



ADVOCATE

Together Making a Difference!
MAY 2025



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JUNE
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)

AAUW-BUFFALO ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Buffalo Launch Club, 503 East River Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

Check-in and networking at 11:30 with lunch at noon followed by an address by our Achievement Award winner **April Baskin** and the installation of our new officers.

Buffet lunch includes Dinner Rolls & Butter, Mixed Green Salad, choice of two entrees: Chicken Francese or Sliced Roast Beef au Jus, Roasted Red Potatoes, Seasonal Mixed Vegetable, Cookies & Brownies, Beverage.

We are delighted to present our 2025 Achievement Award Winner April Baskin (see more on page 6!)

We are also privileged to have Carol Griffith with us to install our newly elected branch officers. Carol is our immediate past AAUW-NYS president as well as our current AAUW-NYS Public Policy Vice President.

Please register by May 10. There are two options:

- Complete the form below and send it with a check for \$35 per person to: AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225 **OR**
- Click on the link to use the form on our website:
[May Registration - AAUW Buffalo Branch](#)

2025 Buffalo AAUW Annual Meeting

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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PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Lilyen Mascellino

Hello Members!

Have you marked your calendars yet?! May & June are busy months for our Branch, starting with the countdown to our 69th annual Scholarship Book Sale! Opening day is on May 28th which is fast approaching. There's something for everyone to do, so click **HERE** to volunteer or visit our website. The community is already buzzing with anticipation, so we are expecting this year's sale to be an unprecedented success! It's everyone's dedication to the sale that has turned it into a local social event & allows us to continue awarding Scholarships to qualifying students annually. So if you haven't already done so...mark your calendars for May 28th - June 1st! I'll see you there!

AAUW Buffalo Branch 69th Scholarship Book Sale

May 28th - June 1st

425 Essjay Road

Williamsville, NY 14221

It's also time to register for our annual May Luncheon where our newly elected Buffalo Branch Officers will be installed by Carol Griffith. Please join us at this event as a sign of support for these members. Also, we're thrilled to announce that Senator April N.M. Baskin will be in attendance, as she is this year's recipient of our Achievement Award! The Senator is a native of Buffalo & currently serves the 63rd District in a historic appointment as the first Black woman to represent Buffalo, Cheektowaga & Lackawanna.

You will want to be there, so register early & bring a friend! Look for details here in the Advocate.

AAUW Buffalo Branch Annual Meeting

May 17th at 11:30

Buffalo Launch Club

503 East River Road, Grand Island 14072



REVIEW OUR SCHOLARSHIPS!

Scholarship Review Committee

On Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 11:00 a committee will meet to review the AAUW Buffalo Branch scholarships. The areas to be reviewed include scholarship offerings, applications, and suggested revisions. This is an advisory committee which reports to the AAUW Branch Board. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Pat Miceli 716-626-0234 Home, 716-880-0042 Cell, pwmiceli@gmail.com.

The meeting will be held at Pat Miceli's home, 330 Sagewood Terrace, Williamsville, NY 14221

MAY 2025 INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., May 21 at 5:30 pm

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: "Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride

Facilitator: **Leona Barback:**

Discussion Leader: Marilyn Carmichael

RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461

or tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., May 28 at noon

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: The Perfect Couple by Enid Hilderbard

RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303

or bpilbby1@verizon.net

HAPPY WANDERERS

I welcome any suggestions for July or August.

Judy Huber, 716-529-9881 or judyhuber62@yahoo.com

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY

When: Wed. or Thurs. May 28 or May 29 at 1 pm. Call

Marian Deutschman. at 716-634-2412 to verify.

Please send articles of interest to Marian

(mardue15@verizon.net) and she will forward to the other interested participants.

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.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, April 24 at 1 pm at Dash's on Hertel Avenue.

THE PR TEAM NEEDS 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.



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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**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
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Kathleen SantaMaria

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR
Melissa White

TRUMP IS RESHAPING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND MORE

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

There are limits on executive, legislative and judicial power. The Framers of our Constitution structured the *government* in this way to prevent one *branch of government* from becoming too powerful. No branch of government should be more powerful than the others. The ability of each branch to respond to the actions of the other branches is the system of checks and balances.

