

# Advocate

BUFFALO (NY) BRANCH

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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!



## OCTOBER PROGRAM

### Behind the Scenes Tour of the Pan-American Exposition Buffalo Museum of Science

1020 Humboldt Pkwy, Buffalo, NY 14211

Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 6 -8 pm

October's Program will take place at the Buffalo Museum of Science. We will be taken on a "Behind the Scenes Tour of the Pan-American Exposition," as the museum played a significant role at that time. We will see artifacts that thrilled visitors more than a century ago.

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017  
 Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
 Cost: \$25.00 for non-museum members or \$15.00 for museum members  
 RSVP: By October 5th



**Important: Your check must reach me by October 5th to secure your spot. Spaces are limited!**

### Reservation Form

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

Mail the **completed form** along with a check made out to “AAUW Buffalo Branch,” in the amount of **\$25 for non-museum members or \$15 for museum members** to:

Lilyen Mascellino  
 20 Forest Creek Court  
 Grand Island, NY 14072

## AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH IS NOW ON TWITTER!



AAUW Buffalo Branch is now adding its voice and focus on AAUW initiatives to Twitter!

Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/@AAUWBuffaloNY>

If you haven't already, you can **Like us on Facebook** at <http://facebook.com/aauw.buffalo>



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY BETTY PREBLE



*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."*

- Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

As anyone who reads my column knows, I almost always quote women – mostly because I think they usually have more of substance to say. However, I couldn't resist this one this month. Taking the quote at face value (leaving the book itself,) let's think about it. Partisan thoughts aside, we have as a country gone in the past few decades (the current situation has been brewing for a LONG time!) from a government headed by cooperative leaders with the ability to compromise when necessary, to a congress which doesn't seem to want to even acknowledge that there's another

point of view, and a president who sets the tone of the capital through insulting tweets. I think what sometimes bothers me most about Washington these days isn't Washington itself but how we, as citizens, have evolved in reaction to it. Whether an idea was something proposed by Clinton, Bush, Obama, or Trump, many react immediately solely based on who proposed it. Have we forgotten our own ideas of reasonableness and thoughtfulness? How can we, as educated women, change this climate? I think the first step is to ignore tweets, fake news (check it out before you "share" it,) slanted headlines, and partisan commentary in the news. Carefully read the articles, think through what is actually being proposed, be realistic about the possible ramifications, and then do what you can to have the government do what you think is right. That could be letters to the editor, shares on social media, letters to your representatives, or using the AAUW two-minute activist.

Let's be part of the solution, not a part of the problem!

## FROM THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

BY LYNNE RAPIN, SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN



After President Betty Preble brought the meeting to order, AAUW Buffalo Branch started the year just like I remember starting the school year: all board members, veterans and newbies alike, introduced themselves and described some goals for the year ahead.

Agenda items were discussed in an orderly fashion – a variety of reports were presented.

Vice President for Programs, Lilyen Mascellino, has created a year's schedule of interesting, informative, and exciting events for AAUW members. Be sure to check the Advocate each month to learn about what's

happening in our AAUW branch.

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Carol Griffith, put in "summer hours" as they updated scholarship web pages and streamlined the application process for some of our scholarships.

Our newly-formed Publicity Committee, chaired by Laurie Eikemeyer and Pat Miceli, met with other committee members over the summer as well. They've set three goals: increase branch visibility, increase member participation in the book sale as well as branch programs, and increase and develop AAUW relationships with other community organizations.

Additionally, a number of members participated in AAUW NYS Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College in July.

### 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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### NEW!!!

**Advocate is now on the web! Beginning with this issue, the Advocate will be available on our website at:**

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

**\*Please note all personal information will be removed from the online version\***

# BOOK SALE REPORT

BY JAYNE MURRAY AND  
JOAN KERNAN

## Book Sale Sorting Resumes!



Book Sale sorting began Tuesday, September 19 and continues each Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30-noon at Calvary Episcopal Church, 20 Milton St., Williams-ville, NY 14221. For those who want to help but cannot join us during the day, we will have evening book sorting hours this year from 6-8 pm, the third Tuesday of each month, starting October 17. We will NOT be advertising this as a collection time, although "sorters" may bring donations.

Our \$50,000 in scholarship awards earned from this year's book sale would not have been possible without the year-round commitment of our dedicated book sorters. Whether you have one morning to join us, are available each week or only once a month, we welcome your help! No need to sign up, just show up! Fun is always included. We have experienced members to train you in our very simple guidelines for organizing our saleable treasures. Handy-dandy tip-sheets will be posted for easy reference.

If you have books to donate and need assistance, please let us know at: [aauwweb@buffalo.edu](mailto:aauwweb@buffalo.edu)

Our "We Want Books" bookmarks, in colorful hot pink this year, will be available at the sorting site. Stop in and pick up a handful to distribute to your neighbors and friends, church-groups, book clubs, etc., post one on a community bulletin boards, or perhaps leave one in a waiting room. This is how we obtain so many of our used books and get the word out about our Book Sale. If you can't stop in, let us know and we will get bookmarks to you!

