

Advocate

Together Making a Difference...

NOVEMBER 2025

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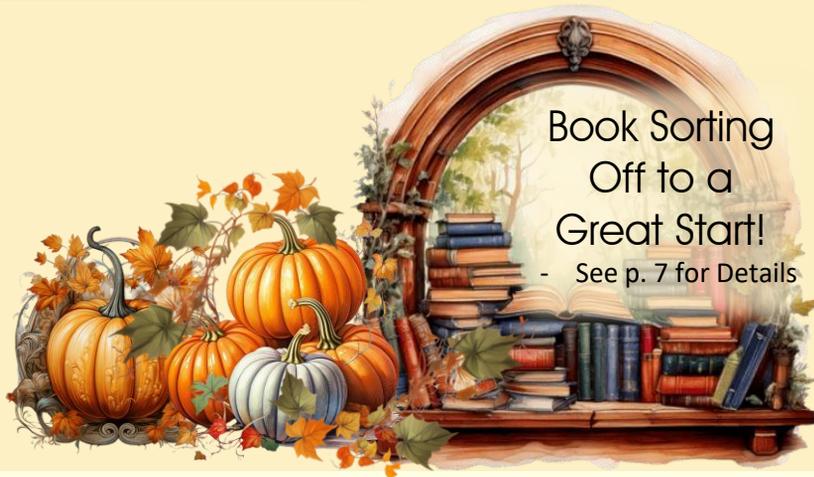
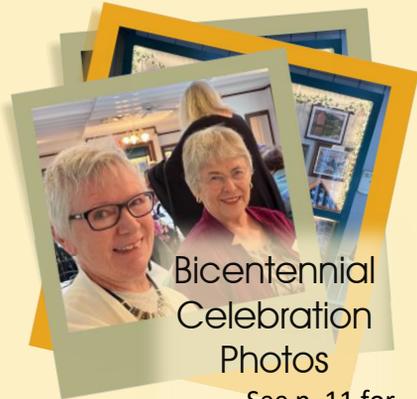
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DECEMBER ADVOCATE

The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 5th of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor via email by November 5, 2025 to:

newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org



AAUW Buffalo Branch Invites You to Our 1st

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday, November 13 at 5:30pm

Hosted by Joe Hotchkiss

Invite your Family & Friends

to

My Tomato Pie

3055 Niagara Falls Blvd. Amherst, NY 14228

Buffet Dinner is \$34 per person & includes:

Appetizers (specialty pizza, mediterranean veggie platter)

House Salad, Marinara tossed penne, Chicken Marsala, Roast Beef, Rolls,
Coffee & Tea.

Cash Bar Available

*Our First
Trivia Night!*

∞ RSVP by November 6th ∞

*Prizes for
Winners!*

To Register: Mail the form below with your \$34.00/person check made out to "AAUW Buffalo Branch" or Register Online – [Click Here](#)

AAUW Buffalo November Program Registration

Name(s) of those attending – for Name Tags & Team Formations:

Email of Registrant: _____ Phone No. _____

Mail to: AAUW Buffalo, P.O. Box 894, Buffalo, New York 14225-0894

Come One, Come All
Invite Your Family & Friends
Mix, Mingle, Savor & Shop
at
The Nickel Plate

1500 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206

On

Saturday, December 6th, 2025 9:30 am - Noon

The Nickel Plate

- Is an Artisan Market with a variety of WNY Artisans all in one place!
- Brunch Menu items are made with ingredients sourced from WNY farmers & vendors!
- Offers a variety of local Craft Beer & Wine

We Will:

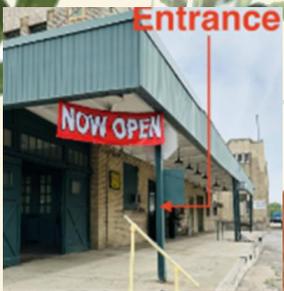
- Shop at our own pace
- Purchase our own Brunch, if interested
- Participate in a Scavenger Hunt



Please RSVP by November 26, 2025
so we will have enough Holiday Surprises for
everyone who has registered & participates in our
Scavenger Hunt!

To Register: Online – [Click Here](#)

Please include your email & phone no. (in case of
cancellation due to inclement weather) as well as the
Names of all your friends attending
for Name Tags



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pat Miceli

**"If you're going to change things,
you have to be with the people who hold the levers."**

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Ct. Justice

The October Board of Director's Meeting approved two issues of particular importance to the Buffalo Branch. The first is the acceptance of the Branch Bylaws update, presented by Betty Preble, Bylaws Committee. As discussed in the September President's Message, the most significant changes included combining two Membership Vice President positions into one, eliminating the Office of Treasurer for Educational Accounts and Programs, and permitting Bylaws voting to be an in-person vote or by electronic means. All Branch members are invited to vote on the Branch Bylaws changes at the November 5, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting at the Ebenezer United Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 630 Main St., West Seneca. Gather at 6:15 pm, meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

The second issue is the acceptance of the recommendations by the Scholarship Committee, presented by Melissa White, Mary Bashore and Kate Collins. The main update to the scholarships is the addition of the **Adult Learners in Transition (ALT) Scholarship**. This is for those on a non-traditional path who are enrolled or accepted at an accredited institution for a course of study of at least two years, whether full-time or part-time.

