

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

On the Move with AAUW!

February 2023

Vol. CXXXI No. 6



THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS

a Presentation by Bob Poczik

Co-Sponsored and Hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo

Tuesday, Feb 28, 6:00 pm

In This Issue

February Program	1
President's Message.....	2
Interest Groups	3
Member Info Corrections	3
NCCWSL	3
Ethics in Government & Politics	4
Booksale Update	5
Program Planning	5
Save the Date - March 14	5
Head's Up - Renewal Process ...	5
Dates to Remember	6

The African American experience is an essential and not well-understood part of our nation's history. It is a troubled experience, fraught with pain and sorrow, but not without rich contributions, progress, and hope. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history. It is the story of the great migration from 1915 to 1970 of more than 6 million black citizens who fled the South for northern, mid-western, and western cities, in search of a better life. It is an accessible and riveting story, and is essential to understanding racism and racial disparities that exist in our country today.

About our Speaker:

Bob Poczik received his Bachelor's Degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton, and his Master's Degree in Special Education from Syracuse University.

Having been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to India, Bob spent three years studying and working in India. This included volunteer work with Tibetan refugees and having several private audiences with the Dalai Lama.

He then worked for 26 years for the New York State Education Department, and for an additional 10 years for a research and evaluation firm based in New York City.

Now retired, Bob serves locally as a presenter for a wide range of community groups and organizations. He has done presentations on such varied topics as Benjamin Franklin, the Amazon rainforest, Steve Jobs, the Dalai Lama, Islam, Notre Dame, Alexander Hamilton and China, as well as many important books.

He has also become a regular contributor to The Buffalo News, having had 67 "My View" columns and 15 "Another Voice" columns appear in the newspaper.

Bob has lived and traveled extensively abroad, including India, China, Japan, Tibet, and the Amazon River in Peru.



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.



There is no cost to attend, but space is limited so registration is required.

The TR site is handling the process. Please click [HERE](#) to register, or go to the TR site website and follow the prompts to the registration form.

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

"Love is the greatest force in the universe."

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hello to All & Happy February!

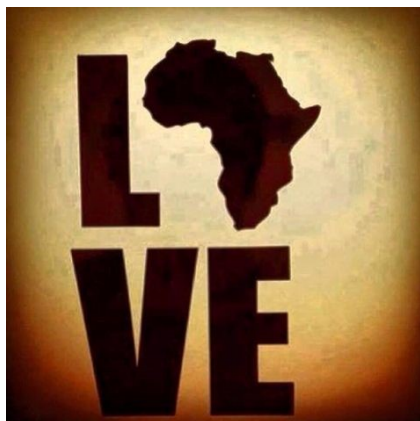
February is a month that I look forward to. It started when I was a child, as we celebrated birthdays for quite a few family members (including my Mom) and friends that month. And of course there's Valentine's Day! Since I can remember, I've always called February the *Love Month*. For many years I hosted a Valentine's Day Party for friends and their daughters, as I wanted to teach my daughter by example that self love and acceptance fosters happiness.



In 1976, President Ford officially designated February as Black History Month. He asked us to *"seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout history."* This year's theme is *"Black Resistance"* focusing on the way African Americans have resisted ongoing oppression. Check out the Association for the Study of African American Life and History at asalh.org to learn more about this year's theme.

I believe that a main focus of February is the connection between love and humanity. There is a lot to be learned from the struggles of women in this country, as well as the challenges faced by people of color. So, in honor of Love and Black History Month, I've included below a few quotes from iconic Black Americans, as they cause us to be introspective and remind us of the power of love.

- We choose love. Our love for our children. Our commitment to leaving them a better world. Our love for our country...our love for our fellow citizens... that's what we choose. ~Michelle Obama
- Kindness eases change. Love quiets fear. ~Octavia Butler
- Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. ~Martin Luther King, Jr.
- I didn't fall in love, I rose in it. ~Toni Morrison
- Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place. ~Zora Neale Hurston
- Look inward - the loving begins with you. ~Oprah Winfrey
- Love is an endless act of forgiveness. ~Beyonce



FEBRUARY 2023 INTEREST GROUPS

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed. Feb. 22 at noon

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *Nickel City Blues* by Gary Ross.

