

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Women on the Move with AAUW!

January 2022

Vol. CXXX No. 5



Unlocking Afghanistan: What about the Women?

Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid: Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site OR Zoom
621 Delaware Ave., but park and enter from the rear on Franklin

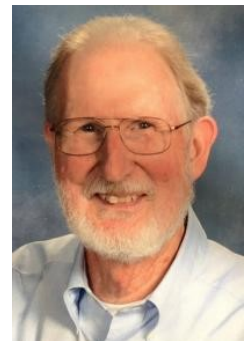
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Why didn't our involvement in Afghanistan work? What drew us there? Why was Afghanistan of interest to Russia and other countries? If we don't learn from the last 20 years, we may suffer to repeat our mistake.

Bob Poczik, noted speaker and storyteller, will present a free hybrid program at the **Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site**. You may join us in person or on Zoom.

Presenter Poczik is no stranger to taking on challenging topics and helping audiences gain a better understanding about important issues facing our country. Bob will identify key events and trends that helped shape Afghanistan as it is today. The many gaps between the cultures of the United States and Afghanistan complicate an understanding of the issues, notably those that involve the women in this strategically located nation that sits at the crossroads between the Middle East and South Asia. The list of Taliban policies violating women's rights is long. When the Taliban were previously in power from 1996 to 2002, they banned most education for women and girls. They confined women to their homes if unescorted by a male family member. They denied them access to most jobs and the freedom to even leave their house for a walk. What lies ahead?



FEBRUARY 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 January 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



The TR Inaugural Site is co-sponsoring this program.

Please send the information below to Betty Preble by January 17. Either mail to One Fox Run Lane #622, Orchard Park 14127 OR email to betty.preble@gmail.com OR use the [form](#) on our website linked to the branch programs page.

✂

Please check: Attending in person Interested in carpooling?
 Attending via Zoom (The link will be sent to you.)

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

In-Person Guests: _____

President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

~Mother Teresa

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Yes, it's 2022 and we've made it through another year. Many would say that the challenges we faced in '21 have made us more resilient, that we've learned a lot about ourselves, and that we are better for it. A new year ushers in a time to reflect on the past, but it also brings renewed hope for the future.

If you were to attend one of our monthly branch board meetings, you would find that each seat is filled with an optimistic member, including those who serve in appointed positions. When problems have been encountered, this group has worked to understand, thus using each situation as an opportunity for growth.

Having this mindset, along with mutual support and believing in our collective ability to be successful, has allowed us to overcome problems. The team doesn't shy away from productive discourse. Instead, they listen, they learn, they exhibit great mutual respect and they work to enhance our branch. The team has proven to be a reflection of AAUW's core values.

The future of our branch looks bright! Plans to hold our annual Book Sale are in the works, which will help us to continue to impact the lives of women and girls in the community. Also, the board has been focusing on empowering the team to do a better job for the branch. Here's a peak at what we've been doing:

1. Since September each board meeting has been used as an opportunity for us to increase our knowledge about our branch. Monthly meetings begin by taking a closer look at a section of our handbook. Together we have been increasing our awareness and understanding of how and why we do what we do. The more we've learned, the more we've discovered that there is still more to learn! These sessions have been beneficial for the team, ultimately impacting our decision-making for the branch.
2. The board has formed a committee to review branch bylaws this year which will ensure that we remain current in our ability to lead productively. We are determined to serve you well!

Here's to the New Year! May your participation in branch programs and interest groups improve the quality of your tomorrows!

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022

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

Sue Stapell

FUNDRAISING TREASURER

Mary Crocker

CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR EDUCATION TREASURER

Kathleen SantaMaria

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

Rosaleen Nogle



JANUARY 2022 INTEREST GROUPS

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

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

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., Jan. 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

bplibby1@verizon.net

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

We will not meet in January.

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet

Facilitator: Marilyn Carmichael

Discussion Leader: Mary Ann Hope

RSVP: Frances Witnauer at 716-688-5708 or

grandmafran4547@gmail.com



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.

