

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Women on the Move with AAUW!

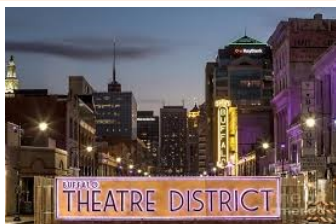
December 2021

Vol. CXXX



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JANUARY 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 December 10.

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



LUNCH AND FUN!

Saturday, December 11 at 11:30 a.m.

Banchetti by Rizzo's, 550 N. French Rd., Amherst



"Explore Buffalo" revives the exciting history of the **entertainment industry** in Buffalo. Are you a movie buff? We will talk about the variety of theaters that would have shown everything from Charlie Chaplin to Cary Grant to the original *Star Wars*. Is music more your speed? We will help you imagine where you would have sat to listen to the likes of Sinatra, Elvis, the Stones, and the Goo Goo Dolls. From vaudeville to live stage productions, Buffalo has been home to wondrous theaters and other venues which are no longer physically with us but, through this talk, can once again be part of our collective memory.

Lunch at noon will be a buffet consisting of turkey breast or sliced Virginia ham, chef salad, dinner rolls, vegetable medley, baked pasta with Mozzarella, baby red & white potatoes, plus brownies. The presentation will follow.

Please send the following information plus a check for \$26 for each person to Diane O'Brien, 81 Ponderosa Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221-2409 by Wednesday, December first. Include the names of any guests so we can have nametags ready for them.

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Guests: _____

President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

DEAR FRIENDS,
SENDING YOU
BEST WISHES FOR
THE HOLIDAY
SEASON.
MAY IT
BE FILLED WITH
CONTENTMENT,
JOY & PEACE.
FONDLY, LILYEN



Happy Holidays from Your elected Board Members!

PRESIDENT
Lilyen Mascellino

SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN
Diane O'Brien

FUNDRAISING TREASURER
Mary Crocker

VP PROGRAM
Dr. Marian Deutschman

CFO
Shirley Joy

**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
EDUCATION TREASURER**
Kathleen SantaMaria

**VP MEMBERSHIP
RECRUITMENT**
Melissa White

BRANCH TREASURER
Mary Bashore

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR
Rosaleen Nogle

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION
Dr. Susan McClary

EAP TREASURER
Sue Stapell

DECEMBER 2021 INTEREST GROUPS

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

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

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wed., December 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Rin Thai Bistro, 4446 Main St., Snyder

What: AAUW Interest Group for members to share dinner and conversation.

RSVP: by December 1 to **Barbara Libby** at 716-836-8303. Or bpliby1@verizon.net

DINNER BY THE BOOK

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

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikery* by Gabriel Zevin

Facilitator: Frances Witnauer

Discussion Leader: Mary Crocker

RSVP: Frances Witnauer 716-688-5708 or grandmafran4547@gmail.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed. January 26 at noon

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Inheritance* by Charles Finch

Discussion Leader: Stacey Johnson

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303 or bpliby1@verizon.net



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.

December 2021
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President:

Lilyen Mascellino

Publisher/Editor:

Betty Preble

Assistant Editors:

Judy Weidemann

Barbara Carier

Leah Cohen

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

NOMINATIONS WANTED!

Although May seems far away, we need to be thinking about electing new leaders at the branch level. The positions that will be open this year for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2022 are the following:

- VP Membership Recruitment - Melissa White, the incumbent, is ineligible to run again.
- Secretary/Parliamentarian - Diane O'Brien, the incumbent, is ineligible to run again.
- CFO - Shirley Joy, the incumbent, is filling out a term and **IS** eligible to run again.
- Education/Scholarships/Program Treasurer - the incumbent, Sue Stapell, is filling out a term and **IS** eligible to run again.
- Fundraising (book sale) Treasurer - the incumbent, Mary Crocker, is ineligible to run again.
- Scholarship Director - Rosaleen Nogle, the incumbent, is eligible to run again but has stated that she does not wish to do so.

The position descriptions are available on our website. Please contact one of the nominating committee members (Mary Bashore, Dr. Susan McClary, Carol Griffith) with suggestions. Feel free to suggest yourself!

Missed the Nov 9 program? It was recorded!

Ctrl-Click on:

[Critical Race Theory: What it is and what it is not \(AAUW + LWVBN\) November 9 2021 - YouTube](#)

Membership Matters

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our own *Carol Griffith* has been elected to the position of president-elect of AAUW-NYS. She will take on the presidency on July 1, the beginning of the next AAUW year. Congratulations, Carol! We look forward to your leadership at the state level!



