



ADVOCATE

June 2020

NYS District 1

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

Vol. CXXVIII No. 9



*You Are Invited to the
Scholarship Celebration August 11, 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 Francaise

stuffed mushrooms

vegetable flatbread

chicken kabobs

7:15 - 8:15 Presentations by scholarship winners

Cost: \$15



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September 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 August 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 August 3, 2020

Name (s) _____

Number attending _____ Amount enclosed _____

President's Remarks

Laurie Eikemeyer

I hope my message finds you well. As we continue to function under Governor Cuomo's PAUSE order during the Coronavirus pandemic, the board is still working to keep our AAUW Buffalo Branch in good working order. At our May 6th board meeting, the following items were discussed:

Buffalo Branch Election of Officers – The election of officers has been postponed until our fall dinner, currently being planned at Chef's, on September 15. All officers will retain their positions until that time. The slate of officers is included in this issue. We are still in need of candidates for the following positions: CFO, Nominating Committee Chair, two nominating committee members. We will be taking nominations from the floor for all positions in the election process. Before the election of officers at our annual meeting in September, we will be voting on proposed by-laws amendments which will re-structure the nominating committee and eliminate the position of nominating committee chair. However, as a formality, in case it is not passed, we must have candidates for the nominating committee. If you know of someone who is a viable candidate for CFO or you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact me at president@aauwbuffalo.org.

AAUW-NYS Special Election of Officers – The special election will be held online due to the cancellation of the AAUW-NYS Convention. Our Branch is entitled to five delegates. I have submitted the following five delegates, who will be responsible for voting on behalf of our Branch, to Doria Hillsman, AAUW-NYS Credentials Chair: Laurie Eikemeyer, Barbara Carier, Pat Miceli, Suzanne Taeger, and Lynne Rapin. The following positions will be voted upon: President, Program Vice President, and Development Vice President. On May 18, candidate applications were due. May 25-June 1, a biography of each candidate will

be sent to all members. June 1 – June 8, the delegates will vote online on the behalf of our Branch. I encourage each of you to express your views concerning the candidates as soon as you receive the candidate biographies. You can also send your thoughts to president@aauwbuffalo.org. On June 25, the AAUW-NYS annual meeting will be held online via Zoom. The AAUW-NYS Board of Directors will announce the special election results at that time.

Operations Treasurer – In early March, Sue Licata took over the Operations Treasurer responsibilities until the end of this year (June 30). Mary Bashore has accepted the position for 2020-21. The board approved Mary's appointment unanimously. My thanks to both Sue and Mary for stepping up and assuming this vital responsibility when we needed assistance.

Renewal Letters – Jean Hubbard reported that she sent out the renewal letters for this year's dues with a May 15 deadline. If you have not already done so, please send your dues to Mary Crocker as soon as possible.

Branch Website – Please make sure you read the article contained in this newsletter about our new website that will go live in June! Thank you to Betty Preble for her work on our new site!

PLEASE NOTE: The June Board Meeting has been rescheduled to June 3 at 6:00 pm.

My thanks to the entire board for their efforts during these difficult times.

Please stay safe. I encourage you to call a friend, support each other, and know that we will get through this together.

**AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH
ELECTED
BOARD MEMBERS 2019-20**

PRESIDENT

Laurie Eikemeyer

VP PROGRAM

Lilyen Mascellino

**VP MEMBERSHIP
RECRUITMENT**

Melissa White

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Jean Hubbard

SECRETARY/PARLIMENTARIAN

Diane O'Brien

CFO

Dr. Barbara Libby

BRANCH TREASURER

Suzanne Licata

EAP TREASURER

Lynn Rapin

FUNDRAISING TREASURER

Mary Crocker

**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
EDUCATION TREASURER**

Kate Collins

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

Dr. Betty Krist

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marguerite Collesano, Chair
Marilyn Carmichael
Maryann Hope
Dr. Susan McClary

NEW WEBSITE COMING!

