

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

NYS District 1

September 2021

Vol. CXXX No. 1



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OCTOBER 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 September 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



September 21st Dinner/Program at Wurlitzer Events

908 Niagara Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda

5:30-6:15 p.m. sign-in & networking, followed by dinner

Identity Theft, Fraud & Scams - Being a Smart Consumer Those "Annoying" Phone Calls Social Media & More!



In addition to learning about plans for the AAUW year ahead, we will have a presentation by Karen Davis, senior consumer fraud representative with the New York State Office of the Attorney General. The pandemic has provided multiple opportunities for scam artists and computer hackers to use our

fear of the unknown against us. *Be aware!*

Meal Choices:

- Chicken Florentine
- Pot Roast
- Vegetable Wellington



Includes Fruit Punch, House Salad, Assorted Breads & Butter, Potato & Vegetable, Chef's Dessert Table, Coffee & Tea Station.

Please send the form below and a check for **\$27.00/person** (check to AAUW Buffalo) to **Betty Preble, One Fox Run Lane #622, Orchard Park, NY 14127**. Please fill out a form for each person attending or list names and choices separately so we have all the information. **RSVP deadline Saturday, Sept. 11.**

Questions—Betty Preble, 662-0608 or betty.preble@gmail.com

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Dinner choice (please check one):

Chicken Florentine Vegetable Wellington

Pot Roast

**AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH
ELECTED
BOARD MEMBERS 2021-22**

PRESIDENT
Lilyen Mascellino

VP PROGRAM
Dr. Marian Deutschman

**VP MEMBERSHIP
RECRUITMENT**
Melissa White

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION
Dr. Susan McClary

SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN
Diane O'Brien

CFO
Shirley Joy

BRANCH TREASURER
Mary Bashore

EAP TREASURER
Lynne Rapin

FUNDRAISING TREASURER
Mary Crocker

**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
EDUCATION TREASURER**
Kathleen Santa Maria

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR
Rosaleen Nogle

President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

"When you lift up women, you lift up humanity." ~Melinda Gates

Dear Friends,

I am beginning a new adventure this year as your president. Upon reflection of what that means for us, I am thankful for the strong women who have held this position in years past. It is their experiences that have formed a firm foundation for me as I maneuver my way on this steep learning curve. Your current and past presidents have been blessed to have generous AAUW mentors who believe that by empowering others they in turn will do the same. Our branch is indebted to these members.

Sadly, as I write this, both national and local news is focused on NYS and the sexual harassment charges that have been made against our governor. This shines a spotlight on women's issues and highly indicates that there is still much work to be accomplished.

Now more than ever we have the knowledge to halt any such patterns of behavior that negatively impact women in the workplace. But with all we know, sexual harassment with its subtle power plays still exists. What also still exists is AAUW and its mission!

It is my hope that the community will see our branch as an advocate for all, that we would be known as a place where women are empowered to use their voices to lift each other up to make a difference. To truly have that reputation we must be deliberate in being an inclusive group, a group where others don't feel pulled down due to political affiliations, religious beliefs, and/or other differences. To be such an example we have to continue being a group that is able to work alongside each other with said differences. Discourse is healthy; exclusionary practices are not.

Want others to feel inclined to join our branch? Of course you do! New members will come based on your excitement about being part of such a dynamic group. They will come when they learn more about us, when they observe us supporting women on both sides of the aisle. And they will come when they learn that we welcome diversity.

Melinda Gates said it perfectly: *"Our call is to lift women up, and when we come together in this cause, we are the lift."* This year, let's focus on being the "lift"!

Here's to a great year, friends!



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.

September 2021
Vol. CXXX, No. 1
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Melissa White,

recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker

375 Parkhurst Blvd.

Buffalo, NY 14223

database@aauwbuffalo.org

From Suffrage to the ERA Equity, Resilience, Activism

The Western New York Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee is presenting an engaging and transformative seminar featuring noted historian **Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner** and esteemed panelists who will examine the past, present, and future of the women's movement. The event, on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Daemen College, will pay homage to the suffragists who fought for the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. It will also address the current impact of the pandemic on women that created a "she-cession," and focus on the future as women fight for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in order to enshrine equity once and for all in the Constitution.

