

# Advocate

Together Making a Difference...

MARCH 2026

## In This Issue:

February Program	2
March Program	3
President's Message	4
I Have Questions...	5
NCCWSL	5
Public Policy	6-7
April Program	7
Special Interest Groups	8-9
AAUW In The News	10
The Advocate	11
Need to Log Into AAUW	11
Dates to Remember	12

## APRIL

## ADVOCATE

The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 5th of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor via email by  
March 5, 2026 to:

[newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org](mailto:newsletter@AAUWBuffalo.org)





Join us on Saturday,  
**February 28, 2026**  
at 11:30 am for a tour of:



# THE NIAGARA FALLS UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HERITAGE CENTER

825 Depot Avenue West  
Niagara Falls, New York 14305

Cost:  
\$10 per Adult  
\$6 per Youth

**RSVP: by Saturday, February 14, 2026**

Register by [Clicking Here](#) for Online Registration or  
If you wish to pay **by mail**, please complete the form below  
and mail it along with a check for \$10/adult and \$6/youth, made out to  
"AAUW Buffalo" to: AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

## AAUW BUFFALO FEBRUARY PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Name(s) of those attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email of Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, March 19, 2026 – 6:30pm

# WE'VE GOT TALENT!

Please join us at: The Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library  
(formerly The Audubon Library),  
350 James J Audubon Parkway, Amherst NY 14228

RSVP: Friday, March 13

Register [online](#) or email  
aauwbuffalo@gmail.com

We are often amazed by our members' talents and the unique circumstances they have overcome! We are an accomplished, amazing group.

March is **International Women's Month**. Our Program Committee has put together a program highlighting **Our Members'** accomplishments and talents.

Cost: none, but registration needed for name tags & light refreshments.



Pat Miceli

From Elementary Teacher to Lawyer...  
A Nontraditional Law Student



Caren Shapiro

My Life With Microbial  
Friends & Foes



Andy Smith

Travel with a Purpose



Edna Hyer

Age 90: A Champion Runner

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pat Miceli

*"The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist, nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights"*

- Gloria Steinem

This year **International Women's Day** ("IWD") is celebrated on March 7. The theme is "GIVE TO GAIN" when we give, we gain. AAUW Buffalo Branch has planned a program on March 19 at 6:30pm at the Honorable Shirley Chisholm (Audubon) Branch Library focusing on the experiences of some of **our members**. Everyone has an important story to tell; come and gain from their experiences.

By way of background, IWD was first observed nationally in 1909 and internationally in 1911. Initially IWD grew from the calls for **better wages, shorter hours, and voting rights**. Today IWD is observed globally with rallies, digital campaigns, and community events, serving as a reminder of the importance to combat ongoing gender inequality. **Remember the day, remember the cause, share your story, learn from another's story.**

The following candidates for **Board Positions** for 2026-2028 are:

Secretary/Parliamentarian — Kathy Tepas

CFO — Shirley Joy

Fundraising Treasurer — Nan Scinta

Scholarship Director — Mary Bashore

Voting will be online in the Spring. More information will be forthcoming. The Board extends thanks to all candidates who are willing to fill these positions.

In conclusion, but of great importance, is the **Book Sale**. Sorting is taking place at 37 Anderson Road, Cheektowaga on Tuesday and Wednesday 9-1pm and the first Saturday of the month 10am - noon. 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](http://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

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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](mailto:recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org)

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker  
375 Parkhurst Blvd.  
Buffalo, NY 1422  
[mlcrock@msn.com](mailto:mlcrock@msn.com)

## I have Questions, Where Are The Answers?

- Pat Miceli

Q: I belong to Dinner by The Book and Clueless, what is the next book I have to read?

Q: My friend wants to join AAUW, where is the information about joining?

Q: What are the dates of the 2026 Book Sale?

These are just a few of the questions members regularly ask.

The **answers** are found on our website:

[aauwbuffalo.org](http://aauwbuffalo.org)

This website is regularly updated by Betty Preble. It has a wealth of information from our history, scholarships, programs, interest groups, newsletters, etc. So, go online and look through the website. If you have questions, you'll find the answers there!