Betty Preble



Our current AAUW-Buffalo website is hosted on the University at Buffalo server. We will forever be grateful to Dr. Betty Krist, who arranged for that service and recruited Progyamita Benerjee (Reema) to set up the original site back in 2003. Reema, a grad student at the time, also managed the site for several years until she moved away from the area. Dr. Krist, through her relationship with the University, has made it possible for us to continue the arrangement.

Although the University has not charged us over the years, depending on their generosity comes with an invisible cost, namely limiting both the amount of space we can occupy and the tools we can use.

Sites with an "http://" prefix are often labeled as insecure by various systems. "https://" is better, but we do not have that option for technical reasons even though we are secure.

At this point our historical documents (some of them very large) are on the AAUW-NYS server. We can do that because we currently have access to that site, but that will not be the case forever.

We would like to be able to accept PayPal payments for programs, etc., but that is not currently possible.

We would like to be able to have generic email accounts that could be directed to the correct person. For example, an email "president@..." would go to Laurie now but could be directed to a new person when the office changes. This would prevent access to our personal accounts by the "bots" who troll websites in hopes of finding vulnerabilities.

So – we are working on a new site, controlled by us! The address is "https://aauwbuffalo.org". It is not ready to "go live", but we hope to finish it by mid-June. If you have a chance, please check it out although it will be changing (possibly drastically) as we work on it. If you see something you really like – or you have an idea for something we're not currently including – please send an email to Laurie Eikemeyer or Betty Preble. This will be YOUR website, so we want it to reflect what YOU want!



Book Sale Report

By Joan Kernan & Jayne Murray

The AAUW Buffalo Branch will not be holding its Annual Book Sale as scheduled May 27-31. We have also suspended all book collecting and sorting until further notice. We continue to 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 for updates. Thank you! <http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

Slate of Officers for September Vote

Membership Recruitment V.P.

MELISSA WHITE

Secretary/ Parliamentarian DIANE O'BRIEN

EAP Treasurer LYNNE RAPIN

Fundraising Treasurer MARY CROCKER

Scholarship Director ROSALEEN B. NOGLE

TBD:

CFO and Nominating Comm. Chr. and Members

**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.

June, 2020

Vol. CXXVIII, No. 9

Circulation 205

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Send address changes to:

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

News From:

League of Women Voters

The League's electronic voter guide **Vote411.org** is now live for the June primary. Candidate information is available for all State Assembly, State Senate, Congressional, Judicial Delegates, and Presidential candidates running in the NYS June primary and the congressional special election.



Tech Savvy 15: It's a Mystery!

Tamara Brown

Well, *It's a Mystery* is this year's theme-- and it's very true! Although we have a tentative reschedule date of July 25, we may not have sufficient resolution of the health crisis to allow or warrant an in-person event.

Share your thoughts: We are considering whether we might offer a virtual Tech Savvy. To do so we'll still need lots of help (wherever you are).

Committee members, please look forward to a meeting invitation. In the meantime, please share your ideas or willingness to volunteer with Tamara (tbforauw@cs.com or 716-949-2413)

Please stay well.

From the Buffalo News, Sunday April 5, 2020 p. A14

About Fiona Stewart, one of our Women Entering College Scholarship winners.

"A bit of a mess"

Fiona Stewart thought she'd spend her entire senior year of high school in Argentina, but instead she's back home in East Amherst after a three day, five-flight journey that came only after a series of canceled flights.

"It was a bit of a mess," said Stewart, 18.

Stewart was on a high school exchange program in a rural village called Alpachiri, but the program got canceled amid the coronavirus outbreak on March 14.

She couldn't get a flight back home for another week.

"Argentina had been placed under a countrywide quarantine in the week before I left," she said. "And then La Pampa (the province where she was attending school) decided that it would start closing its borders. So I had to get official permission to get out and be repatriated."

Then her flights kept changing. She got to the airport in Buenos Aires in the middle of the afternoon on March 21, but she couldn't leave until the next morning, when she flew to Santiago, Chile.