As the keynote speaker Dr. Wagner will share her research spanning two centuries on race, class, and gender. Four panelists will break down specific issues that have impeded women from a fair playing field: economic inequality, violence against women, women's health and reproductive justice, and women's underrepresentation in government. The panelists include Dr. Karen King, Erie County Commissioner of Public Advocacy; Ava Thomas, operations manager for the Family Justice Center; Shanaz Butt, professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Sciences in Philadelphia; and Diana Cihak, founder of Women Elect Program and WEPac. Join us for this important conversation as we explore **Equity with Resilience and Activism**.

In person registration will begin at 9 a.m. Virtual participation will be available.

AAUW Buffalo Branch is a proud partner of the Western New York's Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee.

September 2021 Interest Groups

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., Sept. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Story Teller's Secret*, by Sejai Badani

Facilitator: Marilyn Todd

Discussion leader: Lynne Tauriello

RSVP: Fran Witnauer, 716-688-5708

or grandmafran4547@gmail.com



WNY CULINARY ARTS

When: Wed., Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: 2 Forks Up, 270 Campbell Blvd, Getzville

What: Share dinner and conversation

RSVP by Sept. 2 to Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or

bplibby1@verizon.net

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., Sept. 22 at noon

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *Craftsman*, by Sharon Bolton

Discussion leader: Pat Miceli

RSVP: Barbara Libby, 836-

8303 or

bplibby1@verizon.net



THE HAPPY WANDERERS

Due to continuing concerns for COVID, we have decided to take a break for the time being.

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

Membership Matters

Welcome Our Newest Member!

Dr. Beverly Roe
28 Vernon Drive
Buffalo, NY 14225
838-5629 (H)
851-1793 (W)
472-7345 (C)
bevroe@gmail.com
BA, Biology— SUNY AB
MS, Microbiology—Auburn University
PhD, Biology—American University
Professor/Chair at ECC North

Kudos!

When we received a call from a former member asking a question about money possibly connected to the original branch investment group, the question was turned over to **Joan Eschner**. Instead of just saying “Nope, not us,” she called the member, got some old paperwork, tracked down the companies listed, and provided all the information to the son of the person who called. **Thanks, Joan!**

Rosalind Kochmanski responded to the request last spring for people to scan in some of our old newsletters so we could have them available on our website. She scanned in about 10 years of newsletters! Many of the issues going back to 1986 are now posted. If you have paper copies of the missing ones, please contact Betty Preble and we’ll get them scanned. They make for fascinating reading!

Our **branch members** have individually contributed \$1330.00 to our national organization above and beyond our dues!

Condolences

Our sympathies to the family of **Ernestine McDonald**, who passed away last summer.

Dues Reminder

If there are asterisks next to your name on the address label (back page), we had not received your 2021-22 dues by August 18. If we do not receive them by September 10, this will be your last newsletter—you’ll miss the announcements of our upcoming programs and activities. **AND**—your name will not be in the directory. Please don’t let that happen!

Updates, Please!

If your information has changed since the last directory AND you have not notified us of such, please be sure to send the new information to **Mary Crocker**. We will be producing the new directory soon and want to be sure your information is correct.

Congratulations to Barbara Carier!

Every year we have one or two members who receive “honorary” status as 50-year members of AAUW. In the past couple of years alone **Lois Meyer, Helen Morrison, Sue Oliver** and **Jane Riga** had all reached that milestone. And now **Barb** has joined the club. Did you realize that she was the branch president or co-president at least once in each decade from 1970 to 2000—and then again in 2011-13! Thanks, **Barb**, for your continued dedication and leadership!

You Never Know!

Every mailbox produces surprises once in a while, and our branch PO Box is no exception!

In early August there was a check for \$2,000, to be used for our Catalyst for Change scholarship. The check was from Jeffrey and Laura Markley, and the note indicated that it was to be in honor of JoAnne Meichowski and in memory of Natalie Bartz. Research showed no connection to any of our scholarship winners of the past!

