

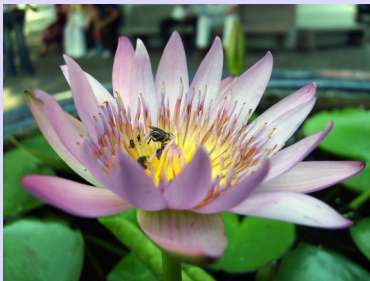
ADVOCATE

Together Making a Difference!
APRIL 2025



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MAY
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

“The Woman They Could Not Silence”

Presented by Carol Ann Sackett

Ilio DiPaolo’s Restaurant, 3785 South Park Ave in Blasdell

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Registration/Networking at 11:30, followed by lunch & the program

Learn about the powerful and untold true story of resilience, advocacy, and the fight for women's rights in *The Woman They Could Not Silence*” by acclaimed author Kate Moore. This gripping and meticulously researched narrative shines a light on the remarkable journey of Elizabeth Packard, a pioneering woman whose indomitable spirit challenged the confines of her time. In the mid-19th century, Elizabeth Packard found herself trapped in an unjust world, silenced by a society that deemed her opinions and intellect unworthy. Braving the confines of an oppressive mental asylum, Elizabeth defied all odds as she fought for her freedom and the rights of countless other women confined against their will.

Family-Style Lunch: Start with garden salad, warm Italian rolls and penne pasta. That will be followed by oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables and beef roulades. Spumoni for dessert, along with coffee or tea. Cost \$30.00 per person

Register for the meeting:

Click [HERE](#)

OR fill out the form below and send it with a check for \$30/person made out to AAUW Buffalo Branch to: AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo NY 14225-0894.

Deadline: April 16

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Names of Guests: _____

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

THE BUFFALO BRANCH

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.

April Vol. CXXXIII, No. 8
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Membership Recruitment VP:
Diane O'Brien,
recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker
mlcrock@msn.com

WATCH FOR YOUR BALLOT!

All current branch members will receive either an email or snail-mail ballot mid April from "Election Buddy". This will be your opportunity to elect several of our branch officers for the coming biennium.

The nominees, presented by our nominating committee, are:

President—Pat Miceli

VP, Programs—Lilyen Mascellino

VP, Membership Retention—Andy Smith

Operations Treasurer—Mary Crocker

Chamberlin/Funds for Education Treasurer—Kate Collins

Please watch for these and respond promptly!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Lilyen Mascellino

"What you do makes a difference, & you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."
~Jane Goodall

Hello Everyone!

The sunny days of spring are a welcome sight for this busy & exciting time of year for our branch, as it's when we are wrapping up the fiscal year's business, getting ready to count your votes for the election of branch officers, finalizing our annual Scholarship Book Sale details & prepping for the Scholarship Celebration. We are also planning the end of year Annual Business Luncheon while also looking ahead to next year's needs!

Spring is also a time for rejuvenation, growth & renewal. If you're not currently working on one of our committees, I invite you to join one! Sharing your expertise can provide value to what we accomplish each year, as well as it being a way for you to meet new people while supporting our sustainability.

So, take a close look at this issue of the Advocate. You will find that there are opportunities for you to be included in the action this spring! Here are the highlights:

April 26th: Program with speaker Carol Ann Sackett.

May 17th: Annual Business Luncheon at the Buffalo Launch Club. We will be honoring our Achievement Award Winner Senator April Baskin. We will also be installing our new officers. You will want to be there!

May 28 - June 1: Our 69th Annual Scholarship Book Sale. Last year you helped make the sale a success & we need your help again! Volunteers have been working since the fall sorting donations & there is still a lot to do. Please consider volunteering. There are opportunities for all skill levels.

June 12: Scholarship Celebration at Sean Patrick's.

Details about each of these events can be found on our Website, in the Advocate & on FaceBook.

Teamwork is the key to making each of our *spring events successful!*

WE NEED YOU!

The Public Relations Team is looking for new members. We need people with good ideas and 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.

APRIL 2025 INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., April 16 at 5:30 pm
Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
We will be selecting books to be discussed for the following year. Members are encouraged to bring up to three recommendations; preferably books that they have read.
RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461
or tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., April 23 at noon
Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
Time to select books for next year—bring your suggestions!
RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303
or bplibby1@verizon.net

HAPPY WANDERERS

We'll meet again after the Book Sale! Send suggestions to Judy Huber, 716-529-9881
or judyhuber62@yahoo.com

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY

When: Thurs., March 27 AND Wed, April 30 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 February discussion on page 5

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOOK CLUB

When: Sat., April 12 at 11am.
Where: Audubon Library, 350 John James Audubon Pkwy. Zoom option available!
Book to be discussed:
Mindset: The Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck.
This selection is recommended reading in "No Ceiling, No Walls" under Personal Greatness.
NOTE: "It is also available on audiobook
Contact Casey Schultz @ schultzcd24@gmail.com or 863.944.9915 cell if you plan to attend either in person or via Zoom.
NOTE: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Keola Tweedy has had to resign as the Chair. Please contact her at worldtribednm@gmail.com or cell 602-653-9509 if you are interested in this leadership opportunity.

