



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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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

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!



DECEMBER

FOREST LAWN'S PRODUCTION OF *IT WAS A WONDERFUL LIFE*



December 9, 2017, 2:00-4:00 pm
Forest Lawn Chapel
1411 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, 14209



This is a critically-acclaimed original production as the historic and festively-decorated Forest Lawn Chapel is transformed into a live theater! Narrator John Lay, the first person to take up permanent residence at Forest Lawn in 1850, will introduce others who have joined him over the last 164 years at Forest Lawn. They will create musical, comical, and poignant glimpses of Christmases past when they enjoyed life on this side of the lawn. Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives, joins the production this year.

Please Note:

We will meet at Forest Lawn Chapel at 1:30 to enjoy hot cider. Show starts at 2:00. Once inside the cemetery, follow the white line on the road, as it leads to the Chapel.

JANUARY

"LIVING BLIND IN A SIGHTED WORLD"

With Guest Speaker **Carol Fleischman**
Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:15 pm

Bob Evans Restaurant Meeting Room
1925 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst, NY
(Exit #3 off Rt. 290, going North)



Carol's humorous talk will describe how she has overcome her blindness with the help of her seeing eye dog, Tino. She will tell how she handles daily living activities. Today's technology has also become an important part of her life. Carol is an author and has written a children's book, *Nadine, My Funny and Trusty Guide Dog*. Her many articles about being blind have appeared in the Buffalo News, Chicken Soup for the Soul, and Guideposts. Come and hear Carol speak and share her special knowledge!

RSVP: Contact Diane O'Brien at 689-9442 or e-mail her at obnfam@roadrunner.com by Sunday, January 21.

Indicate your attendance by selecting one or both of the following:

- 6:15 Dinner off the menu
- 7:30 Carol's presentation

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY BETTY PREBLE

Research has shown that women will look at a new role and say, "Well, I can do these five things, but there are two areas where I don't have experience." Men seem to say, "Hey, I can do five of the seven, I should definitely put myself forward!"

-- Mary Barra, CEO of General Motors

I was reminded of this while reading the morning paper and listening to the radio during the day today. I cannot personally conceive of moving an entire hospital full of patients and staff to another facility in just a day or two – an overwhelming task. However, it seems to be going on flawlessly. But what would one expect – the overall move was coordinated by a woman! She (Cassandra Church) is probably a woman who thought there were a couple of areas where she didn't have experience, but took it on anyway and excelled!

Our community has a wonderful history of such women.

Local non-profit institutions, especially, give us great examples.

- I'm a classical music fan, so the first name that comes to my mind is JoAnn Falletta of the BPO. What a treasure she has been, both in directing its wonderful concert schedule and in bringing its music to the community AND to the world with tours and recordings!
- Where would the zoo have been without Donna Fernandes? Norah B. Fletchall, our new director, will have some big shoes to fill!
- The Science Museum, with Marisa Wigglesworth at the helm, is finally re-opening the observatory.
- How about the History Museum, with Melissa Brown? "One of America's Premier Museums" per Ford W. Bell, American Alliance of Museums.
- And don't forget the Buffalo & Erie County Library, Babeville, The Benjamin Gallery, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, etc!

This is just the start. We'll talk about our business leaders (and shortage thereof) another time.

New York State has a history of politically active women going back to our oldest suffragettes. I look forward to "hearing" from Shirley Chisholm at our December program. She was the first African American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (where she served from 1969 to 1982), the first woman from a major party to run for President of the United States, and is also the newest cast



member to join the Forest Lawn annual play.

Tell us about others! But in the meantime, remember to show our daughters, nieces, granddaughters, OURSELVES, that we can do it even if we're missing those two areas of experience! AND – one place to comfortably start is a position on your local AAUW Buffalo Branch board. Contact the nominating chair, Marguerite Collesano, if you're interested in serving!

Hope to see you all soon!

Addition to Branch Roster

Connie Mercurio
213 Rochelle Park
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Home phone: 833-7464
Email: cmerc266@gmail.com

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



Thanks to our members and their friends, word is getting out about our book sale as indicated by the steady influx of books each week. Keep spreading the word and distributing our book-marks!

