

ADVOCATE

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Together Making a Difference!

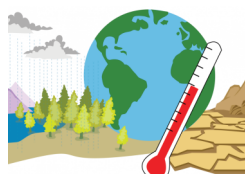
April 2024

Vol. CXXXII No. 8



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**Crazy Climate
& Wacky Weather**

May 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 April 10.



Extreme Weather in a Warming World

The Columns Banquets

2221 Transit Rd, Elma, NY

Thursday, April 18.

Registration at 11:30, Lunch At Noon, Program to follow

Have you considered...

- ⇒ How is it that a warming world leads to an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including cold weather extremes?
- ⇒ How is Western New York faring in a warming world, and what is this talk of Buffalo being a climate change refuge city?

Our speaker, Dr. Steve Vermette, is the one to help us understand these questions. See page 6 for more information about him and then make your reservation for this program!

The buffet lunch will feature slow cooked roast beef and chicken souvlaki, and will include garden salad, penne florina (*penne pasta with red pepper cream sauce and spinach*), baby red roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables, rolls & butter, dessert (cheesecake with strawberries), coffee & tea.

Click [HERE](#) to register OR fill out the form below and send it along with a check for \$33.50/person made out to "AAUW Buffalo" to Susan McClary, 1145 Campbell Blvd, Amherst 14228 by the **April 11 deadline**. Please add the names of guests on the back or on a separate sheet.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

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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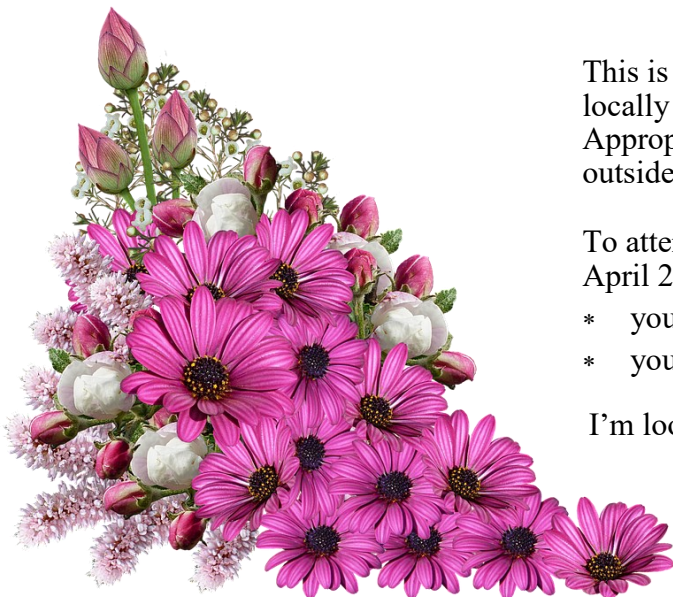
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President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

*"What you do makes a difference, & you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."
~Jane Goodall*

Hello Everyone!

Yes, spring is a busy and exciting time for our branch, as it's when we are:

- ✧ wrapping up the fiscal year's business
- ✧ planning the process for the election of branch officers
- ✧ finalizing our annual Scholarship Book Sale details
- ✧ prepping for the Scholarship Celebration and the end of year Annual Business Luncheon

Our committees accomplish all of this and more while simultaneously plotting out plans for next year! *Whew!* Spring is also a time for rejuvenation, growth and renewal. If you're not currently working on one of our committees, join one! Sharing your expertise can provide value to what we accomplish each year, as well as it being a way for you to support our sustainability.

Last September, I challenged everyone to make deeper connections with other members. In an effort to broaden my connections with you, I've organized another "President's Outing" which will take place this month. I hope you will attend!

Below are the details:

*President's Outing:
Hi-Way Garden Center
Monday, April 22 at 11:00*

1941 Tonawanda Creek Road, Amherst 14228

This is a Free guided tour of the behind the scenes workings of a locally owned garden center. It is approximately one hour in length. Appropriate dress/footwear will be needed as we will be walking outside.

To attend, RSVP to Lilyenm@gmail.com on or before Monday, April 22, as space is limited. When you reply - let me know:

- * your full name
- * your phone #

I'm looking forward to taking the tour with you, so RSVP to secure your spot!

APRIL 2024 INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., April 17 at 5:30 pm

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Marilyn Carmichael will facilitate our book choices for next year. Please come with two (or more) suggestions for next year.

RSVP: Judy Malamas at

716-632-0461 or tsagewood@aol.com

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Wed., Mar 27 & April 24 at 1 pm.

Where: Second floor of Dash's, 1770 Hertel Ave. Feel free to bring a lunch or purchase food there.

