

May 2021

NYS District 1

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Vol. CXXIX No. 9

Highlights of This Issue

Programs.....	1
President's Message.....	2
Elections,.....	3
New Members.....	3
Interest Groups	3
Reminders.....	3
Scholarship Congratulations	4
Book Sale Update	4
Public Policy	5
Dates to Remember.....	6



June 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 May 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be, out of necessity, held virtually. Please plan to join us via Zoom on Saturday, May 22 at 11:00. We will hear our outgoing president Laurie Eikemeyer give her report and will learn more about our outstanding Achievement Award winner Dr. Marian Deutschman. In addition, we will have the installation of the newly elected officers. Of course, there will be time to visit afterwards and to talk about plans for the coming year.

A link will be sent to all the branch members earlier that week. Plan to put on a pot of coffee or tea and join us!

PS - If you haven't yet Zoomed, it's time to start! If you'd like a practice session, please notify Betty Preble (betty.preble@gmail.com) and she'll set one up for you!

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 am—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.

May 2021

Vol. CXXIX, No. 9

Circulation 205

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Laurie Eikemeyer

Making a difference

In 2011, I had never heard of AAUW. I had piled up hundreds of books on a table for a garage sale and one of my patrons said, "If you can't get rid of these, you should donate them to the AAUW Book Sale." Later, she left a print-out from the branch website in my mailbox. I read about AAUW and decided this sounded like a great way to meet like-minded women and make new friends.

I attended the Fall dinner that year, but I didn't become involved until I received a phone call asking if I would be willing to volunteer for the book sale. I also volunteered for several years at Tech Savvy. In 2014, I was asked if I would be willing to take on the job of Fundraising (Book Sale) treasurer. I went on to serve as Editor of the Advocate for four years, on the AAUW-NYS board as *Focus* Director for two years (while I was still working on the Advocate,) and finally, as branch president for the past 2 years.

In AAUW, I've found friendship with like-minded, strong, educated women. I've discovered that the strength of many can make a difference. I'm proud of what we do and who we are.

Who are we?

I've heard the stories of a number of members. They are much like my own, full of tribulations and struggles to survive, to take care of their children, to complete their education, to become something, and to succeed. It is truly inspiring to meet these strong, intelligent women who give so much to AAUW in order to help women everywhere.

As we award our branch scholarships, loans, and grants, we do so, knowing what these amazing women face, and hope we've helped them reach their goals. It is in this way that women will rise. Because alone, women are strong, but together, we are powerful indeed!

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 ELECTION

By May 1 ballots for the election of Branch officers will be in the hands of every member of the Branch, either electronically or on paper. 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 13 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

AND—Don't forget !

- AAUW Voting continues until May 17—make your voice heard at the national level!
- It's membership renewal time. Make life easier for our membership people—send in your dues and renewal form ASAP!

Please welcome our newest members!

Dr. Arvela Heider
68 Springville Ave
Amherst NY 14226
716-833-3910 (home)
716-986-9199 (work)
716-523-6087 (cell)

Shirley Joy
7188 Ward Rd
N Tonawanda NY 14120
693-6106 (home)
990-3833 (cell)
Sjoy4@hotmail.com

AnneMarie Haumesser
169 Lasalle Ave
Kenmore NY 14217
315-404-0652 (cell)
Annemarie.cucci@gmail.com

May 2021 Interest Groups

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

Visit **Canal Side** on **Thursday, May 13th at 11:00** We will meet in front



of the entrance to the Children's Museum (The museum is not part of this trip.) We will walk to see the newly opened Long Shed where they are building a canal boat like those used on the Erie Canal. The long awaited Herschel Carousel is almost finished but will not open until Memorial Day. We can lunch at Clinton's Ditch. Please call to arrange car pools and give a head count.

RSVP: Judy Huber at judyhuber62@yahoo.com or 688-8170 by Tuesday May 11th

WNY CULINARY ARTS

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

Barbara Libby, 836-8303 or bplibby1@verizon.net

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. May 19th at 6:30



Where: Marilyn Carmichael

will invite you by **Zoom** to join the discussion

Book: *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish.

