



Advocate

Together Making a Difference...

SEPTEMBER 2025



Thanks to our MANY wonderful volunteers, the 2025 sale was again a record-breaker, both in attendance and in dollars for **SCHOLARSHIPS!** We did not increase either admission fees or book prices, so those results were due to advertising and the great customer service at the sale!

We're getting set up to start on the 2026 sale – **our 70th!!!** We'll be collecting and sorting at the same location as last year – 37 Anderson Road. There's a map on our website for those of you who haven't visited us! The collection hours will also be the same as last year – Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9-1 plus 10am-noon the first Saturday of each month.

We'll be open STARTING TUESDAY, September 23!

**Come join us to help – we'll show you the ropes and you'll meet new members and friend!
Hope to see you in September!**

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OCTOBER

ADVOCATE

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

newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org



Time to be thinking BOOK SALE again!

Welcome Back Dinner

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Chef's Restaurant

291 Seneca Street, Buffalo, New York 14204



Please join us for our annual fall dinner where we will welcome new members, greet old friends & celebrate our **135th year!**

Schedule of Events:

- 5:00 pm Registration & Mixer Activities that you won't want to miss!
"Welcome Back" Gift for members in attendance & PRIZES for the Mixer Activity!
- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 6:15 pm Speaker:
Tales from a Female Pioneer in the TV Trenches with Award Winning Anchor & Reporter Jacquie Walker!



JACQUIE WALKER

Dinner includes choice of Entree, Soup, Bread, Coffee/Tea, & a Cannoli.

RSVP by September 10th

Mail the form below with a check made out to AAUW Buffalo Branch in the amount of \$30.00 per person to: AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225

or

Click [HERE](https://aauwbuffalo.org/september-registration/) (https://aauwbuffalo.org/september-registration/) to register online

September's Welcome Back Dinner

Name(s): _____

Select one of the following entrees for each person attending:

- Spaghetti Parm with meat sauce
- Spaghetti Parm with meatless sauce
- Roasted Chicken with Italian spices, roasted potatoes & green beans

Allergy Alert: _____

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.

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President: Pat Miceli
Publisher/Editor: Karen May
Assistant Editors: Betty Preble
Judy Weidemann

For prospective or new member questions, please contact:
Membership Recruitment VP: Diane O'Brien
recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:
Mary Crocker
375 Parkhurst Blvd.
Buffalo, NY 14223
mlcrock@msn.com

Don't Forget!



Renew your Membership!

Attention all members. The 2025-26 roster will be prepared by the end of August. If your membership is not up to date, please renew now – we want to include your information and make sure you receive a copy. We appreciate *all* our members. Please contact VP for Membership Alexandra Smith if you have any questions. Thank you!

Alexandra Smith,
Membership Retention VP
renewal@aauwbuffalo.org



“There is no limit to what we, as women can accomplish.”

~Michelle Obama

Welcome back, hopefully you had a wonderful fulfilling summer. July started my first year as the AAUW Buffalo Branch President, a role I am eager to fulfill. Above, I quoted the words of Michelle Obama “There is no limit to what we, as women can accomplish.” These words, I believe, characterize the continued potential of our Buffalo Branch. In furtherance of this thought, the following is a brief overview; we’ve been busy.

- ❖ The Book Sale Committee which had a record success from the 69th Annual Scholarship Book Sale is busy planning the 70th Scholarship Book Sale.
- ❖ Starting with the Welcome Back Dinner on 9/16/25 at Chef’s Restaurant, the Program Committee, chaired by Lilyen Mascellio, has compiled an agenda of exciting programs for your interest and enjoyment.
- ❖ For the first time in several years, our branch has an Historian, member David Plache. With Dave’s assistance, branch materials were collected and archived at the UB library.
- ❖ Melissa White, Scholarship Chair and the Scholarship Committee have been reviewing current scholarships to refine and to provide additional scholarship opportunities for eligible applicants.
- ❖ The PR committee will be chaired by two new co-chairs, Mary Bashore and Casey Schultz. The PR committee will continue to showcase our Branch throughout the year.
- ❖ Susan McClary, DEI (Diversity/Equity/Inclusion) will join the AAUW Buffalo Board as an appointed director.

In order for the Buffalo Branch to be successful, we need you, the individual member to be an ambassador for our Branch. Attend Branch programs. Volunteer for book sorting and or work at the book sale. Talk to your friends about AAUW, invite them to attend an event and or to join our Branch. Reach out to our members and make a new friend.

