



B u f f a l o (N Y) B r a n c h

AAUW Buffalo Branch – Honoring 136 Years

AAUW National – Honoring 145 Years

Membership Social



- Mission & Vision
- Our Values
- AAUW's History
- Branch Board & Team Members
- What We Offer
- Training and Development
- Benefits and Perks
- Bylaws and Policies
- Questions

Agenda Overview



Our Mission & Vision

Mission:

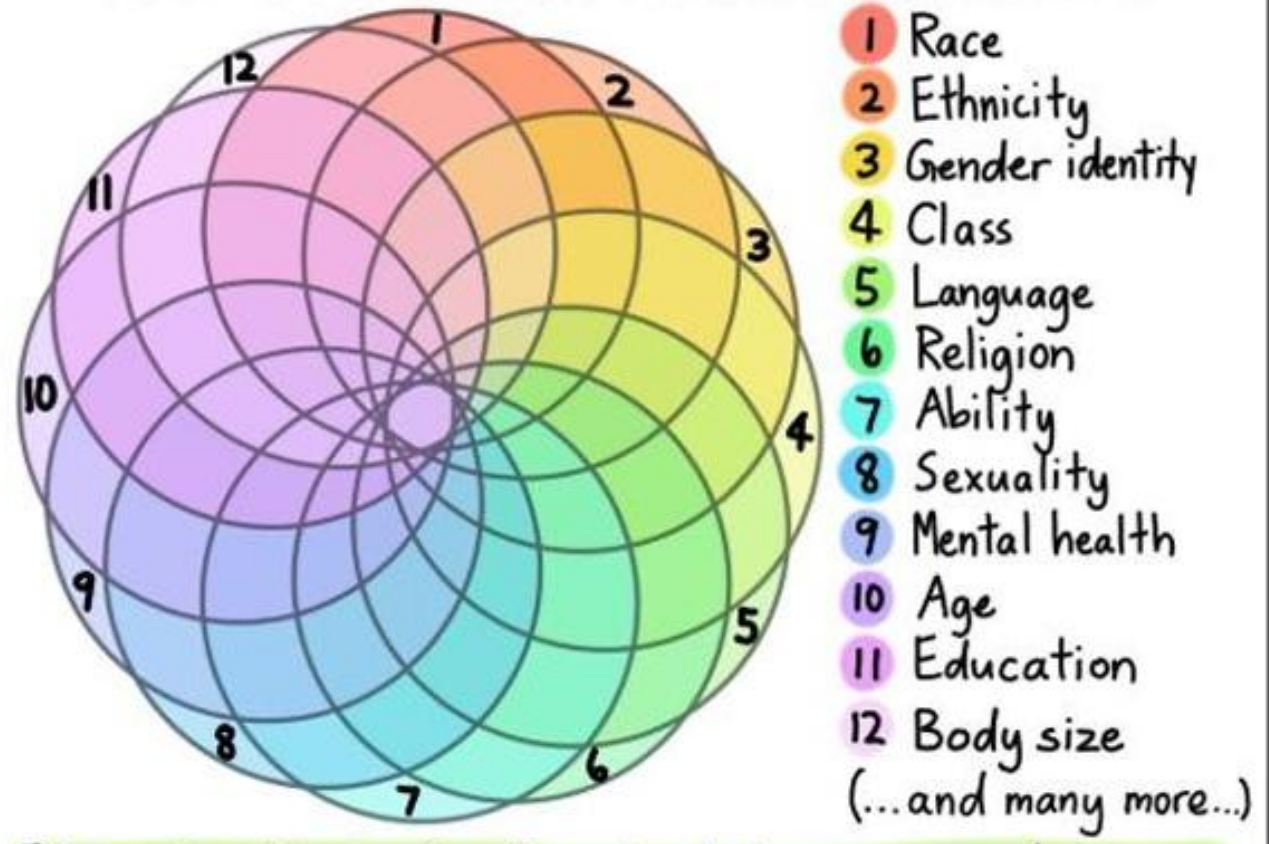
Higher Education & Economic Security

Vision:

Equity for Women and Girls



INTERSECTIONALITY



Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it locks and intersects. It is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and privilege.

