

Advocate

Together Making a Difference...

DECEMBER 2025

In This Issue:

December Program	2
President's Message	3
Call for Nomination	4
Buffalo Branch	
ByLaws Changes	4
Special Interest Groups	5
The 2026 Book Sale	6
Welcome New Member	6
Concerns About the	
United States Elections	7
Deadline Reminder	8
November Program Highlights	9
Dates to Remember	10

Mix, Mingle, Savor & Shop

Saturday, December 6th

See p. 2 for Details



JANUARY

ADVOCATE

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

newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org



<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Vol. CXXXIV No. 4

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 drinks including Mimosas.

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

“We must find the time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.”

- John F. Kennedy,
35th President of the United States

The words of President Kennedy are particularly applicable to my President’s Message this month, for as you know, November (when this publication is distributed) is the month our country celebrates Thanksgiving. At the 11/5/25 Branch Board Meeting, I asked members what they are thankful for.

A highlight of responses included:

- ❖ The mentorship within the Branch
- ❖ Positive affirmation
- ❖ Fellowship
- ❖ Dedicated capable workers
- ❖ Scholarship offerings
- ❖ The Scholarship Book Sale
- ❖ The Public Relations Committee
- ❖ The monthly Newsletter the Advocate, and
- ❖ The excellent program offerings



In particular, I am thankful for *all* the above plus the updating of the scholarship and Branch bylaws. I am thankful for the members who faithfully attend Board and committee meetings. I am thankful for the Branch of bright, educated members who add to the excellence and vibrance of our Branch. I am thankful to be a member of AAUW Buffalo Branch.

To all of you and yours, Happy Thanksgiving, and find the time to thank the people who make a difference in your lives.

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.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

- Pat Miceli

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.

December Vol. CXXXIV, No. 4
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

The following positions will be opened on the AAUW Buffalo Branch Board beginning July 1, 2026.

1. Secretary/Parliamentarian
2. Chief Financial Officer
3. Funding Raising and Scholarship Treasurer
4. Scholarship Director

Please Note:

- Each position is a 2-year position beginning on July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2028
- Board Meetings are generally on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm
- There are no scheduled meetings in July or August

If you would like to run for a position or nominate someone for a position please contact Pat Miceli by January 6, 2026.

Contact information: pwmiceli@gmail.com, 716-626-0234 (home) 716-880-0042 (cell).

Voting will be in April 2026. More information is forthcoming.

BUFFALO BRANCH BYLAWS CHANGES – ACCEPTED! –

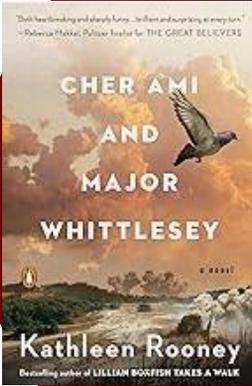
- Pat Miceli

At the November 5, 2025, AAUW Buffalo Branch Meeting, the Branch bylaws changes were accepted as proposed. A brief highlight of these changes are:

1. Membership is on an annual basis starting at the date joined, prorating is no longer necessary and will be removed from the bylaws.
2. Voting on the bylaws may be at an in-person meeting or by electronic means as long as notice is given.
3. There will be one Membership VP who is urged to form a committee for input.
4. The Education and Programs Treasurer has been eliminated. The duties of this office will be divided between the Operations Treasurer and the Fundraising and Scholarship Treasurer.

Special thanks is extended to bylaws committee members Mary Bashore and Betty Preble and to the AAUW Branch Board for their work in this area.





DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., December 17, at 5:30 pm
Where: Family Tree Restaurant
4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst
Book: *Cher Ami & Major Whittlesey*, by Kathleen Rooney
Facilitator: Leona Barback
Discussion Leader: Margie Hadsell
RSVP: Judy Malamas 716-632-0461
Email: tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Please Note: The Clueless Mystery Book Club will not meet in December.
Questions? Contact Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303 or bplibby1@verizon.net

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

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

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Thursday, Nov 20th- 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 ...



Right now, the concentration of many members is focused on holiday planning, winter preparations, and dealing with the ramifications of the recent election. But we need to also be thinking about our upcoming **2026 Book Sale!!!**



If you can't contribute your time, perhaps you could help us with our expenses?

Any amount is appreciated, but we have recognition categories for those \$25 and above, listed on the website.

Just send a check made out to "AAUW Buffalo Book Sale" to "AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225".

Keep distributing bookmarks and spread the word that we **ALWAYS** want more books!

Please Note:

Our hard-working sorters are taking off the Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the upcoming holiday weeks. Please spread the word that we will **NOT be collecting/working Nov 25-26, Dec 23-24 and Dec 30-31.**

Although we're in tight quarters at 37 Anderson Rd, we can always use more workers! Just stop by Tuesdays or Wednesdays 9-1 (except for those holiday closings) or the first Sat of each month 10-noon and join in the fun.