Sorting at the book sale site will continue during December with the exception of the weeks of Christmas and New Year's. The site will be closed for donations and sorting on December 26th and 27th and January 2nd and 3rd.

During the break, why not take an hour or two to clean out that book-case in your child's room that you have been meaning to empty for years. Or better yet, when your kids are home during the holidays, ask them to fill a few boxes with their books – and remember, like your kids, we don't want those old textbooks either, so please recycle them!

Donations and sorting will resume January 9th and 10th at Calvary Episcopal Church from 9:30-noon (20 Milton St., Williamsville, NY). Happy Holidays and see you next year!



BUFFALO BRANCH DECEMBER STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

We will resume wandering soon. Mary Ellen Shaughnessy and Barb Carrier welcome your suggestions.



WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wednesday Dec. 13th at 6 pm.
Where: Rizottos, 930 Maple Rd. Williamsville (just east of North Forest).
What: AAUW Interest Group for members to share dinner and conversation.
RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or bplibby1@verizon.net by Mon. Dec. 11th.



KNITTING GROUP

When: Wednesday, Dec. 13th 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



BEAD WEAVING & JEWELRY MAKING

When: Thursday, Dec. 20th from 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.



DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wednesday, Dec. 20th at 5:30 pm
Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst
Room reserved for the book club
Book: *A Woman's Place* by Lynn Austin
Facilitator: Sue Licata
Discussion Leader: Lynn Rapin
RSVP: Fran Witnauer at 688.5708 or grandmafran44@gmail.com



CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wednesday, Dec. 27th at 1 PM. (note the new time)
Where: Bob Evans Restaurant Mtg. Room, 1925 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst
Book: Readers Choice. Open Discussion.
RSVP: Suzanne Grossman at 580-7453



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

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Christine Ander

519 Virginia St.
Apt. 3
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: 491-9509
Email: cmarieander@gmail.com



Degrees:

SUNY Fredonia, BS Chemistry 2008
University at Buffalo, BS Medical Technology 2012
Occupation: Medical Technologist VAMC.
Skills and Interests: Event Arrangement, Scholarship Management, Book Sale Committee, Scholarship Committees, Tech Savvy, Dinner by the Book.

PUBLIC POLICY

BY MARIAN DEUTSCHMAN, PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR

Have our messages lost our basic respect for truth?

Have you noticed that, now more than ever, people of different ideological backgrounds seem to live in their own separate universes? Unknown forces seem to be shaping our views and actions in the Trump era. A recent article by Jerry Olson, Penn State Professor Emeritus of Marketing, addresses how audiences perceive messages.

Olson claims that communicators have limited direct influence over how an audience understands a message because emotions are the key to how messages are interpreted. He

quotes neuroscientist Antonio Damasio who says “we are not thinking creatures that feel; we are feeling creatures that think.” We seek to process information with the least amount of effort. Cognitive psychology and neuroscience reveal much about how the brain works.

Author Brian Resnick lists an array of messaging problems; among them is motivated reasoning. He suggests that rooting for a team changes our perception of the world. Why do we have such a different understanding of what was said or what happened? Our tendency is to come to conclusions we’re already likely to believe. One example he provides: When Gallup polled Americans the week before and the week after the presidential election, Democrats and Republicans flipped their perceptions of the economy. But nothing had actually changed about the economy. What changed was which team was winning. Our unconscious reactions to messages have greater influence on our interpretations and behavior than our conscious responses. We’re simply quick to recognize information that confirms what we already know, which makes us blind to facts that discount it. The author further states that people who are most well-informed about politics are also most stubborn about the facts. Many studies have shown

that solid grounding in the same facts does not guarantee the same conclusions. We also face a lot of pressure to live up to our groups’ expectations. The more information we have, the more we bend it to fit our political goals, much like politicians who bend what they know to fit their political goals. Have you noticed that an attack on our strongly held beliefs is an attack on the self? Our partisan identities get mixed up with our personal identities.

Metaphors often reveal the unconscious orientations that direct our thoughts and feelings.

The moral gut-level foundations that influence our world view are somewhat consistent over our lifetimes. We don’t seem to

realize that people have moral foundations that are different from ours, therefore the liberal’s argument may not sway the conservative.