## 2026 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

NCCWSL at NASPA: Registration Open

We are pleased to share that registration for the **2026 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** (NCCWSL) is now open. NCCWSL offers an exciting program that includes a transformative experience in leadership development, networking, and inspiration. Please visit [NASPA's website](http://NASPA's website) for the most up-to-date information. The conference will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, from May 27-30, 2026. Register today!

Funding is available to sponsor a local individual to attend the NCCWSL. Interested parties should submit an essay about why they would like to attend. Please include (name, email, phone, home address) and mail to:

AAUW Buffalo – NCCWSL, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

**PRESIDENT:**

Pat Miceli

**VP PROGRAM**

Lilyen Mascellino

**VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**

Diane O'Brien

**CFO**

Shirley Joy

**VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION**

Alexandra Smith

**OPERATIONS TREASURER**

Mary Crocker

**SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Judy Huber

**EAP TREASURER**

Ruby Williams

**FUNDRAISING TREASURER**

Jennifer Hoffman

**SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR**

Melissa White

**CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR**

**EDUCATION TREASURER**

Kathleen Collins

# Public Policy

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

## The Midterm Elections

In April 2025, reporting on the progress of the goals of Project 2025, the Brennan Center for Justice said, “Our elections will continue to rely on officials, voter registration organizations, and voters themselves to manage, bolster, and participate in elections in the face of threats. States — which actually run our elections — and civil society must step up to support them.”

On February 2, 2026, Jacob Wendler reported in *Politico* that “President Donald Trump said that Republicans should nationalize elections, continuing to double down on false conspiracy theories about widespread voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election.” *The Guardian* reported that Trump suggested Republicans should ‘take over’ elections to protect the party. Common Cause says, “Whether it’s the term ‘nationalizing’ or ‘federalizing,’ it’s the same thing. We’ve said it once before, but we’ll say it again. Presidents don’t set election laws. They never have and never will.” At the same time, there are at least five Congressional Republicans who would likely disagree with President Trump. They have maintained that states should run elections, not the federal government. You can do a search for those Republicans and the reasons for their willingness to express their opinions.

When I write these articles, I’m reminded that I should present both sides of an issue. This is President Trump’s side: “We have states that are so crooked, and they’re counting votes — we have states that I won that show I didn’t win. Now you’re going to see something in Georgia where they were able to get through a court order, the ballots. You’re going to see some interesting things.”

The 2020 voter files were seized by the Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, according to *Intelligencer* and many other sources. This source also added that “Trump made the same argument in a March 2025 executive order in which he asserted the right to impose new voter ID requirements on the states — an authority federal courts contemptuously rejected.” *Intelligencer* followed this with, “The U.S. Constitution clearly assigns election administration to the states. A secondary right to regulate the time, place, and manner of elections for federal office is assigned to Congress. The president has no authority over elections at any level.”

*Issue One* analysis reports a deepening workforce crisis in half of all counties in 11 Western states that have lost their chief election official since the 2020 election. This was not considered to be normal turnover according to the authors of the report, but was largely due to stress, threats, and burnout.

Unfortunately, these workers are taking institutional knowledge that is likely to be difficult to replace.

*Continued on next page...*

# Public Policy

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

## The Midterm Elections

*Continued from previous page...*

When experienced officials leave under pressure, election administration raises questions, opening the door to justify more threats and more federal interventions for the midterms. There is an alarming possibility that immigration agents and possibly military assets, will be deployed at polling places to address possible noncitizen voting, thereby discouraging voting by anyone who has concerns about attention from these agents.

Looking ahead to the midterms, these possibilities should draw the attention and participation of State election officials, non-MAGA Republicans, voting-rights advocates, and the courts. They can be expected to fight back against all these threats coming from a variety of sources, such as the White House, the Department of Justice, and pro-Trump social media. Is there a role for organizations such as the American Association of University Women?

Please Note: This article contains links that are not available in the printed newsletter.

## APRIL PROGRAM – Rosie the Riveter at Bell

Step back to 1943 & imagine yourself reporting for your first shift at Bell Aircraft-overalls on, rivet gun in hand.

