



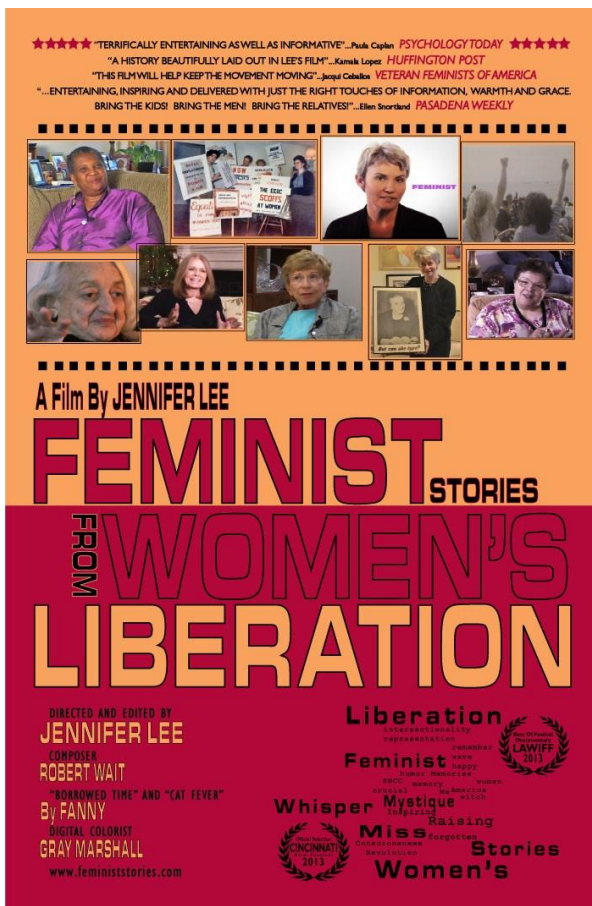
# Upstate Update

AMSTERDAM \* GLOVERSVILLE \* JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

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

[Agj-ny.aauw.net](http://Agj-ny.aauw.net)

February 2015



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

Meet  
Jennifer Lee, Writer,  
Speaker & Filmmaker

6:30 pm  
FMCC Theatre

The film, "*Feminist Stories from Women's Liberation*" illustrates how women have continued to fight for their rights in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and beyond.

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!**

The event is sponsored by AGJ AAUW as part of the year-long celebrations of Elizabeth Cady Stanton 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

## Co-President's Message

Hope that all of you have had a good & safe winter so far. We sure do have a lot of ice out there. Be safe when walking. Thanks to all who attended January's meeting. Jahn Gibson, thank you for the viewing of the movie *An Inconvenient Truth* by Al Gore and for all of the meeting arrangements. It was a very interesting movie, very thought provoking. Being released in 2006, it was interesting how many things have come to be true and still continues to be an important issue for all mankind. If anyone is interested in viewing this movie, it is available on Amazon. It is no longer available on Netflix and I couldn't find it in the library system. For those who are vegans or who are almost vegetarian may be familiar with another movie, *Cowspiracy*. This is about the effect of farm animals on the environment and how less costly plant production is compared to livestock.

On Thursday, I participated in "Newseum Suffragist Online Learning Module Webinar." This is a great resource for our area high schools and colleges – AND IT IS FREE through AAUW! We were introduced to the Suffragist documents and information available at the Newseum which houses many documents on historical events. AAUW has entered into a partnership with the Newseum. Newseum is located on Pennsylvania Ave in Washington DC and its mission is to champion the five freedoms of the First Amendment through exhibits, public programs and education. The documents available to teachers and students show the highs and lows to the historical event. They felt that it was important for the students to see the failures experienced along the way. As many text books write about the final moments of success. Teachers have available lesson plans (step by step plans) and plug & play activities. This is also in line with the Common Core initiative. The documents available online are seen in high resolution and can be downloaded to make into posters or other classroom resources. During the webinar we were shown letters written by various individuals and you could actually expand the picture so you could read what was written. The Newseum has flyers and brochures available for anyone who would like to introduce this to their school districts or colleges. The Newseum's website is [Newseum.org](http://Newseum.org) and this "program in a box" information is located under "Resources / Program in a Box" is on our [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org) website. The webinar was being recorded and will be available to listen to in the near future.

