

# ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Women on the Move with AAUW!

May 2022

Vol. CXXX No. 9



## ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON—IN PERSON!

Sean Patrick's Restaurant, 3480 Millersport Hwy, Getzville 14068

Saturday, May 21—11:30 registration, 12:00 lunch

The meal will include (in addition to your choice of main course) chef salad, vegetable medley, cheesy potatoes, and dessert. Drinks may be purchased at the bar.

We will be honoring our Achievement Award winner Terri Parks as well as installing our incoming officers.



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### JUNE ADVOCATE

*The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 10th of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor:*

*([NEWSLETTER@AAUWBUFFALO.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@AAUWBUFFALO.ORG))*

*via email by May 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.*



### REGISTRATION—Deadline May 14

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

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

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

Please check your meal choice:

- Baked Haddock Bruschetta Style     Italian Stuffed Chicken
- Char Grilled Salmon                       Vegetable Lasagna

Special Food Needs \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in carpooling, please indicate the general area where you live (Williamsville, Orchard Park, West Side, etc.):

Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and send with a check for \$28.00 to:

Betty Preble, 1 Fox Run Lane #622, Orchard Park, 14127

## THE BUFFALO BRANCH ADVOCATE

is 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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## MEMBERSHIP INFO

**Judy Huber** has moved! Her new address is 1805 Maple Rd #301, Williamsville 14221.



## RENEWAL TIME!

Watch your mailbox—renewal notices and forms will be on the way soon!

## President's Message

*Lilyen Mascellino*

*"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."*

*~ Oscar Wilde*

Greetings Everyone!

As you know, we are pleased to be able to hold our annual Scholarship Book Sale once again! The book sale allows us to impact our community by assisting scholarship awardees in attaining higher education.

The best way to understand the Book Sale is to volunteer this year! Yes, it's a grand undertaking, but it is also a time of camaraderie. Volunteers truly reflect the spirit of our branch, as it's a way for each of us to give back to our community and it's a vote in support of higher education. May the thought of giving back inspire you to lend a hand, as we can't do it without you.

Please take a look at the details in this newsletter to learn how you can become part of the Book Sale Team. We understand that your time is valuable, but this is a worthy cause to invest in whether it's for a couple of hours or days.

I'd like to thank you in advance for your dedication to our Annual Scholarship Book Sale!

## YOU HAVE A VOTE!

You should have already received via email or snail mail a ballot from "AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH", via "Election Buddy." The following positions are on the ballot, listed along with the candidates proposed by the nominating committee:

- VP Membership Recruitment: Diane O'Brien
- Secretary: Judy Huber
- CFO: Shirley Joy
- EAP Treasurer: Sue Stapell
- Fundraising Treasurer: Mary Crocker
- Scholarship Director: Melissa White

Personal information about each candidate is on the [website](#). You will be able to abstain or write-in another name.

Also on the ballot will be some proposed bylaws changes. Most are simply language clarifications. One, however, changes the process of appointing some leaders. Currently we name positions, then ask if they want to be on the board. We will reverse that, asking for board members and then those people choose responsibilities. The ballot has a link to the details on the [website](#). If you need a paper copy, please contact Betty Preble and one will be sent to you.

## MAY 2022 INTEREST GROUPS



### THE HAPPY WANDERERS

Due to continued concerns for COVID, we have decided to take a hiatus for a time.

### DINNER BY THE BOOK

**When:** Wed. May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30

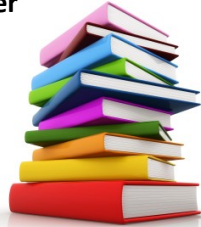
**Where:** Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

**Book:** *Lincoln on the Verge* by Ted Widmer

Facilitator: **Judy Huber**

Discussion Leader: **Stacey Johnson.**

**RSVP:** Frances Witnauer 716-688-5708  
or grandmafran4547@gmail.com



### WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

**When:** Wed. May 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.

**Where:** Gigi's Cucina Povera 981 Kenmore Ave., Kenmore 14217

**RSVP:** Barbara Libby by May 7 at 836-8303  
or bplibby1@verizon.net

### CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

**When:** Wed. May 25<sup>th</sup> at noon

**Where:** Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

**Book:** *Gaudy Night* by Dorothy Sayers.

Discussion Leader: **Jean Hubbard**

**RSVP:** Barbara Libby at 836-8303  
or bplibby1@verizon.net

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

*Judy Weidemann*

We continue to venture out. Be sure to check the venues for date and times, as we are not quite "out of the woods."

