

# Advocate

BUFFALO (NY) BRANCH

Vol. CXXVIII, No. 1

September 2017

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>



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## Annual Fall Dinner

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

6:00 pm

***Chef’s Restaurant***

*291 Seneca Street*

*Buffalo, NY 14204*

Please join us for our annual fall dinner!

We will welcome new members, greet old friends, congratulate our scholarship winners, and celebrate our 127th year!

Dinner includes choice of Entrée, Salad, Bread, Coffee/Tea, Punch, and a Cannoli.

**\*Please RSVP by September 6th\***

Complete the reservation form below. Mail it, along with your check for \$19 to Lilyen Mascellino by September 6th. Dinner price includes gratuity.

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](mailto: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!



### Reservation Form (Please fill out one per person)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Select one of the following entrees:

- Cheese Ravioli in meat sauce (plain sauce available upon request)
- Spaghetti parmesan with 2 meatballs
- Broiled Chicken with broccoli, onions, sun-dried tomatoes, and artichokes

Allergy Alert: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the **completed form** along with a check made out to “AAUW Buffalo Branch,” in the amount of **\$19.00** to:

Lilyen Mascellino  
20 Forest Creek Court  
Grand Island, NY 14072

# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY BETTY PREBLE

*"I love to see a young girl go out and grab the world by the lapels" — Maya Angelou*



We know fall is approaching when the Erie County Fair rolls around, and the weather today was perfect for our annual visit. Although I enjoy seeing the animals (I still don't understand what makes one pig better than the next,) looking at the new food oddities (some are really tasty!) and listening to the various spiels, the most fun is really watching people. And their t-shirts. It's so interesting to see the statements they make. I loved the one on a young woman that said "Don't you wish you could hit like a girl?" with a volleyball taking the place of the "O"!

We can at least partially thank Title IX for that kind of spirit. And Title IX continues to help women fighting the ongoing discrimination and sexual abuse on campuses today. AAUW has supported, and continues to support, this act that has had a huge effect on the possibilities for

women and girls.—and is now in danger.

And now it's almost September! We have a program committee working hard to continue our tradition of educational and entertaining programs throughout the year. Our book sale sorting will start soon, and plans for Tech Savvy will, I'm sure, be in the works soon. How else can we be working to help our young girls "go out and grab the world?" Do you have ideas for our next big project? Be thinking about it and let us know!

Please make note of our new members—offer them a ride to the next program!

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

## 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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Mary Crocker  
375 Parkhurst Blvd.  
Buffalo, NY 14223  
(mlcrock@msn.com)

## 2017-2018 BUFFALO BRANCH ELECTED LEADERS

President	Betty Preble
VP Programs	Lilyen Mascellino
VP Membership Recruitment	Diane O'Brien
Co-VP Membership Retention	Jean Hubbard
Co-VP Membership Retention	Berni Lewis
Secretary/Parliamentarian	Lynne Rapin
CFO (Chief Financial Officer)	Barbara Libby
Branch (Operations) Treasurer	Suzanne Licata
EAP (Education Accounts & Program) Treasurer	Mary Crocker
Fundraising Treasurer	Laurie Eikemeyer
Chamberlin/Funds for Education Treasurer	Kate Collins
Scholarship Director	Carol Griffith
Nominating Committee Chair (1 Yr.)	Marguerite Collesano
Nominating Committee Member (2 Yrs.)	Marilynn Todd
Nominating Committee Member (2 Yrs.)	Lynne Tauriello
Nominating Committee Member (1 Yr.)	Kate Collins
Nominating Committee Member (1 Yr.)	Sharon Meer

## BUFFALO BRANCH SEPTEMBER STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

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

### Outlook (AAUW's national magazine) Is Going Digital!

Starting with the summer 2017 issue, *AAUW Advocate* will be going digital. You'll still get the same insight about the issues that affect women and girls the most, but with more content. Make sure we have your preferred email address on file, and look out for this issue in your inbox!

### 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 2017-2018 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 **Mary Crocker, 375 Parkhurst Blvd., Buffalo, NY 14223.**

Please contact Mary at [mlcrock@msn.com](mailto:mlcrock@msn.com) if you have any questions.

### THE HAPPY WANDERERS

We will resume wandering in October. Mary Ellen Shaughnessy and Barbara Carier welcome your suggestions.



### WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 6 pm.

Where: Himalayan Kitchen  
3545 Sheridan Dr., Amherst.  
(South side between Sweet Home Rd. and Millersport Highway)

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

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or [bpilbby1@verizon.net](mailto:bpilbby1@verizon.net) by Sat., Sept. 9th.



### KNITTING GROUP

When: Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 2-4 pm.

Where: Barnes and Noble Café on Transit Rd. near Main St.

What: Bring your knitting and/or crocheting project.

RSVP: Karen Howard at 480-3652 or email [kkhoward@roadrunner.com](mailto:kkhoward@roadrunner.com).



### DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 5:30 pm.

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

Book: *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff & Alex Tresniowski.

Facilitator: Marilyn Carmichael.

Discussion Leader: Judy Malamas.

RSVP: Fran Witnauer at 688-5708 or [grandmafran44@gmail.com](mailto:grandmafran44@gmail.com).



### BEAD WEAVING & JEWELRY MAKING

When: Thursday, Sept. 21, 1-3 pm

Where: Julia Boyer Reinstein Library  
Conference Room

1030 Losson Rd., Cheektowaga.

What: Bring the current project that you are working on. Or come to learn a new hobby.

RSVP: Barbara Weber at 668-5456 or cell 725-7839.



### CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 1 pm. (note the new time)

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

Book: *The Likeness* by Tana French.

Facilitator: Diane Silvestro.

RSVP: Suzanne Grossman at 580-7453.



## ANECDOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

BY BARBARA CARIER, HISTORIAN

Buffalo Branch has a long and admirable history as the local arm of a national organization promoting education and equity for women and girls. Originally part of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae which was founded in 1881, the ACA merged in 1889 with the Western Association of Collegiate Women, and in 1921 with the Southern Association of College Women. This new organization was called the **American Association of University Women**, which has continued to today.



Buffalo Branch was originally called the Western New York Branch when it began in 1890, but became **Buffalo Branch** in 1920.

In future *Advocate* articles, the early activities of the Western New York/Buffalo Branch will be described, hopefully to bring awareness, pride, and inspiration to our members.



# PUBLIC POLICY

BY MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN, PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR

## AN AMERICAN SICKNESS

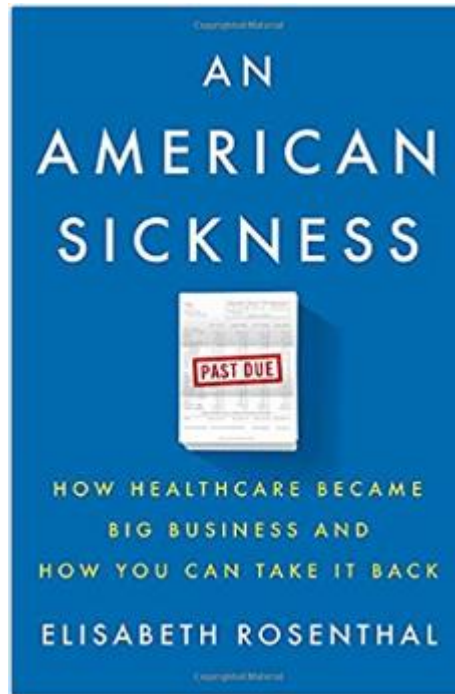
There is no question that American health care is a complicated subject. Both Republicans and Democrats agree on that, if nothing else. Writer Elisabeth Rosenthal, M.D., calls our healthcare system dangerous, expensive (\$3 trillion,) and dysfunctional. She is the author of *An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back*. The mission of her book is to advocate for a return to a system of affordable, evidence-based, patient-centered care. She challenges us to become bolder, more active, and thoughtful about what we demand of our healthcare and the people who deliver it. She calls for our engagement in the politics of promoting the medical care we deserve at a cost that is not outrageous.

She breaks down the highly profitable healthcare business into the individual industries – the hospitals, doctors, insurance companies, drug manufacturers, medical device producers, testing and ancillary services, and contractors. The lack of transparency is highlighted in each of the areas with a wealth of shocking examples and evidence. She provides a set of ten economic rules of the dysfunctional medical market. A few of her examples include:

- More treatment is always better.
- A lifetime of treatment is preferable to a cure.
- Amenities and marketing matter more than good care.
- There is no free choice.

