



ADVOCATE

April 2020

NYS District 1

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

Vol. CXXVIII No. 8



*You Are Invited to the
Scholarship Celebration - April 21, 2020*

Salvatore's Italian Gardens Restaurant

Victorian A Suite

6461 Transit Road, Depew, NY 14043

5:30 Registration

6:00 Assorted fresh fruit and cheese, crackers

6:00 - 8:00 Open soda bar

6:15 - 7:15 Food Stations and Hors D'oeuvres

steak in the grass

Pasta roast turkey

Caesar salad artichokes Française

stuffed mushrooms vegetable flatbread

chicken kabobs

7:15 - 8:15 Presentations by scholarship winners

Cost: \$15



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MAY ADVOCATE

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



Send registration to:

Betty Krist, 116 Iris Ave., West Seneca, NY 14224

by 4/15/2020

Name (s) _____

Number attending _____ Amount enclosed _____

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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President's Message

Laurie Eikemeyer

In this ongoing climate of health concerns regarding COVID-19 we will be assessing each of our activities and responding according to the best information available on whether to hold the event or not. Please use your own judgment as well, as to whether you are at high risk or uncomfortable with attending an event or activity. I will send email as needed and announcements will also be posted on our website

March is Women's History Month, a great time to celebrate who we are and remember where we have been. As the month comes to a close, I hope you took the time to celebrate women.

I hope you received my email on March 13th concerning event cancellations. If you are not receiving my emails, please contact me as soon as possible so we can fix this. I will do my best to communicate with all of our members. Also, we will post items on our website at aauw.buffalo.edu.

- March 21 – Tech Savvy has been postponed until July 25th.
- April 1 – Board meeting. Will be held as a conference call. Board members can expect a follow-up email from me.
- April 18 – Public Relations Committee meeting will be by conference call.
- April 21 – Scholarship Celebration - we will be making a decision about this wonderful event by April 1st based on CDC recommendations.
- April 24-26 – AAUW-NYS Convention in Rochester has been canceled.
- May 4 - Board meeting – Whether we meet in person or by phone will be determined on a month-by-month basis.
- May 9 - Annual meeting and luncheon – I will be making an announcement concerning our annual business meeting and luncheon as we get closer to the event. Please note, during this meeting, we will be electing officers and voting on proposed by-laws changes. If the meeting is postponed, We will determine an alternative method to vote on these items.
- May 27 – 31 Book Sale has been postponed until further notice.
- June 10 – Board meeting - Whether we meet in person or by phone will be determined on a month-by-month basis.

Please stay safe and be well, Laurie

APRIL 2020 INTEREST GROUPS—VERIFY WITH CONTACT PERSON

ADVENTURES IN STEM

If you are still interested in this group, please contact **Christine Saarinen** at csaarinen@backhomebooks.net or 425-3790.

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

We were hoping to work on the booksale!

WNY CULINARY ARTS

When: Thurs. April 23 at 6:30 pm

Where: El Toro, 1009 Niagara Falls Blvd.

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

RSVP: to **Barbara Libby** by 4/21 at 836-8303.
Or bpilibby1@verizon.net

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. April 15 at 5:30

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: BOOK SELECTION FOR NEXT YEAR.

Facilitator: **Marilyn Carmichael**.

Please bring your recommendations for at least two books:

RSVP: Fran Witnauer 716-688-5708 or

grandmafran44@yahoo.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: April 22 at 12:00. Start with discussion first

Where: Family Tree Restaurant. 4346 Bailey Ave.

What: BOOK SELECTION FOR 2020-2021 SEASON

RSVP: Suzanne Grossman – 689-5873

April 2020 Book Sale Report

Jayne Murray & Joan Kernan

Dear Members and Friends,

In view of the ongoing public health crisis, the AAUW Buffalo Branch will not be holding its Annual Book Sale as scheduled May 27-31. In addition, we have suspended all book collecting until further notice. We ask that all please respect the Calvary church space and do not leave books for us there. We will be re-assessing our position as the situation progresses. Please watch our website (<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>) for updates.

Because we are a *community* of dedicated volunteers, we plan to highlight some of our workers from time to time. Our Book Sale requires many hands, before, during, and after the event. One of our volunteer leaders, Pat Baker, is in her 16th year of helping to organize the Book Sale. She had been retired and when her grandchildren were all of school age, she began looking for a volunteer activity. Enter Judy Clare, coordinator of the Sale for many years, who invited her to help sort books. Pat recalls that she was hooked right away as she loves finding interesting and unusual books. She was initially tasked with setting up all of the 36 fiction tables – today we have approximately 24. At present, she is in charge of specially-priced new and newer books. What keeps her coming? “All of the new friends I meet,” she emphatically replies. Pictured below are some of our Tuesday volunteers – Pat is 3rd from the left. Thank you for all your years of enthusiasm and tireless help, Pat!



