

ADVOCATE

Together Making a Difference!
March 2025



In This Issue

- March Program 1
- President’s Message 2
- Tech Savvy! 2
- PR Needs YOU!..... 2
- Interest Groups 3
- Professional Development Book Club..... 3
- Have You Heard of NRx? 4
- Public Policy Discussion Review . 5
- About our Program & Speakers 6
- Book Sale 7
- Dates to Remember 8

APRIL
ADVOCATE

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

newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org

By March 10

RESTORATION OF HUMBOLDT PARKWAY
TERRENCE ROBINSON AND BRADLEY WALES
SATURDAY, MAR 29, 10:30AM
CLARENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 TOWN PLACE, CLARENCE, NY 14031

“What’s next for the Kensington Expressway tunnel project after a state Supreme Court Justice put it on hold until an environmental study is completed?

Some say the court’s decision provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to have a seat at the table to help draft a “new vision” for the site.”

....From the Buffalo News—Feb 16, 2025

Our speakers, **Bradley Wales** and **Terrence Robinson**, are part of a coalition that’s been fighting this project since 2023. See page 6 for more on “**A Plan that Works for Everyone**”

Register for the meeting: [Program Registration - AAUW Buffalo Branch](#)

OR fill out the form below and send it to:

AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo NY 14225-0894.

No cost, but help us plan! Deadline: March 22

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Names of Guests: _____

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

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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recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker
mlcrock@msn.com



TECH SAVVY!

Interested in helping to inspire WNY girls to be Tech Savvy?

We are embarking on a path to bring back Teck Savvy in-person this year. As we reimagine an event that is both safe and relevant for the 2025 realities, we need members both for the planning committee and week-of-event work.

If you would like to join the efforts, please email Tamara at tbforaauw@cs.com with the subject line "Tech Savvy Committee " or call with questions/ideas at 716-949-2413.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Lilyen Mascellino



"...I desire you would remember the ladies & be more generous & favorable to them than your ancestors."

~ Abigail Adams

Greetings to All!

This is my last March address to you as your President & as you know by now - March is a month that we look forward to, as it's Scholarship selection time! March is also Women's History Month which includes International Women's Day on the 8th. So, it's fitting for us to gather together & volunteer to help select this year's scholarship awardees. To volunteer, email our Committee Chair, Melissa White at: 68522melissa@roadrunner.com. Giving of our time is one way we show what is important to us.

The National Women's History Alliance (NWAH) selected the 2025 theme for Women's History Month as, "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." This theme was chosen as it acknowledges the strength & influence of dedicated women in the areas of education, mentorship, and leadership. Visit the link below to learn more:

<https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month>

The 2025 Women's History Month theme aligns perfectly with our branch's goals & vision! Since I first became a member, I have watched us collaborate to ensure that we moved forward to accomplish our goals. We've learned together, inspired each other & have mentored new members throughout the years. We also influence the lives of young women via our Scholarship & Grant programs.

I'm proud of the strength you exhibit in the face of challenges & for the dedication you have shown to our branch, as well as the community. Thank you!

WE NEED YOU!

We need you! The Public Relations Team is looking for new members. We need people with good ideas, computer skills, as well as photographers. Join us and help to publicize the excellent accomplishments of our branch.

Please contact Pat Miceli

716-626-0234 home

716-880-0042 cell

pwmiceli@gmail.com.

Meet new friends! Enjoy the snacks! Meetings are once a month on Saturday at 11:00 am.



MARCH 2025 INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., March 19 at 5:30 pm
Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
Book: *"The Women"* by Kristen Hannah
Facilitator: Judy Huber
Discussion Leader: Mary Bashore
RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461
or tsagewood@aol.com

HAPPY WANDERERS

When: Thurs, March 27 at 10:00 am
Where: Buffalo History Museum, 1 Museum Court,
Buffalo 14216
Why: Visit the Adam Zyglis Exhibit. He is a political cartoonist, WNY born and educated here, who has won a Pulitzer for his work. We will see a 20 year retrospective collection of dozens of his cartoons and even see some of the hate mail he has received through the years. Lunch at a nearby restaurant, possibly Coles. Feel free to bring guests.
RSVP: Judy Huber at 716-529+-9881
or judyhuber62@yahoo.com