Remember, “There is no limit to what we, as women can accomplish.”

I look forward to working with you this year.

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., September 17 at 5:30 pm
Where: Family Tree Restaurant
4346 Bailey Avenue
Book: *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick
Facilitator: Sue Licata
Discussion Leader: Mary Crocker
RSVP: Judy Malamas 716-632-0461
Email: tsagewood@aol.com

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

When: Friday, October 3 at 11:30am
Where: Buffalo City Hall – Free tour with a docent.
Includes the Observation Deck!
Lunch: West Side Bazaar, 1432 Niagara St., Buffalo
Carpooling Suggested – Judy will arrange
Guest Welcome!
Contact Judy Huber 716-529-9881 or
judyhuber62@yahoo.com

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Thursday, August 28th at 2:00 pm
Where: Dash's, 1770 Hertel Avenue – 2nd floor
Discussion: Current Public Policy
R.S.V.P. Marian Deutschman 716-634-2412 or
mardeu15@verizon.net

Please call or email Marian to let her know you will be attending.



CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Thursday, September 25 at noon
Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.
Book: *A Refiner's Fire* by Donna Leon
Discussion Leader: Geriann Ronsen
RSVP: Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303
or bplibby1@verizon.net

PRESIDENT
Pat Miceli

VP PROGRAM
Lilyen Mascellino

VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT
Diane O'Brien

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION
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**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
EDUCATION TREASURER**
Kathleen Collins

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR
Melissa White



Summary of July 24, 2025 Public Policy Discussion



10 Participants:

Some of the members of the discussion group have been participating in the protests. We reviewed possibilities for further engagement and decided to prepare a program to focus on WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE? We will schedule presentations near midterm elections. Details to be determined.

We began our discussion with two articles on citizenship and how it can be denied, stripped, reasons for removal, and made more difficult to access. Are there good reasons for revoking citizenship? How can civil litigation be used and misused? Does it protect the country from predators, criminals, terrorists?

We followed that discussion with the 10% increase in CEO income in 2024 resulting in a bigger pay gap between the average employee and the CEO who earns 1300 times the median pay of workers. It would take 192 years for a worker to earn what some CEOs earn in one year. It's no wonder that morale is down and turnover rates are up. Profits soared, positive performance of the stock market increased corporate profits, and stock awards were tied to achieving specific corporate targets.

We did not disagree with a United Nations expert who calls for criminalizing fossil fuel disinformation and banning lobbying and advertising that misleads the public. Why does transitioning to cheaper, healthier and safer sources of energy seem radical and untenable? The big profits of the oil, gas and coal industries are protected even though major countries are scheduled to fully phase out fossil fuels by 2030 under international law. The potentially catastrophic threats are evident, but states should educate citizens on the harm.

The attack on judicial independence in Maryland is concerning to us. The Department of Justice filed a suit against all active and senior status federal judges in the District of Maryland concerning handling of habeas corpus petitions related to immigration cases. The order placed temporary hold on deportations challenging their removal. Attorney General Bondi states that order represents judicial interference in executive prerogatives.

Fiona Hill, intelligence analyst and former presidential adviser on Russia, believes another World War is upon us. She also believes that Trump is worried about a nuclear war with Russia. She feels that Trump is trapped in a 1980s mindset in his foreign policy. Putin doesn't want a ceasefire in Ukraine. He wants a neutered Ukraine. Trump is surrounded by sycophants. No one pushes back on his outlandish ideas. Every country is massively vulnerable. Time for action was yesterday, says Fiona Hill.

Chris Hodges and Eunice Wong declare that the Palestinian genocide in Gaza is almost complete. When it is over, it will not only have decimated the Palestinians, but it will have exposed the moral bankruptcy of Western civilization as we view a starving, hopeless, destitute humanitarian explosion.

We ended with a return to a previous article by David Brooks and why he admires Trump even though he disagrees with 75% of this administration. Trump is driven by anger, desire for power, retribution, and lust for recognition. He keeps moving forward despite his failures and bankruptcies.

Justice, Revenge, Retribution – What’s the difference?

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

The American dictionary defines *justice* as “the quality of being just; righteousness, equitableness or moral rightness or lawfulness.” *Revenge*, on the other hand, is “the action of inflicting hurt or harm on someone for an injury or wrong suffered at their hands.” *Retribution* is sometimes defined as the act of taking revenge but others see it as impersonal, systematic and proportionate.