Medicare arrived in the 1960s. The number of Americans under sixty-five covered by private insurance was at its peak between 1968 and 1980. When patients were no longer directly paying cash or writing checks for their care, charges escalated and they were itemized for each encounter and each service. Hospitals hired business people to

handle the influx of lots of money. Soon, there was more attention to the bottom line than to the tradition of medicine. Medicare payments to hospitals increased more than



tenfold from \$3 billion to \$37 billion nationwide. Some of the CEOs of these not-for-profits were paid over \$3 million a year. Profit is called “operating surplus.” Some hospital conglomerates have driven out competition allowing them to raise prices with abandon. Dr. Rosenthal states that thousands of physicians made more than \$1 million each from Medicare in 2012 and dozens more than \$10 million. Well-insured Americans (especially as they age) suffer often from over-testing and services, not for health reasons, but for money.

Direct-to-consumer drug advertising rose from \$166 million in 1993 to \$4.2 billion in 2005. New Zealand and the United States are the only two countries that allow it. We spend double or triple what other developed countries spend on drugs. Many expensive prescription medicines are just reformulations of an older version of the same drugs without improvement. The healthcare indus-

try spends \$15 billion a year on advertising. Only a handful of huge medical device manufacturers dominate the global market thus reducing customer options. The medical industry has become the country’s biggest lobbying force spending nearly half a billion dollars each year. Electronic medical record keeping was originally intended to improve communication between hospitals and physicians but it has become a business weapon to effectively protect a market. Why can’t all that information be placed on a chip card and carried in a wallet?

Every other developed country delivers healthcare for a fraction of what it costs in the U.S. We have become too complacent about transparency of fees, out-of-network physicians and labs, cost of tests/treatments, cheaper alternatives, warranties/guarantees, quality of care, protesting bills, and health insurance premiums/deductibles/co-payments. The book appendix provides websites to help calculate costs for procedures, prescription drugs, and vetting hospitals.

Dr. Rosenthal holds an M.D. from Harvard. She spent 22 years as a writer for The New York Times and is now editor-in-chief of Kaiser Health News. Even though we aren’t likely to adopt her policy prescriptions anytime soon, she has made a powerful thought provoking case for a healthy debate to start soon.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**AAUW NYS  
District 1 Meeting  
Saturday, November 4, 2017**

At Michaels, 4885 Southwestern Blvd.,  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
**Topic: Immigration**

Melissa White, District 1 Coordinator,  
[68522melissa@roadrunner.com](mailto:68522melissa@roadrunner.com)

# BOOK SALE REPORT

By JAYNE MURRAY AND JOAN KERNAN



kudos also to our Steering Committee—Marianne Crapol, Mary Georger, Cindy Koch, Janet Ostrow, Betty Preble, and Roberta Travis! Our volunteer recruiter and scheduler, Judy Weidemann, has again kept meticulous track of our volunteer hours – over 4,700 hours contributed by over 130 people!

Once again, our book sale was a resounding success as we almost matched last year's total gross sales, over \$74,000. Approximately 150,000 books were donated to our 63<sup>rd</sup> annual Book Sale! Congratulations and **Thank You** to our extraordinary volunteers who helped lift, tote, sort, recycle, research, evaluate, publicize, transport, store, pack, promote, and scout. After deducting our expenses including rent, utilities, table rentals, moving costs (of the books and equipment,) printing (postcards, receipts, etc.,)



find a complete small section on a specific military battle! Another found a book that he had been looking for forever. He happily took it home, only to learn from his wife that their son had also found it (not at our sale) and was going to surprise him. At least he was warned so he could still look surprised! Our "book club lady" was back again. Her group has its books set up for the next year – she found ten books that we had nine copies of! For all we know, we may be suppliers for several book clubs.

Jean Hubbard once again generously allowed us to use her garage for storage and Fred Howard skillfully managed to get all of our equipment safely tucked in. We very much appreciate the strong arms of the young Boy Scouts, their leaders, and Pat Baker's grandsons. We are grateful to Mac



Over 95 of our own branch members contributed to these totals whether it was one shift, weekly sorting, and/or many shifts during the sale. Thanks especially to Janet Ostrow and Judy Clare (collectibles,) Pat Baker (specially-priced section,) Cindy Koch (shift supervisor,) Judy Huber (table section chair,) and Pat Swift-MacClennan (PR.)