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recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

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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. Holding an office is the best way to find out what AAUW is all about! (See Lilyen's message on pg. 2.) The nominating committee is seeking applicants for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2022, for the following positions:

- **VP Membership Recruitment**
Help interested people join the branch and get to know them first!
- **Secretary**
The best way to learn the nitty-gritty of the organization!
- **CFO**
Learn to know ALL about our finances - our investments, the various accounts, etc.
- **Treasurer for Education/Scholarships/Program**
This one is fun - write checks for our programs and scholarships!
- **Scholarship Director**
One of the most rewarding positions! Oversee the various scholarship committees and learn about the young people (mostly women) who will lead us well into the future!

The official 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!



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS!

Amy Moritz

78 Grand Prix Dr., Buffalo, NY 14227

716-863-2357

amytriathlete@gmail.com

BA, Journalism & Mass Communication,

St. Bonaventure University

MA, Humanities, University at Buffalo

Doris Cummings-Ford

507 Highgate Ave. Buffalo, NY 14215-1203

716-292-8960

doriscummingsford@gmail.com

BA, English and Spanish Literature,

U. of California at San Diego

MS, Counseling, U. of Mass. at Amherst

CAGS Psychology, U. of Mass. at Amherst

MORE ABOUT OUR JANUARY SPEAKER

Robert L. Poczik graduated from Clarence Central High School, attended the State University of New York at Binghamton, and then spent a year and a half in India on a Fulbright Fellowship, where he taught English at an Indian university, completed a research project on Mahatma Gandhi, and did volunteer work with Tibetan refugees. He completed his master's degree in education from Syracuse University and returned to Asia on a Ford Foundation Fellowship on assignment to the Ministry of Education in Sri Lanka. He then volunteered again with Tibetan refugees in India, creating an English-Tibetan children's dictionary, which has been reprinted 11 times and has never been out of print since it was first published 40 years ago. It has helped several young Tibetans to learn English, and this work has earned Robert several private audiences with the Dalai Lama.

Upon returning to the U.S., Mr. Poczik began a 26-year career in the New York State Education Department in Albany, where he was the lead state administrator of programs for refugees and immigrants, adult literacy, job training, and career and technical education. He then worked an additional ten years for a research and evaluation firm in Manhattan with a primary focus on the improvement of child welfare programs, including foster care.

Upon retirement he and his wife, Ellen, moved back to Clarence to live in Ellen's childhood home in Harris Hill. He is the current vice president of the Clarence Book Review Club, is an active member of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, has been active in the Clar-

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING PROGRAMS!



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 ***"Persistent Challenges Facing Women in Business."***

During the evening of **March 24** (International Women's Month) 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."***



April 21 (Earth Month) will bring **Dr. Steve Vermette**, geography professor at SUNY Buffalo State to speak on ***"The Fine Art of Walking in Nature: A Prescription for the Earth."***

Our **May** program will be the annual meeting, honoring our Achievement Award winner, and electing/installing our new officers.

ence Senior Center and sits on its board of directors. Mr. Poczik is known not only as a world traveler, but also for his speaking engagements across Western New York during the last ten years that involve a wide range of educational, travel, literary, and cultural topics. He is a regular contributor to the "My View" feature of the Buffalo News, with 40 such columns having been published. In 2016 he was honored as the Clarence Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Lifetime Achiever of the Year.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Judy Weidemann

Be sure to double check if you are planning on attending an event listed here. The viruses are still active in our community. Who knows what January will bring. Note that a proof of VAX and a mask are required at all spots.

Albright - Knox Northland

612 Northland Avenue, Buffalo, 716-882-8700
The Northland is open from Friday through Sunday.
Technology and Identity in Contemporary Art
through January 16, 2022
The Gallery is open Friday from noon - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Proof of Vax and mask are required.

Amherst Chamber Ensemble

711 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Buffalo
Phone: Martha Welte 716-835-0794
Concert on January 16, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.
*Beethoven Septet (second half), Sonata by Paul Ju-
ron and a Mozart string quartet.*
Proof of Vax and mask are required.

