NOTES FOR PRESENTATION:

1. Actual speakers are in caps and bold. The other names represent people, mostly branch presidents, from the various eras.
2. The easiest way to appreciate the theatre is to have two screens available. The Powerpoint should be shown as a slide show on one, with the script on the other. Note – there are sounds introducing three of the slides, which will only be heard if it's in "slideshow" mode.
3. The pictures are highlighted in the script – the Powerpoint slides should be changed at that time.

PICTURE - Waiting Room Suggestions while people are waiting to start
PICTURE - Glass of wine
PICTURE - Welcome

ACT 1

Picture of 1890's women

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator #1: AAUW's history begins in Boston in 1881 when two college-educated women came together to find activities that were more purposeful than what current well-mannered women were focused on – activities such as sewing, playing the piano, reading novels, and flirting discreetly. Out of this meeting came the ACA - Association of Collegiate Alumnae.

In 1884, growth of the organization mushroomed, with branches in Washington DC, New York City, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Boston

In 1889, the group was looking for a meeting place, and Buffalo seemed ideal. There were only **eight** college-educated women in all of Buffalo at the time and they were asked to host and organize the meeting of the ACA. These women were so excited that they decided the next year to form their own Western New York branch.

Miss Lena Hill Severance, hostess, opened her door to a handful of college-educated women.

SUSAN McCLARY

Lena: Welcome, welcome. How exciting that we are forming the Western New York branch of the ACA.

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Campbell: We are a city of a quarter million people. Buffalo is thriving.
You know our husbands are prosperous businessmen. Certainly, we, too, can contribute to the success of our city. We will provide ways for women to use their education to benefit our city and our fellow citizens.

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator #1: The women were energized as they left that first meeting.

At one of the first gatherings, it was voted to establish a fellowship, "For the purpose of enabling some young women to continue their studies at a European University."

So, you see, from the beginning, establishing scholarships for women has been one of the principal aims of the University women.

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Campbell: Did you know that a study has stated that women have shown that they can take a college course without injury to their health and with great benefit to their intellectual powers?

MARY CROCKER

Aside: What?!?! A study had to be done to determine that? Outrageous!

SUSAN McCLARY

Lena: *Oh, how wonderful that we can* provide $500 for a young woman to study abroad, as well as help the UB endowment and encourage young women to attend the university.

And we will continue to prove that further education is definitely **not** harmful to women's health!

MARILYN CARMICHEL

Narrator #1 As you might expect**,** this dynamic group did not limit itself only to higher education.

In 1893, the group was excited to help the Buffalo city schools by establishing home libraries for needy children.

The following year, another cause came to their attention. They joined with enthusiasm in the movement to take the schools from the control of political bosses and to improve conditions in the schools. They didn't pussyfoot around. They went out and surveyed the sanitary conditions in the schoolhouses in Buffalo.

And in 1898, there were 55 members!

ACT 2

PICTURE - PAN AMERICAN EXHIBIT

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #2: We're in another era. It's 1901 and Buffalo is hosting the Pan-American Exposition.

PICTURE - McKinley

President McKinley was assassinated while visiting this Exposition.

PICTURE – TR SITE

Teddy Roosevelt was sworn in as President at the Ainsley-Wilcox House, which would become the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site.

It is1908 and the ACA was ready for a major undertaking.

PICTURE - Playground

PAT MICELI

The transition from rural to urban life saw women leaving their homes to work in industry and business. This posed a problem: where to leave an infant or child that might have enriching daytime care? The Buffalo Charities Society recognized the problem and enlisted the ACA's cooperation. Our group stepped forward to establish just such a day nursery. The College Creche was born with ACA providing financial aid to the program in the amount of $1600 a year. And they didn't just contribute money - they worked!

BARBARA CARIER

Mrs. Howe: I was at the creche this morning and I helped three little girls get their coats off. They enjoyed a breakfast of oatmeal and warm milk. Then I read a story to them. They really enjoyed *The Tale of Mrs. Tittle Mouse* by Beatrix Potter and *The Emerald City of Oz* by L. Frank Baum. In nice weather, the children go to the public playground.

*M*others can bring their children in the morning and pick them up after work. Their children are cared for and receive two nourishin*g* meals. The charge is only 10 cents per day per child.