Another 41 non-members - husbands/grandsons/friends/prospective members/book sale lovers, etc, joined us on a semi-regular basis and we are tremendously grateful to them.



security, and miscellaneous supplies, we expect our net total to be over \$50,000.

Where does the money go? We are proud to be a major sponsor of scholarships for young women in Western New York, in addition to supporting our own "Tech Savvy" program and fellowships at the national level.

Many thanks to Jacquie Walker for her ongoing support publicizing our event and getting the weather people at the station to push for us ...."raining early this afternoon, good day to go buy a book!" Enthusiastic



All tables and sections were well-organized by our table chairs with many even including sub-genres. One customer was delighted to

who helped put up the lights in the foreign language/pets/music section, among many other tasks; Mark, our security guard, who also brought delicious cakes; Ron Gilmore, who despite his broken arm, still came to help; and Jan Vine, our "announcer." We continue our search for younger, sturdier bodies to help with next year's sale!

This year we had 32,000 lbs. of unsold

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Book Sale Report, cont.

books, which we packed into 37 gaylords (heavy cardboard boxes measuring 40"x48"x36" and must be seen to be believed) resting on *essential* wooden pallets. Initially,



we had our pallets "disappear" which resulted in a few workers going on a pallet scavenger



hunt behind local Big Box stores, after gaining their permission, of course! These leftover books were sold for approximately \$640 to DiscoverBooks.com for recycling and/or sale and/or donation.



If you love books, please consider joining us to sort the donated books and working on the actual sale. One worker says that opening a box of books is like a box of chocolates... "you never know what you are going to get." It could be a book you've loved in the past or a rare treasure. Next year's sale will be held May 30 – June 3, 2018, and sorting and good conversation will begin at Calvary Episcopal Church (20 Milton St., Williamsville, NY) Tuesday and Wednesday mornings starting September 19. Stop by sometime and we'll get you started on a very rewarding experience.



## BOOK SALE UPDATE

Late breaking news!

To accommodate those who can't join us during the day, we will be sorting at Calvary Church the **third Tuesday of each month, 6-8 pm starting Sept. 19th**. We will **NOT** advertise this as a collection time although "sorters" may certainly bring donations.

If you are going to bring books and need assistance, please let us know at:

[buffaloauw@gmail.com](mailto:buffaloauw@gmail.com).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BY DIANE O'BRIEN, MEMBERSHIP VP

### MaryBeth Cunningham-Zanghi

333 Parker Street  
Cheektowaga, NY 14206  
Home phone: 894-4465  
Cell: 573-6006  
Email: [marybzanghi@gmail.com](mailto:marybzanghi@gmail.com)

Degrees:  
D'Youville College BA Psychology, Special Education 1980  
University at Buffalo Medical Psychology Educational Counseling/Special Education 1985  
Occupation: CSE Chairperson for Buffalo Public School.

### Sharon Daly

213 Windemere Blvd.  
Egbertsville, NY 14226  
Home phone: 836-5201  
Cell: 472-7760  
Email: [sdaly@buffalo.edu](mailto:sdaly@buffalo.edu) or

[BU7.2012@yahoo.com](mailto:BU7.2012@yahoo.com)

University of Akron, Ohio BA English 1967  
University of Buffalo MIS Information Systems 1980.  
Occupation: Retired, UB School of Nursing  
Skills and Interests: Database Management, Book Sale Committee, Cultural Interests, Newsletter, Tech Savvy, Clueless Mystery Book Club, Dinner by the Book.

### Gerianne Ronsen

72 Norwood Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
Phone: 886-1597  
E-mail: [garonsen@sronsen.com](mailto:garonsen@sronsen.com)  
Interests: Clueless Mystery Book Club, Dinner by the Book, WNY Culinary Delights.

### Deirdre O'Mahony

4909 Winding Lane  
Clarence, NY 14031

Home phone: 759-0995  
Cell: 308-9942  
E-mail:  
[dmobooks@gmail.com](mailto:dmobooks@gmail.com).

Degrees:  
Elmira College Art Education 1965.  
Interests and Groups: Book Sale Committee, WNY Culinary Delights, Bead Weaving.