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

DID THE REPUBLICANS VOTE FOR THIS CHAOS?

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

We seem to have the guidelines of Project 2025 on steroids. It's a disgrace, say some of the voters. CEOs and lobbyists are raising concerns regarding the lack of a plan on tariffs and trade wars. Many Americans are feeling the pain of rising unemployment and increasing living costs. Our economic recovery was the envy of the world. Now we seem to face a manufactured recession caused by the disrupter's policies. Congress could vote to end President Trump's tariff power but they gave up their power to do so, leaving Americans to bear the brunt of the fallout. The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is tasked with releasing data on job losses resulting from its search for waste and inefficiency. The president is reshaping reality by hiding data and truth. Meanwhile, federal workers are protesting job cuts and an end to foreign aid programs. People are demanding town meetings with legislators. While Democrats have struggled to organize an effective response, Senator Bernie Sanders has managed to draw large crowds. Democratic Senator and former combat pilot Mark Kelly has found himself at odds with billionaire Elon Musk who called him a traitor after Kelly's Ukraine trip and insistence that Ukraine deserves to have dignity and its land returned.

There is a level of crisis in the country and in the oval office. On February 28, it was coupled with a theatrical performance of strength. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as a principled leader trying to save his country, was ambushed in a meeting with President Trump and Vice President J. D. Vance. It is a shame that ruthless people can be shameless. Vance is not a diplomat and Zelenskyy proved that he may be many times the man that Vance is not. Some experts say Trump is selling out to Putin. His negotiating strategy appears to favor Putin. Are we more likely to defend or to abandon Ukraine?

Listening to President Trump, one could conclude that the U.S. is closer to Russia than it is to its NATO allies. Despite Russia's economy being about 1/20 the size of that of the NATO allies, nations like Poland, Estonia and others can no longer rely on American leadership. President Trump appears to behave like a gangster style leader. Canada's accusations of bullying only add to the concerns. Furthermore, Trump's lawsuits with media such as CBS and ABC and his restrictions on other media raise questions about whether his need for loyalty as the #1 reason for choosing some of his cabinet members will extend to censorship of the news. He appears to fire those who put a restraint on his power. He is retaliating against law firms that include lawyers he

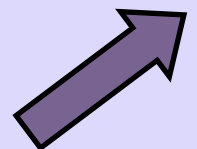
dislikes because they worked against him. Where is the loyalty to democracy? Authoritarianism is first. We may be seeing the last days of NATO because they can't trust U.S. as a partner under current leadership. NATO is convening without the United States.

In the short time since President Trump took the oath of office he's issued over 87 executive orders and numerous executive memos and proclamations that roll back the rights of Americans and violate the constitutional authority of Congress. The Administration has ignored constitutional protections and laws passed by Congress by seeking to end birthright citizenship, dismantling federal agencies and freezing federal funding.

Checks, balances, and the rule of law are fundamental to our democracy, yet Congress has failed to act in response to the Administration's illegal power grabs. A constitutional crisis is unfolding, and Congress' inaction signals its approval of the violation of laws and the Constitution, as well as the Administration's seizure of congressional power. Article I of the Constitution grants Congress all legislative powers and the authority to approve spending in the federal budget. The Democratic playbook for Trump's second term is unclear. Editor of the New Republic Michael Tomasky suggests a more creative mocking of Trump would be effective. Journalist David Weigel suggests that an anti-Trump resistance has come of age. The legal strategy is working. "Democratic attorneys general and the Democracy Forward Coalition of liberal lawyers have been winning in court and throwing up hurdles to the Musk/Trump agenda. Skeptical judges have kept federal workers in their jobs, unfrozen billions of dollars in grants, and preserved birthright citizenship; Democracy's own network of partner organizations has grown from around 180 after the election to more than 400 now." Courts have put stops on Trump. "A failure to act means that Congress is enabling the actions of the executive branch, threatening the rule of law and our Constitution. Every day, congressional inaction jeopardizes our system of checks and balances, our liberties as Americans, and our democracy in its entirety," says Marianne Kligman, community contributor and member of the League of Women Voters of Monmouth County.

It is time for Congress to stand up for the constitution and their constituents.

Continued top of page 5



DID THE REPUBLICANS VOTE FOR THIS CHAOS? (CONT)

It is time for Congress to resist this power grab and stand in the power that the U.S. Constitution gives them. *Demonstrators have gathered in cities across the U.S.* to protest the Trump administration's early actions. At town halls, Republicans feel the heat from President Trump and Elon Musk's firing and cutting spree. Tesla faces stock market losses and protesters vandalize Tesla cars as backlash to Elon Musk's use of a chainsaw approach to looking for waste and abuse in federal agencies. Educators confirm mounting censorship and government pressure. Elon Musk highlighted the cost of federal spending on entitlement programs, the latest sign of the tech billionaire and presidential adviser's focus to downsize the federal government amid fears of cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Trump says, "We're bringing wealth back to America."

