



Together Making a Difference!

October 2024



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November
ADVOCATE

The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 10th of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor via email by October 10 to:

newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org

LUNCH WITH LAUREN BELFER

Saturday, October 26, 2024

Registration and Social Time at 11:30 am
Lunch at noon, followed by our speaker

The Buffalo Launch Club, 503 E River Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Click [HERE](#) to register OR fill out the form below and send it along with a check for \$35/person made out to “AAUW Buffalo” to Shirley Joy, 7188 Ward Road, N. Tonawanda 14120. Include names of guests, please!

Deadline for registration October 14, 2024

Note—the restaurant will be making apple pie just for us, so they need to have a firm number.

Lauren Belfer grew up in Buffalo, New York. Her debut novel, *City of Light*, was a *New York Times* bestseller, as well as a *New York Times* Notable Book, a *Library Journal* Best Book, and a Main Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. Her second novel, *A Fierce Radiance*, was named a *Washington Post* Best Novel and an NPR Best Mystery. Her third novel, *And After the Fire*, received a National Jewish Book Award. *Ashton Hall*, her most recent novel, was recommended by the *New York Times Book Review*. Her books will be available for purchase at the lunch.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Are you going to want Apple Pie? Yes No

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

Name of Guests: _____

ADVOCATE

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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recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker
 375 Parkhurst Blvd.
 Buffalo, NY 14223
mlcrock@msn.com

BOOKSALE PREP



We've started collecting contributions for our 2025 sale!

Join us every Tuesday and Wednesday 9am-1pm plus the first Saturday of each month 10am-noon at 37 Anderson Road to help collect, sort and box the donations. They've already started to stack up!

Come have fun with other book lovers as we laugh and argue about what genre to choose for books like "The History of Nudes in Religion" - history, art, religion, other??? What would you pick?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Lilyen Mascellino

Greetings to ALL...

Last month, we enthusiastically jumped into the fall rhythm of our Branch! As the temperature in WNY begins to drop this time of year, our members start to gather together in various ways - thus warming things up! Our excitement radiates via the support we provide to each other while working to reach pre-determined goals. And it's not all work! We meet as a branch 1x per month for a monthly Program, as well as in "interest groups". Come join us for the fellowship!

Here's a peek at what the Branch has been up to & how you can join in the fun!

AREA	WAYS TO GET INVOLVED
<p><u>Branch Board:</u> Our 1st Board Meeting of the year took place in West Seneca & set the tone for the year.</p>	<p>We will be electing a few new officers in the spring. <i>You can:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Volunteer to be on the Nominating Committee ☞ You can run for an office
<p><u>The PR Committee:</u> They are collaborating with the BEE Newspaper on our behalf.</p>	<p><i>You can:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Join the PR committee which meets 1x month ☞ Act as a bridge between your contacts & the committee who may enhance our PR ☞ Follow us on Face Book; like & share our posts
<p><u>The Program Committee:</u> This group meets 1x month to schedule monthly programs for members.</p>	<p><i>You can:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Become a member of this committee by contacting Marian Deutschman ☞ Attend the monthly programs which are posted in our Newsletter, on our website & on our Face Book page
<p><u>Scholarships:</u> Director, Melissa White has begun the Scholarship process.</p>	<p><i>You can:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Volunteer to be part of the selection process by contacting Melissa White to join a committee
<p><u>Book Sale Committee:</u> This committee has begun to collect books.</p>	<p><i>You can:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Volunteer to help sort. The schedule now includes the 1st Saturday of each month!

Brené Brown said it well -

"True belonging is not passive. It's a practice that requires us to be vulnerable and to be present with people without sacrificing who we are."

OCTOBER 2024 INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., October 16 at 5:30 pm
 Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
 Book: *"This Is How It Always Is"* by Laurie Frankel
 Facilitator: Mary Ann Hope
 Discussion Leader: Judy Huber
 RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461
 or tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., October 23 at noon
 Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
 Book: *"The Stolen Book of Evelyn Aubrey"* by Serena Burdick
 Discussion Leader: Kate Collins
 RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303
 or bplibby1@verizon.net

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Wed., October 30 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 AND send her any articles you've seen that you'd like to discuss so they can be sent to the other participants. (mardeu15@verizon.net)

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

Still catching up from the summer—hope to see you in October! Contact Judy Huber (716-529-9881 or judyhuber62@yahoo.com) with suggestions!