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

Kennette Carlson

Email: kmshells@outlook.com

B.A. Psychology 1978 SUNY Buffalo

B.S. Nutrition and Food Service 2000 Buffalo State University

M.B.A. Human Resources 1987 SUNY Buffalo

Retired Clinical Dietitian VA/WNY Health Care System

Interests: Happy Wanderers, possible antique and cooking groups, Book Sale, Scholarships,

Human/Civil Rights



CONCERNS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES ELECTIONS

The Brennan Center for Justice is a nonpartisan law and policy institute focused on improving America's democracy and justice systems. Jasleen Singh is senior counsel and manager in the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, where she focuses on voting rights and elections. In their October newsletter, she claims that the executive branch in the United States is interfering in the elections in unprecedented ways to undermine the next election. Critics say some of these actions may be illegal. According to Singh, the election systems in 2020, 2022, and 2024 were secure and accurate with election officials working across party lines. The federal government itself is now a threat. How?

The President began by pardoning the January 6 defendants who tried to overturn the 2020 election. Some of his current tactics were tried before but they were blocked by key officials who are no longer in the White House. Singh lists the following actions to watch for:

1. Attempting to rewrite election rules to burden voters and usurp control of election systems;
2. Targeting or threatening to target election officials and others who keep elections free and fair;
3. Supporting people who undermine election administration; and
4. Retreating from the federal government's role of protecting voters and the election process.

Only Congress and the states can set election rules so some of the actions listed above are a violation of the Constitution. The president has no constitutional authority over federal election administration.

The Brennan Center's representative concludes with the challenge: The various institutions and actors that operate the constitutional checks and balances safeguarding U.S. elections — including the courts, Congress, independent federal agencies, state legislatures, state and local election officials, and the people themselves — must prevent the administration's efforts from succeeding. Federal laws protect voters against intimidation and election interference. However, nearly half of local election officials are concerned about politically motivated investigations targeting election workers, according to a recent survey from the Brennan Center for Justice that reached 735 local election officials.

According to David A. Graham, staff writer for the Atlantic, plans to subvert the elections in 2026 and 2028 are already under way and our election system is reaching a breaking point. The Los Angeles Times reports that voter fraud may be used to declare elections are illegitimate. The U.S. Department of Justice sent monitors to Los Angeles and other locations for the November 2025 balloting. Experts also warn that this could be a test run for the President's attempt to impose his will on future elections.

Continued on next page...



Public Policy

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

CONCERNS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES ELECTIONS

Continued from previous page...

A recent AAUW webinar cited the value of forming coalitions of like-minded citizens. There is power in numbers, especially when it is accompanied by a good strategy. We should mobilize if these suspicions are correct. We could create buddy systems when going to vote, volunteer to be poll workers, create other possible attempts at safeguarding the elections.

Strategic plans should be preceded by asking questions. Election law is confusing. Federal judges have been asserting power. What are the mandates on ballot issues? Can voting machines be decertified? Can voting hours be limited? What are the rules for voter ID? Will there be claims of fraud and questions about the integrity of the results? Can some decision power be shifted? Campaign financing is still compared to the Wild West. Have some Americans become accustomed to seeing armed troops? Would they be intimidating if sent to polling places in 2026? Could a national emergency be called at election time? Where does the redistricting battle stand now?

At a Christian Summit event in 2024, Donald J. Trump told the crowd to “get out and vote, just this time, adding that “you won’t have to do it anymore. Four more years, you know what? It’ll be fixed, it’ll be fine, you won’t have to vote any more, my beautiful Christians” (Reuters, July 28, 2024). The 22nd amendment to the US constitution, enacted in 1951, now limits presidents to two four-year terms. Project 2025 is reshaping America. Overall progress on its goals and objectives is at 48 percent. They have met 30 percent of its objectives on elections. More to come? (Project 2025 Tracker).

DEADLINE REMINDER

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!



PRESIDENT

Pat Miceli

VP PROGRAM

Lilyen Mascellino

VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Diane O’Brien

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Alexandra Smith

OPERATIONS TREASURER

Mary Crocker

SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN

Judy Huber

**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR
EDUCATION TREASURER**

Kathleen Collins

EAP TREASURER

Ruby Williams

FUNDRAISING TREASURER

Jennifer Hoffman

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

Melissa White

CFO

Shirley Joy



TRIVIA NIGHT

A great time was had by all! Thanks to all who participated. Our monthly Programs provide a time for us to gather in a relaxed atmosphere, reconnect & meet new friends. We look forward to seeing everyone at December's program, as well!





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

Return Service Requested



Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

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

Thurs. Nov. 20, 2:00pm – Let’s Talk Public Policy! See p.5

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.2

Wed. Dec. 17, 5:30 pm — Dinner by the Book. See p.5

JANUARY

Wed, Jan 7, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Ebenezer
United Church of Christ (630 Main St, West Seneca).

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.

