

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

On the Move with AAUW!

January 2023

Vol. CXXXI No. 5



TITLE IX AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

My Tomato Pie Restaurant

3055 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Amherst

(in the Tops Plaza, near corner of E. Robinson and the Blvd)

Thursday, January 19, 5:15 p.m.

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Registration and Appetizers (different kinds of pizza squares) at 5:15.

Dinner at 5:45: Buffet with Chef's or Caesar salad, Italian sausage, chicken marsala, roast beef, marinara-tossed penne, and garlic roasted potatoes. Cookies for dessert.

Program at 6:45.

About our speaker: **Jessica Byerly** is the Associate Director of UB's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as well as UB's Deputy Title IX Coordinator. She is a UB alumna with over 15 years of experience specializing in affirmative action, Equal Employment Opportunity compliance and management information systems. Her background includes private sector management experience working with diverse communities. She also serves on several university committees infusing diversity and inclusion best practices throughout all levels of the organization.

Most of us think of Title IX in connection with sports, but there's much more to it enhancing opportunities for women for the past fifty years!

Ed. Note—Ms. Byerly is also a new member of our branch!



FEBRUARY 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 January 10. Please be sure to put "AAUW Buffalo Advocate" in the subject line.



REGISTRATION—Deadline January 12!!!!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please add Guest names on the back or on a separate sheet of paper.

Please clip or copy and send with a check for \$29 per person to:
Shirley Joy, 7188 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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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President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

You can get excited about the future. The past won't mind. ~Hillary Depiano

Happy New Year Everyone!

Yes, 2022 was a good year for our Branch! With restrictions lifted, members attended programs, interest groups met again and we pulled off another successful Scholarship Book Sale! Now, with the new year upon us, we have begun to reflect on past practices in some areas and move passionately into making decisions for 2023!

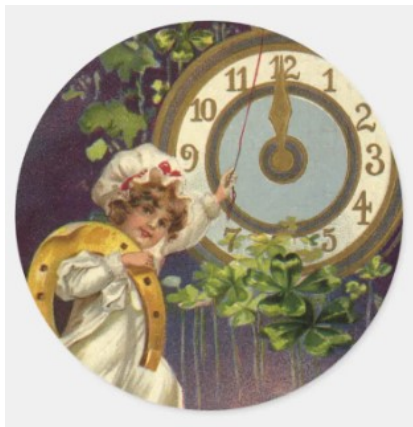
The Board continues to meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month and I continue to be impressed with our collective ability to participate in respectful and productive discourse when seeking to make the best decisions for all. Once again the Board has proven to be a reflection of AAUW's core values.

The future of our branch looks bright! Plans to hold our 67th annual Book Sale are in the works which will help us to continue to impact the lives of women and girls in the community. Please considering volunteering to be part the Book Sale Team. It's a dynamic group and a great way to connect with other members.

Also, the board has been focusing on empowering the team to do a better job for the branch. Here's a peek at what we've been working on:

1. Since September each board meeting has been used as an opportunity for us to get a deeper understanding of the work that is happening in the following committees and to have input:
 - Public Relations
 - Program Committee
 - Scholarship Committee
 - Book Sale Committee

2. And in the new year, Board Meetings will also focus on a review of our handbook to ensure our ability to productively lead, as we are determined to serve you well! My hope for each of us in 2023, is that our participation in branch programs and interest groups draws us closer to each other.



Here's to the New Year!

JANUARY 2023 INTEREST GROUPS

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS -

When: Wed., January 11 at 6:00 PM

Where: Zoe's Restaurant, 5701 Transit Rd.
(between Klein and Highland Farms Dr.)

What: AAUW Interest Group for members to **share dinner and conversation.**

RSVP: by Jan. 9 to **Barbara Libby** at 836-8303 or
bplibby1@verizon.net

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed., Jan.25 at noon

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *Vanishing Act* by Thomas Perry

Discussion Leader: **Kate Collins.**

RSVP: Barbara Libby at **716 836-8303** or
bplibby1@verizon.net

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed., Jan. 18 at 5:30

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Nature of Fragile Things.*

Facilitator: **Judy Huber**

Discussion Leader: **Mary Georger.**

RSVP: **Judy Malamas** at 716-632-0461 or
tsagewood@aol.com.



WELCOME!

