

# ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Together Making a Difference!

May 2024

Vol. CXXXII No. 9



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People Inc

Where your world opens up

### June ADVOCATE

The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 10th of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor: ([NEWSLETTER@AAUWBUFFALO.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@AAUWBUFFALO.ORG)) via email by May 10.



## RHONDA FREDERICK:

### 43 YEARS ADVOCATING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Ellden's Grill and Banquet

River Oaks Golf Club on Grand Island \*\*

201 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Saturday, May 18

**Registration at 11:30, Lunch at Noon, followed by the meeting and program**

Rhonda Frederick is this year's Achievement Award winner. She has worked for People Inc. for 43 years, the last nine as CEO. She has a wealth of knowledge from this job.

Rhonda is known throughout the state and beyond for her work as a human services leader. She will share the joys and difficulties of helping intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals within a nonprofit agency.

See page 7 for more information about Rhonda and People Inc.

We will also have annual reports and the installation of our new officers.

\*\*9 minutes from the south Grand Island bridge. Free parking.

### REGISTRATION—Deadline May 11!!!!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your meal choice:

Pasta Verde     Bourbon Salmon     Filet of Sirloin

Check if you are interested in car-pooling  (we'll send out a list later)

**Please add Guest names and meal choices**

Please clip or copy and send with a check for \$26/person to:

AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225

OR—use the online form on the website—

<https://aauwbuffalo.org/alt-program-registration/>

## 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*

### Greetings to All!

Have you marked your calendar?! The countdown to our 68th annual Scholarship Book Sale has begun! Opening day is on May 29th which is fast approaching. In anticipation, Book Sale Committee volunteers have been working diligently since the fall and the PR Committee executed a plan to cast a net that is far reaching. It should help make this year's sale an unprecedented success! Our scholarship selection process for 2024 has been completed and those chosen will reap the benefits of everyone's dedication to the Book Sale.

This year, the community buzz about the Book Sale lingered over from last year in part due to the publicity our Branch received in the Bee Group Newspapers. The articles highlighted the Book Sale, along with how its proceeds ensure our ability to give back to the community. The Bee articles impacted our visibility throughout WNY, and for that we are grateful.

It's remarkable how the Scholarship Book Sale has become a local social event. We would like everyone to have an opportunity to attend, so be sure to invite your family and friends! Let them know that the sale provides volunteers and patrons alike with an opportunity to give back in a meaningful way. It allows us to impact our community by assisting scholarship awardees in attaining their educational goals. For this reason, news anchor Jacquie Walker will serve once again as honorary chair! So if you haven't already done so ... mark your calendars for May 29th - June 2nd! I'll see you there!

**AAUW Buffalo Branch**  
**68th Scholarship Book Sale**  
**May 29 - June 2**  
**425 Essay Road**  
**Williamsville, 14221**

## MAY 2024 INTEREST GROUPS

### **DINNER BY THE BOOK**

**When:** Wed., May 15 at 5:30 pm  
**Where:** Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.  
**Book:** *American Rambles* by Neil King, Jr.  
**Facilitator:** Lynn Tauriello  
**Discussion Leader:** Judy Malamas  
**RSVP:** Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461  
 or [tsagewood@aol.com](mailto:tsagewood@aol.com)

### **LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!**

**When:** Wed., May 29 and June 26 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](mailto:mardeu15@verizon.net)

### **CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB**

**When:** Wed., May 22 at noon.  
**Where:** The Original Pancake House, 5479 Main St., Williamsville  
**Book:** *Squeeze Me* by Carl Hiaason  
**Discussion Leader:** Barbara Weber  
**RSVP:** Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303  
 or [bplibby1@verizon.net](mailto:bplibby1@verizon.net)

### **THE HAPPY WANDERERS**

**Working on the Book Sale this month—hope to see you in June!**



## Have you VOTED???

**There are two important AAUW ballots asking for YOUR votes NOW!**

1. Your Buffalo Branch is electing officers for the coming year. You should have received via either email or snail mail a ballot requesting your vote before May 1. The offices and candidates are:
  - 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.. National Bylaws are under review to open the membership requirement to allow us to invite anyone who shares our mission of gender equity for women and girls to join us. If you have not yet voted, please do so. You should have received an email from AAUW and SimplyVoting.com with your voting ID and link to the ballot. If you did not receive this, please check your spam folder. Paper ballots were sent to those for whom a valid email address was not on file at National. Voting ends May 3. For more information, go to [openupaauw.org](http://openupaauw.org).

