

February 2021

NYS District 1

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

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### March 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 February 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



### Join us again on the screen in February!



Zoom in on Monday, February 15 at 6 p.m. for a presentation by Sonya Ealey, recently retired US Border Patrol agent and recruiter. Ms. Ealey will discuss her career as a border patrol agent, as well as being female in a male-dominated profession.

Ms. Ealey has 25 years of federal civilian law-enforcement service. She was born in Buffalo and attended Cheektowaga Central High School. Agent Ealey possesses a degree in Sociology from State University of New York at Buffalo.

Traveling the globe, beekeeping, and various miscellaneous people-focused part time jobs are on her to-do list once covid-19 has been dealt with.

Contact:

Lynne Rapin, [lmrapin@gmail.com](mailto:lmrapin@gmail.com) no later than February 10 to be put on the list to receive sign-in information.



### Did you miss our fall programs?

In November, we co-sponsored the League of Women Voters program "So We Voted...Now What." The program was recorded and is now online. The link is on our website:

[aauwbuffalo.org/programs & meetings/branch-programs](https://aauwbuffalo.org/programs%20&%20meetings/branch-programs)

The December program, celebrating Buffalo AAUW's history, was also recorded and the link is available in the same location.

## 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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## UPDATING ROSTERS

**If your information is incorrect or has changed, please notify Mary Crocker.**

**Changes this month:**

Fran Witnauer's new email is [grandmafran4547@gmail.com](mailto:grandmafran4547@gmail.com)

Carol Golyski now uses: [Carolyski@roadrunner.com](mailto:Carolyski@roadrunner.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Laurie Eikemeyer*

Last year challenged us all. As we celebrated the New Year, we were hopeful that 2021 would be better. Shortly after our celebration, chaos broke out in our nation's Capitol. We watched, stunned, as protesters violently descended on the citadel of our democracy. As I write this, there are even more threats on our nation's capital and all 50 state capitals. Our democracy is in a very precarious position.

Further, the pandemic rages across the country. There is a new strain of COVID now in the U.S. that is more aggressive than the strain we have been battling since last year. Now, authorities are trying to figure out how to speed up the vaccination process as it is not getting out to the public fast enough.

All of this leads to a lot of stress.

What are we to do?

Please be safe and be smart. Stay out of harm's way. Wear a mask. Maintain social distancing. Consider getting the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available to you if it is safe for you. In this time of uncertainty we need to support each other. Take care of your physical and mental health. If you are alone, please reach out to family and friends. Get some exercise. During the winter exercising enough can be challenging because you are limited to inside activities. During a pandemic getting enough exercise can be more challenging because gyms have been closed. Do the best that you can do.

**Branch news ...**

Because the pandemic continues, it is looking as if we will consider an online election of officers again this year. What did you think of it last year?

As I've mentioned in my messages previously, we are now using our branch zoom account to present our monthly programs. January's program was an interesting presentation, "Movers and Shakers: Buffalo Gals Who Made a Difference." I hope you will join us for our February program listed here in the Advocate. One of the things that branch members enjoy the most is being able to visit with everyone, before and after the program. Would branch members be interested in a monthly branch social meeting on zoom to visit with our other members? It is very easy to do, even if you are not tech-savvy. Please let me know if you would be interested in this. And would someone be interesting in chairing this activity?

Looking ahead to next year, there are challenges ahead. The slate of candidates for branch offices was listed last month. But members of the executive committee are not our only leaders, as there are many other jobs to do. Many offer the choice of holding the position on or off board. Please be ready to say "yes" when an officer calls and asks you to help!

Be safe and be well!

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## FEBRUARY 2021 INTEREST GROUPS

### **THE HAPPY WANDERERS**

*We will take February off and hope to resume in March.*

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

### **CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB**

**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 12:30 p.m.

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

**What:** We will be doing a presentation by our book-club members of books or authors they have enjoyed.

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

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

### **DINNER BY THE BOOK**

**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Book:** *Have You Seen Luis Velez?* by Catherine Ryan Hyde

Facilitator: Lynne Rapin

Discussion Leader: Mary Georger

**RSVP:** Marilyn Carmichael 875-6817 or  
[mcarmichael45@aol.com](mailto:mcarmichael45@aol.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)

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## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE BRANCH!

### **Do you have program suggestions?**

Although almost everybody would prefer in-person meetings and programs, gathering remotely does offer the advantage of not worrying about the weather, horrible driving conditions, etc. It also means that we're not necessarily limited to locally available programs!

Do you (or your friend who lives in California or Kentucky, or your college roommate, or your mother) have a topic that should be shared? Or is another organization presenting a program you think would be of interest to branch members? Please contact Program VP [Lilyen Mascellino](mailto:Lilyen.Mascellino) with your ideas!

### **YOUR OPINION IS WANTED!**

This year there have been a number of scholarship applicants who were not American citizens. Our current application guidelines say nothing about citizenship, so some of these students may win one of these scholarships. The question from the scholarship committee is whether or not we should impose a citizenship requirement going forward.

As with the membership qualification issue (see pg. 4), there are many things to consider. Are these students here just for school (and may be somewhat subsidized by their own governments), planning to take their new knowledge back home? Are they refugees, with no place to return? Are they planning/ applying for citizenship? Does it/should it matter?

Please send comments to our scholarship director [Rosaleen Nogle](mailto:Rosaleen.Nogle).

