

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

On the Move with AAUW!

March 2023

Vol. CXXXI No. 7



“Buried Waters and Buffalo's Uncertain Climate Future”

Tuesday, March 14, 6:00 pm

AcQua Restaurant

2192 Niagara St, Buffalo 14207

Tuesday, March 14. 6:00 registration/networking, 6:30 dinner

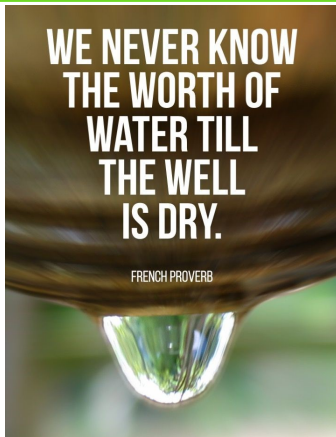
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The Rev. **Rosaleen B. Nogle**, PE, BCEE, CFM is a respected hydraulics engineer known statewide and increasingly nationally for her encyclopedic knowledge of Buffalo's natural and artificial water systems both below and aboveground. She holds Masters degrees in both Public Administration and Civil Engineering and has worked at the Buffalo Sewer Authority in various engineering and management positions for almost a decade. She also holds offices at local, state, and national levels in several professional associations. Rosey is also the Priest-in-Charge of St. Mark's and All Saints' Episcopal Church in Buffalo's Riverside neighborhood and raises her sons Malachi and Ezekiel on Buffalo's West Side with her husband Mike.

Rosey is also an active Buffalo AAUW member. She must also be a magician to juggle the balance of home, volunteering, and working two jobs - one in a field heavily dominated by men.



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.



REGISTRATION—Deadline March 7th !!!!!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please check your meal choice (all include salad, rolls & butter, and dessert):

- Pan Seared Salmon, Citrus Beurre Blanc
- 3-cheese Lasagna
- Slow Cooked Pot Roast, Root Vegetables

Please add Guest names and meal choices on the back or on a separate sheet of paper.

Please clip or copy and send with a check (to Buffalo AAUW) for \$30 per person to:

Betty Preble, 1 Fox Run Lane #622, Orchard Park, NY 14127

President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

"...I desire you would remember the ladies & be more generous & favorable to them than your ancestors."

~ Abigail Adams

Greetings to All!

March is Women's History Month which aligns with International Women's Day on the 8th. As members of AAUW, we are keenly aware of the battles our predecessors have engaged in throughout history, and every March we seize opportunities to *Remember the Ladies*! And we should remember! Knowing our history allows us to learn from the mistakes of the past as we work to create the future we envision.

Many times conversations about Women's History Month are limited to the topic of women's suffrage, but our gaining the right to vote is just part of a complicated story. There are many other milestones that the Women's Movement worked to achieve and each of those "wins" have enhanced the quality of life we all enjoy. I've found that it's those less talked about victories that surprise young people. It is also those triumphs that remind everyone of the oppression women have endured.

After we were granted the right to vote (1920), the Women's Rights Movement tackled other critical issues in the "Second Wave" of activism. Remember the 60s?! It was then that a laser-like focus was put on the limited options women had in other areas of life. These social justice issues became the center of the movement's activism and some of you reading this may have been involved. It took grass-root projects from hundreds of communities across our land to bring about the liberties women today have... and may even take for granted.

The 2023 theme for Women's History Month is *Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories*. Authors, actors, artists and journalists are among those who have shared our movement's rich history - but so have mothers, aunties and grandmothers! While working on this article, my 7 year old granddaughter inquired as to what I was writing. As I explained, I focused on the financial rights of women in the past because money is a topic of interest to her. Well, her eyes widened in disbelief when she learned that there was a time when women didn't have the right to financial independence solely because of their gender. I also shared with her relevant struggles that her great grandmother faced due to being women in the 1950s. It was during this conversation that I realized what a fitting theme we have for Women's History Month this year. It is up to us to fill in the knowledge gaps our youth may have about Women's rights. We have an impressive legacy made up of brave souls who dared to risk everything to create a better future for their daughters' daughters' and it is our responsibility to pass their stories down. Society is empowered when its members understand the past. Below are a few facts that have surprised the young people I've shared them with. Consider sharing these or other important details from the Women's Rights Movement with the people in your life. Their responses may become an article you write for the Advocate!

- ☑ **1965** Supreme Court established that **married couples have the right to use contraception**.
- ☑ **1972** Supreme Court decision finally makes **birth control accessible to all women**, married or single. (Hard to imagine now that there was a time in NY when it was illegal for Drs. to discuss contraceptives with patients.)
- ☑ **1974 Equal Credit Opportunity Act** made it illegal to deny a woman a credit card based on gender. Prior to this banks could deny single, widowed or divorced women credit regardless of income without a co-signer. Married women could get a credit card if her husband cosigned.
- ☑ **1975** The Supreme Court **denies states the right to exclude women from juries**.
- ☑ **1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act** banned employment discrimination against pregnant women.
- ☑ **1993 Marital rape becomes criminalized** in all 50 states.