It turned out that Jeffrey and Laura’s daughter had been helped in her college finances by the family of the women to be honored. The daughter is now entering a PhD program at no cost to her parents, so they wanted to “pay it forward.” They’re long-time book-sale customers and knew we had lost that income for the last couple of years and wanted to help. We’ll be inviting them to the Scholarship Celebration!!!



Journalism in Crisis

Dr. Marian Deutschman

While media outlets have been hemorrhaging jobs, social media networks keep growing. Some trained journalists, editors, and fact checkers have been replaced by fake news, conspiracy theories, and misinformation. Newsroom layoffs reached a record high in 2020, growing nearly 200% compared to the previous year, according to a new study from a global outplacement firm. Across broadcast, digital, and print news, the news industry was hit with over 16,000 job cuts. These grim numbers come as multiple news organizations and TV news networks announced layoffs across their news and business divisions in 2020. For many newsrooms — and particularly for local newspapers— advertising revenue took a big hit with cancellations of major events, the closures of businesses, and the drop in ad spending.

When an estimated 30,000 journalists were laid off or furloughed or had salary cuts during the COVID-19 pandemic, many of those jobs may not return. Meanwhile, Facebook has 2.80 billion monthly active users; many who refuse to be regulated. Facebook's content moderators can't control the lies. President Biden said Facebook is killing people with misinformation related to the pandemic and vaccinations. The Facebook monopoly is stifling competition. They are damaging democracy and the free press. Some say they need to be broken up, like Bell Telephone.

German historian and political philosopher Jan-Werner Müller, professor of politics at Princeton, stated what seems to be obvious in an interview with *The New Yorker* staff writer Isaac Chotiner. He said that professional news organizations are in crisis. Journalists failed to get the attention of citizens to help them to recognize the difference between conduct that endangers democracy and regular political disagreements. Other observers say some stories are blown out of proportion when local stories become fodder for one polarized side or another. Local content appears in national news getting people angry about something that is far from them and doesn't deserve the hype.

We need to be informed to make sense of our lives. Challenges have grown. We *are* the government. Democracy has been on trial before. Remember the Civil War, World War II, the multiple crises during the Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration, etc.? We survived. We value our freedom, but President Biden reminds us that freedom comes with responsibility. People cannot refuse to be constrained when the lives of fellow citizens are threatened by a virus. We need to encourage thinking, observation, and discernment before action.

Voting is our basic right. It controls our destiny. When will citizens become defenders of democracy? We cannot let the growing voting restrictions undermine the political standing of fellow citizens. Voter suppression strategies have nothing to do with claims of a fraudulent election.



Some journalists are offering an alternative reality while our children are getting disinformation with a Madison Avenue view of history, according to Ken Burns, a well-respected chronicler of history. Tucker Carlson of Fox News is quoted in a recent issue of *Time* magazine, "You're required to say things that everyone knows aren't true, but you're punished if you don't say them."

The article authors said, "Tuckerism sanitizes and legitimizes right-wing conspiratorial thinking, dodges when you try to nail him down on specifics, then wraps it all in an argument about censorship and free speech." Carlson doesn't follow conventional standards of journalistic practice. It is the highest-rated cable show with three million viewers a night.

Some journalists give their lives for the truth. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide. It defends the right of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal. A board of prominent journalists from around the world helps guide CPJ's activities. How might professional news organizations play a more positive role in our democracy?

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Wednesday, September 8, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting, Christ United Methodist Church, 350 Saratoga Rd. at Harlem Rd. in Snyder.

Tuesday, September 21, 5:15 p.m., Fall Dinner/Branch Program (see pg. 1)

Wednesday, October 6, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St., West Seneca

Saturday, October 2, 9:30 a.m., “Equity with Resilience and Activism” (see pg. 3)

**BOOKSALE WORK ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME!
Next sale PLANNED for June 1-5, 2022.**

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: *Gender Equity & Economic Security.*

Vision: *Equity for all.*

Values: *Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.*

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



Return Service Requested



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