



Upstate Update

AMSTERDAM * GLOVERSVILLE * JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

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

November 2014



Poverty and Helping Others

Topic of November 18 Meeting

Our November meeting will be a potluck dinner at the Fonda Reformed Church on Tuesday November 18 at 6pm. Our speaker will be Pat Brookins who will explain her work helping homeless women at the Haven of Hope Farm in Fonda.

In preparation for the presentation by Pat Brookins, we suggest an “all branch reading” of books to help understand temporary and long term poverty. A couple of our members have already read the very enlightening **Framework for Understanding Poverty, A Cognitive Approach** (Created for Educators, Employers, Policy-makers, and Service Providers) by **Ruby K. Payne**. Another book to read by the same author whom the Rochester AAUW Branch read and recommended is **Bridges out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities** by **Ruby K. Payne**. We have requested copies of the books through the Mohawk Valley Library Association. A very limited number will be available at the Johnstown Public Library under the AAUW Book Club. Our branch has also purchased several copies for members to share.

When we are finished reading we plan to donate the books to local libraries to help educate our area communities about the realities of poverty. Contact Liz Russo 762-9702 regarding borrowing the books to read before the meeting. Please contact **Paula Lerner 736-2449** by **November 14** to indicate what dish you will bring to share.

Our Holiday Giving Project

As part of our annual holiday giving, our branch will be following in Eleanor Roosevelt’s Holiday tradition of giving hygiene items to her children as part of their gifts. We will collect face cloths, towels, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, comb, nail clippers, files, and deodorant which we will put in bags to be given to women who come to the Haven of Hope Farm in the future. Since many gifts are given to the women during the holidays, our hygiene bags will be available at other times of need. We hope to work with Girl Scouts to make the bags. If anyone with sewing experience would like to help with this project, please contact Melissa Ackernecht.

Elections Ahead - Will you be an informed voter?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. We hope you will all become informed voters and encourage others to learn about the issues at stake and to get out to vote.

We will have the opportunity to vote for our next NYS Governor and Lt Governor as well as NY State Senators. Go on line, read the papers, listen to the news, learn about the issues and the candidates running. Offer a friend, relative or neighbor a ride to the polls. Elizabeth Cady Stanton worked tirelessly so that we could have the right to vote, let's use it and encourage others to do so as well.

Co-President's Message

Did you have a good time at Bunco Night? For the short time that I was able to stay I really enjoyed the game. We had a great time talking to our table mates and munching on the food. Our fundraising efforts have been progressing along beautifully thanks to YOU! Next month we will have a progress update on the "Change for Change" fundraiser. I carry a change purse and by the time it is the night of our next meeting this purse is quite heavy. It will be fun to see how much we have collected so far.



At the end of this newsletter is the latest program schedule for this year. We have added a business only meeting at the end of April. With the great programs that we have going on in the spring we had to add another meeting. This will be strictly a business meeting to vote on the 2015/2016 budget and to vote on the new officers. This will not be a dinner or potluck meeting. We will have beverages available. If the weather is still chilly it will probably be coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

It's time to get your flu and/or pneumonia shot! With the Ebola news we haven't had the normal media reminders. I hate to say this but I started my Christmas shopping already. You know, this year is just flying by. I figured that I better start shopping because it will be 12/24 before I know it. I know they say that time flies by faster as you get older but this year has been ridiculous. When we reached the end of the last 2 months it seemed like we had just tuned the calendar page for the 1st of that month.

Our November meeting should be very interesting. We have many variations of people who are homeless all across the state – either because of the result of the bad economy, addictions, PTSD, or mental health issues. When they (the homeless) are ready to accept our help we need to have these agencies and organizations available in our community to offer the services needed. I hope to see all of you at our meeting on 11/18! If you are unable to attend, Liz and I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

Co-president Linda Hammond

October Bunco Fundraiser

We came, we played, and we raised money for the AAUW Funds! Thanks to all who joined us for an evening of fun and philanthropy at Patricia's Restaurant, we raised approximately \$200 which will be split between the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund and the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Special thanks go to our new member Laurie Kozakiewic who coached us in playing Bunco. Thanks also to the generous donation of prizes by Nancy Reynolds and Jen Garren which were awarded to those who got Bunco during each round of the three games played. There was a three way tie between Bev Alves, Darcelle Winchell and Linda Zilka for the Most Buncos. As is custom in Bunco, the player with the most losses gets the biggest prize. Therefore, new member Sue Orcult won the \$20 gift certificate donated by Price Chopper for losing the most games, while Bev Alves won the \$10 gift certificate donated by Hanaford for winning the most games. Olympic Sports provided coupons for free t-shirts and 20% off purchases for all who joined us to play Bunco.