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Lilyen Mascellino	<b>VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION</b> Dr. Susan McClary	<b>BRANCH TREASURER</b> Mary Crocker	<b>CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR EDUCATION TREASURER</b> Kathleen SantaMaria
<b>VP PROGRAM</b> Dr. Marian Deutschman	<b>SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN</b> Judy Huber	<b>EAP TREASURER</b> Sue Stapell	<b>SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR</b> Melissa White
<b>VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT</b> Diane O'Brien	<b>CFO</b> Shirley Joy	<b>FUNDRAISING TREASURER</b> Mary Crocker	

## Vice President, Speaker of the House, Etc.

*Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair*

According to the Pew Research Center, **roughly a quarter of Americans (26%) hold unfavorable views of both presidential candidates.** Four out of ten adults aged 18 to 29 (41%) have an unfavorable opinion of both Biden and Trump. In comparison, three out of ten adults aged 30 to 49 and fewer than two out of ten of those aged 50 and older dislike both men.

Freelance journalist Matt Haines, in a Voice of America News article, quoted a voter who said, “Are we voting for two men who are in their 80s, or are we voting for the people they’ve chosen to be their vice presidents? The chance they won’t be able to finish their term because of dementia, senility, or other health reasons isn’t unbelievable. Something in our system is broken, and we have to fix it.”

Charles Bullock III, political scientist at the University of Georgia, has claimed that “Gerrymandering has created less competitive districts.” With no congressional term limits, that means you have politicians who can stay in office for decades without ever being seriously challenged. “The result is that much of our country’s leadership, not just our presidential candidates, is older,” he added.

If a U.S. president cannot carry out the duties of the office, the responsibilities are passed to another government leader in a specific order. The president of the United States may be replaced if he or she becomes incapacitated, dies, resigns, is unable to hold office, or is removed from office.

The U.S. Constitution and the [Presidential Succession Act of 1947](#) outline the presidential order of succession: **Vice President, Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of Defense, Attorney General, etc.** *Note that the line of succession of cabinet officers is in the order of their agencies’ creation.*

There’s an interesting story related to how the Speaker of the House became the successor after the Vice President. “When the 1945 death of Franklin Roosevelt propelled Vice President Truman into the presidency, Truman urged placing the Speaker, as an elected representative of his district, as well as the chosen leader of the “elected representatives of the people,” next in line to the vice president. Since one could make the same argument for the president pro tempore, Truman’s decision may have reflected his strained relations with 78-year-old President Pro Tempore Kenneth McKellar and his warm friendship with 65-year-old House Speaker Sam Rayburn. After all, it

was in Rayburn’s hideaway office, where he had gone for a late afternoon glass of bourbon.” That was where Truman first learned of his own elevation to the presidency. Truman signed the Presidential Succession Act on July 18, 1947 (*Senate Historical Office source*).

The following candidates have been announced for vice president: Kamala Harris, incumbent vice president, is running as Biden’s vice president. Nicole Shanahan, lawyer and entrepreneur, is running as Robert F. Kennedy’s vice president.\* At this writing, Trump has not chosen his vice president.