(left-right:
Pat Miceli, Keola Tweedy, Casey Schultz, Andy Smith)

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., March 26 at noon
Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
Book: *"Thief's Mark"* by Carla Neggers
Discussion Leader: Stacy Johnson
RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303
or bplibby1@verizon.net

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY

When: Wed., March 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)

NOTE: Review of the January discussion on page 5



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOK CLUB

Feb-Apr 2025 reading period
"Mindset: The Psychology of Success" by Carol Dweck. This selection is recommended reading in "No Ceiling, No Walls" under Personal Greatness (pg 199).

NOTE: "It is also available on audiobook
Facilitator / Discussion Leader – OPEN
April 2025 discussion – date TBD

NOTE: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Keola Tweedy needs to resign as the Chair. Please contact her at worldtribednm@gmail.com or cell 602-653-9509 if you are interested in book club participation and/or this leadership opportunity.



HAVE YOU HEARD OF NRx?

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

NRx, called the Neo-Reactionary movement, wants to destroy democracy. It is also known as the Dark Enlightenment. It asserts that democracy is a mistake and that equality is not a desirable goal. Followers believe that government should be run like a business. Zack Beauchamp, a senior correspondent at VOX, where he covers ideology and challenges to democracy, wrote a recent book on democracy titled "The Reactionary Spirit." He interviewed J. D. Vance, current vice president, and found that his worldview is fundamentally incompatible with the basic principles of American democracy. Vance's connections with prominent NRx thinkers, particularly Curtis Yarvin, highlight this ideological shift toward rejecting democracy in favor of a society modelled after a corporate structure. Yarvin, a controversial figure with close ties to influential figures like Steve Bannon, Peter Thiel and Tucker Carlson, has emerged as a key intellectual force in this movement.

In a Forbes article, more than ten years ago, John T. Harvey, professor of economics at TCU, wrote why government should NOT be run like a business. He claims that to do so indicates a basic misunderstanding of role differences between the public sector and the private sector. Business is perceived as being more efficient. Efficiency means profit. The assumption is that if a business is inefficient, it would go bankrupt and go out of business. Government agencies do not face such a backlash. For example, police and fire departments have no profit motive. Not everything of social value is profitable. A requirement of profitability would eliminate public schools, parks, public libraries and other valued organizations. However, despite the differences in the two sectors, businesses in the private sector can be affected by changes in the public sector.

Most of us are in favor of reining in the cost of government. Doesn't it make sense to focus on eliminating waste in government? The Government Accountability office defines waste as the expending of government resources carelessly, extravagantly, or without adequate purpose. There may be fraud, abuse or diversion of funds for other purposes. Mismanagement and lack of oversight procedures can lead to waste. Integrity and ethical values are expectations for those who are trained in procedures and adhere to statutes.

We have a \$7 trillion budget. The world's richest man, Elon Musk, is taking a slash and burn approach to cutting waste as he implements changes with his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). A senior fellow at the Brookings Institution said that while this approach may work in Silicon Valley but "it could have dangerous consequences when applied to government programs, potentially costing lives." USAID (less than one percent of the federal budget) became a target for Musk. He initiated a series of posts against a long term target, describing USAID as "evil" and "a criminal organization," "a viper's nest of radical-left Marxists who hate America." Then he said, "Time for it to die." He is taking a wrecking ball to trim federal government programs without evidence or required hearings. Meanwhile, Congress is delegating enormous power to the president who has given enormous power to Musk. Musk owns a social media megaphone. What matters is who is doing the cost-cutting, when and how. Musk has not offered evidence for his comments about USAID. Both Trump and Musk are known for fabricated assertions. They can shape the content and flow of these conspiracy theories. Musk shared a fake video claiming USAID financed celebrity visits to Ukraine. Before Musk called for termination of USAID, he had taken funding from them. There are protests opposing the closing of USAID and for calling it corrupt. Protests also oppose DOGE access to sensitive systems gathered by very young empowered workers, some with questionable backgrounds.

