

# ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

NYS District 1

October 2021

Vol. CXXX, No. 2



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## NOVEMBER 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 October 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.*



## From Suffrage to the ERA Equity, Resilience, Activism

**T**he 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, October 2 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Daemen College, will pay homage to the suffragists who fought for the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 **Karen King**, Erie County commissioner of Public Policy; **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 WomenElect 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.**

Pre-registration is required for in-person and Zoom attendance on Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/SuffragetoERA>

**AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH  
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2021-22**

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## President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

*"Each time a woman stands up for herself, she stands up for all women."*

~ Maya Angelou

Greetings!

**T**his time of year I typically become nostalgic as educators and students head back to the classroom. It's that annual back-to-school vibe that ushers in the feeling of a new beginning. This year it also represents a new beginning for New York State, due to the historic event that took place in Albany on August 24th. Donned in an all-white dress to honor the women's suffrage movement, Kathy Hochul became our 57th governor and the first female to govern NYS. New York's chief judge, Janet DiFiore, administered the oath of office.

This event is a reminder of the courageous women who blazed the way throughout history to break down barriers helping to make our nation a more equitable place for women and girls. It serves to remind us of the grassroots efforts of those who paved the way for the door into our governor's mansion to be opened to a woman. This historic event was planned for, as these trailblazers had a vision. They knew that they were working for future generations, and AAUW has been part of this legacy since 1881.

Governor Hochul's white dress was an acknowledgement of historic struggles and victories. She has publicly recognized that there is still work to do, stating that she wants to change the culture of Albany and pursue a fresh collaborative approach. She said, "It is our time to unleash the power of New York's women, and make sure that any barriers to success and opportunity are eradicated, once and for all." Time will reveal if she meets the goals she has set, but in the meantime, our sons and daughters have a female role model in our highest state office.

AAUW Buffalo Branch has a history we can be proud of as we have impacted the lives of many through scholarships alone. Our strength is in our ability to collaborate. We acknowledge that we are on the same team. Although I laughed at the following quote by Maya Angelou, it holds a basic truth: *"I am a feminist. I've been female for a long time now. I'd be stupid not to be on my own side."* I for one am glad to be on the AAUW Buffalo Branch team with you!

### PR HELP WANTED!

The publicity committee would welcome the assistance of anyone with marketing experience.

**Please contact Pat Miceli:**

626-0234 home, 880-0042 cell, [pwmiceli@gmail.com](mailto:pwmiceli@gmail.com)

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

The nominating committee for this year is now forming. Ideally there should be at least one non-board member involved. If you are interested in helping with this important work, please contact Lilyen Mascellino ([president@aauwbuffalo.org](mailto:president@aauwbuffalo.org)).

## October 2021 Interest Groups

### DINNER BY THE BOOK

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

**Book:** *A Woman Is No Man* by Etar Rum

**Facilitator:** Sue Licata

**Discussion Leader:** Mary Georger

**RSVP:** Frances Witnauer 688-5708 or

[grandmafran4547@gmail.com](mailto:grandmafran4547@gmail.com)



### WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** 2 Forks Up, 270 Campbell Blvd, Getzville

**What:** Share dinner and conversation.

**RSVP:** by Saturday, Oct. 2 to **Barbara Libby** at

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



### CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 27 at noon

**Where:** Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

**Book:** *2222* by Anne Holt

**Discussion Leader:** Barbara Libby

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

### THE HAPPY WANDERERS

Due to continuing concerns for COVID, we have decided to take a hiatus for a time.

### 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.

October 2021  
Vol. CXXX, No. 2  
Circulation 205

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[recruitment@](mailto:recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org)

[aauwbuffalo.org](http://aauwbuffalo.org)

Send address changes to

Mary Crocker

375 Parkhurst Blvd.

Buffalo, NY 14223

## Critical Race Theory: What It Is and What It Is Not

### November Branch Program



On Tuesday, November 9, we will gather at 5:30 p.m. for dinner at Ilio DiPaolo's restaurant, 3785 South Park Ave. in Blasdell. We will be joined by our co-sponsor, the League of Women Voters of Buffalo-Niagara.

Our program on this controversial topic will feature **Peter Yacobucci, PhD**, associate professor in Political Science & Public Administration at SUNY Buffalo State. He will be joined by **Crystal J. Rodriguez-Dabney, Esq.** chief diversity officer at SUNY Buffalo State and chief-of-staff to President Katherine Conway-Turner. Her husband, **Judge Phillip Dabney Jr.**, who serves as an associate judge on the Buffalo City Court, has also been invited to participate.

**Critical Race Theory: What It Is and What It Is Not.** Is America a white supremacist nation or is racism mostly part of America's past? Do we all have a fair opportunity to attain the American dream?

Dinner will consist of salad, warm rolls, penne pasta, choice of beef roulades or chicken piccata with baby red potatoes & mixed vegetables, plus spumoni. Vegetarian choice: ravioli, eggplant parm. *Guests may order drinks from the waitress.*



Please send the form below along with a check for \$25 written to AAUW Buffalo to Betty Preble, One Fox Run Lane #622, Orchard Park, NY 14127. Deadline Oct. 29.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner choice (please check one):

Beef Roulades

Chicken Piccata

Ravioli (v)

Eggplant Parm (v)

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## Membership Matters

### WE HAVE LOST FRIENDS

We grieve the loss of three of our devoted branch members—two in just one week last month.

**L. Ann Bish** was an honorary life member of both our Buffalo Branch and the Schenectady Branch. She served as Buffalo Branch president 1989-90 and as the AAUW-NYS Public Policy vice president 1998-2001. She unfortunately passed away on July 13 at the age of 92. We send special condolences to her friend Analine Hicks, also an active member of both branches.

