

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Together Making a Difference!

December 2023

Vol. CXXXII No. 4



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HOLIDAY GATHERING

THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL SITE

641 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, 14202

(Parking accessible from Franklin Street between Allen & North)

Saturday, December 9, 11:30—2:00

Registration and networking at 11:30, then a hot buffet lunch at noon followed by a talk by a Garden Club representative and a docent-led tour of the decorated house.

The TR Site has a long-time partnership with the 8th District Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, whose clubs will once again decorate the site for the holidays. Our special holiday-themed tour will showcase the decorations while looking at how Buffalonians celebrated at the turn-of-the-20th-century and, of course, the significance of the house in our nation’s history.

We will be selecting from the buffet, so there is no need to choose your lunch now. However, we do need to know how many people to plan for, so **please send the form below along with a check for \$30/person made out to AAUW Buffalo to: Betty Preble, 1 Fox Run Lane #622, Orchard Park NY 14127** (Please include names of guests). OR use the registration form available on our website: bit.ly/buffalooauw.

Deadline for receipt Dec. 4.



January 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 December 10.



Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If interested in carpooling, please indicate your area (O.P., Williamsville, etc):

President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

W I S H I N G
a
Y O U

Holiday Season

FILLED

with

WARMTH

&

CHEER!

*Best Regards,
Lilyen*



DECEMBER 2023 INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. Dec. 20th at 5:30 pm

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

Facilitator: Lynn Tauriello

Discussion Leader: **Mary Crocker**

RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461 or

tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Jan. 24th at noon (**note - no December meeting**)

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. Do you have suggestions for an interesting fairly local place for late Feb. or early March? (Betty would like to tour a piano repair facility on Main Street—does that intrigue anyone else?).

Contact **Judy Huber**

(Judyhuber62@yahoo.com or 716-529-9881)

or **Betty Preble**

(betty.preble@gmail.com or 716-662-0608)

with your thoughts!



Member Info!

Please welcome our newest member and add her to your roster!

Mary Jo Wasch

7765 Northfield Road

Clarence Center, NY 14032

mjw1958@yahoo.com

716-435-0790(c)

BS, Gerontology, UB

Please also make a correction in your roster—**Nadine Lockwood**'s number was incorrect. The correct number is 716-533-5387



Wanderers Judy Huber, Evelyn Swarts, and Carol Golyski enjoyed visiting the AKG Art Gallery in November. The woman in pink was Carol Coles, their docent. AAUW gave her an interest free loan back in '75 or '76 for her to go to graduate school! She graduated in 1977 with a masters in social work (MSW).

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	

Israel and Palestine

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

Israeli Troops Encircle Gaza City as Global Criticism of Strikes Mounts An Israeli military spokesman said that Israeli soldiers had surrounded Gaza's largest city. White House officials said they would urge Israel to "pause" its bombardment on humanitarian grounds. This statement preceded an article in the *New York Times* on Nov. 3.

Hamas attacked Israel with a barrage of rockets from Gaza on October 7, 2023 followed by armed terrorists who targeted civilians, including children, with brutal death and destruction. They took hostages. In retaliation, Israel cut off food, electricity and water supplies and bombarded the densely populated areas killing thousands of civilians including children. Each day since the attack on October 7, the Israeli/Palestinian Hamas attacks have dominated the news. Is peace possible? Is a two-state solution possible? Are you pro-Israel or pro-Palestine? Are we required to make a choice?

Andrew Mitrovica, an Al Jazeera columnist, says, "It's a time for choosing. The humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza requires each of us to make a choice." Mitrovica reports that Josh Paul, a veteran State Department employee, made a choice to resign because he opposed President Biden's decision to quickly send more "lethal arms" to Israel. Paul said that Biden's action is destructive to the interests of the people on both sides. Mitrovica further reports that 800 public servants sent a letter to Ursula von der Leyen, European Union President, opposing her endorsement of Israel's war crimes in Gaza. The letter said that Gaza residents will be erased from the planet. Mitrovica claims Israel has stolen

Palestinian homes and land, brutalized generations of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, leading to this ruthless retaliation. Al Jazeera has stated that these views are the author's own. Omar Baddar, a Palestinian American political analyst, said "This idea that providing context is somehow providing sympathy for terrorism is a very frequently employed talking point by apologists for Israel's apartheid government."

We want to see justice and punishment for the wrongdoers. In this situation, there may be some good and bad on both sides. Our personal connections may make it difficult to see both sides clearly. Where there is ambiguity, we seek more information, but we often choose sources that affirm what we already believe. Is there room for compromise and a peaceful solution, rather than violent retaliation that victimizes civilians and children on both sides? Does Israel have a right to retaliate? Media sources tend to lead us toward taking sides, so we need to find clarity elsewhere.

