



ADVOCATE

September 2020

NYS District 1

<http://aauw.buffalo.edu>

Vol. CXXIX No. 1



Highlights Of This Issue

- Welcome Back Message..... 1
- President’s Message.....2
- Online Voting Items.....3
- Interest Groups3
- Achievement Award Winner ...4
- Scholarship Celebration.....5
- Notes from Previous
- Scholarship Winners.....6
- Public Policy7
- Dates to Remember8

September ADVOCATE

The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 10th of the previous month. Submit articles to

Suzanne Taeger
(newsletter@aauwbuffalo.org)
via email by September 10.
Please be sure to put “AAUW Buffalo Advocate” in the subject line.



WELCOME BACK!

President Laurie Eikemeyer

Welcome to a new year in AAUW! And what a year it has been!

Annual Meeting and Dinner at Chef’s Scheduled for September 15th is Cancelled

First, I must sadly tell you that our Annual Meeting and Dinner at Chef’s has been cancelled. An event during a pandemic has many complications, as you can well imagine. I know this event is one of our branch favorites and I’m sure many of you are as disappointed as I am.

Our Election of Officers Will Be Administered Online

It is a sign of the times, is it not? Many of you are socializing and holding meetings via Zoom Meetings or other online services. Betty Preble is setting us up to use an online voting system. Voting will take place from September 14th – 21st. You will receive an invitation via email with a link to the online voting site. Please read it carefully as there are Proposed bylaws amendments as well as officers to vote on. If you don’t have email, a paper ballot will be mailed to you. Please respond with your votes promptly. *See page 3 to review the slate of officers and proposed bylaws changes.*

Installation of Officers

Stay tuned, because once the election is complete, we will be installing our officers using a Zoom meeting and you’re all invited. I will send you that information as arrangements are made. I am working on a branch Zoom account which will allow us to host events with up to 100 participants.

Upcoming Programs and Activities

We will do our best to keep everyone apprised of upcoming activities. Please visit our new website at <https://aauwbuffalo.org> often to stay up to date! And of course, I will do my best to share local activities with you.

Membership Dues Notice: *If the address label on your copy of the Advocate has asterisks by your name, we have not received your dues for 2020-21. Please submit ASAP.*

**AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH
ELECTED
BOARD MEMBERS 2019-20**

PRESIDENT

Laurie Eikemeyer

VP PROGRAM

Lilyen Mascellino

**VP MEMBERSHIP
RECRUITMENT**

Melissa White

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Jean Hubbard

SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN

Diane O'Brien

CFO

Dr. Barbara Libby

BRANCH TREASURER

Mary Bashore

EAP TREASURER

Lynne Rapin

FUNDRAISING TREASURER

Mary Crocker

**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
EDUCATION TREASURER**

Kate Collins

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

Dr. Betty Krist

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marguerite Collesano, Chair
Marilyn Carmichael
Maryann Hope
Dr. Susan McClary

Welcome to Our

New Member

Mrs. Casey Herko
790 Amherst St
Buffalo, NY 14216
Work: 716-855-5784
Cell: 863-944-9915

President's Message

Laurie Eikemeyer

Our Branch, Redefined by a Pandemic

I hope this message finds you all well. This month, I am thinking of women and how they are affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic. Now, more than ever, we need to stay focused on our mission and reach out to women who now encounter more need as a result of the Pandemic.

As I write, communication is still challenging as we maintain a social distance. I am open to any suggestions you might have for getting our message out.

How do we fulfill our mission and advocate for women? The Pandemic has emphasized gender inequities with women at the core of the healthcare response. It has also placed hardships on women because of unemployment, loss of childcare, and an increase in domestic violence. For an insightful examination of these topics, I recommend visiting UN-Women at <https://www.unwomen.org/en> for insightful information about COVID-19 and gender inequity.

One way we can further our mission is by advocating for women in the coming election. While we are a "fiercely non-partisan organization" we must continue to advocate for laws to protect women and girls. In the January 21, 2020, press release by AAUW, (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-releases-gender-agenda-for-2020-election/>) "Women make up the majority of American voters, and we have the power to ensure that all the candidates pay close attention to the policies that directly affect our lives and the lives of our families," said Kim Churches, AAUW's chief executive officer.