Hope to see many of you at our February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at FMCC. It should be a fun night!

*Co-president Linda Hammond*

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## ***FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES / NOTABLES***

### **February 10 Meeting - A Taste of Tech Savvy**

The Lego Challenge is one of the favorite workshops that the girls take at our Tech Savvy Summit. Ruth Scott will challenge us to her Lego building exercise. It teaches team work and spatial exercises to the students. Join us in the FM Student Union Lounge to eat and then work in teams to "play with Legos"! The cost of the meeting is \$15 and includes a buffet of soups (tomato basil and southwest vegetable) salads (tossed and Dijon potato) sandwiches (turkey or ham or roasted vegetables on Kaiser Rolls) chips, cookies and brownies, soda, water and coffee. RSVP by February 4 to Darcelle Winchell, 277 Bleecker St., Gloversville, 12078. For more information call 752-4045.

### **Raffle for Free Membership Renewal at February Meeting**

Though our Shape the Future Membership recruitment last September, we signed up 7 new members earning our branch 3 free memberships from National AAUW. We will raffle the first one at our February 10 meeting. The winner receives a free membership renewal for the 2015-16 year. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Money raised will be used for our next membership recruitment effort.

### **February 10 Birthday**

Interesting that the day of our "Taste of Tech Savvy" meeting is also the Birthday of woman electrical engineer, Edith Clarke. Clark who was born on February 10, 1883 was the first woman to earn an M. S. in electrical engineering from MIT (1919) and the first woman professor of electrical engineering (1947). She invented the Clarke Calculator, a graphical device for solving power transmission line equations. Edith Clarke was the first female engineer to achieve professional standing in Tau Beta Pi. In 1948, Clarke was the first female Fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. In 1954, she received the Society of Women Engineers Achievement Award. Clark died in 1959.

## **February Lunch Bunch to Discuss The Kitchen House**

The Branch Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, February 26, at 1pm at Sam's Rt 30A Johnstown, to commemorate Black History month, the book choice is The Kitchen House by Kathryn Grissom.

About the book...

*In this gripping New York Times bestseller, Kathleen Grissom brings to life a thriving plantation in Virginia in the decades before the Civil War, where a dark secret threatens to expose the best and worst in everyone tied to the estate.*

*Orphaned during her passage from Ireland, young, white Lavinia arrives on the steps of the kitchen house and is placed, as an indentured servant, under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate slave daughter. Lavinia learns to cook, clean, and serve food, while guided by the quiet strength and love of her new family.*

*In time, Lavinia is accepted into the world of the big house, caring for the master's opium-addicted wife and befriending his dangerous yet protective son. She attempts to straddle the worlds of the kitchen and big house, but her skin color will forever set her apart from Belle and the other slaves.*

*Through the unique eyes of Lavinia and Belle, Grissom's debut novel unfolds in a heartbreaking and ultimately hopeful story of class, race, dignity, deep-buried secrets, and familial bonds.*

Copies are available and have been reserved at the JPL. All are welcome to join us for lunch and the discussion whether or not you complete reading the book. Please contact Liz Russo by February 24 if you plan to attend so that we can make reservations. We order from the menu.

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## **Tech Savvy Summit for Girls Set for May 20**

Planning continues for the conference for girls which will be held at FMCC on Wednesday, May 20. To date 13 schools have responded saying they plan to send girls. Linda Bumpus has sent out letters requesting donations to cover the costs. Those attending (adults as well as girls) will pay an \$8 registration fee to help cover the cost of breakfast and lunch.

Thanks to the efforts of Darcelle Winchell, we have 11 workshops confirmed to date including Lego Challenge, Hour of Code, Robotics, How the Wi-Fi Works, DNA, Pocket Astronomy, Engineering, Chemistry, and Reproduction in Farm Animals, CSI, and Clean Room. We hope to add at least 3 more. We thank those who signed up to help with the event at our December meeting.