During WWII, thousands of women took on roles once reserved for men, drilling, riveting, & inspecting aircraft that would take flight overseas. In this session, we'll explore their groundbreaking contributions through photos, stories & even a hands-on look at the tools they used so you can feel the weight of their work. Beyond the factory floor, we'll also consider what it meant for women to step into this world of heavy industry & the lasting legacy they left behind when peace returned.

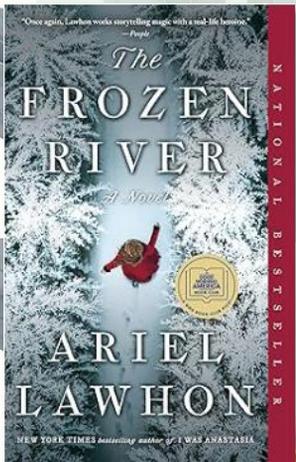
Instructor: David Faix, Education Coordinator & Docent, Niagara Aerospace Museum

\$5.00/Person – Register by April 6<sup>th</sup> – More info to follow.

April 14, 2026 | Niagara Aerospace Museum | Niagara Falls International Airport



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



### DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., March 18, at 5:30 pm  
Where: Family Tree Restaurant  
4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst  
Book: *The Frozen River*, by Ariel Lawhon

Facilitator: Hilde Neubauer  
Discussion Leader: Mary Bashore  
RSVP: Judy Malamas 716-632-0461  
Email: [tsagewood@aol.com](mailto:tsagewood@aol.com)

### LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 pm.  
Where: Dash's, 1770 Hertel Ave – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Discussion: Current Public Policy  
R.S.V.P. Marian Deutschman 716-634-2412 or  
[mardeu15@verizon.net](mailto:mardeu15@verizon.net)  
Please call or email Marian to let  
her know you will be attending.

### Scrabble Club

When: Still to be determined  
Where: Still to be determined

We would love to have more players!

RSVP: Lisa Casey 716-957-2136  
Email: [lisamcfail@gmail.com](mailto:lisamcfail@gmail.com)

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., March 25, at 12:00 pm

Where: Family Tree Restaurant  
4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst

Book: *The Searcher*, by Tana French

Discussion Leader: Kate Collins

RSVP: Barbara Libby at

716-836-8303

or [bpilibby1@verizon.net](mailto:bpilibby1@verizon.net)



### MASTERING THE LIBRARY

Paula Salamone, a retired librarian, will help one or two people at a time learn how to take advantage of all these “perks” at the library using your own mobile phone, tablet or laptop. We can meet by Zoom initially or in person

RSVP: Paula Salamone – Please call or text –  
716-479-1088

### THE HAPPY WANDERERS

We will take advantage of the Program Committee's planned visits to:

- The Underground Railroad in Niagara Falls in February as part of Black History Month. The museum is small so not too much walking, but you stand a lot (there are a few seats) as the docent explains the displays

See p.2 for Details

- WWII Rosie the Riveter Program at the Niagara Falls Aerospace Museum in April

Contact Judy Huber

716-529-9881 or

[judyhuber62@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhuber62@yahoo.com)

We were very excited to see the almost full-page article with color graphics about our scholarships in the January 15 edition of **Bee Newspapers**. They did a great job and captured all the points we hoped they would. Kudos to Bob Kupczak and his staff.

That article got the attention of **Penny Wolfgang**, a retired **Erie County Supreme Court Judge** who is currently a radio interviewer and commentator, among other things. Recently Penny Wolfgang interviewed **Mary Bashore**, **Pat Miceli** and **Melissa White** about our organization, our book sale, and scholarship program for her weekly **"On Target"** radio series, which can be heard weekend mornings on five radio stations. Not to worry if you missed it – check out the podcast at:



[https://shows.amperwavepodcasting.com/audacity/buffalo\\_wwkbam/on\\_target\\_with\\_penny\\_wolfgang](https://shows.amperwavepodcasting.com/audacity/buffalo_wwkbam/on_target_with_penny_wolfgang)

Thank you, Penny Wolfgang!

We had a paid ad in the January 22, 2026 educational edition of **Bee Newspapers** and a free ad in the **Amherst Chamber of Commerce** educational e-newsletter.

