

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Together Making a Difference!

January 2024

Vol. CXXXII No. 5



\$\$\$ The Power of the Female Economy \$\$\$ ZOOM

Thursday, January 11, 6:00 pm—7:30 pm

In This Issue

January Program	1
President's Message	2
Interest Groups	3
What are the issues that can help you decide your vote for POTUS?	4
Booksale Report	5
November Pictured	6
December Pictures	7
Dates to Remember	8

In the spirit of January as Financial Wellness Month, we are pleased to have **Kitty Bressington** as our guest speaker. She is a Certified Financial Planner and principal of Linden Financial Consultants, a fee-only (no sales) financial planning and investment consulting firm in Rochester, NY. Kitty is also the founder and director of the nonprofit **Foundation for Women's Financial Education**. The Foundation offers monthly seminars, pro-bono financial planning for women in need, and sponsors an annual event for women in the financial services industry. Kitty specializes in working with women to understand and manage their finances, especially women in transition.



The Power of the Female Economy has to do with the wealth transfer that will be occurring in the next few years. We know women live longer, earn less, and take more breaks from the paid workplace to care for children and elderly parents compared to men. Yet by 2030, American women are expected to have control of more than \$30 trillion in baby boomer assets. The financial services industry generally does not do a good job considering women's different approach to finances, their unique concerns and lack of confidence.

Did You Know?

- By 2030, women will control more than half of the \$30 trillion in baby boomer assets.
- Many women hesitate to control their own assets, but when they do, they outperform men.
- 91% of women will be responsible for their own finances at some point in their lives.

Registration is limited to 100 participants, so reserve your spot today! The Zoom registration link is at <https://aauwbuffalo.org/whats-happening/branch-programs/>. The Waiting room will be available 15 minutes prior to the event.



February 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 January 10.





President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

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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Happy New Year, everyone! For many people, January represents a fresh start, a revival of hopes and goals for the future, as they ring out the old. As members of the Buffalo Branch of AAUW, you too can be excited about the future, because our branch continues to build on the strong foundation laid by our predecessors while striving to accomplish goals to secure our future.

I've said it before, but I'll say it again... We shine brightest while working together and lifting each other up! And because of this collaborative spirit, we have experienced many successes since the start of our fiscal year in September. Below are a few of the highlights:

- ☞ Board members participated in National's DEI training led by Dr. Susan McClary, who also serves on the board as Membership Retention VP.
- ☞ The Program Committee, under the direction of Dr. Marian Deutschman, meets monthly to plan high interest programs aligned with AAUW's mission.
- ☞ Membership Recruitment VP Diane O'Brien and Scholarship Director Melissa White are collaborating with the PR Committee. The goal is to heighten awareness within the community as to what our branch has to offer.
- ☞ Our CFO, Shirley Joy, works closely with our financial institution, along with our other treasurers Mary Crocker, Kathleen Santa Maria, and Susan Stapell to help ensure our financial stability.
- ☞ A committee has been formed to select this year's Achievement Award recipient.
- ☞ Members have attended our monthly programs, participated in a variety of Interest Groups including our 1st ever President's Outing, worked on committees, and are volunteering at the sorting site in preparation for the upcoming Book Sale.
- ☞ The Public Relations Committee, under the direction of Patricia Miceli, has hit major milestones! This is a dynamic group and their dedication is yielding high results. They recently debuted new signage in the form of retractable banners for our branch that will help us stand out at events. And because of their persistence, our branch was featured in area Bee publications! The focus of this committee has been to increase our visibility within the community, thus advancing our ability to have a positive impact.
- ☞ Work for our 68th Annual Book Sale has begun! To get in on the fun, contact Kate Collins!

Again, this is only a peek into the work that has been taking place this year which we are accomplishing because of you= our members! Your support is truly the heart of our branch.

Thank you for being a member of the Buffalo Branch!
With enthusiastic members at our core, we will soar in 2024!



JANUARY 2024 INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. Jan. 17 at 5:30 pm

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Mountain Sings* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai

Facilitator: **Judy Malamas**

Discussion Leader: **MaryAnn Hope**

RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461 or tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Jan. 24th at noon

Where: Original Pancake House, 5479 Main Street in Williamsville. **(note change of venue!)**

Book: *The Bangalore Detective Club* by Harini Nagendra

Discussion Leader: **Kate Collins**

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303 or bplibby1@verizon.net



HAPPY WANDERERS

Taking time off during the Holidays. Perhaps an interesting fairly local place for late Feb. or early March. Any suggestions? (Betty has suggested a piano repair place on Main St. in Buffalo with lunch afterwards- that sounds like a good place to start. Any other suggestions?)

Contact **Judy Huber** (Judyhuber62@yahoo.com or 716-529-9881)

NEW—LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

AAUW and the League of Women Voters have many interests in common. Let's join the League Public Policy group meeting in January and see if we can work together on the issues of importance to both groups.

Wed., Jan. 31 at 1 pm. Feel free to bring a lunch or purchase food there.

Second floor of Dash's, 1770 Hertel Ave.