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## **We have a Nominating Committee, now we need Nominees!**

Thank you, Ella Ryder for stepping up and in turn recruiting Cece Alexander...who in turn recruited Catherine Julius! In addition, we thank Ginni Mazur for agreeing to assist the committee in finding candidates for President, and Secretary. In addition, they will be seeking a Newsletter Editor (filled), Public Policy Chair, High School Literary Scholarship Chair and AAUW Funds Chair. We hope you will consider stepping up to serve the branch when asked. You each have special talents that can help us keep our branch alive and move the AAUW mission forward. Volunteering to co-chair with a friend makes the position less work and more fun since you can work together!

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## **Our Year with Eleanor continues....**

As the AAUW year with Eleanor Roosevelt continues, this month, chapter Six "Your Leadership Your Way" of Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way is being covered. Eleanor Roosevelt stated that "**Women, whether subtly or vociferously, have always been a tremendous power in the destiny of the world...**"

As we look for members to step up to take leadership roles in our branch, Eleanor has words of encouragement:

- \* **Claim Your Right to be a Leader**
- **Shakes Things Up**
- **Be Bold and Principled**
- **Stick to the Mission**

Steven Covey's "Eighth Habit" is "finding your voice and inspire others to find theirs." He also speaks about the 5 Cancers in this book focusing on "from effectiveness to greatness." They are: criticism, complaining, comparing, competing and contending. Some pretty powerful food for thought! We hope that AGJ members will "find their voices and inspire others to find theirs and avoid the "5 Cancers". Claim your right to be a leader! Step up to volunteer to lead our branch and continue the AAUW mission in our community! You can do it!

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## **Mach 21<sup>st</sup> - Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium / District IV Conference**

We hope you will all plan to attend the 5th Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium at the BOCES Center on Saturday, March 21 from 8:30am-3:30pm. This year it will also serve as the AAUW NYS District IV Conference. We hope to have many AAUW members present not just from our branch, but also from the other 5 District IV branches. Registration forms are now available. The fee is \$35 and \$15 for students and includes a light breakfast and lunch. The deadline to register is March 6. Several of our AAUW members including Helen Martin, Sandy Maceyka, Jennifer Garren and Laurie Kozakiewicz are on the planning committee. AAUW is a member organization of the ECSWC. Each organization has been asked to provide 5 dozen cookies, volunteers to help and a basket donation to raffle at the event.

Here is a preview of the day's offerings:

### Session A Workshop Choices

- 1 Women on the Page (Greta Nettleton, Heidi Sprouse, Ruth Holland Scott)
- 2 Midwifery: the Second Oldest Profession (Julie Testi)
- 3 From Corsets to Spanx™ ("Victorian Lady" Sue McLane)

### **Luncheon Program: A Conversation with Coline Jenkins, the Great-Great Granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton**

Conducted by Stanton biographer Penny Coleman

### Session B Workshop Choices

- 1 Johnstown's Radical Daughter (ECStanton interpreter Melinda Grube)
- 2 RX for Better Health - Get Outdoors (Kelly Stang)
- 3 You Won't Feel a Thing (Acupuncture-Jennifer Voohees)

### Session C Workshop Choices

- 1 A Glorious Woman - Getting to Know Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Penny Coleman)
- 2 Color: Then and Now (makeup of the past and present-Sherry Wieszchowski)
- 3 For the Dancer Within You (Learn a new step- Carol Mattioni)

Registration form and workshop information can be found on the following websites – [www.ecswc.org](http://www.ecswc.org) and [agj-ny.aauw.net](http://agj-ny.aauw.net). Please see the list of events scheduled in recognition of Elizabeth's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of the newsletter.

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## **Looking Back to December & January...**

### **Union Hall**

We thank Sandy Maceyka for making the arrangements and the thoughtful gifts of candy and angels decorations we each received at our Holiday luncheon at Union Hall. It was nice to have past member Trish Isabella and her daughter join us. We all enjoyed listening to and singing along with the classical guitar music played by Julio Rodriguez. Those who also purchased one of Julio's CDs continued to enjoy his Christmas music over the holidays. Thanks to those who made even more donations for women who turn to Haven of Hope Farm to start a new life. What a generous group of members we have!