Joan Kernan, Sheridan Skura, Pat Baker, Gerry Tomczak, Sue D'Angelo, Mary Georger

WHAT'S NOT HAPPENING

As of this writing, all public art venues are closed. Please check individual websites for their schedules.

Albright – Knox Northland,

www.albrightknox.org/community/northland

Amherst Chamber Ensembles,

<http://www.acemusic.org/>

Burchfield Penney Art Museum,

<https://www.burchfieldpenney.org/>

Irish Classical Theatre, <https://irishclassical.com/>

Kavinoky Theatre, <http://www.kavinokytheatre.com/>

MusicalFare, <https://musicalfare.com/>

Shea's Theatre, <https://www.sheas.org/>

Theatre of Youth, <http://www.theatreofyouth.org/>

Second Generation Theatre,

<https://secondgenerationtheatre.com/>



Join Us For Our Annual Meeting

&

Luncheon

on

May 9, 2020

at

Wurlitzer Events

908 Niagara Falls Blvd

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Registration is at 11:30,

Lunch at 12:00

Mail this completed form, along with a \$24.00 check for lunch made out to: **AAUW Buffalo Branch**

Send it to:

**Lilyen Mascellino, 20 Forest Creek Ct,
Grand Island, NY 14072**

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Select 1 of the following entrees:

___ Vegetable Wellington (Assorted veggies & quinoa)

___ Garlic Herbed Tenderloin Tips with Tzatziki Drizzle

___ Chicken Française

Allergy Alert: _____

Purpose and importance of the Nominating Committee

Mary Bashore

The importance of the nominating committee is often overlooked in volunteer organizations such as ours. During the process of reviewing our bylaws, we realized there was room for improvement in the framework that outlines how our nominating committee functions.

The success of AAUW Buffalo Branch depends on attracting and selecting the most qualified women to serve in various leadership positions. Our board members, all volunteers, perform the most essential duties of our organization. They must work together to set policy and to provide essential oversight of all the various activities, committees, and volunteers, while conducting strategic planning and maintaining necessary due diligence.

Because our board directors must have the skills, qualifications and expertise to carry out their duties, it's essential for the nominating committee to choose candidates for board directors and senior leaders thoughtfully and carefully.

The process begins with a knowledgeable and committed nominating committee familiar with our mission, vision, values, goals, leadership needs and strategic direction, and able to communicate clearly. In addition, members of the nominating committee need a comprehensive understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each of the positions we may need to fill. In considering various leadership candidates, the nominating committee must also consider the needs and abilities of the membership. An understanding of the roles is necessary for committee members to be able to have meaningful discussions with potential candidates about their expectations, and hopefully smooth the transition, perhaps with mentoring. That is why our ideal nominating committee will include a past president, current or past board member not up for election, and at least one member at large. (There may be others as well).

They will identify, recruit, screen and perhaps interview candidates for current or upcoming vacancies on the board and in leadership positions. The committee will select the top candidates and recommend them to the board and branch as official nominees.

If you believe our board functions best when new and engaging ideas are openly expressed, volunteers are encouraged and engaged, and a variety of personal and business experiences are brought into the mix, you will agree that a well-oiled and active nominating committee will transcend to excellent leadership.

Bylaws article for the April Advocate

Betty Preble

Our branch bylaws call for a review of them every two years. A committee of volunteers (Susan McClary, Mary Bashore, Kathryn Corcoran and Betty Preble) went through them this winter and have recommended changes in the nominating committee structure.

The current document specifies an elected committee of five. The chair is elected for one year and may serve for a maximum of three terms. The other members are elected for two years and may serve two terms. Two of those four members are elected each year so there is an overlap.

The proposal by the committee, which has been approved by the board, calls for the board to select a committee of at least three people at its first board meeting in the fall. Ideally the committee would include a past president, a board member, and a branch member who is not on the board. That committee would then choose its own chair.

This proposal is more in line with other successful organizational structures and will hopefully produce a more focused process. There are several sections in the bylaws which are affected by this proposal, and the detailed document may be found on our website – go to [http://http://aauw.buffalo.edu/about-us/governance/](http://<u>http://aauw.buffalo.edu/about-us/governance/</u>).

This will be voted on at the annual meeting on May 9 prior to the election of officers. On the nominated slate at that meeting will be candidates for nominating chair and two nominating committee members. If this bylaws change is approved, that part of the slate will be removed from consideration.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact any of the members of the bylaws committee.

Scholarship Director's Report

Betty Krist

The Board approved two \$5000 **Women Entering College Scholarships** for non-tuition purposes to **Vada Kirsch**, Iroquois Central, and **Fiona Stewart**, Park School, from 63 applicants from 29 schools throughout WNY.