The Jacquie Walker Scholarship is updated. The scholarship is now available to both female and male students in undergraduate and graduate school who graduated from high school in one of the eight counties of WNY. The applicant must demonstrate a strong commitment to community service and academic achievement.

Both the Bylaws and the Scholarship Committees are to be commended for their fine work.

Congratulations to Lilyen Mascellino, VP Programs, and her committee for the highly successful "Welcome Back Dinner" at Chefs. Over 70 attendees mingled, ate, and listened to the always informative Jacquie Walker. Remember the next program is **Trivia Night on November 13**.

In conclusion, but of great importance, is the **Book Sale Sorting** has begun at 37 Anderson, Cheektowaga on Tuesday and Wednesday and the first Saturday of the month. The Book Sale Committee does an outstanding job and can use your help with sorting and donating. As always, more detailed information about our activities is available on the website aauwbuffalo.org.

Thank you for your continued support of AAUW 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.

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Circulation 150

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

Did You Know...

In 1954 Branch President Margaret Warwick McCullough returned from a regional convention with the news that a New Jersey AAUW branch was raising large sums of money with an annual used book sale.

The board of directors was enthusiastic about the idea; previous fundraisers had included fashion shows, bridge parties, magazine subscriptions, and calendars. A book sale seemed more in keeping with the image of the organization.

It also became evident that a more productive means of raising funds was necessary, since the emphasis of the Association was now on fellowships rather than scholarships.

The first sale took place on April 23, 1955, at 68 Niagara Street and was attended mostly by members. This one-day long event raised the magnificent sum of \$209.72 and was pronounced a success, which justified making it an annual event. Little did the board know what a monster it had created!

FUTURE LEADERS...

- Mary Bashore

Now is the time of year our president forms a nominating committee to identify candidates for various positions for 2026 elections. Our bylaws call for a nominating committee of at least three members, ideally including a past president, current board member, and member at large. Currently we don't have any non-board members for this important committee.

In 2026, the positions up for election are Secretary/Parliamentarian, CFO, Fundraising (Book Sale) Treasurer and Scholarship Director. In most cases, these officers are completing their second term and cannot run for office in the same position. But they are available and willing to help new people transition into these roles and succeed.

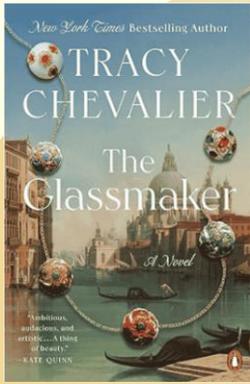
Please note - If the bylaws amendments fail to pass, we will also be electing a membership recruitment VP and an EAP treasurer.

Here's a few things to think about:

- Volunteer for the nominating committee.
- Volunteer for one of the open board positions.
- Volunteer on a committee (public relations, membership, scholarship, book sale, programs, etc.). All will welcome you.
- Ask a friend to work with you. All positions can be led by co-leaders, splitting the responsibilities as you choose.
- Consider what you can receive by volunteering: learn new skills, retain existing skills, make new friends, be informed, make a difference in your AAUW branch and your community, find a new purpose and feel good about yourself.

If any of these areas interest you, President Pat Miceli would love to hear from you.





DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., November 19, at 5:30 pm
Where: Family Tree Restaurant
4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst
Book: *The Glassmaker* by Tracy Chevalier
Facilitator: Nan Scinta
Discussion Leader: Judy Huber
RSVP: Judy Malamas 716-632-0461
Email: tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Please Note: Due to the Holidays falling on their usual meeting dates – the Clueless Mystery Book Club will not meet in November or December.

Questions? Contact Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303 or bplibby1@verizon.net

LIBRARY PERKS...

Paula Salamone, a retired librarian would like to start a program where she would help one or two people at a time learn how to take advantage of all these “perks” at the library. (i.e., Libby App - You can get all kinds of books and magazines right on your mobile phone!) Please contact Paula If interested.