Each branch of government (executive, legislative, judicial) can change acts of the other branches:

- The president can veto legislation created by Congress. He or she also nominates heads of federal agencies and high court appointees.

- Congress confirms or rejects the president's nominees. It can also remove the president from office in exceptional circumstances.

- The Justices of the Supreme Court, nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, can overturn unconstitutional laws.

President Donald J. Trump has an expansive view of presidential authority and is claiming sweeping powers over the executive branch as well as independent federal agencies such as the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) and NLRB (National Labor Relations Board). The President illegally fired the NLRB chair. A federal judge ordered that she be restored and be allowed to fulfill her duties. He also illegally fired two independent commissioners at the FTC who fight big corporations that abuse consumers and workers.

Faisal Islam, economics editor at the BBC, predicted that President Trump will reshape the world economy "by launching the equivalent of a salvo of ballistic missiles into the global trading system, with a universal tariff on all imports into the USA." Tariffs are taxes charged on goods imported from other countries. Tariffs have three goals, according to an interview with three academic experts in a University of Chicago publication, "The first is that tariffs raise funds for the U.S. government. Second, because tariffs only apply to imports, they can be used to redistribute money from consumers towards domestic producers. Third, tariffs can affect the global market, strategically shifting global prices or as a sanction against foreign exporting firms or exporting countries." The President introduced his "discounted reciprocal tariffs" over 200 countries on April 2, a day he called Liberation Day, his "day of economic independence." There were warnings that prices would rise for U.S. consumers and that the move could harm the world economy. Trump says tariffs will encourage U.S. consumers to buy more American-made goods, increase the amount of tax raised, and he believes this will lead to huge levels of investment in our country. It has been a wild ride for businesses and markets, starting with President

Trump's announcement of sweeping tariffs and ending with an abrupt pause on most of them.

Typically tariffs are a percentage of a product's value. Economists question how tariffs were calculated by Trump and his advisors. The math may be simple for some readers: take the U.S. goods trade deficit with a country, divide it by that country's exports to the U.S. and turn it into a percentage figure; then cut that figure in half to produce the U.S. "reciprocal" tariff, with a floor of 10%. Carlei Procell in *USA Today* said, "Most countries receive a base tariff rate of 10%, but for countries receiving more, the rates were calculated by halving a rate the president displayed on a chart as 'tariffs charged to the U.S.A. including currency manipulation and trade barriers.'" Many nations face much higher tariffs, starting on April 9. These tariffs include 49% on Cambodian products, 46% on Vietnamese imports and an extra 34% on those from China (in addition to 20% tariffs previously announced). Goods from the European Union will be taxed at 20%. After the tariff announcement, the stock market went into a whirlwind rollercoaster ride. Retaliation and backlash from other countries was predicted and expected. Throughout the U.S. thousands of citizens have been protesting the actions of the Trump administration.

Mark John of Reuters provided a summary of the tariff calculations that includes the following: 1- Formula imposes some of the highest tariffs on poorest nations, 2- Tariff calculation for the European Union is branded 'colossal inaccuracy' and 3 - Formula raises questions over how negotiations can commence. There was also a portion of the Reuters report that ridiculed the imposition of trade tariffs on frozen islands largely inhabited by penguins.

Other U.S. presidents, such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, have had an aggressive legislative agenda and frequently used executive orders to expand the *power* of the presidency. He was elected to his third term in 1940 and his fourth term in 1944. Some would rank FDR as one of our greatest presidents.

Trump is turning 79 in June and is currently talking about a third term as president. He may or may not be serious. George Washington voluntarily stepped down after eight years. After FDR was elected to his fourth term, Congress passed the 22nd amendment declaring that "no person shall be elected to the office of president more than twice." This measure was ratified by the states in 1951. An amendment requires two-thirds vote of each house of Congress and ratification by three-quarters of the states. Are we ready for more consolidation of executive power? Jeremy Paul, a constitutional law professor at Boston's Northeastern University, said "there are no credible legal arguments for him to run for a third term."