**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

## ZOOM ACCOUNT

Laurie Eikemeyer

There have been questions about our zoom account. Our branch has a Zoom account to be used for Branch activities and programs only. Our subscription only allows one meeting at a time, so Barbara Carier is maintaining a calendar to help us avoid overlap and possible issues. If you are a leader wishing to schedule a meeting or program using our zoom account, you must visit our website at <https://aauwbuffalo.org> and go to Governance > Policies, read the policy concerning use of the zoom account, fill out the form, and send it to [zoomrequest@aauwbuffalo.org](mailto:zoomrequest@aauwbuffalo.org). Barbara Carier will then contact you with the login information. *If you are participating in a program via zoom, you do not need to fill out the form.* For leaders this form only needs to be filled out once a year.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

As we reflect on the state of our country and the deep-rooted beliefs that perpetuate an unequal society, we must consider the role and impact of AAUW and its members in upholding our core values. In pursuing our vision of equity for all, we need to recognize and eliminate the barriers we put on ourselves and on our organization that prevent us from truly achieving our goals.

This spring the AAUW membership will vote on an important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW. The national AAUW Board of Directors strongly supports the proposal, along with dozens of member leaders across the country. We believe this is an essential step toward making AAUW a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with our mission, values and the needs of women today. Our full statement on the issue appears below this email.

Now through **February 5, 2021**, you can provide thoughts and comments on the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws as well as proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities. To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the AAUW website:

- [Bylaws comments](#)
- [Public Policy comments](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

Note from Betty Preble: This proposed bylaws change has been put to a vote several times dating back to the early 2000s. Please consider the question and make your feelings known.



### In case you missed this news!

Premiering Monday, Feb. 1 at 9 p.m., "Discovering New York Suffrage Stories" introduces us to Matilda Joslyn Gage, Paulina Wright Davis, Hester Whitehurst Jeffrey, and Mary Burnett Talbert — a few of the diverse suffragists whose stories are too often unrecognized or absent from history. \*\*

\*\* continued →→→→

"Discovering New York Suffrage Stories" is the latest WNED PBS original production, a 30-minute program highlighting key milestones in the 70-year battle for the vote in Central and Western New York in the mid-1800s. The upstate region was an epicenter of reform, and these women tirelessly navigated religious intolerance, sexism, politics, and racism as they fought for the vote and women's equality.

On Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 7 pm, WNED PBS Executive Producer, Lynne Bader, will show highlights from the film and host a virtual panel discussion to explore the intersection of women's voting rights and race.

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# Peace of Mind Resolutions for 2021

*Marian Deutschman*

At the beginning of each year we make resolutions that usually get repeated the next year because the goals weren't achieved. Unfortunately, the goals we set for ourselves are often not even appropriate. **On January 1, psychologists and financial experts were offering this advice when making resolutions:**

- Let go of what is not in your control.
- Plan small increments of change. Make progress step by step.
- Remember that science can't rescue us from ourselves.
- Track your cash flow. It's vitally important to have 6-12 months of emergency living funds.
- Do your best to fund your retirement. You don't know the ups and downs of the market but a game plan can help to avoid emotional responses to the market.
- There's no question that this year is different. Hidden behind face masks, distanced six feet apart, we are losing touch with one another. Social connectivity and engagement are important as we make choices. Resolutions represent our unrealized possibilities. A recent article in The New Yorker by Joshua Rothman stated that "We do more than we give ourselves credit for; our real lives are richer than we think." He added that "We should be grateful for what's actual—that we should sink deeper into the life we have, rather than dreaming of the lives we don't." So forgive your failures and cut yourself some slack. Be compassionate. Give yourself a reasonable amount of time.

**What advice do the experts have for resolutions for our country?** We are faced with a multitude of public policy decisions. Here are a few problems worthy of resolutions for the new president who will have constraints on his governing ability:

- Address the issues surrounding the pandemic. The pandemic has disrupted the world's equilibrium and COVID-19 has reshaped American life in 2020.
- Unify the country. The United States has been growing increasingly polarized for decades, moving further in that direction not just by politicians but by cable news and social media.

- Restore honesty, integrity, honor, respect, accountability and rule of law.
- The pandemic has been a seismic disruption for the education of children. The consequences are yet unknown.
- Address systemic problems rooted in racism.
- Provide guidance on use of force by police and limit the qualified immunity doctrine that insulates police.
- The pandemic has made us more aware of our interdependence on issues such as climate change.
- Infrastructure is one area that is likely to get support across our divisions.
- Immigration policy, including reuniting those children and families who were separated at the border.
- COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the economy, transforming the work world. Some work requires physical presence at the workplace with limited opportunities for working remotely, making those workers more vulnerable to job losses. Experts say these workers tend to be young, without a college education, in part-time work and at the bottom of the earnings distribution. These gaps between haves and have-nots result in problems for minority racial and ethnic groups.
- Restore our relationships with our friends in other parts of the world by reviewing sanctions and treaties.

At this writing, the outgoing president is facing charges of incitement of insurrection after an attack on the Capitol by armed conspiracy theorists, far right extremists and those who believe, without evidence, that the election was fraudulent. Among the enablers are 8 senators and 139 House members. While we need mediation to seek solutions to our national problems we have millions of people who voted for the man who lost the election and they aren't accepting the results.

We still pray for peace of mind and successful resolutions for 2021.





## DATES TO REMEMBER

Please check our website for last-minute information.

Friday, Feb. 5—deadline for comments on national by-laws and Public Policy proposals (see pg. 4)

All upcoming programs via Zoom:

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m.—Board Meeting

Monday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m.—Branch Program (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 smartphone!

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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