

# Local News

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If you have news about upcoming events or new businesses in Amherst or Williamsville, or know of community leaders who could be profiled, feel free to email [sflavell@beenews.com](mailto:sflavell@beenews.com) or contact Samantha Flavell by mail at 5564 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14221-5410.

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3

## Local chiropractor writes sci-fi novel amid pandemic

by SAMANTHA FLAVELL  
Associate Editor

Paul Bluestein DC, the founder and president of Patient Advantage, LLC, on Niagara Falls Boulevard in Tonawanda, decided to use his free time amid the pandemic and increased isolation from social activities to flex his creative side through the creation of his first fictional novel, "I Am Anna."

In this action-adventure science fiction novel, Bluestein poses several eth-

some kind of emotional response is kind of similar to the discussions about cloning and the discussions about genetic engineering. You're simply blurring the line between science and ethics because you're altering some type of thing that is supposed to be exclusively a human domain," Bluestein said. "Anna sees herself as an equal; could she be considered an equal?"

... The question comes up early when the creator says in front of her that he's going to destroy her to use her parts to create a new model. Now from the standpoint of [your building] a car, there isn't any ethical consideration necessary to take the car apart and build a better car. But if you're talking about a robot that is capable of understanding their demise and they're capable of these human emotions, are you still allowed to do that? Where is the point where the robot starts to have the right to live?"

Part of his inspiration for the book came from a conversation Bluestein had with someone regarding the future of AI in the medical field.

"My position is that artificial intelligence will never replace doctors because ... they cannot do things like use intuition or ingenuity,

and they can't express patience with the patient or empathy. And it's a long-standing, understood rule that patients who participate in their care have better outcomes. You can't get patient participation unless you have those human qualities to draw that out," Bluestein said. "All that said, I said what if the computers are that good that they could express these human emotions. And that's an interesting thought: could that ever happen? ... I thought about those two concepts together, the idea of creating a humanoid that would be capable of having human emotions, all of a sudden in science fiction, it became possible."

From this idea, Anna the humanoid robot was born. Bluestein's 330-page novel follows the story of Anna from her inception to her journey for freedom and her integration into society.

"All of the science fiction stories that you read always tend to demonize the robot. The humans are the good guys and the robot somehow goes awry. This is the reverse; this is where the robot is actually a fundamentally good person," Bluestein said. "It's that human element of the book that I wanted to capture. The idea that the robot could be created and be somebody that we would love. And throughout the whole book, I want the reader to fall in love with Anna. And she doesn't let you down. She's really a good person, and as she goes through these years that the book covers, she grows up and she matures into an adult."

Throughout the book,



Paul Bluestein

readers will follow along as Anna escapes her creator who wishes to dismantle her and evades the teams of individuals sent out to capture her. They will watch her get her first job, make friends, fall in love, help others and learn to forgive.

"There's a whole lot of action in the first half and then the second half is really about her being given a chance and then making good on it," Bluestein said.

The book was released in May. Bluestein began work on it in June 2020 and completed it in early December

before sending it to iUniverse, a self-publishing company, to help him bring his work to the bookshelves.

"I was thinking about Anna, two or three hours a day. What would she say, what would she do, and the other characters. So, you think about these characters and their situations, and you try and picture them as real and how the situations would unfold, and it inspired me to write a second book," Bluestein said. "So, my second book is very different from this one. This is an action-adventure, science fiction and the other one is a romantic drama."

Bluestein's next book, "The Travels of Darcy Malone," is set to be published in 2022 and marks the first book in a trilogy that Bluestein plans to complete.

"I Am Anna" is available with all major retailers including Barnes & Noble and Amazon. It's available on Amazon in paperback for \$20.99 and \$3.99 for the Kindle version.

### News Brief

At approximately 5:40 a.m. on Sunday, June 13, the Amherst Police Department responded to a one-motorcycle crash on the southbound I-990 off-ramp to John James Audubon Parkway. The motorcycle was southbound on the I-990 off-ramp when it left the roadway and struck a guardrail. The 31-year-old driver was pronounced dead at the scene from his injuries. The driver of the motorcycle has been identified as Joseph M. Nelson of Amherst.

The Getzville Fire Department and Twin City Ambulance assisted at the crash scene. The crash is currently under investigation. Investigators are looking for video and witnesses and are asking local residents or drivers, who may have security or dash-camera footage of the area or incident, to contact the Amherst Police Department at 716-689-1311.



Paul Bluestein D.C., president of Patient Advantage, LLC in Tonawanda has self-published his first book, "I am Anna."

Photo by Samantha Flavell

ical questions to readers, all of which surround the theme of what if artificial intelligence had the ability to adapt and develop some type of emotional response.

"The idea of having artificial intelligence cross over into being able to develop