Advocate

Together Making a Difference…

NOVEMBER 2026



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DECEMBER ADVOCATE

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

newsletter@ AAUWBuffalo.org

AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch

AAUW Buffalo Branch Invites You to Our 2nd



Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 5:30pm
Hosted by Joe Hotchkiss
Invite your Family & Friends

My Tomato Pie Restaurant

3055 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY 14228

Buffet Dinner is $34 per person & includes:

Appetizers (specialty pizza & veggies), Salad, Garlic Roasted Red Potatoes, Eggplant Parm, Roast Beef, Rolls, Coffee & Tea. Cash Bar Available.

RSVP by November 5th

Please join us for our annual fall dinner where we will welcome new members, greet old friends & continue to celebrate our **136th year**!

Registration: Click Here to register online and pay $34 per person via Credit Card. Or mail the completed form below (include all names of those in your group, along with any allergies – for name tags), along with a check for $34 per person to:
AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225

Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

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

_____

DECEMBER'S PROGRAM

Please join us on

Tuesday, December 8, 2026, 5:30 PM

at BANCHETTI'S RESTAURANT
550 North French Road, Amherst, NY 14228



MYSTERY DINNER



Interactive Mystery Dinner
Everyone at your table will
play a character
& work together to solve a crime!
No acting experience needed!
You'll follow your character's script
& enjoy the fun!
Come with friends or meet new
ones, as you discover whodunit!

Dinner Choices: Choose one
Stuffed Boneless Pork Chops
Chicken Piccata
(Dairy-free, Nut-free, Shellfish-free)
Eggplant Zucchini Parmigiana Lasagna
(Ricotta, Sauce – Vegetarian, Gluten-free)

Please register on or before Thursday, December 3

Registration: Click Here to register online and pay $36 per person via Credit Card or mail the completed form below (include all names with meal choices and allergies of those in your group - name tags), along with a check for $36 per person to: AAUW Buffalo, PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225

Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

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

_____

Public Policy

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

Did you get the AAUW Civic Engagement Guide? Will you act on it?

The AAUW Civic Engagement Guide helps you to:

1. Stay informed especially before and after you cast that informed vote,
2. Ask smart questions of candidates, and
3. Get involved.

You could lobby elected officials, be an advocate, and take action as an individual, to make your voice matter. You could start conversations with friends, family and neighbors to learn more, and gain the power of numbers to take more effective action.

You should do research on the issue that is of interest to you. What is the present situation? Why is it a problem? Develop a strategy with action items and ways to evaluate your effectiveness. Take action using your strategy and measure your success.

Advocacy does not usually include lobbying. Advocacy involves pleading for or against causes. It may support or recommend positions. Lobbying is an attempt to influence specific legislation. Although advocacy and lobbying are different; both can be ways to make your voice heard and influence decisions that affect your community.

To complicate your advocacy effort at this time, you have to deal with the distraction surrounding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) or superintelligent AI. Being an effective advocate means not only understanding an issue but also evaluating the information you receive about it. The first election to use AI was in 2024. AI may increase your options for action or simply add to the confusion about the integrity of elections. Some sources, like MIT Technology Review, suggest that the impact of AI is overblown and it may only be a distraction from deeper and longer-lasting threats to our democracy. AI-generated messages may be designed as deepfakes to influence voters. MIT Technology Review suggests that there is a need for evidence that AI tools targeting elections are making a difference in our elections. Election meddling may be more likely to target electoral processes, contributing to a cynical erosion of trust in these systems.

The Campaign Legal Center (CLC) is committed to educating voters and providing solutions to anticipated AI problems that could include spreading deceptive information to suppress voter turnout, misleading information about candidates or what they are asserting, and/or manipulation of election administration. AI can generate false messages from candidates, false polling results, false images of ballot tampering and shredding. Election workers could face harassment and threats. Rigged results could be fabricated. Vote counting and certification could be disrupted. These possibilities demonstrate why citizens need to be alert to misleading information and to understand how election processes work.

Election manipulation is not new but AI technology introduces some creative new interventions. Bipartisan laws need to keep pace with the technology. Over two years ago, Adav Noti of the Campaign Legal Center said “The public needs to be prepared.” Some states have taken action by passing and proposing bills to warn voters about the use of AI in elections, especially the use of deepfakes. These efforts are important but individuals also have a role to play in recognizing and questioning potentially misleading information.

Continued on next page.