If you want to take books (from members only!!!) to our Calvary Church collection site, please contact [Jayne Murray](#). She will make sure there is someone there to coordinate the delivery. We have a collection/storage system!



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The applications for our scholarships to be awarded next year are now available, most with deadlines of January 10! **Please print and distribute the poster on the next page to the places you visit—hairstylist, dentist, etc.** If you're receiving this in print, we suggest you download the full-color version from our [website](#). Thanks to Laurie Eikemeyer, who put together this beautiful creation. As a refresher for those of you who have friends or relatives who might be interested, here are the basics:

- “Women Entering College” is for high school seniors. The focus is on academics.
- “Catalyst for Change” - women in college or graduate school who have demonstrated **activism in line with the AAUW mission**.
- “Olga Lindberg” - aimed at women going into grad school
- “Jacquie Walker” - women in college, emphasis on **community service**.

In addition, applications for the Clarine Radt mini-grants for teachers are *always available* and our Chamberlin Loans and Grants Fund for college students has two cycles every year. See our website for details on all of these!

ROSTER UPDATES

Welcome back, **Ruby Williams**! Please add Ruby's information to your roster: 67 Croy Ave, Cheektowaga 14215. 716-837-5903, “rubywill@buffalo.edu”. We're delighted you're back with us!

Judy Weidemann has moved! Her info is correct in the member listing, but her phone number on pages 3 & 4. should be 716-628-6890.

PROGRAMS! SAVE THE DATES!

Our **January** program will be on the **20th** at 7 p.m. at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site. (Possibly hybrid) We will hear Bob Poczik, noted presenter and storyteller, discuss “*Unlocking Afghanistan: What about the Women?*”

On **February 17** at 7:00 p.m. we will Zoom in to hear Dr. Susan McCartney, director of the Small Business Development Center, speak on on “*Persistent Challenges Facing Women in Business*.”

During the evening of **March 24** we will again Zoom in to hear actor Grace Angela Henry portray Sojourner Truth as she speaks to “*Women's Rights, Education, Leadership, and Social Justice*.”

A REMINDER of AAUW BYLAWS

Diane O'Brien

We all have freedom of speech in this great country! As individuals we enjoy expressing our opinions. As an organization our AAUW bylaws provide guidance on the use of our name.

The national bylaws in Article III. Use of Name Section 1 states “Policies and Programs. The policies and programs of AAUW shall be binding on all members engaged in AAUW activities, and **no member shall use the name of AAUW to oppose such policies or programs.**”

Section 3 of Article III Use of Name states: “Individual freedom of speech. **These bylaws shall not abridge the freedom of speech of any AAUW member to speak an opinion in the member's own name.**”

AAUW has its own policies and programs that we follow as members. Your own opinions are yours to express.

Ed. Note: Our bylaws may be found on our [website](#).

NEED A SCHOLARSHIP?



*Over the past 10 years, AAUW Buffalo Branch has assisted deserving women with **over \$600,000 in local scholarships, loans, and grants, and over \$200,000 in national fellowships.***

APPLY NOW!

Deadline

Jan 10, 2022

**Women Entering College Scholarships
Catalyst for Change Scholarships
Olga Lindberg Scholarships
Jacquie Walker Scholarships
Clarine Radt Mini-grants (for teachers)**

**In 2021,
AAUW Buffalo Branch Awarded
over **\$45,000** in
SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS**

Details at:

<https://aauwbuffalo.org/scholarships-loans-and-grants/>





Lynne introducing her daughter Anne—
International Women’s Day program 2016

REMEMBERING LYNNE RAPIN

By Diane O’Brien

Lynne was a very active member of our AAUW branch. When help was needed, she stepped forward. As EAP and Tech Savvy treasurer, she kept the board informed of financial activity for these accounts. She could be found at the book sale, helping to keep books displayed and in any other role that was needed.

Lynne’s sudden death last summer saddened all of us. Many asked how they could honor her. Although the branch may not (by national rules) solicit funds for another organization, the board agreed to be a conduit

for donations for A2Empowerment, at <https://a2empowerment.org>. This nonprofit was co-founded by Lynne’s daughter Anne Rapin and Anne Cheung.

Researching this organization online, the mission is stated as: “A2Empowerment is a nonprofit company dedicated to empowering women through education.” Qualified young women in Cameroon who are at risk of dropping out of school receive educational scholarships to ensure school completion.

Anne Rapin spoke to our group a few years ago, describing the organization. I met recently with both of these founders and Lynne’s other daughter, Beth. They were all ecstatic that our AAUW members might be making donations to this nonprofit.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

By Judy Weidemann

Yes, a few cultural venues are open. Note that a proof of Vax and a Mask are required at all spots.

Many spots are on shortened schedules.

