



Life of Eleanor Roosevelt

December 1, 2018 11:30 am

Lunch at
The Eagle House
5578 Main St.
Williamsville, NY 14221

Highlights In This Issue

| | |
|---|---|
| December Program | 1 |
| President's Perspective | 2 |
| Book Sale Report, Tech Savvy | 3 |
| Member Info, Archives, Nominations | 4 |
| Interest Groups, NCCWSL | 5 |
| Reflections on Voter Fraud | 6 |
| What's Happening? | 7 |
| Dates to Remember | 8 |

After lunch, we will "go back in time" and experience the life of **Eleanor Roosevelt**, one of the most beloved women in American history - as portrayed by Denise Reichard!

RSVP by November 23rd

Complete the form and mail it along with a \$20 (per person) check for lunch payable to AAUW Buffalo Branch to:

Lilyen Mascellino
20 Forest Creek Court
Grand Island, NY 14072

Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed (\$20.00 per person): _____

Lunch Choice: (Select One per person registering)

Chicken Pot Pie with Puff Pastry

Eggplant Parmesan with Pasta & Garlic Toast

Grilled Filet of Sirloin with Roasted Potatoes

All entrees include coffee, tea, garden salad & ice cream.

Dietary Needs: _____

January ADVOCATE

The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 10th of the previous month. Submit articles to Suzanne Taeger (suzannemlr3@gmail.com) via email by December 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



Presidents 's Perspective

Betty Preble

What would Eleanor say?

As we look back at this election, with hateful and vicious words on both sides of almost every contest – and as we look forward to hearing Eleanor Roosevelt “up close and personal” in December, it might be worth looking at some of the words we know she did say:

“We must learn to work together, all of us, regardless of race or creed or color; we must wipe out, wherever we find it, any feeling that grows up, of intolerance, or belief that one group can go ahead alone,” ER told a conference of educators in 1934. “We go ahead together or we go down together.”

Dismissing “the America First people,” she pressed for international understanding. Taking aim at bias and bigots, she endorsed “the four equalities”: voting rights, equal education, equal opportunity, and justice before the law.

Any type of prejudice, in race or religion, endangered not just specific targets but everyone, she wrote in 1939; “the real wrong is done to democracy and our nation as a whole.” On visiting an Arizona internment camp in 1943, ER drafted an article that voiced her disquiet. To fear other Americans, ER wrote, challenged every citizen’s “right to our basic freedoms” and undercut US capacity to “furnish a pattern for the rest of the world.”

How did we stray so far from her inspiring words and work? What kind of a pattern are we furnishing for the rest of the world? Have we reached the bottom yet? How can we climb out of this pit we’ve dug ourselves into?

AAUW lists its values as “Nonpartisan, Fact-based, Integrity, Inclusion, and Intersectionality.” If these are truly our values (and I hope they are), what can we do to spread them? I submit that our action plan should include sticking to the truth, not spreading unfounded rumors, listening to others’ opinions with respect and keeping a positive tone no matter how difficult. “Basket of deplorables”, “extraordinarily low IQ person”, “What a stupid question”, “Neanderthal” – among the phrases heard in the past couple of years that have no place in productive political discourse.

As we look forward to the next elections, let’s promise ourselves to try to keep the high road. Calmly refute untruths, fact-check rumors on the internet rather than blindly sharing them, and state why we should vote **for** a candidate rather than how the opponent is less worthy. If we in AAUW can’t do things right, we certainly can’t expect others to do so!



AAUW Buffalo Branch Elected Board Members

2018-2019

PRESIDENT

Betty Preble

VP PROGRAM

Lilyen Mascellino

**VP MEMBERSHIP
RECRUITMENT**

Melissa White

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Jean Hubbard

Berni Lewis

**SECRETARY/
PARLIMENTARIAN**

Diane O’Brien

CFO

Barbara Libby

BRANCH TREASURER

Suzanne Licata

EAP TREASURER

Lynn Rapin

FUNDRAISING TREASURER

Mary Crocker

**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
EDUCATION TREASURER**

Kate Collins

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

Betty Krist

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marguerite Collesano, Chair

Marilyn Carmichael

Maryann Hope

Lynn Tauriello

Marilyn Todd

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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Betty Preble

