

ADVOCATE

<https://aauwbuffalo.org>

Together Making a Difference!

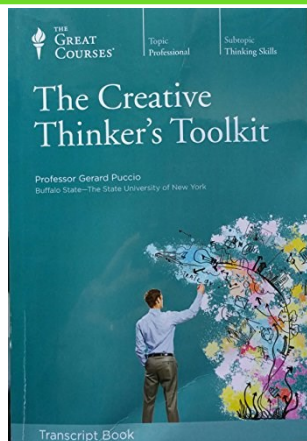
March 2024

Vol. CXXXII No. 7



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April 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 March 10.



CREATIVE THINKING AS A CRUCIAL SKILL FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Rizotto Italian Eatery & Sweetery

930 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

Thursday, March 21: Registration at 11:30, Lunch at noon, Program at 12:30

In the first quarter of the 21st century, there is a clarion call for greater levels of creative thinking, but how can this crucial skill be developed?

Our speaker, Dr. Gerard J. Puccio, is a State University of New York Distinguished Professor and Department Chair for the Center for Applied Imagination at Buffalo State University.

The purpose of this workshop is to share fundamental principles associated with creative thinking, with a focus on how this critical ability can be facilitated through educational and training practices.

The luncheon main course is a choice of Pasta Primavera, Chicken Milanese with dressed greens and risotto, or Filet of Sirloin with risotto and vegetables. All choices include a house salad, homemade bread and spreads, coffee, tea, and gelato or a fruit cup.

Please send the form below, along with a check for \$25/person made out to "AAUW Buffalo" to Susan McClary, 1145 Campbell Blvd, Amherst 14228 by the **March 11 deadline**. Please add the names and menu choices of guests on the back or on a separate sheet. OR register online at [March Program Registration - AAUW Buffalo Branch](#).



Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Lunch choice (please check one):

☐ Pasta Primavera (v)

☐ Chicken Milanese

☐ Filet of Sirloin

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.

March 2024

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375 Parkhurst Blvd.

Buffalo, NY 14223

mlcrock@msn.com

Two important notes regarding the AAUW Vote:

- Voting is open to AAUW members only
- If the amendment is approved, "Friends" of our branch would be eligible for full membership.

President's Message

Lilyen Mascellino

Every Voice Matters!

Greetings!

As you know, March is Women's History Month; the month we "Remember the Ladies" by also commemorating International Women's Day on the 8th. Women usually are aware of the struggles of our predecessors throughout history. We should be aware...keenly aware. Learning from our past allows us to focus on the future with eyes wide open. Women's suffrage and the right to access higher education were major victories for women. Equal credit opportunities, ending employment discrimination for those with-child, the right to serve on a jury, the right to be in control of our own birth control - were also among the many milestones that the women's movement worked to achieve for generations to come. These "wins" were struggles for years, but once secured enhanced our quality of life...our pursuit of happiness. So yes, March is the month set aside to celebrate the contributions of tenacious women, to remember the determination of trailblazers, but I suggest it is also a time to examine the state of the world from the lens of women today.

You will have a voice this year via your vote on important issues at the polls. It's up to us to research National and State issues so we can make voting decisions in our best interest. Understanding fuels empowerment, and that drives us to vote! You will also have opportunity to have an impact on the future of AAUW this spring, as members will vote once again on the requirements needed to join AAUW. National has revisited this topic and is proposing an amendment to change the bylaws. It is eliminating the requirement for a degree in higher education as a prerequisite to becoming a member, as long as the individual supports the mission of the organization. **Voting will open on April 3rd and will end on May 15th.** Prior to voting, please visit National's site below where you can read the proposal in its entirety & make an informed decision.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>



MARCH 2024 INTEREST GROUPS

DINNER BY THE BOOK

When: Wed. Mar. 20 at 5:30 P.M.

Where: Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Ave.

Book: *The Only Woman in the Room*,
by Marie Benedict

Facilitator: Diane O'Brien

Discussion Leader: Judy Huber

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

CLUELESS MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

When: Wed. Mar. 27 at noon.

Where: The Original Pancake House, 5479 Main St.,
Williamsville (note new venue).