PUBLIC RELATIONS NEWS

The Buffalo Branch has recently joined the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. Why? The Public Relations Team determined that membership in the chamber (which serves all of western NY as we do) was a good partnership in which they could help us promote our events, activities, programs, membership, scholarships and book sale, and we can participate in their events. The way it works, we join as an organization and ALL of our members, including you, can attend events. As there are about 10,000 people represented by their 1,000 members, it is a good way to increase our visibility.

When we met with chamber staff, we found out that even though their office is a stone's throw away from our book sale site on Essjay Rd., they did not know about it. And we did not know they already have a professional women's group called LIFT, and a professional book group that engages up-and-coming women. The chamber staff and members have been very welcoming and have already given us good ideas.

We have added book donations and the book sale to their calendar of events, and they have graciously added information about our scholarships and professional book group in their newsletter.

PR Chair Pat Miceli got us started, and Mary Bashore will continue as our liaison going forward. Frankly, they have too many activities for us to go to everything. To date, we have attended two networking events and an informative annual meeting. We are hoping to reach some people who would be willing to volunteer for book sale setup and/or sale, as well as book donors and patrons and new members. Feel free to check out the Amherst Chamber of Commerce website www.amherst.org. And as always, we welcome ideas and additions to the PR Team.



PUBLIC POLICY MARCH 27 DISCUSSION REVIEW

11 Participants: Discussion of You Tube presentation by Professor Richard Wolff and 7 articles submitted by members of discussion group.

Problems Identified: Professor Wolff calls this a weird time of a declining empire and a split country. He says that we are in denial of the change. The United States is in debt while the working class is squeezed by inflation. Japan and China are the two biggest creditor nations.

He acknowledges that his message may not be welcomed but it is his opinion, and he is convinced that it is true. We concluded that fear of the unknown is being used to advantage. Tariffs are imposed even though economists issued warnings of retaliation by other countries. Citizens need to know our history and how it applies to today's problems.

Trump's Mafia style of governing (different from autocratic) has critical flaws that may take it down. The flaws are incompetence and corruption. The style is replacing bureaucracy with its personal ties. To the president, qualifications are less important than loyalty. Patrimonialism rules, as if the country is our leader's personal property or family business. It is not clear that Chief Justice Roberts will be a reliable check on the President's lawlessness.

Two articles were on Russia's economy which is claimed to be on the brink of collapse. Some sources say Russia is losing a billion dollars a month. Russia has also suffered a brain drain after the attack on Ukraine, and so has the Ukraine. Sanctions may or may not be as effective as expected. We know the Russian war machine is draining the country's resources faster than expected but some of us were not convinced that they were near economic collapse so we need to do more research.

Potential Actions: This is a good time for us to act. It's up to us. Make demands. Form coalitions. The old cold war mentality is dead. Our speech should aim to be sincere, critical, courageous, and well researched to determine its truth because so many messages carry deliberate disinformation. Messages can become contagious, yet some people stick to their beliefs. At this time, we need leadership to foster scientific integrity. Maryland Congressman Jamie Raskin was mentioned as an admirable leader. We have reviewed several articles on the steps to make protests more effective. We need to be alert to the strategic use of antisemitism. One of our members alerted us to the potential for genocide and civil war. April 5 in downtown Buffalo is the local protest date. Don't be afraid to discuss your views at any time. Put a candle in your window. We hope you found the time to be there in the morning on April 5.

THE CHALLENGE

On Saturday, March 29 AAUW had a program with two excellent speakers from the East Side Parkways Coalition to familiarize us with the status of the Kensington Expressway tunnel project. Earlier this year, a State Supreme Court Justice had put the project on hold until an environmental study is completed.

Alan Bozer, Esq. lead counsel at Phillips Lytle said, "This decision was anticipated and we agree that it is the correct one. Respondents are permanently enjoined from proceeding with the project until it has complied with SEQRA.

The New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) process is a multi-step process that requires government agencies to consider the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of projects they approve, fund, or undertake, ensuring environmental protection and balanced decision-making.