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency vested with the power to safeguard employees' rights to organize and to determine whether to have unions as their bargaining representative. The leader was ousted without required procedures for dismissal. During President Trump's first week in office he fired inspector generals across 17 federal agencies. This illegal action removes the only independent offices within agencies that are designed to protect taxpayer money and eliminate corruption, fraud, waste and mismanagement.

Continued on next page



PRESIDENT
Lilyen Mascellino

VP PROGRAM
Dr. Marian Deutschman

VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT
Diane O'Brien

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION
Dr. Susan McClary

SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN
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Jennifer Hoffman

CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR

EDUCATION TREASURER
Kathleen SantaMaria

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR
Melissa White

NRx (Continued)

In a CBS news poll reported on 2/9/25, 70 percent of those polled said the president is doing what he promised in the campaign whether they approve of him or not. His overall job rating gets a 53 percent approval. Fifty-nine percent approve of his program to export immigrants who are in the United States illegally but 66 percent say his focus on lowering prices is not enough. Inflation was the key reason Trump won the election. There is no war on prices and no housing plan.

In the 2024 election, Donald Trump received 77,284,118 votes, and the Democratic nominee received 74,999,166. This is the fifth smallest margin of victory in the thirty-two presidential races held since 1900. There is no mandate to destroy our government. Furthermore, it is our understanding that it is the United States Congress that will decide how the American people's money is spent. Not Elon Musk. What are the Republicans in Congress doing? When Trump says "jump" they say "how high?" What are the Democrats doing? Are they "pulling the fire alarm?" Some experts say the goal of this administration is to protect the billionaires and install a dictator. Many people are protesting, calling their representatives multiple times. Organizations are forming alliances and initiating lawsuits. The courts are acting by imposing delays and restraining orders. All of us want cuts in federal spending until it impacts us. Our enemies are cheering the deliberate chaos. It's not smart, not efficient and not transparent. Where do you stand and what are you doing? It's time to organize, mobilize and speak up for our democracy.

**This CBS News/YouGov survey was conducted with a nationally representative sample of 2,175 U.S. adults interviewed between Feb. 5-7, 2025. The sample was weighted to be representative of adults nationwide according to gender, age, race, and education, based on the U.S. Census American Community Survey and Current Population Survey, as well as 2024 presidential vote. The margin of error is ± 2.5 points.*

PUBLIC POLICY JANUARY DISCUSSION REVIEW

Summary of January 29, 2025 Public Policy Discussion Group at Dash's on Hertel Avenue

12 Participants: Discussion of 5 articles submitted by group members (*Lively discussion left little time for #6 submission so it will be discussed at next meeting on February 26 at same location*).

We acknowledge that we need the serenity to accept things that cannot be changed, the courage to change things that must be changed and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other.

Problems Identified:

- Many citizens of the United States do not understand how our government works.
- Some of our voters are not critical thinkers and tend to believe misinformation and disinformation because it's easier. How do we address "the surprising allure of ignorance"?
- Political parties foster polarization, taking sides, and labeling people on one side or the other. This public policy discussion group must maintain our non-partisanship but take action on issues that matter to us.
- We don't want to lose fact-checking and trusted sources of information, especially as a favor to wealthy oligarchs.
- We want to see a strengthening of the checks & balances of the three branches of government.
- We must protect and strengthen our system of education. The cabinet position of secretary of education is not only administrative and managerial. This agency oversees education policy, ensures equal access, develops and enforces federal laws, prohibits discrimination in loans, grants, etc.

Potential Actions:

- Vote for the people that address the problems we've identified such as education and family values.
- We need to contact elected officials persistently on specific issues that matter to us.
- Join protests and possible lawsuits.
- Need to join other groups to get the power of numbers and increase effectiveness.
- We need to cultivate outreach and "wrap-around strategies."

ABOUT OUR MARCH PROGRAM: “A PLAN THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE”

The **American Association of University Women (AAUW) Buffalo Branch** invites you to an informational program on the proposed changes to the portion of the Kensington Expressway adjacent to Humboldt Parkway, and the potential impact on the Buffalo east side neighborhood around it. Hear from resident Terrence Robinson and architect Bradley Wales of the East Side Parkways Coalition, who will present “A Plan That Works for Everyone”.