Book: *An Elderly Lady Is Up to No Good* by Hellene
Tursten

Discussion Leader: Mary Ellen Shaughnessy

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



LET'S TALK PUBLIC POLICY!

Wed., Feb. 28 and Wed., Mar. 27 at 1 p.m. Feel free
to bring a lunch or purchase food there.
Second floor of Dash's, 1770 Hertel Ave.

JOIN the LWVBN Public Policy group meeting and see
if we can work together on the issues of importance
to both organizations.

Call Marian Deutschman (716-634-2412) if you're in-
terested for either month AND send her
(mardeu15@verizon.net) any articles you've seen
that you'd like to discuss.

THE HAPPY WANDERERS will wander again—save the date!

When: Thursday, April 11, at 10:30

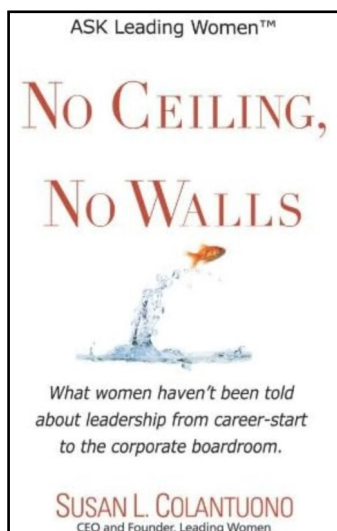
Where: Illos Piano Restorations, Inc. 2940 Main St.
(corner of Hertel) Buffalo 14214.

Lunch at Kostos Family Restaurant, 1651 Hertel Ave.

RSVP: Judy Huber at judyhuber62@yahoo.com
or 716-529-9881



Keola Tweedy would like to es-
tablish a professional develop-
ment book club that would
meet quarterly. If you are inter-
ested, please let her know at
keolatweedy@gmail.com.
Please include your name,
phone number, and general lo-
cation (she's still learning the
area).



This will be our first selection!



OUR NEWEST MEMBER:

Ehlimana Meryem Imamovie

49 Shetland Drive Williamsville NY 14221

Phone: 716-866-9585

Email: meryem@mac.com



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	

Are you planning on voting for the lesser of two evils -or not voting at all in the 2024 general election?

Dr. Marian Deutschman, Public Policy Chair

Our two presidential candidates are approximately the same age. It's time to focus on other issues besides age. We have two battles going on in this country regarding Presidents Biden and Trump. One is a legal battle, and the other is information warfare. President Biden was recently cleared of criminal activity in connection with his handling and retention of classified material stored in his garage. There was no evidence of criminal activity in the Robert K. Hur Special Counsel's Report. However, the media reporting of the contents of the report centered on what some call a gratuitous inclusion. After conducting a five-hour interview with President Biden, at the critical time of the Hamas attack on Israel in October, Hur included his own observation in the report, stating that the President was a well-intentioned elderly man with memory problems. The simple fact that there was insufficient evidence of criminal violations was diminished in the media reports along with the difference between the handling of classified material between Presidents Trump and Biden.

This may be a good time to call attention to some of the 10 New Year Resolutions for saving American democracy proposed by Robert Reich in The Guardian. He is a former US secretary of labor, and professor of public policy at the University of California, Berkeley. He suggests we become political activists by organizing, mobilizing, and energizing people to vote. Before you do that, Reich says you must be prepared to counter lies with truth, prepared with facts, analysis, logic and respected sources.

Don't let the short attention span of media distract you, and don't vote for the lesser of two evils. We have a two-party system. We are not a parliamentary system with more options. A third-party candidate may take votes from the candidate who is closest to your thinking.

We need leaders with the ability to be peacemakers. We have entrenched internal and external conflicts that are dividing the world, such as the Middle East, Ukraine, gun

control, policing, and abortion, as well as these elections. A health news audio segment from NPR suggests that we need to understand the intersection of conflict and human behavior. We need leaders who understand and rise above natural impulses to diffuse combustible situations. Tim Phillips is the founder and CEO of Beyond Conflict. Since 1992, Phillips has led Beyond Conflict in its efforts to help catalyze the peace and reconciliation processes in several countries, including Northern Ireland, El Salvador,

