

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

On the Move with AAUW!

September 2023

Vol. CXXXII No. 1



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AI AND MISINFORMATION:

A New Post-Truth Era or an Old Problem in New Clothing?

Ilio DiPaulo's Restaurant

[3785 S Park Ave, Blasdell, NY 14219](#)

Thursday Sep 28: Registration at 5:30, Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00

Do you think that Artificial Intelligence is just an esoteric topic that really has nothing to do with you? Think again! If you "google" topics, ask Siri a question, request that Alexa play a tune, "press one for ...", or a host of other things, you're dealing with artificial intelligence! Is it always right? What if your doctor is depending on it and it's wrong?

Our speaker is Yotam Ophir, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Communication at UB. His work combines computational methods for text mining, network analysis, experiments and surveys to study media content and effects in the areas of political, science, and health communication. He is the head of the Media Effects, Misinformation, and Extremism (MEME) lab and a member of the Center for Information Integrity (CII).



Dinner includes Salad, Italian rolls, Pasta with House Sauce, Seasonal Mixed Vegetables, Chicken Piccata and Beef Roulades or Pasta Broccoli, Coffee or Tea, and Spumoni. Please send the form below along with a check for \$30 written to AAUW Buffalo to: Betty Preble, One Fox Run Lane #622, Orchard Park, NY 14127. Deadline Sep 18.

October 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 September 10.



Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Dinner choice (please check one):

- Beef Roulades & Chicken Piccata Pasta Broccoli (v)
- Beef Roulades Chicken Piccata

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

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

Greetings Buffalo Branch Members!

Our branch began the summer season by hosting our 67th annual Scholarship Book Sale which was a success due to your commitment to supporting AAUW's mission of lifting women up via scholarships & interest free loans. It's at the Book Sale where everyone's pride & passion for our group is clearly visible. If you volunteered, came and shopped or told your neighbors about the sale - thank you! We have once again proven that Teamwork = Triumph! And believe it or not, the Book Sale Committee has already begun working on next year's sale. To stay updated, check in with our website regularly. Betty Preble makes sure that the latest info is posted there. And if you want to be part of the action - contact Kate Collins or any member of the Book Sale Team. These dedicated individuals are listed in our Roster.

In July, the Public Relations Committee, under the leadership of Pat Miceli, met and mapped out a plan to promote our visibility locally. It's important that we are seen in the community as an advocate for all. If you are interested in assisting in this area, there is room for you on this team!

As we step into September, branch events have begun for the year. There are interest groups for you to join, as well as monthly programs to attend. Your Program Committee has been diligently working throughout the summer and have planned a variety of offerings that are sure to intrigue you. Be sure to check them out and consider attending a few...or all of them! They are listed in each edition of this newsletter. If you are a new member, please know that we are excited to connect with you! So go ahead and sign up for what you find appealing! Have an idea or a lead on a great program? Contact VP of Programs, Dr. Marian Deutschman.

Over the last few months, we have gained quite a few new members. Whether we are new or have been part of the branch for years, my hope is that we will truly embrace belonging to the branch & all that it offers. To quote Brene Brown,

"True belonging is not passive.

It's a practice that requires us to be vulnerable

and

to be present with people without sacrificing who we are."

This year, let's focus on making rich connections with each other, and in doing so we will ultimately strengthen AAUW Buffalo Branch!



NEW at the Book Sale!

Jean Stewart

Our 2024 Book Sale will have a new table: **Book-cessories!** This section will feature book-related items to enhance the reading experience and remind buyers of their appreciation of books. Looking for items like t-shirts, stickers, pins, and mugs with authors' quotes or pictures, cozy socks and throws with bookish designs, reading magnifiers (even reading glasses with prescription specified), lap desks--anything of a small size with a literary connection, etc. Feel free to email me with your suggestions and offerings: virtualjean@pobox.com



AI: Were you aware?

What is artificial intelligence in simple terms?