The Bunco Game Night Fundraiser planning committee included Nancy, Jen, Laurie, Linda Hammond and Liz Russo.

A Bit of Women's History at our Bunco Game

Those who attended our Bunco Game night in costume received a raffle ticket for a chance to win an Autumn Deco Basket. The winner of the basket was Darcelle Winchell who came dressed in the uniform of a player in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League. The League started in 1943 during World War II and lasted until 1954 Darcelle's aunt played in the league.

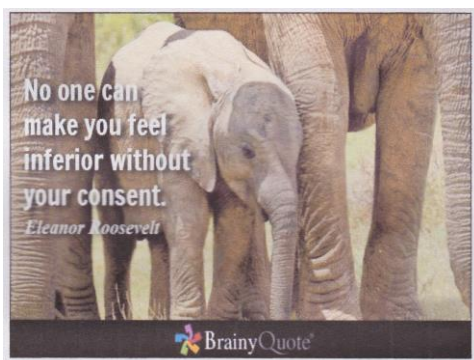
AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION

You Decide AAUW's Future

Now through December 5, members can propose or comment on AAUW Bylaws amendments, Public Policy Program changes, and resolutions. Follow the AAUW National Election site for updates. It's your AAUW — make your voice count.

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

*Hannah Belec,
AAUW Editor*



Our Year with Eleanor continues...

As the AAUW year with Eleanor Roosevelt continues, this month, chapter four of Robin Gerber's book, Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way is being covered. In the chapter entitled "Learning the Hard Way", Eleanor Roosevelt directs us to:

- Respond and Change
 - Reflect and Heal
 - Have the Courage to Change
 - Accept Change and Take Action
-

Book Discussion Update

Reading and Eating September Lunch Bunch

Five attended our September discussion of "The Woman Who Changed Her Brain". We shared our thoughts on the book while enjoying the nice weather on the patio of the Holiday Inn. We agreed that as a result of reading the book, we have better understanding of the difficulties others may have in learning to read, work with numbers, remember lists and directions or carry out certain tasks. It was interesting that at times in our lives we have had the same difficulties and now we understand why. We decided to return to the venue next spring.

October 28 Lunch Bunch at Raindancer

The Branch Lunch Bunch met on Tuesday, October 28 at 1pm at the Raindancer Restaurant, Rte. 30, Amsterdam to discuss Louise Erdrich's The Round House. The AAUW Adelante book club chose the book to commemorate Native American History Month.

As usual, all are welcome to come and dine with us and join the conversation whether or not you have had a chance to read the book.

Board Meeting November 12

All are invited to attend the board meeting at 6pm on Wednesday, November 12 at the Johnstown Public Library. Officers and committee chairs are encouraged to attend or send reports. Items on the agenda include a report on Bunco Fundraiser, membership update, membership booklet distribution, finalizing program plans for the year including Tech Savvy Summit for Girls and Celebration Fundraiser. We will be also be taking care of our liability insurance bill and donations to LAF and EOF. Ideas for promoting Project 2020 and the Hour of Code will be discussed. Plans will be made to organize a group to work with Girl Scouts to make bags for items we give to Haven of Hope Farm. In addition, a nominating committee will be needed to begin work looking for candidates for Branch President and Secretary for 2015-17.

National Membership News - We Made It!

