

June 2021

NYS District 1

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Vol. CXXIX No. 10

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### Let's get together! (Really!)

Our fall dinner will be held at Wurlitzer Events on Tuesday, September 21. Sign-in and networking will be from 5:30-6:15 p.m., followed by dinner.



In addition to learning about plans for the AAUW year ahead, we will have a presentation by **Karen Davis**, senior consumer fraud representative with the New York State Office of the Attorney General. The pandemic has provided multiple opportunities for scam artists and computer hackers to use our fear of the unknown against us. Be aware!

Details and registration information will be available in the **September Advocate**, which should be in your hands in late August.



### September ADVOCATE

The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 10th of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor: ([newsletter@aauwbuffalo.org](mailto:newsletter@aauwbuffalo.org)) via email by August 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



### **Save the Date!**

**For an interactive & engaging seminar  
featuring historian  
Sally Roesch Wagner  
& noted panelists**

**From Suffrage to the ERA  
Equity, Resiliency, Activism**

**Saturday, October 2, 10 a.m.—noon  
Daemen College  
4380 Main St., Amherst, NY  
In-person & online access available**

**Sponsored by the Western New York Women's  
Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee**

**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.

The opinions expressed within the newsletter are those of the individual writers and may or may not reflect those of the Branch.

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

*Laurie Eikemeyer*

**A**s my term comes to an end, I wish to thank all of you for your dedication to our mission and for the exemplary work you do for the good of women everywhere. It has been my privilege to be your president.

Thank you to Betty Preble and Barbara Carier for mentoring me and assisting me when I needed help. And thank you to Pat Miceli for her assistance and support as co-chair with me of the public-relations committee. I also wish to thank the Buffalo Branch board members for their hard work and dedication. It has been a pleasure working with you.

The pandemic played havoc with our lives for most of my term. Fortunately, life is starting to move in a more normal direction. As more of us are vaccinated and the level of infection goes down, we are able to eat out in restaurants again, travel again, and even think about planning in-person activities. It is a good feeling indeed. I hope you will support Lilyen as she takes the helm by saying “Yes!” when she asks for volunteers. It is time to get back to the great work of AAUW.

Some of the things we’ve missed over the past year are our annual book sale, celebrating our scholars, and experiencing the shining faces of young girls excited to experience Tech Savvy. As these activities start up again, I wish you great success!

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Laurie mentioned saying “Yes!” to Lilyen when she asks for volunteers. But you can be proactive—think about what you’d LIKE to do and offer your skills and enthusiasm NOW! There are many jobs, big and small.

- Help the membership chairs
- Help with (or take over!) the newsletter
- Assist with (or manage) the website
- Help with event registrations
- Design posters and/or brochures
- Take pictures
- Work with the local colleges
- Educate the branch on AAUW issues and funds
- Organize a new interest group
- Chair one of the branch scholarships
- Prepare and send out press and news releases
- And the list goes on....

**AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS 2020-21**

**PRESIDENT**  
Laurie Eikemeyer

**VP PROGRAM**  
Lilyen Mascellino

**VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**  
Melissa White

**VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION**  
Jean Hubbard

**SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
Diane O’Brien

**CFO**  
Rosalind Kochmanski

**BRANCH TREASURER**  
Mary Bashore

**EAP TREASURER**  
Lynne Rapin

**FUNDRAISING TREASURER**  
Mary Crocker

**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR EDUCATION TREASURER**  
Kate Collins

**SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR**  
Rosaleen Nogle



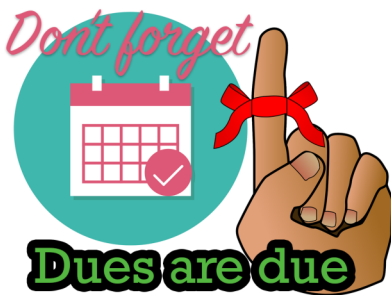
## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

### Congratulations to our incoming Branch officers!

- President: Lilyen Mascellino
- Program Vice President: Dr. Marian Deutschman
- Membership Retention Vice President: Dr. Susan McClary
- Operations Treasurer: Mary Bashore
- Chamberlin Fund/Funds for Education Treasurer: Kathleen Santa Maria

Thanks to all who participated in the voting!

**Congratulations to our honorary Book Sale chair, Jacquie Walker.** She is being inducted into the New York State Broadcasters Hall of Fame in October. We are honored to have her as a friend!



**R**enewal notices were sent out in early April. If you have not returned yours, please do so as soon as possible. Send your information form and your check to Mary Crocker, 375 Parkhurst Blvd, Buffalo, NY 14223.