Artificial intelligence, commonly referred to as AI, is the process of imparting data, information, and human intelligence to machines. The main goal of Artificial Intelligence is to develop self-reliant machines that can think and act like humans. These machines can mimic human behavior and perform tasks by learning and problem-solving. Most of the AI systems simulate natural intelligence to solve complex problems.



Artificial intelligence is the science of making machines that can think like humans. It can do things that are considered "smart." AI technology can process large amounts of data in ways, unlike humans. The goal for AI is to be able to do things such as recognize patterns, make decisions, and judge like humans.

AI Facts and Figures

According to Statista, revenue from the Artificial Intelligence (AI) software market worldwide is expected to reach 126 billion dollars by 2025.

As per Gartner, 37% of organizations have implemented AI in some form. The percentage of enterprises employing AI grew 270% over the past four years.

According to Servion Global Solutions, by 2025, 95% of customer interactions will be powered by AI.

A recent 2020 report from Statista reveals that the global AI software market is expected to grow approximately 54% year-on-year and is expected to reach a forecast size of USD \$22.6 billion.

PRESIDENT

Lilyen Mascellino

VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Dr. Susan McClary

BRANCH TREASURER

Mary Crocker

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

SEPTEMBER 2023 INTEREST GROUPS

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed. Sep 27 at noon

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Maid*, by Nita Prose

Discussion Leader: **Paula Salamone**

RSVP: Barbara Libby at **716 836-8303** or

bplibby1@verizon.net

WNY CULINARY DELIGHTS

Interest has waned, so this group is suspending operations.

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. Sep 20 at 5:30 PM

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Leavers*, by Lisa Ko

Facilitator: **Mary Bashore**

Discussion Leader: **Sue Licata**

RSVP: Judy Malamas at **716-632-0461** or

tsagewood@aol.com



HAPPY WANDERERS is looking for a new leader – if interested, please contact Judy Huber at judyhuber62@yahoo.com.

Welcome to our New Members!

Elaine Ball

51 Pryor Ave. Tonawanda NY 14150

Phone: 716-835-6381 Cell: 716-870-6165

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BS in Nursing SUNY Buffalo

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Media Arts Certificates Desktop Publishing,
Phoenix College AZ

Peggy Scalzo

147 Jackson Ave. North Tonawanda NY 14120

Phone: 716-694-9474 Cell: 716-864-6534

Email: geppy147@gmail.com

BS Electrical Engineering University of Buffalo
Professional Musician

This 'n That

Question for Members!

Would you like the option in the future of registering and paying online for branch programs for a small fee?

Yes No Don't care

Send an email with your answer to "newsletter@aauwbuffalo.org".

OR click [HERE](#) for an online form.



COULDN'T HELP WITH THE BOOKSALE THIS YEAR?

If you weren't able to attend the Sale or help out this year, please **consider making a donation** to help defray the costs of the sale so that more funds can go to our Scholarship winners. As your household prices go up, know that ours have, too. We pay for sorting and sale sites, tables, equipment, storage, publicity, signage and needed supplies. We accept Book Sale donations *any* time of year—they are tax deductible!

Sponsorships are available at several levels (see below), but donations of any size are appreciated!

- Louisa May Alcott, \$25 – \$49
- Toni Morrison, \$50 – \$74
- The Bronte Sisters, \$75 – \$99
- Jane Austen, \$100 +

If you wish to make a donation, please send a check made out to AAUW Buffalo Book Sale, to PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225. *Please specify Book Sale donation on the memo line.*

It's time to be thinking about SCHOLARSHIPS!

The **Buffalo Branch Scholarship** applications for the coming year are all on the website! The deadline for the regular scholarship applications is February 16, while the next deadline for Chamberlin and Funds for Education interest-free loans and grants is Dec 1.



Please tell all the young women in your life to check out the possibilities:

[Scholarships, Loans and Grants - AAUW Buffalo Branch](#)

Nationally: Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world.