### Albright-Knox Northland

612 Northland Avenue

882-8700, [www.albrightknox.org/community/northland](http://www.albrightknox.org/community/northland)

**In These Truths**, through June 5 - last exhibition there!

### Amherst Chamber Ensemble (ACE)

acemusic95.org

ACE will give a **Free Beethoven Concert** with the Buffalo State Philharmonica on Tuesday, May 10, at 7:30 pm.

Location: Rockwell Hall on the Buffalo State Campus, 1300 Elmwood Ave.

### Burchfield Penney Art Center

SUNY Buffalo Campus, 1300 Elmwood Ave.,

878-6011, [www.burchfieldpenney.org](http://www.burchfieldpenney.org)

**Edreys Wajed: The Bridge**, through June 26

The **Burchfield Penney** also sponsors a Zoom Book Talk each month. The May Talks will be on May 5 and May 19. Go to the website to register.

### The Kavinoky Theatre

D'Youville College Campus, 3220 Porter Ave., 829-7668, <http://kavinokytheatre.com/>

**People, Places, and Things**, through May 22.

### Shea's Theatre

646 Main St.

847-1410, <https://www.sheas.org/>

**Ain't Too Proud**, through May 10 -15



### Theatre of Youth

There are no upcoming events at the present time.

### ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS, 2021-2022

#### PRESIDENT

Lilyen Mascellino

#### VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Dr. Susan McClary

#### BRANCH TREASURER

Mary Bashore

#### CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR

**EDUCATION TREASURER**

Kathleen SantaMaria

#### VP PROGRAM

Dr. Marian Deutschman

#### SECRETARY/ PARLIAMENTARIAN

Diane O'Brien

#### EAP TREASURER

Sue Stapell

#### SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

Rosaleen Nogle

#### VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Melissa White

#### CFO

Shirley Joy

#### FUNDRAISING TREASURER

Mary Crocker

## “What is Whataboutism?”

*Dr. Marian Deutschman*

**Whataboutism** originated in the United Kingdom way back in the 1970s. The British define it as a technique of responding to an accusation or difficult question by making a counteraccusation or raising a different issue. The Russians perfected the technique during the Cold War. Doug Bandow, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, says it’s almost impossible to discuss U. S. foreign policy without engaging in whataboutism. Bandow states the following on the Ukraine invasion, “Vladimir Putin’s government bears responsibility for the terrible crime of invading Ukraine. However, American arrogance, ignorance, and recklessness contributed to the crisis.” He adds “Just imagine how Washington would have reacted to the Soviet overthrow of the Mexican government and a proposal to add the new regime to the Warsaw Pact.” Lorenzo Kamel, who’s a professor of history at Turin University, reminds us that “invading a sovereign country (Ukraine) and ‘exporting democracy’ are indeed two illegal and immoral sides of the same coin.” It’s clear that these statements deserve further discussion.

*Whataboutism* is a rhetorical device that involves accusing others of deeds as a way of deflecting attention from one’s own offenses. Quite often, there is an element of hypocrisy that emerges when the criticism leveled at one person is an action that is taken by the critic him/herself, even with greater frequency.

You’ve probably done it yourself in a knee jerk reaction. Someone may make a statement about something President Biden did and you counter with a comparison of an action taken by former President Trump (*that example can be reversed.*) Depending on the circumstances and the willingness of both persons to explore the individual responses, it should lead to critical thinking and discussion. However, all too frequently *whataboutism* isn’t intended to accomplish that goal. It may simply serve as an unrelated diversion and reluctance to deal with a pressing issue.

