



ADVOCATE

March 2021

NYS District 1

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Vol. CXXIX No. 7

Highlights of This Issue

Programs.....	1
President’s Message.....	2
One View is Not Democracy.....	3
Interest Groups.....	3
Sympathies.....	4
New Members.....	4
AAUW Art Contest.....	4
Coming Up.....	4
Accountability & Responsibility	5
Dates to Remember.....	6

Did You Know? (I didn’t!) - Learn More in March!

A University at Buffalo Libraries Special Collection, the Poetry Collection is **the library of record** for 20th- and 21st-century poetry in English. Founded in 1937 by Charles Abbott, the Poetry Collection now holds one of the world’s largest collections of poetry first editions and other titles, little literary magazines, broadsides and anthologies, a substantial collection of artworks, and more than 150 archives and manuscript collections from a wide range of poets, presses, magazines, and organizations.



The **James Joyce Collection** is comprised of more than 10,000 pages of the author’s working papers, notebooks, manuscripts, photographs, correspondence, portraits, publishing records, important memorabilia, and ephemeral material, as well as Joyce’s private library and the complete body of significant Joyce criticism. This is a world-famous collection and we are fortunate to have it here in Buffalo!

Zoom in on Tuesday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about this treasure. Dr. Jim Maynard and Dr. Alison Fraser, curator and assistant curator, respectively, of the Poetry Collection, will introduce us to the library itself. There will then be a video about the James Joyce collection, followed by open discussion and questions.

Send an email to Dr. Betty Krist (kristbj@icloud.com) by **March 26** asking to be put on the list to receive the Zoom information.



April 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 March 10. Please be sure to put “AAUW Buffalo Advocate” in the subject line.



Other AAUW-NYS Branches Are Also Zooming!

See what other branches are doing! AAUW members across the state are zooming in for a variety of presentations. The NYS AAUW website now has an Events calendar listing many of them. Just click on the “events calendar” link in the sidebar of [AAUW of NYS \(aauw-nys.org\)](http://aauw-nys.org) to view the topics, then click on each for details and registration information. Feel free to sign up—we’ve had guests for our sessions!

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.

March 2021
Vol. CXXIX, No. 7
Circulation 205

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



UPDATING ROSTERS

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

Changes this month:

Betty Preble is moving—new address is One Fox Run Lane, #622, Orchard Park, NY 14127

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Laurie Eikemeyer

February is Black History Month and March is Women's History Month so I've decided my article this month will talk about both. In my last article I noted the historic relevance of the inauguration of the first woman vice president of the United States. She is also a woman of color. In this election there was also much talk about Stacy Abrams, Nobel Peace Prize nominee for her voting rights activism, and the influence of black women voters. Indeed, black women are gaining much power in our great country.

Although black women have made great strides in recent years, they are in some ways not doing well at all. In an article published in Elle Magazine, "*Kamala Harris's Ascent Doesn't Mean Progress for Black Women*" by Eunice Omega, January 28, 2021, Omega discusses the turbulence of being a black woman. "Black women seem to be thriving. Across America, they've become the most educated demographic and the fastest-growing group of entrepreneurs." She goes on to discuss how black women played an important role in the presidential election, how they dominated entertainment headlines, and how they have become "agents of change."

Omega goes on to say, "if you think we're winning, we're not. Despite everything we do and accomplish, Malcolm X's words still ring true: 'The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman.'"

Indeed, according to the article, black women make only 62 cents to a white man's dollar. Black Americans are three times more likely to die of COVID-19. Many black women are disproportionately represented in the service industry and put their lives on the line every day to support their families. Black women are murdered at a higher rate than any other female demographic, and approximately 22 percent of black women are raped in their lifetime. These are abhorrent statistics!

While it's true that Kamala Harris has shattered a new ceiling for women, she faces sexism and racism.

AAUW must continue to be a forum for all women of color and we must stand with our sisters. It is through diversity that we are strong. We are the voice of women everywhere. We fight for women, we fight for families, and we fight against bias as part of our core values. We are AAUW – stand up and be heard!