BUFFALO SCHOLARSHIPS

BUFFALO BRANCH AAUW LOANS/SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS 2024-25

Details on our website – <https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Education Program/Name	Audience	Criteria	How Much	Method of application	Dates	Comments
Chamberlin Loans and Grants	Western New York Sophomore woman college and beyond	Financial need Progress in Degree Preference to Cornell	\$5000 max renewable up to 4 times	Application/ Interview W/Financial Review	Applications due Dec 1 & May 1	Endowment from Sara Chamberlin Several awards per year
Funds for Education Loans and Grants	Western New York Sophomore college and beyond Men may apply.	Financial need Progress in Degree	\$5000 max renewable up to 4 times	Application/ Interview W/Financial Review	Applications due Dec 1 & May 1	Funded annually by Board from the Book sale funds Several awards per year
Women Entering College	Erie & Niagara Counties, Graduating High School Senior girls	Scholastic and extracurricular excellence, 95 GPA min	Two \$5000 scholarships	Application, transcript, essay, 2 recommendations	Applications due Feb 19, April announcement	Funded annually by Board from the Book Sale funds Established 2017-18
Catalyst for Change - two awards	Western New York, Two categories - • Undergraduate student women • Graduate student women	Actual or potential activist accomplishments, at least ½ time student	One \$4000 award in each category	Application, transcript, essay, 2 recommendations	Applications due Feb 19, April announcement	Funded annually by Board from the Book Sale funds Established 2004-05
Olga Lindberg	Western New York Women in 4 th year of college or above	Scholastic excellence, full-time student, 3.7 cum or above	Two \$8000 scholarships	Application, transcript, essay, 2 academic recommendations	Applications due Feb 19, April announcement	Endowment from Olga Lindberg Established 2005-06
Jacque Walker	Western New York Jr or Sr woman in College	Merit based: Community Service Emphasis	One \$5000 scholarship	Application, transcript, essay	Applications due Feb 19, April announcement	Funded annually by Board from the Book Sale funds Established 2008-09
Clarine Radt educational mini-grants	Public School Teachers	Project supporting the AAUW mission	Up to \$500	Application, approval	Ongoing	Endowment from Clarine Radt Established 2018-19

- PRESIDENT**
Lilyen Mascellino
- VP PROGRAM**
Dr. Marian Deutschman
- VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**
Diane O'Brien
- VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION**
Dr. Susan McClary
- SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN**
Judy Huber
- CFO**
Shirley Joy
- BRANCH TREASURER**
Mary Crocker
- EAP TREASURER**
Ruby Williams
- FUNDRAISING TREASURER**
Jennifer Hoffman
- CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR EDUCATION TREASURER**
Kathleen SantaMaria
- SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR**
Melissa White

How did YOU prepare for the September 10, 2024 Presidential Debate?

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

Proponents of debates tell high school debaters that they should examine every side of important and controversial issues in an atmosphere of reasoned argument and respectful discourse. They say good debates should include the involvement of rigorous and critical thinking, as well as mental and emotional maturity. We can assume that good debaters tend to be high achievers. But are they also expected to be good performers, showmen/women, and salespersons?

Vice President Harris and former President Trump are assumed to have prepared for what was likely their only debate before the 2024 presidential election. In addition to the candidates' preparation, it was equally important for viewers to know what to look for, especially after what was perceived as the disastrous performance of President Joe Biden, in the debate with Donald Trump, that led to Biden's withdrawal from this race. In the debate between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris, were potential voters prepared for a knockout blow? Or were we looking for information on tax cuts, child tax credits, potentially inflationary increases in tariffs, the reshaping of the Supreme Court, and/or meaningful immigration reform? How do these candidates view our freedom related to abortion, reproductive rights, IVF, contraceptives? The handling of the economy is a major issue. You should know that inflation reached a 40-year high in 2022 but has decreased to 2.9% as of July and is now at the lowest level since 2021. The reason your preparation is important is because debates may include some misinformation and disinformation. The opposing candidate should be prepared to correct the misleading statements, but if not, the pundits may tell you the truth after the debate or the next day. Fact-checkers tell us Trump was guilty of at least 33 lies and Harris told one or two. Some of you may say that all politicians lie. Shading the truth to reach their target voters may be acceptable, but the frequency and substance of the lies should be our guide.

What are the policy positions of the candidates? Did Harris differentiate herself from the Biden administration? Since many voters do not immerse themselves in all the news and in the party conventions, Harris may be an unknown candidate even though she has been vice president of the United States for almost four years, United States senator, as well as former attorney general and a prosecuting attorney in California. Did you hear any promises from the debate candidates to restore energy independence? Or promises to increase housing opportunities with a \$25,000 down payment to support first-time homeowners? How will that be financed? Can we afford to do it? Can we pro-

vide a \$50,000 tax benefit for new small businesses? Gun violence is back in the news with the senseless school shooting in Georgia. What did the candidates' say about gun control? Were promises accompanied by the means to affect change? Did they mention the wall to curb immigration? Was the unfinished wall an effective deterrent? The former president claims crime rates are rising but violent crime is actually down across the country compared to last year. What are the candidates' foreign policy positions and actions on NATO, the Israeli/Hamas war, the war in Ukraine, the plight of civilians suffering in Gaza? Trump calls for a quick end to the wars or claims they would never have happened if he had been in office. Trump never misses an opportunity to attack the chaotic Biden withdrawal from Afghanistan. Why was it chaotic? Were you prepared for hearing about the failures of our voting processes even if those failures don't exist? Will proposed tariffs on products from China be passed on to consumers? Will there be a backlash? How will we deport eleven million undocumented immigrants? Was there any mention of veterans?