Public Policy

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

The Brennan Center for Justice suggests using time-tested fact-checking practices to limit the effectiveness and the spread of misleading election information. The Center stresses the importance of seeking authoritative context from credible independent fact-checkers for images, video, and audio, as well as unfamiliar websites. It also suggests that you avoid getting election information from generative AI chatbots and search engines that consistently integrate generative AI. Instead, go directly to authoritative sources such as election office websites.

The Brennan Center also recommends that you adopt a critical approach toward both the information you consume and its sources. Go straight to a credible independent fact-checking site — such as PolitiFact, AP Factcheck, or another site verified by the International Fact-Checking Network — or consult the Artificial Intelligence Incident Database operated by the Responsible AI Collaborative to try to verify the authenticity of content or to submit content to such sites or databases for verification. Maintain a balanced approach to evaluating election information.

These practices can help you make more informed decisions and become a more effective advocate. Being an engaged citizen means taking responsibility for the information you use, the questions you ask, and the actions you take. This and other useful information can be found at the Brennan Center website https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-detect-and-guard-against-deceptive-ai-generated-election-information

We look forward to hearing what you did and learning about the results of your advocacy efforts..

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

~Mary Bashore

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS FOR MEMBERS: Last month you heard about several updates and changes to our scholarship programs. I am excited to give you more details about the revised Clarine Radt Mini Grants program. *All members of the Buffalo Branch, men as well as women, and Friends of the Branch, may apply.

Clarine Radt Mini Grants are intended to assist AAUW Buffalo Branch members* who wish to enhance their professional skills and/or careers. We especially encourage requests for programs related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and career pathways, leadership development training, as well as training to expand or deepen skill sets in ways that benefit the member's association with AAUW Buffalo.

Grants of up to $500 per year (July – June) per person may be used to fund attendance at short-term formal programs such as conferences and seminars. While we encourage members to consider local conferences and seminars and leadership training opportunities, members are expected to use professional judgement in selecting the program that best meets their needs.

Buffalo Branch members may apply by describing the program, the sponsor of the program, how it will enhance their professional development, and how the program fits with AAUW priorities as stated above. Applicants should also provide an estimate of the costs to attend (registration fees, travel expenses, etc.) and the dates and location of the program 6-8 weeks in advance of the program via email to scholarship@AAUWBuffalo.org.

If approved, the mini grant will be disbursed upon proof of attendance (certificate of attendance, letter from the sponsoring organization, program listing attendees, etc.) and receipts and itemization of expenses. Copies should be submitted via email to both the Clarine Radt Mini Grant coordinator and Fundraising/Scholarship Treasurer. Questions may be addressed to Scholarship Director Mary Bashore.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Pat Miceli

"Together we change the conversation."

- Gloria Blackwell, CEO AAUW National

Carol Griffith and I attended the Atlantic Regional Conference from 9/24-9/27 in Lancaster, PA. I was able to speak with Gloria Blackwell, CEO AAUW National and Celina Stewart, CEO League of Women Voters.

A major point was encouraging your members to vote. Election Day is 11/3. All members are reminded to make a voting plan. Know where your polling site is. Early voting is from 10/24-11/1. Your vote can make a difference.

Of noted significance, at the conference, Carol Griffith was inducted into the Legacy Circle. The AAUW National Legacy Circle honors over 730 members and friends who have included AAUW National in their long—term giving plans. Their contributions help advance equity for women and girls for generations to come. In the past nine years, more than $34 million in realized planned gifts has supported fellowships, research, and advocacy initiatives. It was an excellent conference. Another regional conference will be held in 2028.



Let's work together for another wonderful year!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

~Casey Schultz

Be an Executive! Join our Branch Board to make important decisions.

Have you ever thought about becoming more involved in our AAUW branch?

You may have attended a meeting, joined us for an event, participated in a program, volunteered your time, or simply enjoyed being part of this community. However you found your way to AAUW, you are an important part of what makes our branch successful.

As we look ahead, we have an opportunity for two members to take the next step and become more involved in shaping the future of our branch.

We are looking for members interested in serving a two-year term as our Branch Treasurer or Vice President, Membership.

Continued…

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

~Casey Schultz

Continued...

Branch Treasurer

The Treasurer is an important part of making sure our branch has the resources it needs to continue doing the work we value. (S)he works with the CFO and other treasurers (Fundraising/Scholarships and Chamberlin/Funds for Education) as the branch financial team.

The Treasurer manages our branch's funds and donations and helps oversee how those resources are spent and allocated. It's a role that gives you a meaningful look at the financial side of our organization and an opportunity to help ensure our resources are being used thoughtfully to support our members, programs, and priorities.

If you're organized and comfortable working with numbers and spreadsheets, or simply and interested in helping our branch make thoughtful decisions about its resources, we'd love to talk with you.