Reference: "*Kamala Harris's Ascent Doesn't Mean Progress for Black Women*" by Eunice Omega, January 28, 2021. <https://www.elle.com/culture/career-politics/a35340181/kamala-harris-black-women-progress/>



One View Is Not Democracy

Rosalind Kochmanski

While scanning AAUW Buffalo Branch Newsletters from the 1980's and 1990's, being a lover of history, I read each one. Two Newsletter articles reminded me of what is happening today, except on much broader, deeper level.

In 1987 then President Pat Seaver wrote that she and Barb Carier participated in a Buffalo Board of Education meeting, objecting to an attempt to remove a textbook from use in the Buffalo City Schools. My curiosity prompted me to research the topic of the book in question. It was a book on marriage and relationships. Today, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*; *Of Mice and Men*; *The Cay*; and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (my first love) are being censored by a school board in Burbank, California – some not for the first time.

Also in 1987, AAUW National was active in preserving personal freedoms. Some members were the targets of attempts to limit individual liberties. National AAUW asked members to share their expertise in several areas of personal freedoms and/or their experiences, if their own liberties had been threatened. Today, people and companies are banned from Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, because of the opinions they espouse.

The New York Post, America's fourth largest circulated paper and the oldest daily, founded in 1801 by Alexander Hamilton, was locked out of its Twitter account for printing a story that was deemed obtained from hacked materials.

It did not matter that the Department of Justice had an open investigation on this same alleged hacked material.

In effect, social media, along with the mainstream media, determines what the American people should and should not know. They ban, they block, they don't print, they don't report. Or worse, they only print, report, allow, parts of the story that is in agreement with their own views.

Is hatred, intolerance, and censorship okay if it is done under the guise of justice, by people convinced of their own moral superiority? Is it okay to treat others as "less than" because people think they have "right" on their side?

Is it considered censorship when the mainstream media stops reporting ALL the news? Or when they report and perpetuate stories that have been proven to be false? Maybe if people do not know they are not getting ALL the information, ALL the facts, it is not censorship. Perhaps it is propaganda.

Then there is self-censoring. There are people who censor themselves at work, with friends, even with family out of fear of retaliation or being banned. They succumb to social pressure to tweet and post the right words; they repeat slogans they do not believe to protect their livelihoods.

Does it all end when we are all of one mind, speaking with one voice? That is not freedom. That is communism. And that is not America.

March 2021 Interest Groups

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., March 17 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Book: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins.

Facilitator: Stacey Johnson

Discussion Leader: Sue Licata

RSVP: Marilyn Carmichael, 875-6817, or 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

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., March 24 at 12:30 p.m.

Where: Paula Salamone will invite you by Zoom to join the discussion. We will be doing a presentation by our book-club members of books or authors that they have enjoyed.

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

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

We will take March off and hope to resume in April, depending on Covid 19.

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

**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



Our sympathies go to the family of **Florence Rembold**, one of our honorary life members. Florence died on January 27, 2021, at age 91. Florence was a double Jesse Ketchum medal winner and worked as a medical technologist at Roswell Park for 35 years. She was a devout Catholic, an avid photographer, and loved to travel. She was kind-hearted and cared about everyone.

Florence had joined AAUW in 1962 and attended most of our programs until our activities were cut short last year. A faithful branch member to the end!

Please Welcome Our New Members!

Shirley Joy

7188 Ward Rd.
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120
Home 693-6106
Cell 990-3833
Sijoy4@hotmail.com

AnneMarie Haumesser

169 Lasalle Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217
Cell 315-404-0652
Annemarie.cucci@gmail.com

AAUW Art Contest

Every year AAUW sponsors an art contest, with the winning entries being featured on the notecards you'll receive this spring. Although all are beautiful, we suggest you pay special attention to "Reflections of Blue" and "NY Pause." Voting is open until March 3. Click on this link to learn about the contest and how to vote.

[Art Contest](#) – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881

COMING UP THIS YEAR

by Laurie Eikemeyer, president

I hope this message finds you well. As we face many more months of pandemic precautions, it has become obvious that we cannot safely host our spring events in person. At the last board meeting, it was decided:

This year's Annual Meeting will be a Virtual Event.

The Election of Officers will be held on schedule in May but will be ONLINE voting, as we did last year. Please pay attention to upcoming details. Those members who do not have email will be mailed a ballot. If you wish to vote, please return it promptly.