# BUFFALO BRANCH OCTOBER STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

## THE HAPPY WANDERERS

We will resume wandering hopefully in November. Mary Ellen Shaughnessy and Barb Carier welcome your suggestions.



## WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 6 pm  
Where: Cocos, 888 Main St. Buffalo, NY.  
What: AAUW Study Group for members to share dinner and conversation.  
RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or [bplibby1@verizon.net](mailto:bplibby1@verizon.net) by Fri., Oct. 6.



## KNITTING GROUP

When: Wednesday, Oct. 11 from 2-4 pm  
Where: Barnes and Noble Café on Transit Rd. near Main St.  
What: Bring your knitting and/or crochet project.  
RSVP: Karen Howard at 480-3652 or email [kkhoward@roadrunner.com](mailto:kkhoward@roadrunner.com).



## DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 5:30 pm  
Where: Family Tree Restaurant 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst Interior room reserved for the book club.  
Book: *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende  
Facilitator: Fran Witnauer  
Discussion Leader: Mary Ann Hope  
RSVP Fran Witnauer at 688-5708 or [grandmafran44@gmail.com](mailto:grandmafran44@gmail.com).



## BEAD WEAVING & JEWELRY MAKING

When: Thursday, Oct. 19, 1-3 pm  
Where: Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, Conference Room, 1030 Losson Rd., Cheektowaga  
What: Bring our 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, Oct. 25 at 1 PM. (note the new time.)  
Where: Bob Evans Restaurant Mtg. Room, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst.  
Book: *The Murder of Magpies* by Judith Flanders  
Facilitator: Barb Libby  
RSVP: Suzanne Grossman at 580-7453.



Questions? Contact Judy Huber  
688-8170 or email  
[judyhuber62@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhuber62@yahoo.com)

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

# ANECDOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

BY BARBARA CARIER, HISTORIAN

There have been small groups of members gathering for special interests since early in our history. For example, in the May 1986 Newsletter, there were announcements about the Study and Interest Groups meetings that month: The **Music Group** met at the home of Ruth Seitz, the **French Group** met at the home of Sylvia Morris, the **World Problems Discussion Group** met at Grace Scott's to examine *Democracy in Latin America*, and the **Friday Afternoon Literature Group** met at the home of Josephine Herman. **Thursday Night Bridge, Book Review Group, Spanish Conversation Group, and Evening Literature Group** all met to pursue

their interests. That month the Branch Achievement Award was presented to Lois Dabney, an accomplished member, at the May Luncheon at the Park Country Club.



Do you recognize any of the names mentioned here? Do you wish we still had a group of members getting together for these purposes? We can start a new Egroup for these or other interests. Call Judy Huber at 688-8170!



# PUBLIC POLICY

BY MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN, PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR

## Don't Just Sit and Watch

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos is determined to replace "the failed system" of sexual assault enforcement on college and university campuses that was established during the Obama administration. A key element of her criticism is the standard known as "preponderance of the evidence" rather than "reasonable doubt" when weighing sexual misconduct cases. While some organizations and individuals claim that she is out of step with reality, she emphasized that the current flawed approaches to sexual misconduct are bad for both the victim and the accused.

The Western New York Consortium of Higher Education has been addressing the sexual assault problem on college campuses for several years with a task force on



sexual assault awareness, and another on prevention and compliance. The focus has been on creating a dialogue on education, training, sharing information, addressing policy changes, and education of leadership. The mission is a commitment to preventing violence through educational interventions and effective processes. DeVos has yet to lay out her full plan to revamp the Obama guidelines. Federal and state laws and regulations need to be aligned. She said the department would have a formal process to get input and to establish a more effective and just system. She said she wants to ensure fairness for victims and accused perpetrators. She repeatedly emphasized the rights of accused students, saying university kangaroo courts destroy their lives. Critics say these makeshift courts on campuses are ill-equipped to judge such cases with hearings that lack due-process protections. The CEO of the National Women's Law Center

said DeVos' speech was "a blunt attack on survivors of sexual assault."

For many years, university officials are said to have ignored sexual assault allegations in order to avoid negative publicity and a complicated process of dealing with cases that are often difficult to prove. In 2014, AAUW analysis of data released by the U.S. Department of Education showed that 91 percent of college campuses reported zero incidents of rape. This did not reflect the reality of climate surveys or

academic research. There are many regulations that should guide campus procedures when a sexual assault has been alleged, among them Title IX and the Clery Act. The Clery Act requires colleges and universities

receiving federal aid to keep and disclose crime information from on, or near, the campus each school year. Schools should be prepared with a plan, have experts on campus, give people power to change behaviors, create facilities to provide help, and develop a viable alcohol policy and program. In New York State, *Enough is Enough* included a definition of affirmative consent and references to bystanders acting in good faith.