Contact: Paula Salamone – 716-479-1088 or Salamonepaula@yahoo.com



Scrabble Club

Lisa Casey would like to start a monthly Scrabble Club. Due to her schedule, it would be possibly 6:30-8:00pm Please contact Lisa if interested
Contact: Lisa Casey 716-957-2136
Email: lisamcfail@gmail.com

When: Early Evenings 6:30-8:00pm
Where: A Public Library - TBD

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

When: TBD – Please contact Judy for Information
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
Guests Welcome!
Contact Judy Huber 716-529-9881 or judyhuber62@yahoo.com

LET’S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Thursday, Oct 30th- approximately 2:00 pm. Please contact Marian for confirmation of Date & Time
Where: Dash’s, 1770 Hertel Ave – 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.

The 2026 Book Sale ...

We're up and running! The first few weeks of **collecting & sorting** have been going great!

There are great working crews for every shift and everyone is having a good time, AND - the books are pouring in – I think they call it “pent-up supply”!

Our bright orange bookmarks have been distributed to all the libraries in the Niagara and Erie County systems, but we have plenty more.

- Are they at your **hair salon?**
- Your **dentist's office?**
- Your **church?**
- On the bulletin board at your **grocery store?**



If not, stop by our sorting site (37 Anderson Rd) and **pick some up to distribute!** Someone will always be there during our working hours, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:00am – 1:00pm and the first Saturday of each month 10:00am – 12:00pm.

Stick around for a bit and join in the fun!



Where Do My Dues Go?

- Mary Bashore

It may surprise you to know that \$72 of what we pay in dues goes to AAUW national, \$7 goes to NY State, and only \$15 is kept in the Buffalo Branch for a total of \$94. The “Shape the Future” discount for new members allows us to charge \$58 for the first year because national dues are cut in half for new members who join while attending an event such as the book sale or a monthly program. Discount rates are also available for students.

It may also surprise you to know the \$15 retained within the branch does not cover all our expenses. After postage and supplies, insurance, CPA expense for filing our tax return, printing of roster and membership forms and other necessary expenses, we usually have to dip into our savings. But don't worry - we stick to a detailed budget, and we are not raising dues.

We try very hard to offer opportunities to attend events at the lowest cost possible. The interest groups are self-supporting and receive no funding from dues. Our volunteers provide many, many hours of service and often bear expenses out of their own pocket. No one is receiving any mileage reimbursement or other compensation.

The proceeds of the book sale, plus donations and bequests, are all funneled into our scholarship and education programs. Thanks to successful book sales and sound money management, we have been able to EXPAND our scholarship program while keeping dues at the same low level. Please take time to become familiar with our current scholarship offerings and consider participating on one or more scholarship committees. You will be glad you did.

Scholarship Program Changes



The AAUW Buffalo Branch Board of Directors approved several changes to the scholarship program as recommended by the Scholarship Working Group. The biggest change is the addition of a scholarship called Adult Learners in Transition (ALT) to address the needs of non-traditional students.

The ALT scholarship is designed to address situations where education was disrupted due to moving, family circumstances, health problems, inadequate funds, need to work, etc., for those on a non-traditional path, self-supporting/independent students, those who need further education to advance in their career, and those who do not qualify for other AAUW scholarships. Importantly, we now have a way to support women attending college part-time.

We also have a Swift-MacClennan Public Policy Scholarship funded by family donations to support a student in print or broadcast journalism.

The Catalyst for Change and Jacquie Walker scholarships were somewhat expanded so that more students may qualify as applicants.

The Scholarship Working Group reviewed all the guidelines, application materials, and essay questions for ALL the scholarships. In addition, a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) was developed and is on the website.

Members, please take the time to become familiar with the updated scholarship program. We will soon have attractive literature you can distribute and proudly invite students to apply.

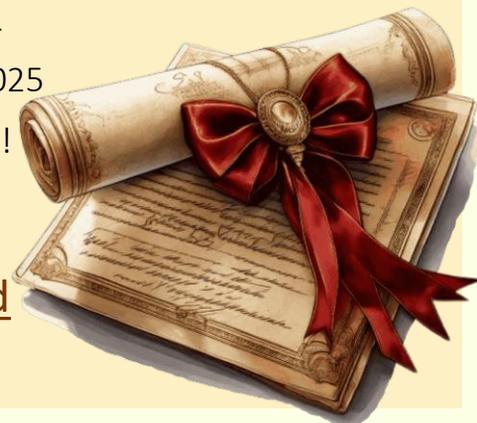
Scholarships

The deadline for the next round of Chamberlin and Funds for Education Grants and Interest-Free Loans is December 1st, 2025

Remember, our Funds for Education program is open to men!

Check our website –

[Chamberlin and Funds for Education Loans and Grants – AAUW Buffalo Branch](#) For more details!



Public Policy

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair



Fear, Capitulation, Appeasement, & Habituation

How do we deal with the uncertainty our country is facing? We need to slow down and reassess the best options and solutions. This could be considered a leadership crisis. Many who watched the President's meandering speech at the recent meeting of military brass, rated him as unwell. It may be helpful to look at leaders who have faced a similar crisis in the past, perhaps as far back as Reconstruction after the Civil War (1865-1877), a period that was dominated by legal, social and political challenges.