MARCH 2023 INTEREST GROUPS

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed. March 22 at noon

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *Pretty as a Picture* by Elizabeth Little

Discussion Leader: **Barbara Libby**

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716 836-8303 or

bplibby1@verizon.net

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. March 15 at 5:30 PM

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger

Facilitator: **Mary Georger**.

Discussion Leader: **Judy Huber**.

RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461 or

tsagewood@aol.com

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

When: Wed. Mar. 8th at 5:30 PM

Where: Statler Erie Room at ECC North. It is French Bistro Night.

Directions: Go East on Main St. (Rt. 5) Turn onto Tech Dr. and take it all the way to Wehrle. Turn right and go to Element Dr. Again turn right and go to the stop sign. Turn left and there will be a single story classroom labeled Dental Hygiene. At the far end of this building is the Statler Room. Enter through the double doors. It is labeled Statler Room on the outside of the building.

RSVP: Barbara Libby by 2/5 at 716-836-8303 or

bplibby1@verizon.net

MEMBER INFO!

Directory Changes:

1. Marja Coons-Torn has a new email address. Please note: marjact1991@yahoo.com.
2. Sonja Miller's email in the roster is incorrect. Please note the correct one: smiller19701@outlook.com.

Please **WELCOME our newest member:**

Elizabeth Mowry
4285 Connection Drive
Williamsville, 14221
716-907-0761 (c)
716-407-9020 (w)
emowry@clarenceschools.org

Elizabeth was previously a member of the Amherst Branch.

Membership Brochures change each year! Please recycle any from previous years! The current one is on our website, linked to the membership page:
[membership-brochure-form-to-post-Jan-2023.pdf \(aauwbuffalo.org\)](#)

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.

March 2023
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President:
Lilyen Mascellino
Publisher/Editor:
Betty Preble
Assistant Editors:
Judy Weidemann
Barbara Carier

For prospective or new member questions, please contact:

Membership Recruitment VP, Diane O'Brien
recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:
Mary Crocker
375 Parkhurst Blvd.
Buffalo, NY 14223
mlcrock@msn.com

HOW DID GUN RIGHTS BECOME AN ISSUE?

Dr. Marian Deutschman

Why are we still talking about gun control and still experiencing mass shootings in our country? Sadly, an average of 124 people a day die from gun violence according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). We have more mass shootings than days in the year. Multiple sources claim the United States has more than 20,000 gun laws on the books at local, state and federal levels. Some argue that we could bring firearms under control if we just enforced these laws. However, most of these laws do not regulate the sale or possession of guns. They mostly have to do with zoning regulations for gun stores, and the transport and discharge of firearms within municipal boundaries. They have had little or no impact on the ability of citizens to obtain guns.

“The United States is not the only country with mental illness, domestic violence, video games, or hate-fueled ideologies, but our gun homicide rate is 26 times higher than our peer countries. The difference is easy access to guns,” according to the *Everytown for Gun Safety* website. In 2013, *Mayors Against Illegal Guns* and *Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America* unified to tackle the shared goal of ending gun violence. Since then, they have gathered the best minds in research, policy, litigation, advocacy, and grassroots organizing to grow *Everytown for Gun Safety* into a movement of nearly 10 million supporters. Their conclusions indicate that states with weaker gun laws and higher gun ownership rates have higher rates of mass shootings. They recommend background checks on all gun sales; support extreme risk laws that provide a process to temporarily remove guns from people with warning signs; keep guns out of hands of domestic abusers; and restrict assault weapons and high capacity magazines. These recommendations are so familiar. Do we need to explore the historical origin of our resistance to their implementation? As we all know, the gun control debate in the United States goes back to the nation's founding. In 1791, the United States Bill of Rights was ratified, which included the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution stating that "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The first law passed regulating the possession of firearms was the **National Firearms Act of 1934**, which was enacted following the violence that accompanied prohibition to

control access to “gangster weapons” such as fully automatic firearms, sawed-off shotguns and silencers. Gun control became a much bigger topic shortly after the **November 22, 1963**, assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Bringing it to a recent example, on June 23, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a 6–3 decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* that expanded the right of Americans to bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. More accurately, the court significantly curtailed a state's ability to restrict citizens' right to carry firearms publicly for their self-defense.



