

On the Move with AAUW!

December 2022

Vol. CXXXI No. 4



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JANUARY ADVOCATE

The deadline for each issue of the Advocate is the 10th of the previous month. Submit articles to the editor: (NEWSLETTER@ AAUWBUFFALO.ORG)

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



"THE STORY OF TOP SEEDZ"

Rebecca Brady, Founder and Owner Diamond Hawk Clubhouse 255 Sonwil Drive, Cheektowaga

Saturday, Dec 3 -11:30 registration, 12 noon lunch, followed by speaker Menu Options: Chicken Français \$30, Pasta Primavera \$25, Shrimp Scampi \$30

Kia ora! (That's 'hello' in Maori.)

I'm Rebecca, transplanted Kiwi from New Zealand, busy mum of three and owner of Top Seedz. As an avid traveler and sports enthusiast, healthy eating influences the way I live—and the way I feel.



For years, I had made seed crackers and roasted seeds at home, and thought "why not share my snacks with the rest of the world"—and that's how Top Seedz was born. It took a life full of adventure and experience to create these better-for-you snacks and I hope you enjoy them with your favorite dips, cheeses and maybe even a glass of wine.

Map and more information on page 3!

REGISTRATION—Deadline November 21!!!!!			
Name:			
Phone:			
Email:			
Please check your meal choice:			
☐ Chicken Francais (\$30)	☐ Pasta Primavera (\$25)	☐ Shrimp Scampi (\$30)	
Please add Guest names and meal choices on the back or on a separate sheet			

Please add Guest names and meal choices on the back or on a separate sheet of paper)

Please clip or copy and send with a check for the appropriate amount to: Betty Preble, 1 Fox Run Lane #622, Orchard Park, NY 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.

December 2022 Vol. CXXXI, No. 4 Circulation 200

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A Holiday Thought:

If you receive holiday gift books that are not of your taste—you can always "re-gift" them to the booksale! We will, in turn, transform them into scholarships. In addition, consider a sponsorship or gift to The AAUW Book Sale as a gift for the book lover on your list.



DECEMBER 2022 INTEREST GROUPS

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS - different day!

When: Thurs, Dec 15 at 6:00 PM

Where: Frankie's Primo's, 26 Webster St.,

N Tonawanda 14120

What: AAUW Interest Group for members to share

dinner and conversation.

RSVP: by Dec 13 to Barbara Libby at 836-8303 or

bplibby1@verizon.net

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB
No Meeting in December
Next meeting Jan 25.

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. Dec. 21 at 5:30

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918

by Laura Spinney.

Facilitator: Diane O'Brien

Discussion Leader: Mary Bashore.

RSVP: Judy Malamas at 716-632-0461 or

tsagewood@aol.com.

MORE ABOUT OUR DECEMBER PROGRAM!

Top Seed: *definition*: In sports, the top seeded player or team is the one who is given the highest ranking in a seeded tournament—a player who is most favored to win.

THE SEED THAT STARTED IT ALL

Our products are made with simple, organic ingredients. They are made by hand. And, they are made for you to enjoy and share.

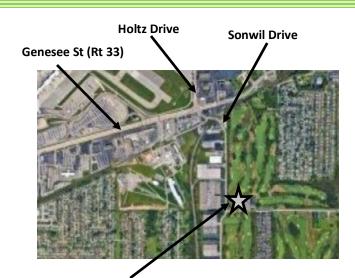
Today's your day to be a Top Seed!

Top Seedz started in 2017 in Buffalo, NY. We hand-make seed crackers and roasted seeds, and have recently started selling raw seeds and seed cracker mix (think of a cake mix for crackers). All of our products are organic, gluten-free, vegan and delicious.

We sell our products across the U.S. in grocery chains and specialty shops—and on our <u>online store</u>.

Top Seedz firmly believes that when we eat healthy, we can create positive change within ourselves and in the world.

Good Housekeeping Healthy Snack Award and 43North award winner.



Diamond Hawk Clubhouse

255 Sonwil Drive

Take Sonwil south from Genesee St. (Rt 33) Sonwil only goes south from Genesee - Holtz Drive is the northbound road from that intersection.

There is no access from Rehm Road!

There are a few steps in front, but there is a ramp into the pro shop on the side, or sidewalk to the level rear entrance/hallway where the restrooms are.

DANGEROUS RHETORIC

Dr. Marian Deutschman

Rhetoric inform

persuasion

ELOCUTION

Rhetoric is the art of persuasive speaking or writing. According to Anne Curzan, professor of English at the University of Michigan, the historical definition of rhetoric is "the art of using language effectively in order to persuade others." She said rhetoric became fashionable in the 1960s and continued to escalate in usage between the 1980s and 2000s. Now, there appears to be a change that should concern us. She explains that "once words transition over to the dark side, it's difficult to bring them back into a positive light." In politics, the term is almost always

used negatively. Some call it the dreaded R- word. It is used in the news, in political advertising, and other forms of communication to convince people to THINK, FEEL, or DO something specific.

Politicians make arguments that share common **rhetorical** elements,

including metaphor, ad hominem attacks (directed at a person, not their views), appeals to expertise, moral appeals and many other devices, says Jack Blumenau, associate professor in the Department of Political Science at University College London. Conspiracy theories and heated rhetoric have proven to resonate with followers. People already inclined toward aggression become even more aggressive when exposed to hostile political speech.

