



ADVOCATE

Together Making a Difference!

February 2025



“THE CAREER ADVICE YOU’RE STILL NOT GETTING”

SUSAN COLANTUONO

Thursday, Feb 20, 6:00pm, ZOOM or in person

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Register for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ldu-uqz4jHN0zCmQTIHK-zmL-xfMhVtqt>

Susan Colantuono is the CEO and founder of Be Business Savvy, a career development firm that empowers women to advance in their careers through enhanced business, financial and strategic acumen. She is the author of multiple books on leadership, including “No Ceiling, No Walls: What Women Haven’t Been Told about Leadership from Career-Start to the Corporate Boardroom.” She is internationally known as an expert in women’s leadership development and gender dynamics. She established that “Leadership is using the greatness in you to achieve and sustain extraordinary outcomes by engaging the greatness in others.”



If turning the key to unlock career success is on your agenda for 2025, or if you mentor or manage women for whom this is a goal, join us for a discussion about The Missing 33%.

If you do not personally have access to Zoom and/or would like to watch with a group, a room has been reserved at the Williamsville Branch Library, 5571 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Keola Tweedy, who has arranged for this program, will be there at 5:30pm to set up. As capacity is limited to around 30, please email her at worldtribednm@gmail.com if you are interested. Light refreshments are allowed. Beverages must be covered. Attendees may bring their own sandwiches.

More about our speaker on page 5.



FEBRUARY
ADVOCATE

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

newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org

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 or AAUW.

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PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER!

Linda Crato

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Williamsville NY 14221
Phone: 716-570-5151
Email: lindacraTo@yahoo.com
B.S. Education S.U.C. Buffalo
M.S. Education S.U.C. Buffalo
Retired

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Lilyen Mascellino



Greetings to All!

Each year since 1940, our Branch has been selecting a woman from WNY to honor with our Achievement Award. We have formed a committee to make the final selection, but we depend on you (our members) to nominate those whose achievements merit recognition.

Those nominated must meet *one or more* of the following criteria points, as outlined in our policy manual:

- ☞ Efforts to advocate for activities and policies that advanced education and equity for women and girls
- ☞ Effort to shape the lives of the next generation of women and their families
- ☞ Involvement in community service that has resulted in the well-being and advancement of the city and or area
- ☞ Record of exemplary achievement in her profession or field of work

These achievements must be beyond fulfilling basic employment commitments.

To make a nomination, please email the information below to me no later than February 3rd for the committee's review.

Nomination for the 2025 Buffalo Branch Achievement Award

- ☞ Your Name, Phone Number & Email Address (The committee may contact you.)
- ☞ Nominee Name, Organization, Position
- ☞ Nominee's Mailing Address, Phone Number & Email Address
- ☞ A short biography of the Nominee including her achievements that meet the award's criteria listed above.

Thank you in advance for your nomination which is due on or prior to February 3rd.

BRANCH ELECTION NEWS

The **nominating committee** is pleased to present a full slate of candidates:

- ☞ President - Pat Miceli
- ☞ VP Membership Retention: Andy Smith
- ☞ VP Programs: Lilyen Mascellino
- ☞ Operations Treasurer/Branch Treasurer: Mary Crocker
- ☞ Chamberlin Loan Fund & Funds for Education Treasurer: Kate Collins

Voting will take place in the spring.



FEBRUARY 2025 INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., February 15 at 5:30 pm
 Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
 Book: "*The Secret Book of Flora Lea*" by Patti Callahan Henry
 Facilitator: Judy Malamas
 Discussion Leader: Diane O'Brien
 RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461
 or tsagewood@aol.com

PUBLIC POLICY

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!
 When: Wed., February 26 at 1 pm.
 Where: Second floor of Dash's, 1770 Hertel Ave.
 Feel free to bring a lunch or purchase food there.
 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)

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., February 26 at noon
 Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
 Book: "*Mother Daughter Murder Night*" by Nina Simon
 Discussion Leader: Paula Salamone
 RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303
 or bplibby1@verizon.net

WESTERN CULINARY DELIGHTS

We will meet on Feb. 20 at 12:30 at the Siena Restaurant, 456 Main St. in Eggertsville.
 Please email me as soon as possible if you plan to come.
 RSVP: Barb Libby at 716-836-8303 or bplibby1@verizon.net

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOK CLUB

We will next meet in April See the website for details.



IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME — DEADLINES FEB 19, 2025!!!!

Scholarships, Loans and Grants - AAUW Buffalo Branch

Women Entering College	Erie & Niagara Counties, Graduating High School Senior girls	Scholastic and extra-curricular excellence, 95 GPA min	Four \$5000 scholarships	Application, transcript, essay, 2 recommendations	Applications due Feb 19, 2025 — April announcement
Catalyst for Change - Four Awards	Western New York, Two Categories : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Undergraduate student women ☞ Graduate student women 	Actual or potential activist accomplishments, at least ½ time student	Two \$5000 awards in each category	Application, transcript, essay, 2 recommendations	Applications due Feb 19, 2025 — April announcement
Olga Lindberg	Western New York Women in 4 th year of college or above	Scholastic excellence, full-time student, 3.7 cum or above	Four \$8000 scholarships	Application, transcript, essay, 2 academic recommendations	Applications due Feb 19, 2025 — April announcement
Jacque Walker	Western New York Jr or Sr woman in College	Merit based: Community Service Emphasis	Two \$5000 scholarships	Application, transcript, essay	Applications due Feb 19, 2025 — April announcement

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE DON'T TRUST THEIR GOVERNMENT?

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair



The dictionary defines trust as a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something. It also states that "relations have to be built on trust." In our society, we seem to judge people not by their character and values, but by what they own. Does this also apply to how we judge our leadership in government?

Trust in government is the share of people who report having confidence in the national government. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United States ranks poorly in comparison to other countries on the issue of trust. It ranks even lower than nations like the Netherlands, Hungary, and Poland. A new national survey conducted by the Partnership for Public Service confirms that the crisis of public trust in government is growing. Low trust in major institutions—particularly the federal government—has been a persistent issue in the United States. Trust in government has been in decline since the 1960s, and recent years have seen distrust in both government and politicians reach near record levels. These trends can have serious consequences for the country and for the health of our democracy. Another study found that political polarization contributes to discouragement in government, especially when it seems like both sides are entrenched and unwilling to compromise.

When people don't trust their government, they are more likely to opt out of voting and other forms of civic participation. With less engagement, the public feels less empowered to influence government—and, in turn, government doesn't hear as much about people's needs and preferences. As a result, the points of interaction between the government and the public deteriorate leading to a fundamental disconnect between Americans and the government, the only institution in the country with the resources, responsibility and authority to serve all its people. This breakdown interferes with agencies' ability to provide modern, equitable and accessible services that address major threats to health, national security and the overall well-being of the nation.

The Pew Research Center finds that public trust in the federal government, which has been low for decades, has shown a modest increase since 2023. As of April 2024, 23% of Americans say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right "just about always" (2%) or "most of the time" (21%). Last year, only 16% expressed this level of trust among the lowest

measures in nearly seven decades of polling. In another survey, conducted in August 2024, White Americans were notably more likely than Black Americans to express trust in the national government.

On January 6, 2025 New York Times journalist Peter Baker, wrote an analysis of America as the President-elect prepares to take office. He quoted Donald Trump's description of the nation as "ravaged by crisis, a desolate hellscape of crime, chaos and economic hardship." Baker added that Trump declared on social media the previous week that "Our Country is a disaster, a laughing stock all over the World!" For context, Baker reported that by using traditional metrics, Trump will inherit an America from President Biden that "is actually in better shape than that bequeathed to any newly elected president since George W. Bush came into office in 2001."

