



# Upstate Update

AMSTERDAM \* GLOVERSVILLE \* JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

The American Association of University Women advances equity for woman and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

April 2014

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**Annual Branch Meeting  
Monday, April 28, 2014**

**Speaker: Donna Seymour,  
AAUW NYS Public Policy VP**

**5:30 pm  
FMCC Student Union  
Large Lounge**



**April 25 – 27, 2014**  
**2014 NYS AAUW Convention**  
*A World of Wellness*  
*Stimulating the Mind*  
*Energizing the Body*  
*Inspiring the Soul*  
**Honor's Haven Resort**  
**Ellenville, NY**

Our AAUW New York State Convention is almost here. It seems like we were just beginning to talk and plan for it. Our branch has been busy completing awards applications. We should receive recognition for our work during this busy year. We have a few of the member attending this year's convention. The agenda looks very interesting. Patricia Fae Ho, National President of AAUW, will be our keynote speaker on Friday night. She will inform us about AAUW's value to our communities, the outstanding work of our states and branches, and future directions of AAUW. I have also heard rumors that photos will be taken with Patricia. Saturday evening Dr. Savi Bisnath, Associate Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership will be speaking on "Women's Leadership, Women's Rights, and the Role of the Academy."

## AAUW NYS Convention Plans

### **Award Applications**

In preparation for the Convention, meetings were held to work on the award applications. In the interest of mentoring future leaders, future membership chairs and public policy chair met with us to suggest input into the awards and familiarize themselves with the applications in preparation for planning program for 2014-15 and completing applications themselves in the future.

### **Attendees**

Seven members of our branch will be attending the AAUW NYS Convention in Ellenville, April 25-27. Jen Garren, Bev Alves, and Ella Ryder will serve as delegates. Alternates include Paula Lerner, Darcelle Winchell and Liz Russo. Linda Hammond will attend as NYS Communications Chair.

### **Ella Ryder to Serve on NYS AAUW Nominating Committee**

We are pleased to announce that Ella Ryder was approached by NYS AAUW to serve as an alternate on the NYS AAUW nominating committee and she accepted! Ella will move up to full nominating committee member in 2015. Her duties will include helping to find candidates to run for NYS AAUW offices and head committees in 2015-16. She will participate in nominating committee meetings at the Convention and at the Summer Leadership conference and via teleconferences as needed.

### **LAF Donations for the LAF Auction at Convention**

Thanks to Sandy Lane, Nancy Reynolds, Bonnie Van Wie, Darcelle Winchell, Linda Bumpus, and Paula Lerner who donated items for the purse and basket silent auction which will be held at the NYS convention. We will be bringing a "Glitzy Glam" purple purse, a "Woman on the Go" bag and a "Shine Some Light on Leadership" basket which includes a hand painted lamp and a copy of Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way. Proceeds go to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). On April 2 Nancy, Melissa Ackerknecht, Bonnie Van Wie and Liz Russo met to assemble the baskets in preparation for the convention.

### **More Bras and Bucks, Please!**

"Free the Girls" is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides job opportunities for survivors of sex trafficking. Gently used bras are collected and donated to the women as a starting inventory for their own business selling bras. In 2014, Free The Girls expanded programs in Mozambique and launched additional programs in new countries, including Uganda and El Salvador. The goal is to reach up to 175 survivors.

Some of you have already read the recent NYS Focus that the collection of Bras and Bucks to ship them is coming to a conclusion at the NYS Conference. To date, AAUW members from across NYS have donated 700 bras. The goal is to collect 1,000 bras. If you have more new or very gently used bras to donate, please get them to Liz Russo before April 23 so that they can be brought to the convention.

### **Swimathon donations for NCCWSL**

Liz Russo has agreed once again to participate in the swimathon at the Convention. This year the funds raised will go to provide a scholarship for a college student to attend NCCWSL (the National Conference for College Student Women Leaders). Anyone who would like to sponsor Liz as she swims her laps (to work off all the good food as well as raise money!) can make a donation to Liz before April 23.

