



ADVOCATE

December 2020

NYS District 1

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Vol. CXXIX No. 4



Welcome to AAUW Buffalo Branch's Past!

Join us

on

December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

as we step back in time for

A Readers Theater Presentation!



What: Our volunteer readers will read from a play which builds on three previous plays, presented in 1950, 1960, and 1980. This new production is being presented by our very own Diane O'Brien, Lynne Rapin, and Betty Preble with additional historical research by Judy Weidemann and Barbara Carier!

Members not reading will sit back and relax!

Everyone—get yourself a holiday snack and/or a glass of your favorite holiday beverage and prepare to enjoy each other's company the only way we can. A strictly social time will follow the program.

When/Where: Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom from your favorite chair! No worries if you can't access Zoom, as you can dial in to listen, as well.

Before the Event: Make sure you are able to access Zoom, as a link for the event will be sent to you to participate.

RSVP to Lilyen Mascellino (lilyenm@gmail.com) by Saturday, December 5 in order to receive the login information.

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JANUARY 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 December 10.

Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



And Plan Ahead for January!

Join us on Zoom Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. for

MOVERS AND SHAKERS: Buffalo Gals Who Made a Difference!

Speaker Sandy Starks will present a cross section of people from Buffalo's past plus famous contemporary women and authors.

To register RSVP to Diane O'Brien at Obnfam@roadrunner.com by January 6.

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:

Laurie Eikemeyer

Publisher/Editor:

Betty Preble (interim)

Assistant Editors:

Lee Cohen

Judy Weidemann

Barbara Carier

Laurie Eikemeyer

For prospective or new member questions, contact:

Membership Recruitment VP
Melissa White,
recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker
375 Parkhurst Blvd.
Buffalo, NY 14223

database@aauwbuffalo.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Laurie Eikemeyer

"...All the women who have worked to secure and protect the right to vote for over a century, 100 years ago with the 19th Amendment, 55 years ago with the Voting Rights Act, and now in 2020 with a new generation of women in our country who cast their ballots and continue the fight for their fundamental right to vote and be heard. Tonight, I reflect on their struggle, their determination, and the strength of their vision to see what can be unburdened by what has been. I stand on their shoulders." – Kamala Harris

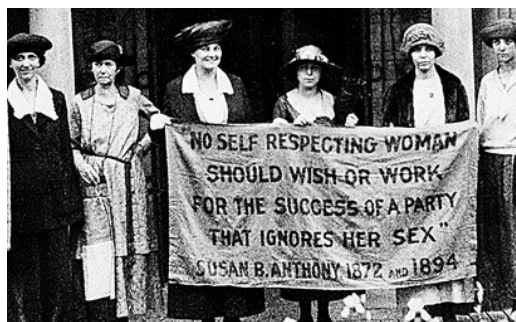
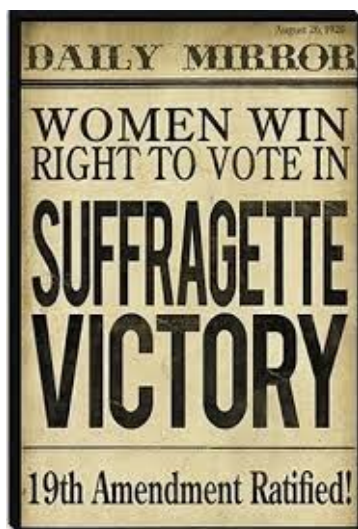


As I listened to Senator Harris' acceptance speech, I was thrilled to witness this great moment in history. As our Vice-President-elect—the first woman, Black American, Indian and South-Asian American to hold this office—history has been made and another glass ceiling will be shattered on Inauguration Day. Regardless of your party affiliation or how you voted, this is a great achievement for all women. (Note: While Joe Biden is the apparent winner, at the time of (this) writing, President Trump has not conceded and the vote has not been certified.)

This election also yielded more seats to women, increasing the number from 25% to 30% of Congress. Women are a strong voting force and women of color are the fastest-growing voting group.

"But while I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last, because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities." – Kamala Harris

For young women and girls everywhere, the possibility of becoming President of the United States has never been so real. They now have a role model who looks like them and makes their dreams more attainable. It is with great pleasure that I applaud the accomplishments of strong women today!



WE WILL NEED HELP!

As you can read below, there are several branch scholarships with applications due in early January. Guess what—committees will be needed to go over those and choose the winners!

Working on one of these committees is one of the most rewarding experiences you can enjoy in AAUW—it brings a new faith in our next generation. We know that we will probably not be able to meet in person as committees, but our chairs will be working on ways to converse and connect safely.

If you'd like to join in the fun, please contact either the scholarship director, Rosaleen Nogle (rnogle@buffalosewer.org), or the individual scholarship chairs (see pages 3-4 of your new roster for contact info).



PLEASE CHECK YOUR NEW ROSTERS!

If your information is incorrect, please notify Mary Crocker:

database@aauwbuffalo.org

We already have some corrections. Please mark these changes in your roster:

Betty Krist: home phone number is now (716)740-8642 and her unit is #615.

Fran Witnauer has a new email address:
grandmafran4547@gmail.com.

Marilyn Todd has moved: 1805 Maple Road, Apt. 212, Williamsville, NY 14221.

JoAnn Greenzweig has moved out of state: PO Box 94206, Phoenix, AZ 85070-4206.

Joyce Bol has also moved out of state: 32 Graves Ave., Northampton, MA 01060-3204.

SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Buffalo Branch offers a variety of scholarships, interest-free loans, and grants to local students and teachers. The applications are all available on our new website: <https://AAUWBuffalo.org>. Just choose the "Scholarships/Loans/Grants" page to learn the details.