Republican senators had to Google Michael Johnson when he was first mentioned for the Speaker of the House position. On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Johnson came in second out of nine candidates behind Tom Emmer of Minnesota. On social

media, Trump called Emmer a globalist and a tragic mistake, resulting in Emmer’s withdrawal. Trump’s support for Johnson came out in capital letters on social media. David D. Kirkpatrick, in a recent New Yorker article, described House Speaker Johnson, personally and ideologically close to the rebels in the House. “He is outwardly deferential but privately ambitious. He is a professed Trump true believer,” added Kirkpatrick. Johnson

requires unanimous support to keep his job. Because he became Speaker in the middle of a Congressional term, he doesn’t have the leverage of committee appointments until after the next election. Congressman Jamie Raskin, professor of constitutional law at American University’s Washington College of Law for more than 25 years, considers Johnson “by far the most constitutionally informed member of the Republican conference.” When Johnson was interviewed by host Sean Hannity on Fox News he said that the Bible dictated his policy positions on “any issue under the sun.” A Washington Post article by Jack Jenkins quotes the new House speaker as suggesting that he was ordained by God, “I believe that Scripture, the Bible, is very clear: that God is the one who raises up those in authority. He raised up each of you. All of us,” he added, after being elected speaker in a 220-209 vote.

*\*Robert F. Kennedy Jr., environmental lawyer, writer, and member of the Kennedy family, announced his campaign for the 2024 U.S. presidential election on April 19, 2023. He is known for advocating anti-vaccine misinformation and public health conspiracy theories. He initially ran for the Democratic Party nomination, but announced on October 9, 2023, that he would run as an Independent candidate.*





## Why Renew Your AAUW Membership?

*Susan McClary*

In June a majority of our members will be receiving membership renewal forms. The purpose of this article is to remind all why it is important to renew. We have members who have been with us from one to over 50 years! A question that comes up frequently is “Why should I renew? The dues are getting quite high!”

AAUW is a community standing strong for gender equity. Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls. The national organization has a nationwide network of 170,000 members and supporters, 1,000 local branches, and 800 college and university partners.

For over a century, the American Association of University Women has examined the fundamental issues of the times – educational, social, economic, and political – and has taken courageous positions, often far ahead of popular opinion. Our advocacy efforts have propelled countless new laws including the Equal Pay Act, first proposed in 1945 and finally passed in 1963; the Title IX amendment in 1972; the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993; and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009. Nationally we support strong laws to close the wage gap, provide paid sick time and parental leave, protect pregnant workers, curtail sexual harassment and more. We have also worked on local issues. In 1894 the newly formed local AAUW joined in the movement to better the conditions in the Buffalo schools. By 1909 the Association of Collegiate Alumnae proposed what would become the Buffalo Board of Education, with women appointed by the mayor to serve on it.

So back to the renewal question. National and NYS AAUW have increased their dues, sometimes by a lot, over the years. AAUW Buffalo has NOT! Our dues have remained the same (\$15) for many years. We carry on our missions of a well-known book sale and awarding scholarships worth thousands of dollars every year. Is it easy to tell yourself that those things are not important? That equity and equality are not important?

I will end this article with an encounter I had with a young woman about a month ago. I was explaining AAUW, our branch, our programs, etc. and why she should join. She stated there was no need! We (older) women had worked hard on getting us equality – but we have it now, so no need to continue the task!!!!!!!

It would be great if that were true! Please renew your membership to help us follow through on the mission we all began so many years ago.

# Calling All Book Sale Volunteers!

## The 68th Annual Scholarship Book Sale MAY 29 - JUNE 2, 2024

Jayne Murray



We are grateful to Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation for once again making 425 Essjay Road in Williamsville our home for the Sale. Hundreds of boxes of books have been moved from our sorting site, tables have been set up and are being stocked, and donations and sorting have resumed. Many thanks to all our volunteers who have helped us to plan, tote boxes and tables, and supervise groups of young community helpers. Now we need YOUR help to bring us over the finish line. Pre-Sale, we need ongoing sorters and volunteers to help with set-up tasks. We also need **YOU** to staff the Sale itself. WNY looks forward to our event every year—join us! Together we can turn these books into life-changing scholarships.