Vice President, Membership

Our members are the heart of AAUW—and keeping those connections strong is an important part of building a thriving branch.

The VP, Membership keeps track of member renewals and reaches out as renewal dates approach, helping ensure that our current members continue to feel connected and engaged. The role also provides an opportunity to think creatively about how we can reach new people, expand our membership, and introduce others to the benefits of being part of AAUW.

If you enjoy connecting with people, building relationships, welcoming others, and coming up with new ideas, this could be a great fit for you.

Why step up?

Serving on the board doesn't mean you need to have all the answers—or even previous board experience. It means bringing your perspective, your ideas, and your willingness to help.

It's also a chance to get to know other members, have a greater voice in the direction of our branch, and contribute to an organization you already believe in.

Maybe you've been thinking about getting more involved. Maybe someone else has encouraged you to consider a leadership role. Or maybe you simply see an opportunity where you could contribute.

If that's you, we hope you'll consider stepping forward.

We'd love to have a conversation with anyone who is interested in learning more about either position. There is no obligation—just an opportunity to ask questions and see if one of these roles might be right for you.

Interested? Please reach out to nominating@aauwbuffalo.org to learn more about the Treasurer or VP, Membership position.

We hope you'll consider joining us in helping shape the next chapter of our AAUW branch!

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.

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President: Pat Miceli
Publisher/Editor: Karen May
Assistant Editors: Betty Preble
Judy Weidemann

For prospective or new member questions, please contact:
Membership VP: Andy Smith
Membership@aauwbuffalo.org

Send address changes to:
Mary Crocker
375 Parkhurst Blvd.
Buffalo, NY 1422
mlcrock@msn.com

WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION PROGRAM

~Mary Bashore

One of our members recently participated in Ready, Set, Lead! - a data-informed WNY Women's Foundation program that meshes closely with AAUW values. It addresses the gender gap in leadership by facilitating career, personal, and community development for women and gender minorities in the first five years of a career.

Aspiring Leaders receive six months of structured mentorship from established community leaders, six educational sessions focused on building leadership acumen, formal coaching, and access to a diverse community network of cohort colleagues. They develop new skills, identify areas for growth, and develop a pathway to prepare for future leadership positions. The program includes a Leadership Summit open to all.

Applications are currently being accepted online for the program that begins in January, from mentees and persons wishing to be mentors. The deadline for mentees is Nov. 1.

The cost is $500 and some scholarships are available from WNY Women's Foundation. Alternatively, applicants who are members of the AAUW Buffalo Branch may apply for a Clarine Radt Mini Grant, described on page 5 of this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

-Andy Smith

A warm and friendly welcome to Our New Members!

Annise Taylor & Sara Skerker

New and Current Members, you might enjoy the presentations I made and may even learn something new.

Membership Social Presentation

History & Photo from Membership Social

BOOK SALE

~Nancy DiStasio

Big and huge thanks to those who have staffed the first few weeks of collection. Donations have been extremely brisk. It was like a tsunami and people worked exhaustively to keep pace. If you have sorted in the past and want to come out to help, our regular hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9 -1 and Saturdays 10-1. If you have NOT sorted in the past, we are reaching out to members who noted interest in the book sale. (If you haven't heard from us, please feel free to reach out.) Training sessions are being set up.

Some people have had difficulty finding our new location at 3774 Harlem Road in Cheektowaga. We have added a picture and clearer directions on the website, as well as adding the address number in the window.

Bookmarks have been distributed to BECPL (Buffalo Public Libraries) and NIOGA (Niagara/Orleans/Genesee Counties). Please ask a librarian if you don't see the bookmarks out at your local library. The branches do receive many items to display, so we want to be sure they don't forget our bookmarks!

