

# ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Together Making a Difference!

October 2023

Vol. CXXXII No. 2



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## Math & Reading Achievement Gaps Post Covid: Just the Facts, Ma'am!

Pane’s Restaurant

[984 Payne Ave, North Tonawanda, NY 14120](#)

**Wednesday Oct 25: Registration at 5:30, Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00**

Wendy Paterson, Ph.D., is the Dean of Education at Buffalo State University and is an expert in the assessment of reading and learning disabilities. She will address the learning gaps caused by the school disruptions due to COVID. There are many questions - the severity of the gaps, the possible remedies for the affected students, the positives of the situation, how we can handle such situations better in the future. Her scholarship spans an eclectic array of interests from computer-assisted instructional design to single-parent families, both of which touch directly on this topic. She has also published a recent work reflecting on the experiences of women leaders called “Whine and Wine: A case study on mentoring support for women in higher education administration.”



We will be ordering from the menu at Pane’s, so there is no need to choose your dinner now. However, we do need to know how many people to plan for, so **please send the form below along with a check for \$28/person made out to AAUW Buffalo to: Dr. Susan McClary, 1145 Campbell Blvd, Amherst, 14228.** Deadline Oct. 15.



### November 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 October 10.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Lilyen Mascellino

Publisher/Editor:

Betty Preble

Assistant Editors:

Judy Weidemann

Barbara Carier

For prospective or new member questions, please contact:

Membership Recruitment VP, Diane O'Brien

[recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org](mailto:recruitment@aauwbuffalo.org)

Send address changes to:

Mary Crocker

375 Parkhurst Blvd.

Buffalo, NY 14223

[mlcrock@msn.com](mailto:mlcrock@msn.com)



## President's Message

*Lilyen Mascellino*

### *Greetings Branch Members!*

We were not surprised when the Board's September meeting lasted over 2 hours. Why did it last that long? Because committee work that occurred throughout the summer, along with upcoming plans for this year, etc. gave us a lot to review & consider! One thing that became quite obvious is that we have recovered nicely from the challenges of the Covid years & we are well on the road to accomplishing our goals! I'm proud of the progress our branch is making.

Last month I challenged everyone to focus on making deeper connections this year with each other. And in an effort to broaden my connections with you, I'm organizing a "President's Outing" this month. I hope you will attend! Friends are also welcome!

Here are the details:

President's Outing:

#### **Platter's Chocolate Factory Tour**

Monday, 10/16/23 at 11:00 A.M.

908 Niagara Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Located in the Wurlitzer Building

This is a **FREE** guided tour showing the manufacturing process of their chocolate, as well as sharing the history of this family business in NT. It is approximately 1 hour in length & although there isn't a lot of walking, you will be standing.

To attend, RSVP to [Lilyenm@gmail.com](mailto:Lilyenm@gmail.com) on or before 10/13.

When you reply - let me know:

- your full name
- the name of any guest coming with you
- your phone #

Space is limited & I look forward to seeing you there, so RSVP early to secure your spot!

After the tour, you are welcome to purchase a snack from their ice cream/coffee cafe located in the same building. Please join me at my table!

I'm looking forward to a "sweet" time!



## SEPTEMBER 2023 INTEREST GROUPS

### **DINNER BY THE BOOK**

**When:** Wed. Oct 18 at 5:30 PM

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

**Book:** *Sold on a Monday*,  
by Kristina McMorris

Facilitator: **Stacey Johnson**

Discussion Leader: **Kate Collins**

**RSVP:** Judy Malamas at **716-632-0461** or  
[tsagewood@aol.com](mailto:tsagewood@aol.com)



### **CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB**

**When:** Wed. Oct 25 at noon

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

**Book:** *Murder at the House of Rooster Happiness*  
by David Casarett

Discussion Leader: **Stacey Johnson**

**RSVP:** Barbara Libby at **716 836-8303** or  
[bplibby1@verizon.net](mailto:bplibby1@verizon.net)

**HAPPY WANDERERS** will start wandering again! Judy Huber will be setting up a tour of the AKG Art Museum on Thursday, Nov 2. Details next month!