Most of the deadlines for these fellowship and grant applications are in the fall:

[Current Funding Opportunities – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Don't forget that we have the "two-minute activist" as a tool for telling YOUR representatives how YOU feel about the issues of the day. Praise him/her for actions, or tell them how you disagree!

Go to: [Two-Minute Activist – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#) . Sign up and indicate the areas of most concern to you!



Hyper conservative movements in and out of the United States

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

Do you know people who have a political philosophy that is so conservative that they advocate repressive social stands, call people socialists or communists if they disagree with them, and keep telling us that we must take our country back? These views define a movement that is gaining support in many places around the world. Are conservatives gaining momentum? "Our recent Supreme Court decisions are complemented by increasingly radical conservative legislatures in many states," noted Stephen Collinson of CNN. Normalization of the far right is happening across the democratic world, and it's terrifying, says Owen Jones in *The Guardian*.

In the United States, conservatism is based on a belief in individualism, traditionalism, republicanism, and limited federal governmental power. Conservatives are known to strongly support business, and oppose high taxes and government involvement in industry. Super conservatives dislike and distrust change. They support traditional ideas about family, behavior and punishment. The term "woke" has been used by some conservatives as an insult against progressive values. "Woke" was originally coined in the 1900s by progressive Black Americans. It means that someone is informed, educated and conscious of social injustice and racial inequality, according to the definition in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Some Republicans are waging a fight against "wokeism." Legislation across the country is forcing strict limitations on curriculum and discussion about race and LGBTQIA+ issues. Book-banning efforts are reported in schools and libraries on topics such as racism, sexual orientation, and gender. The National Education Association estimates a shortage of about 300,000 teachers and support staff. There is a crisis in the number of students going into the teaching profession and the teachers who are leaving it. Teachers want to make teaching and learning decisions for their students. They need a supportive environment as well as resources to do their jobs.

Reporting on a National Conservatism Conference in Florida, David Brooks provided these quotes in *The Atlantic* from three Senate Republican politicians: "The left's ambition is to create a world beyond belonging," said Josh Hawley. "Their grand ambition is to deconstruct the United States of America." "The left's attack is on America. The left hates America," said Ted Cruz. "It is the left that is

trying to use culture as a tool to destroy America." "We are confronted now by a systematic effort to dismantle our society, our traditions, our economy, and our way of life," said Marco Rubio.

Right-wing populism is often associated with anti-environmentalism, anti-globalization, protectionism, and opposition to immigration, especially in Europe. Giorgia Meloni has established herself as a hard-nosed conservative leader in Italy. Scandinavia is moving to the right. Finland has turned to the right. In Italy, Spain, France and Finland, parties that were once outcasts are gaining respectability and power. At the Conservative Political Action Conference in Budapest in May 2023 with 600 conservatives searching for common ground, writer Dieter Stein saw a, "broad consensus in opposition to mass migration and aggressive promotion of gender ideology."

Germany is identified as the central problem of European politics. It is the magnet for migration into the welfare system, according to Stein. A leading Foreign Policy magazine recently declared that, "Germany's far-right 'firewall' is starting to crack."

"Resistance to globalism is a new organizing force of right-wing politics,"

writes James Pogue in *Vanity Fair*.

Eastern Europe is definitely the most conservative region of the Western world. Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, and Hungary form a right-wing bloc that resists a progressive agenda. Chris Nagavonski is a writer and translator from Washington, DC, who specializes in Eastern European affairs. He claims that, "The basic distinction between American and Eastern European right-wingers lies in their different attitudes toward freedom." American conservatives prioritize the individual and oppose most government efforts to manage people's property and livelihood. Russia, the right wing in Poland, and Hungary prioritize collective self-determination (freedom from foreign interference that threatens their nation's ability to thrive on its own terms).

Our Republican Party has been adrift. It had no platform in 2020 and has no credible ideas for the future. It needs to develop a clear set of policy objectives. That could be a focus on freedom, dignity, public safety, and support of individual initiatives. Stephen Goldsmith and Ryan Streetter in *Politico* magazine call this "aspirational conservatism."