During the debate, Trump again denied involvement in Project 2025. He frequently says he had "nothing to do with it" and that he has not read it. The 922-page playbook was authored by dozens of former members of the Trump administration. Emily Chang and Ivan Pereira of ABC News reported that when Trump spoke at a Heritage event in April 2022, he said: "This is a great group and they're going to lay the groundwork and detail plans for exactly what our movement will do... when the American people give us a colossal mandate to save America." Project 2025 is said to be the first Republican Party Platform since 2016. Have you read the summary? Are we a nation in decline?

After the ABC Presidential debate, Taylor Swift endorsed Kamala Harris. Fox News reported comments from body language expert, Susan Constantine, that "Vice President Kamala Harris successfully baited former President Trump on several occasions at the debate, making him see red and knocking him off course." "He fell for every one of her games; they were all tactics, so when she would poke the bear, he would growl back," Constantine said. "Overall ... it was certainly a boxing match." Yes, voters need to know about the issues, the proposals for changes that may impact our democracy, and those issues that impact each of us, as well as the temperament and character of the candidates. As Yogi Berra would say, "It ain't over till it's over." This was the debate, not the election.

There is so much in the NEWS these days about the Presidential Election. Perhaps you are tired of all the hoopla. But also of importance is the often overlooked New York State Equal Rights Amendment to the New York State Constitution.

Perhaps you think that New York is such a progressive state and we don't have to worry about losing our rights. Please don't be so complacent. On the back side of our ballot, there is an amendment to the New York State Constitution. Perhaps like me, you thought that our rights in New York State were protected. However, as we have seen it played out in other states, it is possible that we could lose some of those rights.

Turn the ballot over and you will see that you are asked to vote YES or NO for an amendment to our state Constitution. The timing of this amendment could not be more critical. Right now, Article 1, Section 11 (known as NYS Bill of Rights) contains protections prohibiting discrimination based only on religion and race. There is no protection for gender or other classifications.

This is the change to be passed. The Amendment reads: (I think it covers everything possible).

1. No person shall be denied equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, or religion or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy, be subjected to any discrimination in their civil rights by any other person, or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency or subdivision of the state pursuant to law.

It isn't easy to change the NYS Constitution. This amendment passed both houses of the New York State Legislature in two consecutive legislative sessions (2021-22 and 2022-2023). It would be difficult to remove these rights if they (hopefully) get passed because they would become part of the New York State Constitution.

It is true that New York has many anti-discrimination laws. The New York Human Rights Law prohibits discrimination due to age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, marital status or disability in employment, housing, education, credit and access to public accommodations. The New York Reproductive Health Act of 2019 and the Marriage Equality Act of 2011 prohibit discrimination and outline various rights. These protections are part of the codified laws of New York State but there is no constitutional protection. Codified laws can be changed in each legislative session depending on the legislators. Any amendment to the New York State Constitution must follow the complicated path of passing two consecutive legislature sessions.

DON'T FORGET TO TURN THE BALLOT OVER AND MARK YES

Please Welcome Our New Members

Genevieve Montante

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B.A. Business Administration NEC 1993

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Bachelor's, Journalism/Communication
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Deborah J. Robinson

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Email: deborahjrobinsonphd@yahoo.com
B.A. History, Sociology, Business
Canisius College 1974
M.S. Student Personal Administration Buffalo State
University 1981
Ph.D. Higher Education
University at Buffalo 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

Friday-Sunday, Sep 27-29 - AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference. [See p.5 of the September Advocate]

OCTOBER

Wednesday, Oct 2, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church in Snyder

Saturday, Oct 26, 11:30 — Branch Lunch and Program at the Buffalo Launch Club on Grand Island—speaker Lauren Belfer (author of *Ashton Hall*). See p. 1

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, Nov 6, 6:30pm, Board Meeting, Ebenezer United Church of Christ in West Seneca

Thursday, Nov. 14, Branch Program—at the Northwest Amherst Community Center, 220 Northpointe Pkwy. Post –Election Reflection with Lee Coppola and Bob McCarthy

May 28 - June 1, 2025 — 69th BOOK SALE Location TBD

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

AAUW

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

