

# Advocate

Together Making a Difference...

APRIL 2026

## In This Issue:

April Program – Rosie the Riveter	2
President’s Message	3
Membership Renewals	4
You Will Be Missed	4
Feb 2026 Program Highlights	4
Public Policy	5-6
AAUW Annual Meeting	6
Scholarships, Student Debt and the Pay Gap	7
Special Interest Groups	8
The 2026 Book Sale	9
Dates to Remember	10

**MAY**

**ADVOCATE**

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

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

**AAUW**  
Buffalo (NY) Branch

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Vol. CXXXIV No. 8

Tuesday,  
April 14, 2026

6:00 pm




## Rosie the Riveter

Niagara Aerospace  
Museum

Niagara Falls International  
Airport

9990 Porter Road,  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304



“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 and **the legacy they left behind** when peace returned.

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

Register by Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – [Online HERE](#) and pay \$5.00/Person via credit Card or Mail the completed form below, along with a check for \$5 per person to: AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If interested in carpooling, please indicate your area (O.P., Williamsville, Amherst, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Pat Miceli

*"If you want to lift up humanity, empower women"*

- Melinda Gates

April is the month when the **AAUW Buffalo Branch** moves into high gear. **Widespread congratulations** are due. A full slate of candidates will be set forth for electronic election this spring.

The **Scholarship Committees** will have chosen recipients for the many **AAUW Buffalo Branch scholarships**. The **Scholarship Celebration** is slated for June 25 at Sean Patrick's.

The **Book Sale** site has been procured and will once again be at 425 Essjay, Williamsville, NY. All books will be moved to 425 Essjay by April 7. Book Sale donations will be accepted at 425 Essjay starting Tuesday April 7 through Saturday May 9. **The Book Sale** is from Wednesday May 27 to Sunday May 31.

The **2026 AAUW Buffalo Branch Achievement Award Winner** will have been chosen and recognized at the **Annual Business Meeting Luncheon** on May 16 at Ellden's on Grand Island.

So, it's time to vote, plan to attend the **Scholarship Celebration** and **Annual Business Meeting**, and of course, plan to volunteer for the **70th Annual Scholarship Book Sale**.

Please join us; remember our work **Empowers Women** and **Lifts Humanity**.

## **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

# 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.

April Vol. CXXXIV, No. 8  
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](mailto:recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org)

Send address changes to:

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

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

- Andy Smith

National dues are increasing by \$2 as of April 1st. For Members of the Branch your renewal will now be \$98. Many members have their renewal due on June 30th but you can always pay in advance if you want to save yourself a few bucks. Remember you can now renew online and it is the preferred method for National AAUW. Go to [my.aauw.org](http://my.aauw.org) to log in. The March Advocate included a link to a video to help you log in if you have not done so before.

### You Will Be Missed...



#### [Obituary for Carol Ann \(Kane\) Golyski | D. Lawrence Ginnane Funeral Home](#)

Our condolences to the family and friends of Carol Golyski. Carol was a long-time (35 years) member of the Buffalo Branch and held several leadership positions over the years. Among them were the branch co-presidency and chair of the former Grassroots Grants committee. She will be missed and remembered fondly.

## February 2026 Program Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Museum



This group had an adventure touring the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Museum

# Public Policy

*Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair*

## Reflexive Partisanship

Reflexive partisanship can be defined as the habit of reacting to political news or opposition based solely on party loyalty rather than facts, evidence, or critical thought. Pulitzer-Prize winning author and historian Jon Meacham describes it as picking a "team" first and then deciding what is right based on that choice. He contrasts "reflexive partisanship" with "reflective citizenship," which is rooted in history, facts, and the ability to reconsider one's own opinions. Meacham argues that reflexive partisanship is an obstacle to democracy when it becomes the organizing principle of American life. It prevents objective analysis and fosters a culture that is not thoughtful. If party spirit becomes the main organizing principle of American life, it can be "fatal to the Constitution," says Meacham. One way to overcome this polarization is by being "curious" and maintaining an open mind rather than simply adhering to a predetermined political identity. However, partisan politics and vicious campaigning have been part of the life of the country since the beginning, Meacham notes.

We are currently involved in a war which, by definition, has unpredictable consequences. We have been given a wide range of reasons for why we are in this war: Regime change, nuclear weapons, missile threats, terrorism, etc. What or who are we to believe? Who are our trusted sources?

