

# ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

On the Move with AAUW!

September 2022

Vol. CXXXI, No. 1



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



## CryptoCurrency 101: What is it?; how does it work???

Chef's Restaurant, 291 Seneca St, Buffalo

Thurs. September 22, 2022

Registration at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6 & speaker at 7

Dominick Lanuti, our investment account advisor at M&T, will explain this new currency and why we should or should not be involved with it—OR worried about it! Bitcoin, Fungible/non-Fungible tokens, Blockchain, etc.: decipher the mysteries!

More about our speaker on page 6.

All dinners include minestrone soup, Chef's salad, bread & butter, coffee or tea, and a cannoli.

- ◆ Spaghetti Parm comes with choice of meat OR meatless sauce.
- ◆ Roasted chicken includes oven-roasted potatoes and a vegetable medley.

### REGISTRATION—Deadline Sept. 15

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your meal choice:

- Spaghetti Parm with meat sauce    Spaghetti Parm with plain sauce    Roasted Chicken

### Guest (add others on a separate sheet of paper):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Spaghetti Parm with meat sauce    Spaghetti Parm with plain sauce    Roasted Chicken

Special Food Needs \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in carpooling, please indicate the general area where you live (Williamsville, Orchard Park, West Side, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and send with a check for \$25.00/person to:

**MaryAnn Hope, 153 Patton Place, Williamsville, NY 14221**

**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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## President's Message

*Lilyen Mascellino*

***"Connect deeply with others. Our humanity is the one thing that we all have in common"***

**Melinda Gates**

Hello to All!

Who's afraid of a little hard work? Certainly not our Scholarship Book Sale Team who dedicated their time to ensure that our June '22 Book Sale was everything the community remembered that it was! Kudos to all who helped! The Sale's success demonstrated the strong foundation our branch has established over the years, as we've worked to support AAUW's mission. During the last year, I have had many opportunities to talk with our members and I've found similar dedication throughout our branch. Your pride and passion have fueled my excitement to serve once again this year as your President.

With the Spring '22 announcement that our Scholarship Book Sale would be held in June, many messages flooded our FaceBook page. The community was super excited to know we were back in action once again. The messages were all positive in nature, proving that we are representing our branch well. The challenges of the last couple of years show the tenacity of our group. Lock-downs may have slowed our pace, but the challenge didn't prevent us from maintaining our optimistic spirit for the future!

Yes, we have a strong Book Sale following, but it is now time to move those excited book sale patrons into becoming active AAUW members! This is our challenge, as we strive to secure the future of our branch. The community knows that we work to lift women up via scholarships and interest free loans, but do they know that we are a dynamic group who support women on both sides of the aisle? Do they know that we welcome diversity? Do they know we are part of a national organization which has impacted the lives of women for decades? It's time we make sure that they really know who we are and our Public Relations Committee is on the task! Our PR Committee has already begun working to promote our visibility. Now more than ever our branch needs to be seen in the community as an advocate for all.

A few years ago Melinda Gates challenged us to become "the lift" for others and I believe we are successful in this area. But it has been said that people only remember how someone makes them feel. Want to help our branch grow in membership? Well, one way to help is by letting others know what belonging to AAUW does for you. When making connections with women, tell them about our Branch. Our group may be exactly what your neighbor is looking for!

This year, let's focus on making strong connections with others

and

telling them about AAUW, Buffalo Branch!

## SEPTEMBER 2022 INTEREST GROUPS

### CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

**When:** Wed. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at noon  
**Where:** Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave  
**Book:** *American Dirt*, by Jeanne Cummins.  
Discussion Leader: **Barb Weber**  
**RSVP:** Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303  
or [bplibby1@verizon.net](mailto:bplibby1@verizon.net)

### WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

**When:** Thurs. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm  
**Where:** Compass Run Restaurant,  
500 Seneca St. Suite 119, Buffalo 14204  
**RSVP:** Barbara Libby by Sept 1<sup>st</sup> at 716-836-8303  
or [bplibby1@verizon.net](mailto:bplibby1@verizon.net)

### DINNER BY THE BOOK

**When:** Wed. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30  
**Where:** Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.  
**Book:** *The Old Woman with the Knife*  
by Gu-Byeong-mo  
Facilitator: **Lynn Tauriello**  
Discussion Leader: **Mary Crocker**  
**RSVP:** Marilyn Carmichael 716-228-8626 or  
[marilyngrace23@gmail.com](mailto:marilyngrace23@gmail.com)



## IT'S BUFFALO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME!

The Buffalo Branch has a variety of scholarships, grants, and interest-free loans available to students in Western New York.

