

Register Now!

Registration for the convention is open. For registration and information visit:

<http://aauw-nys.org/>

Two vases have been donated by Corning Gaffers. These are among the many items that will be raffled for AAUW Funds at the Basket/Purses Fundraiser.



The red bowl was made by Gaffer, Chris Rochelle and the green vase was made by Gaffer, Tom Ryder.

WORLD HIJAB DAY AT DAEMEN COLLEGE

BY LESLIE WEBSTER

On February 1, 2018, Daemen College's chapter of AAUW held a World Hijab Day (WHD) event in conjunction with the annual worldwide event. Hijab most often refers to the headscarf that Muslim women are known for wearing, although it also refers to one's whole modest attire. Although the chapter has held WHD acknowledgment events in April of 2016 and 2017 during the school's annual Academic Festival, this was the first time they were able to hold the event on the actual day being celebrated worldwide annually since 2013. WHD was started by Nazma Khan, an immigrant from Bangladesh to the Bronx, NY, who was discriminated against in middle school and especially in college post-9/11. She thought that if more women of all religions and backgrounds tried wearing hijab for a day in order to understand and experience it, the stigma and discrimination would decrease. One of WHD's consistent taglines is "before you judge, cover up for a day." This year's theme was StrongInHijab, and the organization is active on social media. WHD is now held every year in 140 countries. The chapter is scheduled to hold another WHD acknowledgment event on April 18, 2018 during Daemen's annual Academic Festival and is anticipating holding the two events next year as well. You can learn more about World Hijab Day at www.WorldHijabDay.com or by looking for them on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

One of the chapter's members, Ehlimana M. Imamovic, is a practicing Muslim who raised the idea of a WHD acknowledgment event when the chapter was discussing how they could contribute to Daemen's Academic Festival in 2016. "We had an *incredible* response," Ehlimana said. "I really didn't imagine that the club would embrace the idea so wholeheartedly, or that so many of the students, faculty, and staff would be interested in learning about or trying on a hijab. I'm glad I brought plenty!" Based on the success of 2016, the chapter decided that they would strive to hold the acknowledgment event every Academic Festival but really hoped that one year they could do it on the actual event date of February 1st. "It's a hard date to arrange for," Ehlimana commented. "It's right at the beginning of the spring semester, barely a week in, and students are just trying to get their bearings and in a

routine. We finally realized that we would have to start planning for it at the end of the fall semester, and our current president, Leslie Webster, was amazing at organizing our last meeting and getting the location and date scheduled with the school back in December. "Everything was already in place, and I just needed to bring the hijabs!" Ehlimana explained that some of the participants just try the hijab on for a few minutes, while others sign-out the hijab and experience walking around campus for a while with it on. "Some of the boys were jealous that there was no hijab for them, and I explained that there is hijab for men too, mainly regarding dressing modestly and details in their interactions with women, but they wanted something to wear too. I managed to fashion a keffiyeh such as Arab men like the late Yasser Arafat would wear for them out of my scarves and they loved it!" she enthused. When asked what comments she received most from participants, Ehlimana said that many participants were surprised at how easy the scarves were to put on, and how light and comfortable they were. "The ladies love seeing the selection of colors and patterns too," she added. "I explained that since they're a part of my outfit, I need all sorts of colors, just as one needs multiple pairs of shoes or tops." Many participants would watch the slide show or ask Ehlimana questions directly about hijab and Islam. "I love answering questions and dispelling untruths," she mused. "I don't know everything but I answer as best I can, and I love when people respond with, 'This is nothing like how Islam and Muslims are portrayed in the media, and Why do they show you in such a bad light?' I just say that the squeaky wheel of extremism gets the grease."

Ehlimana completed her undergraduate degree at Daemen College in Natural Science, specializing in Health Science, and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health degree specializing in Community Health Promotion. She has been an AAUW member since she was an undergraduate student, and hopes to bring WHD to Daemen every year, even when she is no longer a student.



SOJOURNER TRUTH AND BLACK HISTORY

BY MARIAN BASS, BUFFALO BRANCH MEMBER

AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Members can comment on the proposed amendments and submit their own proposals from February 22, 2018, through March 22, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 25, 2018, and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET.

We encourage you all to engage in respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community, exercise your vote, and encourage fellow members to do the same. The degree requirement has especially been an emotional topic for many – please consider it carefully.