— Kimberlé Crenshaw —



Our Values:



Intersectional
Inclusive
Intergenerational
Empowering



INCLUSION AND EQUITY

We believe diverse perspectives foster innovation; every voice is valued and should be heard and embraced.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING & GROWTH

Women's growth is a priority, and we provide resources, mentorship, and scholarships to ensure they achieve their highest goals.

Buffalo Branch Purpose



To promote gender equity, lifelong learning, and positive societal change through community programs for continuing education, scholarships, and interest-free loans.

To contribute to the growth and advancement of the educational policies and programs of the American Association of University Women.

To provide a forum for graduates of different educational institutions to promote intellectual growth, individual worth, and development of opportunities for all people, especially women and girls.

To promote AAUW philanthropic initiatives for the public good, focusing on quality of life.



AAUW National

Headquartered in Washington, DC, AAUW's story begins in 1881, when a small group of female college graduates banded together to open the doors for women's career advancement and to encourage more women to pursue higher education. The history of the American Association of University Women mirrors the progress of women in the United States.

AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

We are noted for our tenacious and trailblazing advocacy for women.

Since 1888, AAUW has been a significant contributor of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world.



AAUW conducts groundbreaking research on issues related to gender equity in education and the workplace. Our work influences the national discussion on topics like gender pay gap, sexual harassment, and underrepresentation of women in STEAM fields.

For 145 years, AAUW has funded the educations of countless women so they could follow their dreams. From astronauts to zoologists, the recipients of AAUW's fellowships, grants and awards represent nearly every imaginable field of endeavor.

AAUW earned a 4-Star Charity Navigator rating in 2023, recognizing our commitment to best practices and industry standards in accountability, finance, culture, and community.



AAUW of New York



AAUW of NY, a state affiliate of the national organization AAUW, has nearly 1,100 members in 21 branches.

AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch

FOUNDED IN 1890
IS THE

Oldest

BRANCH STILL IN EXISTENCE
IN NEW YORK





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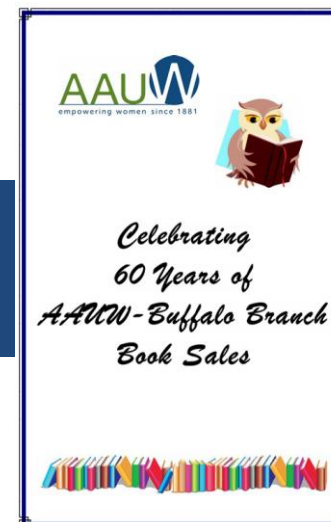
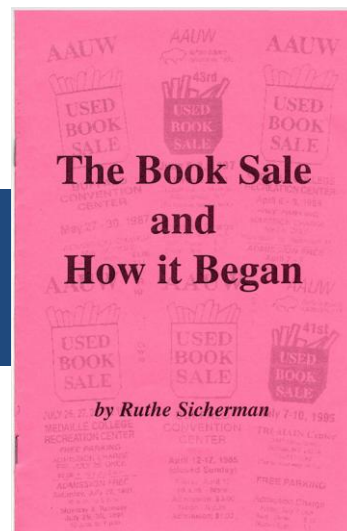
Branch History

- ❖ Judy Weidemann produced a [summary of the first 114 years](#) of the branch in 2004
- ❖ Ruthe Sicherman wrote a [history of the book sale](#) in the 1990's.
- ❖ Judy Weidemann and Janet Vine compiled a book of [stories from the first 60 years](#) of the book sale.
- ❖ See the video produced by member Kate Collins and her students to celebrate our 125th anniversary as a branch at the 2015 AAUW-NYS Convention. Thanks, Kate! Click [HERE](#) to view it!
- ❖ There were several mentions of the "Western New York" branch in the early ACA ([Association of Collegiate Alumnae](#)) papers.
- ❖ Marion Talbot had included information about the [Buffalo Branch](#) in her overall history of AAUW in 1931. The [entire book](#) is available on "Open Library".
- ❖ "[Achievement On The March](#)" was a play written to help celebrate the first sixty years of the Buffalo Branch in 1950.
- ❖ In 1952, E. Grace Gould (who had been branch president 1948-1950) wrote a [summary of AAUW's history](#) to that point.
- ❖ In 1964 or thereabouts, someone wrote a [membership-recruitment speech](#) which covers much of the history up to that point.
- ❖ A group of women updated the "Carriage Block" play, resulting in "[Reflections: Ninety Years of Buffalo Branch AAUW](#)" in 1980.
- ❖ Valerie Harlan Bozarth compiled much information, including the [branch history](#), in the Centennial celebration program-1990.
- ❖ We've uncovered "[Family Life in Early Buffalo](#)", outlining some early Buffalo history, written by Olga Lindberg in March 1975
- ❖ In December 2020 some of the members updated the readers' theater programs of earlier years. It may be viewed [HERE](#).