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #2: At first, there were only ten children enrolled; seven years later there were over 4000 children registered.

MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN

Mrs. Angell: *Y*ou mean the College Creche was like a modern daycare center?

.

BARBARA CARIER

Mrs. Howe: Yes, that's exactly right. It was located at 79 Goodell Street near Oak, close to the homes of the working mothers.

MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN

Mrs. Angell: How did they raise money for this?

BARBARA CARIER

Mrs. Howe: The women raised money in many ways – by asking for donations, holding teas, galas and parties and, imagine this – during the Christmas holidays, a group of women ran a luncheon in one of the downtown department stores. This was a huge success both gastronomically and financially.

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #2: In 1909 the City of Buffalo took over the Creche Project and continued it for many years. That year was also marked by an escalation of concern over the Buffalo Public Schools. A resolution was passed advocating a Board of Education, more high schools, **and the appointment of women to the board. Equal pay for female teachers was also an important issue.**

MARY CROCKER

Aside: Wow, 130 years later and equal pay for equal work is still a hot-button topic.

PICTURE - WW I Photo

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #2: Starting in 1913 all efforts went to supporting the Great War - World War I. We held War Bond drives, sold Thrift Stamps, endowed a bed for the Red Cross Hospital, and sold Liberty Bonds. Members worked at the Thrift Kitchen, giving demonstrations on how to conserve food, for example substituting cornmeal for flour. Our Programs were devoted to supporting the war effort at home.

STACEY JOHNSON

Mrs. Burns: On November 11, 1918, the Great War is finally over; we can now refocus on our goals of equality and education for women.

PICTURE of Suffragettes

SUSAN McCLARY

Mrs. Rogers: Our Buffalo Branch remained concerned about education during the war and efforts were increased at the end of the fighting. And we were fighting for our own advancement. We achieved our political goal with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. This was truly an exciting time for women!

MARY CROCKER

Aside: This was the first step toward getting all women the right to vote. We knew there was more work to be done.

STACEY JOHNSON

Mrs. Burns: Our Educational Legislative Committee has been successful in obtaining higher salaries for women teachers, equal pay for equal work for men and women, and equal career opportunities for advancement in the schools.
AND – get this! – a motion was also proposed that married women be permitted to teach in the schools

SUSAN McCLARY

Mrs. Rogers: Now that's progress!

PIcture of Madame Curie

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #2: Our Buffalo group contributed to the National ACA fund to provide radium to Marie Curie in 1920.

SUSAN McCLARY

Mrs. Rogers: How interesting that there's a Buffalo connection with Marie Curie's research.

STACEY JOHNSON

Mrs. Burns: Yes, we contributed $27 for the Madame Curie Radium Fund. Marie Curie had already won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry based on her discovery of this element, but her research was stymied by her inability to purchase even a gram! The women of America were able to present a gram of radium to Madame Curie. **A gram of radium cost $100,000!**

Picture of College Collage

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #2: In 1921 the ACA merged with the Southern Association of Collegiate Women and the Western ACA to become the American Association of University Women, or AAUW. At the same time, the Western New York Branch organization chose to become the Buffalo Branch.

They were dedicated to encouraging higher standards in education for women. At that time, only graduates of "approved" institutions were eligible for membership – that rule held until 1963, at which time graduates of any accredited institution were admitted.

This policy then encouraged higher standards in education for women – the institution had to have high academic standards, adequate provisions for women students, women on faculties and in administration, a sound basis of liberal education, and intellectual freedom.

SUSAN McCLARY

Mrs. Rogers: Our lobbying efforts in 1921 for independent citizenship for married women have paid off. Previously, a woman lost her US citizenship if she married a foreign man, since she assumed the citizenship of her husband. But this law did not apply to US men who married a foreign woman. Our efforts helped repeal sections 3 and 4 of the Expatriation Act of 1907.

STACEY JOHNSON

Mrs. Burns: I like this political activism!

Picture of Roaring Twenties gal with clip of Charleston music

SUSAN McCLARY

Mrs. Rogers: The gloom of war was gradually dispelled by the wild gaiety of the Roaring Twenties. Women's clothes were more comfortable and simplified. Ladies asserted their new freedom by bobbing their hair and smoking cigarettes in public. They wore long-waisted, short-skirted dresses, with beads and fringe which swirled about them when they danced the Charleston to the newest jazz music, accompanied by the wail of the saxophone. We welcomed this contrast after the grimness of war.