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mkwhiteAAUW@gmail.com

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Mary Crocker

375 Parkhurst Blvd.

Buffalo, NY 14223

(mlcrock@msn.com)



December 2018 Book Sale Report

By Jayne Murray and Joan Kernan

Our annual Book Sale is creating good will in the community! Rosalind Kochmanski, a member of our Book Sale Executive Team, was recently talking to a friend about the Book Sale during intermission at an event at Shea's. A woman overheard their conversation, pulled out her wallet and handed Rosalind a \$100 bill as she said, "Thank you and please accept this donation to the AAUW for scholarships for our young women!"

And Thank You to our members and your friends for keeping the donations coming during the long winter months. We depend on you to mention the Book Sale to folks who might not know about us.

Sorting at the Book Sale collection 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 December 25-26, and January 1-2. Sorting will resume on Tuesday January 8, 2019 at Calvary Episcopal Church (20 Milton St., Williamsville, NY) from 9:30-noon. During the holiday break, why not clean off a book shelf or two to make room for your new books. We can use the books and you can use the space!

Happy Holidays and see you next year!

Oh, and keep talking to your friends in public, about our Book Sale and how it raises funds for women's scholarships. You never know who might be eavesdropping and want to make a spontaneous donation!

Tech Savvy 14: Saturday, March 16, 2019

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. This is all in the name of encouraging STEM for girls with a fun theme that is all about girls working together, inspiring each other, and creating all things new and better



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.

You might say that this year's keynote speaker knows a little about inspiring and creating... and she knows A LOT about being a girl! Gitanjali Rao is 13 years old and is an 8th grader. Last year, as a student at STEM School Highlands Ranch in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, Anjali was named America's Top Young Scientist of 2017 by the Discovery Education 3M. She won the Young Scientist Challenge with a device to detect lead in water faster than any other current techniques.

See <https://originaltechsavvy.org/> for updates!

NOMINATIONS

Marguerite Collesano, Nominating Comm. Chair

Dear Members ,
Every year we nominate members for certain offices. This coming year we are looking to fill the following positions:

- President
- First Vice-President in charge of programs
- Third Vice-President in charge of membership retention
- Branch Treasurer
- Chamberlin Loan Fund and Funds for Education Treasurer

NOTE: Any of the above positions could be shared between two members.

- Nominating Committee (Chair plus two members)

I wanted to make you aware of these openings at this time, so you could seriously be thinking about volunteering to fill one of these positions yourself. Or maybe you can suggest the name of someone whom you feel would be a good candidate. Maybe you have worked with someone on a committee or event (Tech Savvy, the Book Sale, etc.) who has stood out in your mind.

Thank you for giving this issue serious thought. Feel free to contact me if you have suggestions or questions.

Marguerite Collesano, mcollesano@aol.com
or 853-6480.

Anecdotes from the Archives

Barbara Carier, Historian



December brings to mind music, stars, friends gathering, and remembering happy times. In December of **1984**, our monthly meeting was called "Star of Bethlehem" and was held in the Ferguson Planetarium on the Buff State campus. Our Newsletter said that history and astronomy would join together in search of the Star of Bethlehem. There was a holiday reception with a wassail bowl, punch, cookies, and a strolling minstrel!

Other activities that month included meetings of the Music Group, the French and German Groups, the Creeds and Cultures Group, the Singles and Doubles dinner, and the Peace and National Security Group. Bunny Blackstone was announced as the Book Sale Coordinator and depots were listed for collecting books for the Sale, which was planned for the Downtown YWCA on Franklin Street.

Branch President Ruth Seitz wished all a joyful month in whatever way they chose to mark the winter solstice: Christmas, Hanukah, or Saturnalia. Let's add Kwanzaa and wish all our friends, families, associates, and even strangers a wonderful December.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

Kathryn Corcoran

631 Cleveland Drive, Buffalo 14225

Cell: 380-9470

kathrynindac@yahoo.com

BA English 1970, Canisius

MLS Library Science 1976 SUNY Buffalo

Retired Librarian

Skills-copy editing, event set-up/take-down, research

Committee interests: book sale, community action, cultural, diversity, human civil rights, newsletter, scholarships

Interest groups: Knitting, Culinary Delights, Happy Wanderers, Fine Arts



ROSTER CORRECTIONS!