The Gender Agenda for 2020 includes:

- ◆ Supporting new laws to close the gender pay gap;
- ◆ Implementing paid sick and caregiving leave;
- ◆ Reducing student debt;
- ◆ Instituting robust protections against harassment in the workplace;
- ◆ Expanding opportunities in STEM;
- ◆ Protecting and expanding the right to vote.

Do you have ideas on how we can get our message out? These difficult times call for new measures. Let's not sit home and do nothing! Let's live the legacy of AAUW and work to fulfill our mission! I would love to hear your thoughts. Please email me at president@aauwbuffalo.org.

THE BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE

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SEPTEMBER 2020 INTEREST GROUPS

If you were a member of these interest groups last year you will receive an email for the Zoom session from the host. If you were not a member and would like to join, please contact the host.

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB Wednesday,

September 30, 12:30 BOOK SELECTION +

Discussion Leader: Diane Silvestro - Book: *Cold Earth* by Anne Cleeves

HOST: Paula Salamone 479-1088 Text your name and email

DINNER BY THE BOOK

HOST: Marilyn Carmichael 875-6817 or Cell: 228-8626

ITEMS FOR ONLINE VOTING

Betty Preble, ByLaws Chair

There were two items to vote on at our annual branch business meeting which could not be held at the usual time in May:

A bylaws amendment proposal will be voted on. The details are available on the website on the "Governance" page. Its purpose is to change the process for choosing the nominating committee.

Current situation: There are five members of the nominating committee, with elections each year. The chair serves a one-year term with a limit of three terms. The members of the committee serve two-year terms with a limit of two terms. The terms are staggered, so in theory there are always two new members and two returning members.

New proposal: A nominating committee of at least three people will be chosen by the board at the first board meeting of each AAUW year (July-June.) The committee will then choose its own chair. Ideally, there should be representation by a past president, a current board member, and a branch member who is not on the board.

Election of Officers. The current nominating committee presents the following slate of candidates:

VP Membership Recruitment: Melissa White

Secretary/Parliamentarian: Diane O'Brien

CFO: Rosalind Kochmanski

EAP Treasurer: Lynne Rapin

Fundraising Treasurer: Mary Crocker

Scholarship Director: Rosaleen Nogle

If the bylaws change outlined in #1 is not approved, the following positions will also be considered:

Nominating Committee Chair: Marilyn Carmichael

Nominating Committee Members: Maryann Hope,
Judy Huber

Members will be sent instructions for our online voting.

Announcing AAUW Buffalo Branch 2020 Achievement Award Winner

by Laurie Eikemeyer, President

It is the tradition since 1940 for the Buffalo Branch of AAUW to select an outstanding woman or women of the Buffalo/Western New York area each year whose attainments, character, and achievement merit recognition and that dignify the position of women in the community. Our committee reviewed a very impressive list of women and after careful deliberation, felt that our selection is a woman who exemplifies all of the characteristics we were looking for.

It is my pleasure to announce our Achievement Award winner for 2020, Betty Preble. Betty is active in every aspect of AAUW and passionate about our mission. She is a patient mentor to our members, guiding us into leadership, and is an excellent role model for our board.

In the words of Marian Deutschman:

Our Achievement Award recipient is a woman who is known to have the AAUW Buffalo Branch financials at her fingertips. Members, and especially board members, depend on her and her memory to keep us on track with the financials. I think she steps in where others fear to tread.

Betty Preble would not accept this award if she were given a choice. It's not because she doesn't place a high value on the award itself, given the number of prestigious women who have been award winners, but she seems to feel that she doesn't deserve it. However those of us on the committee and those of us who know her, know that she is definitely deserving.

After Betty graduated from high school in Cincinnati, Ohio, she earned a bachelor's degree in Math and Spanish from Purdue University. In addition to various classes and courses over the years, she earned a certificate in computer programming.

Her work career included teaching junior high math, working as an engineering aide, a systems analyst, an independent computer consultant, and finally a group leader and then a demand planner at Rich Products.