Call Marian Deutschman (716-634-2412 if you're interested AND send her (mardeu15@verizon.net) any articles you've seen that you'd like to discuss.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Have YOU reminded your daughters/granddaughters/nieces about our scholarships? The deadline for all the regular scholarship applications is February 16!

Please also consider participating in one of the committees to choose the winners. Contact Scholarship Director Melissa White (68522melissa@roadrunner.com) if you're interested!



PRESIDENT Lilyen Mascellino	VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION Dr. Susan McClary	BRANCH TREASURER Mary Crocker	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	

What are the issues that can help you decide your vote for POTUS?

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

America is a multi-party system. The Democratic Party and the Republican Party are the most powerful but parties such as the Reform, Libertarian, Socialist, Natural Law, Constitution, and Green Parties can promote candidates in a presidential election, according to the Library of Congress information on elections.

In a recent set of letters to the editor in the Buffalo News, two letters stood out as polar opposites. One letter had the headline **“Four more years of Trump isn’t such a terrible notion,”** and the other letter’s heading was **“Do not consider returning Trump to the presidency.”** These letters were written by members of the general public who expressed their personal opinions and offered contrasting support statements. The first letter praised Trump’s commitment to law and order and his efforts to make the U.S. energy independent. The author also claimed that Biden would defund the police and leave our borders open to anyone who wants to enter the country. In the second letter, the writer cites Trump’s lack of preparation and knowledge of world affairs in his first term and contrasts this with the steady hand of Biden confronting war in Ukraine and Israel. Do these opinions reflect political platforms? How accurate and reliable are these statements? Swarthmore College provides a list of online nonpartisan resources to use to gather information to help a voter.

On the OP-ED page of the Buffalo News Ruben Navarrette, one of the Washington Post columnists, provided a sobering statistic from Gallup, Inc: President Biden’s latest job approval rating is a pathetic 37 percent. Another poll of voters in six battleground states found that 62 percent of Democrats who backed Biden in 2020 rated the economy as fair or poor. We know voters make choices with consideration of pocketbook issues – questions like “How is my choice going to affect me and my family?” are always top of mind. Voters still rank inflation as a top concern even though other issues such as climate change, abortion, Israel, Ukraine, China, democracy and voting issues, also influence voter choices.

Reviewing President Biden’s economic accomplishments: According to the Washington Post, President Biden’s first major economic act was to sign the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion stimulus aimed at pushing past the recession caused by the pandemic. Our economy added more than 13 million jobs—including nearly 800,000 manufacturing jobs—and, according to the White House,

they’ve unleashed a manufacturing and clean energy boom. There were more than 10 million applications for new small businesses filed in 2021 and 2022—the strongest two years on record. According to the White House, The Inflation Reduction Act is lowering costs for families, combating the climate crisis, reducing the deficit, and making the largest corporations pay their fair share. Medicare is now able to negotiate the price of certain high-cost drugs. A month’s supply of insulin for seniors is capped at \$35. Medicare beneficiaries pay \$0 out-of-pocket for recommended adult vaccines, and seniors’ out-of-pocket expenses at the pharmacy will be capped at \$2,000 a year. Thanks to President Biden’s release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, gas prices are down more than \$1.60 from their summer 2022 peak. So why are President Biden’s approval ratings so low?



An Emerson College Polling national survey of registered voters finds former President Trump with a four-point lead over President Biden in a hypothetical 2024 matchup, 47% to 43%, and 10 percent are undecided. Trump’s signature legislative achievement was a Republican tax bill that made sweeping changes to the tax code — the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. His most lasting impact on the country is the reshaping of the federal judiciary. Trump left office with 3 million fewer jobs in the U.S. than when he took office, making Trump the only modern U.S. president to leave office with a smaller workforce. Throughout his presidency, Trump often mischaracterized the economy as the best in American history. On FOX News, former President Trump was asked if he planned to be a dictator if elected. He said “Only on the first day.” A democracy must be governed by law, said former member of Congress Liz Cheney, sounding an alarm in her new book. She describes support for Trump as a cult of personality. If an election is thrown into the House of Representatives, new Speaker Mike Johnson has demonstrated his sympathy for Trump. He is also third in line for the presidency himself. It’s not just economic issues that should guide your vote, but the protection of our democracy.

The Iowa caucuses are around the corner. Of course, there are other candidates to consider such as Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Chris Christie, Vivek Ramaswamy, and others. Keep in mind that 20 years ago, 80 percent of Republicans trusted U. S. elections. Now only 22 percent trust the accuracy of vote counting.

BOOK SALE REPORT

Jayne Murray and Kate Collins

Large donations continued well into December—we are thankful for our hard-working volunteers who continue to step up (and over bags and boxes) to keep our pathways and tables clear.

Our Book Sale team has been running full-tilt accepting books/puzzles/music/games and other treasures from donors who are downsizing, moving, or making room for other books, perhaps ones they will buy from us! We no sooner find space for a load when another enthusiastic donor arrives at the door. *As we are responsible for our own recycling, many are kind enough to take some home with them.* We have had large donations with very salable books from D'Youville University, Tapestry Charter School, and the Grand Island, Lewiston, and Elma Libraries.