P. 2 Sue Licata E-Mail: sslicata@gmail.com

P. 3 Fern Beavers Phone # 862-3114

P. 9 and 15 Carol Griffith E-Mail: Carol.Griffith@va.gov

P. 12 Carolyn Bova's email is no longer valid

P. 11 Laura Barnum Address: Cleveland Hall 505,
1300 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222

P.15 Marja Coons-Torn new email:
marjacoostorn@yahoo.com

**Please send any additional corrections to
Mary Crocker, mlcrock@msn.com**

DECEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

ADVENTURES IN STEM NEW GROUP

When: **Thurs. Dec 6th, 6:45-8 pm**
Where: **Julia Boyer Reinstein Library**, 1030 Losson Rd., Cheektowaga
What: **Hour of Code.** Join students world-wide in celebrating computer science by completing a beginners' coding project in just one hour! We'll work together on building a mobile phone app - no experience necessary! Please plan to bring your laptop or tablet and smart phone if you have one, but they are not required to participate.
RSVP: **Christina Saarinen** 425-3790 or csaarinen@backhomebooks.net

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

When: **Thurs. Dec. 10th, 10:00 am Tour**
Where: **Burchfield Penney Art Gallery**, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo
What: private tour with our own AAUW member and docent at the art gallery, Marian Deutschman. Lunch after in the Café at the Burchfield Penney.
RSVP: **Judy Huber** at 688-8170 or judyhuber62@yahoo.com.

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: **Wed. Dec. 12th at 6:30 pm**
Where: **Sinatra's Restaurant**, 945 Kenmore Ave., Kenmore
What: AAUW Interest Group for members to share dinner and conversation.
RSVP: by **Dec. 7** to **Barbara Libby** at 836-8303 or bplibby1@verizon.net.

KNITTING GROUP

Is anyone still interested in this group? It has no leader.

BEAD WEAVING & JEWELRY MAKING

When: **Thursday, Dec. 20th 1:00 – 3:00 pm**
Where: **Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, Conference Room**, 1030 Losson Rd., Cheektowaga
What: Bring your current project or come to learn a new hobby.
RSVP: **Barbara Weber** at 668-5456 or cell 725-7839

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: **Wednesday, Dec. 19th at 5:30 pm**
Where: **Family Tree Restaurant**, 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst
Interior room reserved for the book club.
Book: **Buffalo Lockjaw** by **Greg Ames**. Facilitator: **Lynne Tauriello**. Discussion Leader: **Stacey Johnson**.
RSVP: **Fran Witnauer** 688-5708 or grandmafran44@yahoo.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB **NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

NCCWSL

(National Conference for College Women Student Leaders)

Early bird registration is now available. There are reduced rates available until mid-February. Scholarship funds are available through national. The Branch has also budgeted some assistance for local young women.

See <https://nccwsl.org/registration/> for additional information.

Reflections on Voter Fraud, Voter Suppression and System Inefficiencies

By Marian Deutschman

Wikipedia defines voter suppression as “a strategy to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting.” Voter fraud is illegal interference with the process of an election either by increasing the vote share of the favored candidate, depressing the vote share of the rival candidates, or both. What constitutes electoral fraud varies from country to country. Some groups argue that voter fraud is widespread. The Heritage Foundation has said that the United States has a long history of election fraud and that preventing and prosecuting such fraud is essential to protecting the integrity of our voting process. The Brennan Center for Justice carefully examined allegations of fraud to get at the truth behind the claims. The conclusion was clear — most allegations are baseless.