Burchfield Penney Art Center

1300 Elmwood Avenue, Phone 716-878-6011
Open Thursday through Sunday
A Lifetime of Themes: Charles Burchfield
Proof of Vax and mask are required.

Irish Classical Theatre

625 Main Street, Buffalo
Phone 716-853-ICTC
Waiting for Godot January 14 - February 13, 2022
Proof of Vax and mask are required.

Kavinoky Theatre

320 Porter Avenue, Buffalo
Phone 716-829-7668
Lifespan of a Fact
January 7 through January 30, 2022
Proof of Vax and mask are required.

Shea's Theatre

646 Main Street, Buffalo
716-847-1410
Hamilton continues through January 2, 2022
Proof of Vax and mask are required.

SCHOLARSHIPS—DEADLINES APPROACHING!

The applications for our scholarships to be awarded next year are now available, most with deadlines of Jan. 10! **Please print and distribute our poster to the places you visit—hairdresser, dentist, etc.** You may download the full-color version from our [website](#) or, if you are reading this online, just click on the picture. Thanks to Laurie Eikemeyer who put together this beautiful creation.

We have scholarships for young women ranging from beginning college to those heading to grad school. **The application deadline is January 10.**

We also have an interest-free loans and grants fund open to both women and men. And don't forget our Clarine Radt mini-grant program for teachers in our public schools. The programs are limited to people living/going to school/teaching in Western New York.

NEED A SCHOLARSHIP?
AAUW
BUFFALO BRANCH

Over the past 20 years, AAUW Buffalo Branch has assisted deserving women with over \$600,000 in local scholarships, loans, and grants, and over \$200,000 in retirement fellowships.
APPLY NOW!

Deadline
Jan. 10, 2022

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

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

Details at:
<https://www.aauw.org/scholarships-loans-and-grants/>

BOOK SALE UPDATE

Jayne Murray and Joan Kernan

The Buffalo AAUW Branch has had 65 annual book sales, which have provided much needed scholarships and loans to college students in the Western New York area. Due to the pandemic we were unable to have sales in 2020 and 2021, but continued to provide scholarships. We need to replenish our funds! Though the course of the pandemic is still not known, we are pre-planning in hopes we can resume our book sale, a much anticipated Buffalo tradition.

Tentatively, we are pre-planning for June 1–5, 2022. The WNY community, including our Buffalo AAUW membership, has experienced much difficulty and change during this hiatus. Looking forward, we require additional members to help us with the tasks that go into creating this valuable resource. Our book sale typically collects more than 250,000 books in a year, which culminates in the five-day sale. We need hands-on volunteers, both men and women—on-site training provided. Opportunities include:

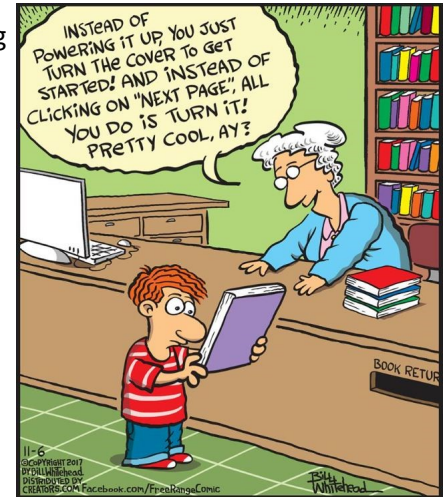
Book Sorters: Sort books at our book-collection site and later, at the sale site.

Researchers: Check online for the best saleable price.

Site Managers: Open and close the sale site each day both before and after the sale.

Table Chairs: Our books are organized into categories, i.e. gardening, cooking, history, literature, etc. Each category has a table chair who ensures that the books in that category (all presorted for you) are accessibly arranged on one or more tables. Some of the table categories are very small and will not require a great deal of time.

Please Note: *If you were a table chair at the last sale and do not intend to return as a table chair, please contact Pat Baker or Sue Licata.*



Other Volunteers: Cashiers, runners, table organizers, set up, and clean up.