STACEY JOHNSON

Mrs. Burns: It's hard to believe that AAUW members really did do the Charleston.

SUSAN McCLARY

Mrs. Rogers: Well, they did, and they had lots of fun, but they didn't forget the goals of AAUW.

START OF MEETING. **PIcture of lady with gavel, sound of gavel**

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Malcolm Baird: I'm Mrs. Malcolm Baird, President of Buffalo AAUW and I'm calling this meeting to order.

Isn't it nice to hold our meetings in our own furnished lounge in Foster Hall here on the UB campus? We've worked hard to make this a pleasant meeting place for us and for the women students.

Mrs. Burns, could you report on the Child Study Group?

STACEY JOHNSON

Mrs. Burns: Yes, we have had many young married women join our group who want to study child psychology and exchange ideas about their children.

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Malcolm Baird: Thank you.
Mrs. Thompson, will you please report on the Scholarship Committee?

SUE STAPELL

Mrs. Thompson: All of our members have contributed their annual dollar. We're also planning a literary tea.

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Malcolm Baird: Thank you, Mrs. Thompson.

This concludes our business meeting for tonight. And now here is our speaker who will discuss Disarmament.

PAUSE

All Readers - please clap at this point.

Mrs. Malcolm Baird: That was very interesting. Thank you all for participating this evening.

Picture of gathering with PEACE banner.

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #2: The ever-broadening interests of the University Women were reflected in the topics discussed at the regular meetings. They usually had a speaker and, at first, their subjects had to do with local issues…schools, welfare, politics, and so forth. But after the war, their interests included national and international issues such as Disarmament or the Cause and Cure of War. One very successful program was called **A Symposium on Peace.** "Women realize more than men the entire cost of war and they must focus their attention on world peace" they were told.

ACT 3

Picture of Women Marching

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator #3: The Legal Status of Women was a topic during the 1930's.

SUE STAPELL

Miss Witherstine: After all, we've had the vote for over a decade – but do we have equal status with men in life?

MARY CROCKER

Aside: Boy, does this sound familiar. (said with disgust.)

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator #3: Study groups continued to grow with more interest groups, including Modern Literature, Drama and Writing, Music, and French. Other interest groups were also formed including handcrafts, interior decorating, antiques, bridge and many, many more.

SUE STAPELL

Miss Witherstine: With the 1930's, our efforts turned again toward scholarships and the rights of women. We decided, as women, to make ourselves a legal entity. We went through the incorporation process in New York State. However, that charter did not include the ability to accept gifts. When the bequest from our dear Sarah Chamberlin was announced, the branch filed an "extension" to the charter to allow them to accept it and the Chamberlin fund was established according to the guidelines of her will.

PICTURE OF CARD PARTY

MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN

Mrs. Justus Egbert: With the Chamberlin Funds now secure, we can enjoy this era of the Card Party. Can you believe over 1000 people attended our card party at the Statler, raising nearly $500 for the scholarship fund? And we're also doing our share for national fellowships, supporting women from many countries in their quest for higher education!"

SUE STAPELL

Miss Witherstine: We helped women in other ways when we lobbied for access to contraceptives in 1932 for married women.

MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN

Mrs. Justus Egbert: Yes, and in 1935 we lobbied to legalize the dispensation of contraceptive information by physicians. We are a group of real leaders.

SUE STAPELL

Miss Witherstine: "In 1938-40 our own Henrietta Langner was president of AAUW-NYS! The various branches had grouped by state back in 1920 - before we even became AAUW! (We in Western New York have had more representation in that office since then - Isabelle Kideney just two years later and then Carol Stull in the 70s and Sue Oliver and Vicki Marshall in the 90s.)

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator #3: During the 1940's our local branch members lauded their own achievements and supported the world around them. Following a gathering in 1950, members discussed their accomplishments.

STACEY JOHNSON

Sparkle Moors Furnas: Let's look back at the activities of the 1940's. By 1940, we decided we needed to do some bragging about our own work. We set up our Achievement Award program. The first awardee was Mrs. Adelbert Moot, recognizing her 'public spirited service'. We've continued this tradition of honoring a local woman each year.