The Chamberlin and Funds for Education grants and loans program is for men and women in at least their second year in college. Applications are available twice a year, with deadlines of December 1 and May 1, and are always available on our branch website. [Chamberlin and Funds for Education Loans and Grants | AAUW Buffalo Branch](#).

Clarine Radt Mini-Grants are grants of up to \$500 for classroom projects supporting the mission of AAUW in any level of public school education. Applications are always available and there is no deadline. [Clarine Radt Mini-Grants | AAUW Buffalo Branch](#).

The applications for our mainline scholarships are available on our [website](#). These include programs for girls with high academic achievement entering college, women in college who are working at changing our world, women in college whose emphasis is on community service, and women moving on to advanced degree programs.

## AND DID YOU KNOW???


Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world.



For the 2022-23 academic year, AAUW awarded over \$6M in fellowships and grants to more than 320 women and community projects.

The application period for most of these is August 1 into November or December. Check the national AAUW website to explore these opportunities!

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  Click [HERE](#) for our webpage to learn about our 2021-22 winners as they were honored at our Scholarship Celebration on June 14! \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Why do we believe misinformation and disinformation?

Dr. Marian Deutschman

Misinformation is incorrect or misleading information. Disinformation is deliberately deceptive information. We are subjected to both while perpetrators are claiming Bill of Rights protection. A recent editorial in the Buffalo News reminded us that all our constitutional rights have limits. The editorial added the following: “The challenge is identifying where they (*limits*) lie and then summoning the political will to write them into law.”

Rights come with responsibilities. The U. S. has more guns per capita than any other nation in the world. We’re a country with more guns than people. Waiting periods? Enhanced background checks? Roughly 90 percent of Americans support these measures and there’s proof that these limits worked in Connecticut and Maryland. Ban on assault weapons? Restrict teenagers from purchasing high-caliber weapons? Limit the size of certain magazines? Pass red flag laws that would keep potentially dangerous and unstable people from legally obtaining weapons? Is limiting access to firearms a viable solution? One of my friends said we need assault weapons to kill the wild pigs in Texas. How do you respond to this priority if you’re not surrounded by wild pigs?

The House Select Committee investigating the insurrection has skillfully connected the dots and should have revealed the misinformation and disinformation to all except perhaps to those who planned and participated in the event. The attack on the US Capitol was not a protest that got out of hand. We now know it was a coordinated effort to overthrow our democratic system led by a president who didn’t want to lose power even though voters told him his chaotic term in office was over. According to one of his former campaign advisors, he was willing to wage a civil war. And yet, when recently questioned about the insurrection, an educated friend said it was all the fault of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Do you know what you believe is true or untrue? It’s im-

portant to make that distinction because we decide how we think or act based on what we believe is true. It’s impossible to gain firsthand knowledge on many complex issues, so we tend to trust our sources. Have you distorted information to fit the beliefs of those you trust and admire? People tend to share information that has strong accuracy content but social media may distract us from this practice. Dartmouth University computer scientist

Soroush Vosoughi, PhD, found that fake news actually reaches more people and spreads more quickly than the truth. ([Science](#), Vol. 359, No. 6380, 2018). Some of the conspiracy theories and assertions made by people with the credentials are so absurd that David Rand, PhD, a professor of management science and brain and cognitive sciences at MIT said “The basic question from a psycho-

logical perspective is: How can people possibly believe this stuff?” He says, “Fake news has important implications in politics, but also in areas such as health and nutrition, climate science, and financial information.” Are we lazy thinkers? Steven Sloman, PhD, a cognitive scientist at Brown University, says “People aren’t information processors like computers are. We’re social animals, and an important function of fake news is that it’s an indicator of what other people believe.” Appeals to emotion can increase persuasion.

There are psychological barriers to knowledge revision even after misinformation has been debunked and corrected. Policymakers should consider penalties for creating and disseminating disinformation where harm can be established. Freedom of speech does not include the right to amplification of that speech. Disinformation can be seen as a manipulative attack on freedom of choice and the right to be well informed. The July 21 hearing of the House Select Committee ended with commentary from Representative Adam Kinzinger that included “oath, character and truth matters.” He was followed by Representative Liz Cheney, who ended with “we can’t abandon truth and remain a free nation.”





## CONGRATULATIONS!



On June 25, 2022, the American Association of University Women-New York State held the 2022 annual meeting. Our own Carol A. Griffith was installed as President of AAUW-NYS by AAUW National CEO, Gloria Blackwell. AAUW-NYS has 26 branches and over 1,500 members statewide.

In the past four years, Carol has held the position of President-elect and Vice President of Development for AAUW-NYS.

As a member of the AAUW Buffalo Branch, Carol has held several positions including Chairperson of International Women’s Day and Scholarship Director. She has been a committee member several times on the AAUW-NYS Buffalo Branch achievement award committee, scholarship review committee, and nominating committee. Also, Carol has been an active worker on the Buffalo Branch book sale for many years.