We are told that we have power as citizens and that it is a valuable exercise to speak with others who have an opinion that may be the polar opposite of ours. This should generate empathy and understanding. It could broaden our perspective and strengthen our relationships. However, there is also a fear that this interaction between polar opposites could result in conflict, threats, lawsuits, retribution or job loss. Clearly, such a discussion requires a careful approach based on curiosity, respect, and clear communication. The goal is not to win an argument but to foster mutual understanding.

What if the other view is filled with lies, disinformation or misinformation? Be sure you remember to check facts, understand the law, and be aware of constitutional protections. In other words, be prepared for this challenge.

For example, law firms, universities, media, even Supreme Court justices have surrendered to President Trump's demands that require them to pay financial tribute amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars. It is puzzling why these institutions have capitulated without defiance. Furthermore, some have found that the "extortion-like" settlements did not end the process of "getting even." Was it fear that resulted in capitulation or appeasement?

Appeasement is the act of pacifying or satisfying someone's demands to avoid conflict, often by making concessions. In international relations, it is the policy of granting concessions to a potential aggressor to prevent war. While the goal is to create peace, particularly in the lead-up to World War II, history shows this policy can fail to stop aggression and instead, encourage it. Today, artificial Intelligence can offer many historical examples of the effects of appeasement.

Senior officials warned of firings during the recent shutdown. The rationale for some of President Trump's actions remain unclear. Firings during the shutdown can result from "deep state" accusations, DEI, LGBTQ issues, display of the Pride flag, sexual orientation, erosion of constitutional protections, and consolidation or perception of power etc. It has traumatized federal workers. This may be revenge politics or a power play. Some of these workers made a conscious decision not to speak out, out of fear. Speaking out is discouraged. Law enforcement and national security workers took an oath when they took the job. Furloughed employees are said to feel like political pawns. Some of them say they are now ready to speak out. Politicians could "weaponize" lawsuits to censor and silence journalists and federal employees. Some leaders use a chainsaw to accomplish their goals; others use a sledgehammer. Some use a process of habituation.

Continued on next page...

Public Policy

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair



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Habituation means we become less likely to *notice* a problem that is presented over and over again. It may be perceived as harmless or irrelevant allowing us to focus attention on more important events. In the relatively short period of the second Trump administration, he has moved very quickly to create new problems to distract us while he is implementing Project 2025. Initially he denied any knowledge or involvement with the 900-page policy document that contains proposals for dramatic reductions in the size of the federal government. He expanded presidential authority. Project 2025 is the right-wing wish list, a product of the Heritage Foundation. One year into Trump's first term, the White House had adopted nearly two-thirds of the think tank's proposals. The 2025 proposals call for eliminating job protections for thousands of government employees, who could then be replaced by political appointees. The President is prepared to continue cutting "Democratic agencies."

We must ignore the distractions. Everyone wants to do something to make a difference. There are 340 million people in the United States. We can make a difference when we speak out without fear, capitulation, appeasement or habituation.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

Barbara Fingar

Email: Barb_Fingar@hotmail.com

B.S. Pharmacy 1983 University of Buffalo

M.B.A. 2007 University of Louisville

Interests: Clueless Mystery Book Club, Book Sale, Cultural Interests

PRESIDENT

Pat Miceli

VP PROGRAM

Lilyen Mascellino

VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Diane O'Brien

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Alexandra Smith

SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN

Judy Huber

CFO

Shirley Joy

OPERATIONS TREASURER

Mary Crocker

EAP TREASURER

Ruby Williams

FUNDRAISING TREASURER

Jennifer Hoffman

CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR EDUCATION TREASURER

Kathleen Collins

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

Melissa White

We had a great time and were able to gather with new and old friends!

Prizes were won –

Yummy Ones!

Cheryl McDonald did a fabulous job telling the story of what life was like living and working on the Erie Canal. She gave us a glimpse of the struggles they encountered.

It was a wonderful presentation, and a good time was had by all!

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

Return Service Requested



Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

Wed, Nov 5, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ (630 Main St, West Seneca).

A special branch meeting is being held in conjunction with the board meeting. Branch members are invited to attend to discuss and vote on the proposed bylaws changes.

Thursday, Nov. 13, 5:30 pm — Branch Program. See p.2

Wed. Nov. 19, 5:30 pm — Dinner by the Book. See p.6

DECEMBER

Mon. December 1st — Deadline for Chamberlin & Funds for Education Grants and Interest-Free Loans. See p. 8

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church (350 Saratoga Rd, Amherst)

Saturday, Dec. 6, 9:30 am — Branch Program. See p.3

May 27 – May 31, 2026 — 70th BOOK SALE Location TBD

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.