Writing in *The Conversation*, Dr. Thomas Gift of University College London examined the risks associated with Elon Musk's plan to shrink the government and slash federal spending. "The picture of Musk gleefully slicing government jobs could be less a symbol of efficiency, more a symbol of Trump-era hubris," he concluded.

PUBLIC POLICY FEBRUARY 26 DISCUSSION REVIEW

10 Participants:

Discussion of 8 articles submitted by group members (again lively discussion left little time for a You Tube presentation by Professor Richard Wolfe, so it will be discussed at next meeting on ***Thursday, March 27** at 1 p.m. at same location).

After significant discussion, we concluded that we are witnessing the rapid start of the dismantling of our democracy without the scrutiny of experts, leading to sacrificing critical life-saving programs and workers. These activities are dangerous for our country, our relationships with other countries, and the livelihoods of Americans.

Problems Identified:

Many Americans do not understand the Constitution or the three branches of government and their functions. Our education needs to teach these core beliefs relating them to today's current events.

We are alarmed by the incompetent, erratic behavior of shadow president Elon Musk and his unqualified group of young men looking for better, faster and cheaper government by identifying fraud and abuse with no plan or evidence.

President Trump identifies with autocrats while aspiring to have power like them.

We need to protect our media to have them aggressively determine what's happening. Unfortunately, oligarchs own some of the news sources. The journalists at the Washington Post are in revolt and Zuckerberg has rejected fact-checking. We are the victims surrounded by misinformation, disinformation and continuous lies from our leaders.

We don't know how long it will take for Trump voters to experience "buyer remorse" if inflation and the cost of eggs and coffee increase.

Potential Actions:

We need to talk to our elected representatives to share our concerns with real stories about their constituents. It is recommended that you write out your statement to be sure that you have addressed all your concerns effectively before contacting the members of Congress.

We must learn to SPEAK OUT effectively. How we achieve this may require some guidance by experts. This could come from academics, debaters, programs, panels etc. How do you make truth more appealing than bizarre lies?

Gather well-researched compelling stories of Americans hurt by the actions over the last 5-6 weeks. Research the conflicts of interest of Musk. We know Trump had 3400 conflicts of interest in his first term using tax-payer funds as he maintained a blur between his business and his presidency. One source says Elon and his businesses have received at least \$38 billion in government contracts, loans, subsidies, and tax credits – *making him one of the greatest beneficiaries of taxpayer money!*

IT COSTS MONEY TO RUN A BOOK SALE!

HELP SPONSOR OUR SALE!

We are pleased to offer the opportunity for members and friends to help Sponsor the Book Sale by making a donation to the AAUW Buffalo Branch. Making it relevant to the Book Sale, we have created the following donation categories. Names of sponsors will be recognized by category on a poster at the Book Sale and on our website. This will help to defray our costs – storage, rent, utilities, table rentals, moving (books from collection site to the sale site), and some paid assistance.

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.

MEET OUR SPEAKER!



Carol Ann Sackett

- * Born & raised in Buffalo, currently living in Clarence
- * Married to Robert B Sackett
- * MS in Education from Buff State College
- * MS in English Education from UB
- * Taught Literature and Writing at Niagara Community College, Erie Community College and Niagara University
- * Our lives are devoted to three grandchildren
- * I am a collage artist along with doing book reviews in my spare time which has been minimal since our decision to move from our home into a condo this spring.

THE BOOKSALE NEEDS YOU!

COME ONE! COME ALL!

IT'S TIME FOR THE ...ANNUAL BOOK SALE!

New members, continuing members and friends of AAUW - you are needed! This book sale is our only and extremely successful fund raiser.

Our massive quantity of books is being sorted and boxed into specific categories. From romance to sci-fi, we cover it all.

How can you help? While our mover's trucks haul these book cartons from the sorting site to the sale site, we need a squadron of people there to put boxed books in the designated table area. On April 15 we will move into our sale site, 425 Essjay Road in Williamsville.

The sale starts to come alive when you and people around you laugh, sip coffee and help pull the chaos into a 'retail ready' book sale. There is a job for everyone.

So come one and come all! We are thrilled to have you bring our amazing sale together and help our excited customers as they find just the right book!

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

- ◇ Saturday, March 29, 10:30am, Branch Program, on the Kensington Expressway Project, 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" at Ilio DiPaolo's at 11:30. See Page 1

MAY-JUNE

- ◇ Saturday, May 17—Annual Meeting at the Buffalo Launch Club
- ◇ Wed-Sun, May 28 - June 1— 69th BOOK SALE 425 Essjay, Williamsville
- ◇ Thurs, June 12—Scholarship Celebration at Sean Patrick's, 3480 Millersport Hwy, Getzville, NY 14068 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

American Association of
University Women
Buffalo Branch Inc
PO BOX 894
Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

