

# ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

On the Move with AAUW!

October 2022

Vol. CXXXI No. 2



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### NOVEMBER 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 October 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



## UKRAINE: A CLOSER LOOK

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church

3275 Elmwood Avenue, Kenmore, 14217

**Thursday, October 13, 6:30 pm**



Enjoy Ukrainian desserts and hear local Ukrainian women discuss their country and the current situation from a personal perspective. The program will be presented by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, UNWLA Branch #97. Donations gratefully accepted.

This program will be co-sponsored by the AAUW Buffalo Branch and the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara.



There is no cost, but **please register with Diane O'Brien** for planning purposes: 716-689-9442 or [obnfam@roadrunner.com](mailto:obnfam@roadrunner.com). Provide your name, phone number, email address, and the names of your guests.

**Registration deadline October 6.**



## 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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### SAVE THE DATE FOR NOVEMBER!

#### Tuesday, November 15, Dinner

The Grapevine Restaurant, 2545  
Niagara Falls Boulevard, Amherst

### Cybersecurity

**Bob Vail**, Healthcare Information  
Security Officer at Erie County  
Medical Center Corporation



## President's Message

*Lilyen Mascellino*

*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."*

*~ Helen Keller*

### Greetings, Branch Members!

Not long ago...a little over 2 years to be exact, circumstances in the world changed the trajectories of our lives. The pandemic slammed the doors shut on everyone's routines. Our well thought out plans were abruptly altered due to a global phenomenon. The small details of our lives were no longer small. During that time many of us learned to embrace life's key moments and to nourish those things that are really important to us.

Today, children are attending schools where masks are no longer required, gyms are full, and area farms are hosting pumpkin festivals! Although things are seemingly getting back to normal, many of us have been changed, as we have opened up to new possibilities. I know this is true for myself. I ventured out of my comfort zone in August & went on a trip where I snorkeled for the 1st time! As I mingle in the community, I have listened to women saying that they too are ready to try new things.

That is good news for us because our Program Committee has been hard at work planning events that we can be proud to invite our friends and neighbors to attend! So let's go ahead and invite them! And when we do, remember to tell them that they can join our branch at a discount when in attendance! That's right!!

**Anyone new to AAUW can join while attending one of our programs for the discounted rate of \$55.50!**

On our website (<https://aauwbuffalo.org>) you can find a copy of our membership form (<https://bit.ly/3qxL7aZ>) to review or share **OR** have your friends fill out online, but we will also have plenty of paper copies at each of our monthly programs!

### Speaking of going online, check us out!

Online (website): <https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Facebook (Meta): [aauw.buffalo](https://www.facebook.com/aauw.buffalo)

Twitter: [@AAUWBuffaloNY](https://twitter.com/AAUWBuffaloNY)

Instagram: [Instagram.com/AAUWBuffalo](https://www.instagram.com/AAUWBuffalo)

## SEPTEMBER 2022 INTEREST GROUPS

### **CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB**

**When:** Wed. Oct. 26 at Noon

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

**Book:** The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

Discussion Leader: **Pat Miceli**

**RSVP:** Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303

or bplibby1@verizon.net

### **WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS**

**When:** Wed. October 12 at 6:30 pm

**Where:** Almaza Grill, 9370 Transit Rd, East Amherst, NY

**RSVP:** Barbara Libby by Oct 9 at 716-836-8303

or bplibby1@verizon.net

### **DINNER BY THE BOOK**

**When:** Wed. Oct. 19 at 5:30 pm

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

**Book:** The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin by Benjamin Franklin.

Facilitator: **Marilyn Carmichael.**

Discussion Leader: **Leona Barback**

**RSVP:** Marilyn Carmichael 716-228-8626 or

marilynGrace23@gmail.com



### **HELP NEEDED!**

Take your AAUW membership to a new level. You'll meet other members in a different setting, learn a new skill, and enjoy socializing! The following areas of our group would appreciate a helping hand.

**Book sale sorting.** Join us on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at our new sorting site. Come when you can, between 9 am and 1 pm. We sort. We chat!