### **Century Club Festival of Trees Luncheon**

Thirteen AAUW members and one guest came, had fun and supported a fellow women's organization - the GFWC Century Club. Veteran AAUW members and new members alike mixed to view the trees, eat lunch, enjoy

the music of the Silver Tones and visit the holiday gift shop. This has turned into an annual Branch Lunch Bunch Holiday celebration it seems.

### **Follow-up on January Meeting on Global Warming**

We would like to thank Jahnn Gibson for arranging our January meeting showing of the video on Global Warming. In conjunction with the recommended reading of the book Eaarth by Bill McGibbon, we all learned a lot about the rapid melting of the ice cap, shrinking of bodies of water worldwide and the pollution that causes the heating of the planet. Interesting to note that in the Leader Herald the next day - January 16, there was an article "Forecasts Show Drought Continuing in Southwest" The article stated that the US Department of Agriculture's National Water and Climate Center says the year started off unusually dry suggesting there won't be enough snow to boost water supplies. According USDA, a warm winter in the Pacific Northwest has reduced snowpack in the mountains to levels far below normal. The movie, the book and that article should give us a lot to think about. To do our little part to not add to pollution, we brought our own place settings instead of using disposables when we ate our pizza supper. Thanks to Bonnie Van Wie for acting as our "pizza delivery woman"! We ordered pizza from Patricia's, a woman owned local restaurant where we held our Bunco Game Night Fundraiser last October.

### **Welcome New Branch Member!**

We were pleased to have three guests join our members at our January meeting on Global Warming. As a result, we have a new member! We welcome **Colleen Bowers** and look forward to seeing her at future meetings. She has been interested in joining and has been reading all about our activities, and finally was able to attend one of our events. So glad you came!

Please add her name and contact information to your membership booklet:

**Colleen Bowers phone # 443-722-7248**

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## **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

### **Haven of Hope Farms Donations**

Thanks to Melissa for connecting us with Candy Frasier the leader of a Girl Scout Troop in Ephratah. At our lunch at Century Club we brain stormed about the size of the bags and Sandy Lane e-mailed her twin for suggested dimensions. Meanwhile, Jen Garren offered to donate material for the project. We are still looking forward to having the girls make the bags. In the meantime, since we have so many items to donate, Jahnn Gibson provided us with a source of carry bags to hold a bath towel and toiletries. This project will wrap up in the coming months. In the meantime, members Paula Lerner and Jahnn have volunteered their time at the Haven of Hope Farm to help sort donated materials. Anyone able to also help can join them on a Saturday, January 31 at 10 am at the Haven of Hope Farm in Fonda across from the school.

### **"A Place at the Table" ----- Outreach Continues Beyond Fulton County**

Member Carol Cownie has asked that we continue the circulation of the documentary "A Place at the Table" regarding the stereotyping of hunger which we showed at the Glove Theater in 2013. The video was purchased by Dr. Phillip and Helen James for such use. At the AAUW NYS Summer conference in Cazenovia Carol presented a workshop on the subject. She collected names of AAUW branches who wished to use the video as one of their branch programs. The video was sent to the Oneonta branch first and they showed it at their January 17 meeting. A representative from their local food pantry discusses the local needs and the Oneonta branch made a monetary donation to their local food pantry. The Oneonta branch is returning the video to our branch so that it can be shared with the Rochester branch for a program in April.

### **JPL College Survival Basket**

Each year to thank JPL for letting us use the community room for our board and committee meetings during the year, we donate a basket which will be raffled at their annual fundraiser mini golf tournament April 25. We voted to take the money from our general fund this year to purchase \$100 worth of items for the basket. Although we are not asking for donations of money or items, we will need shoppers and volunteers to assemble the basket.

The basket will contain copies of *The College Dorm Survival Guide* and *1001 Things every College Student Needs to Know* as well as items that can be useful in a college dorm.

We thank Melissa Ackernecht and Connie Lais for offering to assist with the shopping. Contact Liz or Linda Hammond if you are also interested in helping with the basket arranging. The basket should be delivered to the JPL in February where raffle tickets will be on sale.