There were thousands of reports of voting irregularities across the country this year, with voters complaining of broken machines, long lines and untrained poll workers challenging Americans’ right to vote. The loudest complaints came from Georgia. Some voters waited three hours to cast ballots after local election officials initially sent only three voting machines to serve more than 3,000 registered voters. In one suburban county in Georgia, the wait was over four hours as election officials opened the polls only to dis-

cover that their voting machines were not working at all and they did not have enough paper. These locations serve predominantly African American voters, causing worries that specific groups were being disenfranchised. It was unclear how many of the complaints were legitimate and how many voters and outcomes were affected.



Some of the concerns started with restrictive voting laws passed by Republicans in recent years. Republicans have said the tough new rules are necessary to combat voter fraud. Yet we know that studies have found no evidence of widespread fraud.

Election officials in some states extended voting hours to accommodate long lines at polling locations. Some polling places ran out of ballots, leaving hundreds of voters in line long after the 8 p.m. poll closing time. A national coalition of civil rights groups reported receiving more than 29,000 complaints of voting irregularities including reports of nonfunctioning

machines in numerous states.

New York smashed voter turnout records when nearly 6 million New Yorkers showed up to vote, a 45% increase from the 2014 midterms. Over 38 million Americans cast their ballot before November 6th. Since we don’t have early voting, not a single New Yorker was one of them. In New York City voting precincts were hampered by broken scanners in all five boroughs.

Georgia’s Secretary of State and Republican candidate for governor, had not processed over 53,000 voter registration applications because of mismatches in the name. Applications were suspended, most of them belonging to people of color or immigrants, under a new state law requiring an exact match between the application and driver or Social Security records. Last year, Georgia passed its “exact match” law, which requires that people’s name on their government-issued IDs must accurately match the name on the voter rolls.

According to the Pew Center, America’s voter registration system needs an upgrade. It is plagued with errors and inefficiencies. It has not kept pace with advancing technology and a mobile society.

What's Happening

Judy Weidemann

Albright-Knox Art Gallery

1285 Elmwood Ave
Buffalo, NY 14222-1096
882-8700

"We The People: New Art From The Collection"

This exhibition takes its title from two featured works both called "We the People": Hank Willis Thomas' quilt made from decommissioned prison uniforms cut up and pieced together spell out the first words to the Preamble to the Constitution and Danh Vo's full-size copper replica of the Statue of Liberty broken into several hundred pieces.

Until June 30, 2019

Amherst Chamber Music Concert

See acemusic.org

ACE Chamber Orchestra with Chopin Singing Society
Haydn Organ Concerto with Nelson Koepfel
Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral
6298 Broadway, Lancaster NY

December 19 at 7:30 pm

Free will offering.

Burchfield Penney Art Center

SUNY Campus
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14220
878-6011

"The Contradictions of Being - Composite Works by Harvey Braverman"

Through February 24, 2019

Irish Classical Theater

625 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14203
853-4282

"Dark During December"



MusicalFare

Daemen College Campus
4380 Main
Street Suite 123
Amherst, NY 14226

839-8540

"Christmas Over the Tavern"

Through December 9, 2018

Shea's Theatre

656 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
847-1410

"Hamilton" continues through December 9, 2018

Niglia Ballet Artists: "The Nutcracker" December 22, 23, 2018

The Kavinoky Theatre

D'Youville College Campus
3220 Porter Avenue
Buffalo, NY
829-7668

"Dark during December"

Theater of Youth

203 Allen Street
Buffalo, NY 14201
882-4400 Ext. 304

"A Charlie Brown Christmas"

Ages 3+, based on the television special.

December 1 - 16, 2018



Dates to Remember

Saturday, December 1, at 11:30 am **“Eleanor Roosevelt Program”** at The Eagle House , 5578 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Wednesday, December 5, at 6:15 pm **Board Meeting** at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St. in West Seneca. (All members welcome)

Wednesday, January 2, at 6:15 pm **Board Meeting** at Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem at Saratoga in Snyder. (All members welcome)

Thursday, January 31, at 5:30 pm. **Branch Program “Financial Literacy”** at the Grand Island Library, 1715 Bedell Rd, Grand Island, NY 14072



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: *To advance equality for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

Vision: *Equality for all.*

Values : *Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and intersectionality.*

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 716-838-2796

Return Service Requested



AAUW Buffalo Branch
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