Is the current approach working? Does giving the assaulter more protections validate the assumption that victims of sexual assault often lie about their assault? Does it strengthen victim blaming? Will it make it more difficult for sexual assault survivors to get the justice they deserve? DeVos mentioned a series of proposals by Harvard Law School faculty members, who have been highly critical of the Obama guidelines, as one possible way to restore fairness and due

process. Four such experts wrote to the Education Department describing how many "terrified" college administrators "over-complied" with the Obama administration's directive. Colleges have adopted definitions of sexual wrongdoing that include "conduct that is merely unwelcome ... even if the per-

son accused had no way of knowing it was unwanted, and even if the accuser's sense that it was unwelcome arose after the encounter." Meanwhile, they said "the procedures for enforcing these definitions are frequently so unfair as to be truly shocking."



They further stated "If DeVos' legacy is to defuse Title IX's effectiveness in combatting sexual assault, that will be a tragedy. If its intervention means that weapon is wielded with more precision and fairness, that will be an impressive achievement from a surprising source."

## ERIE COUNTY CITIZENS' BUDGET REVIEW COMMISSION

Would you be interested in being a member of the Erie County Citizens' Budget Review Commission? There are no women on the commission. We know that a woman could provide valuable insights. If interested in applying, simply send your resume and a cover letter to the chair of the Erie County Legislature (currently John Mills) at [92 Franklin St., 4th Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202](mailto:92FranklinSt.,4thFloor,Buffalo,NY14202). For additional information see website link: [www2.erie.gov/legislature/index.php?q=erie-county-citizens-budget-review-committee](http://www2.erie.gov/legislature/index.php?q=erie-county-citizens-budget-review-committee).



The League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara is contacting women's organizations to encourage members to apply.

# 2017 JACQUIE WALKER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Jacquie Walker Scholarship Committee is pleased to present the winner of the 2017 \$5,000 award:

**Lauren Carlin.**

Lauren, from Elma, New York, graduated from Iroquois High School in 2015. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree at Hilbert College, majoring in Business Management, and intends to go on for an MBA at St. Bonaventure University. President of two campus business organizations, Lauren is also Head Peer Leader, mentoring students and leading the first year student service project. As one of 50 selected scholars in the leadership scholarship program, she works on leadership learning through service learning, and plans workshop and guest speakers. Her GPA of 3.9 led to her selection as a member of the Honors Program, which has demanding requirements.



Jacquie Walker, Lauren Carlin and her parents.

Lauren fully exemplifies the spirit of community service, in that she has joyfully participated actively since Middle School. Not only does she participate, she has led project after project from school to community to beyond our borders to the Dominican Republic and soon to be in Nicaragua. You will find her delivering Meals on Wheels, helping at food pantries, serving in soup kitchens, collecting school uniforms and school supplies, bringing joy to children and working to bring financial literacy to survivors of human trafficking—all the while getting to know people as individuals.

Her peers have recognized her for her outstanding character by choosing Lauren to receive the Sister Edmunette Paczesny Award for demonstrating Franciscan values at an outstanding level. Lauren's delight in serving others shines through her application in her own words and the glowing words of her community service and academic recommenders.

We enthusiastically present Lauren to you as one who exemplifies the spirit of community service and high academics required by the Jacquie Walker AAUW Scholarship.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

By JUDY WEIDEMANN

ACES Ensemble Concert  
711 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Amherst, NY.

Free Concert "Northern Lights"  
Sunday, October 8, 2017  
3:00 PM.

Kavinoky Theatre  
320 Porter Ave.  
Buffalo, NY.  
829-7668

"The Producers"  
October 1, 2017.

Irish Classical  
Theatre  
625 Main St.  
Buffalo, NY.

853-4282  
"Design for Living"  
October 1 – 8, 2017.



## DISTRICT 1 CONFERENCE

### AAUW Buffalo Branch Presents

## Immigration: The Effects on Women and Their Lives

**Saturday, November 4, 2017**  
**10:00 am (check-in begins at 9:30)**  
**Michaels, 4885 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075**  
**\$24 person includes lunch**  
**RSVP by October 25, 2017**



### Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and check payable to "AAUW Buffalo Branch" in the amount of \$24 per person to:

Melissa White  
38 Embassy Square, #8  
Tonawanda, NY 14150

For Questions, please contact Melissa White, District 1 Coordinator at:  
68522melissa@roadrunner.com or 716.984.3592

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

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

**Oct. 18 at 6 pm - October program** at Buffalo Museum of Science.

**Nov. 1 at 6:15 pm - Board Meeting** at Daemen College, Amherst.

**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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