



ADVOCATE

Together Making a Difference!

November 2024



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December

ADVOCATE

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

newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org

POST-ELECTION REFLECTIONS

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Registration and Social Time 6:30 pm

Light refreshments will be served.

Northwest Amherst Community Center:
220 Northpointe Parkway Amherst 14228*

By November 14 we should know for sure who the next president of the United States will be. What does the outcome mean for us both individually and as a country? We are fortunate to have two of the most knowledgeable political minds in the area speaking with us on the most important take-aways from the election.

Lee Coppola, a veteran newspaperman, television investigative reporter and federal prosecutor, retired in August 2011 after serving for 15 years as the first dean of the Russell J. Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University.

Robert J. McCarthy is a Political Analyst for WKBW-TV. He has covered all the major elections in New York State and WNY since 1992, including 14 national conventions.

*Please see page 5 for more details.

Click [HERE](#) to register OR fill out the form below and send it along with a check for \$10/person made out to “AAUW Buffalo” to AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225.

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):

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 or AAUW.

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Diane O'Brien,

recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker

375 Parkhurst Blvd.

Buffalo, NY 14223

mlcrock@msn.com

SCHOLARSHIP NOTE:

The deadline for the next round of Chamberlin and Funds for Education Grants and Interest -Free Loans is December 1!



Remember, our Funds for Education program is open to men!

Check our website ([Chamberlin and Funds for Education Loans and Grants - AAUW Buffalo Branch](#)) for more details!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Lilyen Mascellino

Greetings Branch Members!

What makes November the perfect month to be reflective and to acknowledge all the things for which we are appreciative? Well, our national holiday of Thanksgiving, of course - along with the many successes found on the pages of women's history in our nation.

As you know, AAUW Buffalo Branch is one of the oldest branches in the nation, as it was founded 9 years after the National organization began in 1881. Prior to that and ever since, women have been striving to secure and maintain equality for all in our society. And for 134 years, we have been part of that history and our future looks bright.

If I were to guess, I'd bet that each of us has a favorite historical trailblazer who served as our muse due to their bravery in taking a stand for all women. Those pioneers faced challenges of their day to make a way for laws to be impacted in favor of our daughters. We are indebted to them, as throughout history they blazed open doors for women in their generation and for those who followed.

As members of our Branch you (we) are women of influence, too. We serve as mentors to others taking on new roles year after year. When things become challenging, we encourage one another. Instead of giving in to possible defeat, I've watched you become the inspiration that motivates others to become part of the solution. And it is our influence in the form of scholarships that makes a direct impact on college students in our community. We are composed of strong women who creatively work together to meet our goals. The simple act of being supportive is the glue that bonds us.

So this November, this month of giving thanks - let's take a moment to remember and celebrate each other...the amazing women in our group. You are at the top of my list!

Happy Thanksgiving!

FROM THE EDITOR:

An extra-special thank you to the members and friends who have been working diligently at the Book Sale collection/sorting site to keep up with the donations that have been pouring in! The old saying was "Many hands make light work". I'm not sure that's exactly true here, but they at least make it less work and more fun.



— Thank you — Thank you — Thank you —

NOVEMBER 2024 — INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., November 20 at 5:30 pm
Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
Book: "*West With Giraffes*" by Linda Rutledge
Facilitator: Mary Bashore
Discussion Leader: Pat Miceli
RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461
or tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

No Meeting in November or December

— NEW — NEW — NEW —

A BOOK CLUB FOR PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT!!
See the article below.



THE HAPPY WANDERERS

SUGGESTIONS — PLEASE Contact Judy Huber
(716-529-9881 or judyhuber62@yahoo.com)

LET'S TALK ABOUT PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Thursday., November 21 at 1 pm. (date change due to Thanksgiving)

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)

— PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOK CLUB —

This quarterly book club is for EVERYONE, working or not. Stay informed for yourself or someone you know. Be a valuable resource for employers, co-workers, friends, family, etc.!