Terrence “Terry” Robinson is a lifelong resident of the Humboldt Parkway neighborhood. Since 1954, his legal residence has been no more than a block from the Parkway, and for the last 38 years, he and his wife have made their home in an 1895 house directly on the Parkway. Active as a community advocate, Terry is a founding Board Member of Preservation Buffalo Niagara. He served for 6 years on the City of Buffalo Preservation Board. Preservation focus is an aspect of a multi-faceted political, cultural/historical, environmental approach to the best sustainable human development practices. An eclectic education and career experience preceded retirement from non-profit administration. Terry’s immediate focus is on restoration of the Frederick Law Olmsted designed Humboldt Parkway and economic/environmental concerns

Brad Wales is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the *UB Department of Architecture* and has been a practicing architect for 40-years in Boston, NYC, and Buffalo. He established the *Small Built Works (SBW)* project at UB in 2001 to design and build community-benefit projects in the City such as bus shelters, pocket parks, community fridge enclosures, bike racks, community gardens, kiosks, benches, tiny homes for the homeless, and the gut-renovation of *El Museo Gallery*.

Brad’s work merges architecture, performance, video, art, environmental activism, and teaching into a hybrid genre **ARCHITECTURAL ACTIVISM**. Working with Beth Elkins-Wales and Geoff Kelly of the *Investigative Post*, Brad co-produced *A People’s Hearing on Fracking* at the *Burchfield-Penney* in 2012 which was attended by over 600-people, an event that effectively put the nail in the coffin of fracking in NYS. In October, 2024, Brad co-wrote a paper with Dr. Jennifer Roberts entitled “Complete Highway Removal...” that was published in Texas A&M’s *Journal of Healthy Eating and Active Living (JHEAL)*.

Recent private practice architectural projects have included the *Burning Books* expansion on Connecticut Street, industrial work with *Keller Technology Corporation*, the *Pilates LAB* build-out, and the *WEDI East Side Job Training Center*, as well as numerous residential projects. He is **co-founder of the [East Side Parkways Coalition](#)** (ESP) with Candace Moppins, the executive director of the *Delavan Grider Community Center*. ESP advocates for the complete removal of the Routes 198 and 33 highways and the full restoration of F.L Olmsted’s Humboldt Parkway to reconnect Delaware and MLK Parks with the original Bidwell Parkway-like design.



THE BOOKSALE NEEDS YOU!

ARE WE READY?????????????

The book sale executive team and many other stalwart sale volunteers have been busy all fall and winter collecting and sorting books plus doing the behind-the-scenes work to get ready for our 2025 sale.

We hope to have a site nailed down within the next week, BUT—just in case—if you see a possibility, please send the information to "booksale@aauwbuffalo.org" ! We'll certainly let everyone know when we're settled!

Mark your calendars and be ready to work, hopefully starting in early April. Setup time is labor intensive and then things are absolutely crazy during the SALE May 28-June 1. Finally, we'll need help cleaning up the following week. The sign-up form for the sale and cleanup is below. We'll post the setup hours as soon as we've confirmed a site and have arranged for everything to be there.

We need a volunteer coordinator—might YOU be interested? Let us know—
booksale@aauwbuffalo.org

ARE YOU READY TO SIGN UP?

Book Sale Volunteer Registration Form

Use this form to sign up for shifts during the book sale from May 28-June 1 OR use the [online form](#).

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| Wed, May 28 | <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 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 |
| Fri, 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 |
| Sat, 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 |
| Sun, June 1 | <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 2 June 3

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

or email the information to: booksale@aauwbuffalo.org.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

- ◇ Wednesday, March 5, 6:30pm, Board Meeting, Ebenezer United Church of Christ in West Seneca
- ◇ Saturday, March 29, 10:30am, Branch Program, Clarence Public Library

APRIL

- ◇ Wednesday, April 2, 6:30pm, Board Meeting, Christ United Methodist Church in Snyder
- ◇ Saturday, April 26— Branch Program: "The Woman They Could Not Silence"

Saturday, May 17—Annual Meeting at the Buffalo Launch Club

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

Thurs, 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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University Women
Buffalo Branch Inc
PO BOX 894
Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