Kosovo and South Africa. He is a veteran conflict-resolution expert who has seen how impulses shape how we fight with those around us and the world. He says, "Conflict deepens and escalates quickly, when we feel it threatening things we hold dearest — our sacred values — our social identity, or our people. We become less rational." These sentiments can override our sense of morality, and evolve into hate

and dehumanization, which make atrocities possible, according to Phillips. Defusing an escalating situation, first requires releasing a brain trapped by defensive emotion. Phillips says it means saying to your opponent, for example: "I understand how important this is to you; I understand this is core to your identity and your community, and I respect your sacred values." It means reflecting your opponent's humanity back to them. A similar approach, he says, can help reduce toxic polarization. It's effective because in the heat of argument, people tend to demonize one another." Phillips says he's seen people emotionally disarm the opposition in a disagreement simply by recognizing their humanity, bringing together fierce adversaries, and changing history. Phillips says these approaches can work with friends and, family especially in this time of significant polarized differences. Try it. Show respect for the other viewpoint, and appreciation for the social background that led him/her there.

Which of our two candidates has these abilities?



BOOK SALE REPORT

Jayne Murray and Kate Collins

37 Anderson Road:

Buffalo's Hot Book Donation Destination!

STAY TUNED TO OUR [WEBSITE](#) for info on our Sale Site Search.

Despite a week's closure due to weather, our donors continue to travel diligently to our Sorting Site with full cars, loaded trucks, and, recently, a heavily-laden trailer. There is rarely a lull as our volunteer crew scrambles to sort, box, and store the incoming armfuls, bags, and boxes of books, puzzles, games and LPs.

Our Site is constantly evolving as our Committee works actively to create additional space. The walls are literally moving in as we surround ourselves with packed boxes which will eventually be transported by our moving company to the Sale Site. Members Karen Hoffman and Julie Wrisley oversaw the movement of almost 200 fruit trays (used for display but temporarily in the way) from Anderson to a storage room in Christ United Methodist Church. This freed up much-needed additional room for all our packed boxes. This endeavor involved our volunteers laboriously moving tables and books to gain access to the trays and later packing them into cars and ferrying them to the church over two separate endeavors in challenging weather. We are so very grateful to the Church for coming to our aid.



One view of the storage room

Sale sorting and donations: Tuesday and Wednesdays, 9 am - 1pm, 37 Anderson Place, Cheektowaga—see web-site for directions.

Every donation has a story! Those bringing books readily share their reason for coming. It could be downsizing from a move, the death of a parent or

spouse, a teacher retiring, all the jigsaw puzzles have been put together, or the children are now out of the house. Two weeks ago, a recipient of an AAUW Buffalo Branch Scholarship came in to donate as a thank you. All leave with the good feeling that they have been asked to share their "book story" with us and that these special donations will be turned into scholarships.



Can you help? We are seeking a volunteer to assist with table layout once we move to the Sale Site in April—this is a short-term, but extremely important, responsibility!

In addition, some of our table chairs have retired and we need new people to step in. Mentoring provided! Wouldn't you like to organize a genre???

If you're interested, please send an email to booksale@aauwbuffalo.org.



Your sponsorship will help us to defray our costs!

Sponsorship Categories:

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

If you are interested in being a sponsor, please send a check made out to AAUW Buffalo Book Sale, to PO Box 894, Buffalo, NY 14225. Friends and non-members are also encouraged to help sponsor our sale. What a wonderful gift or memorial idea! Donations are tax deductible and both your (and their) names will be placed on our webpage and on a poster at the sale!

DATES to REMEMBER

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

Thursday, Feb 29, 5:30 pm, Branch Program - “Managing Mental Wellbeing” at Jovi’s Italian Grille and Bistro. Details in the [Feb. Advocate](#).

Wednesday, Mar 6, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Ebenezer United Church of Christ in West Seneca.

Thursday, Mar 21, 11:30 , Branch Program “Creative thinking as a crucial skill for teaching and learning” at Risotto Italian Eatery & Sweetery. See page 1.

Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting at Christ United Methodist Church, Harlem/Saratoga in Snyder.

NOTE—there is now an “[events calendar](#)” on our website. Please submit (newsletter@aaubuffalo.org) any meetings you would like added to the calendar!

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