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Clifford Gould: Yes, and we were ahead of the national organization – they didn't initiate such a program until 1943!

STACEY JOHNSON

Sparkle Moors Furnas: Our monthly newsletter was established in order to communicate and connect with our 556 members. It has been very successful!

PAUSE to listen to FDR speech

PICTURE - Pearl Harbor/speech from FDR

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Clifford Gould: In December 1941, our nation awoke to find our country engaged in World War II.

PICTURE - ROSIE the Riveter

STACEY JOHNSON

Sparkle Moors Furnas: Another war! Hopefully, this one will end quickly, and everlasting peace will follow. But while it was going on, we did our part!
We sold 471% of our quota of War Bonds – over a million dollars, which earned us a special citation!

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Clifford Gould: We also volunteered in the Office of Civilian Management, offering classes in nutrition, home nursing, and first aid. We sent books and magazines to army camps to continue our tradition of supporting education.

STACEY JOHNSON

Sparkle Moors Furnas: I felt like I was doing my part when we sent CARE packages to University Women in Europe. Plus, our members set up a model black-out room in the Historical Building.

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Clifford Gould: We served as hostesses at induction centers. We saw the faces of our brave draftees and volunteers. We did everything we could for the war effort!

PICTURE - FDR signing GI Bill

STACEY JOHNSON

Sparkle Moors Furnas: After the war, we continued to serve the community. We pushed for aid for veterans and their families to get higher education through the GI Bill in addition to holding vocational guidance clinics.

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Clifford Gould: We looked forward to a different future. Our speakers chose timely topics such as “Progress of a New World Order” and “Bullies in the Balkans”. One speaker actually said that “only America can prevent Communist enslavement of humanity. “

MARY CROCKER

Aside: I wonder which of our current government leaders we would choose to speak now…

PICTURE - Eleanor Roosevelt - Human Rights

STACEY JOHNSON

Sparkle Moors Furnas: 1947 brought about the BARMAID HEARINGS. There was a proposed ordinance, which we opposed at a public hearing, to prohibit employment of women bartenders. Some Americans thought women as barmaids was scandalous. Not us!

Women deserve equal opportunities in all career choices!

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Clifford Gould: We continued to press for the appointment of women to various political vacancies AND complained to the Buffalo Evening News for their selection of only **one** woman to be included among the year's outstanding citizens.

STACEY JOHNSON

Sparkle Moors Furnas: We broke barriers in 1949 when Buffalo had its first woman president of the school board. We'd been fighting for that since 1909! Patience, my dears!

Picture of a TV

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Clifford Moore: The 1950s brought the blessing or the curse of television to everybody. We recognized the potential power of this medium and worked to have some channels allocated for educational purposes.

STACEY JOHNSON

Sparkle Moors Furnas: Still the women of AAUW did not forget their principal goal – furthering educational opportunities for women. They supported the Federal Aid to Education Bill and were again recommending an increase in teachers' pay, and also a minimum salary for women teachers.

PAT MICELI

Mrs. Clifford Moore: At group meetings, speakers discussed Japan, India, South America, "Awakening Africa", and "Europe in Crisis." You can see how their interests were again broadening.

Act 4

Picture Poodle Skirt

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #4: The fabulous fifties are here. AAUW is again on the move.

SUE STAPELL

Lucy Cagan Lazarus: The national Fellowships program has grown like topsy to become one of the largest sources of financial aid for women graduate students in the world. We've supported many women, in many fields, some of whose names may be familiar to you – like Dr. Joyce Brothers, who had an American Fellowship in 1952-53.

MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN

Margaret Warwick-McCullough: You mean Joyce Brothers of TV fame?

SUE STAPELL

Lucy Cagan Lazarus: Yes, that's the one. Remember, she was a TV psychologist giving advice to women in the 60s and 70s.

She was one of the 13 American Fellowships and 7 International Fellowships awarded that year from the million-dollar endowment fund.

Another name that might be familiar is Judith Resnick, who was a 1975–76 AAUW American Fellow, the second American woman in space and a crew member of the ill-fated Challenger space shuttle. She was also an electrical engineer, software engineer, biomedical engineer and pilot.