Our branch efforts were noted and used as an example for branches across the nation in the October issue of AAUW Membership Matters e-Newsletter. See below:

Branch Retention Success Stories

How to Use Your Membership Discounts for Retention

While the [Shape the Future Campaign](#) is successfully used for member recruitment during events, its retention potential is often overlooked. But the [AAUW Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown \(NY\) Branch](#) uses the campaign to retain and reward existing members. In its latest newsletter the branch shared that current member Gloria Kimball won one of three free memberships for fiscal year 2015. A fourth free membership was raffled off. Tickets were sold in advance and proceeds went toward future membership recruitment efforts. How many *free* memberships has your branch earned that you can use to retain members now or before June 30, 2015? Check the monthly report online.

*To follow up, our branch recruited 6 new members at our Shape the Future Membership meeting in September earning us 3 free national memberships which we will begin raffling in January.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium Planning Continues

Plans for the March 21, 2015 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium continues.

The conference will be held at the BOCES VOTEC center from 9am to 3pm. It will include workshops, speakers, and vendors. A light breakfast and lunch will be included as part of the registration fee. The theme will be Our History is our Strength. Possible workshop topics to date include: The History of Midwifery, Women on the Page regarding women authors, Clothing, body shape and fitness, and biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton presented by author Penny Coleman. In addition, our own Jahnn Gibson has agreed to do a virtual cemetery tour dressed in colonial mourning attire. Afternoon workshops for fun may include how to become an outdoorswoman, Color Palette/ make up demo, salsa dancing, and herbalist presentation.

Several of our AAUW branch members are involved in organizing the event including Helen Martin, Jen Garren, Laurie Kozakiewicz and Sandy Maceyka. Since our AAUW branch is a member of ECSWC, we as AAUW members are all part of the consortium and, therefore, invited to be part of organizing this event. More help is still needed and anyone interested in assisting with planning, or arrangements for the Symposium are invited to attend the next planning meeting on Tuesday, October 28 at 5:30pm at the Johnstown Public Library.

Meet Our New Members!

Lauren Kozakiewicz lived in Niskayuna, NY, for almost 30 years. She and her husband moved to Caroga Lake two years ago to live in the country. She has three children, one daughter and two sons. She is a graduate of Albany, and possesses a PhD in History obtained in 2006. Lauren went back to school in 1996 after having worked in two administration positions for sixteen years, also at Albany. Her teaching and research interests are in American history, specifically women, politics and political culture. Lauren says that she tends to be a political junky. Upon graduating Lauren secured a position teaching for the History Department at Albany and also helping administer a program called University in the High School (enabling some advanced high school courses to be offered for university credit). Lauren evaluates and observes all the history courses at high schools around the state in their program. Although she does not have any conventional hobbies, she is a rabid sports fan, especially college basketball and major league baseball. Within the past few years she became a huge country music fan and enjoys going to concerts with her daughter. Lauren enjoys old movies, from the 1930s and 1940s especially. She also likes to walk and hike with her dog almost every day at least a few miles.

Sarah Ralston graduated from FMCC in the spring and is currently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree. Sarah and her husband Mike were married 6 months ago, at the Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly Weekender Car Show. Their ceremony was performed by Elvis. She has two dogs, Bogie (Rottweiler) and Brownie (Beagle/Jack Russell Terrier mix). Sarah loves to read, do arts and crafts, cook and bake, organic gardening and take long motorcycle rides with her husband. She is proactively interested in ways to be environmentally friendly, as a means of ensuring a sustainable future for the generations of her family to come. Sarah works as an Administrative Assistant for Core Tech Industrial. Her long-term goal is for Mike to have his own "chop shop" and for her to have my own gift shop. Sarah would like to sell inspirational gifts made by local artists, including herself that are in some way made from re-used materials, or made from environmentally friendly materials.

Courtney Downing works for Liberty ARC as the Associate Director of Vocational Services. She has worked for the agency in various capacities for a total of 7 years. She graduated in March with a MBA in healthcare administration from Union Graduate College. Courtney and her fiancé Cesar are planning to get married in April 2015. They have a puppy named Wilson who Courtney says gives them a run for their money. Courtney greatly enjoys spending her spare time with family and loved ones.