Discussion Leader: **Mary Ellen Shaughnessy**

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716 836-8303 or

bplibby1@verizon.net



DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. Feb. 15 at 5:30 pm

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *Braiding Sweet Grass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Facilitator: **Leona Barback.**

Discussion Leader: **Diane O'Brien.**

RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461 or

tsagewood@aol.com

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Thurs. Feb. 9 at 6:00 pm

Where: Clay Handi Restaurant, 3054 Delaware Ave., Kenmore

RSVP: by Feb. 6 to **Barbara Libby** at 836-8303 or

bplibby1@verizon.net

CORRECTIONS!

There are (at least) three member phone numbers which have been reported incorrectly. We apologize for the errors!

Judy Weidemann's phone number in the current roster is incorrect. The correct number is: 716.628.6890.

Rosaleen Nogle's work phone number in the roster is incorrect. The correct number is 716.851.4664,x4219.

Judy Deck is a new member whose number was reported incorrectly in the January Advocate. When you add her to your copy of the roster, please use the correct number: 716.838.2776.



WHAT IS NCCWSL?!?!?

NCCWSL (think "nickwhistle") is the acronym for AAUW's "National Conference for College Women Student Leaders."

Hundreds of college women from across the country are invited for three days of leadership training, inspiration, and networking in late May. An overview of the program can be found on the national website—[NCCWSL – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](https://www.nccwsl.org/)

The conference is not inexpensive and, without financial support, would be out of reach for many college students. However, AAUW does offer "scholarships" which cover most of the expense. The details on those may be found at: [NCCWSL Scholarships – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](https://www.nccwsl.org/scholarships/). Please note that the **application deadline is February 27!** In addition, our own Buffalo Branch has some funds which are dedicated to assisting local women to attend. In the past, we have assisted young women from both UB and Daemen. This is one way (in addition to our scholarships, loans, and grants, of course) that our branch can assure that we have young people entering the adult world with the skills necessary to make a positive difference. If you know of a young woman who might be interested in this opportunity, please let her know about this! We would love to use those local funds, given to us as a legacy of our former "Sister2Sister" program.



ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Dr. Marian Deutschman

The forthcoming International Encyclopedia of Ethics defines political ethics or political morality as the practice of making moral judgments about political action and political agents in two areas: 1 - process or ethics of office that includes public officials and their methods, and 2 - the judgments surrounding policies and laws. Some actions and decisions in government may be in conflict with personal morality. Such conflict of interest may result in political compromise, whistleblowing, civil disobedience, or even criminal punishment.

Currently, George Santos, New York Congressman-elect fabricated his credentials to voters and called it a simple embellishment of his résumé. The *New York Times* called the distortions brazen. Now that he's been exposed as a fraud, should he resign? Should he be expelled? Is he unfit to serve in this office? Does it set a dangerous precedent? What is the appropriate action to be taken to curb such actions? There may even be criminal charges. Action could be taken by Congress.

Kevin McCarthy has long been an aspiring candidate for the prestigious job of Speaker of the House. He needed votes so he was unlikely to take any action against Santos and against his own self-interest. Furthermore, among the proposed changes to the House rules that McCarthy agreed to in order to get votes for Speaker, was language that would effectively gut the Office of Congressional Ethics' (OCE) investigation of lawmakers who participated in the January 6 attack on the Capitol. OCE is an independent House ethics watchdog that Common Cause and others worked to create in 2008. It helped clean up corruption to make sure members of Congress are playing by the rules. Other concessions McCarthy has made to get votes make it easier to oust him as Speaker!

In a recent article in *The New Yorker*, author Jonathan Blitzer writes about McCarthy. "His main strength has always been his malleability. There are no red lines, core policy beliefs, or inviolable principles, just a willingness to

adapt" . . . He has been nurturing the lies of the former President. McCarthy went on *Fox News* to say that President Trump won the election, without a shred of evidence to support that claim.