**We will be accepting books until May 15.** Please no textbooks, Reader's Digest Condensed Books (unless large print), encyclopedias, journals, magazines (except for WNY Heritage), cassette or VHS tapes, 45 rpm records, Time/Life books, travel guide books such as Fodor's prior to 2018, or computer books. Bright Yellow publicity Bookmarks will be available at the site—please stop by and pick some up to distribute to friends, neighbors, and community bulletin boards.

We are sorting and collecting April 16-May 15.

- Tuesdays 9am–8pm;
- Wednesdays 9am-5pm;
- Thursdays AND Fridays 1pm-5pm;
- Saturdays 9am-noon.

Please consider giving us a couple of hours or more each week. However we are flexible. Show up and we'll get you started—why not bring a friend or relative and work together? We provide on-the-job training and a how-to-video is available on the Book Sale page of our website. Questions: [booksale@aauw.org](mailto:booksale@aauw.org).

### Book Sale Event - Volunteers Needed for May 29-June 2.

Below is the Registration Form to volunteer for Book Sale positions and shifts. A full description of each job is available on our website. Please consider volunteering for at least three shifts, but we are *always* grateful for any amount of time you can give. A large chart will be available at the Sale for additional signups. We also accept *donations of healthy refreshments* for our volunteers. Also: See our *Sponsorship Form* on page 2. Your kind donations truly help us to defray our expenses.

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## Book Sale Volunteer Registration Form

Use this form to sign up for shifts during the book sale from May 29-June 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Please check all Shift Days/Times you are willing to work:

Wed, May 29	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 am - 1:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45 pm - 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45 pm - 8:00 pm
Thurs, May 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 am - 1:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45 pm - 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45 pm - 8:00 pm
Fri, May 31	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 am - 1:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45 pm - 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45 pm - 8:00 pm
Sat, June 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 am - 1:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45 pm - 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45 pm - 8:00 pm
Sun, June 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:45 am - 1:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:15 pm - 5:30 pm	

Volunteer tasks include (see our website for [complete description of each](#)): Cashier, Checker (preps the receipt for cashier by tallying books), Exit Door Staffer, Floor Staffer, Greeter, Hostess, Interviewer, Relief Staff.

Preferences: \_\_\_\_\_ Limitations: \_\_\_\_\_

I will help with the packing of left-over books on  June 3  June 4..

**Please return this form to: AAUW Booksale at PO Box 894, Buffalo, 14225,**

**or email the information to: [booksale@aauwbuffalo.org](mailto:booksale@aauwbuffalo.org).**

**You may also sign up on our website (<https://aauwbuffalo.org>)**

## OUR 2024 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER



**Rhonda Frederick** retired a year ago after 43 years of working for People Inc. She was the CEO of this agency for her last nine years before retiring. As such, she has led this nonprofit health and service organization into many different areas .

Rhonda began her career as a direct support provider to disabled individuals as an entry level employee. From here she moved steadily upward in her positions.

In a recent Buffalo News article of her accomplishments, she stated, " We've just done so many things that the community needed..." "We look at community needs and develop programs to meet those needs."

Rhonda's vision has helped grow People Inc. to the biggest human service provider in WNY.

People inc. began in 1970 as a human services organization for disabled individuals. A small group of parents and professionals recognized a need for programs for people with intellectual disabilities.

People Inc. now provides services to developmentally delayed individuals, families, older adults and the community.

It has grown from the original 10 staff members to over 4,000 staff members today. There are now over 140 group homes for disabled individuals, with a wait list for people needing this service.

In addition, Rhonda played a key role in starting People Inc. Services for older adults. These now include:

- Senior adult programs
- 19 apartments for older adults meeting certain living requirements
- Home health care for disabled and nondisabled individuals

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!



### Roster Correction:

Mary Kellner's summer information is incorrect. The Mayville address should be 4406 West Lake Rd, #6 (not 5) and that phone number is incorrect. Just use her cell number, (716)864-1651.

## **DATES to REMEMBER**

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

**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 (see page 1)

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

**Wednesday, June 12, 6:30 pm**, Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem/Saratoga in Snyder (please note one week later than usual!)

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

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