The family members of Dr. David Lampe have kindly delivered to us a large portion of his personal and professional library. He is known by many of our AAUW members and we are grateful that he has allowed us to share his scholarship with our Book Sale community. His areas of interest range from Medieval studies to modern poetry. Dr. Lampe was born in Iowa, received his PhD from the University of Nebraska, and taught at Buffalo State, SUNY, for over 35 years. The E.H. Butler Library at Buffalo State is home to the David Lampe Poetry Collection. Donations to our Sale contained books of poetry from a variety of regions of the world, including Scandinavia, Ireland, and France. Accompanying these volumes were many research materials about history, art, music and geography. His lifelong scholarship helps us to support others pursuing higher education.

Donation and sorting continues at 37 Anderson Road in Cheektowaga (see our website for directions) from now until we move into a sale site sometime in the spring, hopefully in early April. Our shift hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 am-1 am and 11 am-1 pm. As our volunteers often cycle in and out during winter breaks, please consider joining us for any amount of time.



Your sponsorship will help us to defray our costs!

Sponsorship Categories:

- Louisa May Alcott, \$25 – \$49
- Toni Morrison, \$50 – \$74
- The Bronte Sisters, \$75 – \$99
- Jane Austen, \$100 +

If you are interested in being a sponsor, please send a check made out to AAUW Buffalo Book Sale, to PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225. Friends and non-members are also encouraged to help sponsor our sale. What a wonderful gift or memorial idea! Donations are tax deductible and both your (and their) names will be placed on our webpage and on a poster at the sale!

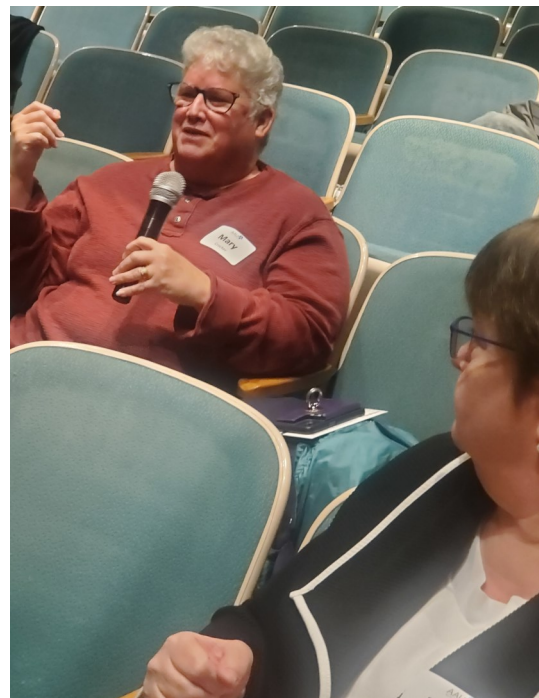
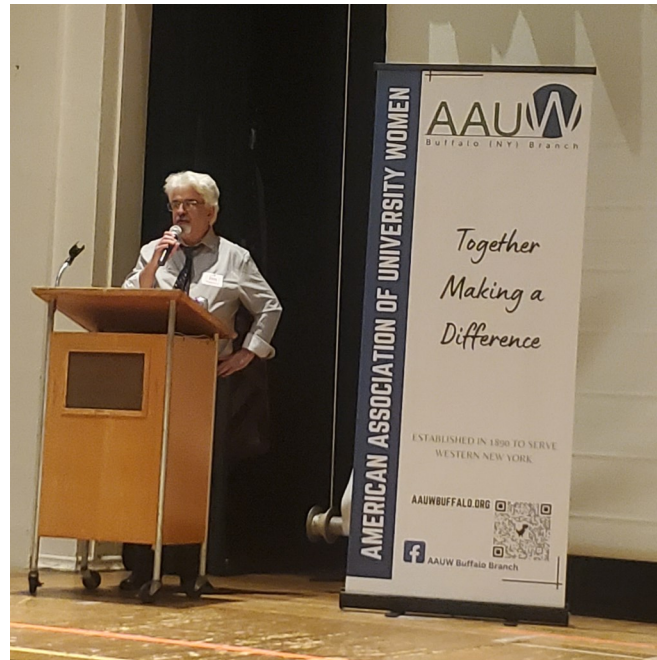


Were you there???

In **November** we had the pleasure (?) of hearing *Investigative Post* founder and CEO Jim Heaney speak about the politics of Buffalo and NYS in general. Eye-opening!!! And many questions!



AAUW Buffalo Program VP Dr. Marian Deutschman with Mr. Heaney.



At the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site in December we learned about the local Garden Clubs (8th District) who decorate the site for the holidays each year, the history of the house itself, and much about President Roosevelt. Many of the attendees want to go back for more!



Marian, with our speakers from the TR Site and the Garden Clubs



DATES to REMEMBER

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

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ in West Seneca.

Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:00 pm, Branch Program - ZOOM session on *the Power of the Female Economy*, with Kitty Bressington.

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

Thursday, Feb 29, Branch Program - Dinner, with Panel on Mental Health at Jovi's Italian Grille and Bistro.

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

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Buffalo Branch Inc
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Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