Reading period: Nov 2024—Jan 2025 (quarterly)

When: Jan 2025 (date/time TBD). To accommodate weekday work schedules, the discussion will be on a weekend.

Book: "*No Ceiling, No Walls: What Women Haven't Been Told about Leadership from Career-start to the Corporate Boardroom*" by Susan Colantuono

Discussion Leader: Keola Tweedy (Club Chair)

RSVP: Keola Tweedy at 602-653-9509 cell or WorldTribeDnM@gmail.com (preferred)

About the book: Rated 5 stars on Amazon.com, Susan's book "*No Ceiling, No Walls*" takes a fresh, unblinking look at leadership. It identifies the vital missing piece of the leadership and career success equations for women — the Missing 33%. And according to Evelyn Murphy, author of "Getting Even," this is a must-read book for women — and men — who want more women in leadership positions in America.

About the author: Susan Colantuono is the author of multiple books on leadership. She is internationally known as an expert in women's leadership development and gender dynamics.

Additional:

- Discounted books are available for purchase. Contact Keola Tweedy if interested.
- **Our Feb 2025 branch program (Thursday, February 20, on Zoom) is with Susan Colantuono!!**
Reading the book is not a requirement, but is certainly helpful.

Watch Susan's TED Talk on "The Career Advice You Probably Didn't Get." It has been translated into 23 languages, viewed by millions, and covered by The Washington Post, Fortune Magazine, and The Guardian as one of the Top 5 Talks that will change the way you work, sparking global interest in Leading Women's research on The Missing 33%™. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFQLvbVJVMg>

THE 2024 STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT AGAINST UNEQUAL TREATMENT

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

This proposal, on our November ballots, would protect against unequal treatment based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity and pregnancy. It also safeguards against unequal treatment based on reproductive healthcare and autonomy.

- The proposal may be on the back of the ballot. Be sure to check the back!
- A “YES” vote puts these protections in the New York State Constitution.
- A “NO” vote leaves these protections out of the State Constitution.

Why do we need this amendment? New York State currently lacks an equal rights amendment in its Constitution. While the state has many anti-discrimination laws, the New York State Constitution does not provide comprehensive protections for all New Yorkers. It is inadequate in ensuring equality and fails to prohibit discrimination against historically targeted groups, including individuals with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, immigrants, women and pregnant people.

We need a constitutional amendment to ensure that our rights and freedoms are protected regardless of who is in office. The amendment expands existing protections against discrimination based on race and religion, providing the strongest legal safeguards for New Yorkers. New Yorkers, not politicians, should be in charge of their fundamental rights and freedoms. We want to ensure that the freedom to control our own bodies, lives, and futures is guaranteed. Do we want politicians to restrict peoples’ right to an abortion and contraception? Should women who experienced a miscarriage face the threat of criminalization? Two years ago, people across the country witnessed the Supreme Court overturn the federal right to abortion. When Roe v. Wade was overturned, many of us realized that our rights aren’t as secure as we thought. Reproductive rights, including abortion, are under attack nationwide. Even here in New York, politicians have introduced 53 anti-abortion and anti-women bills in the last decade, according to New Yorkers for Equal Rights. Our Constitution mandates that all constitutional amend-

ments must pass the legislature twice before allowing the public the opportunity to vote on the measure. In 2022 and 2023, the legislature passed the constitutional amendment that creates new protections. If voters approve it this November, the Equal Rights Amendment will be added to our Constitution benefiting millions of New Yorkers. You may encounter opposing views, but keep in mind that the amendment does not change existing law. Initially, there were concerns about its impact on other articles in the Constitution; however, it was determined that it does not diminish existing articles.