Please consider how **YOU** might help! Current and past volunteers have found the sale to be a labor of love and have appreciated the camaraderie, flexible time schedule (work as little or as much as you can) and sense of purpose.

At this time we are still not taking books from the general public. However, members who wish to donate books should contact Jayne Murray to schedule a drop off. The church has kindly asked that a volunteer be present to accept them and that books not be left in the entrance or foyer.

Please watch this space for monthly book-sale updates and contact information for volunteering.



From storage after the winter...



To setting up at the site...

To many happy customers!



“Cancel Culture”

Dr. Marian Deutschman

The phrase “cancel culture” is pervasive and inundates political speech. It originated in a 1980s song. After appearing in film and television, it gained traction on social media. Cancel culture is a form of ostracism in which someone is cast out of social or professional circles. That could occur online, on social media, or in person. Those outcasts are perceived as having been “canceled” for what they said or did.

Canceling people, brands, shows, and movies that are considered to be offensive isn’t new. Its roots have been present throughout history. People were punished with banishment when societies perceived that they behaved outside social norms. It was a way of reinforcing a set of norms.

Mass cancelling is a way of expressing disapproval and exerting social pressure. It has happened recently to Dr. Seuss, *Dumbo* (Disney) and J. K. Rowling, among many others. To be more specific, controversial podcaster Joe Rogan has been canceled many times for his conservative political beliefs and offensive comments. He was canceled for his anti-vaccination comments. He complained that white men are “oppressed” because his opinions are seen as offensive or politically incorrect.

Disney’s singing crows were cancelled (*Dumbo*, 1941) because they pay homage to racist minstrel shows, where white performers with blackened faces and tattered clothing imitated and ridiculed enslaved Africans on southern plantations. British TV personality Piers Morgan was canceled because he refused to apologize for his disbelief of Meghan Markle’s claims of suicidal ideation. Licensing rights to six titles of Dr. Seuss’ publications were pulled due to racially insensitive depictions of Asian and black characters. The list goes on.

In September 2020 Pew Research Center asked Americans to share what they think the term means and how they feel about calling people out on social media. The survey found people were deeply divided, even over the meaning of the phrase. There are debates over what it is and what it

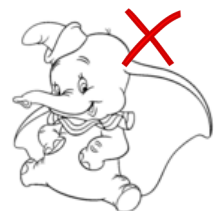
means. Is it a way to hold people accountable, or a tactic to punish others unjustly, or a mix of both?

Will calling out people on social media solve anything? Should we hold people accountable for what they post? Should freedom of speech be silenced? Is cancel culture a synonym for *political correctness*? Does calling someone out make them think about how their behavior or speech could be offensive? Is it a rush to make judgments or an

attempt to be helpful? The Pew survey has a wealth of quotes from those surveyed, providing insights into the perspectives, with breakdowns of the differences between Republicans/Democrats, conservatives/liberals, males/females, etc. It’s worth a look.

Public shaming may be done to score points against people who mean no harm. The people doing the cancelling can become the self-appointed guardians of political purity. Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby, and Kevin Spacey were cancelled, but they were charged with crimes. Calls to cancel the person can effectively end or damage a career, either through boycotts of their work or disciplinary action from an employer. It can become a senseless form of social media mob rule. In an opinion piece, liberal black feminist Loretta Ross says it can be a toxic practice where “people attempt to expunge anyone with whom they do not perfectly agree, rather than remain focused on those who profit from discrimination and injustice.”

We are currently suffering from many violations of norms without accountability or punishment. What do we do with lawmakers who describe vaccine mandates as abusive tyranny or Nazi acts? Facebook made \$780,000 selling ads that compared vaccines with the Holocaust and suggested that hanging traitors would make America great again. How can we effectively address those who are offensive perpetrators and poor role models? Centuries ago, they would have been tarred and feathered.



DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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 Ave., Buffalo

Wednesday, February 2, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting at Ebenezer Church of Christ in West Seneca.

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: *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



American Association of
University Women
Buffalo Branch Inc
PO BOX 894
Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 1078