### **Emerging Leader - Darcelle Winchell**

Darcelle Winchell has been chosen as our branch Emerging Leader for 2013-2014. Darcelle Winchell joined our branch in 2011. As a staff member at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FM), she has assisted our branch in keeping a strong connection with the college. Darcelle was part of our branch team that gave the "Connecting with Colleges" presentation at the 2012 NYS AAUW Summer Conference. She helped with recruitment of e-student affiliates, the AAUW Student Organization and the choice of our branch NCCWSL scholarship recipients.

In 2013 she volunteered for the nominating committee and currently serves as branch Program Vice President. She organized our October Jamaican themed meeting and led us in line dancing at our February meeting.

As a member on the Tech Savvy Summit for Girls committee she has encouraged FM faculty and staff who were past presenters to return and recruited four additional workshop facilitators. Darcelle will be honored along with other branch Emerging Leaders from across NYS at a reception on Friday night at the NYS Convention.



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## Co-President's Message

What a "Celebration" we had! Thanks, Helen James, for suggesting that we hold the fundraising event and Catherine Julius for working with her to make it happen!

While Helen and Catherine were busy fundraising for our local scholarships, Jen Garren was busy advocating for equal pay for women by writing letters to the editor and hand delivering letters to local mayors and supervisors asking them to acknowledge April 8 as Equal Pay Day with a proclamation.

Meanwhile, registrations for our annual Tech Savvy Summit for Girls have begun to arrive. Therefore, as we wind down from our Celebration, we gear up for the May 20 Summit.

In preparation for the AAUW NYS Convention, we have been busy writing award applications, preparing LAF baskets, collecting bras for the Save the Girls campaign, signing up delegates and alternates to attend and nominating an Emerging Leader.

Our Branch Lunch Bunch Adelante + Book Discussion Group continues to grow and attract new members. Read more about it in this newsletter.

Nominating committee members Helen James, Ginni Mazur and Paula Lerner are still seeking Membership VP or Co VP for 2013-15 as well as assistant Newsletter and AAUW Funds Chair (for EOF and LAF). Hope you will step up when you are approached. We need a team approach to keep our AAUW wheels turning.

At our April 28 annual meeting, we will be holding our elections and voting on the budget. We have invited Donna Seymour AAUW NYS Public Policy VP to be our speaker. For those who have not had the opportunity to attend conventions, here is a chance to learn more about AAUW and the people who make things happen. Hope you will join us at FM for dinner in the Large Lounge of the Student Union to meet Donna. If you can't make it on Monday night, join us for "Breakfast with Donna" at 9:30 am Tuesday, April 29 at the Holiday Inn.

At last, the time of Passover and Easter are upon us and after a long winter, spring has finally arrived!

*Co-president Liz Russo*

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### Slate of Officers 2014-2015

The Nominating Committee announces the following slate of officers for the 2014-2015 year for the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch:

**Vice President – Program:** Paula Lerner and Darcelle Winchell

**Vice President – Membership:** **unfilled**

**Treasurer** – Ella Ryder

The slate will be voted on at the April meeting. If anyone would like to step up and take over membership, please contact any member of the nominating committee.

Helen James  
Paula Lerner  
Ginni Mazur

## Hat's Off!

Paula Lerner has begun a project of sending letters of congratulations to members of the community from AAUW. It is a way to let them know someone appreciates their special accomplishments and that it is AAUW, thus providing our branch with more visibility locally.

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## Our Inaugural Celebration

Well, our inaugural Celebration is now in the books and was a success! There were little glitches and hiccups along the way but we persevered and ultimately met our goal. The next one should be even better because of all the experience we now have, but only if we all do it together. Helen and I had help from a very small group of members and you know who you are but I will now list the ladies who helped us in our endeavor and hopefully not leave anyone out: CeCe Alexander, Carol Cownie, Jen Garren, Jahnn Gibson, Linda Hammond, Mary Jablonski, Sandy Lane, Paula Lerner, Sandy Maceyka, Ginni Mazur, Nancy Reynolds, Holly Rigos, Liz Russo and Bonnie Van Wie. Thanks to all of you for sticking it out with us, for volunteering your time and energy and for contributing in so many different ways. Next year if we wish to succeed we need the participation of all the members of our organization, however small. A special thanks to Linda Hammond for the lovely floral arrangements at each table. If you missed this year's fundraiser you missed out. It was truly a Celebration and we had a great time!