People are worried about relatives in Israel. Are rules of war being followed in this conflict? Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, wants no ceasefire without release of hostages. Biden wants a pause. Israelis oppose a pause. The goal of Hamas is to exterminate Israel. Israel's

goal is to replace Hamas leadership but what follows that objective? How can we have meaningful discussions with disinformation, antisemitism, and anti-Muslim bias around us? There are stereotypes and myths about Jewish people, Zionism, Judaism and Israel. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has complex, historical roots that predate the current conflict. Twenty years after 9/11, Islamophobia still exists.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the leading anti-hate organization since its founding in 1913, suggests a number of ways to have a productive conversation. First, develop guidelines and goals for the conversation. Position yourself as a learner rather than an expert. Use precise language that avoids stereotypes and myths. Avoid

comparisons to Nazism and the Holocaust. Anticipate some legitimate concerns about people's fear for safety. Avoid treating one person or group as representative of a whole nation. Anchor the conversation with information from a credible source. Allow for distinct experiences of pain and trauma for Jewish and Palestinian people from this conflict. For more detailed information on a productive and meaningful conversation, go to the ADL website:

www.adl.org.

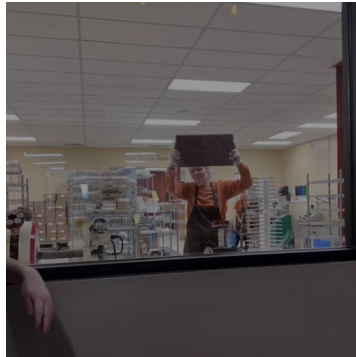


BBC

President's Outing Highlights

Lilyen Mascellino

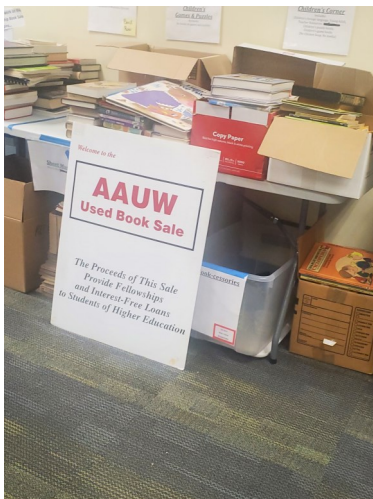
Our President's Outing to Platter's Chocolate Factory in October was fun & interesting. Not only did we learn about the making of chocolate on this free tour, but our guide gave us historical insight into the history of the company right here in WNY! (Did you know that there is an underground pathway in North Tonawanda?) After the tour, all 8 of us enjoyed good conversation over sweet treats from their cafe. Making deeper connections with each other is an achievable goal which can only strengthen our branch. Thank you to all who participated!



AAUW Buffalo Branch is in the Bee!

Pat Miceli, PR Chair

Katie Skoog, a Bee Group Newspapers reporter interviewed Kate Collins & Betty Preble at the book sorting site on 10/20/23. The resulting article was published in the Bees publication on 11/1/23 and in the Amherst Bee on 11/8/23. Katie did a fantastic job reporting about the Buffalo Branch and we greatly appreciate the publicity. We also appreciate Bob Kupczyk, Managing Editor of the Bee Group Newspapers, for his expertise and assistance.



BOOK SALE REPORT

Jayne Murray

Currently, we have over 200 boxes of books stacked in our Site at **37 Anderson Road** waiting to be sorted. We have had many donations from cherished personal libraries with some collections catalogued and carefully detailed notes included. We also have received small truckloads from local schools and a university. Two Committee members have helped to liquidate the stock of a local book dealer going out of business. This meant multiple car trips and much loading and unloading. On sorting days, people sometimes must wait for our carts to be free in order to unload the boxes from their cars. Each book is opened and checked and sorted by genre and for special qualities which could bring us extra income. We can attribute our busy days to the kind assistance of our WNY libraries in posting our We Want Books bookmarks and also the recent press in the Bee Newspapers and OlafFub Sez. We also know your word of mouth helps as often they tell us that someone has mentioned us to them or they know an AAUW member.

Last week, Barbara Condrell brought in some of her husband, Dr. Ken Condrell's, books from his collection. WNYers may recall that he wrote, *"How To Raise A Brat"* and *"How Not To Raise A Brat."* A year after his death, she has generously donated his beloved books on fly fishing, aviation, and Frank Sinatra, knowing that they would be sold to provide scholarships. However, she confided that she could not part with his treasured copies of Tarzan books. Books carry memories of those we have loved. We feel fortunate to hear these stories as we all work with books because we also love them. The AAUW Book Sale is the conduit to putting these beloved books into their next homes and also helping our WNY students pursue their higher education goals.



Drop off/Sorting Days are on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays in two shifts: 9-11 a.m. and 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Each shift has a supervisor and a trainer. No experience needed. Directions are on the Book Sale page on our website - <https://aauwbuffalo.org>

***Reminder: If the schools are closed due to weather, so are we. In addition, we will be closed over the November, December and January holiday weeks.**

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!

DATES to REMEMBER

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

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

Saturday, Dec 9, 11:30 am, Branch Program - Lunch and tour at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

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. Connection details will be in the January Advocate.

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

