

April 2021

NYS District 1

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

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May ADVOCATE

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



Join us Tuesday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. for
***Sporting Women of Western NY and Beyond
(and some who were just passing through!)***

This Zoom program will be hosted by Explore Buffalo. We will look back at sporting women from the late 1800s to current day, including a few specific women and sporting women in general. Topics will include which forms of exercise/sports were considered acceptable for women, as well as how sports/exercise affected fashion!

RSVP to Lilyenm@gmail.com by Tuesday, April 20 to receive the Zoom link.

Hope to see you there!

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

Year-End Planning

At this time, we are working to complete the AAUW year. We discuss and plan the annual meeting and luncheon, award scholarships, and make plans to honor the scholarship recipients. We also choose a recipient of the AAUW Buffalo Branch Achievement Award, given to a woman of distinction in our community. The board has attempted to keep things running during the pandemic. Even the Book Sale Executive Committee has been meeting and making decisions.

However, there is nothing normal about this year so far. It is still not safe to reconvene in person. At the time of this writing, only 24% of New Yorkers have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Because of this, we have decided to hold a virtual annual meeting on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 11 a.m. We will present our new officers and duly install them into their respective offices. Hopefully, the new board will not face the obstacles of the pandemic much longer and will be able to get on with business as usual. As part of the annual meeting, it will also be my privilege to present the Achievement Award to this year's [honoree](#).

WNY Women's Centennial Celebration Committee

I became involved in the WNY Women's Centennial Celebration Committee last year. This group, made up of remarkable women from a large number of WNY women's groups, has been working to host a wonderful event. It was intended to celebrate women's suffrage and the Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment. The pandemic changed our plans but the group moves forward. See the announcement in this newsletter to **Save the Date** (pg. 1) and stay tuned for more information.

I find I am no longer able to participate on this committee and ask that anyone interested in working on this significant community event (of which we are a sponsor) to please contact me. I have decided to leave the area and will be moving to Tennessee at the beginning of June. It has been my privilege to serve as your president. I hope you will stay in touch. I will remain a member of the Branch, so please do drop me a line.

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

Buffalo Branch Business—Be in the Know!

1. In April membership renewal notices will be going out to every member and friend of the Branch. For most of our members, the total dues for the coming year will be \$77. Please send in both your dues and the interests form as soon as possible so we can be planning for the year.
 - Our local Branch dues will remain the same—\$15 for almost everyone except honorary life members and student affiliates.
 - As you are all probably aware, the national organization is increasing its portion of the dues during the next three years. The first year will bring a \$3 increase, resulting in \$62 national dues for most of our members.
 - Due to the inability of AAUW-NYS to hold in-person events last year, the state board has agreed to waive NYS dues for the coming year.
2. By May 1 ballots for the election of Branch officers will be emailed or mailed to every member of the Branch. We will once again be using the “Election Buddy” system, which allows for anonymous voting. Voting will end on Saturday, May 15. Those who receive paper ballots in the mail need to return them with a May 15 or earlier postmark. The results will be announced and the new officers installed at the Saturday, May 22 virtual annual meeting. As a reminder, the slate being proposed is
 - 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



April 2021 Interest Groups

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

We will visit the Buffalo Museum of Science to see its exhibit “Medieval to Metal: the Art and Evolution of the Guitar.”

When: Friday, April 9 at 10:15 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. time.

Tickets must be purchased in advance for that date and time. Tickets are \$13 for seniors and should be purchased soon. You might want to check with Mary Ellen first. Visit the [website](#) for more information. **A name and headcount is needed** so we know who to wait for before we go in. Lunch is possible at a nearby restaurant if desired.



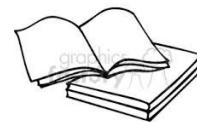
RSVP: Mary Ellen Shaughnessy at feeley@roadrunner.com or 885-3292

WNY CULINARY ARTS

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

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or bpplibby1@verizon.net

DINNER BY THE BOOK



When: Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Marilyn Carmichael will invite you by Zoom to join the discussion. **We will choose the books for next year (2021 – 2022).** Everyone is asked to bring at least two book suggestions.

RSVP: Marilyn Carmichael: marilyngrace23@gmail.com or 875-6817.

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wednesday, April 28 at 12:30 p.m.

Where: Paula Salamone will invite you by Zoom to join the discussion. **We will choose the books for next year (2021 – 2022).** Please bring your selections.

RSVP: Paula Salamone at salamonepaula@yahoo.com or 479-1088.



2021 Achievement Award

By Laurie Eikemeyer, president



It is with great pleasure that I announce Marian Deutschman as this year's Achievement Award selection. I have enjoyed working on the board with Marian and was part of the committee which selected her. We admire her commitment to our com-

munity, her passion for public policy activism, and her dedication to bettering lives for women. Marian is always volunteering when we need someone to step up. She has served on many committees in our AAUW branch, and currently serves as our Public Policy chair. She has written enlightening articles about public policy for the Advocate for years. She is also active in the League of Women Voters, serving on many committees. Please join me in celebrating Marian's achievements and congratulating her for this award.

Background

Marian Deutschman has had multiple careers. After graduating from art school, she worked as a graphic designer until she had her first child. She continued to work as a freelance graphic designer in advertising and public relations while having two more children. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design while working and raising a family, and completed a Master of Fine Arts degree in Communication Design while continuing freelance design work. Marian traveled throughout the Northeast as a staff trainer and consultant with a focus on how the physical environment affects behavior in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and psychiatric centers. She set up a research project in a prison. Marian earned her PhD in organizational communication at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

She began teaching as an adjunct faculty member at several colleges and universities. Eventually she became a full-time tenured professor at Buffalo State College, where she taught for more than 30 years in the Communications Department. During the last five-plus years at SUNY Buffalo State, she created the office and became director of College & Community Partnerships. Among other responsibilities this involved working on the West Side of Buffalo with the immigrant/refugee population and organizations serving those neighborhoods.