Our programs will continue to be Virtual Events until it is safe and reasonable to meet again in person.

If you have any concerns, please contact me.

Accountability and Responsibility

Marian Deutschman

Accountability is a willingness to accept responsibility for our own actions. Self-awareness is our capacity to look at ourselves and examine our own thinking and motives. Our conscience is our internal guide that helps us to know when we act, or even consider acting, in a way that lacks integrity.

Political accountability is when a politician makes choices on behalf of the people, and the people can reward or sanction the politician through periodic elections. Joe Biden became the 46th President of the United States with 306 electoral votes, 81,283,361 popular votes, or 51.3% of the vote, as compared to Donald Trump with 232 electoral votes, 74,222,960 popular votes, or 46.8% of the votes cast last November. That's a margin of 4.5 percentage points. Biden's margin in the popular vote is larger than Barack Obama's victory in 2012 and George W. Bush's victory in 2004.

In 2016, Trump claimed with no proof that he lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton because of millions of illegally cast ballots. Trump proceeded to launch the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. He disbanded it in less than a year and the commission never released a formal report. Review of the commission's materials found that claims of massive fraud were false.

In 2020, Trump once again falsely claimed that he lost the election because of voter fraud. His campaign and the Republican Party filed dozens of legal claims challenging the results of the vote. About 60 judges ruled against Trump or his allies. Thirty-eight of those judges were appointed by Republicans. The Supreme Court declined to hear the case. Trump claimed that voting software is "used in states where tens of thousands of votes were stolen from us and given to Biden." He retweeted a baseless report that the voting-machine system had "deleted 2.7 million Trump votes nationwide." There is no evidence that any voting systems were compromised in 2020, according to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security. "The systems and processes used by election officials to tabulate votes and certify official results are protected by safeguards that help ensure the accuracy of election results." That refutes disinformation and misinformation about the accuracy of the election results. In desperation, Trump made an extraordinary phone call to Georgia's secretary of state urging him to "find" enough votes to overturn Trump's defeat.

In December, 140 Republican representatives said they would formally object to the vote certification of several swing states. Fourteen Republican senators joined the effort. These elected officials lacked the authority to overturn the election. On January 6, Vice President Pence and both houses of Congress convened to certify the Electoral College votes that made Joe Biden and Kamala Harris President and Vice President. Early on January 6 in Washington D.C., the President rehashed the allegations of massive fraud to an audience of eight thousand people equipped with flak jackets, helmets, gas masks, and tactical clothing. With his urging, they then proceeded to attack the U.S. Capitol building for the purpose of stopping the certification, causing havoc and proposing retaliation for those who did not support their cause. Lives were lost. People were hurt. The building was damaged. The insurrection was led by right-wing extremists, conspiracy theorists, and supporters who were influenced by their President, their elected officials, social media, and traditional media. Media that challenged their beliefs were considered "fake news." Some of these people who have been arrested didn't even vote. Trump has been impeached for a second time. Donald Trump's lawyers denied that he incited the Capitol riot as House impeachment managers laid out an 80-page case that he was "singularly responsible."

We cannot have a democracy if we can't agree on what is true. Some of the participants in the insurrection are passionate, but may be brainwashed or living in a different reality. Some people may have become engaged in sensational media content. Some have been convinced that they are losing what they have and their way of life. It's worth noting that 40 percent of those involved in the attack on the Capitol are business owners or hold white collar jobs. Trump has accepted no responsibility for the deadly riot. The reckless disregard for truth has led to lawsuits, fear of colleagues, and great divisions.

With a margin of seven million votes, Biden should claim and defend his mandate with determination to assign blame and achieve accountability. His predecessor violated norms and broke the law repeatedly. Biden has called on fellow leaders to "defend the truth and defeat the lies." We all need to take responsibility for the democratic process, examine our own thinking, and help to restore integrity and truth. Our leaders need to know that we have a mandate. Words matter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Wed., March 3, 6:00 pm—Board Meeting
Tues., March 30, 6:30 pm—Branch Program (see pg. 1)
Wed., April 7, 6:00 pm—Board Meeting
Sat., May 22, time TBD—Annual Meeting

**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



Return Service Requested



AAUW Buffalo Branch
PO BOX 894
Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 1078