In the Santiago airport, "there were cots placed for international travelers, and people were sleeping everywhere," Stewart recalled. "You'd look at the departing flights and it'd say: 'Canceled, canceled, canceled.'" So over the next two days, Stewart flew to Mexico City, Miami, Detroit and then finally Buffalo. She slept on planes and in airports "in three-hour stretches," she recalled.

Stewart completed most of her high school credits last year, so her abbreviated adventure in Argentina won't interfere with her plans to attend Swarthmore College this fall.

"It's relieving to be home, but it's also very strange," she said. "I did not anticipate going home in March. But I'm glad I'm home because it sounds like the situation for travelers is getting worse and worse."

WHAT IS SOCIAL SOLIDARITY?

Marian Deutschman

A crisis usually brings us together but we are still distrustful of media and the polarized other side. Social solidarity requires leadership, empathy, and honesty. The President has often functioned as a poor spokesperson needing to be corrected too frequently while being resentful of questions regarding accountability. Governor Cuomo has been more effective in addressing problems early on, by projecting real numbers of needed beds, ventilators, masks, and staffing. Sometimes the President says what he wants people to hear, when people really wanted to know if protective gear is coming, who is producing what, how it's incentivized, and when they deliver. Most of all, they wanted to know why he wasn't using all the tools available to him many weeks ago. The governor is now focused on what we should learn from COVID-19 and how we can institutionalize that learning about our social system, education, health care and transportation. He appointed the former CEO of Google to a 15-member Blue Ribbon Commission to address this learning.

This country had a cascade of warnings that went unheeded earlier this year when we had no appropriate plan. We were underfunded, underprepared, and uncoordinated for a virus with no existing treatment. Early in March, the President said in response to a question about the coronavirus: "not concerned at all. We've done a great job." This was followed by muddled messages and missed opportunities. His decision on Jan. 31 to restrict travel from China was expected to contain the outbreak. Public health officials at the federal, state, and local levels have worked furiously to make up for weeks lost partly because U.S. public health authorities insisted on creating their own test instead of using the one offered by the World Health Organization.

South Africa shared some of our President's optimism around leveraging treatments developed for other dis-

eases such as malaria to treat the more serious cases of COVID-19 and improve the mortality risk. The President called these drugs a "game-changer." The FDA allowed the drugs "to be distributed and prescribed by doctors to hospitalized patients with COVID-19, as appropriate, when a clinical trial was not available or feasible." People who use this drug for lupus and other health problems feared that the drug that is unproven for COVID-19 may be unavailable for them. A vaccine may be months away, but remember that at one point we thought HIV/AIDS was incurable. Dr. Anthony Fauci believes that the virus will come back in another season and we need the vaccine to be ready for that time.

Since all indications suggest that global pandemics will become a potentially recurring problem, we need to find innovative ways to work together to fight communicable diseases even while practicing social distancing. Pandemics tie us all together even when we live separate lives. Most important, we will be more optimistic when we begin seeing large numbers of people who have had the disease and are immune, and we have tested them to know that they are no

longer infectious. Their antibodies can prevent the virus in others.

This is a crisis with the unusual requirements of social distancing, staying home, and washing your hands obsessively. Community groups developed networks to provide aid to those in need, either for those with compromised health or those who have suffered from plummeting income as a result of the economic downturn. Those who are experiencing the problems most severely can help us to see how our stories are connected. We need a national call to action. "The virus is an equal opportunity infector. And it's probably the way we would be better if we saw ourselves that way, which is much more alike than different," says epidemiologist Larry Brilliant, who warned of the 2006 pandemic.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Please note: All events are possibly subject to change or cancellation—please check our website for last minute information.

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 – **Board Meeting at 6:00 pm** – Conference Call

Saturday, July 25, 2020 **TECH SAVVY**

Tuesday August 11, 2020 **Scholarship Celebration**

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 **Annual Meeting and Dinner** at Chef's

BOOKSALE ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

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

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