Important note: voting ONLINE is being highly encouraged. If you have an email address registered with national, that is the ONLY way you will receive the information. It will be published in the spring *OUTLOOK* (the national magazine), but those with email addresses will not receive paper copies. If you wish to have a paper ballot, the following is the process: *Members may request to have a paper ballot mailed to them between April 16, 2018, and May 7, 2018. No paper ballots will be issued after that date. Ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m. ET on May 21, 2018, to count. To request a paper ballot, call 800.326.2289 or email your name, address, and member number to connect@aauw.org.*

Members who do not have internet access may submit proposed bylaw amendments, comments, and resolutions by enlisting help from a member who does have internet access.

If you need assistance in participating in this process, please contact me. This is OUR organization and we should all be exercising our right to influence its future.

March 2018

During the last 250 years of growth and development in America, Afro-American women have made numerous but little-known vital intellectual and cultural contributions to this country's history.

Perhaps lost to the world forever is the voice of a woman who could have orated the cause of the third world nations with the silvery-tongued conviction of a Demosthenes, or lifted the hopes of black masses through brilliant articulation. Lost to the world could be a woman of mathematical genius who could have astounded the world with an equation for world peace, or who could have developed a human rights plan invulnerable to erosion with the flexibility to withstand the politics of change. All these voices are lost to the world forever out of deliberate repression.

Sojourner Truth was born a slave in northwest Tennessee during the middle of the nineteenth century. Tall, angular, and considered "feisty," she was sometimes "whipped for manifesting unslave" behavior. Little did she know, her destiny would lead her to become a great abolitionist, lecturer, and a preacher, decrying the evils of slavery and the lack of rights for women, both black and white.

She thundered her message of emancipation and equal rights across the South despite cruel threats, ridicule, and scorn, even in the halls of governance. Showing no fear, she claimed she was sent by God. So impressive were her efforts, she was invited to the White House by President Abraham Lincoln himself. They became fast

friends and he called her his "Black Pearl."

The formal study of Black History was envisioned by Carter G. Woodson in 1926. Black History was not even a serious area of study in Woodson's day, but he dedicated his life to characterizing Black people as intelligent and contributive, as acculturated participants, rather than stereotypes of a monolithic group. His diligence received national attention and his project evolved from Black History Week to Black History Month.



Marian Bass

From the earliest times, women of color pioneered and played a vital role in the struggle to obtain freedom, justice, and the right of self-determination in mainstream America. But it took two constitutional amendments to finally achieve citizenship and the right to vote. Every indignity had to be met with courage and fortitude. Freedom did not alter their designated niche of inferiority and lack of acceptance in the mainstream America. It took painful generations of resolve to reach 2018 status.

I believe that people can be unloved to death. I believe that they can perish from a depression that creates a malaise of the soul, or quietly and without fanfare, they can be murdered by indifference. As Maya Angelou so aptly proclaimed, "And Still We Rise." In desperation, we continue to reach out to God for intercession. We may not all have the strengths of a Sojourner Truth, but we can commit ourselves to nothing less than excellence and try to exceed our personal best, and pass that legacy on to our children.

PHOTOS FROM THE FEBRUARY PROGRAM



Lynn Marinelli, Vanessa Glusheski, Barbara Miller Williams, Lilyen Mascellino, Diana Cihak, Marian Deutschman, Lynne Dixon, April Baskin

**Women in Politics:
Challenges Women Face
When Running For
Public Office**

February 15, 2017



Barbara Miller Williams, Vanessa Glusheski, Lynn Marinelli, Lynne Dixon, April Baskin, Diana Cihak, Marian Deutschman

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Mar. 7 at 6:15 pm - Board Meeting at Daemen College, Amherst

Mar. 8 at 6:30 pm - The Haudenosaunee Women: Past, Present, and Future at Medaille College, Buffalo

Mar. 17 - Tech Savvy at UB

Apr. 4 at 6:15 pm - Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, West Seneca

Apr. 12 at 7:00 pm - "Meet the Pharmacist" at Audubon Branch Library, Amherst

April 20 - 22 - AAUW-NYS Convention in Corning, NY

May 19 - Luncheon and Annual Meeting at Banchetti's, Amherst

Note - all members are welcome at all board meetings!



**Women Making
a Difference**

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 Mary Crocker at 838-2796.

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