

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Women on the Move with AAUW!

March 2022

Vol. CXXX No. 7



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APRIL 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 March 10. Please be sure to put “AAUW Buffalo Advocate” in the subject line.



“Women’s Rights, Education, Leadership, and Social Justice”

(What would Sojourner Truth Say?)

Portrayed by Grace Angela Henry

Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm

via ZOOM (Register at <https://bit.ly/3HMEusl>)



From the time Angela Henry wrote a report on Sojourner Truth in elementary school, to the academic award named for her which Angela won in college, to the occasion when Angela discovered a historical plaque near Sojourner Truth’s birthplace across the Hudson River from Angela’s home, the famed women’s rights advocate has been a kind of guardian angel and sister spirit in Angela’s life. The more she learned about Sojourner, the more common threads she found.

At a meeting to plan the reenactment of a suffrage march, something moved Angela to exclaim, “I’ll portray Sojourner Truth!” She did, and has continued to do so whenever the spirit moves her. G. Angela Henry is a voice and theatrical actor, third generation social-justice activist, educator, nonprofit leader, and history buff. She lives in New York’s Hudson Valley, where she is known for her productions of historic-graveyard tours.

Also in March!

“A WNY Woman’s Career Path in Environmental Remediation”

AAUW Buffalo is co-sponsoring a program presented by the League of Women Voters on Saturday, March 12. Elizabeth Lowes will speak about her own career in this important field.

(See page 4 for more details and registration information.)



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2021-2022**

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President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."

~Malala Yousafzai

The month of March has been dedicated to reflecting on the contributions of women in the United States, as well as the world. Since 1987 March has been designated as *Women's History Month* in the United States. Also celebrated in March is *International Women's Day* on the 8th—with the first celebration taking place globally in 1911. Both focus on the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

Locally, we have hosted a program each year in March highlighting women's issues in recognition of these initiatives. Our program this year will take place on Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Actor Grace Angela Henry will portray Sojourner Truth in a program entitled, "Women's Rights, Education, Leadership, and Social Justice." It will be a perfect opportunity for you to invite others to participate and introduce them to our branch of AAUW. Check out the details in the announcement included in this issue and share it with your friends!

From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

*President Jimmy Carter's Message designating
March 2-8, 1980 as National Women's History Week*

About Women's History Month

Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28, which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9, which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995 presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made in a variety of fields during the course of American history.

MARCH 2022 INTEREST GROUPS

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

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

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

We are taking some time off until we see warmer weather and safer conditions.



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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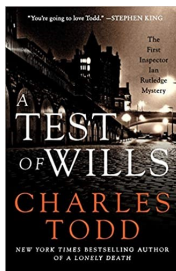
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CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: **Wed., Mar. 23 at noon**

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

Book: ***A Test of Wills* by Charles Todd**

Discussion Leader: **Marcia Turley**

RSVP: **Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or**

bplibby1@verizon.net

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: **Wed., Mar. 16 at 5:30 p.m.**

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

Book: ***The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig**

Facilitator: **Mary Bashore**

Discussion Leader: **Judy Huber**

RSVP: **Frances Witnauer 716-688-5708 or**

grandmafran4547@gmail.com



Sticker Shock Ahead ☹️

In a few short weeks our membership renewal notices will be going out. National dues are being increased and, while AAUW-NYS was able to completely waive its portion this year, it will have to partially reinstate them for next year. Our own branch dues remain unchanged. Bottom line—for most general members the dues will be \$67 national + \$7 state + \$15 branch, total \$89.00. We hope you all understand that many of our expenses at all levels have continued even through the pandemic, and we hope that you will “stick with us!” Our mission goes on!

A Note from Our Web Manager

LOVE doing the website and try to continually improve on my admittedly amateur efforts. However, it is NOT good for the future of *any* organization to only have **one** person who knows how to do *any* job. Would YOU like to take a stab at learning this technology? Our website is done on a platform called WordPress which, as its name implies, works a lot like Word. There is certainly a learning curve, but almost anyone could get to my low-intermediate level. Give me a call, or send an email—I'd love to get another person to join in the fun!

Betty Preble

“A WNY Woman’s Career Path in Environmental Remediation”

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara and AAUW Buffalo are co-sponsoring a program for the public on Saturday, March 12, 1:00 pm, via Zoom.



Elizabeth Lowes grew up in Western New York and completed a B.S. degree in Industrial Hygiene and Environmental Toxicology from Clarkson University. She began her career at the Department of Energy’s (DOE) West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) in the mid-1980s. From 2003 to 2010 she worked to support the Department of Defense Chemical Materials Activity in its quest to safely destroy the nation’s largest stockpile of chemical-agent munitions in Tooele, Utah.