## MEMBER NOTICES

**Our apologies to new member Keola Tweedy**, whose listing last month had several errors. Please note this correct information:

Keola (McCrary) Tweedy  
4962 Roseview Ave. Blasdell NY 14219  
Phone: 602-653-9509  
Email: [keolatweedy@gmail.com](mailto:keolatweedy@gmail.com)  
Media Arts Certificates Desktop Publishing, Phoenix College AZ  
BA (Visual) Communication, Hawaii Pacific University  
AAS Computer Graphic Design, Phoenix College

*Welcome to our newest member!*

Bernadette McNary-Zak  
109 Culver Road Buffalo NY 14220  
Phone: 901-581-1391  
Email: [dmbmzakfamily@gmail.com](mailto:dmbmzakfamily@gmail.com)  
BA Religious Studies, University of Rochester  
MA Religion and Culture, Catholic University of America  
PhD Religious Studies, University of Toronto

**TIME MARCHES ON—we need to start thinking about next year!**

In the spring of 2024 we will be electing people to the following offices:

- VP, Membership Recruitment
- Secretary
- Chief Financial Officer
- Fund-raising (book sale) treasurer
- Treasurer for Education Accounts and Program (EAP)
- Scholarship Director

If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, **OR** if you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please contact Betty Preble ([betty.preble@gmail.com](mailto:betty.preble@gmail.com))



<b>PRESIDENT</b> Lilyen Mascellino	<b>VP MEMBERSHIP RETENTION</b> Dr. Susan McClary	<b>BRANCH TREASURER</b> Mary Crocker	<b>CHAMBERLIN/FUNDS FOR EDUCATION TREASURER</b> Kathleen SantaMaria
<b>VP PROGRAM</b> Dr. Marian Deutschman	<b>SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN</b> Judy Huber	<b>EAP TREASURER</b> Sue Stapell	<b>SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR</b> Melissa White
<b>VP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT</b> Diane O'Brien	<b>CFO</b> Shirley Joy	<b>FUNDRAISING TREASURER</b> Mary Crocker	

# Are Biden and Trump too old to run for President of the United States?

*Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair*

"No, not old. He's incompetent," former President Trump said, referring to President Biden, when asked whether Americans are right to be concerned about the age of the candidates. "I have friends that are in their 90s and they're sharp as a tack. I would say just about what they used to be," Trump added. A look at the polls show that his response is no surprise.

Trump, 77, is running for president in 2024, and polling shows he's likely to face a rematch against Biden, 80, in the general election. If elected, Trump would end his term well into his 80s. Biden was the oldest presidential winner ever, when he won in 2020. Since Trump is just three years younger than Biden, why isn't he facing the same scrutiny for his age? "Trump has moved with the times and Biden has not. Trump is more into social media," said a 56-year-old Trump supporter.

My yoga instructor at the YMCA said that Biden's walk gives his age away. He should move his arms more normally, she suggested. Biden has stuttered since he was a child. Even his supporters say they hold their

breath when he speaks for fear of an error that will get media attention and add credibility to the concerns about his age. Remember the claim Trump made about an IQ test that he aced? It was a test to determine cognitive impairment.

Most voters say they would like to see much younger candidates running for this very demanding job.

Senator Mitt Romney has decided not to seek reelection to the Senate. He said that "it's time for a new generation of candidates." Senator Diane Feinstein will not seek reelection but concerns about her health and age have led others to recommend resignation. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell appeared unable to respond to reporters' questions at several press events when he froze.

According to a BBC News *Review of the Literature* by Pamela Meadows, *How Aging Affects Your Ability*, a person's job performance does not necessarily suffer just because a person gets older. However, "Aging is most likely to affect job performance if job tasks require sensory perception, selective attention, working memory,

information processing, rapid reaction or physical strength. There appears to be some correlation between diminished job performance and age with respect to certain job tasks."

People tend to lose their hearing as they age. Since communication is an important skill on most jobs, hearing problems can have a negative effect on performance. Older people may have trouble seeing the very small print on computers or have difficulty reading emails, newsletters or other research materials. Hence, a person with vision problems may have difficulty keeping up with the workload, as reading and comprehension would be impaired in this situation. People lose bone mass and muscle strength when they get older. Some positions require a lot of physical stamina and energy.



According to BBC News, anxiety tends to increase with age. Consequently, aging may affect job performance, particularly in high-pressure jobs with heavy demands, such as when engaged in numerous daily tasks at the same time, with a number of key re-

sponsibilities, including meeting deadlines. Such a schedule may be too much for an older worker, who may not be able to handle the pressure.

Age can also affect a person's memory. Thus, older people may have trouble in jobs that require them to memorize facts, and then recite them back rapidly. Aging individuals may need to memorize numerous aspects of an issue to develop a decision and they may have more difficulty memorizing technical data. As a result, he or she might be slower with developing the best decisions.

