

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Women on the Move with AAUW!

February 2022

Vol. CXXX No. 6



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Persistent Challenges Facing Women in Business (The Undercapitalization of Women-Owned Businesses)

Thursday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

(register at <https://bit.ly/33zJQbF>)



We look forward to hearing **Dr. Susan McCartney**, director of the Small Business Development Center at SUNY Buffalo State (Read about the SBDC on pg. 7.)

Susan McCartney is a passionate supporter of entrepreneurs in Western New York. “They are highly motivated, smart cookies who are quick thinkers with endless energy. We need to match that

with the type of environment they want (to do business).”

Dr. McCartney joined the SUNY Buffalo State Small Business Development Center in 1984, the year it was founded, and is now the director of the Center as well as the special advisor to the Provost for Economic Development. Susan is a New York State certified business advisor and is a specialist in strategic planning. She is a frequent presenter, with topics ranging from keynote presentations to co-hosting a cable TV program. Susan supervises a team of award-winning business advisors, co-chairs Buffalo State’s Sustainability Task Force and was the co-facilitator for the college’s effort to rebuild its arboretum. She also serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Business.

Susan is a member of the Erie County Business Task Force—created to assist businesses during Covid 19. She is active in several organizations including the Sunrise Buffalo Rotary Club, the Elmwood Bidwell Farmers Market Board of Directors, and the Buffalo-Lille Association. In addition to a BA in art history from SUNY Buffalo and a BS degree in biology from Syracuse University, Susan earned her doctorate and master’s in business administration (MBA) from SUNY Buffalo. She sits on the county’s Small Business Committee – a sub committee of the Erie County Task Force. Susan is a member of the Erie County Minority Advisory Board and the Women Business Utilization Advisory Board.



MARCH 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 February 10.

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



President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

"The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another."

Serena Williams

Greetings!

It's been years since we've seen a new woman depicted on a U.S. coin, but this month that will change! To commemorate the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Mint will begin a four-year program entitled, *The American Women Quarters Program*. This program will honor the accomplishments of women from diverse backgrounds who have impacted history and have paved the way for all of us. The plan is to release five quarters each year from 2022 through 2025.

The program has been years in the making. In 2020 Congress passed legislation that directed the U.S. Mint to obtain input from the National Women's History Museum and the Smithsonian, among others, to determine which distinguished women to honor on the "tails" side of the coin. (Only those deceased were eligible.) The first five honorees have been announced. They are

- Author Maya Angelou
- Astronaut Sally Ride
- Cherokee Nation Chief Wilma Mankiller
- Suffrage movement leader Nina Otero-Warren
- Actor Anna May Wong

The lives of these iconic trailblazers are worth reviewing, as they serve as a reflection of past victories and act as a muse for those of us guarding the gate for future generations. It is Sally Ride who is quoted as saying, *"If it wasn't for the women's movement, I wouldn't be where I am today."* And Nina Otero-Warren humbly announced that *"Ratification of suffrage has been accomplished by the efforts of women all over the country. We have a great reason to rejoice in the outcome of our efforts."*

I love that these women, each of whom clearly gave history more than their "two cents," showed their gratitude by acknowledging those who came before them. By doing so they recognized that the freedoms made available to them were bought with someone else's sacrifice. The acting director of the U.S. Mint, Alison L. Doone, stated that generations will look at the coins and be reminded of what can be accomplished with vision, determination, and a desire to improve opportunities for all.

This month Maya Angelou and Sally Ride quarters will be put into circulation.

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022

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FEBRUARY 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

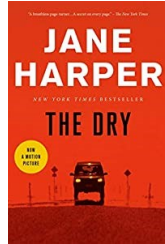
When: Wed. Feb. 23 at noon

Where: Family Tree Restaurant,
4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Dry* by Jane Harper

Discussion Leader: Mary Georger

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or
bplibby1@verizon.net



WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wed., Feb. 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Acapulco Mexican Restaurant,
707 Main St., Tonawanda

RSVP: Barb Libby by 1/29/22 at 836-8303 or
bplibby1@verizon.net



DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. Feb. 16th at 5:30 p.m.