JOIN the LWVBN (League of Women Voters Buffalo/Niagara) Public Policy group meeting and see if we can work together on the issues of importance to both organizations.

Call Marian Deutschman (716-634-2412) if you're interested for either month AND send her any articles you've seen that you'd like to discuss

mardeu15@verizon.net

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., April 24 at noon.

Where: The Original Pancake House, 5479 Main St., Williamsville

Book choices for next year. Please come with two (or more) suggestions for next year.

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303

or bplibby1@verizon.net

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

When: Thursday, April 11, at 10:30

Where: Illos Piano Restorations, Inc. 2940 Main St. (corner of Hertel) Buffalo 14214.

Lunch at Kostos Family Restaurant, 1651 Hertel Ave.

RSVP: Judy Huber at judyhuber62@yahoo.com

or 716-529-9881



QUESTION FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

A few years ago it was decided to send this newsletter to the members each month via email. Snail-mail was used only for members who did not have email OR who specifically requested a paper copy. This SEEMED to be working well, and the branch was enjoying some savings on printing and postage, but it has come to our attention recently that some people have not been seeing those emails. While we try to figure out the problem, we're sending this issue via postal mail to all our members AND via email to those members with an email address. We ask for your help in determining how we should move forward with YOUR delivery process!

First, though—if you have email but think you haven't received this issue that way, please check your spam/junk mail folder to see if perchance it went there (it was sent on Friday, March 22). The email would have come from either "Vertical Response" or from me. Vertical Response is the bulk email system we use, but it rejects some email addresses so I forward the message to those people. A similar system will be used for our branch elections next month (some sent via "Election Buddy" email, some from me, paper to those without email), so we need to track down the problem.

If you do not have an email address, do not be concerned - you will continue to receive a paper copy no matter what we settle on for next steps. **If you do have email**, we ask that you fill out a SHORT survey regarding how you would like to receive the newsletter in the future. Either click [HERE](#) for the survey or look on the "Contact Us" page of the website. The important thing is to make sure that all our branch members are aware of what's going on!

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	

MEMBERSHIP TIDBITS

Special Presentation

At the February meeting of **Dinner by the Book**, Diane O'Brien presented the book The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi. The book, with its setting in India, is a vivid and compelling portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern.

To present the book, Diane wore a dress made for her in India. Her daughter was married in a Jain (similar to Hindu) wedding in Binghamton. The dress fit one of the festivities perfectly.



Apologies from the Editor!

New member Ehlimana Merymem Imamovic's name was misspelled in the March Advocate. Please welcome her with the correct name spelling!



Educational Funding Info!

Although the deadline for our "regular" traditional scholarships has passed and Melissa's committees have been working on those, don't forget that the deadline for the next round of interest free loans and grants in our Chamberlin and Funds for Education programs is coming up on May 1.

In addition, the Clarine Radt educational mini-grants may be applied for at any time.

Please remind the students and educators in your lives! Information on these two programs (and a lot more!) is available on our [branch website](#).



the friends and family of Jean Hubbard, who passed away on March 13. Jean was a 24-year member of the branch, active in the old investment club, and a faithful Book Sale supporter and worker. We will all miss her!

Memorials may be sent to our AAUW Buffalo Branch, PO Box 894, Buffalo 14215.



Your **Book Sale 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!

Is Our Democracy in Decline?

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

The United States is experiencing two forms of democratic erosion, wrote Vanessa Williamson, senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution. She cited examples of election manipulation and executive overreach. She noted that state legislatures have enacted laws to reduce voters' access to the ballot. They have politicized election administration and excluded electoral competition with extreme gerrymandering. Executive power has grown to a point that it threatens civil service independence. We have a hyper-partisan, gridlocked Congress and the impartiality of the judicial branch is questioned.

"If you've lost the truth, you've lost our democracy" said John Kerry, who recently served as the first U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. He reminded us that politicians are not the best validators of the truth and this dilemma is being exploited by our enemies. John Kerry served as Secretary of State in the Obama administration.

We can conclude that this is a crucial time for truth and excellent leadership to prevent the loss of our democratic government. How important is truth in government?

"Somehow or other, we need to have acquired some very basic, shared understanding about what causes what, what's broadly desirable, what's dangerous, and how to characterize what's already happened," said Sophia Rosenfeld, Ph.D., Walter H. Annenberg Professor and chair of the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania. Her most recent book is *Democracy and Truth: A Short History*. Our future depends on seeing, as well as living in, a shared world, she added.