Can words really lead to actions? Researchers have good circumstantial evidence as well as evidence from scientific experiments concluding, overall, that rhetoric is probably not the main cause in most attacks—but violent, hateful language can inflame people who are already inclined toward violence and focus their rage. One change during this polarized period of time is evident. Elected officials aren't condemning the harmful rhetoric but allowing it to fester and demonize the target. How long has the big lie about the 2020 election been given support? Surprisingly, instead of condemnation, audiences sometimes react with laughter. The Republican nominee for governor of Arizona made light of the attack on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband in remarks at a campaign event, drawing laughter from the audience.

University of Massachusetts political scientist Brian Schaffner found that exposure to Donald Trump's racist comments about Mexicans during his 2016 Presidentlal campaign made people more likely to write offensive statements that were toward not just Mexicans but other groups. The former president is not alone in this language. Far-right websites alternately precede the former president and then follow him with repetition. Sometimes he has explicitly praised those who engage

in these assaults. For whatever reason that may be self-

serving, other politicians either share or parrot those views. That serves to expand the audience by creating the impression of party consensus against certain "enemies."

Ultimately, leaders bear responsibility for protecting the peace and uphold-

ing norms necessary for a healthy democracy. There should be accountability and legal consequences for violent, hateful words from the nation's highest officials. Have we focused so much on the former president that we've left others off the hook? Why aren't the less powerful colleagues criticized for their rhetoric?

The level of security is far greater now than it was in the 1960s when revolution was in the air. It was the time of the Vietnam War and the deaths of JFK, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Robert Kennedy. How long can we tolerate issues at a boiling point? How much more protection do our legislators need? A recent book by Timothy Redmond titled Political Tribalism in America: How Hyper-Partisanship Dumbs Down Democracy and How to Fix It notes that many people already know what they want to conclude, and seek evidence to favor that conclusion. He suggests that the hyper-partisanship has dumbed down our democracy by encouraging citizens to seek information they like and avoid information they dislike. Group loyalty is a stronger motivator of opinion than ideological principles. Where is the critical thinking we expect from responsible citizenship?





Important Note: We will NOT have any scheduled working hours the weeks of Dec. 18 and Dec. 25.



ADVOCATE DELIVERY NOTICE

Given the increasing cost of printing and postage, we will ONLY be sending paper copies of the Advocate to <u>branch members</u> who specifically request it OR do not have an email address on file with us. If you wish to continue to receive a paper copy, please contact Betty Preble at "betty.preble@gmail.com" OR 716-662-0608. All issues will continue to be posted on our website and members without email will continue to receive this via mail..

Update on Fiona Stewart, 2019 AAUW Scholarship winner

Dr. Betty Krist

Fiona's a junior at Swarthmore who spent her 2022 summer in Jordan studying Arabic intensively as one of her two declared languages. Right now she is in Granada polishing up her nearly fluent Spanish.

Fiona is also handling a remote internship with an independent Minneapolis-based publishing company, reading manuscripts for further consideration. When she returns to Swarthmore for spring semester, she will be Editor-in-Chief of the student literary arts magazine.

Fiona hopes to spend summer 2023 in South Korea, either in an intensive Korean language course or doing a second internship.

Fiona's rightfully proud mother, Jean Stewart, sent us this report and has already volunteered sorting books for the booksale.





Please welcome our newest members!

Mrs. Janet Gillmeister
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tenaj13215@gmail.com,
janet.gillmeister@gmail.com

Ms. Jennifer Hoffman 7217 Erica Lane North Tonawanda, NY 14120 716-692-0947 (h) 716-481-3535 (c) padpaws@hotmail.com

BUFFALO BRANCH ELECTED OFFICERS 2022-23

PRESIDENT Lilyen Mascellino

VP PROGRAMDr. Marian Deutschman

VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT Diane O'Brien **VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION**Dr. Susan McClary

SECRETARY/
PARLIAMENTARIAN
Judy Huber

CFO Shirley Joy BRANCH TREASURER
Mary Bashore

EAP TREASURERSue Stapell

FUNDRAISING TREASURER
Mary Crocker

CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR EDUCATION TREASURER Kathleen SantaMaria

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR Melissa White

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Saturday, Dec 3, 11:30 am, Branch Program at Diamond Hawk Restaurant. ("Story of Seedz", with founder & CEO Rebecca Brady). See pages 1 and 3.

Wednesday, Dec 7, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St in West Seneca.

Wednesday, Jan 4, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem/Saratoga in Snyder.

Thursday, Jan 19, 5:30 pm, Branch Program at My Tomato Pie Restaurant. "Title IX and Sexual Harassment", with Jessica Byerly, Associate Director; Deputy Title IX Coordinator at UB.

Tuesday, Feb 28, 6:00 pm, Branch Program at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site, Bob Poczik will discuss "The Warmth of Other Suns."

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



Non-Profit Organization Organization NO Stable NO Permit No. 1078 Return Service Requested

American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch Inc PO BOX 894 Buffalo, NY 14225-0894