Dr. Deutschman has had significant community involvement with the League of Women Voters, Meals on Wheels, Alzheimer's Association, Public Relations Society of America, American Association of University Women, Buffalo Immigrant/Refugee Empowerment Coalition, Bistro Bookers, Network in Aging, Burchfield Penney Art Center (docent), University Express (presenter), and other organizational activities.

Her husband passed away in October 2019. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Achievements

Marian's long-term involvement in the League of Women Voters and all those other listed community organizations has been a source of lifetime education beyond the PhD. It helped her to understand how government works at the town, county, state, and national level. It helped her to communicate that information to her students when the Public Communications major in the Communications Department was established. It helped her to set up internships for students. It helped her organize the Office of College & Community Partnerships for Work as its director to improve the quality of life for refugees and minorities. Extending her education at the university during a 20-year period helped her to provide current information to her students. It helped her to integrate her learning with practice by setting up projects in a prison, in a hospital, in many long-term care facilities. It helped to provide practical training and consulting based on current research. It helped her to provide the results of this research in peer reviewed publications for people who work in long-term care facilities. When consulting she provided visuals of problems in the physical environment and had an auditorium of participants identify similar problems in their own environments by using a questionnaire. She tabulated the most frequently mentioned problems, photographed them, and presented options for problem resolution that participants chose and implemented to enhance their job satisfaction in environments beset by absenteeism and turnover.

Marian has given testimony at hearings on behalf of the League of Women Voters on a multitude of issues. She has moderated at numerous candidate forums. Marian has done presentations on a variety of political and communication issues. She concluded her comments to me by saying, "I can only hope that I made a difference."

I feel we can all agree that she has made a difference.

Congratulations, Marian!

Still Sowing Doubt and Disrespect

Marian Deutschman

Are there really more than a half million deaths in the United States from the pandemic? Was the 2020 election fraught with violations of state constitutions in the swing states?

There are those in our midst who still doubt the election results and the reality of the virus. The vote count doesn't convince them of the validity of the election because their social media sources tell them that unprecedented last-minute actions within the states violated their state constitution and therefore the vote is not valid. They trust their sources

Remember last March when we competed for toilet paper and we were told that the virus would disappear in no time? This year there is competition for funeral directors and tombstone material in some states. There are those who feel that the opposition to the former president is based on hate and an obsession, or else why would stories about him continue to dominate the news? They ask why there is no investigation of our current president and his son's activities in the Ukraine? It is difficult to convince those who trust their sources.

Is it true that states like Nevada and Georgia took actions that were in violation of their constitution? Did they ignore verification of signatures on mail-in ballots so that voters could vote more than one time? Although the courts said there was no proof of irregularities, these sources say that just because you fail in court, that doesn't mean fraud didn't occur.

I don't know what sources you read or trust, but false claims about the election process spread online in the wake of the 2020 vote. The USA TODAY fact-check team had a very long list of claims that they verified to stem the tide of misinformation on November 17 and updated on January 20, 2021. Among them were

Georgia ballot curing is not election fraud (*Further ID is necessary to prove voter's name and address.*)

Wisconsin votes don't have to be counted by 8 p.m. on November 3.

Wisconsin **does** have more registered voters than ballots cast.

More than 159 million registered voters cast ballots in the election, out of 239 million eligible voters. No one was allowed to vote after November 3. All Americans must vote on or before Election Day. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by that day. Some states won't **count** ballots received after Election Day, but many have extensions that allow for ballots to arrive and be counted after November 3. No evidence that 14,000 dead people cast ballots in Wayne County, Michigan.

The **Brennan Center** is an authority on elections. Its overview: *It is important to protect the integrity of our elections. But we must be careful not to undermine free and fair access to the ballot in the name of preventing phantom voter fraud. Politicians at all levels of government have repeatedly, and falsely, claimed the 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections were marred by large numbers of people voting illegally.*

However, extensive research reveals that fraud is very rare, voter impersonation is virtually nonexistent, and many instances of alleged fraud are, in fact, mistakes by voters or administrators. The same is true for mail ballots, which are secure and essential to holding a safe election amid the coronavirus pandemic. (Note that currently there are 250+ state bills to restrict voting.)



Fact-checking with another list would not persuade those who continue to believe that COVID is the flu, that there are more deaths each year from the flu than from the pandemic, that the virus is a hoax that has been exaggerated by fake news. And then there are

those who were alarmed by the Black Lives Matter demonstrations but felt they were justified in supporting the January 6 attack on the Capitol.

**The Brennan Center reminder is this:
Informed citizens are our democracy's best defense.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please check our website for last-minute information.
Until further notice, all programs are via Zoom

Tues., March 30, 6:30 p.m.—Branch Program
Wed., April 7, 6:00 p.m.—Board Meeting
Wed, April 27, 6:30 p.m.—Branch Program (see pg. 1)
Sat, May 1—Voting for Branch Officers begins
Wed., May 5, 6:00 p.m.—Board Meeting
Sat, May 15—Voting for Branch Officers ends
Sat., May 22, 11:00 a.m.—Annual Meeting
Sat, Oct 2, 10:00 a.m.—Women’s Suffrage Celebration
(see pg 1)

**BOOKSALE WORK ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME!
Next sale TBD**

**The Zoomed programs have been great! We urge you to
tune in on your computer, tablet, or smart phone!**

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. Are you a past member? We would like to welcome you back!

Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796



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