First of all, President Donald Trump doesn't actually have the power to declare war; only Congress does. "The US-Israeli attacks on Iran cannot be legally justified under any theory of the laws of war," says *Susan M. Akram, clinical professor of law* and director of the international human rights law clinic at Boston University School of Law. "Iran has neither attacked the United States nor threatened to do so without being attacked first. The United States cannot therefore use self-defense as a legal justification for starting the war." She adds. "If the conflict continues, the United States and Israel are very likely to commit more war crimes unless Congress acts in its constitutional capacity to halt President Trump's aggression against Iran." According to the Associated Press, on March 4 Senate Republicans voted down an effort to halt President Trump's war against Iran. The legislation, known as a war powers resolution, failed on a 47-53 vote. This vote demonstrated early support for a conflict that has rapidly spread across the Middle East with no clear U.S. exit strategy. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said that U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran were inconsistent with International Law.

Iran has not asked for a ceasefire, rejecting negotiations with the U.S. The U.S. has officially asked Ukraine for help in countering Iranian one-way drones known as Shaheds because of Ukraine's significant experience with these drones. This raises an important question: Is there a plan, a goal and an exit strategy for this conflict? The artificial intelligence overview is: As of early March 2026, the U.S.-led, joint military conflict with Iran—codenamed **Operation Epic Fury** by the U.S. and **Operation Roaring Lion** by Israel—is characterized as a rapidly escalating, open-ended campaign with shifting, often vague objectives, and no clear, publicly defined exit strategy.

*Continued on next page...*

# Public Policy

*Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair*

## Reflexive Partisanship

*Continued from previous page...*

Artificial Intelligence may not be the most reliable source, but I presume it is not polarized and partisan. Reflexive partisanship, or political tribalism, make it difficult to distinguish truth from fiction because the chosen sources are simply affirming partisan beliefs. Now it is up to each of us to do our best to practice reflective citizenship and to search for history and facts while reconsidering of our own reflexive partisan opinions.

To help consider possible outcomes, The London School of Economics and Political Science offers three difficult and perhaps unlikely solutions:

1. The Iranian people could use mass mobilization to overwhelm the authorities and seize the state. The coercive system would have to fracture and stop using violence against unarmed protesters.
2. The top tier of leadership would choose not to authorize force to preserve the system, similar to what occurred under the Shah in 1978-79.
3. Another possibility would be the defections of elites to the protesters, bringing a shift in power and eventual capitulation by loyalists.

## AAUW-BUFFALO ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us on **Saturday, May 16, 2026** at

### Ellden's Grill & Banquet

201 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, 14072

11:00 Check-in & networking

11:30 Lunch: Entrée, Coffee/Tea, Punch, Salad, Rolls, & A Build Your Own Ice Cream Sundae Bar

12:30 Achievement Award Winner's address to the Branch

12:50 Installation of new officers followed by a message from Branch President, Pat Miceli

Please register on or before Thursday, May 7th.

Registration: [Click Here](#) to register online and pay \$30 per person via credit Card or Mail the completed form below, along with a check for \$30 per person to: AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225

Entrees (one per name attending):  Pasta Verde  Bourbon Salmon  Filet of Sirloin

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

If interested in carpooling, please indicate your area (O.P., Williamsville, Amherst, etc.)

# SCHOLARSHIPS, STUDENT DEBT AND THE PAY GAP

- Mary Bashore

Sometimes one seemingly offhand remark can set you on a path of discovery, or even anger or activism. When a young woman mentioned her **student debt** – how it seemed like it was going to be a rock around her neck for her whole life, how she couldn't envision having kids or buying a house or even sharing half of the expenses of a household despite having a master's degree and a professional career - I had to stop and think (and cry a little). This woman is bright and hardworking, helps care for her disabled dad, and is good at her job counseling young people. She is in a committed, long-term relationship, but doesn't feel like she can be an equal partner given their lop-sided financial pictures.

Although her field requires a master's degree, the income she earns is far less than what is paid in many other, especially male-dominated, professions. But we need her and people like her to do this important work.

AAUW does a lot of research and data analysis, which shows that this scenario is all-too-common. In 2017, AAUW released a great study "Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans", which was updated in 2021. I already knew that more women than men were graduating from college, that women came out of college with more debt than men and earned lower incomes on average. But I thought there was hope, in that more women are embracing STEM and continuing to break down barriers in employment and attaining influential positions.

And then I read the 2026 update "The NOT SO SIMPLE TRUTH" About the Gender Pay Gap. The most recent numbers are appalling! Women hold about 2/3 of student loan debt. Women graduates are paid 74% of what male graduates make. When you compare the gender pay gap – the difference between what women and men are paid given the same education, college major, job tenure and experience – the pay gap has worsened from 83% to 81%. Over a 40-year career, women lose \$542,800. It's even worse news for a woman of color – she may lose over \$1 million over a lifetime of work.