*Helen James  
Catherine Julius*

We were very pleased with our inaugural scholarship fundraiser. Eighty accepted our invitation to attend. Over 25 baskets were donated for the raffle. An additional 20 items were donated for the silent auction. Bob Cudmore added humor to the hat auction as he read the bios of the models provided by Jahnn Gibson and the hat descriptions provided by Donna Cerasuolo. The models were poised and professional. An additional thanks go to Linda Hammond for producing our beautiful program booklet and to Holly Rigos for designing our invitations working with Sandy Lane to send them out. It was a great day. We saw lots of happy people mingling, buying raffle tickets, bidding on auction items, trying on and buying hats, enjoying the delicious brunch provided by Wine and Roses and posing for photos taken by Darlene Bornt. We definitely made enough to not only cover the scholarships we currently give but also hope to add to our scholarship award program. Watch for further details in upcoming newsletters. Again, all the credit goes to Helen James and Catherine Julius. When you see them, thank them!

*Liz Russo*

### **Celebration Feedback**

I am so pleased to have been privileged to work with our young hat models for the AAUW "Celebration" hat show and auction. Our 5 models were 14 and 15 year old high school Freshmen Julie Capito, Katerina James, Meghan Roehl, Sarah Subik, and Alexis Tirado. Sarah, Alexis, and Julie were our last year's Math and Science Award winners. Julie and Katerina are honor students in their respective schools.

I can't say enough about how graceful and poised these 5 young ladies were as they modeled the hats and mingled with the guests beforehand, allowing interested ladies to try on the hats that they were wearing, and holding mirrors for them. At their age, it is not necessarily an easy thing to mingle with a large group of adults with whom one is unacquainted, and hold social intercourse with them, but these young ladies pulled it off splendidly. Many guests commented on how beautiful they looked, and how poised and friendly they were.

My thanks to both the girls and their mothers, who brought the girls to the rehearsal and the show. Also, my thanks to Catherine Julius and Helen James for the idea and for the hard work they put in to make it all happen. It was a resounding success.

*Jahnn Gibson*

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# APRIL HAPPENINGS

## **Annual Dinner Meeting April 28**

Our annual meeting will take place at 5:30pm on Monday, April 28 at FMCC in the Large Lounge in the Student Union. We will be voting on our budget for 2013-14 year and also the slate of officers. Our guest speaker will be NYS AAUW Public Policy Chair Donna Seymour from the St. Lawrence branch. Donna will give us a brief synopsis of the 5 priorities on the NYS AAUW Public Policy agenda explaining what social justice issues AAUW tries to educate about and advocate for. We have asked Donna to tell us about her pet projects including radio/TV promotion of AAUW. She will also share when and why she became a member of AAUW and what projects and fundraisers her branch undertakes.

The cost of the dinner is \$18 and menu choices are: chicken parm, grilled chicken salad or grilled veggie wrap. The dinner includes ziti with marinara sauce, tossed salad, bread, cookies, cucumber water and coffee. Please indicate your dinner choice and send checks made payable to AAUW to Ginni Mazur 176 West Bush Road, Gloversville, NY 12078.

The deadline to RVSP is April 18. We hope to have a good turn out to welcome Donna to our branch.

Note: There will also be a raffle for a free AAUW membership renewal.

## **Win a Free Membership Renewal!**

The second of three free AAUW membership renewals for the 2014-2015 year will be raffled at the April meeting. Our branch earned the free memberships from National AAUW for recruiting over six members at our fall Shape the Future Membership recruitment meeting. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The money raised will go toward future membership recruitment efforts. (Correction to February newsletter - we raised \$42 at the February meeting raffle.)