114 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG

The Buffalo Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is now 114 years old. The fact that an organization has endured for 114 years is remarkable. The list of accomplishments associated with the Buffalo Branch of AAUW makes this fact even more noteworthy. Nationally, the Association of Collegiate Women was founded in 1880/ Ten years later, the local branch was founded. A charming description of the initial meeting was written by Olga Murray Lindberg for the 85th Anniversary Celebration of the Buffalo Branch.



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Our Board Members



Pat Miceli

President



Shirley Joy

Chief Financial Officer



Mary Crocker

Branch Treasurer



Nan Scinta

Fundraising & Scholarship
Treasurer

Our Board Members



Andy Smith

Membership Vice President



Kathy Tepas

Secretary/Parliamentarian



Lilyen Mascellino

Program Vice President



Mary Bashore

Scholarship Director

Important Team Members



Betty Preble

Senior Advisor



Dr. Marian Deutschman

Public Policy



Karen May

Newsletter Editor



Why Join Our Branch?

- ❖ To advance awareness of gender discrimination.
- ❖ To make our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women & girls.
- ❖ To encourage and collaborate in the advancement of education for women & girls.
- ❖ To develop and practice leadership skills.
- ❖ To impact our community with programs that make a difference.
- ❖ To meet, socialize, and network with dynamic like-minded individuals.
- ❖ To sponsor and support philanthropic activities.
- ❖ To support cultural activities in our community.
- ❖ To share common interests in social groups.

AAUW From Members Who Recently Joined:

I joined AAUW because I'm a scholarship recipient and wanted to be involved in the community that advocates for women's empowerment and growth. I want to continue applying for scholarships but at the same time, give back to the organization so tirelessly working to empower women in education from all backgrounds without any restrictions.

During the late 1970s, I joined AAUW as a new member and was active for 2-3 years. When my 1st child arrived, I resigned due to insufficient time to support the association. Now that I am retired and have education as a prime priority in my life, I rejoined AAUW in September 2025.

I joined AAUW to:

- advance gender equity through research and advocacy,
- connect with a network of women scholars and professionals,
- access professional development and leadership opportunities,
- belong to a community whose mission closely reflects my own commitment to improving women's experiences in higher education.



From Members Who Recently Joined:

I joined because I wanted to support the famous book sale and the funds that go towards scholarships. I support education, especially for women.

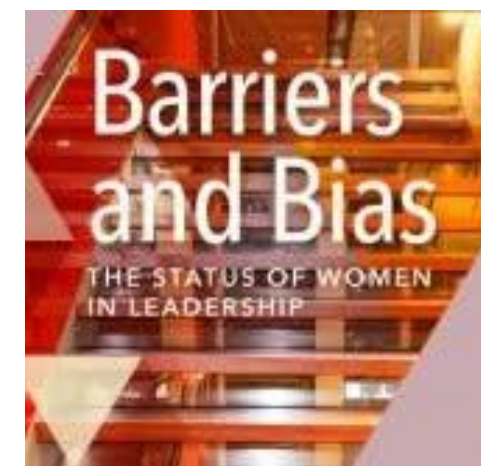
I wanted to become involved with the book sale and love the idea that the funds are used to help fund scholarships and grants. Education is power.

I joined AAUW Buffalo this year because I have been attending the book sale for a couple years and I wanted to support the AAUW scholarships. Additionally, I wanted to join the “Dinner by the Book” Book Club.

I became aware of our organization thru a good friend who said, ‘what I’ve learned so far about you is that you believe in everyone’s worth and you want to encourage and empower them’. I researched the AUWW and was excited by its mission, beliefs, activities, and welcoming members. So intelligent, empowering, hard working, interesting, uplifting, encouraging. Just to mention a few attributes. I decided I wanted to learn more and thought I could do that by offering my help.