What does this mean? It means women build less wealth in their working years. They are having to make difficult choices and sacrifices. They are apt to face greater economic insecurity later in life. They often have to work longer and they are more likely to live in poverty in their "golden years".

So, what can we do? Beyond our scholarship program, which attempts to address the cost of higher education for promising students, we can try to educate ourselves and other women on financial management, including the impact of debt. Nearly every woman will be responsible for managing her own finances for at least some part of her life. And we can continue to advocate for systemic change.

AAUW lists a number of ways to address the pay gap via national and state policy and employer solutions.

I would like nothing better than that AAUW becomes irrelevant – that we no longer face barriers to education, career and leadership opportunities, and economic empowerment. But we're not there yet – not by a long shot.

We will soon be recognizing and celebrating our 2026 scholarship winners. They will be the next generation to tackle these issues. When you meet them and hear about their accomplishments and endeavors, you will find your faith and hope for the future.

# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

## DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., April 15, at 5:30 pm  
Where: Family Tree Restaurant  
4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst  
Book Selection Night

RSVP: Judy Malamas 716-632-0461  
Email: [tsagewood@aol.com](mailto:tsagewood@aol.com)

## LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Thursday, April 23rd - 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.

## CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., April 22, at 12:00 pm  
Where: Family Tree Restaurant  
4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst  
Book Selection Night

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

## SCRABBLE CLUB

When: Thurs., April 23, at 5:30 pm  
Where: Contact Lisa Casey below for confirmation of Date and Location.

Our scrabble group had a lovely and rousing inaugural game on Thursday, February 26th. Pat Miceli was a gracious hostess, and her home was warm and welcoming. We had four players at our first game. We look forward to others joining our group!

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

## THE HAPPY WANDERERS

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

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)

# Book Sale

## Calling All Book Sale Volunteers!

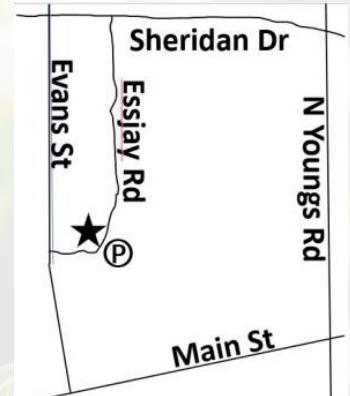
The 70th Annual Scholarship Book Sale Is Almost Here!

Wednesday, May 27 – Sunday, May 31, 2026

We extend our gratitude to the Ciminelli Corporation for once again making 425 Essjay Road in Williamsville our home for the Book Sale.

Due to all our generous donors and hardworking volunteers, we had a record successful sale last year. Cheers to everyone!

We are now asking once again for your help. This event is a large endeavor that has many varieties of tasks which meld to create this fantastic WNY event.



From **Tuesday, April 7 through Saturday, May 9**, we will be accepting donations at the sale site (**425 Essjay**) with expanded hours:

Tuesdays	10am-8pm
Wednesdays	10am-5pm
Thursdays	1pm-5pm
Fridays	1pm-5pm
Saturdays	10am-noon

Please, still, no textbooks, Reader's Digest Condensed Books (unless large print), encyclopedias, journals, magazines, cassettes or VHS tapes. (Please see our website for a full list).

**Bookmarks** will be available at the site. Please plan to pick some up and distribute them to your friends and neighbors.

Can you join us to receive and sort donations prior to the Sale? **Please consider contributing a couple of hours or more (!)** each week. We provide on-the-job training!

We will begin in earnest in May to schedule volunteers to work at the Sale — Watch the next issue for our volunteer form – OR, if you can't wait, sign up [HERE](https://aauwbuffalo.org/book-sale/volunteer-for-the-book-sale/) (<https://aauwbuffalo.org/book-sale/volunteer-for-the-book-sale/>)!

**We look forward to hearing from you!**



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

### APRIL

- Wed. Apr. 1, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church (350 Saratoga Rd, Amherst)
- Tues. 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. Book Selections. See p. 8
- Wed. Apr. 22, 12:00 pm — Clueless Mystery Club. See p.8

### MAY

- Wed. May 6, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ (630 Main St, West Seneca)
- Sat. May 16, 11:00 am — Annual Business Meeting Luncheon at Ellden's on Grand Island
- Wed. May 19, 12:00 pm — Clueless Mystery Club.
- Wed. May 20, 5:30 pm — Dinner by the Book.
- May 27 – May 31, 2026 — 70th BOOK SALE at 425 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY

### JUNE

- Wed. June 3, 6:30 pm — Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church (350 Saratoga Rd, Amherst)
- Wed. June 17, 5:30 pm — Dinner by the Book.
- Thurs. June 25, 6:00 pm — Scholarship Dinner at Sean Patrick's

## 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.