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## **Registering to Vote is “FREE”**

Under the United States law before any citizen can “Freely Vote” in their village, town, city, county, state, or legislative political election they first must be registered within their county at the Board of Elections. There are certain registration requirements that a registrant must fulfill prior to their availability to vote.

There are a number of avenues of how an individual can obtain a “Voter Registration Form”

- Contacting your local Board of Election Office
- On the computer through your State Dept.
- County Agencies: Dept. Motor Vehicle, Dept. Social Services
- Public Libraries, Schools, and Post Office

There is NO COST to the registrant in filing a “voter registration form”. The form is written in a non-bias format and will take the registrant only a few minutes to complete. There are two qualifications and a few small sections of information that the registrant must provide on the form prior to filing. The registrant must be a United States citizen and 18 years of age or older. Address, birth date and choice of Political Party along with the registrant signature and date are among the sections on the form.

The next step after completing the “voter form” is to hand deliver the form to the Board of Election Office or mail it through the local Post Office. No faxed or emailed copies will be accepted. Before the next election the new registrant will receive an “Acknowledgment Card” in the mail that will inform the voter of their assigned Polling Place.

*Ellie DiScioscia*  
*Voter Education Chair*

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## MESSAGE FROM SITE RESOURCES, NATIONAL AAUW

**From:** site-resources [mailto:site-resources@aauw.org]

**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2014 3:59 PM

**Subject:** AAUW Site Resources - Content and Technology Update

Greetings, Site Resources contacts!

Our board asked me to share the following blurb with you. Feel free to send it to your contacts or post it on your branch/state website.

### **AAUW National Committees and Task Forces**

What would AAUW look like with you in a key role in AAUW leadership? AAUW is now seeking applications from dedicated, hardworking, creative, and forward-thinking team players for 2014–16 national committee and task force appointments. The May 1 deadline is fast approaching so visit the national website to learn more\* and apply now!

On an unrelated note, you may have heard recently about the **Internet security threat caused by the HeartBleed malware bug**. AAUW National patched our servers, including Site Resources, against this vulnerability as soon as a patch was released on Tuesday, April 8, at 8 a.m. We are currently secure against the HeartBleed bug.

We are now in the process of revoking and replacing all of our security protocols (SSL certificates) as a further security measure. The process will be completed over the weekend. The logins for your Site Resources websites remain secure as they did prior to the bug, but they may be updated if you wish on Monday after the SSL certificates are replaced. If you have any questions, please let me know.

As a side note, there is a [good article on Mashable \(http://mashable.com/2014/04/09/heartbleed-bug-websites-affected/\)](http://mashable.com/2014/04/09/heartbleed-bug-websites-affected/) that provides a thorough list of personal passwords that should be updated in light of the Heartbleed bug. I highly recommend you review this list and personally protect yourselves.

All the best,  
Megan Morrison  
Website Associate  
AAUW, 1111 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington, DC 20036

\* Standing Committees include: Audit Committee Functions, Finance Committee Functions, Governance Committee (AC73) Functions, Investment Committee Functions, Branch Program Resources Committee Functions, College/University Committee Functions, Fundraising Committee Functions, Legal Advocacy Fund Committee Functions, Membership Committee Functions, Nominating Committee Functions, Public Policy Committee Functions, Social Media Committee Functions, Task Forces include: The Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Functions, STEM Task Force Functions, Voting Engagement Task Force Functions.

## **HELP WANTED**

Needed are

- an [assistant Newsletter Editor](#) to work with Linda Hammond.
- a [Social Media Helper](#) – AGJ has a facebook page that we need to have more activity on. We don't have a Twitter address yet but this could be another area if someone is interested. This person(s) would work with Linda Hammond who oversees AGJ's webpage.
- and an [AAUW Funds Chair](#), The [Funds Chair or co-chairs](#) would receive information from National and NYS AAUW regarding the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) and Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and share it with our members by submitting articles to our newsletter; assure that our branch donations to EOF and LAF are sent to National AAUW in December; and prepare LAF basket/purse donations for the NYS Convention.