Beverly Polito  
9405 Douglas Fir Ct  
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55 Rubino Court  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
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Cell: 472-9913  
[mbwieds@verizon.net](mailto:mbwieds@verizon.net)

## June 2021 Interest Groups

### **DINNER BY THE BOOK**

**When:** Wednesday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Marilyn Carmichael will invite you by Zoom to join the discussion.

**Book:** *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan.

**Facilitator:** Marilyn Todd

**Discussion leader:** Mary Crocker.

**RSVP:** Marilyn Carmichael, 875-6817 or [marilyngrace23@gmail.com](mailto:marilyngrace23@gmail.com)

### **WNY CULINARY ARTS**

*Everything is on hold until we can once again safely meet in restaurants*

Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or [bplibby1@verizon.net](mailto:bplibby1@verizon.net)

### **CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB**

**When:** Wednesday, June 23 at 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Paula Salamone will invite you by Zoom to join the discussion.

**Book:** *The Last Place You Look* by Kristen Ledionka

**RSVP:** Paula Salamone 479-1088 or [salamonepaula@yahoo.com](mailto:salamonepaula@yahoo.com)

### **THE HAPPY WANDERERS**

*See you in the fall!*

Mary Ellen Shaughnessy at [feeley@roadrunner.com](mailto:feeley@roadrunner.com) or 885-3292

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**THANKS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEES**  
and  
**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!**

**Women Entering College Scholarships**



**Maymuna Akter** has a 4.16 GPA and plans to attend UB as a biological sciences major and nutrition minor aspiring to be a gynecologist specializing in women's health. Motivated by growing up in Bangladesh and seeing the significance of quality health care on young women, she hopes to empower their dreams for a better life. Maymuna has been involved in Key Club International, City Honors/ Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation, Model UN, and Keeping the Dream Alive. As a volunteer at the American Red Cross and Buffalo General Hospital and having participated in the Mayor's Summer Youth Program at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, she's seen healthcare up close. This has fueled her interest in laboratory research. Being an intern in Lovejoy District Council Member Bryan Bollman's office and working at JFK Recreation Center instilled a passion for community service. Her immigration journey taught her life lessons. "First and foremost, I learned to accept it's okay to be different. It's okay to stand out in a crowd." Sharing her life story not only tells people who she is, but demonstrates how similar we all are despite our differences.

**Lucy Dietrich** has a 96.02 GPA and ranks 8/136 at her school. She already has been accepted at Pratt Institute/Brooklyn, Pratt MWP/Utica, School for Visual Arts/Manhattan, Cleveland Institute of Art, and the University of the Arts/Philadelphia. Her goal is to become a working artist as well as working closely with galleries to exhibit the work of living artists and participate with non-profit art programs for children. Being selected for the AK Teens Future Curator program, she helped select, organize, install, and promote the annual art exhibition of work submitted by WNY and Ontario high school students. She's been lighting director of Tonawanda High School's Theater Club for three years, winning several 2019 Kenny Awards at Shea's Buffalo Theater. Lucy is a member of the Tonawanda High School Gay-Straight Alliance who celebrates diversity to create a place of unity and acceptance. As a competitive USAG gymnast with Buffalo Turners Gymnastics until an injury forced her to retire in 2018, she's learned patience, hard work, and commitment, and was awarded "Most Dedicated" twice in her five years on the team. Her community activities include Y.E.S., Elmwood Festival of the Arts (KidsFest area) and Tonawanda STEAM night (Artmaking Space). She's had work exhibited in eleven juried exhibitions. And, she plays the clarinet in the Buffalo State Honor Band. "Growing up in a generation of school lockdown drills, multiple environmental crises, and increasing civil unrest, I do not have a legal vote. Often my [art] work is how I've come to process global events... I have discovered there are many ways to bring about change; artmaking happens to be mine."





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## Olga Lindberg Scholarships



**Emily Ivey** is a second-year graduate student working toward a PhD at the State University at Buffalo, majoring in microbiology and immunology. Her focus of study is host restriction of viral infection. One of Emily's noteworthy accomplishments is that she identified a new cellular defense gene that can potentially block the coronavirus in cells. She has also identified a viral gene that targets that cellular gene. Emily's thesis work focuses on understanding cellular antiviral genes that target SARS-CoV-2 infection, with the ultimate goal of the discovery of novel SARS-CoV-2 therapeutic avenues.

Emily is involved in the Microbiology Graduate Student Association, the Collaborative Learning and Integrated Mentoring in the Bioscience (CLIMB) program, and she serves as a Jacobs School of Medicine Student Ambassador. These organizations provide a venue for students to present and discuss their research; teach young scientists how to better communicate their work accomplishments, and introduce high school and undergraduate students to the Jacobs School of Medicine at the University at Buffalo.