Picture of booksale 1973 & Allentown

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #4: We in AAUW continually learn from each other! In 1954 President Margaret Warwick McCullough went to a regional AAUW conference and returned with the news of a New Jersey branch which was having great success with an annual used-book sale. The board was excited about the idea as it seemed much more in keeping with our purpose than the previous fashion shows, card parties, etc.

SUE STAPELL

Lucy Cagan Lazarus: Our first book sale was held on April 23, 1955. It was held in a space in downtown Buffalo at 68 Niagara Street. We raised the magnificent sum of $209.72! It was declared a success in spite of the support consisting almost exclusively of members, and it became an annual event. Actually, we may have been starting a local trend - the Allentown Art Fair was inaugurated the very next year!

JAN VINE

Jan Vine: Welcome to our sale. Browse to your heart's content. We have almost everything you could want.

MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN

Margaret Warwick-McCullough: The success was owed in part to the donation of the sale space by the Park Hall realty firm. The donation of space continued for the next 25 years, even as the sale grew to 7,500 square feet!

PICTURE OF UNITED NATIONS

SUE STAPELL

Lucy Cagan Lazarus: The national organization was expanding its areas of study and action. Women's responsibilities as citizens were being emphasized, especially in the efforts to remove discriminations against women – educational, legal, economic, social and political. Members testified before Congressional committees, and we sent a representative as an observer to the United Nations.

PICTURE - hippie saying Peace

JUDY WEIDEMANN

Jeanette Scudder: Early in 1960, the Association (as it was referred to then) adopted a program which included four "areas of interest" – Community Problems, Cultural Interests, Education, and World Problems. In addition, four topics for study were adopted each biennium; they were not aligned directly with the interest areas but instead often bridged all four. Among the first four topics were: The American Family in a Changing World, Bridging the Gap between Science and the Layman, Expectations for Education, and Occident and Orient.
It *seems to me that we could tackle all of those again in 2020!*

MELISSA WHITE

Elizabeth White Klee: Wait, wait, what's that word: accident?

JUDY WEIDEMANN

Jeanette Scudder: **No, it's Occident and it means countries of the West.**

MELISSA WHITE

Elizabeth White Klee: Oh, I learned something new. Thanks.

PICTURE - 1960s Buffalo

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Narrator #4: During 1962-63 the topic was "Megalopolis – Niagara Frontier Version". By presenting programs related to this subject, as well as programs on world problems, the Branch was trying to awaken its members to the role they should play in local and world affairs… to encourage them to take an active part…to assume responsibility, and to help advance education for women wherever possible.

BARBARA CARIER

Ina D Anderson Alt: In 1964 the Buffalo Branch had a number of study groups, including the "megalopolis" group studying the problems of the city and suburbs as well as a Great Decisions group with global emphasis.

PAT MICELI

Jeanette S Anderson: As of 1964, the national endowment funds of nearly $3 million had accumulated and over $250,000 was awarded annually to over one hundred American and foreign women graduate scholars.

BARBARA CARIER

Ina D Anderson Alt: Back here in Buffalo, a group was formed to do volunteer work at the Erie County Home and Infirmary at Wende. As always, when help was needed, we took action!

PAT MICELI

Jeanette S Anderson: As more mature women were entering the workforce at this time, guidance was needed. In cooperation with the YWCA, we presented a Job Opportunities Workshop. We truly provide opportunities for women!

ACT 5

EARTH DAY PICTURE

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator #5: The United States celebrated the first Earth Day in April 1970. Once again, AAUW was on the forefront.

LITTER BOTTLE PICTURE

SUE STAPELL

Carol Ganz Stull: 1970 brought the Bottle Battle, a fight for returnable bottles.
Why? Well at one time it seemed natural to just toss empty bottles wherever. That's difficult to imagine today, but it happened. With a returnable deposit, maybe people would think a little before littering.

PHOTO OF VIETNAM

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator #5: The children of the "greatest generation", the baby boomers, were faced with yet another conflict - the Vietnam War.

PICTURE of Title IX SYMBOL

BARBARA CARIER

Barbara Parks Carier: I was happy when Title IX was passed. It's interesting to note that Representative Patsy Mink, a co-author of the bill, was an AAUW member. When Title IX was established in 1972 it provided everyone with equal access to any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance, including sports. This means that federally funded institutions, such as public schools, are legally required to provide girls and boys with equitable sports opportunities. I knew young women who could then play a wider variety of sports.