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## *AAUW FUNDRAISING*

### **Purse donations for LAF Fundraiser at AAUW State Convention**

Our branch AAUW Funds chair, Nancy Reynolds, has begun working on item donations for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund auction and raffle that will be held at the NYS Convention in Buffalo April 17-19. Each branch can donate up to 3 items either for raffle or auction. So far we have two pocket book/totes from Nancy and a European crystal bowl donated by Bonnie VanWie. Nancy is accepting items to go with the purses and bowl. We hope to have all items by our March 11 board meeting. Please contact Nancy to donate items and/or help arrange the baskets for the Convention.

### **AAUW Funds Spare Change Bucket Collection**

Since September, we have collected over \$220.00 as part of our spare change for change campaign. Thanks to all who have lightened their pocket books and helped raise money for Legal Advocacy and Education grants, scholarships and research by added their coins. We appreciate our AAUW Funds Chair Nancy Reynolds for her perseverance with this fundraising project.

### **Where do our donations go??**

Part of the funds we collect goes to the Education Opportunities Funds (EOF) some of which are used to fund research on topics effecting women. One example of a report that came out of AAUW funded research was the internationally acclaimed *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*. Following AAUW's project to address the biases and stereotypes that have held women back in engineering and computing fields is the launching of a new report also funded by EOF, to delineate the concrete actions that families, schools, workplaces, and policy makers can take to level the playing field in the years to come.



### **Budget time again**

Each Committee Chair is asked to consider whether they need more money for next year. Should we increase the amounts we give for each scholarship, do we want to give more scholarships? Is there any area that we should increase? Please share your suggestions with Treasurer Ella Ryder or co - presidents Linda Hammond and Liz Russo.

### **Project 2020**

NYS AAUW Public Policy VP, Donna Seymour, prepared a Power Point and provided links to interviews done by middle school students with relatives and friends regarding their first voting experiences. The project's purpose is to focus on 2020, the anniversary of Women's right to vote. Those who graduate in 2020 will also in most cases be old enough to vote in 2020 which is a presidential election year. It has been noted that those who vote first in a presidential election are more likely to continue to vote all their lives. Donna presented the Power Point via Skype by at a Johnstown School District social studies department meeting at Knox Junior High in December. The material will also be shared with Gloversville's social studies department which will cover the Women's Suffrage movement in March.

## **Hat's Off!!**

Hats Off to Elle DiScioscia in her new position as Director of Gloversville Senior Citizens Center!

Although Elle has been a branch member for two years, we don't see her at meetings. She is very busy with her job at the Gloversville Senior Center. She has implemented many new programs there for the seniors including breakfasts and activities on Saturday mornings which she cooks and works at herself! Thanks for all you do Elle. Hope sometime you will get a chance to join us at a meeting also.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- January 31**     **Haven of Hope, 10** - ? Contact Paula Lerner if interested in volunteering
- February 10**     **Lego Challenge**  
Presenter FM instructor Ruth Scott  
6pm FMCC Student Union, Large Lounge
- February 26**     **Lunch Bunch Book Discussion, 1**  
pm, Sam's Restaurant, Johnstown
- March 4**     **Pathways in Technology (P-Tech), 6**  
pm, School- Jansen Ave, Johnstown
- March 11**     **AAUW Board Meeting, 6 pm,** Johnstown Public Library
- March 21**     **Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm,** HFM BOCES, Route 67, Johnstown

### LOOKING AHEAD

- April 11**     **Movie Night – Documentary, *Feminist Stories from Women's Liberation*;**  
**Speaker: Jennifer Lee**  
FMCC, 6:30 pm
- April 14**     **Equal Pay Day**
- April 17 – 19**     **AAUW NYS Convention** in Buffalo
- April 29**     **AGJ Business Only Meeting, 6:30 pm**  
Johnstown Senior Center
- May 20**     **Tech Savvy Summit for Girls, FMCC**
- May 28**     **Women's Suffrage Movement in Fulton & Montgomery Counties**  
Elwood Museum, Amsterdam
- May 28 – 30**     **NCCWSL / National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, Univ. of Maryland, College Park**
- June 18-21**     **AAUW National Convention** in San Diego, CA

# A Taste of Tech Savvy



## **LEGO CHALLENGE**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2015**

**5:30 pm**

**FMCC Large Lounge**

**The Lego Challenge is one of the favorite workshops that the girls take at our Tech Savvy Summit. Ruth Scott will challenge our members to her Lego building exercise. It teaches team work and spatial exercises to the students.**