Emily shares her skills in the community. Among other outreach activities she volunteered with the National Science Policy Network's Ask a Scientist program. At the onset of COVID-19 Emily answered questions submitted by the general public. She quickly evaluated the deluge of changing information regarding COVID-19 and interpreted the information for people who didn't have the background to do so.

Emily's awards, honors, and recognition include the Laboratory Rotation Award, Honors in Research, and the Discover Undergraduate Summer Research grant. The professors who wrote letters of recommendation for Emily not only addressed her high academic success, but also wrote of someone who is highly personable. They stated she is always willing to help her colleagues, which is important in science, as most scientific research is performed in a group/collaborative setting.

**Sara Jamieson** is a fourth-year undergraduate student at Nazareth College in Rochester, majoring in Communication Sciences & Disorders. She recently qualified for the accelerated graduate program to work toward a Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology. Her goal is to earn a PhD in Speech Language Pathology, focusing on the role of counselor in relation to her client. Sara taught ASL and helped others understand the culture of the deaf community in Rochester, which has the largest deaf population in the U.S.

Sara is actively involved in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Association. She organized a free Neuro Clinic and Speech-Language Clinic for the community. The Neurogenic Communication and Cognition Clinic for senior citizens that Sara planned provided her an inside look at the feelings of isolation of senior citizens. Both of these clinics contributed to Sara's developing various activities as a member of the Campus Activities Board.

During COVID, when Sara learned that after-school activities were cancelled, she worked with the Rochester Public Library to develop a book discussion over Zoom for tweens in the area. She facilitated discussion questions and led group activities on the book *Winterhouse*. Sara participated in the annual "Discover Naz Day" which provides an opportunity for elementary students to interact with college students and learn about Nazareth College. Working with the Community Walkabout, Sara assisted at the obstacle-course station for children with special needs, demonstrating how crucial accessibility is for everyone.



*"Sara," continued on p. 6*

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*“Sara,” continued from p. 5*

Sara’s awards, honors, and recognition include making the Dean’s List every semester, National Society of Leadership and Success, and Campus Activities Board General Member of the Year. The educators who provided letters of recommendation for Sara discuss her initiative, leadership, self-direction, creativity, and strong interpersonal skills.

## Catalyst for Change Scholarships



The 2021 Catalyst for Change Undergraduate School Scholarship awardee, **Claire Mullen**, is a high school senior at Mount Mercy Academy who plans to study neuroscience and psychology at Cornell University in the fall. Ms. Mullen is passionate about pursuing better treatments and earlier diagnoses of Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) in women. While AD is more common in women than in men, the current verbal diagnostic tests used to identify it were developed for men and are less effective for early diagnosis in women. At the age of 16 Ms. Mullen began to create and sell greeting cards through her own business, Clover Cards, with half of the proceeds given to the Alzheimer’s Association specifically with the purpose of addressing this disparity. In her professional life Ms. Mullen intends to have a direct impact on this issue through becoming a research psychiatrist with the specific goal of creating a new diagnostic method which would offer more consistent early diagnosis of this dreadful disease in women. In her academic career to date, Ms. Mullen had demonstrated the drive and excellence necessary to make this goal a reality through being named a Regional Brain Bee Champion, maintaining an overall GPA of 99.21, and earning an SAT score of 1500.

The 2021 Catalyst for Change Graduate School Scholarship awardee, **Somayeh Bejbord** is a PhD student at the University at Buffalo majoring in Industrial Engineering. She has been living in Western New York for the last five years after earning her MS and BS in Industrial Engineering from Amir Kabir University of Tehran in Iran. Ms. Bejbord is currently doing research in the area of sustainable transportation systems and plans to use the scholarship to advance her research and network with others in this field at conferences. Eventually, she plans to become a professor of Industrial Engineering. While pursuing her Master’s in Iran, Ms. Bejbord helped lead a program to help women advance within her company despite pervasive gender discrimination. She also wrote several published articles on the issues facing women in engineering in Iran which were carried by a major reformist newspaper. As part of her efforts to advance STEM knowledge and opportunities for disadvantaged populations in Iran, Ms. Bejbord also taught math to homeless children while living there. Since immigrating to the United States, she has continued to pursue the advancement of STEM knowledge and careers among women and underprivileged communities through volunteering to organize camps for K-12 education activities and serving as VP for Events for the UB Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences.



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## Gerontocracy & Public Policy

*Dr. Marian Deutschman*

**T**he League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara has a discussion group that meets monthly via Zoom.