AAUW has had the benefit of her experience and continuous membership since she joined in Rockford (IL) in 1965

where she held board positions as newsletter editor, secretary, treasurer, and president. She collaborated with the LWV to create an updated local government handbook. She worked on the "ConCon" campaign to create a convention to rewrite the Illinois State constitution. She co-chaired the IL State AAUW convention in Janesville, WI, to protest the IL non-passage of the ERA. She worked on the committee which, with the Rockford Volunteer Bureau and the Rockford School Board, developed what was called SOURCE - Service of Uncovering Resources in the Community for Education. It morphed into a full-blown Rockford Public Schools service. She served two years on the IL AAUW State Board as bylaws/resolutions chair.



She was a board member of the LWV of Rockford, Illinois and President of the Rockford YWCA board for three years. She was involved with the Rockford Soccer program as a certified referee, coach for two years, League Commissioner, and Division Commissioner. She was also active in the Rockford Girl Scouts as Troop volunteer and co-leader for two years while she was also neighborhood coordinator.

When they moved, she joined the East Aurora/Southtowns Branch of AAUW in 1989 and held board positions as secretary and president. She joined the Buffalo Branch of AAUW in 2001 when the East Aurora Branch disbanded. She held board positions as newsletter editor, secretary, Chamberlin/FFE treasurer, co-president, and president. As many of you will attest, she has been VERY active on the book sale committee. She has been registrar for Tech Savvy, volunteer for Sister-to-Sister, registrar and assistant for the 2011 FJC program on Domestic Violence. She served on the NYS AAUW board convention committee, Communications Director, web manager (ongoing), and four years as Administrative Director.

As we know, she is happily married, with two grown children living in FL and CO, and two grandchildren in college in FL. I'm sure they all know she is deserving of the award. Her friends give her credit for being positive as she looks forward to other challenges and learning experiences.

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Betty!

Scholarship Celebration

Betty Krist

Catalyst for Change



Pamela Zwick, Aliaya Williams, and Erin Byers - Family and Guidance Counselor

Clarine Radt Mini Grant



Ellen Gossel

Olga Lindberg Scholarships



Lisa Gagnon and Lindsey Heck with family.

Women Entering College



Fiona Stewart and Vada Kirsch with their families.

In lieu of the planned Scholarship Celebration cancelled due to the COVID-19 protocols, the winners of the 2020 AAUW scholarships had their celebration delivered in late July and early August to their homes. To celebrate each scholarship winner, each one received a certificate, a balloon, a \$35 Amazon gift card, and a yard sign. Scholarships will be sent to each when they are attending classes. Many thanks to the committee of Mary Bashore, Rosaleen Nogle, and Joan Eschner. Thanks to Laurie Eikemeyer for the design of the yard sign. We wish these talented and deserving young women much success.

NOTES FROM PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Betty Krist

Good evening Betty!

I hope you and the other wonderful ladies of the AAUW are doing well and staying healthy during these difficult times! I just wanted to send a formal life update for you before the start of my final year of undergrad at Canisius, and wanted to see how you are!

Regarding my academics, I am proud to announce that I have maintained my grade point average of 4.0 for both the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters. I will be working hard to maintain this academic average in the coming semesters. I will also be applying to graduate programs toward the end of this year and am currently studying for the Graduate Record Exam which I will take in a couple months! I plan to apply to both Master's and PhD programs for School Psychology. I am currently looking at both in-state and out-of-state programs and cannot wait to see what the future has in store for me! As always, I will be sure to keep you updated on my application process!

Much love,
Anna Cryan



Hi Betty,

I hope that you and yours are doing well during these crazy times!

I wanted to reach out to thank you and the rest of the AAUW Buffalo Branch for the Olga Lindberg scholarship that I received in 2019. The AAUW helped me to get to the finish line for my PhD and set me on a course to success, and I wanted you to know I will be forever grateful to this organization. I have since become a member and will continue to do what I can to help support other women in science and academics, and however else I can.