**Cost: \$15      Checks made payable to: AAUW**

**Meal includes: soup, sandwiches, salad, dessert, and beverage**

**DEADLINE: February 4th**

**Contact: Darcelle Winchell (752-4045)**

**277 Bleecker St Gloversville, NY 12078**

**Darcelle@nycap.rr.com**



## HerStory 2015

### [Fulton & Montgomery County Celebrations of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's 200th Birthday!](#)

Coordinated by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium

website [www.ECSWC.org](http://www.ECSWC.org) [Lizdeclares@ECSWC.com](mailto:Lizdeclares@ECSWC.com) [info@ECSWC.org](mailto:info@ECSWC.org) or call 762-7638

#### *Watch for more Information*

Sat Jan 24 9-1 - [Girl Scouts of NENY](#) - "Our History is Our Strength" at Johnstown Community Center

Sat Feb 28 at 1 - [Women Democrats](#) - Audrey Bowman & Rev Ruby Smith, "The Struggles of Black Women in Upstate New York" at Trakside Community Center

Sat March 21 8-3- [Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium](#) - "Our History Is Our Strength" at HFM BOCES Lite Breakfast, Lunch, & wonderful workshops

March-April Sunflower Seeds will be available to residents from [City Of Johnstown](#) - Birthplace of Elizabeth - In exchange flowers must be photographed & photos sent to the seed company

Sat April 11 at 6 - [AAUW-American Association of University Women](#) - "Feminist Stories from Women's Liberation," a film by Jennifer Lee at FMCC & discussion with the film maker

Sat May 16 - [Women's Republican Club of Fulton County](#) - Luncheon - Laurie Kozakiewicz on Women in Politics: Historic Strategies and Challenges at Lanzi's on the Lake

Thurs May 28 at 6 - [AAUW-American Association of University Women](#) - Samantha Hall-Saladino & Anne Peconie - Tour & talk on -Women Suffrage in Fulton & Montgomery County at Elwood Museum - Amsterdam

Sat June 6 11-2 - [Pleasant Square Volunteer Fire Dept](#) - Picnic to honor Women First Responders at Pleasant Square Pavilion

Thurs June 25 at 7 - [Fulton County Historical Society](#) - Program by Laurie Kozakiewicz & Samantha Hall-Saladino on Women in War: From the Daughters of Liberty to the Women's Army Corps at the Fulton County Museum

July - August - [Johnstown Library](#) - Children's Reading Program on Heroes & Adult Reading & Discussion

Sat July 25 at 1 - [Eclectic Society](#) - Wade Wells speaking on Molly Brant followed by reception at St Johns Episcopal Church

Mon August 24 - ECSHA - [Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association](#) - Woman of Distinction Award and Reception

Sat Sept 19 - [GFWC Century Club](#) - Tea Party - at the Century Club

Thurs Oct 8 at 6:30 - SIFC - [Soroptimists International of Fulton County](#) - HerStory Trivia Challenge at the Eccentric Club - Tickets \$5/person - \$30 for a table of 6 Cash Bar, Food and Prizes

Nov 6,7,8,13,14,15- [Colonial Little Theatre](#) - production of "The Quilters"

Thurs Nov 12 6:30 -8 - ECSHA - [Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association](#) - 200th Birthday Celebration of Elizabeth at FMCC



**Save the Date!**

**The 2015 AAUW New York State Convention:**

*AAUW Leading the Way: Women Leadership in the 21st Century*

April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Byblos Niagara Resort, Grand Island, NY (near Buffalo, NY)

**Special Recognition:**

A celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the  
AAUW Buffalo Branch

Workshops will address topics such as:

- 21st Century Education Issues
- The Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs of Women Elected Officials: Women Leading NY into the 21st Century
- Countdown to the Century of Women's Right to Vote in the US
- Domestic Violence and Women's Self Empowerment
- And more!

**AAUW develops women leaders by strengthening their sense of empowerment. Don't miss this exciting opportunity!\***

\*Registration information will be on the AAUW-NYS website beginning in January 2015.