We learn what is socially acceptable by watching other people. Resnick claims President Trump changed people’s perceptions about what is appropriate and not appropriate. Is Trump really saying what a lot of Americans are thinking? An article by Alex Altman and Sean Gregory looked at Trump’s playbook. “He often tells his supporters, I’m one of you. I’m on your side, and I’m willing to endure the ridicule of the elites in order to say out loud what you are thinking.” Negative messages, based on fear, are more likely to be retained. A Republican consultant said that Trump has “the unique ability to bring down the discourse and drag down his opponents to his level, so that their arguments seem even more ridiculous than his.” How do you respond to a President who uses deflection and distraction and chooses his battles to benefit himself? This is an attempt to explain why 33% of Americans seldom deviate from continuing to support the President’s job performance.



NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING



BY LYNNE RAPIN, SECRETARY / PARLIAMENTARIAN

November’s Board meeting was held at Daemen College with eighteen board members in attendance.

After introductions, information on membership recruitment and retention as well as various financial reports were presented by their respective chairs and treasurers.

Vice-President for Programs, **Lilyen Mascellino**, indicated that she has received positive feedback for the October program held at the Buffalo Museum of Science. It was a behind-the-scenes view of the Pan American Exposition held in Buffalo in 1901. Next will be Forest Lawn’s production of *It Was a Wonderful Life* on Saturday, December 9.

Carol Griffith, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, indicated that 2018 scholarship application information has been updated on the AAUW Buffalo website. (<http://aauw.buffalo.edu/>)

The Public Relations Committee, chaired by **Pat Miceli** and **Laurie Eikemeyer**, is focusing on finding local resources in which to publicize AAUW Buffalo events. Branch activities are now posted on both Facebook and Twitter.

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

Like us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/aauw.buffalo>.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

BY JUDY WEIDEMANN



Call each venue for performance or exhibition dates and starting times.

Albright-Knox Art Gallery

1285 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222
882-8700

"Picturing Niagara" continues

Through March 25, 2018

"Out of Sight! Art of the Senses"

Through January 28, 2018

"Takashi Murakami: The Deep End of the Universe"

Through January 28, 2018

Amherst Chamber Ensemble

At Trinity United Methodist Church
711 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Amherst, NY

"A Classical Christmas"

Wednesday, December 20, 7:30 pm

Concert is free of charge.

Burchfield Penney Art Center

SUNY 1300 Elmwood
Buffalo, NY 14220

"Art in Craft Media"

Through January 28, 2018

Participants in this biennial exhibition were selected by Monica Moses, editor-in-chief of American Craft Magazine. This exhibit is made possible by the Sylvia Rosen Endowment for Fine Art in Craft Media with support from the Margaret Mead endowment.

MusicalFare Theatre

4380 Main Street
Amherst, NY 14226

(On Daemen College Campus)

"Violet" continues through December 3, 2017. Local theater critic, Anthony Chase, has praised the play, particularly the performance of young Violet.

Shea's Theater

646 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
847-1410



"The Lion King" plays from December 13, 2017 to January 7, 2018
Lion cub and future king, Simba, searches for his identity. His eagerness to please others and his penchant for testing boundaries sometimes get him in trouble. Come and "find the love."

Unity Gallery

1243 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY
882-0391

"INSight: Everyday Visions"

Photos by former AAUW collaborator, Laura Wright

Through December 31, 2017

The Kavinoky Theatre and the Irish Classical Theatre are dark during December 2017.

A Very Special Holiday Event

On Sunday, December 10, 2017, the traditional Christmas Tree at the Albright Knox Art Gallery will be lit. The lighting will be followed by a concert from the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. The tree will be on view in the Albright-Knox's Auditorium. It features the 18th Century



Neapolitan crèche given to the Albright Knox in memory of Helen Northrup Knox by her close friend Mrs. Howell H. Howard. The crèche represents a dramatic Nativity scene. The figurines' faces express vivid emotions and their poses include emphatic gestures. The setting for the crèche simulates the steep rock of the Neapolitan coastal area.

This set of crèche figurines is one of only three in the United States, with the other two in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the

White House. During the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, the White House set was a focal point of the holiday display in the East Room. There are 33 figurines in each set, with the largest ranging from 15 to 20 inches high. These figurines were made exclusively in Naples, Italy, during the 100 year period between 1730 and 1830.