We Proudly Offer:

- Leadership Opportunities
- Annual Book Sale
- Scholarships, Interest Free Loans & Grants
- Monthly Programs
- Interest Groups
- Public Policy
- Volunteer Opportunities



Interest Groups:

- ✓ Book Clubs
- ✓ Public Policy/Advocacy
- ✓ Human/Civil Rights
- ✓ Explore WNY
- ✓ Scrabble Club

New Group Ideas Include:

- Wine by Zoom
- Lunch Bunch
- Coffee Shop Hour
- Music Appreciation
- Mahjong Group





B u f f a l o (N Y) B r a n c h

AAUW Buffalo Branch – Honoring 136 Years
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Money for Education:

AAUW BUFFALO, NY BRANCH
**SCHOLARSHIPS,
INTEREST FREE LOANS & GRANTS**

Apply for most Scholarships by February 13, 2026
Visit @aauwbflo.org for details!

We offer Scholarships plus interest-free loans & grants, providing additional financial support to college students in the Western New York area. There are several different scholarships for undergraduate, as well as graduate students.

- Funds are paid directly to the award winner
- Funds may be used for any purpose
- No financial information is needed for academic scholarships
- Any accredited school, any course of study

For additional information visit:
@aauwbflo.org

In 2026 we gave out close to \$100,000 in scholarships plus interest-free loans and grants, providing financial support to college students in the Western New York area. These funds are obtained from proceeds from our Annual Book Sale and generous donors. The funds include several named awards. Applicants, women or men, must demonstrate superior academic achievement, have potential for achieving their academic and career goals, and, for some of the awards, show financial need.

BUFFALO BRANCH AAUW LOANS/SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS 2025-26

Details on our website – <https://aauwbuffalo.org>

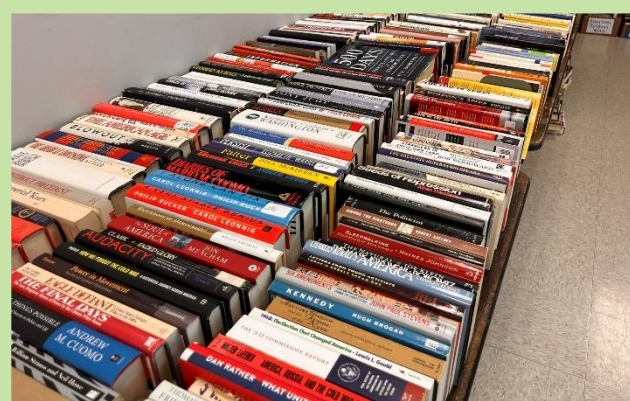
Education Program/Name	Audience	Criteria	How Much	Method of Application	Dates	Comments
Chamberlin Loans and Grants	Western New York Woman, Sophomore in College and Beyond	Financial Need Progress in Degree - Preference to Cornell	\$5000 Max Renewable up to 4 times	Application/ Interview w/Financial Review	Applications Due Dec 1 & May 1	Endowment from Sara Chamberlin Several Awards per Year
Funds for Education Loans and Grants	Western New York Student, Sophomore in College & Beyond Men may apply	Financial Need Progress in Degree	\$5000 Max Renewable up to 4 times	Application/ Interview w/Financial Review	Applications Due Dec 1 & May 1	Funded annually by Board from the Book sale funds Several Awards per Year
Swift-MacClennan Public Affairs Scholarship	WNY Woman HS Senior, Undergrad, or Grad School	Participation in Campus Newspaper or Television Productions	Up to One \$1000 Scholarship	Application, Transcript, Essay, 2 Recommendations	Applications Due Feb 13, April Announcement	Endowment from the families of Paul MacClennan & Patricia Swift-MacClennan Established 2025-26
Women Entering College	Erie & Niagara Counties, Graduating High School Senior Girls	Scholastic and Extracurricular Excellence, 95 GPA min	Up to Four \$5000 Scholarships	Application, Transcript, Essay, 2 Recommendations	Applications Due Feb 13, April Announcement	Funded Annually by Board from the Book Sale Funds Established 2017-18
Catalyst for Change	Western New York, Two categories - • Undergraduate Students • Graduate Students	Actual and Potential Activist Accomplishments, at least ½ time student	Up to Two \$5000 Awards in Each Category	Application, Transcript, Essay, 2 Recommendations	Applications Due Feb 13, April Announcement	Funded Annually by Board from the Book Sale Funds Established 2004-05
Olga Lindberg	Western New York Women in 4 th Year of College or Above	Scholastic Excellence, Full-Time Student, 3.7 cum or above	Up to Two \$8000 Scholarships	Application, Transcript, Essay, 2 Academic Recommendations	Applications Due Feb 13, April Announcement	Endowment from Olga Lindberg Established 2005-06
Jacque Walker	Western New York, Undergrad or Graduate Student	Merit Based: Community Service and Academic Achievement	Up to Two \$5000 Scholarships	Application, Transcript, Essay	Applications Due Feb 13, April Announcement	Funded Annually by Board from the Book Sale Funds Established 2008-09
Adult Learners in Transition	Western New York Women on a Non-Traditional Educational Path	Varies by Application, Merit based.	Up to Two \$5000 Scholarships for Full-Time Students and Up to Two \$2500 Scholarships for Part-Time Students	Application, Transcript, Essay	Applications Due Feb 13, April Announcement	Funded annually by Board from the Book Sale funds Established 2025-26
Clarine Radt Educational Mini-Grants	Public School Teachers	Project Supporting the AAUW mission	Up to \$500	Application, Approval	Ongoing	Endowment from Clarine Radt Established 2018-19