**Scholarship committees.** Help select a winner from our pool of candidates who apply for various financial aids. This job starts in December and **mostly** ends in February. Contact Scholarship Director Melissa White (68522Melissa@roadrunner.com) to join this most rewarding opportunity!

**Nominating Committee.** Help choose our officers for next year! The following offices will be on the ballot:

- President
- Program VP
- VP Membership Retention
- CFO
- Branch Operations Treasurer
- Chamberlin/Funds for Education Treasurer.

If you would like to serve on the committee and/or have a suggestion for a nomination (maybe you?), please contact Pat Miceli (pwmiceli@gmail.com).



### **PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER!**

Jessica Coram

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Tech

### **CONDOLENCES**

**Carlyn Yearley**, a dear friend to many in our Buffalo Branch, died peacefully on August 19. She was especially cherished by those who worked with her on the Book Sale. She had a good 97 years, but had several severe health episodes since she visited us at the sale site in late May. At the end she was on comfort care and was not in pain, for which we are grateful. [Carlyn P. Yearley Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information \(amigone.com\)](#)



# PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP

*Dr. Marian Deutschman*

We have a monthly discussion group on public policy in the local League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara. I encourage you to read the articles we discussed on August 31, 2022.:

1. Election deniers have taken their fraud theories on tour — to nearly every state.

Even as the Jan. 6 hearings played out, election misinformation keeps spreading. Read on NPR: <https://apple.news/A3BPGuiWSQdWpFYUR3T98TQ>

2. A new Supreme Court case is the biggest threat to US democracy since January 6.

Moore v. Harper is a grave threat to US democracy. Read in Vox: <https://apple.news/ASh53ckBAQW2bPFhZC-GLpw>

3. Trump supporters were armed and he wanted security removed. [A Withering Indictment of the Entire GOP](#)

4. Most regulatory bodies are in the executive branch so this would hamstring regulators. [https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/june-30-2022?r=dw2iq&s=r&utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=direct](https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/june-30-2022?r=dw2iq&s=r&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email&utm_source=direct)

Our discussion group acknowledged that we are dealing with a cult-like addiction to former President Trump casting doubt on free and fair elections. Those who disagree are subject to in-your-face threats, loss of job and/or being ostracized. Note what happened to Chris Jacobs, Liz Cheney, and many other elected officials who expressed their disagreement with the former president. Often, disagreement comes with a loss of civility. What happened to decency, dignity, respect, and empathy? The election deniers are everywhere. The first article highlighted the nationwide force of over 300 events in 45 states that present poor data and analysis that supports election denial at events held at car dealerships, within church groups, restaurants, and other settings. Some of those Members of Congress who are publicly in denial, attend some of these events, lending credibility to the questionable analysis the presenter claims to have discovered in secret algorithms. Events are advertised in social media accounts. Presenters are using election fraud to advance themselves, to win elections, to gain attention, to become celebrities with name recognition, and to increase harassment of voting officials.

The Republican Party and the American Right have stood with the former president, defending him and attacking his critics. They were silent during his lawlessness and helped to spread lies and conspiracy theories. Our discussion

group speculates that it is ratings, money, policy, and fear that take precedence over law and order, traditional values, ethical ideals, and moral leadership. The quality of democracy is under assault. Our personal rights are threatened. “Democracy needs to be defended regardless of ideology,” said President Biden in his speech at Independence Hall on September 1. How can the spread of false information that reinforces election denial be corrected, especially when denial has grown from a political movement into something almost religious? Republican Members of Congress who have long supported Donald Trump told reporters, anonymously, that Cassidy Hutchinson’s testimony at the January 6 hearings, was “worse than they imagined.” They were “stunned” and “left speechless.” When and how can they be persuaded to make their perspective public?

The second and fourth articles (in Col.1) discuss the unprecedented power in gerrymandered state legislatures. State governors could lose power to veto state election laws that include voter suppression. The Supreme Court may exercise maximum flexibility to overrule state court decisions. The independent state legislature doctrine derives from a de-

ceptively simple reading of the U.S. Constitution, which states that “the times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof.”