### Karen Hoffmann

299 South Cayuga Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
Home phone: 631-0786  
Cell: 907-8666  
Email: [karjhoff@aol.com](mailto:karjhoff@aol.com)  
Degrees:  
University at Buffalo BA Anthropology 1967.



# MEMBERS ATTEND SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT CAZENOVIA

BY BETTY PREBLE, PRESIDENT

Even though we sometimes resist giving up time for leadership training, AKA professional development, it really is a motivating and informative experience and time well spent. So it was for the AAUW-NYS annual Summer Leadership Conference held at Cazenovia College this past July 21-23. Five of our Buffalo Branch members attended – Laurie Eikemeyer, Cynthia Mehary, Carol Griffith, Melissa White, and Betty Preble and came back re-inspired! Here are a few highlights from this rewarding and fun weekend:

State President **Roli Wendorf** was warm and gracious as she gave her State President's report.

**Cordy Galligan**, AAUW VP for Marketing and Communications, stayed with us all weekend giving several excellent workshops throughout the conference. We all learned a lot more about



AAUW resources including many videos (all of which can be found on YouTube and the national website,) research programs/ workshops, and the Two-Minute Activist program (you can now receive timely alerts on your cellphone – just text the word “AAUW” to 21333!) We also learned sensible and easy ways to harness our energy into AAUW action and “small but mighty” ideas that make a difference. These ranged from sites for making terrific posters easily ([www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com)),

to building might through collaborations, to learning and practicing short and sweet “elevator speeches” (AAUW is a national membership organization that changes the climate for women and girls,) to clarifying our purpose (you can't be mighty if you don't serve a purpose!).

A presentation by Brockport junior **Bailey Morse**, winner of the AAUW Campus Action Project Grant for her team's month-

long effort to “Start a Revolution” to create substantial change regarding understanding biases, developing cross cultural competencies, and featuring a “Know your Rights Panel.”

A presentation by **Dr. Karen Pastorello**, Women and Gender Studies Program Chair, Tompkins Cortland Community College, on Labor Feminism

**Break out meetings** with our counterparts (training and specific job skills) and our District I branch members

**Game night**, movement with a ballet teacher, interaction with members from across the state, nice dorms, good food, an all-inclusive price of \$115, and ice cream all the time!

**Worth it...absolutely! Join us next year – mark July 20-22, 2018 on your calendars for a weekend of fun and inspiration!**

## PUBLICITY BEGINS WITH OUR MEMBERS

BY LAURIE EIKEMEYER, PUBLICITY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Our recently-formed publicity committee is hard at work, creating ways to gain community visibility for our Buffalo Branch.

As members, we are committed to furthering AAUW's mission of improving the lives of women across Western New York and our country. What is your passion? What made you decide to become an AAUW member? Do you ever read an article or see something on television that stirred you to action? One of the best ways we make a difference, as an organization, is to make our voices heard. We can gain visibility through the media, writing letters to the editor of publications, and by writing to political outlets advocating AAUW (non-partisan) positions.

Our committee discussed at length how best to accomplish this. We have so many assets, -- each of our members -- full of knowledge,

experience, and talents of their own. Some of us are not so experienced and may wish to find our voice. We wondered if any of our members would be interested in forming an editorial group. Perhaps it could be an interest group that meets monthly?

Would you be willing to write letters or media releases? Do you have a relationship with someone in a news/media outlet and you might be willing to serve as a media liaison? Perhaps you are interested in photography and would be willing to serve on the committee as a photographer? We need you!

Publicity begins with our members. It is through each of you that we build our membership, hold our nationally-recognized Tech Savvy program, raise more than \$50,000 a year for scholarships in our fabulous annual



book sale, and much more. We do this as members of a strong, vibrant organization. We begin now, to take a step forward, beyond the amazing work we've always done. We are proposing a committee interested in some activism by writing about AAUW's current issues. Our publicity committee is willing to get you started, provide you with resources, and guide you on your way. You have only to contact us with your interest.

If you are interested, please contact Melissa White at [68522melissa@roadrunner.com](mailto:68522melissa@roadrunner.com). And as always, thank you for all you do for AAUW and our branch!

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

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

**Sept. 19 at 6 pm - Branch Fall Dinner** at Chef's

**Oct. 4th at 6:15 pm—Board Meeting** at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, West Seneca

**Nov. 4 - District 1 Meeting** at Michaels, Hamburg.

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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