**Please welcome
our newest member:**

Judith Z. Deck
44 Brookville Drive
Tonawanda, NY 14150
878-2776 (h), 242-9338 (c)
jzdeck@roadrunner.com
BS & MS in Nursing from UB

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER!

The deadlines for applying for many of our scholarships is January 9! Do you have daughters/nieces/granddaughters who might qualify for one of our awards?

We have scholarships for young women ranging from those just graduating from high school to those heading towards graduate school—check them out on our website! But HURRY—the deadlines are almost upon us!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Mary Bashore

We often associate this phrase with the men and women serving in our military, and with veterans, especially those who served in wartime.

Recently, I was very touched to hear this phrase addressed to me when talking with someone about my career in public service. She understood what it means to be dedicated to service to others, and the sacrifices that often come with it.

Then I realized that this phrase applies to our members – who have been and are currently serving in paid positions and volunteer roles, in service to others in countless ways. Thinking about the impact our organization has on the lives of women – particularly through scholarships, leadership opportunities, civic engagement, and as role models and mentors – we have all benefited from the efforts of others, including those who came before us. To all of you – thank you for your service!



Women Making a Difference

TEACHERS, PARENTS & SCHOOLS

Dr. Marian Deutschman

Are we dumbing down our education? Marc Tucker is the president emeritus and a distinguished senior fellow of the National Center on Education and the Economy. He says that the economic stakes are hard to overstate. Thirty countries now outperform the United States in math at the high school level. Many are ahead in science. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the millennials in our workforce tied for last on tests of mathematics and problem solving among the millennials in the workforces of all the industrial countries tested. We now have the worst-educated workforce in the industrialized world. Because our workers are among the most highly paid in the world, Tucker says it makes a lot of Americans uncompetitive in the global economy, and uncompetitive against increasingly smart machines. The data presents us with a rather pessimistic future.

The prospect of significantly boosting the achievement of the average American high school graduate and making American workers once again the best educated in the world seems like a dream given that there has been no improvement in high school math and reading scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress after more than 40 years, even though they've tried every "proven practice."

Should parents be involved in curriculum development and book choices? Kids develop better social skills and improved behavior when their parents are involved at school. Studies have also shown that kids are less likely to skip school, are less disruptive in class, and more likely to do their homework when their parents are involved. Students with involved parents, no matter what their income or background, are more likely to earn high grades and test scores, enroll in higher-level programs, pass their classes, earn credits, and be promoted; attend school regularly, graduate and go on to postsecondary education.

Compulsory education in the United States began over 150 years ago when Horace Mann established a statewide system of education in Massachusetts, the first state to pass school attendance laws in 1852. By 1918, all states required children to receive an education by law.

A formal education system was created to meet the needs of young citizens. America made secondary education compulsory. Our rigid system has not adjusted that model as we've moved towards global innovation, a digital world, a competitive economy, and shifting economic needs.

Studies show that a lack of investment in education and educators is one of the 10 reasons the U.S. education system may be failing. The Biden administration has dedicated a significant amount of money for our schools and as much as 10 years to spend it. If policymakers use it well, the potential for improvement of the performance of our schools could be unprecedented.



"Teachers are the No.1 predictor of student success inside the classroom, estimated to have two to three times the effect of any other in-school factor," writes Sarah Mehrotra, in an article in *Education Trust*, a publication advocating for education equity from preschool through high school. Re-

search indicates that educators in the top 25th percentile of experience are less likely to teach in low-income areas or teach students who are Latino or Black. Sarah Schwartz in *Education Week* states, "Black and Latino students are still more likely than their peers to have teachers with one year or less of experience in the classroom with the largest disparities for Black students."