*Whataboutism* is a deflection process that has grown with social media in an attempt to discredit an opponent’s po-

sition. It is considered a form of logical fallacy. It is easy to do and sometimes it can generate real and valuable reflection. Instead of criticizing the former president for any role in inciting the January 6 riot, some Republicans drew comparisons between the Capitol siege and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests. If we weren’t so polarized, we could compare the similarities and differences between the BLM protests that emerged after the death of George Floyd and the protests on January 6. What are the differences? Are there similarities? Compare the motivation and methods. Was the January 6 event an attempted coup or a breakdown in police preparation?

BLM and the failed Capitol insurrection cannot be compared, according to Cynthia Miller-Idriss, professor in the School of Public Affairs and School of Education at American University.

“What happened at the Capitol, you can’t call that a protest anymore,” says Miller-Idriss. “That was a riot, it was sedition, it was an insurrection, a siege... it was a domestic terrorist attack.” Some BLM protests included vandalism and looting, but these events often occurred as confrontations with police after peaceful protesters left. The majority of demonstrators were peaceful, distancing from the instigators of vandalism.

The media plays a major role in highlighting and repeating variations on one story until another more newsworthy event takes precedence. The media has had an agenda-setting function for years. They didn’t tell us what to think but they told us *what to think about*. They highlighted the news of the day during regularly scheduled newscasts. Today, technology has given us 24/7 news and it’s presented as breaking news even when it isn’t. With misinformation, disinformation, and opinions presented as news, it’s easier to practice *whataboutism* with sound bites from our “trusted” sources.

We must recognize that some *whataboutism* reflects a lack of personal responsibility, a lack of willingness to apologize, and a technique to dodge accountability and further critical discussion.





# We're having a **Book Sale!**

We've moved into our site! It's the former **BAC for Women**, at 480 Evans Street in Williamsville.



As many of you may know, this Sale is a tremendous *all-hands-on-deck* undertaking every year. Every one of us has experienced a difficult two years and we are now surfacing to continue to assist future scholarship awardees in seeking the life-changing realization of higher education. This year, *like no other before*, **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. Many of our volunteers have "de-conditioned" or relocated, and many positions are open.

Our "working hours" there from now **through May 20** are **Tues, 9-8, Wed 9-5, Thurs & Fri 1-5, and Sat 9-noon**. We are accepting donations during those hours, but are not advertising for them! Those hours are subject to change. If we can get more shift supervisors, we could be open more. (If you're interested, please contact Cindy Koch at 239/267-2008 or [cbk148@aol.com](mailto:cbk148@aol.com) ).

Right now **we need sorters!** We have a regular core group of people who have been working year-round (when COVID allowed,) but many of them are "table chairs" and would like to be working on those. If you have an hour or two free, just stop by - it's really more fun than work!

## TABLE (Category) CHAIRS needed !

Currently we are **seeking table chairs** for:

- Sociology
- Family/Child care
- Reference
- Christmas

Interested, or want to learn more? Contact Pat Baker, 716-634-6640.



### **Book Sale Volunteer Registration Form**

*Use this form to sign up for shifts during the book sale from June 1-June 5*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

- |        |  |   |  |
|--------|--|---|--|
| June 1 | <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 |
| June 2 | <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 |
| June 3 | <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 |
| June 4 | <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 |
| June 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:45 am - 1:30 pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 1:15 pm - 5:30 pm  |  |

**OTHER TIME(S)**

- I will do other volunteer duties: \_\_\_\_\_
- I will help with the packing of left-over books on June 6.

**Please return this form to:** Judy Huber, 1805 Maple Rd #301, Williamsville 14221 or contact her at 716-529-9881 or [judyhuber62@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhuber62@yahoo.com). You may also sign up on our [website!](#)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Please note:** All events are possibly subject to change or cancellation. Please check our website for last minute information.

**Wednesday, May 4, 6:30,** Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church in Snyder

**Saturday, May 21,** Branch Annual Meeting/Luncheon at Sean Patrick's. Details on page 1.

**June 1-5, BOOK SALE!**

**Wednesday, June 8, 6:30,** Board Meeting at Ebenezer Church of Christ in West Seneca. **NOTE– Second Wednesday!**

**Tuesday evening, June 14,** Scholarship Celebration! Details next month.

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP BEFORE, DURING, AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BOOK SALE!**

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.*

Moving? Please contact Mary Crocker 716-838-2796



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