To what extent are politicians permitted to take actions that would otherwise be wrong? Because officials act **for us** and act **with others**, they assume rights and obligations that ordinary citizens do not have to the same degree. Don't leaders in other fields face similar problems? The difference seems to be that they appear to be more extreme, more frequent, and more public in political life. Proponents of political ethics suggest examining the decisions and character of individual politicians can help identify

the structural constraints on their action, and point the way toward reform. Are we asking those who may be guilty to impose restrictions on themselves? Political scientist Richard Bellamy claims that we, "desire better of those that represent us because we expect them to serve our interests rather than their own."

This problem is not unique to our country. Joshua Hobbs, lecturer and consultant in Applied Ethics at the University of Leeds in

Britain, sees it as a debate between realists and moralists. We could question whether the realist view of a "good" politician – one who is good at making deals and engaging in sleazy behavior only in their personal life – can really exist. It's rare to see politicians who are unethical in their personal life but not in office. "Bad ethical character can get in the way of competence, and politicians are no more able than the rest of us to turn their character traits on and off at work," says Hobbs. He concludes that it may be the moralists, not the realists, who are being realistic when they take private ethical character as an indicator of how politicians will behave in office.

On the 15th ballot, Kevin McCarthy became Speaker of the House in the 118th Congress. This is the man former President Trump calls "my Kevin." Will he work on behalf of the people? Or will he work on behalf of the Freedom Caucus to dismantle or disrupt government?



BOOKSALE UPDATE!



When dropping off books,
look for our orange cones!

1. **WE NEED BOOKS!** If you need more bookmarks to leave at your hairdresser's, your church, your local bulletin boards, just let us know—we'll deliver☺!
2. We could use one or two more sorters Tuesdays 11am-1pm. The other shifts are doing pretty well, but that one is light.
3. We need to be moving ahead with technology, including developing ways of allowing customers to use electronic payment methods. We will have to have at least one "credit/electronic payment" cashier at the sale at all times. This is in an exploratory phase, but please let us know if you are willing to help in this way.

Questions? Ready to volunteer? Please email "booksale@aauwbuffalo.org" OR, call our voicemail system—716-559-3037. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible!

HELP US PLAN!

In the January Advocate, Diane O'Brien outlined how each of our monthly programs have been relevant at both a local and national level. Members have mentioned how interesting they have been. Yet, attendance has been very low. The program committee would like to know why! Please go to our Buffalo Branch website and fill out the [survey form](#) to let us know!



SAVE THE DATE!

*"Water, water, every where (think California),
Nor any drop to drink (think Mississippi)."*

Our March program will be held on March 14 at "Acqua" - 2192 Niagara St, Buffalo. Our own Rosaleen Nogle, an expert on all parts of the water system, will be our speaker. Details will be in the *March Advocate*.

HEADS' UP!

It will soon be membership **renewal** time! For most of us, AAUW membership will expire 6/30/23, but it's never too early. You'll want to stay up-to-date on programs and activities, continue to receive *The Advocate*, and receive the latest Membership Roster.

This year, there are two ways you can renew:

- You can return a paper form and paper check as in past years. We will handle everything for you. **Or,**
- You can self-renew online.

Advantages of self-renewal:

- You can pay by credit or debit card – no need to write a check.
- You will save yourself an envelope and postage stamp.
- It will take effect immediately – no waiting for your check to clear.
- You can renew anytime – membership will extend 1 year from your current expiration date.

Need more information? OF COURSE YOU DO! More details next month AND on the "[Membership Renewals](#)" page on our website.

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 subject to change or cancellation. Please check our website for last minute information.

Wednesday, Feb 1, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St. in West Seneca.

Tuesday, Feb 28, 6:00 pm, Branch Program at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site. The TR site is co-sponsoring this program. Bob Poczik will discuss "The Warmth of Other Suns." See page 1 for details.

Wednesday, Mar 1, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem/Saratoga in Snyder.

Wednesday, March 8—INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

Tuesday, March 14. Branch Dinner Program at Acqua Restaurant. More info on page 5, details next month!

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