The Buffalo Branch Offers Financial Support to Attend Conferences



This year we helped defray the cost for Buffalo member, Joyce, to attend. Stay tuned to learn more about her experience at the conference.

AAUW Buffalo Branch 70th Annual Book Sale



AAUW Buffalo Branch 70th Annual Book Sale





Training & Development

AAUW is committed to women's development and offers FREE training courses such as Work Smart, Start Smart, Money Smart, Closing the Digital Gender Gap, and Advancing Workplace Success for Women both in person and online. Many other courses and webinars are also available.

www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/





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AAUW
Buffalo (NY) Branch

Discounts & Perks

AAUW's member benefits can enhance your professional and personal life and save you money. Most importantly, every time you use one of your benefits, you also support AAUW's vital work, making AAUW one of the nation's most influential voices on women's issues.

www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/

MEMBER SERVICES ▾

MEMBER DIRECTORY

MEMBER TO MEMBER
DISCOUNTS

CONFERENCE ROOM

CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

LUNCH MOB

PRONET

RIBBON CUTTINGS

AMHERST CHAMBER
TOASTMASTERS



📍 P.O. Box 894, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

📞 (716) 559-3037

@ Send Email

🌐 Visit Website



News

AAUW: 4/14/2026

Release Date: April 14, 2026

AAUW: Book Sale & Cash for College

Release Date: January 06, 2026

AAUW Awards 2025 Scholarships

Release Date: June 20, 2025

Events



AAUW MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL 7/13/26

Membership Social

Monday Jul 13, 2026



AAUW Buffalo Branch

Together Making a Difference

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Programs/Meetings](#)
- [Book Sale](#)
- [Scholarships, Loans & Grants](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Branch Policies and Procedures

The Buffalo Branch of AAUW is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Links to our governing documents may be found below:

- [Branch Bylaws](#) (last amended November 2025)
- [Branch/Board Policies](#) (last amended May 2022)
 - Zoom [Procedures](#) and [Request Form](#) (December 2020)
 - Social Media [Policies](#) (June 2019)
 - Chamberlin/Funds for Education [Loan Policies](#) (Feb 2019)
 - Achievement Award [Procedures](#) (April 2014)
- [Position Descriptions](#)
- [Scholarship Chair position description](#)
- [Timetable for Operations Treasurer](#) (August 2023)

Bylaws & Policies

AAUW Bylaws:

Refer to the National/State/Branch Bylaws Documents

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/bylaws-toolkit/>

AAUW Policies:

Refer to National/State/Branch Policies Documents

<https://www.aauw.org/issues/policy-center/>

AAUW NY:

<https://www.aauwnys.org/governance>

AAUW Buffalo:

<https://aauwbuffalo.org/about-us/branch-governance/>

Save the Date

AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH

Welcome Back Dinner!

Chef's Restaurant, Buffalo

Speaker: Mark Poloncarz

Erie County Executive

September

Tuesday

22

5:00 pm

It's Going to be a Fun Time with an Element of Surprise!