Albright - Knox Northland

612 Northland Ave., Buffalo 716-882-8700

While the Elmwood Avenue Albright Knox Art Gallery is closed for construction, the Northland Gallery will host its exhibits and programs. Each exhibit lasts for about two months at Northland.

The Gallery is open on Friday from noon - 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Proof of Vax and a Mask are required.

Amherst Chamber Ensemble

711 Niagara Falls Boulevard

Concert on December 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

The Brandenburg Concerto by Bach and some brass Christmas carols will be featured.

Proof of Vax and a Mask are required.

MusicalFare Theatre

4380 Main St., Amherst 716-839-8540

All Is Calm through December 12, 2021.

Proof of Vax and a Mask are required.

Shea's Theatre

646 Main St., Buffalo 716-847-1410

Pretty Woman, the Musical plays through December 5, 2021

Hamilton begins on January 2, 2022.

Proof of Vax and a Mask are required.

Note: The Irish Classical Theatre and the Kavinoky Theatre are dark in December.

Freedom & Responsibility

Dr. Marian Deutschman

If you're a United States citizen, our Constitution gives you **five freedoms**: freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly and petition. The Free Speech Center at the Middle Tennessee State University elaborates with the following: "Freedom of speech is a core American belief, almost a kind of secular religious tenet, an article of constitutional faith." "Freedom of expression upon public questions is secured by the First Amendment" so that "debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust and wide-open." "First Amendment freedoms ring hollow if government officials can repress expression that they fear will create a disturbance or offend. Unless there is real danger of imminent harm, assembly rights must be respected."

Freedom of choice is the right or ability to choose whatever you want to do or have. The pandemic has limited some of our freedoms. There have been protests and violent reactions to perceptions of curtailment of freedoms. Professor Borja Santos, MPA/ID, states that freedom is more than simply being able to do what we want. He argues that we must work to ensure that all members of society have the opportunity to satisfy their needs and wants. Freedom should incorporate an expansion of opportunities and capabilities. Philosopher John Rawls, BA/PhD, suggests that if we continue to define freedom as everyone doing what they want, the most vulnerable will continue to suffer through this pandemic. Our pandemic decisions should not be made based on our perceptions of our own low or high risk of infection, but by taking into account everyone's health, economic, and social situation.

Many people are refusing to wear a mask because it's a mandate. A mandate is defined as the authority to carry out a policy that is given by the electorate to a candidate who is victorious in an election. A law and a mandate have the same power to be enforced. Research reveals that political identity may explain some of the mask-related attitudes towards cooperation. Social identity is connected to the visible symbol of the mask itself. There is a strong sense of us-versus-them between mask-

wearers and non-mask wearers that relates to willingness to cooperate.

There are claims that the benefits of the highly restrictive lockdowns that we had during the pandemic may be outweighed by the negative impacts on the economy, social structure, education, and mental health.

For example, there is evidence that the pandemic has been a major threat to the gains women have made in the workplace. Working mothers took on more childcare responsibilities, forcing them often to reduce their work hours or to leave their jobs during the pandemic. There are simply not enough affordable, high-quality childcare options, which disproportionately harms working mothers, especially those who earn a low or middle income.

The pandemic created a crisis situation, but the lack of support for families was a pre-existing condition. On the positive side, the post-pandemic work environment may develop more flexible work policy guidelines and some new workplace expectations.

There are many of our own friends and relatives who refuse to be vaccinated. Some people who remain unvaccinated appear to fear the vaccine more than they fear COVID-19. Some resort to making false claims about the dangers of the vaccine. Under the threat of losing their jobs, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers finally got a COVID-19 vaccine. Teachers, nurses, and home health aides accepted their occupations' mandates. Experts predicted mass resignations but most workers rushed to get inoculated.

Some still believe that mandatory vaccination is a step toward other choices being taken away from us. Peaceful transfer of power is enshrined in our Constitution. Our current distrust of our electoral process, with accusations of fraudulent elections, has led to legislation with a focus on voter suppression in many states, thus making it more difficult to vote. This is to prevent voter fraud that didn't really happen. Now that's a severe loss of freedom!



DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Wednesday, December 1, 6:30 p.m., Board meeting at Ebenezer Church of Christ in West Seneca.

Saturday, December 11, 11:30 a.m., Branch Program
"A Night on the Town: History of Entertainment in Buffalo", Banchetti by Rizzo's in Amherst (see pg. 1)

Wednesday, January 5, 6:30 p.m., Board meeting at Christ United Methodist Church in Snyder

Thursday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. Branch Program
"Unlocking Afghanistan: What about the Women?"
Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site, 641 Delaware, Buffalo

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 over 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.



Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796



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