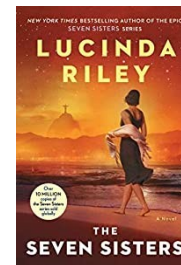
Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Seven Sisters* by Lucinda Riley

Facilitator: Leona Barback

Discussion Leader: Mary Ann Hope

RSVP: Frances Witnauer 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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Condolences to three of our members:

Jayne Mack. Her husband, John (Jack) Mack, Ph.D., a retired Buffalo State professor and a stalwart AAUW book-sale worker, passed away on December 29 after several years suffering from dementia. His obituary and an opportunity to leave remembrances may be found at:
<https://bit.ly/drjackmack>

Marguerite Collesano. Her husband, Stanley, passed away January 15. As an attorney he helped with some branch legal matters about 20 years ago and was also a great book-sale helper. His obituary and an opportunity to leave remembrances may be found at:
<https://bit.ly/collesano>

Carol Griffith. Your publisher was remiss in not including a notice earlier that Carol's mom had passed away in late September.



VOTER SUPPRESSION

Dr. Marian Deutschman

“SOME people don’t want SOME people to vote.”

Those words were spoken during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on voter suppression by U.S. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA). He was encouraging his colleagues to pass **The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** and the **For the People Act**, federal legislation to protect and expand voting rights for all eligible Americans.

The **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** would restore and strengthen aspects of the bipartisan **Voting Rights Act of 1965**, enabling Americans to protect themselves from voting laws that discriminate based on age, race, ethnicity, and other factors.

The **Freedom to Vote Act** would expand voting rights by expanding early voting and same-day online registration, creating standards for upholding voter rolls, and authorizing voter registration at new-citizen naturalization ceremonies. The **Freedom to Vote Act** narrows down some parts of the **For the People Act**, expands upon others, and introduces much-needed reforms. At this writing there is a very slim chance of passage of these bills without modification of the filibuster and the 60-vote requirement. A simple majority could insure our voting rights.

Elections are run at the state level. If we have confidence that states conduct free and fair elections, do we need to federalize elections? Current protections are working. The **Voting Rights Act of 1965** secured the right to vote for Americans. However, there is a difference between having the *right* to vote and being *able* to vote in the United States. Some believe that restricting voting of opponents is the only way to win. Voter-suppression laws are used to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting. The tactics range from making voting less convenient, to physically intimidating and even physically attacking prospective voters, which is illegal. Over the last 20 years, states have put up barriers such as imposing strict voter ID laws,

cutting voting times, restricting registration, and purging voter rolls. These efforts received a boost when the Supreme Court weakened the Voting Rights Act in 2013. Significant numbers of eligible voters are kept from the polls, and special burdens are placed on racial minorities, poor people, and young and old voters.

Voter fraud and illegal voting aren’t a systematic and widespread occurrence. but they are often cited to justify re-



gressive voting laws. These are often solutions in search of a problem. The 2020 election had the highest voter turnout of the 21st century, despite the pandemic. AP reporters went looking for cases of voter fraud in six states that former President Trump challenged and they found fewer than 475

potential instances out of more than 25 million votes cast, a number that would not have come close to changing the outcome.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, between January 1 and December 7, 2021, at least **19 states passed 34 laws restricting access to voting**. More than 440 bills with provisions that restrict voting access have been introduced in 49 states in the 2021 legislative sessions. In 2021 the state-legislative push to restrict access to voting was aggressive and successful.

On the other hand, between January 1 and December 7, 2021, **at least 25 states enacted 62 laws with provisions that expand voting access**. These policies ease the processes for requesting and casting a mail ballot and having that ballot counted, expand early-voting time periods, improve access for disabled voters, strengthen language access provisions, expand or implement automatic voter registration, and restore voting rights to formerly incarcerated people, among other measures. More than 1,000 bills with expansive provisions were introduced in 49 states in the 2021 legislative sessions.

At least 33 states have statutes that **prohibit tampering with voting systems** or devices or equipment on which a vote is cast and counted. There are other kinds of voting crimes such as tampering with ballots, destruction of ballot supplies, voting fraud or voter intimidation, in addition to tampering laws.

Continued bottom of page 5



HELP WANTED! WILL TRAIN! No Experience Necessary!