One of the policy proposals that is widely seen as highly controversial is to require a background check for all purchases of firearms. More than 90% of the population supports that measure. So do more than 80% of gun owners and more than 70% of self-identified members

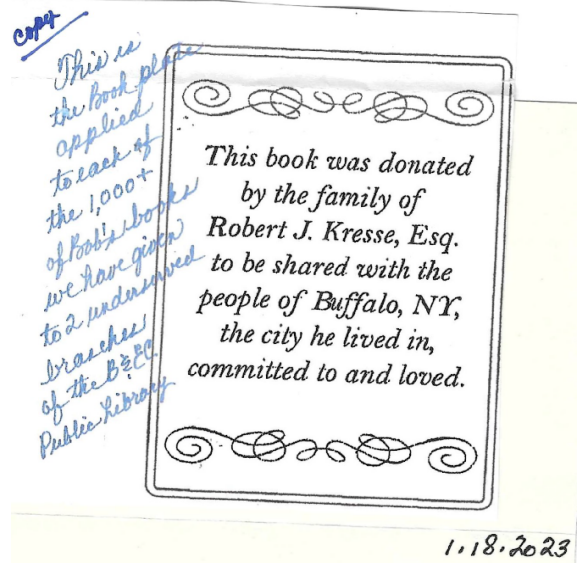
of the National Rifle Association. Gun violence researcher Garen Wintemute, MD, MPH, states, “Twenty-two percent of all firearm transfers in the country do not involve a background check. These take place over the internet, at gun shows, or a brokered through ‘friend of a friend’ exchanges. Some states require a background check for all transfers of firearms, but most states do not, and the federal government does not.” He adds that “Comprehensive, well-designed background checks, as well as regular reporting by agencies of incidents that would prohibit someone from purchasing a gun would let us see the full effectiveness of this policy.” Restraining orders on persons believed to be of high and imminent risk of doing harm can be implemented by having a judge authorize recovery of firearms from this individual for a specific period of time. Regarding the political debate, Dr. Wintemute says that we need our leadership to represent opinions of the people and not the extremes.

Democrats and Republicans are currently sparring over guns on Capitol Hill but don't get overly optimistic about significant change. The House Committee on Natural Resources' first meeting of the year became heated when a Democratic member offered an amendment that would prohibit lawmakers from carrying guns in its hearing room. Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., said he was proposing the “sadly necessary” amendment because it's a “major issue of safety for members of our committee.”



BOOK SALE STORIES!

As we are sorting books, we realize that every donation has a story. Jan. 18 was no exception. A woman in her 40's came in with an older woman who we could easily see was very emotional. The younger lady stated that she had a number of boxes to drop off. She proceeded to begin to bring them in as the older woman teared up. She explained that these were the last of her husband's 1000 books that she has been donating around the Buffalo area. Her husband Robert passed away two years ago. She had personally placed a nameplate in each of the books. Here is the note she wanted AAUW to have. →→→ Watch for them at the sale and love them as he did!



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:

1. You can return the usual paper form (which will be mailed to you) and paper check as in past years. We will handle everything for you. **Or,**
2. 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.
- Self-renewing online before April 1 has the added advantage of beating any dues increase!

How do I use the online system?

- You will need an email address and password. Your contact information is already there.
- Go to my.aauw.org and log in. The first time you log in,

you'll need to set or re-set your password by clicking the "Forgot Password" Link. After that, click the "Log In" at the top right corner of the website aauw.org.

- In a few steps, you can find your name, click to renew, and enter your payment info.
- The system MAY ask you for your college degree information since not everything transferred into the new system. It's fairly straightforward. Don't worry about the exact graduation date(s).
- You will immediately get an email confirming the renewal and payment.

What if I don't have an email address or don't want to go online?

- We will process your renewal for you when we receive your check.

What about new members, Friends of the Branch, student members and Shape the Future discounts?

- Although new members can join on-line, we'd prefer to set up the initial record and get a feel for their interests via the paper form.
- Friends of the Branch and Shape the Future discounts will continue to be handled manually as before.

Rest assured, nobody is forcing anybody to "just go online". We stand ready and willing to help you join or renew membership in whatever way is most convenient for you.

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, 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. Details on page 1.

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

Thursday, April 13 - SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION at Salvatore’s! (Details next month)

May - Annual Meeting, Election/Installation of Officers, Honor our Achievement Award Winner. More info next month.

May 31 - June 4 - BOOKSALE!

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.

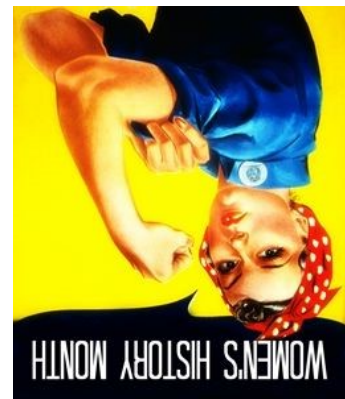
Mission: *Gender Equity & Economic Security*

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

