

# Advocate

Together Making a Difference...

MAY 2026

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## JUNE ADVOCATE

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

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



# 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 am Check-in & networking  
11:30 am Lunch: Entrée, Coffee/Tea, Punch, Salad, Rolls, & A Build Your Own Ice Cream Sundae Bar  
12:30 pm Achievement Award Winner's address to the Branch  
12:50 pm Installation of new officers followed by a message from Branch President, Pat Miceli

*Pasta Verde:* Bucatini Noodles, Spinach, Asparagus, Peas, Basil, Garlic, Olive Oil & Romano Cheese

*Bourbon Salmon:* Grilled Salmon with a Bourbon Glaze served with Baby Bok Choy & Potato

*Filet of Sirloin:* 5 oz. Steak seasoned with House Rub, Potato & Vegetable



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):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergy: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergy: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergy: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Pat Miceli

*"In the middle of every difficulty lies an opportunity"*

- Albert Einstein

It's time to mark your calendars. May & June are busy months for our Branch, starting with the 70th annual AAUW Buffalo Branch Scholarship Book Sale! The opening day is Wednesday May 27 and runs until Sunday May 31. The site is the same as last year, 425 Essjay, Williamsville 14221, it's off Sheridan. There's something for everyone to do, so please volunteer. Information for volunteering is on our website under Book Sale. And in this Advocate. The community enthusiastically supports this event which funds our highly successful scholarships. So, mark your calendar for May 27-31, donate books, and volunteer to work at the Book Sale!

Saturday May 16 is the AAUW Buffalo Annual Meeting at Ellden's Grill & Banquet in Grand Island. This is where our newly elected Buffalo Branch Officers will be installed by Carol Griffith. Please join us at this event as a sign of support for these members.

Also, we're pleased to announce that Judge Penny Wolfgang will be in attendance, as she is this year's recipient of our Achievement Award! Judge Wolfgang is best known as a NY State Supreme Court Justice who served for 30 years on the bench. You will want to be there, so register early and bring a friend! Look for details here in the Advocate and on our website. AAUW Buffalo Branch Annual Meeting May 16 at 11:30 Ellden's Grill & Banquet 201 Whitehaven Rd. , Grand Island 14072.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

- Andy Smith

National dues have increased by \$2 as of April 1, 2026. For Members of the Branch your renewal will now be \$98. Many members have their renewal due on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Renewal forms will be sent via email, (or via mail) by mid-May. Remember you can now renew online, and it is the preferred method for National AAUW. Go to [my.aauw.org](https://my.aauw.org) to log in.

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 as well for additional resources and webinars.

[Home](#) | [AAUW New York State](#)

# 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. 9  
Circulation 150

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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)

# CONGRATULATIONS

Casey and Greg Schultz welcomed their daughter, Amelia Lynn, into the world on Friday, March 20, 2026. Amelia Lynn was 7.5 lbs. and 20.5 in. Casey is doing well and both parents are thrilled to have their daughter as part of their family.



# Happy Birthday

Day By Day — How I got to be 90  
Anastasia Johnson

Life leads the way  
Family, Children, Friends, Colleagues, Clubs  
Music Art Sports Degrees Joy Adversity  
Fill each moment  
Before leaving present becomes past  
And future becomes present  
90 is just a number  
But it took a long time to get here  
Always through  
Moments of time  
Present becomes Past, Future becomes Present  
March 23, 2026



Words of remembrance, friendship, and love were offered by the many attending well-wishers. Most noted were words by her children: Nels, Katherine, Sarah and Peter. As you may know, Stacey is the president of the Erwin H. Johnson Memorial Fund for Opera. Fittingly, there were operatic renditions ending with "The Impossible Dream". It was a celebratory evening for a remarkable woman. Happy Birthday Stacey.

Stacey Johnson celebrated her 90th Birthday on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Chef's Restaurant, surrounded by family and friends.

# ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

- Mary Bashore

It has been a tradition since 1940 for the Buffalo Branch of AAUW to select "an outstanding woman or women of the Buffalo/Western New York area each year whose attainments, character, and achievement merit recognition and that dignify the position of women in the community."

This year the Buffalo Branch will present this prestigious award to **Judge Penny Wolfgang**.



Henrietta Joan Moonelis was born in New York City. The name we know her best as ( Penny ) came from her nickname "Henny" which grew into "Penny" after recital of nursery rhymes as a child.

A "Living Prime Time" story noted that Penny attended NYU. During her senior year of law school she was introduced to Michael G. Wolfgang, an attorney and Assistant District Attorney from Niagara Falls, who was practicing law there. They were introduced by a mutual friend while attending a political event. Within a year they were married.

Moving to WNY to practice law with Jaeckle Fleischman, Penny Wolfgang continued her theatrical avocation at the Niagara Falls Little Theater where she starred in Pygmalion. She also appeared with popular news anchor Irv Weinstein in "3 Men on a Horse" at the Jewish Center with the Amherst Players, starring in "Born Yesterday."

In 1978, after serving as attorney in charge of the Appeals Division of the Buffalo and Erie County Legal Aid Bureau, Penny was elected Judge of the Erie County Court. And after seven years on the County Court bench, she was elected Justice of the New York State Supreme Court. In 1999 she was re-elected for a second 14-year term as a Supreme Court Judge.

During her career as an attorney and on the bench, Judge Wolfgang put her theatrical experience to good use. While a Legal Aid attorney, she produced and moderated "The Law and You" on WKBW-TV for over 5 years. Penny also hosted legal segments on WGRZ-TV's "Common Ground" program.

Penny has also hosted thousands of weekly radio programs, and still does to this day on WECK, the Audacy Group of stations, and on WBBZ-TV with her weekly "Big Picture" program.

When asked about interesting cases that have come before her, Judge Wolfgang recalled the Mixon case in which the defendant was found guilty of burning down the house where his wife and stepchildren perished inside. Another included the Molly's Pub Murder Trial, among other "front page" cases.

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# ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

*Continued from previous page.*

Judge Wolfgang's deep connection to the media made her a staunch advocate for Cameras in the Courtroom, allowing media inside so people could see how justice prevails.

She has passed on her extensive knowledge of law to the younger generation as a teacher of trial practice at the State University at Buffalo Law School, and as a member of the faculty of the Erie County Law Enforcement Training Academy.

Penny says that her "mentors" were her Father Edgar Moonelis, and Michael Wolfgang.

On the lighter side of her judicial career, Judge Penny has presided over hundreds of civil service weddings.

Notable community contributions include: Judge Penny was the First Woman President of the Judges and Police Conference, and President of Women Lawyers.

Judge Wolfgang taught as an instructor at SUNY Buffalo Law School.

Judge Wolfgang was also a Member of the New York State Fair Trial and Free Press Committee and is a Board Member of the Kelly For Kids Foundation.

Judge Penny has connected with the everyone in Western New York from the everyday citizen in her courtroom, to business and community leaders on-air, at social functions, and community work, and remembers fondly meeting and working with the late Tim Russert ( host of "Meet the Press") and the first President George Bush.

Recently, Judge Penny Wolfgang was inducted into the Buffalo Broadcasters Hall of Fame in recognition for her decades long service to the Western New York community with her weekly programs, media appearances, and championing the opportunity to have cameras in the courtroom.

What Judge has found to be most uplifting in her life is her great family- from her late husband Michael, daughter Robin, granddaughter Karen Honan, and son-in-law Sean, having shared memorable trips and time together.

## **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

# NEW: MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Andy Smith

Looking for members to join the new Membership Committee.

## Duties:

- ❖ To help recruit new members. This could be at our own events, on college campuses, at a Chamber of Commerce event, or simply with family and friends;
- ❖ To help plan membership orientation gathering in July;
- ❖ To help maintain communications with area AAUW College/University members;
- ❖ To help edit the directory/roster in August;
- ❖ To prepare the directory/roster for mailing to members in late August and early September; and
- ❖ To help with renewals via email, phone, or mail.