What can be done to protect election results? Republicans currently control 30 state legislatures, thanks to the gerrymandering and voter suppression in place in a number of those states. Trump’s three justices on the Supreme Court have changed the legal landscape under which we have lived for generations, slashing power from the federal government, where Congress represents the majority, and returning it to states. Is there any hope for change?

President Biden reminds us that we are no longer bystanders. We need to speak out, speak up, and VOTE. One of our discussion group members suggested consulting an online source for help on how to be more effective - [Power On Demand | Building Bridges](#).

The next meeting of the discussion group will take place on Zoom at 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 29. We welcome new members as well as submission of articles for discussion.

Contact:

Marian Deutschman, [deutsmt@buffalostate.edu](mailto:deutsmt@buffalostate.edu)

Ed. Note: Dr. Deutschman is Program VP of both the AAUW Buffalo Branch AND the LWV of Buffalo/Niagara.







## WE WANT BOOKS! BOOK SALE SORTING RESUMES

Jayne Murray



With much tenacity and persistence, and some last-minute handwringing, we are at last in our new Collection and Book Sorting Site. We look forward to seeing our long-time volunteer sorters! And we look forward to welcoming and training in new hands! Each donation must be sorted according to condition, value, and genre, and some also according to their date. This is followed by the boxing and labeling of these worthy books to be ready for the Book Sale. Many have reported that not only is it stimulating to be surrounded by a community of book lovers, but also there is the knowledge that our proceeds support our scholarship recipients. It is a true “Pay It Forward” activity. We will be collecting

Our “WE WANT BOOKS!” bookmarks will be available in a vibrant hot pink. Why not stop by the site and pick some up to distribute throughout the WNY community?

Please help us advertise by posting them on community bulletin boards, leaving a few on magazine tables in waiting rooms, and sharing them with your book clubs. These bookmarks are a very important part of our publicity as they also have the 2023 Book Sale Save-the-Date reminder on them.

We are responsible for our own recycling and to manage the number of trips we need to make to remove unsala-

and sorting on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 1 pm**. Sorters may come for two-hour shifts (or any amount of time) either in the morning or afternoon. A sign-up will be available on the Book Sale page of our website at [aauwbuffalo.org](http://aauwbuffalo.org).

Our location is new to all of us and we are including a map below to insure that you find us. The address is **80 Earhart Drive, Ste 4, Amherst**, between Wehrle and Lawrence Bell Drive. Look for the Inducon Pk. sign. Ste. 4 is on the right side of Bldg. 80. There will be orange cones in front of the entrance during our working hours to keep it free for drop-offs, but there is plenty of other parking.



ble books, we are now informing our donors that we will check their boxes before they are left with us. As a reminder and to get us back into Book Sale mode—**We do not**

**take** textbooks, professional journals, magazines, Reader’s Digest Condensed Books (except large print), cassettes, videotapes, records, encyclopedias, Time/Life, or computer books (all listed on our bookmarks.) As far as condition, our sorting motto is...*“If you wouldn’t buy it, we can’t sell it.”*

**Starting October 11**

**See you on Tuesdays and Wednesdays!**

### BUFFALO BRANCH ELECTED OFFICERS 2022-23

**PRESIDENT**  
Lilyen Mascellino

**VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION**  
Dr. Susan McClary

**BRANCH TREASURER**  
Mary Bashore

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

**VP PROGRAM**  
Dr. Marian Deutschman

**SECRETARY/  
PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
Judy Huber

**EAP TREASURER**  
Sue Stapell

**SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR**  
Melissa White

**VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**  
Diane O’Brien

**CFO**  
Shirley Joy

**FUNDRAISING TREASURER**  
Mary Crocker

## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**Wednesday, Sep 28, 6:30 pm**, AAUW/LWV Program at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Center. Details were in the September Advocate.

**Wednesday, Oct 5, 6:30 pm**, Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St in West Seneca

**Thursday, Oct 13, 6:30 pm**, Branch Program at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 3275 Elmwood Avenue, Kenmore

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

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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