PICTURE of Buffalo Club with women barred

SUE STAPELL

Carol Ganz Stull: We gained more opportunities but some doors were still closed to us. Our 85th anniversary celebration in 1975 ignited some fireworks, so to speak. It was held at the Buffalo Club, which, at the time, had a "Women's Door." Long story short: many members refused to attend rather than enter through that door.

MARY CROCKER

Aside: Good for them (indignant)

BARBARA CARIER

Barbara Parks Carier: However, when the national AAUW president arrived to speak, she went right in the front door! The club members apparently decided not to make headlines by stopping her!

SUE STAPELL

Carol Ganz Stull: From 1977-78 – Buffalo funded a national Research and Projects Grant. **This was a huge step forward in our assistance of national educational goals – the first national fund sponsored by a New York State branch!**

PICTURE - Collage of earlier booksale pictures

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator #4: The 1980's found Buffalo Branch with more diverse programs and a growing book sale.

JAN VINE

Jan Vine: In 1981, the Book Sale Committee rented space in the Buffalo Convention Center, since downtown Buffalo was in a state of renewal and we needed more and more space. Lois Jarrett, a book sale coordinator had quite the experience one year when she was offered the entire contents of a small bookstore. Elated by the call, she was later devastated to learn that the entire collection consisted of pornographic books. We thought about taking them.

Even today, you just don't know what a box of donated books might contain!

PICTURE - LAF, Brodsky

MELISSA WHITE

Lynn Wilson McClive: The Cornell 11, from Cornell University, aided by the Ithaca Branch of AAUW, fought for equity for women faculty. This battle led to the 1981 founding of AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund. This fund would help Buffalo Branch member Dr. Linda Brodsky, who was a world-famous Pediatric Surgeon, Advocate and Mentor for the Next Generation of Women Doctors, and Founder of Women MD Resources. In spite of all that, she was not receiving equitable pay - lesser-experienced and lesser-qualified men were receiving more than she was!

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

NARRATOR 4: In 1982-83 – Buffalo raised $100,000 to fund a full national American fellowship in honor of AAUW's Centennial. **This was only the second full fellowship sponsored by a NYS branch.**

JUDY WEIDEMANN

Judy Weidemann: Any thriving organization recognizes that change and growth are essential. Those 1890 women would be surprised and delighted with what the last part of the 20th Century and the beginning of the 21st Century have brought.

While some members were busy with the Book Sale in the 80's and early 90'S, many members were enjoying interest and study groups. A listing of those in a 1986 newsletter included: Creeds and Cultures, Bon Appetit, foreign languages, literature, photography, music, and Great Decisions.

MARY CROCKER

Aside: **Did you know that in 1987 the national organization actually voted to allow MEN to be members. Stacey Johnson's husband was the first man to join our branch!**

MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN

Cathy Weiss: We pushed hard for the creation of the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women. Two of our members, Gretchen Stringer and Cathy Weiss, were members of the Commission once it was formed in 1987.

Several members were faithful participants in the Erie County Coalition of Court Observers.

Picture of centennial logo

JUDY WEIDEMANN

Judy Weidemann: Two years of planning went into preparing for the branch's 100th anniversary celebration in 1990, chaired by the very capable Bunny Blackstone.

In 1990 the Center for Tomorrow was "big news" on the North Campus of SUNY Buffalo. Of course, our anniversary was celebrated there on October 13, 1990. AAUW members are always looking at Tomorrow.

A timeline of the branch's history and a traveling kiosk as well as a souvenir-booklet were all created by Valarie Bozarth for the event. Eve Stoklosa made a scrap book for browsing before the program. Students of Dr. Ellen DeWind, branch member and professor of Fashion Design at Buffalo State College, designed and sewed fashions from 1890 - 1990. Other members contributed fashion too. Dr. Betty Krist made a poodle skirt from the 1950's.

MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN

Cathy Weiss: The National organization sent Alice Ann Leidel, Vice President for programs, AAUW Educational Foundation, to congratulate us and to be our guest speaker.

STACEY JOHNSON

Anastasia Johnson: Between 1997 and 1998 our local branch created a 'friends' category for membership. Although the national organization has continued to require higher education for full membership, our branch recognized that many people believe in our mission and are willing to work on it. Our Book Sale might not have survived without them!