As children, many of us learned what it meant to "get even" with someone. That phrase refers “to retaliating or taking revenge on someone for a perceived wrong, often by doing something equally unpleasant in return. It's a way of attempting to restore a sense of balance or fairness. *Retaliation*, in this context, is the act of responding to a negative action with a similar negative one.

In the context of government, *justice* typically refers to the fairness, and impartial application of laws and the equitable distribution of benefits and burdens within society. It involves the idea that individuals should be treated with fairness and receive what they deserve - whether it be a reward or a consequence for their actions. *Justice* also involves the functioning of the legal system, including courts and law enforcement, as well as the protection of individual rights and freedoms.

In politics, *justice* often refers to fairness, impartiality, and equity in the application of laws and the distribution of resources and opportunities within society. *Justice* and fairness are frequently used interchangeably. The term suggests that individuals should be treated with respect and dignity, and that the political system should aim to create a just and equitable society for all. However, rhetoric of some political figures might blur the distinctions between *justice, revenge, and retribution*.

A current example, as highlighted by both traditional and AI-driven political analysis, is President Donald Trump. His public statements and actions, during his presidency, suggest a personal interpretation of "getting even" that often involves retribution and retaliation. Reports and analyses point to several key behaviors:

Using government power to target political opponents and critics: This includes launching or encouraging investigations and prosecutions against perceived enemies or political adversaries.

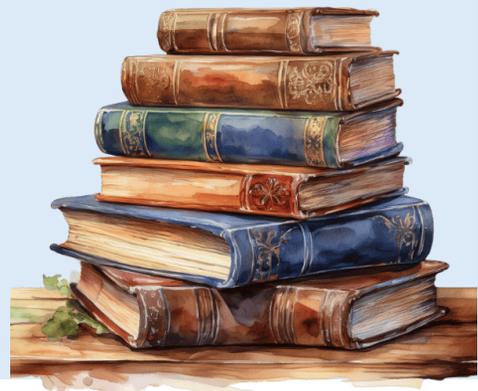
Employing the justice system for political purposes: Critics argue that Trump has sought to "weaponize" the federal government, particularly the Department of Justice, to pursue his political adversaries, potentially undermining fair elections and intimidating public officials.

Undermining institutions and norms: Actions like revoking security clearances from former officials who criticized him and attacking law firms involved in investigations related to his administration, reflect a strategy of disruption and punishment.

Promoting a rhetoric of revenge and retribution: Trump has frequently used inflammatory strong language, including such as "I am your retribution," to rally his supporters and signal a desire to punish those he believes have wronged him.

Targeting news organizations and journalists: His administration has engaged in what many describe as a sustained attack on media institutions, interpreted by critics as an attempt to delegitimize and retaliate against dissenting voices.

Continued next page...



Justice, Revenge, Retribution – What’s the difference?

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

Continued from previous page...

“10 times as hard” philosophy: A recurring theme in Trump’s approach is the notion that slights or wrongs should be met with disproportionate retaliation. One source puts it: "If they screw you, screw them back 10 times as hard".

These interpretations are drawn from various sources, including media reports, political analysis, and Trump’s own public statements. Some supporters often frame actions as efforts to hold people accountable or restore *justice* not merely *revenge*. However, many critics view them as reflecting a desire for *retribution* and a serious threat to democratic norms and institutions.

Ultimately, it is up to the citizens and voters to evaluate these actions through both ethical and legal lenses. Truth is the foundation of democracy. There is only one truth where power is consolidated in the executive, loyalty is demanded as a substitute for competence, and truth is reinforced through threats. Publicly naming and shaming people as targets for perceived injustice, revenge and retribution is NOT the foundation of a fair and functioning democracy.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Diana Deshaies

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Cheektowaga, NY 14227
716-946-1772
dianadeshaies@gmail.com
SUNY Buffalo, BA Psychology
ECC, Associate’s Nursing, Registered Nurse

Brian Langenfeld

247 Dan Troy
Amherst, NY 14221
716-207-2818
BDL3543@hotmail.com
St. John Fisher College, BS Political Science
SUNY Buffalo, Juris Doctorate
Attorney & Adjunct Professor

Taylor Marino

Univ. of Oklahoma, BA Env Sustainability
Univ. of Dayton Law School, Juris Doctorate
Administrative Law Judge

Dr. Daphne McNab

91 Nicholson Street
Buffalo, NY 14214
drdaphnemcnab@yahoo.com



Help Recruit the Next Generation of RIT Tigers!