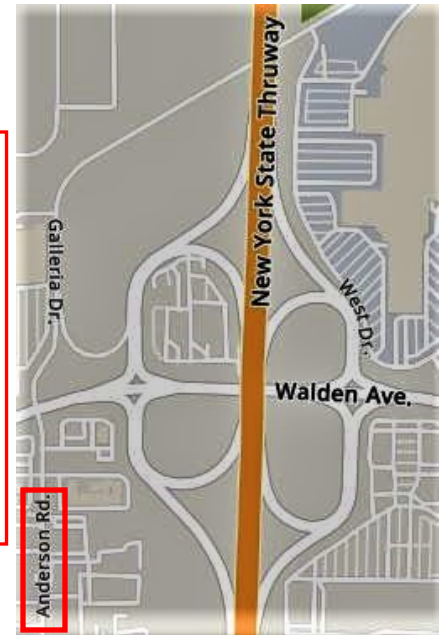


BOOK SALE REPORT

Jayne Murray

We have our new Sorting Site! We're already thinking about our 68th annual book sale! We'll be accepting donations on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am-1pm** at **37 ANDERSON ROAD** (south off Walden just west of the I-90) **from September 26 until we move into a sale site sometime in the spring**, hopefully in early April. **SEE THE MAP IN THE SIDEBAR** and go to the [Book Sale page](#) on the website for donation guidelines. Please stop by when we open to pick up our bookmarks to distribute—you are our best marketers!

PS—feel free to stay to sort for a while! Come help us make the 68th Annual Sale a reality. We promise a few giggles and a strong sense of purpose.



IT'S A WRAP!

We have successfully closed the doors and books on our 67th Annual Scholarship Book Sale. Our sales alone totaled over \$68,000!!! Admissions plus generous donations and sponsorships pushed it up to over **\$83,000!!!**. Unfortunately, although that was a record for gross income, our expenses also skyrocketed, so our net income barely covered our scholarship commitments. The committee is actively considering suggestions for making the sale more profitable.

Many thanks to all who donated funds and books. We especially appreciate your perseverance in locating our sorting site. As with every Sale, we are again humbled and exhilarated by the **many hands** which come together each year to make this much-anticipated pop-up event flow so smoothly. We so appreciate our indefatigable volunteers who sort books and box them up two days a week for seven months prior to our large-scale move to the Sale Site. There are also many who graciously help us store needed equipment throughout the year in attics and garages. As always, we went down to the wire to find a Sale Site. Our gratitude to our "finder" and the Ciminelli Corporation is immense. In the two months, prior to the Sale, the **many hands** appeared once again to supervise deliveries, measure and create the layout of the sale, make and remake charts and signs, answer countless e-mails and phone queries, set up and organize tables and then reorganize them again and again, supervise volunteers, cart valuable empty boxes to our sorting site, sort

through ongoing deliveries, push carts laden with books through meandering hallways to stock up the tables, recycle copious amounts of boxes or cut them down for display trays, create and distribute publicity including our neon bookmarks, research and price specialty books, and recruit volunteers. Many others bring snacks to shore up workers, keep our supplies stocked, welcome customers, work the checkout tables, recruit new members, monitor and create a staff presence, facilitate the dealers, and keep the tables stocked and neat during the shifts. This is an incomplete list as **many hands** also do anonymous work. Thank you all for continuing this good work for the benefit of our talented local scholars.



DATES to REMEMBER

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

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

Thursday, Sep 28, 5:30 pm, Branch Program at Ilio DiPaolo's Restaurant (see page 1)

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

Wednesday, Oct 25, 5:30 pm, Branch Program at Pane's Restaurant. Buff State Dean of Education Wendy Paterson, PhD, will speak on *"Math & Reading Achievement Gaps Post Covid: Just the Facts, Ma'am!"*

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

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