Just as a very brief update, I completed my PhD in May and have since relocated to Baltimore, Maryland for a postdoctoral research position in Otolaryngology at Johns Hopkins University. Getting started during Covid has been challenging, but I am finally starting to come into my own. This position is the stepping stone towards what I hope will be a full career in academics, and AAUW helped to make that possible!

Thank you so very much for believing in me and for the support! :-)

Kind regards,
Kali Burke



Resiliency and Change

Dr. Marian Deutschman

Resiliency is defined as the ability to overcome challenges of all kinds and bounce back stronger, wiser, and more personally powerful. Our recent set of challenges include a global pandemic with lockdown, containment/mitigation, social distancing, masks, huge job loss, businesses that might never come back, trauma, tragedy, personal crises, and then we added racially provoked protests, vandalism, and looting in many cities across the country. All this is happening when our nation is more divided than united.

Change is inevitable. It can be positive or it can be painful. Often the hardest changes to understand and adjust to are the ones that are unexpected and out of our control such as a global pandemic or a major disaster. We had them both sequentially if not simultaneously. Changes of this magnitude can be difficult primarily because of the uncertainty. Psychologists tell us that this experience can be made better or worse, depending on our reactions and our attitude.

Resiliency is the ability of a system to return to its original state after being disturbed. For a variety of possible reasons, our country, with 4% of the world's population, has 25% of its coronavirus cases. The pandemic exposed historical and societal problems so a return to normalcy might be an inadequate goal. This may be an opportunity for significant change that looks forward rather than backward. Early on we discovered that two major risk factors made the coronavirus deadlier for those who catch it: old age and pre-existing health conditions. Those in lower economic strata are likelier to catch the disease and to die from it. Inequality may be acting as a multiplier on the spread and deadliness of the virus. People at the lower ends of society are about 10 percent more likely to have a chronic health condition. Those with lower incomes tend to develop chronic health conditions between five and 15 years earlier in life. When inequality is high, the cost of living tends to rise, forcing more lower-income families to live paycheck to paycheck. At the same time, the decline of labor unions and the rise of part-time work mean that low-income workers have fewer protections. As a result, crises like COVID-19 can increase the gap between the haves and have-nots.

The pandemic brought so much uncertainty about what we can or can't do, or what to expect. Psychologists have

identified some of the factors that appear to make a person more resilient, such as a positive attitude, optimism, the ability to regulate emotions, and the ability to see failure as a form of helpful feedback. We may not be ready to adapt to changes since racial protests brought thousands of people together in close proximity for long periods of time in activities that may have spread the virus. Quick reopening caused surges, and the impact of reopening schools is yet to be determined. Some people have had the virus, maybe without knowing it. They may have succeeded in building antibodies that may or may not give them immunity for the expected next wave of the virus that may come before we have a vaccine to protect us. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country's leading infectious disease expert, has said that it may be possible for us to avoid a coronavirus second wave. It is not inevitable. We

should follow the guidelines to avoid a new increase in cases. What impact have the thousands of masked and unmasked protesters had on his prediction?

Change can be difficult even when it's for the better. We need to refuse to behave like a "victim" of change. Instead, experts tell us we should manage

our feelings, get support, and become part of the change. Maybe America needs a new normal. People should speak out when they see a need for change and a way to move forward. For example, anyone with a conscience should have condemned the behavior of the Minneapolis police officer and supported the peaceful protests of those who voiced their objections.

Levitsky and Ziblatt, the authors of *How Democracies Die*, warn us that it is imperative that we address the issue of inequality because the very health of our democracy hinges on it. Robin Diangelo, the author of *White Fragility*, states that interrupting racism takes courage and intentionality. We can build trust slowly and lose it quickly. We need to re-examine our vision and values to do better as a society. That will take persistence and determination. The CEO of AAUW, Kimberly Churches, reminds us that we must not feel helpless. To move forward, she suggests that we listen, learn, and speak up. There is strength in unity. We should try to amaze ourselves with how much we can learn and get accomplished.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Please note: All events are possibly subject to change or cancellation—please check our website for last minute information.

Wednesday, September 2, 6:00 Board Meeting
—via conference call

September 14-21 Virtual Election of Officers

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 more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grass-roots 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.

Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796

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