Baker supplied several data points to support this claim: "For the first time since that transition 24 years ago, there will be no U.S. troops at war overseas on Inauguration Day. New data reported in the past few days indicate that murders are way down, illegal immigration at the southern border, has fallen even below what it was when Trump left office, and roaring stock markets finished their best two years in a quarter century. Jobs are up, wages are rising, and the economy is growing as fast as it did during Trump's presidency." The chief economist of Moody's Analytics is quoted as saying, "The U.S. economy is the envy of the rest of the world, as it is the only economy that is growing more quickly post pandemic than pre pandemic."

On the campaign trail and in interviews, Trump has said that he would exact vengeance on news outlets that anger him once he regains the White House. He has pledged to imprison reporters and strip major television networks of their broadcast licenses as retribution for unfavorable coverage. "It speaks directly to the First Amendment — and the First Amendment is a cornerstone of our democracy," stated Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, on NPR. Does Trump's pledge signal a refusal of editorial endorsements of candidates and the rejection of the work of political cartoonists whose work he dislikes? Is loyalty to the president more important than trust and truth?

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
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**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
EDUCATION TREASURER**
Kathleen SantaMaria

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR
Melissa White

ABOUT OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Susan Colantuono is an internationally renowned expert on closing the leadership gender gap, an author, speaker and mentor/coach.

She discovered, developed and introduced to the world a definition of leadership and 4 keys that have transformed women's leadership development and initiatives to close the leadership gender gap:

1. *“Leadership is using the greatness in you to achieve and sustain extraordinary outcomes by engaging the greatness in others.”* This definition led to the discovery of...
2. **The Missing 33%** of the career success equation for women. Further developed in her book *No Ceiling, No Walls* it takes women beyond conventional wisdom and toward developing leadership skills in the areas of business, strategic and financial acumen.
3. **PIE Mentoring** - what it is, how to get it and how it can help women earn sponsorship - is discussed in detail in her book *Make the Most of Mentoring*.
4. Her **TEDx Talk** on “Closing the gender gap at the top.” One of only 1% of TEDx Talks to make it to the TED.com site, it was retitled, **“The career advice you probably didn't get.”** Nearing 4.4 million views, it has been translated into 23 languages and covered by media including The Washington Post, Fortune Magazine, and The Guardian as one of the Top 5 Talks that will change the way you work
5. **15 Gender Dynamics** that create barriers for women. These make explicit the mindsets of managers that hold women back and the concrete actions that clear the pathway for advancement. In 2002, Susan established the Women's Institute for Leadership at Bryant University and presented Leadership Mastery programs for women until 2010. In 2004, she founded Leading Women on a B2C model. In 2015 it shifted strategy delivering unique leadership development programs for women and gender dynamics programs for managers at global clients including Verizon, DHL, onSemi, Nokia, Amgen, Campbells and many others across a range of industries. In 2019, with a goal of spreading her actionable insights to women around the world without access to leadership development resources, she and Michelle Redfern launched the **Lead to Soar** network- an online global community of ambitious women committed to developing their leadership skills and advancing in their careers. Susan has published numerous articles on leadership and is the author of two other books. Her cutting edge insights have been featured in Time, AdAge, CNBC, Forbes, CBS, Duke University's *Dialogue* magazine, numerous podcasts and other media outlets. An in-demand speaker, Susan has spoken to business audiences from every continent.



WE NEED HELP WITH THE BOOKSALE!



Mark your calendars and be ready to sign up to work during setup time at the site hopefully starting in early April. Then, once we're set up we'll need ALL-HANDS ON DECK during the SALE May 28-June 1. Finally, we'll need help cleaning up the following week. We'll have the sign-up form for all this in March's newsletter.

We don't have a site yet—HELP US LOOK! We need at least 15-20,000 sq ft and good parking. If you see a property available, send the information to “booksale@aauwbuffalo.org” THANKS!!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, Feb 5, 6:30pm, Board Meeting, Christ United Methodist Church in Snyder

Thursday, Feb 20, Branch Program on Zoom or in person. Susan Colantuono "The Career Advice You're STILL Not Getting!" See pages 1 and 5.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 5, 6:30pm, Board Meeting, Ebenezer United Church of Christ in West Seneca

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

June 12—Scholarship Celebration, Sean Patrick's in Eggertsville

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

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