## Communication:

There will be no monthly meetings. Most communication will be via email.

## Recruiting Members:

We can share the events depending on how many members we have in the committee. Hopefully, there would only be the need to attend 1 or 2 events per year.

## Renewals:

The most help is needed for June as most branch members have renewals at that time.

If interested, please email Andy at [aasmith12@yahoo.com](mailto:aasmith12@yahoo.com) or call/text 716-228-9540. I look forward to us working together!

# Public Policy

*Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair*

## When we vote in the midterms, Where do we go for honest answers?

All states will hold midterm elections in 2026. They take place halfway through the four-year presidential term. This year, 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives plus 35 U.S. Senate seats will be decided across the country. These are the races that concern the president the most. Your vote is very important, and it should represent your critical thinking.

- What issues are most important to you?
- Where do you get honest answers about the war in Iran?
- About gas prices?
- About the supply chain?
- About our alliances such as NATO?

The U. S. Vote Foundation provides some guidance. On April 1, on the war in Iran, Daniel Shapiro and Cleary Waldo said, “The U.S. President faces three main options: pursue a negotiated off-ramp, adopt an ongoing attrition strategy, or ‘escalate to de-escalate’ militarily.” The writers say his direction will determine the alignment of the U.S.-Israeli war. Is it clear what he is trying to accomplish? What will be left behind? What did he mean when he asked for an unconditional surrender from Iran? Regarding NATO, the alliance may be threatened from within. On March 31, from the same source, Tressa Guenov said, “Taking actions that erode its intelligence partners’ trust threatens to put the United States at a strategic disadvantage against its adversaries.” Furthermore, there is deep uncertainty in this president’s messaging. He often gives two-week deadlines or timelines, then changes them or uses ambiguous terms like “very shortly.”

How do the midterm elections affect the president? The president’s job approval has a strong impact on the composition of the House and Senate. If the voters want change, the president’s party is likely to lose seats. Midterms have been known to have a negative impact on the president due to the balance of power changing, according to Michael Genovese, professor at Loyola Marymount University. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans advanced one of the most radically regressive policy agendas in our nation’s history during the first year of President Trump’s second term. The Center adds that immigrants, people of color, and transgender people have been specifically targeted. The Trump agenda’s harmful impact is expected to be felt broadly by working families of all races, as well as people with disabilities, children, and veterans.

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# Public Policy

*Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair*

## When we vote in the midterms, Where do we go for honest answers?

*Continued from previous page...*

The Trump administration is expected to release a budget proposal for 2027 in April. The Center suggests asking five questions to help you determine your vote:

1. Does the budget offer real solutions to make health care, groceries, rent, childcare, and other essentials more affordable?
2. Does the budget repair the damage the administration has done to core government functions, or does it propose further damage?
3. Does the budget propose even more tax cuts that will worsen our fiscal trajectory and heighten cuts to critical public services including programs that help families with low or moderate incomes afford the basics?
4. Does the budget set up more harsh attacks on people who are immigrants?
5. Does the budget rely on gimmicks to claim fiscal responsibility?

The conclusion of the Pew Research Center may also be helpful when casting your ballot: While the Congressional body "looks" more like America than ever before, the quality of representation—as measured by responsiveness to public opinion and public trust—remains low, with high demand for structural changes like term limits. Pew Research adds "Representation is heavily impacted by party polarization, which often favors party elites and loyalists over compromise, leaving many voters feeling disaffected by both parties."

Note that the artificial intelligence overview is as follows: Donald Trump is surrounding himself with a team of loyalists in his second term, prioritizing personal allegiance to ensure the implementation of his agenda, often replacing traditional, experienced personnel with trusted supporters to prevent internal resistance. This shift has led to the potential "personalizing" of security forces, with loyalists appointed to lead agencies like the Secret Service, and a focus on rewarding supporters with pardons.

## DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., May 20th, at 5:30 pm  
Where: Family Tree Restaurant  
4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst

Book: The Briar Club, by Kate Quinn  
Discussion Leader: Pat Miceli  
Facilitator: Diane O'Brien

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

## CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Will not meet in the Month of May  
due to the Book Sale

RSVP: Barbara Libby at  
716-836-8303  
or [bplibby1@verizon.net](mailto:bplibby1@verizon.net)

## SCRABBLE CLUB

When: TBD  
Where: Contact Lisa Casey below  
for the Date and Location  
of the next gathering.

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

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Thursday, April 30th - 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.

### MASTERING LIBRARY ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

(Including Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy &  
Flipster)

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

Contact Judy Huber  
716-529-9881 or  
[judyhuber62@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhuber62@yahoo.com)

# Book Sale

## IT'S COUNT-DOWN TIME!

### "Anderson is Empty — Essjay is Not"

Meaning - all the boxes of sorted books, puzzles, and media plus the working tables have been moved from our winter collection location to our sale site!!! We're open for more work at the site. The table chairs are setting up their sections; sorters are dealing with more donations; volunteers are moving the newly sorted piles to those sections. People will be bringing snacks; donors will need help bringing in donations; boxes will need to be moved. The sale starts to come alive when you and people around you laugh, sip coffee and help pull the chaos into a 'retail ready' book sale. There is a job for everyone!

Our working hours April 7 through May 25 are Tues 10am-8pm, Wed 10am-5pm, Thurs & Fri 1-5pm, and Sat 10am-noon. Just stop by and spend an hour or two with us! Then, of course, comes the sale itself and we need ALL HANDS ON DECK!!! Please either use the form below to sign up for a shift (or two, or three, or ... ) or use the form on our website – [Click Here](#)

## Book Sale Volunteer Registration Form

Use this form to sign up for shifts during the book sale from May 27 — May 31

OR use the [online form](#).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please check all Shift Days/Times you are willing to work:

Wed, May 27	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 am — 1:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45 pm — 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45 pm — 8:00 pm
Thurs, May 28	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 am — 1:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45 pm — 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45 pm — 8:00 pm
Fri, May 29	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 am — 1:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45 pm — 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45 pm — 8:00 pm
Sat, May 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:45 am — 1:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:45 pm — 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:45 pm — 8:00 pm
Sun, May 31	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:45 am — 1:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:15 pm — 5:30 pm	

Volunteer tasks include (see our website for [complete description of each task](#)): Cashier, Checker (preps the receipt for cashier by tallying books), Exit Door Staffer, Floor Staffer, Greeter, Hostess, Interviewer, and Relief Staff.

Preferences: \_\_\_\_\_

Limitations: \_\_\_\_\_

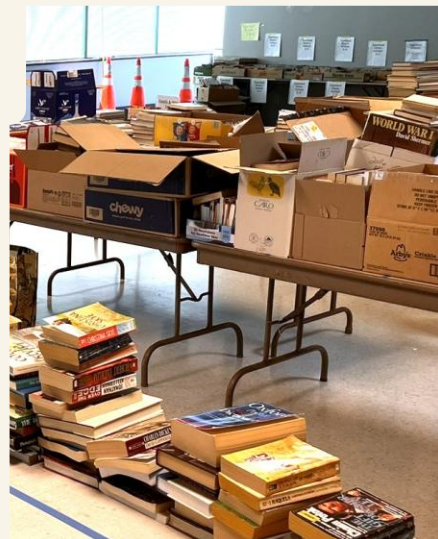
I will help with the packing of left-over books on  Monday, June 1  Tuesday, June 2

**Please return this form to:** AAUW Booksale at PO Box 894, Buffalo, 14225,  
**or email the information to:** [booksale@aauwbuffalo.org](mailto:booksale@aauwbuffalo.org)

**You may also sign up on our website:** <https://aauwbuffalo.org/book-sale/>

# Book Sale – Essay Location

COME JOIN THE FUN!





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

### 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 Elden's on Grand Island
- 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

*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.