The most common HR selection technique, according to the Society of Human Resource Management, is the interview. Since unstructured interviews usually have no way to predict job performance, HR personnel employ alternative selection techniques for hiring and assessing potential candidates. The selection techniques we use to elect our decision makers in our democratic republic must ultimately match the knowledge, skills and abilities required of a candidate to perform a job and then, do we have a good performance measurement system? One that is free of political tribalism?



## BOOK SALE REPORT

Jayne Murray

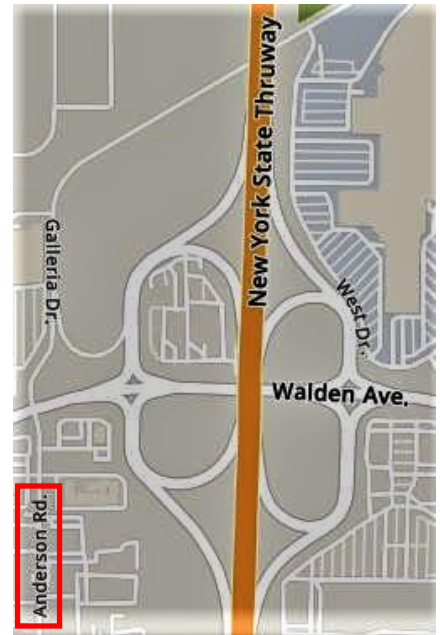
### WE WANT BOOKS! Book Sale Sorting Resumes September 26.

Our boldly-bright blue **WE WANT BOOKS** bookmarks are hot off the presses and ready for distribution to the WNY community. Our new sorting site is open for donation drop offs, and the sorting and boxing of books for our 68th Annual Book Sale has begun. So many of you rolled up your sleeves last year to raise the dollars at our 2023 Book Sale to fund all of our scholarships—we thank you all! Even though the dust has not settled from all the moving of our supplies and equipment, *we are asking for your help once again*. Looking for a flexible activity that will bring a sense of productivity and collective good along with an occasional chuckle? Are you interested in gathering with people who are also interested in preserving good books, promoting literacy, and being part of the Village for our young scholarship recipients? Read on!

#### **Join us to sort donations: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

You can come at any time and stay for any amount of time. Supervisors will be present to help train you, answer questions, and listen to suggestions for improvements! Please note: *We will be closed Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks*. Once again, we are in transition and our location is new to all of us. We are very excited to have a fresh new building at **37 Anderson Road, Cheektowaga, 14225**.

A more detailed map is included on the Book Sale page of our website, [auwbuffalo.org](http://auwbuffalo.org). There will be signs on the left side of the street by our parking lot and near the building. Look for the school buses! There will be a ramp at the front of the brick building and a large sign in the window. Ample parking! Why not stop by and check it out and **pick up some bookmarks** to distribute? These are an important part of our publicity campaign as they also have a Save-the-Date reminder on them for our Sale. We are once again responsible for our own recycling so please spread the word to donors about our motto: *If you wouldn't buy it, we can't sell it!* Please no textbooks, professional journals, magazines, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, Time/Life, computer books, encyclopedias, cassettes or VHS. This year, **we are accepting LP's and also book-themed gift items such as clothing, jewelry and pins—if it is in good condition and a book lover would enjoy it, we want it.**



**HELP WANTED!** Our hard-working Book Committee has many tasks throughout the year which paved the way for our Book Sales each Spring. Sometimes, like peanut butter at the end of a school lunch week, we feel spread a little thin. We are also aware that, in order to ensure that the Book Sale continues, we must mentor others in necessary tasks.

*We are seeking a **one-time Table committee** that will come together after we secure our Spring Sale site in April to help to make arrangements for table delivery, design table set up to make use of every available space, set up the tables (with teen volunteers and helpers), and make adjustments as needed. A knowledgeable Executive Committee member will help to make sure it all goes smoothly.*

We also need a few creative hands **to help make new signage** at the Book Sale in May. Each year, our site is different and we must make signs that help our customers (and volunteers!) navigate and find their beloved genres.

Please e-mail us if you are interested or need more info. [buffaloauw@gmail.com](mailto:buffaloauw@gmail.com)

## DATES to REMEMBER

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

**Wednesday, Oct 4, 6:30 pm,** 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!"

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

**Thursday, Nov 16, 5:30 pm, Branch Program** at the Harlem Road Community Center. Jim Heaney, from *Investigative Post*, will discuss post-election politics in Buffalo and Erie County.

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