Facilitator: Fran Witnauer

Discussion leader: Leona Barback.

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

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed. May 26th at 12:30



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

Book: *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* - Stuart Turton

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

Public Policy Thoughts

Dr. Marian Deutschman

When you go to the national AAUW website to cast your vote by May 7, note that among the public policy priorities is the following: ***“AAUW believes in the need to end white supremacy and address structural and systemic racism. Efforts to improve racial, ethnic and gender justice must be embedded into every initiative. This includes working to eradicate intersectional bias and creating a culture of involvement, respect, inclusion, and connection, where the richness of diverse ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives is fully appreciated, understood and utilized.”***

What action can our local branch take to address these priorities? Let’s start with an exploration of the issues involved in this commitment.

End white supremacy - Genetics and intelligence have been an obsession of white supremacists. Immigrants are viewed as an infestation. Linking Immigration to crime is a way to raise fear of strangers and loss of white majority power. For them, those Confederate flags glorify a time in American history that sought to oppress and erase people of color and redefine true Americans as only those with European heritage. Although all white supremacists are not the same, we have a patriotic duty to stand up and call out white supremacy as a betrayal of American ideals.

Address structural and systemic racism – These terms are often used interchangeably. According to the NAACP, this refers to the discrimination rules, practices and customs once rooted in law with residual effects that echo throughout society. A good example of systemic racism is a "redlining" system once used by banks and the real estate industry that literally outlined the neighborhoods where people of color lived influencing property values, neighborhood development, schools, etc. Although the practice was banned in 1968, the impact of the red ink goes on. The Race and Policing Project defines institutional racism more narrowly as blocking people of color from accessing the goods, services, and opportunities of society.



Imbed racial, ethnic and gender justice in every initiative – Race, gender, class, disability, and ethnic identity are deeply connected. Stereotypes damage people. The way groups of people are portrayed by the media, popular culture, and public officials has led to biases that can result in discrimination against women and people of color.

Eradicate intersectional bias - Intersectionality is a framework for conceptualizing a person, group of people, or a social problem as affected by more than one discrimination. It takes into account people’s overlapping identities in order to understand the complex prejudices they face. In other words, intersectional theory contends that people are often disadvantaged by multiple sources of oppression: their race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and other identity markers. We may be guilty of believing and explaining to others that “all women feel” a certain way or that “all black people believe” some common understanding, but this does not really reflect reality.

Create a culture of involvement, respect, inclusion and connection – Culture is often defined simply as “the way we do things around here.” It starts from the top of an organization. For example, if diversity is not a goal, it isn’t likely to happen. Leadership must provide good role models and develop inclusive strategies. Feedback should be requested to be sure that sensitivity is not just a theory but that it is practiced.

Appreciate and understand the richness of diverse ideas, backgrounds and perspectives - Diversity and inclusiveness can help an organization to be more creative and innovative. The backbone of innovation comes from having various perspectives, cultures, and backgrounds all looking at the same problem and coming up with different solutions.

This is the time for personal reflection, negotiation and action to achieve change in these and other public policies.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Sat., May 1—Voting for Branch Officers begins

Wed., May 5, 6:00 pm—Board Meeting

Sat., May 15—Voting for Branch Officers ends

Mon., May 17—National Voting ends

Sat., May 22, 11:00 am—Annual Meeting

Wed., June 2, 6:00 pm—Board Meeting

Sat., June 26—Tech Savvy 16

(see <https://originaltechsavvy.org>)

Sat., Oct 2, 10:00 am—Women's Suffrage Celebration
(see pg. 1)

BOOKSALE INFORMATION pg. 4
Next sale tentatively June 1-5, 2022

The Zoom programs have been great! We urge you to
tune in on your computer, tablet, or smart phone!
Or listen in on your ordinary 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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