Elizabeth’s more recent positions include Environmental, Safety, Health, and Quality manager on DOE’s Legacy Management contract as well as Environment, Safety, and Health manager on DOE’s Los Alamos Cleanup Contract. Elizabeth returned to Western New York and the WVDP in March 2020, where she is supporting DOE’s contractor in the role of regulatory strategy manager.

Register in advance for this meeting: [Zoom Registration Link](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Judy Weidemann

Since copy for this newsletter was due early in February, it was not wise to go back to listing specific cultural events. Maybe next month Covid will not be as pervasive as it has been and we can be more sure of the opportunity to go out and about.

In the meantime, renovation continues at the Albright Knox Gundlach Art Gallery. A recent article in the Buffalo News described the additions that will take place and how the current buildings are being transformed. Go to the Albright Knox Art Gallery web site www.albrightknox.org/building to see what is planned. The opening was delayed a bit due to the difficulty of getting some materials during Covid, but the grand opening should take place in early 2023.

The Northland Avenue Albright Knox location, which has been the alternate to visiting the museum while it is under construction, will close June 5, 2022.

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING PROGRAMS!



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!

WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS!

“LEGITIMATE POLITICAL DISCOURSE?”

Dr. Marian Deutschman

The Republican Party officially declared the January 6 attack on the Capitol and events that led to it as “legitimate political discourse.” They stated this as they censured two Republican Party legislators who called it a “deadly riot” that was fueled by the former president.

There are a multitude of methods to express dissatisfaction with a political system. Individuals or groups can call attention to perceived injustices within our political system using political protests that can be done without overturning the system itself. The assumption is that the system is capable of correcting and improving itself.

Civil disobedience involves deliberate violation of the law. It can be orderly, peaceful, and nonviolent. Demonstrators should be specific about the offending law. Violent protest is used when there is a perception that the system cannot correct itself through public participation such as voting, or non-violent forms of protest such as petitions, strikes, peaceful demonstrations, or sit-ins. If protesters are led to believe that the vote is fraudulent and will continue to be unreliable and that voting to adjust the system is no longer viable, they may resort to violent attacks on leadership in the system.

Political polarization divides voters and their representatives into opposing camps unwilling to compromise or yield power. Unchecked polarization is as much of a danger today as it was in 1787 when former President James Madison called it the “violence of faction.” We need to address polarization if we hope to maintain a functioning democracy and avoid the signal of weakness to the rest of the world.

The National Academy of Sciences identified “three key mechanisms for avoiding polarization: (1) increasing tolerance, the range of opinions that individuals find attractive; (2) limiting the radicalizing influence of repulsive extremists; and (3) incentivizing non-extremist policies that align with individuals’ self-interests.” They added that wars, economic crises, or climate disasters can be effective in uniting opinions but only if they occur *before* extreme polarization has set in. With more than 900,000 deaths from COVID-19, the pandemic should have united

us, but it resulted in more division, dissent, and violence.

We keep saying that “we have more in common than we have differences,” and that we can learn from those who are different from us. That could occur only if we could talk to each other without labeling and name-calling. Actually, increased exposure can *increase* polarization. Social media often reinforces deep divisions. A Brookings Institution article suggests that interventions such as storytelling and incentivizing non-extreme views through legislators and media outlets can have a positive effect.



The Brookings Institution Press suggests, “With the 2022 midterm elections on the horizon, it is critical that candidates and the media resist the poison of extremism rather than attempting to gain from it.”

FOX News dominated cable news in 2021 for the sixth year. Even though FOX had to retrench after the departure of the former president, they latched on to recurring themes such as critical race theory, parental involvement in schools, inflation, supply chain, President Biden’s response to COVID, and crime statistics.

Creating controversy helps to retain audience interest and ratings. David Folkenflik, a reporter who covers the media for NPR, has said about FOX, “They don’t see their loyalty to their viewers’ need to understand the facts as they are, but to perhaps serve their appetites and their political rooting. It’s a very different journalistic mission... I don’t think it’s, in fact, a journalistic mission at all.”

“Traditional journalism values a focus on news reporting that is fair and impartial, guided by principles like truth, verification, and accuracy. But those standards are not observed across the board in the ‘news’ content that people consume,” says the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. Media bias charts can be used with some caution, to determine media source bias.

Reliability is critical, and the accuracy and editorial standards of organizations play an important role in sharing informative, useful news. Media bias charts offer well-researched appraisals on the bias of certain sources. But to best inform yourself, you need a full toolbox. Check out Poynter’s MediaWise project for more media literacy tools.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

Saturday, March 12, 1:00 p.m., Zoomed LWV/AAUW Program (see pgs. 1 and 4)

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m., Zoomed Branch Program (see page 1)

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

Thursday, April 21, Branch Program

BOOKSALE WORK ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

(Watch the website!)

NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME!

SALE PLANNED for June 1-5, 2022.

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 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



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