The two members of the East Side Parkways Coalition gave us the background and the prospects for resolution. Brad Wales is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the UB Department of Architecture. He has been a practicing architect for 40 years in Boston, NYC and Buffalo. He is co-founder of the East Side Parkways Coalition. Terry Robinson is a lifelong resident of the Humboldt Parkway neighborhood. He and his wife have lived in an 1895 house directly on the Parkway for the last 38 years. Much longer bios were published in the March AAUW newsletter. The two speakers asked for us to support them by completing the [form on their website](#). We would like your feedback before we do so. As you can see on the form, the group supports the complete removal of the Kensington Rt. 33 and Scajaquada Rt. 198 and the full restoration of the historic Humboldt Parkway connecting Delaware Park and Martin Luther Park. It also asks the Buffalo Common Council to pass a resolution supporting their vision.

Please look through their website, then send your thoughts/comments to "parkways@aauwbuffalo.org".



MEET OUR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER!



Senator April N.M. Baskin proudly represents the 63rd Senate District in a historic appointment as the first woman and Black woman to represent Buffalo, Cheektowaga, and Lackawanna. A native Buffalonian and dedicated public servant, Senator Baskin has built her career on advancing economic equity, affordable housing, and systemic justice for underserved communities. Her experience as Chairwoman of the Erie County Legislature and her record of transformative achievements uniquely position her to deliver meaningful results for the residents of her district and across New York State.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Senator Baskin is a graduate of Buffalo Public Schools and earned her degree from Empire State College. She began her public service career in 2017 when she was elected to the Erie County Legislature. Upon being sworn into office in 2018, she was elected Majority Leader by her peers. In 2019, she made history as the youngest legislator and the first freshman ever to serve as Chairwoman of the Erie County Legislature, a position she held throughout her tenure.

During her time in the Legislature, she championed policies to address racial and economic inequities, strengthen infrastructure, and empower small businesses. As a Senator, she continues to fight for lasting opportunities and systemic reforms that uplift the residents of Buffalo, Cheektowaga, and Lackawanna.

Senator Baskin, a mother of two school-aged children, is committed to improving the lives of residents in the 63rd District. Her priorities include expanding affordable housing, creating economic opportunities, improving public safety through criminal justice reform, addressing health disparities, and supporting public art and culture. She brings a bold, results-driven approach to the New York State Senate, ensuring that the voices of her constituents are heard, and their needs are met.

THE BOOKSALE NEEDS YOU!

IT'S COUNT-DOWN TIME!

As I was comfortably at home today working on this newsletter issue, I received a message from Mary Ann Crapol, one of our seemingly tireless Book Sale Committee members—"Anderson is Empty. Essjay is not". Meaning - all the boxes of sorted books, puzzles, and media plus the working tables have been moved from our winter collection location to our sale site!!! The tables have been placed and on Monday all the sorted material will be moved to the appropriate sections. A very few people this week have accomplished MUCH!

Starting April 22 we'll be open for more work at the site. The table chairs will be setting up their sections, sorters will be dealing with more donations, volunteers will move the newly sorted piles to those sections, people will be bringing snacks, donors will need help bringing in donations, boxes will need to be moved.

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.** Our working hours April 22 through May 14 are Tues 10am-8pm, Wed 10am-5pm, Thurs & Fri 1-5pm, and Sat 10am-noon. Just stop by and spend an hour or two with us!

Then, of course, comes the sale itself and we need ALL HANDS ON DECK!!! Please either use the form below to sign up for a shift (or two, or three, or ...) or use the form on our website, found on the booksale page.



PLEASE 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

APRIL

- ◇ Saturday, April 26— Branch Program: "The Woman They Could Not Silence" at Ilio DiPaolo's at 11:30.

MAY-JUNE

- ◇ Wednesday, May 7, 6:30pm, Board Meeting, Ebenezer United Church of Christ in West Seneca
- ◇ Saturday, May 17—Annual Meeting at the Buffalo Launch Club. See Page 1
- ◇ Wed-Sun, May 28 - June 1— 69th BOOK SALE 425 Essjay, Williams-ville
- ◇ Thurs, June 12—Scholarship Celebration, Sean Patrick's in Getsville

Please note: All events are possibly subject to change or cancellation.

Guests always welcome!

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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Buffalo Branch Inc
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Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