## Book Discussion Update

### Report on Feb 25 book club and photo

Members of the AAUW Branch Lunch Bunch Book Discussion Group are shown on February 25 with Jackie Yauger at Jackie's Diner on Rt 29 in Gloversville where they gathered for food and conversation about the book "Lean In: Women Work and the Will to Lead" by Sheryl Sandberg. The AAUW Adelante Book Club selection focusses on women mentors. Jackie Yauger, third from right, talked to the group about her journey from cooking and waitressing at other establishments to owning her own business.



The AAUW Branch Lunch Bunch Book Discussion group meets monthly to discuss books from the suggested list as well as other selections of interest to the group. When possible, the group tries to coordinate the places they meet to eat with the topic of the books they read. In the past, the group read a book on Asian-American Heritage and dined at Mt. Fuji Japanese restaurant. While reading a book on Hispanic Heritage, the Lunch Bunch met at Centro Civico for an authentic lunch and conversation with executive director Ladon Alomar. As a result of our press coverage of our February Branch Lunch Bunch, prospective member Lisa Queeney expressed interest in joining our book discussions after tax season ends!

### March 31 Lunch Bunch Book Discussion at Sam's

In celebration of Women's History Month, the AAUW Branch Lunch Bunch met on March 31 at Sam's Restaurant in Johnstown to discuss "The Girls of Atomic City" by Denise Kiernan, the Adelante Book selection for March. This is the story of the women who were recruited to work in Oak Ridge, Tennessee at the height of World War II lured by good wages and the promise of war-ending work. Few knew the true nature of the work they performed until the end of the war. Branch member, Carol Cownie joined us for the first time at this discussion due to her interest in suggesting the book to the Gloversville Library book club.

At the lunch, forms to submit book titles to the Adelante Book list for 2014-15 were shared. Submissions are due May 15 to National AAUW.

### Next Book Discussion Friday May 2 at 1:30 Place TBA

The next Branch Lunch Bunch book discussion will take place on Friday, May 2 at 1:30pm. We would appreciate suggestions on a place to meet and dine. We will be reading "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way" by Robin Gerber. The book was recommended by the NYS AAUW board. "Eleanor Roosevelt's remarkable ability to confront hurdles...be they political, personal, or social... made her one of the greatest leaders of the last century, if not all time. In the book, author Robin Gerber, examines the values, tactics, and beliefs that enabled Eleanor Roosevelt to bring about tremendous change in herself and in the world." Some of you may have heard Robin Gerber speak at the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium several years ago and remember the dynamic story. Copies of the book are available at the Johnstown Public Library reserved under AAUW Book Club. Bonnie Van Wie also has 2 copies and Linda Hammond has 1 available to loan. Contact Liz Russo if you are interested in joining us on Friday, May 2 to discuss the book or just join us for lunch.

#### **2013 – 2014 Branch Officers:**

##### ***Presidents***

*Liz Russo*  
*Linda Hammond*

##### ***Vice Presidents – Program***

*Darcelle Winchell*  
*Sandy Maceyka*

##### ***Vice President – Membership***

*Catherine Julius*

***Treasurer – Ella Ryder***

***Vice President – Ed Opp Fund***  
*Open Position*

***Vice President – Legal Advocacy***  
*Open Position*

***Recording Secretary –***  
*Bonnie Van Wie*

***Public Policy – Jennifer Garren***

# Our Projects Update

## Tech Savvy Summit for Girls - May 20

Registration materials for our branch's annual Tech Savvy Summit for Girls were delivered to middle schools in Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery counties. We have already received the first registrations from Wheelerville. The deadline is April 10. Over \$2000 in donations for the Tech Savvy Summit for Girls have been received. A total of 14 workshops are being offered this year. Linda Bumpus is in the process of ordering food for the event. Linda Hammond is receiving the registrations and sorting the girls into the 3 workshops they will attend.