It is incorrect to assert that this amendment allows boys to play on girls’ sports teams. The amendment simply aims to prevent discrimination against LGBTQI+ New Yorkers. The protections in this amendment do not pertain to federal asylum or immigration laws. The amendment is straightforward, not vague; it closes loopholes in our Constitution, without granting special rights to anyone. It doesn’t alter common sense laws nor does it permit minors to undergo gender-affirming surgeries. Parental consent is already required for minors to receive any medical procedure related to gender-affirming care. Charitable organizations, known under federal law as 501(C) (3) organizations, are free to distribute materials, discuss or generate support or opposition to ballot measures. For further clarification regarding any misinformation and disinformation you may encounter, please contact New Yorkers for Equal Rights at nyequalrights.org.

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

MORE ABOUT OUR NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Lee Coppola



- Lee Coppola, a veteran newspaperman, television investigative reporter and federal prosecutor, retired in August 2011 after serving for 15 years as the first dean of the Russell J. Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University.
- As a professional journalist, he won more than 30 local, state and national awards, including the George Polk Award, the National Press Club Award and the Investigative Reporters and Editors Award. He specialized in covering the Mafia during his years as a journalist and wrote a series of articles about the Witness Security Program that was the basis for a book and movie.
- He served 16 years as an investigative reporter at The Buffalo News, followed by 10 years as an investigative reporter for electronic broadcast media, moving from WKBW-TV Channel 7 to WIVB-TV Channel 4. In 1983, he received his juris doctorate from the University at Buffalo Law School and from 1992 to 1996 he prosecuted drug dealers as an assistant U.S. attorney.

Robert J. McCarthy Political Analyst — WKBW-TV



- Native of Schenectady; also lived in Auburn.
- 1976 graduate of St. Bonaventure University.
- Worked from 1976 to 1982 for the Olean Times Herald
- Joined The Buffalo Evening News in 1982 as a general assignment reporter, later worked police, state government and transportation beats.
- Succeeded George Borrelli as political reporter in 1992.
- Received a 2006 New York State Publishers Association first place award with colleague Michael Beebe for stories on irregularities in the State Liquor Authority that led to the chairman's resignation and major reforms of the agency. A 2002 series of articles co-authored with Beebe on how State Supreme Court candidates are chosen was nominated by The News for a Pulitzer Prize.
- Has covered all major elections in New York State and WNY since 1992, including 14 national conventions. Was named by Brill's Content magazine as one of New York's 10 most influential political journalists, and often serves as a panelist for local and statewide debates.
- Retired from The News after 41 years in 2023.
- Joined WKBW/Channel 7 in Buffalo as political analyst in 2023.

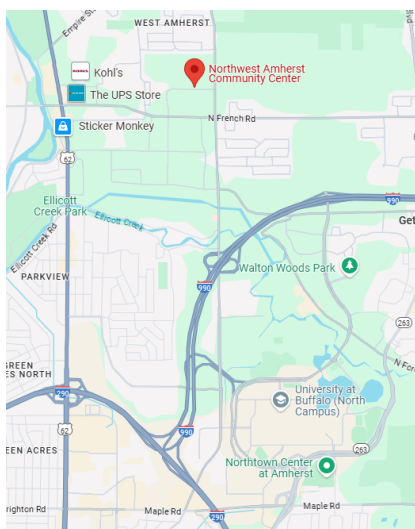
*Northwest Amherst Community Center

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 7:00pm-8:30pm - See p.1

Northpointe runs between N. French and Sweet Home Roads.

The building is closer to Sweet Home Road. Enter the parking area at the entrance with the 220 sign and two US Mailboxes. Enter building at Door B.

There will be a sandwich board outside, saying: "Enter Here".



DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

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

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. See pages 1 and 5.

DECEMBER

Wednesday, Dec 4, 6:30pm, Board Meeting, Christ United Methodist Church in Snyder

Saturday, Dec 14, Branch Lunch and Program at the Diamond Hawk Golf Club. Rick Falkowski on Buffalo’s many “firsts”.

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