Any questions? Contact Nancy DiStasio at AauwBfloBooksale@gmail.com

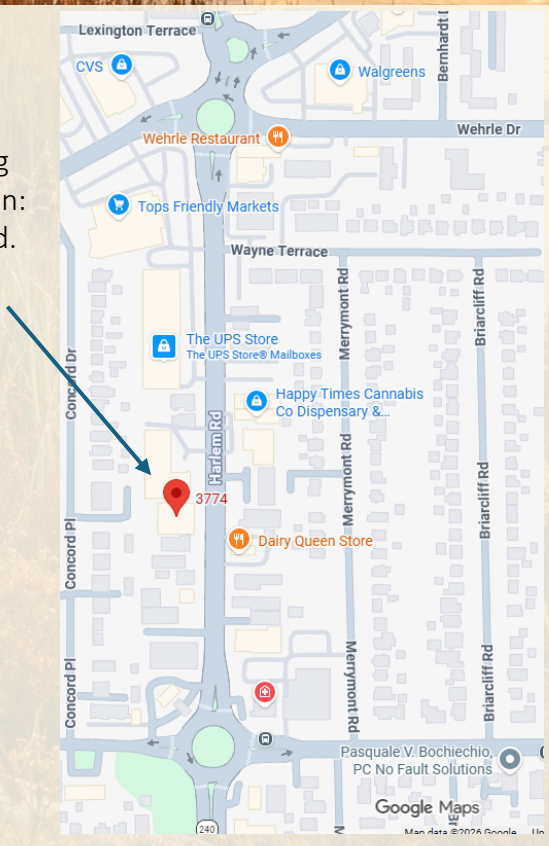
"A Huge **Thank You** to the Elma Meadow Ladies Golf League & Moog "

Unbeknownst to us, the Elma Meadow Ladies golf league ran a book drive for our benefit. They showed up the first week of collecting with five carloads of donations!

Moog's September – MONTH OF GIVING, chose to honor us and ran a book drive. We gratefully received a truckload of books due to their efforts.

OUR NEW LOCATION

For those that have had difficulty finding our new location: 3774 Harlem Rd. Cheektowaga.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., November 18th, at 5:30 pm
Where: --- NEW LOCATION ---
The Olympic Restaurant
1601 Military Rd, Buffalo, NY, 14217

Book: *The Book Club of Troublesome Women,* by Marie Bostwick

Discussion Leader: Pat Miceli

Facilitator: Lynne Tauriello

Please RSVP each month!
RSVP: Judy Malamas 716-632-0461
Email: tsagewood@aol.com

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: No Clueless Book Club in Nov/Dec
Next Meeting is:
Wed., January 27th, at 12:00 pm
Where: Family Tree Restaurant
4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst

Book: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, by Agatha Christie

Presenter: Kate Collins

RSVP: Please RSVP each month!
Barbara Libby at 716-836-8303
or bplibby1@verizon.net

SCRABBLE CLUB

When: Tuesday, November 10th, at 5:30pm
Where: Home of Nan Scinta

Contact Lisa Casey below for Nan's address for the next gathering.

RSVP: Lisa Casey
716-957-2136
Email: lisamcfail@gmail.com

LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

When: Wednesday, October 29th
1:00 pm
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.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

WINE BY ZOOM

When: Monday, November 9th, at 7:00 pm

RSVP: Andy Smith
716-228-9540
Email: aasmith12@yahoo.com

Meeting chat link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/jc/83895530238
Meeting ID: 838 9553 0238
Passcode: 254926
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,83895530238#,,,,*254926# US (New York)
+16469313860,,83895530238#,,,,*254926# US

THE HAPPY WANDERERS

DAY-TRIP TO AUBURN, NY

The day-trip to Auburn, NY is postponed until the spring. The Harriet Tubman House/Museum Is currently closed while under restoration.

Contact Judy Huber
716-529-9881 or
judyhuber62@yahoo.com

LUNCH BUNCH

When: Saturday, November 7th, at 1:00 pm

Where: Hānai Hawaiian BBQ
314 Myrtle Ave, Buffalo, NY 14204

PLEASE RSVP IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND!

RSVP: Andy Smith
716-228-9540
Email: aasmith12@yahoo.com

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

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

11/3	Book Sale Col/Sorting 9 AM - 1 PM
11/4	Book Sale Col/Sorting 9 AM - 1 PM
	Board Meeting 6:30 PM {Ebenezer Church in W.S.}
11/7	Book Sale Col/Sorting 10 AM - 1 PM
	Lunch Bunch 1 PM
11/9	Wine by Zoom 7 PM
11/10	Book Sale Col/Sorting 9 AM - 1 PM
	Scrabble Club 5:30 PM
11/11	Book Sale Col/Sorting 9 AM - 1 PM
11/12	TRIVIA NIGHT 5:30 PM
11/14	Book Sale Col/Sorting 10 AM - 1 PM
11/17	Book Sale Col/Sorting 9 AM - 1 PM
11/18	Book Sale Col/Sorting 9 AM - 1 PM
	Dinner By the Book 5:00 PM
11/21	Book Sale Col/Sorting 10 AM - 1 PM
11/24	Book Sale Col/Sorting 9 AM - 1 PM
11/25	Book Sale Col/Sorting 9 AM - 1 PM
11/28	Book Sale Col/Sorting 10 AM - 1 PM

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.