We hope you have saved the date to help set up on the afternoon of May 19 and help early May 20 morning. Yes, we also have our AAUW pot luck blind awareness meeting on May 20, but that is not until 5:30pm. Since the Tech Savvy Summit ends at 1:30 there will still be time to take a nap before gathering your dish to share and heading to Mayfield for the meeting!

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## Looking ahead.....May 20 Meeting

The May meeting of the AAUW will be held on Tuesday May 20th at the Mayfield Yacht Club at 5:30 PM. It will be a potluck supper, so please bring a dish to share. Our program will be "Blind Awareness", and, as such, we will find out what it's like to be blind, so please bring a blindfold, and an apron, and wear old clothes in case of spills. Also, if possible, please read Helen Keller's book, "The Story of My Life", which is truly a remarkable book. I know this is the same day as Tech Savvy, but it is later in the afternoon, and is the only convenient time to have it so it is not scheduled too close to the other monthly AAUW meetings. I hope you can attend.

Please let Jahnn Gibson know if you will be attending. Telephone 762-5036.

Directions to Mayfield Yacht Club:

By GPS: 214 Lakeside Dr. Mayfield, NY

Otherwise:

North on Rt 30 out of Vail Mills. Pass Rt 349 that goes to Gloversville, and pass Fuel and Food on the Right. Continue about 1/4 mile and turn Right onto School St. Cross a small bridge, and at 20 mph go up a hill and turn Right at the top of the hill. Go 1/2-3/4 mile, you will go down a hill that has a sharp Left turn at the bottom (you will see docks straight ahead through the trees at the bottom of the hill as you make the turn). Go about 1/10 mile; turn Right into the yacht club. Park in the guest parking lot behind the big reddish-orange barn. Walk in the back door of the clubhouse, the kitchen is right there.

*Jahnn Gibson*

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## PUBLIC POLICY

April 8th marks the day in 2014 that the average woman's earnings will catch up to what the average man earned in 2013. That's ridiculous, isn't it? Why should there be a three month lag in salaries and wages for women? In fact women of color have an even larger discrepancy. In today's economy, this gap just doesn't make any sense. If the pay earnings were equal, there would be a more stable workforce with lower turnover rates and women & minorities & families would have more money to spend on rent, consumer products etc....Basically women would face less hardship making ends meet. And would you believe it isn't even impossible or difficult to correct. Some collective action is in order.

The Equal Pay Coalition NYC and the NYS Pay Equity Coalition are working (and have for years) on leveling the economic playing field for women & minorities & their families. Now, with the help of the Women's Equality Coalition (comprised of over 850 organizations across NY State-including AAUW, YMCA & LWV), the hope is to make major progress on the Women's Equality Act legislation and the pay equity bills that the NY State Assembly has championed and will be passing on Equal Pay Day.

Our local branch of AAUW is committed to raising public awareness that Equity in pay is still an issue. We have contacted 24 local governments urging Mayors & Supervisors to adopt a NY State Municipal Equal Pay Day Proclamation on April 8th. Some alarming statistics offered in the proclamation state that families headed by a



working mother make up nearly 40 percent of low-income families (equal pay could cut poverty rates for women in half) while nearly two-thirds of mothers provide significant family financial support and according to a 2012 AAUW study, college-educated women working full-time over the course of a lifetime earn more than half a million dollars LESS than their male peers. We ask for your help by contacting local & State representatives to remind them that 9 out of 10 New York voters agree that equal pay should be a priority.

*Jennifer Garren*  
*Public Policy Chair*

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## Women's Equality Act (WEA) Update

Dear AAUW-NYS Members:

We are officially planning a statewide in-district lobby day for Equal Pay Day, April 8<sup>th</sup>. On this day (or as close to it as possible), please start making appointments with your Senators (and Assembly, if you have the time Senate is 1<sup>st</sup> priority since the Assembly has already passed WEA), to bring your regional group in to talk about WEA.