Photo of Sister-to-Sister

MELISSA WHITE

Lynn Wilson McClive: We followed the national lead and brought the "Sister-to-Sister" AAUW program to Buffalo. Local leaders were Ann Hicks, Sue Oliver, Peggy Meinl, Carol Griffith and others. It allowed girls of all races and economic strata to discuss issues common to all - drugs, boys, parental problems, etc. Sister-to-Sister strengthened girls' voices and identified actions that promoted better opportunities for all youth. Other participating community organizations included Girl Scouts, Project Flight and Planned Parenthood.

For many years Buffalo Branch helped "host" the Junior League Show House. We supported the Woman's Pavilion of the Pan American Centennial. Several AAUW members were active on steering committees.

Picture of Transitions 2002 logo

SUSAN McCLARY

Linda Suchocki: The **Transitions Conference, spearheaded by Linda Suchocki and Janet Fowler,** was created to help women return to continue their education beyond high school by teaching them how to avoid roadblocks and other obstacles to furthering their education. Assistance was also available to encourage and aid women returning to the workplace.

Picture of Jacquie Walker poster

JAN VINE

Jan Vine: Our book sale has continued to grow. But a BIG boost was the brainchild of PR Chair and Branch President Linda Suchocki who recruited Jacquie Walker, a local broadcast personality, to be the honorary chair in 2004. What a coup that was!

A step in making the book sale more manageable was the ability to do some pre-sorting over the 2005-06 winter at "The Waters" in East Aurora. That made setting up at the sale site much easier!

Picture - Title IX logo

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator: With the advent of a new century, AAUW Buffalo Branch has continued to diversify its interests and concerns.

A one-day conference on Title IX, chaired by Judy Weidemann and Cathy Weiss in 2004, featured nationally and internationally known speakers and provided a unique chance in Western New York to discuss the opportunities, obstacles, and strategies for advancing equity for women and girls in education and athletics. Participants were assured of a stimulating and challenging dialogue on gender equity issues in sports and education.

Picture of Tech Savvy

SUE STAPELL

Mary Kellner: April 1, 2006 brought us the first Tech Savvy program, at D'Youville College. Succeeding events have been held at the University at Buffalo on the north campus. This program, which became a model for a national AAUW initiative, was the brainchild of then-president Tamara Brown, who has continued as its chair to this day.
Volunteers are always needed for this event and it's guaranteed that you'll have a great time helping out.

MELISSA WHITE

Judy Malamas: Another boost for the book sale came with the opportunity in 2006 to sort and store books over the winter at Kensington-Bailey Housing Services. We were still also sorting at The Waters, but "K-B" (as it was affectionately called) let us leave things out in "our own space." We continued sorting there until 2016, when, unfortunately, the basement conditions had deteriorated to where books suffered water damage. Our lucky stars were with us as we found Calvary Episcopal Church, who was willing to rent space to us. But we did miss that old coffin lift at K-B!

JAN VINE

Jan Vine: We'll be closing in 10 minutes! Time to check out!!! Closing in 10 minutes.

Picture - Obama signing Paycheck Fairness Act

MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN

Mary Kellner: Tamara Brown scored another coup when she was able to recruit the pay equity poster child Lilly Ledbetter to speak at our September 2007 potluck dinner! If you'll recall, the "Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act" was the first piece of legislation signed by Barack Obama after his inauguration - it made it possible for women with long standing pay inequity (40% less than men in the same positions in her case!) to sue for damages.

MARY CROCKER

Aside: Previously, one had to complain within six months of the first instance of unfair pay - but since many companies made employees promise not to discuss pay, there was often no way to know of the ill treatment.

JUDY WEIDEMANN

Judy Weidemann: 2010 marked the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Buffalo Branch. We celebrated at a luncheon at Canisius College. The highlight was a presentation by Maryann Saccomando Freedman, a distinguished lawyer, who was president of the NYS Bar Association. Additionally, she was the recipient of AAUW Buffalo Branch Achievement Award in 2012. Saccomando Freedman spoke about Belva Lockwood, a local resident, who became a lawyer. Did you know she ran for president of the United States in 1884 and 1888 on the National Equal Rights Party ticket?