Currently, Carol is Health and Community Human Services Patient Representative for the Veterans Administration MC.

Ms. Griffith will continue in the role of President of AAUW-NYS through June 30, 2024.

## OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

**Dominick Lanuti** has spent his wealth management career as an advisor and as a student of the industry. Before joining Wilmington Advisors @ M&T, he was with HSBC Securities, working with premier U.S. and global clients. Previously he was with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, where he worked as a financial advisor.

Dominick earned a B.A. in economics from the University at Buffalo. He volunteers his time and is an active participant in his local community. He has served on the boards of the Buffalo Jaycees, the YMCA Delaware Ave. Branch, the American Heart Association Heart Walk Committee, and has been a member of UB Alumni Association.



## CONDOLENCES

Unfortunately, our Buffalo Branch has lost four members and friends since the last edition of *The Advocate*. We send love and condolences to the families of:



**Marian Bass**. Marian had been a member since 1994. She was, in the spirit of AAUW, a pioneer in equity for women and girls of all backgrounds. [Marian BASS Obituary \(2022\) - Snyder, NY - Buffalo News \(legacy.com\)](#)

**Lee Cohen**. Lee had just recently joined us in 2017, but jumped right in to help with the newsletter. [Leona COHEN Obituary \(2022\) - Getzville, NY - Buffalo News \(legacy.com\)](#)

**Fran Witnauer** (mother of Mary Crocker) had joined the group in 2005. She was beloved by her “Dinner by the Book” friends as well as her Book Sale teammates. [Frances WITNAUER Obituary \(2022\) - Buffalo, NY - Buffalo News](#)

**Pat Swift-MacClennan** joined the branch after her retirement from the Buffalo News in 2002. A tireless worker for womens’ rights, she was active in the branch scholarship program and the Book Sale. She had been our Achievement Award winner in 1998. [Pat Swift MacClennan, 87, Buffalo News columnist who championed women's issues | Featured Obituaries | buffalonews.com](#)



# BOOKSALE!

Jayne Murray



This year our indefatigable Book Sale volunteers and WNY community came together to do the awe-inspiring and, at times, overwhelming, work of reestablishing our Annual Scholarship Book Sale after a two-year pandemic hiatus.



All those boxes from Calvary—three years of collecting!

Many of our regular shoppers expressed to us how thrilled they were that we were back. We are a true WNY event. Our volunteers logged in 2,987 hours in pre-sorting, moving tasks, set up and cleanup plus 1,525 actual sale hours for a grand total of 4,433 hours (equal to 26.4 weeks) to secure scholarship dollars for WNY students. If you were a table chair, donated, sorted, cleaned, planned, set up, made signs, carried, cashiered, bagged, baked, loaned



A daunting task ahead!

tables, or any of the other myriad of valued tasks, we (and our more than 3,000 customers!) applaud you gratefully. We are still paying our expenses, but as of June 20th our gross income was \$76,000 with a net of \$47,000. Please check out our website Book Sale/AAUW



Pretty well set up!

Buffalo for a list of our honored donors and community partners. We gratefully acknowledge the Benderson Corporation for providing the space for our sale—we truly were heading down to the proverbial wire.

We are pleased to announce that we have already set our next sale in motion and have tentatively leased a new sorting site: 80 Earhart Drive, Suite 4, Amherst, in the Inducon Park building. We plan to be available for book drop-offs and sorting Tuesday and Wednesdays, 9am—1pm, starting September 27th and 28th. A signup form to supervise shifts (9-11 and 11-1) will be available on the Book Sale page of our website, [aaubuffalo.org](http://aaubuffalo.org). Orange cones will reserve the parking spaces in front of the entry door for book delivery and we ask that sorters (we can't wait to see you all!) park in other available spaces—there are plenty! Many thanks to the staff at Calvary Episcopal Church for having supported us so kindly for so many years—we will miss you. Our Book Sale Executive Committee will miss Joan Kernan as she moves on to be with her family. We welcome Kate Collins, who has already been moving us ahead with actions and ideas.



Every category was busy!



Children's Room—always crowded!!



Happy to see our friend Carlyn!



35 gaylords full of left-overs!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**Wednesday, Sept 7, 6:30 pm,** Board Meeting at **Christ United Methodist Church**, Harlem/Saratoga in Snyder

**Thursday, Sept 22, 5:30 pm,** Branch Program at Chef's

**Wednesday, Sept 28, 6:30 pm,** AAUW/LWV Program at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Center

**Wednesday, Oct 5, 6:30 pm,** Board Meeting

**Thursday, Oct 13, 6:30 pm,** Branch Program at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church



**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



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