Celebrating 136 Years of AAUW



During this season of giving thanks, we honor the group of visionary women who founded AAUW 136 years ago on November 28, 1881.

On that day, **Marion Talbot**, then a recent graduate of Boston University, and **Ellen Swallow Richards**, the first woman graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, invited 15 alumnae from eight colleges to a meeting in Boston. Among the first generation of women college graduates, these pioneering women struggled with a lack of career opportunity. In founding AAUW, they discussed how they would join together to help other women break through educational barriers and attend and graduate from college as well, as assist those who had already graduated.

The rest is history. Today, AAUW boasts 170,000 members and supporters, more than 100 student orgs, 800 college and university members, and more than \$100 million awarded to women scholars and projects.

DAEMEN COLLEGE

AAUW NEWS

BY EHLIMANA IMAMOVIC

I've enjoyed being a part of AAUW since beginning my undergraduate studies at Daemen College. Upon coming back for my master's degree, re-joining the organization was one of my priorities. I enjoy that it is open to all departments and genders, and that I can become friends with people I might not normally meet during my classes. I also like that it challenges me to be more aware of ongoing issues, educates me on topics I don't know as much about, and informs me on issues I need to be more sensitive and empathetic to. I believe that it is an important organization to be involved in, whether as a student or graduate, from both aspects of empowering women and minorities, and educating the public about inequalities that exist between cis white men and everyone else. Being raised as a minority but as a US citizen with a family and religion that always encouraged equality and possibility for nearly anything, it angers and frustrates me that



(Members of Daemen's AAUW Student Organization prepare for the start of the Unequal Pay Day Bake Sale on October 23. Ehlimana is 4th from left.)

so many women don't have that support and encouragement in their lives, and that sexism, racism, xenophobia, and prejudice are still so prevalent today.

Daemen's AAUW Student Organization's 1st and 2nd UnEqual Pay Day Bake Sale was a success; we helped to spread awareness of Hispanic and Native Americans Equal Pay Day, and also celebrated the AAUW's 136th

birthday. I enjoyed being a part of AAUW's UnEqual Pay Day Bake Sale, because we educated the campus population about an important topic while giving them some yummy, homemade treats to brighten their day, and I look forward to doing it again.

(Ehlimana Imamovic is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Health degree at Daemen.)

AAUW NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION 2018



**One Year After The Women's March
Moving Onward: Empowering Women**

AAUW & Non-AAUW Members Welcome

More information on speakers & workshops will be published in December 2017

For more information go to AAUW NYS website at <http://www.aauw-nys.org/>



Photo Album

District 1 Conference
November 4, 2017



Tech Savvy

by AAUW

Tech Savvy 13

Saturday, March 17, 2018

I AM a Tech Savvy Girl... *Ingenious, Innovative, Insightful*

Thirteen years... And this time, thirteen is lucky!

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 middle school 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 girls plus four savvy skills workshops, **introducing critical life success skills such as advocacy, negotiating, interview preparation, and ethical decision making.** 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.



So... join the crew! **We need YOUR help in the following areas.** Call Tamara to help in one of these tasks:

- * College student relations
- * Bus support
- * Reception planning
- * Food Planning
- * Adult session planning
- * Summer planning

Upcoming Planning Dates for Tech Savvy 13

- ◇ Planning Teleconference: Saturday, December 2, at 9:30 am
Dial 716-566-5719 Meeting ID: "SAVVY" or 72889
- ◇ Planning Teleconference: Thursday, January 13, at 7 pm
Dial 716-566-5719 Meeting ID: "SAVVY" or 72889
- ◇ Planning Teleconference: Saturday, February 3 at 9:30 am
Dial 716-566-5719 Meeting ID: "SAVVY" or 72889
- ◇ Tote Bag Stuffing, Name Tag Assembly, and Bag Stuffing: (**We need about 20 people to help!**) March date TBD 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: Reception
- ◇ 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

Upcoming Dates to Remember

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

Dec. 9, 2-4 pm - December program at Forest Lawn, Buffalo.

Jan. 3 at 6:15 pm - Board Meeting at Daemen College, Amherst.

Jan. 23 - January program at 6:15 pm, "Living Blind in a Sighted World"

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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