**If you have time for one thing in April, make it the Equal Pay Day statewide in-district lobby day.**

However, we'd like to really put the heat on from April 1 - 23, while the Senate is on break and Senators will be paying closer attention to what's happening in their district. We would like to see each region set a **goal of 2 actions/week during April 1 - 23.**

Here are some ideas for actions, which we define broadly as anything that will create visibility for WEA with your Senators:

- ✓ Submit Letter To Editors (LTE) to your weekly and daily papers
  - OpEds are also great if you have a paper that you think might publish an OpEd piece
  - Submit more than one LTE from different folks, on different WEA topics, over the course of April 1 - 23
  - Ideas for LTE submissions:
    - Equal Pay Day
    - Single Moms perspective
    - Working Moms perspective
    - Human Trafficking April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month
    - The need for all 10 points
    - Local DV/IPV provider on the domestic violence provisions
    - Business Owner on need for work protections
- ✓ Hold a honk-and-wave or other visibility event outside of your Senators office or in a high-traffic area
- ✓ Hold an educational event about WEA or participate in a panel/event where you talk about WEA
- ✓ Participate in a local event with WEA info and postcards
- ✓ Go to a community event where your Senator will be present
- ✓ If you have signed postcards, hand deliver them to your Senators in-district office
- ✓ Bring other groups (not just regional committee) for lobby visits
  - Clergy
  - Business Owners
  - College Students
  - Young Women/People
  - Moms

Again, if you can just do one thing, try to schedule visits to participate in the Equal Pay Day statewide in-district lobby day. We really love to have a big impact across the state on that day. I realize it is relatively short notice, so if you need help setting up visits, coordinating, etc, please let me know. We'll do what we can to help you succeed!

Thanks,

Donna Seymour  
AAUW-NYS Public Policy VP

On March 28, Bev Alves, our representative to the WEC participated in a conference call. There was a discussion regarding upgrading the messaging campaign and program for 2014 and revitalizing and revamping our message for 2014, updating the law and creating 10 bills (unified) that has the best chance of passing both houses.

WEA will:

- ✓ Unify the 10 points in the Agenda.
- ✓ Upgrade our laws and messages making messages more inclusive and positive.
- ✓ Emphasis is on passing law in State Senate.

3 Key Messages

- We need to establish our coalition's strength.
- Remind the Senate that we're a state coalition made up of more than 850 organizations.
- Let them know we're not going to give up!

All the issues and measures women face are important and critical.

Every measure deserves a vote.

Women need to have equality in housing, equality in healthcare and equality in and at work.

We can't let politics stand in the way.

Women give 100%; we expect 100% from our elected officials.

Seven out of ten New Yorkers support the WEA.

**We need it! We want it! We deserve it!**

The sticky question seems to be reproductive health and freedom. Women in New York must be able to protect their health. We are not trying to expand abortion in NY. New York needs to be in alignment with current federal law. We also need a state law in case federal law changes. The law wouldn't allow a woman to get an abortion unless her life or health is in danger. This would be decided upon by a certified physician. Faith based hospitals and doctors will still have the ability to not provide abortions. The bill also does not allow partial birth abortions. The law about reproductive health belongs with public health law as a medical procedure.

The WEA law also addresses equal pay for comparable work. It addresses transparency, i.e., the ability to enquire about your pay and is in line with the Fairness Paycheck Act, as well as other work related issues that concern women.

Other issues that the WEA addresses are:

- Ending Sexual Harassment
- Stopping Employment Discrimination
- Expanding Access to Justice
- Supporting Domestic Violence Victims
- Fighting Human Trafficking
- Ending Pregnancy Discrimination
- Safeguarding Reproductive Health

April 8<sup>th</sup> is Equal Pay Day. 8. This date symbolizes how far into 2014 women must work to earn what men earned in 2013. The gap is even larger for women of color. It will be our first lobby day of the year.

**Wear RED on Equal Pay Day  
to symbolize how far women  
and minorities are "in the red" with their pay!**

To spread the message, Letters to the Editor, Op Eds, Outreach to Colleges, On-line Petitions and Post-cards will be used.