Back in 2020, former President Donald Trump's leadership style was summarized in a collaborative faculty-student research program in the psychology of politics at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict in Collegeville and St. Joseph, Minnesota. This effort was directed by Aubrey Immelman, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, who specializes in the psychological assessment of presidential candidates and world leaders.

"Trump's executive leadership style in office has been bold, competitive, and self-assured (i.e., ambitious); tough and directive (i.e., dominant); impulsive and undisciplined (i.e., outgoing); and disruptively tradition-defying, with an inclination to shade the truth and skirt the law (i.e., dauntless)."

In January 2022, President Joe Biden was assessed in an article by Megan Brennan in a Gallup publication: "President Joe Biden is viewed as likable and intelligent by three in five Americans. However, at the end of a challenging first year in office, with his approval ratings at a personal low of 40%, less than half of U.S. adults think he

possesses five other positive character qualities, least of all being a strong and decisive leader (37%) and able to manage the government effectively (38%). Slightly more think he displays good judgment in a crisis (43%), is honest and trustworthy (45%), and cares about the needs of people like themselves (48%)." His approval ratings are still extremely subpar and polarized. There is hope that his strong State of the Union speech may enhance those numbers.

President Joe Biden is the oldest president in U.S. history. He will be 81 when voters cast their ballots in November. By the next Inauguration Day in January 2025, he'll be 82 years old. Should he win the 2024 presidential election, he would be 86 by the end of a second term, nearly a decade older than the second-oldest president ever, Ronald Reagan.

"The wonderful thing about America is that almost anyone can grow up to become president.

The reality is that only some people should," says William C. Becker, opinion contributor to *The Hill*.

John C. Maxwell is an internationally recognized leadership expert, speaker, coach, and author who has sold over 19 million books. Dr. Maxwell's organizations have trained more than five million leaders worldwide. Every year he speaks to Fortune 500 companies, international government leaders, and organizations as diverse as the United States Military Academy at West Point, the National Football League, and the United Nations. He is a best-selling author who has written three books, which have each sold more than one million copies: *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, *Developing the Leader within You*, and *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*.

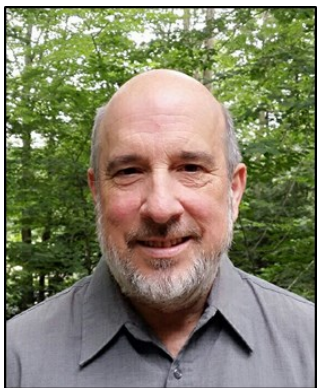
Maxwell maintains that leadership and effectiveness are interconnected. Real leaders develop followers, not because of their title but because they positively influence others' lives. He stresses the importance of character, relationships, knowledge, intuition, experience, past success (what you've done), and ability (what you can do). Leaders add value to others' lives by serving them. Great leaders have the lowest turnover because trust is the most crucial aspect of great leadership. It's a leader's job to generate momentum and keep it flowing. Leading well is not about enriching yourself—it's about empowering others." We need to find the right people for the right jobs.

"When the right leader and the right timing come together, incredible things happen," said Maxwell.

Are we there yet?



About our April Speaker!



Dr. Stephen Vermette is a professor of geography in the Department of Geosciences at SUNY Buffalo State, where he has taught meteorology, climatology, and environmental courses and mentored students for over 30 years. Dr. Vermette

graduated with his doctorate from McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario). He has published numerous articles on local weather (providing local weather expertise for media outlets) and on environmental-related issues. He currently serves as a board member for the Erie County Water and Soil Conservation District. Dr. Vermette received a commendation from the National Geographic Society for his dedicated leadership rendered to the State of New York to ensure the geographic literacy of the next generation. The Wall Street Journal referred to Dr. Vermette as a “rare climatologist”, noting that he co-curated (with Tullis Johnson) a traveling art exhibition entitled “Charles E. Burchfield: Weather Event” which received an Award of Commendation from Museumwise. Dr. Vermette has an eclectic interest in all things related to weather and climate, especially as it relates to Western New York. He is currently hosting the Golden Snowball Trophy on behalf of the City of Buffalo.



Elections, Elections, Elections!

The national elections are all over the news, but that’s not the only place our votes will be solicited in the next few months. We have other NYS issues—and AAUW issues!