**Pat Miceli**, **Mary Bashore** and **Andy Smith** represented AAUW at a student engagement event at **UB Center for the Arts**. We didn't get as much foot traffic as we expected – still, we interacted with students in engineering, business, accounting and other fields and were impressed with the caliber of the student population.

**Jacque Walker**, our honorary book sale chair, wrote a nice piece and arranged for on-air publicity on **WIVB (channel 4)**. Her husband, Mike Beato, met with UB students at **The Newman Center** and talked up our scholarships.

All these efforts have resulted in a **substantial increase in scholarship applications**, particularly **Jacque Walker and Catalyst for Change**.

As we prepare to consider scholarship review committee recommendations, we are also preparing for the 70th Scholarship Book Sale. Everybody seems to know about it; still, we need to remind people of the dates and place. We will again have a colorful paid ad in **Bee Newspapers**, which reach about 134,000 people. We will again have bookmarks to distribute at libraries and elsewhere, postcards will be mailed, and updates posted on our website and Facebook.

You don't need to be shy about telling everybody – **we can all be very proud of the Buffalo Branch**. My mother would say, it never hurts to ask, and if you really want to do something, find a way. For me, that advice still rings true.

Recently I helped with the process of folding, applying sealing stickers, applying address labels, adding postage and mailing our lovely [Advocate Newsletter](#) to several dozen members who have requested a hardcopy. This followed the process of compiling the updated mailing list, the printing of address stickers, sending the 12-page newsletter to the printer, picking up the finished newsletters, obtaining postage stamps and other supplies and generating gear for assembling. While it didn't take too long for 3 of us to finish the job, it took 5 people probably a total of 5 hours to accomplish all this, plus the gas and driving, and I figure it cost our branch roughly \$100.

We know there are some people who rely only on the hardcopy, and of course we will continue to provide it for anyone who needs it. But if you are able to view the Advocate by email or accessing it via our [website](#), we ask that you please consider doing so. The electronic version is very colorful and attractive, you will get it much sooner, and you will save us all time and money. Keep in mind, you don't even need to have a hardcopy or print the Advocate to sign up for programs – you can do that electronically by clicking on the link in the Advocate or going to the website under [Programs and Meetings](#). It saves you postage and time.

If you would like to discontinue receiving hardcopy, please let us know via the form added to the website. And thanks for reading the Advocate!

[Newsletter Survey - AAUW Buffalo Branch](#)

## Need To Log Into AAUW - NATIONAL?

Use this link to go to [YouTube](#) to watch a video to show you how to create an account for

[AAUW - National](#).

Creating an account will give you access to many resources, as well as renewing your annual membership online.

Also, remember to check out our state page [Home | AAUW New York State](#) as well for additional resources and webinars.

### Membership Reminders:

1. Renewals will be sent via email - unless you do not have one on file.
2. Be sure to check to make sure your membership category is correct – things might have changed!
3. Participation in the branch programs and interest groups is a privilege of branch membership/friendship. Please make sure your renewal is up to date.

I am happy to answer any of your renewal questions at:  
aasmith12@yahoo.com [renewal@aauwbuffalo.org](mailto:renewal@aauwbuffalo.org) or 716-228-9540

Andy Smith

Membership Retention VP



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

### FEBRUARY

Wed. Feb 25, 12:00 pm — Clueless Mystery Club.  
Thurs. Feb 26, 2:00pm — Let's Talk Public Policy!  
Sat. Feb. 28, 11:30 am — NF Underground Railroad.

### MARCH

Wed, Mar. 4, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ (630 Main St, West Seneca)  
Wed. Mar. 18, 5:30 pm — Dinner by the Book. See p.8  
Thurs. Mar. 19, 6:30 pm — We've Got Talent. See p. 3  
Wed. Mar. 25, 12:00 pm — Clueless Mystery Club. See p.9

### APRIL

Wed. Apr. 1, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church (350 Saratoga Rd, Amherst)  
Wed. Apr. 14, 6:00 pm. NF Aerospace Museum: Rosie the Riveter WWII at Bell Aircraft  
Wed. Apr. 15, 5:30 pm — Dinner by the Book.  
Wed. Apr. 22, 12:00 pm — Clueless Mystery Club

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.