When an alumnus refers a prospective student to RIT, the student is eligible for the [RIT Alumni Referral Award](#), a \$1,000 per year scholarship renewable for four years. Each alum can refer one undergraduate applicant per year for this award.

Please Contact Mary Bashore (mrybash@gmail.com) for details

SAVE THE DATE

2026 AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference

September 25–27, 2026
Lancaster County Convention Center
Lancaster, PA



Calling All - Renewals

As your new VP for Membership Retention, I wanted to inform you that there will be changes in how you receive your renewal information. **The renewals will now come via email unless you do not have an email on file.**

Please add my email address to your contacts so the email does not end up in the Spam folder.

aasmith12@yahoo.com

Here are the options for renewing your membership:

1. If you are comfortable renewing through the national system, you can follow the instructions on our branch website: <https://aauwbuffalo.org/about-us/membership-renewals/>.

Renewing online has several benefits:

- a) Pay by credit or debit card and no need to write a check.
 - b) Save yourself and AAUW Buffalo Branch an envelope and postage.
 - c) It will take effect immediately – no waiting for your check to clear.
 - d) Receive immediate confirmation/receipt via email.
2. If you prefer to renew the more traditional way, please send your renewal check (made out to AAUW Buffalo) to Mary Crocker, 375 Parkhurst Blvd, Buffalo, NY 14223. Feel free to include a donation to National, AAUW-NYS, or the Buffalo Branch. Please specify.
 3. If you prefer to have the “old fashioned” paper form, please send a request to renewal@aauwbuffalo.org. The same documents you have received in the past, will be emailed to you which you can print off, complete, and mail in with your check.



If you have questions, please email, text, or call me.

Andy Smith
AAUW Buffalo Branch VP for Membership Retention
aasmith12@yahoo.com or
renewal@aauwbuffalo.org
716-228-9540

Tech Savvy Committee Restore... Revive... Reimagine...

We are planning to host an in-person **Tech Savvy Conference** this branch year (spring, 2026). This will be the first in-person event since the pandemic, and one in the midst of a climate towards inclusion unlike we've seen in recent history. Therefore, our goal is to host a conference as wonderful and as impactful for girls and families as in the past. More, we want to do so in a way that is relevant for the current times.

Many of you know that planning is quite extensive. While we need help on the day of the conference, we can only move forward successfully with engagement on the committee.

If you would like to join the effort, please email Tamara at tbforaauw@cs.com (Subject line: Tech Savvy committee) for more information and meeting info.

Note to newer members – “Tech Savvy” is a one-day program for middle and high school girls to introduce them to the idea of “tech” (not just computers) as a career. Click [HERE](http://originaltechsavvy.org) (originaltechsavvy.org) to view the website.

NEW EDITOR...

We have a new newsletter editor - Karen May! Please send articles and information to her at "newsletter@aauwbuffalo.org". Note - please make "AAUW" the first item in the message header! Remember - the deadline each month is the 10th of the previous month, so info for the October issue is due a week before the September program!

2025-2026 BRANCH ROSTER...

We are in the process of putting together the branch 2025-2026 roster and expect to have it ready to distribute at the Sep 16 meeting. Make sure your membership is up-to-date so you'll be included **AND** will receive a copy! Any questions, contact "renewal@aauwbuffalo.org"

The 2024-2025 Book Sale was Awesome...

The 2025 Book Sale was incredibly successful. This was only possible due to the thousands of hours logged by our volunteers. What starts in September of the previous year and goes until moments before the doors open is nothing short of magical in how it all turns out. A lot of hard work resulted in an epic success!

We wish to thank all of those that volunteered and to all their family members that understood the many hours away from home!

Our **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** thanks you again for a Wonderful Year!



DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, Sep 3, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting, Ebenezer United Church of Christ (630 Main St, West Seneca)

Tuesday, Sep 16, 5:00 pm - Branch Program. See pg 2

Tuesday, Sept 23 – Book Sale Sorting. See pg 1

OCTOBER

Wednesday, Oct 1, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church (350 Saratoga Rd, Amherst)

LATER

May 27 – May 31, 2025 — 70th BOOK SALE Location TBD

Friday-Sunday, Sep 25-27, 2026 - AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference. See pg. 7

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