On August 25 **Diane Silvestro** succumbed at the age of 84 to long-standing health issues. Diane was a feisty soul who was dedicated to our branch. After serving as branch president 1997-98, she served as AAUW-NYS membership VP 2003-05. The book sale and the knitting group were her other AAUW passions.

Our good friend **Lynne Rapin** passed away on August 26 at the age of 71 after suffering a heart attack the previous week. Lynne had also served on the AAUW-NYS board as secretary, but the branch was her love. She was our “emerging leader” in 2017. At the time of her death she was the EAP treasurer and the Tech Savvy treasurer, but had also served as secretary and was always willing to step in and help with anything. The family has asked for privacy, but cards would certainly be appreciated.



### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

**Renata Lefcourt**

755 Renaissance, C-305

Amherst, NY 14221

932-7107 (h)

352-2012 (c)

crlefcourt@gmail.com

BFA, Fine Arts/Design, UB

MA, German Language & Literature, UB

PhD, German, UB

Retired assistant professor German adjunct

### CORRECTION

In the Advocate last month, new member Beverly Roe was listed as a professor/chair at the ECC/North Campus. She is actually the chair of the ECC/South Campus Biology Department. We apologize for the error, and it will be correct in the roster!

### YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

**A**t the January 2021 board meeting a question arose as to whether our branch wishes to be providing scholarships to students who are not U.S. citizens. An article in the February Advocate asked for branch input, but there was little response. A committee of volunteers was formed at the February board meeting to produce a recommendation. They came to a unanimous decision and, at the March 2021 board meeting, recommended that we limit our scholarships/loans/grants program to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and DACA recipients. The vote of the board was divided, but the majority decision was to implement that policy. In April the board voted to put the exact wording into the policy book.

There has been some negative feedback from members as they learned of this action. As a result, at the September board meeting the board voted to reconsider the policy and to again solicit comments from the branch members. If you have a question or comment regarding the matter, please contact Mary Bashore ([mrybash@gmail.com](mailto:mrybash@gmail.com)), who has volunteered to compile the feedback.

The entire wording of the policy is:

*AAUW Buffalo Branch Scholarships, Grants, and Loans will be open only to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients.*

#### Reference information:

National AAUW has some fellowships and grants that are limited to citizens, another group limited to foreign students studying in the U.S., and some which are not limited.

The national AAUW has guidelines for local scholarships: [Scholarship-Programs-of-AAUW-Affiliates-Policy-502-nsa.pdf](#)

They do not appear to address this issue.

Two of the branch scholarships awarded in 2021 were to non-citizens.

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## Fear of Socialism

Dr. Marian Deutschman

**S**ocialism can mean different things to people. In a discussion during the Trump era, some of my friends (and even one of my doctors) identified their greatest fear as socialism, and they immediately pointed to failed governments of communist Russia or Venezuela. I think of socialism in places like Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Some see socialism as a system that institutionalizes fairness and citizen rights; others focus on heavy-handed government control of free markets that work more effectively when left alone.

Some who view socialism negatively see it as a serious threat to capitalism in the U.S. Others view it positively saying that it builds upon and improves capitalism. And some who have a positive view of socialism express a preference for a system that blends socialism and capitalism. U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders is a self-described democratic socialist, as is a current candidate for mayor of the city of Buffalo. Sanders emphasizes the right to quality health care, education, a good job with a living wage, affordable housing, and a clean environment. Are we against that?

Pew Research Center found that 55% of Americans had a negative impression of “socialism,” while 42% expressed a positive view. About two-thirds (65%) said they had a positive view of “capitalism,” and a third viewed it negatively.

Amid all the fury of polarized shouting people, there are also the calmer voices of those engaging in deeper discussions. These people debate socialism, capitalism, and free markets in relation to health care, child care, minimum wage, and other issues that affect their lives, using critical thinking and a focus on what unites us in our society.

Many people are still angry and polarized over social systems. But a significant number of people recognize that labels like socialism, free markets, and capitalism have

become emotional triggers, used by some journalists and politicians to manipulate, incite, and divide.

More millennial and Gen-Z respondents say they view “socialism” positively while their opinion of “capitalism” appears to be declining. In Europe democratic socialist parties and their descendants have been mainstream players in democratic politics for a long time. All political systems are capable of either great violence or social uplift. That’s why we need resilient social movements, what-

ever system we use, and why we’re not well served by propaganda, wherever it comes from.

Review of two books in a recent issue of *The New Yorker* listed the actions of the 89<sup>th</sup> Congress (1965–1967) as the most productive Congress in American history.



It passed the Voting Rights Act. It created Medicare, Medicaid, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities. It increased the minimum wage. It passed the Higher Education Act and provided federal aid to elementary and secondary education. It passed the Water Quality Act, the Motor Vehicle Air Pollution Act, the Highway Beautification Act, the Highway and Motor Vehicle Safety acts, the Demonstration Cities Act, the Clean Waters Restoration Act, the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, and a major amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act. The 89th Congress passed this huge burst of domestic legislation that President Lyndon B. Johnson dubbed “The Great Society.” Are we not better off with the accomplishments of the 89<sup>th</sup> Congress?

It’s easy to identify disastrous dictatorships that proclaim socialist or communist commitments. But it’s also easy to point to Europe, where democratic socialist parties and their descendants have been involved in democratic politics for more than a century.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**Saturday, October 2, 9:30 a.m., “Equity with Resilience and Activism”** (see pg. 1)

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

**Wednesday, November 3, 6:30 p.m.,** Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church on Harlem Rd., Snyder

**Tuesday, November 9, 5:30 p.m., Branch Program “Critical Race Theory: What It Is and What It Is Not”** Ilio DiPaolo’s in Blasdell (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 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.*



Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796



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