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## Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium (ECSWC)

The Consortium has been meeting to plan the events in celebration of the 200th birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Each member organization is being asked to come up with a program so that each month of 2015 will be covered. So far the Girl Scouts are planning for January, The Ecclectic Society and Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association may be providing a program in February. On March 21, 2015 the ECSWC will sponsor their signature ECS Women's Symposium daylong event. April is the month for our AAUW branch to come up with a program.

We welcome any AAUW members who are interested in planning for our AAUW program or the Symposium to attend the next ECSWC meeting on Tuesday, May 6 at 5:30pm at the Johnstown Public Library. For more information contact ECSWC chair, Helen Martin.

### *In Memory...*

Our 2013 NCCSWL scholarship recipient, Santa Pumpura lost her life in an accident on March 21. She and a friend were trying to change a tire on the New Jersey Turnpike when another vehicle drifted onto the shoulder and struck them. Santa Pumpura was 21 years old.

Some of you may remember her helping our at our pancake breakfast at the Moose in Feb. 2013. She helped sell raffle tickets to raise money for the NCCWSL scholarship. She received her associates degree from Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FM) last May and was currently a junior at Rutgers.



While at FM she gave a presentation on marketing at our Presidential debate watching party at which time we signed her up as an AAUW e-student affiliate. She traveled back to FM from Rutgers last fall to present a wonderful program for faculty and staff on her NCCWSL experiences. She shared information from the workshops she attended on career development, preparing for a job interview, as well as how to present one's self when sitting, standing, and speaking at a podium. She discussed negotiating for salaries and why women rarely do. She also gave tips on college success to students and faculty in attendance and shared photos and the excitement of her first views of Washington, D.C.

She is pictured on Feb 2013 helping out with our pancake breakfast fundraiser selling raffle tickets to raise money for the NCCWSL scholarship.

I talked to her on the phone March 15 to ask if she would write up her experiences at NCCWSL so that we could display it with her photo at our March 29 Celebration scholarship fundraiser. She said, "Sure, I have time, I am on spring break."

We are sad to say, that such a brilliant girl who could have gone so far had her life cut short.

*Liz Russo/ Darcelle Winchell*

### **Other sad news...**

We were also sad to hear that Schenectady AAUW member Elise Russo's husband passed recently. Elise spoke at our September 2012 AAUW meeting at FM about the District IV Conference that many of us attended.

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**April 25 – 27, 2014**

**2014 NYS AAUW Convention**

*A World of Wellness  
Stimulating the Mind  
Energizing the Body  
Inspiring the Soul*

**Honor's Haven Resort**

**Ellenville, NY**

Watch for details at [www.AAUW-NYS.org](http://www.AAUW-NYS.org)

**Monday, April 28**

Annual Dinner Meeting

Speaker: NYS Public Policy VP, Donna

Seymour

5:30 pm, FMCC

**Friday, May 2**

Branch Lunch Bunch Book Discussion

1:30pm, Place TBA

**Tuesday, May 6**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium Meeting

5:30 pm, Johnstown Public Library

**Wednesday, May 14**

AAUW Board Meeting

6 pm, Johnstown Public Library

**Wednesday, May 14 & Thursday, May 15**

Historical Musical about labor pioneer, Kate Mullany

*"Don't Iron While the Strike is Hot"*

10:30am and 7:30pm, Russell Sage College

**Monday, May 19**

Set-up for TECH SAVVY Summit for Girls

FMCC (time to be announced)

**Tuesday, May 20**

TECH SAVVY Summit for Girls

7:30 – 2 pm, FMCC

**Tuesday, May 20**

Pot Luck Supper Meeting

5:30 pm Mayfield Yacht Club

Blind Awareness

Speaker: Jahnn Gibson

### **"DON'T IRON WHILE THE STRIKE IS HOT"**

If you are interest in driving to Troy, "Don't Iron While the Strike Is Hot", a historical musical about labor pioneer, Kate Mullany will be presented at Russell Sage College on May 14 and 15. Times are 10:30am and 7:30 pm. Cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. For tickets go to [art.of.labor@wdiny.org](mailto:art.of.labor@wdiny.org) Let us know if a group is interested in attending.