Mary Bashore, for the nominating committee

You may have seen a lot of signs like these at all kinds of places begging for workers. We need workers too, except there's no pay.

Each year we look for candidates for election to various offices and positions, without which our AAUW Buffalo Branch cannot function.

Yes, it takes some time and energy, but there are benefits. You get to know fellow members. You get to be in on the latest information and plans for upcoming events. You get to exercise and improve skills you have and develop new ones. You get to influence policy and make your mark. You get to choose where and how to apply your talents. Some members say they want to work with numbers but not people; some don't want anything to do with numbers or financial management. Some want a short-term commitment; some are willing to make a two-year commitment. There is something for everybody!

The other great thing is, you can share a job with someone or be an understudy, working with an experienced mentor to learn the ropes. There are always others to help or answer a question if you get stuck, and you will gain confidence and the satisfaction of knowing you did your part.

This year we will be voting on candidates for VP of Membership Recruitment, Secretary/Parliamentarian, CFO, EAP Treasurer, Fundraising (book sale) Treasurer, and Scholarship Director. While the nominating committee will identify qualified candidates, many of whom have experience serving in these or similar positions, we also

want to find ways to include and develop new talent. Here are two examples of key positions:

The Scholarship Director oversees the scholarship committees and brings the final recommendations to the board. If you ever need your faith in humanity and the next generation of women restored, being involved in the scholarship program is the job for you! I can't tell you what a pleasure it is to read the applications from so many accomplished women seeking higher education, and I know first-hand what a difference scholarship support means.



The CFO oversees the main accounts and activities of various treasurers. Each treasurer handles just one bank account. For instance, the EAP treasurer distributes funds to the scholarship winners and pays the tab for branch programs and events. If you can read a bank statement and balance a checkbook, you might consider being a treasurer.

Did I mention? We have a detailed board-member handbook, position descriptions, and other support to help you succeed. Expenses such as postage and supplies are reimbursed—you are not expected to pay out of pocket for anything.

If you don't feel you can serve on the board, there is always room for you on various committees: scholarships, publicity, book sale, newsletter, website, program, etc. I invite you to think about how you can step up, and contact me or any of the board members to ask them about their positions. If not now, there is always next year!

“Voter Suppression”, Continued from page 4

In the January/February 2022 issue of *The Atlantic*, author Barton Gellman states that “the next attempt to overthrow a national election will rely on subversion more than violence.” He claims that the “ballots cast by American voters will not decide the presidency in 2024. Thousands of votes will be thrown away, or millions, to produce the required effect. The winner will be declared the loser. The loser will be certified president-elect.” Some states “have rewritten statutes to seize partisan control of decisions about which ballots to count and which to discard, which results to certify and which to reject. They are driving out or stripping power from election officials who

refused to go along with the plot last November, aiming to replace them with exponents of the Big Lie. They are fine-tuning a legal argument that purports to allow state legislators to override the choice of the voters.”

The January 6 insurrection to prevent the certification of the election was a manifestation of a much deeper problem for our democracy. David Nichols, historian of the Eisenhower presidency, says that a quiet coup is being hatched in the Republican states designed to prevail in the Electoral College without a shot being fired.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Sandra Massung's new address is 380 Hartford Rd., Apt 2A, Amherst 14226-1707.

Ramona Hambor's new address is 50 Puritan Rd., Tonawanda 14150-8526.

It has been noted that some of the officer terms on page 2 of the directory are incorrect. The ones who are marked with terms ending in 2021 should all have ending year 2023.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Judy Weidemann

You are all aware that we are experiencing another wave of Covid, causing many cultural sites to close again. Hence it is not wise to list events here. Be sure to double check to see if an event is still scheduled before you go. We will surely appreciate all that Buffalo has to offer when we come to the end of this siege.

ARE YOU CONCERNED?

Do you share the concerns of most AAUW members regarding the political situation in our state and in our country? Are you sharing those concerns with your legislators? AAUW has a wonderful tool to help you!

The national AAUW **"TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST"** allows you to send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. [Sign up](#) to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action. You can choose your specific areas of concern:

- Civil Rights
- STEM
- Economic Security
- Education
- Title IX
- Pay Equity

Note, of course, that you are not limited to these issues. When you sign up you'll be provided with sample paragraphs to use.



SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING PROGRAMS!

At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, **March 24** (International Women's Month) we will Zoom in to hear actor **Grace Angela Henry** portray Sojourner Truth as she speaks to **"Women's Rights, Education, Leadership, and Social Justice."** Her website states "I have a chameleon-like voice that moves fluidly from audiobooks and audiotours to live short-story performances to documentary films and commercial voiceovers. Multi-lingual and a trained actor, I engage the listener immediately and am a favorite with the most discerning of audiophiles."



April 21 (Earth Month) will bring **Dr. Steve Vermette**, geography professor within the Department of Geography & Planning at SUNY Buffalo State to speak on **"The Fine Art of Walking in Nature: a Prescription for the Earth."** His teaching interests are in physical geography, specifically meteorology, climatology, and water-related issues.



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

Our **BOOK SALE** is planned for **June 1-5**. Be ready to volunteer! It's hard work, but so rewarding.

And don't forget our Scholarship Celebration on **June 14**. We will be celebrating three years of awards!

More about the Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at SUNY Buffalo State provides management and technical assistance to start-up and existing small businesses throughout Erie County and the Niagara Frontier. As a center with Buffalo State's School of the Professions, the SBDC brings together the resources of SUNY Buffalo State, the private sector, and government agencies to counsel and train small businesses to resolve organizational, financial, marketing, technical, and other obstacles they may encounter.

The SBDC's knowledgeable and experienced staff provides expert one-to-one counseling, training, and instructional programs to help small businesses succeed. Any existing small business, firm, or individual considering starting a small business may request assistance. There are no charges for direct counseling by the SBDC under this program.

Forbes lists 8 major challenges facing women in business:

- Limited funding
- Balancing responsibilities
- Inadequate support system
- Fear of failure
- Gender inequality
- Limited knowledge
- Timidity
- Unfavorable business environment



Building confidence and developing a good business plan are pre-requisites for anyone planning to become an entrepreneur. SBDC is a good starting point. Before the pandemic there were more than 11.6 million U.S. firms owned by women, employing nearly nine-million people and generating \$1.7 trillion in sales. However, in 2018, less than 6% of women-owned firms generated revenues of \$250,000 or more. What has the pandemic done to women-owned businesses?

DID YOU KNOW?

The AAUW Buffalo Branch has, over the years, established two national Fellowship Funds and one Special Projects Grant. These, along with other established grants and fellowship funds, are awarded each fall. The most recent grants using funds donated by the Buffalo Branch (and accompanied by other branch and state-established funds) are listed below. These are in addition to our local scholarship programs. Be proud of what we're helping!

FELLOWSHIP (using both our Fellowship Funds)

Name: [Krushna Ranaware](#)

Award Year: 2021-22

Award: American Fellowship

Institution: Syracuse University

Location: Syracuse, New York

Discipline: Social sciences

Degree and Specialization: Ph.D., Interdisciplinary

Project Name: (In)visible Work: Gender, Labor and Agricultural Markets in India



Krushna Ranaware is a Ph.D. candidate in the social science program at Syracuse University. Her research focuses on applications of mixed research methods and feminist theories to agricultural policy. Her current project examines women's work in agriculture in the context of public-policy shifts in western India. Her goal during the fellowship year is to complete writing her dissertation and navigating the job market successfully.

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT

Recipient: [Girl Scouts of Connecticut Inc.](#)

Project Director: Elynn Savard

Award Year: 2021-22

Award: Community Action Grant

Location: Hartford, Connecticut

Term: One-Year

Project Name: Girl Scouts: Coding for Good



Girl Scouts' Coding for Good badges teach girls, grades K-12, the basics of coding and how the coding process provides opportunities to use their skills for good. Girls learn about algorithms through age-appropriate, creative activities, such as coding positive memes to spread a message about a cause, designing a digital game to educate on an issue and developing an app to promote healthy habits. The programs will be delivered virtually.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

Thursday, February 17, 7:00 p.m., Zoomed Branch Program (see page 1)

Wednesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church in Snyder

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m., Zoomed Branch program (see page 5)

**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