MELISSA WHITE

Judy Malamas: From 2010-17 Buffalo worked to fund a full national AAUW American fellowship in honor of Hillary Rodham Clinton. No, the money didn't go to Ms. Clinton - AAUW manages the fund and awards the fellowships to American citizens or permanent residents; it is just NAMED in her honor. **Inflation had struck – at this point, $200,000 was required to fund a Fellowship instead of the previous $100,000 but we did it!**

JAN VINE

Jan Vine: It seems AAUW will be forever associated with a huge Book Sale. For a closer look at the history of the Sale, look at booklets put together by Ruth Sicherman and Jan Vine **- both are available on our branch website.**

PICTURE - booksale future question

JUDY WEIDEMANN

Judy Weidemann: However, concern over the sale is shown in many newsletters. The search for a spot was headlined in several issues over the years noting that spots were found "just in time". In 1987 the Book Sale netted only $1,177. The following year, 1988, the Sale netted $6900. - an improvement. A newsletter article noted that while that amount was good, the Book Sale was the most serious challenge of the branch. There was dwindling income and increased expenses.

JAN VINE

Jan Vine: Fewer than 1/4 of members worked on the sale, so more paid workers were needed. One fourth of the donated books (400 to 500 cartons) were not sorted when the sale began. Volunteers managed to price the books, but they were offered for sale unsorted. An ad hoc committee was formed in 1986 to look for other means of fund-raising. A headline in a 1993 newsletter asked, "Is there a Book Sale in Our future?"

JUDY WEIDEMANN

Judy Weidemann: The same worry surfaced in the early 2000's. We have been fortunate each time to have recruited many new branch members who LOVE to work on the book sale. And they have breathed new life into it. Unfortunately, our ongoing string of annual sales was interrupted in 2020 by the pandemic. But that current committee is anxious to get to work again as soon as it's safe to do so!

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator: Let's look at the most recent decade.

SUSAN McCLARY

Margaret Collesano: With a new century we found ourselves involved in a variety of meaningful and exciting events.

Photo Of Tamara

MARILYN CARMICHAEL

Narrator #5: In 2011 Mary Travers Murphy from the Family Justice Center reached out to the branch and, together, with UB, we sponsored "Telling Stories: Campus Sexual Assault & Intimate Partner Violence: A Dramatic Arts Event". Tamara Brown coordinated the event and was able to win an AAUW Action Grant to help defray the costs.

We have partnered with the League of Women Voters to encourage voter registration in the Western New York area and with many other local organizations on projects of mutual interest.

BETTY PREBLE

Betty Preble: Our Branch has partnered with other community organizations to actively promote International Women's Day, which is globally celebrated each year on March 8. Some of our IWD speakers have included: Nadia Sharam, Dr. Uma Gupta and Dr. Nancy McGlen. Some of the topics presented included Women's Lives in the Mideast, the matriarchal family structure of Native Americans, the history of and the current status of women in China, and the education of girls in Cameroon.

Picture - Scholarship Poster

BARBARA CARIER

Barbara Parks Carier: Through the generosity of Sarah Chamberlin, Lucille Peterson, Velma Cobb, Olga Lindberg, Dorothy Payne, Carol Jamieson, Clarine Radt, who were major financial contributors, and a multitude of other members who have made donations, we have been able to provide major scholarships to deserving women seeking to further their education as well as supporting the national Fellowships and Grants program.

Jacquie Walker/ booksale photo collage

JAN VINE

Jan Vine: Wait, don't forget the Jacquie Walker Scholarship!

BETTY PREBLE

Betty Preble: Of course not! That's funded by our famous book sale, our only major fundraiser! In the WNY community, our book sale is a major event the weekend after Memorial Day. It's always great fun to sort books before the sale and prep various topic tables. But the best part of the book sale is seeing the same folks who return year after year to hunt for that literary treasure or stock up on books for the year.

PICTURES OF CREDITS – two pages

LAURIE EIKEMEYER

Laurie Eikemeyer: We close our play in the middle of an international pandemic. Know that we remain a strong and viable organization today and tomorrow.

We hope to be able to gather with you in person in the near future.

PICTURE - empty wine glass

We hope you've enjoyed this brief history of your Buffalo Branch of the AAUW. Now we'd like your participation. Please relax and enjoy the company of your sister members!