Please pay attention to the deadlines:

The scholarships (women only) all have a January 11, 2021 deadline:

- [Women Entering College Scholarships](#)
- [Olga Lindberg Scholarships](#)
- [Catalyst for Change Scholarships](#)
- [Jacquie Walker Scholarship](#)

The [Chamberlin and Funds for Education](#) offerings (grants and/or interest-free loans) are available to men and women. They are offered twice a year—the next deadline is **December 1**.

Applications for the [Clarine Radt mini-grants](#) for public-school teachers are accepted at any time.

If you know of anyone eligible for any of these, please direct him/her to our website. The [scholarship poster](#) is also there—print it out for the offices you visit and bulletin boards you see!



**AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH
ELECTED
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INTEREST GROUPS

WNY CULINARY ARTS

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

Barbara Libby at 836-8303. Or plibby1@verizon.net

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Book: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson

Discussion Leader: Diane O'Brien

RSVP: Marilyn Carmichael 875-6817 or mcarmichael45@aol.com

CLUELESS

When: Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 12:30 p.m.

Book: *A Cold Day in Hell*, by Lissa Marie Redmond

DL: Paula Salamone

For technical information contact Paula Salamone (SalomonePaula@yahoo.com).

For other questions contact Barbara Libby (BPLibby1@verizon.net)

HAPPY WANDERERS

Place: Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens

Date: Friday, Dec. 4 at 10:15 a.m.

The Gardens ask that we keep our tour to 1½ hours.

The Gardens have two exhibits: *Poinsettias* and *Railway Exhibit*

Admission: Adults: \$12.50 Seniors: \$11.00

NOTE: Tickets must be purchased via the Gardens website in advance. They will be scanned at the door.

Lunch: There are several cafes within a few blocks of the Gardens. Mary Ellen S. asks that anyone planning to participate call her at 885-3292 or e-mail her at feeley@roadrunner.com so she will know whom to expect.

DID YOU KNOW?

AAUW has been sponsoring a series of webinars during this COVID season: Equity Network Events.

A few of the topics:

- * Managing Burnout Through Self-Compassion
- * Justice Ginsburg's Legacy and the Future of the Court
- * Black Women Leading Through an Equity Lens

You can view the past webinars on the national website:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/equity-network/events/>

Learning never stops in AAUW!

The
EQUITY >>>
Network



ELECTION 2020

Marian Deutschman

We had the highest voter turnout since 1900 and a record turnout of young people in this election. Kamala Harris makes history as first female, first Black and first of Indian descent to become U. S. Vice President. We should be delighted!

However, the election has demonstrated conclusively that we are so divided that we can't solve our problems unless we talk to one another. We are still finding it difficult to do that. Our elected leaders have not been good role models. The election revealed that we should not

categorize people with a broad brush. We tend to associate with people who look or think like ourselves. We assume that people who are similar to ourselves on one trait are similar to us on many other

traits. There is bias in our processing of information from in-group versus out--group leaders that activates certain areas of the brain. We choose media sources that affirm our thinking.

We will all need to engage to strengthen our communities and nation. How can we facilitate connections between people despite the differences, and identify areas of common ground and shared understanding? An important part of these conversations is really hearing other persons fully share their story or their viewpoint. It's about understanding, and forming relationships.

Will this work in our current polarized political environment? Half of those voters support the other candidate. We need to hear the stories of people unlike ourselves and how they are impacted on the ground by government action. President Trump has given his supporters, and his opponents, permission to say and do things that inflame. News outlets have let obvious lies frame their coverage. Mainstream media provide news coverage for every conflict with a very small percentage of political coverage focused on policy. It's significant

that 90% of coverage is focused on scandals, attacks, polls and fundraising. Covid-19 still plagues our country with more cases and deaths than any other nation. Our leadership has failed us on the pandemic.

We have to start caring about the issues we're divided on. Most people don't necessarily want division. They care about issues such as healthcare, infrastructure, police reform and climate change. It's difficult to find common ground or compromise on climate change

when the opposition doesn't believe it exists.

People lose health care every year because they can't afford treatment. The current system of immigration tears families apart as they struggle to safety across the border. Our police shoot without consequence.

Changes in media coverage could help us to engage readers, listeners and viewers with improved coverage of the issues. People need to have a better grasp of how our government works. The actions of President Trump have enhanced media coverage and ratings, particularly at Fox News, but not on an understanding of public policy.

News outlets have tried to appear even-handed, but pundits and columnists have confused the readers who are seeking the truth. This election was a test of the role and performance of the news media in our democracy. It was also a test for politicians, parties, election officials, the courts, and citizens themselves. What have they learned and how will that result in changes that strengthen our communities and nation?

We now have a 78-year-old Catholic president-elect who was one of our youngest senators when elected. We know that decency, empathy and character matter. He needs to show he cares for the needs of blue collar people while respecting the norms and institutions that unite us.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Please check our website for last-minute information.

All upcoming programs via Zoom:

- Wed., Dec. 2, 6:00—Board Meeting
- Thurs., Dec. 10, 7:00—Branch Program (see p. 1)
- Wed., Jan. 6, 6:00—Board Meeting
- Tues., Jan. 12, 7:00—Branch Program (see p. 1)

Deadlines:

- Tues., Dec. 1—application deadline for Chamberlin/Funds for Education Grants and Loans
- Mon., Jan. 11—application deadline for branch scholarships.

BOOKSALE WORK ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME!
Next sale **PLANNED** for June 2-6, 2021

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.

Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796



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