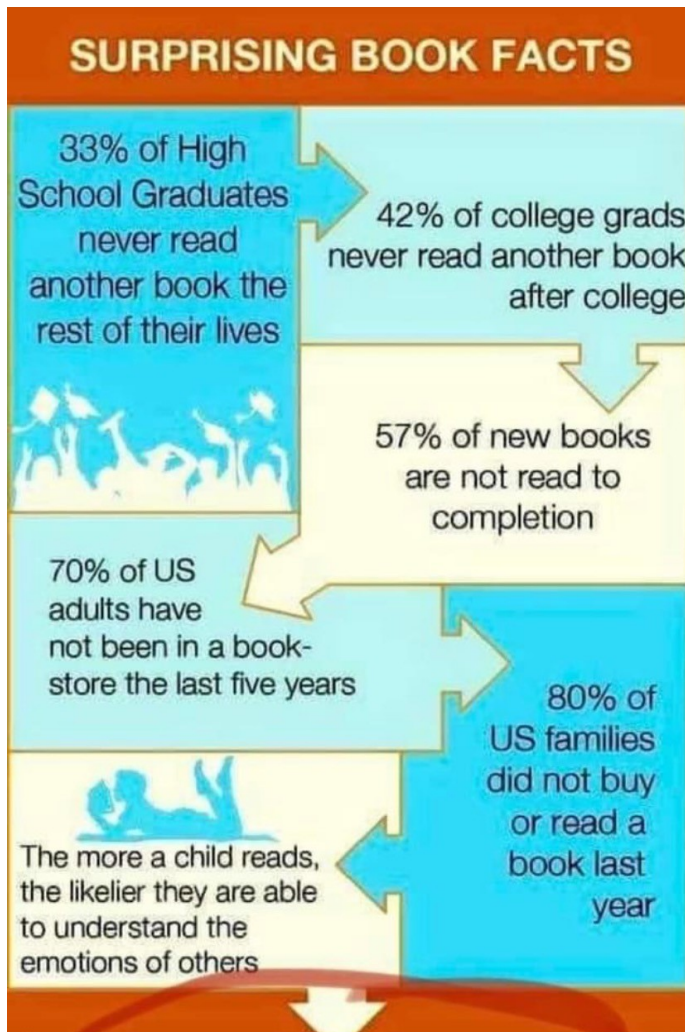
We need to have a dialogue about our education system rather than having parents issue their demands for banning books and making the curriculum the target for intense criticism. The primary reason books get banned is the sexual content. What problems do we face in preparing young people for good citizenship and satisfying careers? We are not going to solve our problems by groups like Moms for Liberty, a social nonprofit that can accept unlimited dark money. In Florida they worked with the governor to craft "Don't Say Gay" legislation. One of their members introduced "anti-critical race theory" legislation. Social media has made it easy for national operatives to stage scare campaigns to steer parents toward alternatives to public schools. Involvement is good. Interference is not.



BOOKSALE UPDATE!



We will resume collecting & sorting books on Jan 3, working Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am-1pm at 80 Earhart Drive, #4, in Williamsville. There have been instances of too many people at one time (a wonderful problem to have😊!). We ask that you please sign up so we have an idea of how many will be there at any given time. The [link](#) is on our website.



WE ARE CONNECTED!

Diane O'Brien

Marian Deutschman and her program committee provide us with stimulating speakers and activities

Programs this past fall have really connected us with contemporary events.

Our **September** program was on cryptocurrency. Have you invested in this new financial alternative? Our speaker urged caution. Ironically, FTX, a crypto exchange, filed for bankruptcy shortly before this program.

Our Ukrainian speaker in **October** was Dianna Derhak. She was featured on a local news station the day she spoke to us and in the Buffalo News the next day. In the audience, during her presentation to us, sat a newly arrived refugee family. The father used a cane for his compromised leg. He had received needed medical care from branch member Natalie LeVan's brother, a surgeon. Through individual donations and the food costs of this program, we were able to provide the national Ukrainian women's group with \$700 for war supplies.

Cyber security was **November's** topic. This is a growing area of concern. Did you know your Social Security number is worth one dollar on the dark web? Your credit card info sells for \$100! Information about the dark web and its use was enlightening.

Rebecca Brady told us how she developed her company "Top Seedz" in **December**. The day before her talk, she was featured in the Buffalo News for her company's expansion plans. Have you discovered her gourmet crackers in the grocery store aisles?

Our speakers are great! After hearing them we can relate so much more to the world around us from listening to their personal experiences. Join us for a New Year of great presentations!

BUFFALO BRANCH ELECTED OFFICERS 2022-23

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**
Judy Huber

EAP TREASURER
Sue Stapell

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR
Melissa White

VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT
Diane O'Brien

CFO
Shirley Joy

FUNDRAISING TREASURER
Mary Crocker

****DATES TO REMEMBER****

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

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. See page 1.

Wednesday, Feb 1, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St in West Seneca.

Tuesday, Feb 28, 6:00 pm, Branch Program at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site. The TR site is co-sponsoring this program. Bob Poczik will discuss "The Warmth of Other Suns." Details will be in the February Advocate.

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



Return Service Requested

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