1. Early in April you will be receiving a Buffalo Branch ballot asking you to vote for new officers for the 2024-26 biennium. A single slate is being presented by the nominating committee, but write-ins will also be permitted. The slate is as follows:
 - VP Membership Recruitment, Diane O’Brien
 - Secretary/Parliamentarian, Judy Huber
 - CFO, Shirley Joy
 - EAP (Education/Program) Treasurer, Ruby Williams
 - Fundraising (Booksale) Treasurer, Jennifer Hoffman
 - Scholarship Director, Melissa White
2. You will also be receiving a national AAUW ballot for voting on a major, controversial issue - removing the education requirement for membership in AAUW. If the measure passes, membership will be open to all who believe in the mission of AAUW. The NYS board has passed a [resolution](#) in favor of this change. More information is available on the “[Open up AAUW](#)” website.
3. Don’t forget that a NYS constitutional amendment will be on the governmental ballot. Currently, our state constitution only protects against racial and religious discrimination. The ERA-NY would prohibit discrimination by the government based on a person’s ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex — including their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes. It would also protect against any government actions that would curtail a person’s reproductive autonomy or their access to reproductive health care.

BOOK SALE REPORT



Calling All Book Sale Volunteers! The 68th Annual Scholarship Book Sale Is Almost Here! MAY 29 - JUNE 2, 2024

We extend our gratitude to the Ciminelli Corporation for once again making **425 Essjay Road** in Williamsville our home for the Book Sale. Due to all our generous donors and hardworking volunteers, we had a very successful sale last year. Cheers to everyone! We are now asking once again for *your* help. This event is a large well-organized endeavor that has many varieties of tasks which meld to create this fantastic WNY event.

We will be accepting books until May 15th. Please no textbooks, Reader's Digest Condensed Books (unless large print), encyclopedias, journals, magazines, cassettes or VHS tapes. (Please see our [website](#) for a full list).

Bright Yellow Bookmarks will be available at the Site. Please plan to pick some up and distribute them to your friends and neighbors.

Our **sale sorting hours are April 16th-May 15th:**

- Tuesdays 9am-1pm, 1pm-5pm, & 5pm-8pm
- Wednesdays 9am-1pm & 1pm-5 pm
- Thursdays & Fridays 1pm-5pm
- Saturdays 9am-12noon.



Can you join us to receive and sort donations prior to the Sale? Please consider contributing a couple of hours or more (!) each week. We provide on-the-job training and a how-to-video is available on the book sale page of our website.

Can you volunteer to be a shift supervisor or backup? Contact Cindy Koch at 239-267-2008, cbk148@aol.com.

We will begin in earnest in May to schedule volunteers to work at the Sale —Watch the next issue for our volunteer form. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Power Of Our Book Sale

We hear many stories at our Sale of how people wait all year for our event or that they bring new generations with them. Our donors often report that they are now donating books back to us that they purchased at previous sales! Recently a donor brought in the first installment of her library and told us the story of being an AAUW Fellowship recipient herself. The Buffalo Branch has long been a supporter of this national program. As we gear up to hold our Sale, this story reminds us of our purpose.

"I would like to express my gratitude for the dissertation fellowship that AAUW granted me from July 1980-July 1981. There was no better time for me to receive the fellowship than during that period because it enabled me to work on my dissertation in a time of grief. My mother passed away too soon for my family—she was only 63 years old-- on a Friday in January 1981, three days after Ronald Reagan was inaugurated president of the United States. Upon hearing the bad news about my mother I returned home to Pittsburgh to care for my father, who was retired, until the fall when I returned to the University of Toronto to finish my dissertation. The only source of income I had that year was the fellowship. In the fall of 1983 I accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Ripon College, Ripon Wisconsin. I taught there for 5 years. In 1988 I was offered a position at Canisius University (then Canisius College) and have taught and done research there until the end of the spring semester 2023, when I retired after teaching for 35 years. I still teach one course a semester as an adjunct at Canisius, but I would never be in the position that I am in today if it were not for AAUW. In appreciation for the scholarship I received I have donated the books in my office to the AAUW book sale this year in the hope that other women can have the same opportunity that I had."

Marianne Djuth, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita, Canisius University

DATES to REMEMBER

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

Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem/Saratoga in Snyder.

Thursday, April 18, 11:30, Branch Program “Extreme Weather in a Warming World”. See pages 1 and 6.

Wednesday, May 1, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ in West Seneca.

Saturday, May 18, 11:30 am, Annual Meeting at Ellden’s Grill on Grand Island

May 29 - June 2, BOOK SALE, 425 Essay Rd in Williamsville

Wednesday, June 12, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem/Saratoga in Snyder

Thursday, June 20 - Scholarship Celebration at Sean Patrick’s in Getzville.

NOTE—there is now an “[events calendar](#)” on our website.

Please submit (newsletter@aauwbuffalo.org) any meetings you would like added to the calendar!

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