Fiona is currently in a year long study abroad program in Argentina to immerse herself in another language and culture. Her weighted GPA is 105+ and she has already completed 5 AP courses and 11 honors classes in 3 years. She will study European and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures and plans to be fluent in Spanish, Korean, Russian, and Arabic. The Dual BA program offered by Trinity College and Columbia University is her choice school preparing her for a career in literary translation. Fiona has been involved in music programs playing violin as soloist or ensemble member. She's a leader in all levels of student government including Junior Class President, model UN, Korean Language Village, Gender and Sexuality Alliance, and Youth Leadership Buffalo including the Westminster Economic Development Initiative. Her impressive record of tackling a difficult situation involving records of sexual abuse at her school with courage and dignity producing concrete results exemplifies her stated attitude, "If no one speaks, nothing changes."

Vada has a GPA of 98+ and plans to become an atmospheric scientist with a specialization in climatology, specifically as a US Air Force Weather Technician Officer. As student government president, she helped implement a Unified Sports program. She is a chorus section leader, soccer team captain, president of Model UN, and plays alto saxophone in the school symphonic band, marching band, pep band, pit orchestra, and jazz band. Vada is an active community service volunteer, with hundreds of hours given to many organizations including GOAL4CAUSE and her church. She has been a leader in the Civil Air Patrol for 3 years and an instructor on a variety of subjects. She attended the Air Force Academy Summer Seminar, American Legion Girls State conference, and took summer classes to earn additional credits and make room for more AP courses this year.

The Board approved two \$8000 **Olga Lindberg Scholarships** for non-tuition purposes to **Lindsay Heck**, University of Iowa, and **Lisa Gagnon** at UB. 17 applications were received. Ms Lindberg was a long-time member who left the branch a bequest specifically for ongoing scholarships.

Lindsay plans to graduate in May 2021 with an MS in Industrial Hygiene to work in research and policy in occupational health, safety, and industrial hygiene. She graduated *Summa Cum Laude* BS (Canisius) with majors in Health & Wellness and Psychology and Sociology. She served as a Lead Research Assistant on a pilot study of physical activity in children with high functioning autism spectrum disorder. As a volunteer at the Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo and WNY, Inc. she worked toward "Complete Streets" – bike lanes, pedestrian walkways, and handicapped accessible sidewalks. She's been awarded the Paul D. Martinis Memorial Award for Outstanding Student in Health & Wellness. She is currently assisting pesticide drift reduction research using drones to study the health and safety of farmers and decrease other potential health hazards associated with aerosolized chemicals.



Fiona Stewart



Vada Kirsch



Lindsay Heck

Continued p. 6

Lisa is a first year master's student studying "Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages." Her expertise as principal cellist with the UB symphony orchestra portends her work as teacher and administrator at Buffalo String Works, a community music program in Buffalo's West Side. She's taught English classes through Jericho Road Community Health Center and spent nine months teaching English in Riga, Latvia on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. She volunteers at New Beginnings Food Pantry in Amherst. Her awards include Phi Beta Kappa, Judith T. Melamed Memorial Scholarship, Arthur A. Schomburg Fellowship, WNY Prosperity Fellowship, and George Knight Haupt Prize. Lisa plans to stay in Buffalo working with the international community teaching English and music.



Lisa Gagnon

The Board approved three \$4000 **Catalyst for Change Scholarships** for non-tuition purposes to **Aliaya Williams**, UB graduate student, **Erin Byers**, sophomore at Stony Brook, **Pamela Zwick** of Northland Training Center/Alfred State. 14 applications were received.

Aliaya is a first year Biological Sciences major with an eye toward medical school. She's been involved at the Salvation Army Drop in Center mentoring 15 at-risk girls. Apart from being a role model she organized a photo shoot with the goal of having the girls take pride in their body image to embrace who they are, where they came from, and where they are going.



Aliaya Williams

Erin is a Political Science major with a minor in Psychology. She strives for a career in foreign affairs and international law. In high school she worked with the League of Women Voters to hold a first-time voter registration drive and coordinated a school-wide National Voter Registration Day. In college she works with the Center for Civil Justice for Elect Her, encouraging women to run for public office.



Erin Byers

Pamela aspires to become an electrician specializing in electrical construction and maintenance in a male-dominated field. She not only attends this program full-time but also works with handicapped individuals at Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, advocating for their independence and medical needs while standing strong against exploitation. She wants her granddaughters to know that a woman can do anything!



Pamela Zwick

The **Clarine Radt educational mini-grants** are a relatively new program for the branch, funded by a bequest from Ms Radt, a long-time member. The Board approved \$499.92 to **Ellen Gossel**, Reading Interventionist at Charles Lindbergh Elementary, Kenmore/Tonawanda Schools. Ellen's project is to create a comfortable environment for a girls afterschool program and girls lunch-bunch "reading zone." Successful women are avid readers and encouraging girls through focus, stamina, and reading engagement along with tips and suggestions will improve their reading. Funds will be used for comfortable seating, a stool, and a bookcase.