So

Mark Your Calendar

And

Yes, You Can Invite a Friend!

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

Our calendar of events and activities include educational programs, fundraising, and social activities that support our mission.



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“HOW TO BE A COURAGEOUS VOTER”



Dr. Marian Deutschman, our public policy leader and a member of the League of Women Voters, has helped create a presentation, “How To Be A Courageous Voter”. The presentation is planned for October by the League and will discuss the “Save Act” and other important topics you should know before the November Elections. The League is encouraging AAUW Members to attend and support their mission: “Our activities are focused on helping to ensure, inform and enable the people in our counties...” Look for more information in the fall issues of our newsletter, the *Advocate*.

BOOK CLUB - DINNER BY THE BOOK

(Eclectic selection of books).

When: The third Wednesday of the month
Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Where: The Olympic Restaurant,
1601 Military Road, Buffalo, NY, 14217
Questions: Contact Via Phone or Email
Leona Barback (716-536-1097)
Marilyn Carmichael (716-228-8626)

2026-2027 DINNER BY THE BOOK			
DATE:	BOOK TITLE:	FACILITATOR	DISCUSSION LEADER
9/16/2026	The Correspondent	Maryann Hope	Lynne Tauriello
10/21/2026	Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead	Pat Miceli	Hilde Neubauer
11/18/2026	The Book Club of Troublesome Women	Lynne Taurelli	Pat Miceli
12/16/2026	The Collected Regrets of Clover	Kathy Tepas	Nan Scinta
1/20/2027	A History of the World in 6 Glasses	Judy Malamas	Mary Bashore
2/17/2027	All the Glimmering Stars	Karen May	Mary Crocker
3/17/2027	Wayward Girls	Mary Bashore	Judy Huber
4/14/2027 **	BOOK SELECTION NIGHT		
5/19/2027	Isola	Kate Collins	Lisa Casey
6/16/2027	The Housekeeper and the Professor	Carol Griffith	Stacey Johnson

BOOK CLUB – CLUELESS MYSTERY
BOOK CLUB

When: The fourth Wednesday of the month

Time: 12:00pm

Where: Family Tree Restaurant
4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst

Questions: Contact Via Phone or Email
Barbara Libby 716-836-8303
bplibby1@verizon.net

2026-2027 CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB		
DATE:	BOOK TITLE:	PRESENTER:
9/23/2026	Widow, by John Grisham	Pat Miceli
10/28/2026	Strange House, by Uretsu	Stacy Johnson
1/27/2027	The Murder of Roger Ackroyd, by Agatha Christie	Kate Collins
2/24/2027	In the Bleak Midwinter, by Julia Spencer Fleming	Barbara Libby
3/24/2027	The Art Forger, by B.A. Shapiro	Marcia Bugyi
5/12/2027 **	BOOK SELECTION NIGHT and Seneca Falls Inheritance, by Miriam Grace Monfredo	Paula Salamone
6/23/2027	Murder Your Employer, by Robert Holmes	Gerianne Ronsen



As of April 1, 2026, dues for full members for the ensuing year are \$98.00. This includes \$76.00 for National dues, \$7.00 for AAUW-NYS dues and \$15.00 for Buffalo Branch dues.

Men as well as women are welcome to join.

However, there is a **Discount for First-Time Members** - 50% off the National dues. Total cost for first year members is \$60.00

We offer **Student Memberships** as well. Note: these members may not vote or hold office positions.

- Graduate Student Member of Branch - This includes National \$18.81, State \$7.00 & Branch \$15.00
Total cost is \$40.81
- Undergraduate Student Affiliate - That includes National \$18.81 & Branch \$7.50
Total cost is \$26.31

The branch has a category called “**FRIENDS**”, which allows those without the AAUW membership educational requirements and not currently a student to participate in branch activities. Cost is \$15.00



All Members Will Receive:



- A Buffalo Branch Roster, which is published in September that includes members' contact info, education, fields of study and present or last occupation.
- Our newsletter, the *Advocate*, which is published monthly from September through June.
- Information about monthly events and interest groups.
- New members will get a personal email and perhaps a phone call about upcoming events as well.





Buffalo Branch

Thank you!

We hope you will consider joining
our organization.

One, that is constantly changing,
looking ahead to the future, and
open to new ideas.

