

## AAUW Buffalo Branch

### Individual Program Event – January Luncheon to raise funds for the Legal Advocacy Fund

#### Part I

- Talking Leaves Bookstore
- Two attendees joined at this luncheon, several others joined later.

#### Part II

AAUW's mission to support women who have been denied their rights in the workplace has been in place for many years.

We consider supporting LAF fits in with the Philanthropic mission of AAUW. The Buffalo Branch supports this goal through raising funds with membership dues, holding a raffle of an art object, and in events such as the one held in January 2010. We held a luncheon that featured a well known novelist, Laura Belfer. Her reputation in our community is such that marketing for this event influenced members and non members alike to attend.

The Branch goal in programming this event was twofold. One, we wanted to raise funds for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Two, we wanted to educate non members and remind members of the inequities in the tenure process for women seeking tenure in colleges and universities. Members of our Branch have participated in this since first hearing of the Cornell 11, women at Cornell University who were denied tenure.

A chair for the event, Leona Barbeck, was appointed and she gathered a committee to plan the event from speaker, to venue, to publicity, registration, and outreach. They met from October to January, and communicated through email on the various responsibilities: deciding on a venue, planning the luncheon, picking a date, marketing the event in consultation with our PR and Newsletter Chair Maria Coppola, and carrying out the registration and costs in consultation with President Anastasia Johnson, and Treasurer Joan Eschner. The members of the committee were: Jan Marino, Joan Spencer, Judy Malamas, Karen Howard, Maryann Hope, Sandra Ihlefeld, Sharron Doerr, Sue Licata, Frances Witnauer.

President Johnson introduced the attendees to AAUW's mission and to the history of the Legal Advocacy Fund, talking about some of the cases that have been supported by LAF.

Flyers were sent to the libraries, and posted in community venues. Contact was made with Talking Leaves, our local bookstore, and the owner arranged to have books at the event for sale. He contributed a portion of their sales back to AAUW. Our speaker was so successful that a number of her books were sold after her lecture, and some attendees brought copies of the books they owned to be autographed. As a result of the success of this program, we are considering having a luncheon featuring a Buffalo composer to raise funds next year for LAF.

*American  
Association  
of University  
Women  
Buffalo Branch*

# LAF Benefit

## Featuring Lauren Belfer



Saturday

January 15, 2011

11:30 A.M

Cost: \$25.00  
(\$5.00 will go to the LAF)

The Protocol Restaurant  
6766 Transit Road  
Williamsville, NY

For additional information,  
contact Fran Witnauer at  
688-5708 or  
grandmafran44@yahoo.com

The AAUW Buffalo Branch will host its annual Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Benefit at The Protocol Restaurant in Williamsville.

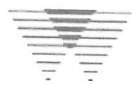
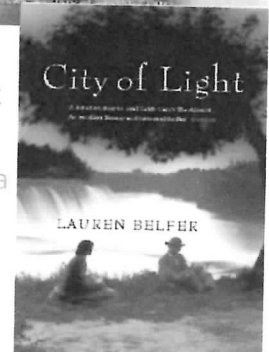
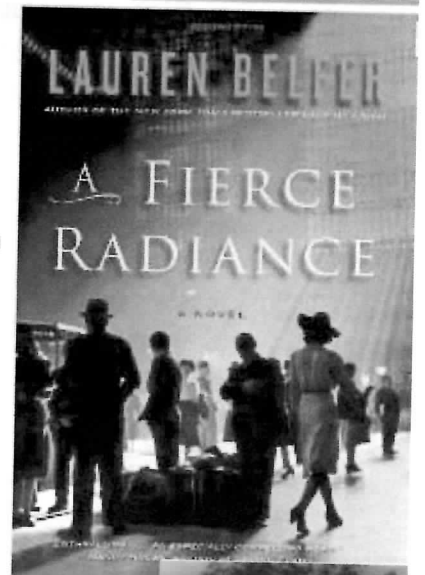
This is the only LAF fundraiser this year, so please mark your calendar and plan to help support this vital aspect of AAUW that continues to help us break barriers. There is a cash bar and non-members are welcome, as always.

Author, Lauren Belfer will present "*Fact into Fiction: Writing A Fierce Radiance.*" Jonathon Welch of Talking Leaves books will also be on-hand to sell copies of the book and Lauren will be happy to sign books at the event. 15 to 20 percent of proceeds going to the LAF.

### About Lauren Belfer

In her new novel, *A Fierce Radiance*, Lauren Belfer envisions New York City in 1941 as seen through the lens of a Life magazine photographer. Her protagonist, Claire Shipley, has assignments that range from shooting the latest Rockette to photographing a young father whose life might be saved by penicillin. Her debut novel, *City of Light*, based in Buffalo, NY, was a New York Times bestseller.

Lauren Belfer was born in Rochester, New York, and grew up in Buffalo, where she attended the Buffalo Seminary. At Swarthmore College, she majored in Medieval Studies. After graduating, she worked as a file clerk at an art gallery, a paralegal, an assistant photo editor at a newspaper, a fact checker at magazines, and as a researcher and associate producer on documentary films. She has an M.F.A. from Columbia University.



AAUW

Breaking through Barriers