Special thanks to all who participated in helping to make these selections including Mary Bashore (Women Entering College Chair), Peggy Meinl (Catalyst for Change Chair), Rosalind Kochmanski (Olga Lindberg Chair), Joan Eschner (Clarine Radt Chair) and their committees: Ronnie Mahler, Rosaleen Nogle, Susan McClary, Joan Kernan, Sue Bart D'Angelo, Sue Licata, Pauline Dyson, Karen Hoff, Lynn Rapin, Kate Collins, Judy Weidemann, and Betty Krist.



Ellen Gossel

COMPASSION & PUBLIC POLICY

Dr. Marian Deutschman

“A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves.” – Edward R Murrow.

Compassion is defined as a sympathetic awareness of someone’s suffering or adversity together with a desire to alleviate it. Compassion requires doing what is right toward another human being or even toward the earth. It is the opposite of cruelty. Cruelty preys upon weakness and involves misuse of power to further damage an individual already in risky circumstances. We can show compassion by our actions and our words, by caring for others, and by being there when they need us.

Is compassion a proper concern for legislators? Helping distressed citizens is a sign of compassion and it should be a major concern for legislators as they consider the wellness of the community. Elected officials have a fiduciary duty to do what is best for the community, not what is best for themselves. As we demand more from government, we should demand more from ourselves as well. We need to be compassionate and require Congress to do the same, but some voters ask if people are doing enough for themselves. They say there should be limits to providing compassion and support because compassion can turn into dependency.

Compassion in government does not mean reckless spending. It is an awareness of what needs to be done with public resources to sustain a prosperous and healthy community. Compassion requires making difficult decisions about priorities. It is especially important in health care, education, and social policy. Philip Alston, the UN top expert on extreme poverty, issued a report warning that cruel US policies towards the poor that ignore their rights, pose a threat to democracy. Where was compassion when the 2,342 children were separated from their parents after crossing the southern border as part of a new immigration strategy by the Trump administration? We are currently dealing with the transmissibility and severity of the coronavirus, an epidemic that requires compassionate attention to communicating details from experts to reduce fear and uncertainty. Compassion, not politics, should be the highest priority.

Compassion may be in the eye of the beholder. Mario Diaz, Esq. general counsel for the Concerned Women for America said: “I will forever remember this

State of the Union Address as the compassionate one. I’ll tell my children and my children’s children that it was delivered in 2019 by President Donald J. Trump. I’ll tell them I count myself privileged to have watched it.” At a recent book club lunch, a woman sitting next to me made essentially the same glowing assessment of the 2020 State of the Union speech.

Compassionate words need to be coupled with compassionate actions. In 2016, the editorial board of the New York Daily News concluded that Bernie Sanders was an incredibly compassionate man driven by a deep desire to help the disadvantaged and to correct injustice. Then and now, his presidential campaign creates an opportunity for liberal Americans to push their party to address issues regarded as compassionate. With compassion, Sanders is attempting to destigmatize the word “socialist” by calling it “democratic socialism.” However, a president has to do more than simply raise awareness about important issues. A qualified candidate must be able to realistically assess how he or she would implement the policies and Sanders wasn’t providing those answers for the editorial board in 2016. There is a risk with outlining specifics on social programs during a campaign because that becomes a target for criticism. As long as a candidate is simply raising consciousness he or she is being compassionate, but a program or plan raises issues of concern for cost and delivery.

In an article by Matthew Rozsa, he concludes that “the presidency isn’t a symbolic title. It is a *job*, and in order to fill it one must demonstrate a breadth of understanding as well as a depth of conviction.” For example, the piecemeal attacks on the Affordable Care Act have made many people nervous about the future of their health coverage. Health care is a top priority issue in this election, yet we lack a clear and realistic understanding of the options and the cost. There are millions of people who don’t want to lose their current insurance. The most important theme of the current administration on the ACA has been to sow uncertainty into the market and destabilize the insurance pool without compassion and a better plan. We need dignified debate about policies, as well as integrity and substance, mixed with compassion, from our legislators and our citizens.



Image Credit: Taylor Swift

DATES TO REMEMBER

Watch for notices of changes/cancellations!

Wednesday, April 1, 6:15, **Board Meeting** - conference call

Tuesday, Apr 21, 6:00 pm - **Scholarship Celebration** at Salvatore's

Wednesday, May 6, 6:15 **Board Meeting** , Christ Methodist Church in Snyder

Saturday, May 9, 11:30 am - **Annual Meeting/ Luncheon** at the Wurlitzer Bldg. , 908 Niagara Falls Blvd, No. Tonawanda

July 25, 2020 **TECH Savvy rescheduled** .

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 grass-roots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

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

Vision: *Equity 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



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