Members suggest articles for discussion. This month the two recommended articles focused on gerontocracy. The issue is a concern about our elderly leadership. At 78, Joe Biden became the oldest president. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is 80 and so is Majority Whip Jim Clyburn. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Chuck Grassley are 87 years old. Senator Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is 78. The list goes on. Is age an impediment to governing?

The number of Americans older than 45 has increased by almost 25 million since 2000, so it may not be surprising that many in that generation are in positions of power. We're not the only country with an increase in the older demographic, but other countries don't have that dominance in their legislative bodies. The average age of members of the US House at the beginning of the 116th Congress was 57.6 years; of senators, 62.9 years.

Eve Peyser, the 27-year-old author of the first article, blames the two-party system, which makes it easier to retain a seat than it is to acquire one. Young people don't have the resources, connections, or pipeline to run for office and gain seats. Name recognition, incumbency, and past accomplishments keep many of the oldsters in office for decades. The discussion focus was determining what happens when decision-making ability is jeopardized. The second article, by Jane Mayer, addressed the specific issues facing Senator Dianne Feinstein. Several significant examples of the onset of dementia were mentioned that may be interfering with her ability to be effective in her senior position (chair) on the judicial committee. Democrats use a seniority system for committee chairmanship. To deal with the Feinstein problem, limits have been placed on the number of chairmanships a senator can have. As a result, Feinstein relinquished her senior position on the judicial committee. Her term in office ends in 2024.

Other older senators have indicated that they will run for another six-year term. Term limits aren't likely to solve the problem, and we could lose institutional knowledge in the process. Mandatory retirement is another alternative. We

were stumped about identifying a specific age for retirement. One suggestion was to set a retirement age by law and review the age every decade to see if effective longevity decreases or increases. Would legislators vote for limiting their individual power, status, and identity? Could the 25th Amendment apply to members of Congress? The 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution says that if the President becomes unable to do his job, the Vice President becomes the President or Acting President.

**AGE**  
*Concern*

How would decline in competency be monitored and enforced? Should this be required for all powerful positions, including the Supreme Court? We would then suffer an earlier loss of someone with the credentials and perspective of a Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We were reminded that a younger person may emerge with those qualities. However, there is no assurance that a young person of such quality would be the successor. (The article pointed out that Representative Matt Gaetz is 37 and Senator Josh Hawley is 41.) You could leave it up to the voters, but they may not be aware of the limitations of their representative and would still prefer the incumbent to the challenger. Note that there have been instances where persons who are indicted get elected. Many retired elected officials become lobbyists or consultants.

Education was proposed as another answer. With longevity and other changes in our society, such as the delay in the period of wealth accumulation by young people, we need better planning for our later years. We need to yield to the younger generation and look forward to a new phase of leading productive, stimulating lives of learning and sharing our knowledge. This may depend on physical and financial health as well as attitude. Continuous learning and adjustment to change are a fact of life.

The next virtual discussion is at 7 p.m. on May 26. We're open for suggested articles and additional AAUW members as well as League members. Our goal is to have another lively discussion. After all, we lack the power to make immediate change, but it could lead to thoughtful action. Call or email Marian Deutschman for further information.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Please check our website for last-minute information.  
All programs have been via Zoom,  
but this situation is changing.

Wed., June 2, 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting Zoom  
Sat., June 26, 9:30—3:00 - Tech Savvy 16 Zoom  
(see <https://originaltechsavvy.org>)

## ENJOY THE SUMMER!

Wed., Sept. 1, 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
Tues., Sept. 21, 5:30 p.m. Branch program (see pg. 1)  
Sat., Oct. 2, 10:00 a.m. Women's Suffrage Celebration  
(see pg. 1)

## BOOKSALE

Next sale: tentatively June 1-5, 2022

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For almost 140 years we have worked together as a national grassroots 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.*

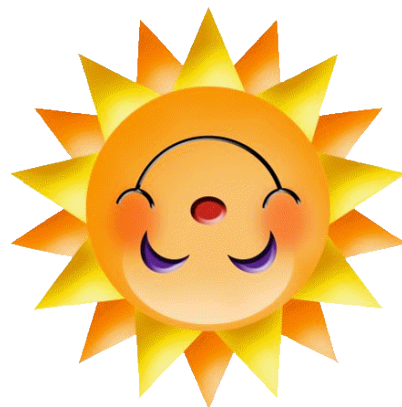
**Values :** *Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and intersectionality.*

*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.*



If there are asterisks by your name, you're either a local AAUW national member or someone who has expressed interest in joining. We'd love to see you as a branch member. Members—if there are dollar signs by your name, we haven't received your renewal yet! ☺

Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796



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