Charlene Dybas earned an A.A.S. in Liberal Arts from FM, a B.S. in Elementary Education with a concentration in English and Psychology from Skidmore College, and a M.S. in Elementary Education with a specialization in Business Management and Administration from Russell Sage College. She began her career at FM in 2001 as an adjunct instructor. While teaching part-time at FM, she also worked as a Vice President for a local bank and then a teacher in the Johnstown City School District. She taught courses such as Business Law, Career and Financial Management, Keyboarding, and Sports and Entertainment Marketing. She was then hired full-time at FM in 2008 where she teaches Business Communication, Information Processing, Integrated Software Systems, Quantitative Business Applications, Medical Transcription, Advanced MS Word, Business Management and Human Resource Management. Charlene is co-advisor to FM's Business Club and a member of Amsterdam High School's After-ball committee and various parent organizations. She is also a member of the Board of Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties and past president and current vice president.

Irene Collins has a BS in Accounting and a Masters in Global Business. She is currently employed by The Triad Group, LLC which is located in Troy, NY. She lives in Amsterdam, NY but is originally from Mt. Vernon, NY. Irene has a son and 2 grandsons. She also has a cat named Majic and a dog called Chavez. Irene shared that she enjoys teaching and reading. She also likes to swim and she enjoys the outdoors.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 4 Election Day Get out the Vote!

November 12 AGJ Board Meeting
6 pm, Johnstown Public Library

November 18 Haven of Hope
6 pm, Fonda Reformed Church

December 1-5 Branch Lunch Bunch Holiday
Gathering – Festival of Trees
Will select 1 of these days to attend
Century Club, Amsterdam
Call Bonnie VanWie 762-9377

December 6 AAUW Holiday Lunch
12:30 pm, Union Hall / Johnstown

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015

January 14 AAUW Board Meeting
6 pm, Johnstown Public Library

January 15 Global Warming
6 pm
1st Presbyterian Church, Johnstown

February 10 Lego Challenge
FMCC Large Lounge

March 21, 2015 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium

April 17 – 19, 2015 AAUW NYS Convention in Buffalo

May 28 – 30, 2015 NCCWSL / National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, Univ. of Maryland, College Park

June 18-21, 2015 AAUW National Convention in San Diego, CA

Other Important Dates

NOVEMBER 2014:

American Diabetes, National Alzheimer's and National Hospice Month

11/ 11 Veterans Day

11/14-16: AAUW-NYS Fall State Board Meeting, Albany

11/20 U.N. Universal Children's Day

11/25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

11/29 International Women Human Rights Defenders Day (16 Days)

DECEMBER 2014:

Dec. 1: World AIDS Day

Dec. 1: Deadline for International Fellowships

Dec. 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Dec. 3: International Day of Disabled Persons

Dec. 8-14: Computer Science Education Week & Hour of Code activities

Dec. 10: UN Human Rights Day

Dec. 15: AAUW Funds Contributions Report Forms Due

Dec. 15: Deadline for Career Development Grants

Dec. 16: Hanukkah begins at sunset

Dec. 26 – Jan 1: Kwanza

AGJ AAUW 2014 – 2015 Program (Changes highlighted)

September 18 (Thursday)

Nicolino's (Amsterdam)

Getting to Know AAUW

October 22 (Wednesday)

Patricia's Restaurant

6:30 pm Light Refreshments with Cash Bar (\$20.00 and open to the public – fundraiser)

Game Night – Bunco

Reservations to Darcelle Winchell (752-4045 or 736-3622 X 8101) – Deadline October 13

November 18 (Tuesday)

Fonda Reformed Church 19 Broadway, Fonda, NY

General Meeting at 6:00; Presentation at 7:00

Pat Brookins from **Haven of Hope** will speak on their mission; AAUW will gear up for the Christmas Cheer donations (toiletries for families that receive help through Haven of Hope and any gifts members would like to give to the families for our December Luncheon)

Reservations: Paula Lerner

December 6 (Saturday)

Union Hall Inn – Luncheon - \$15 (tax and tip included)

12:30 pm

Entertainment Classical Guitarist Julio Rodriquez will play from 1:30 to 2:00 pm.

Eleanor Roosevelt's Holiday (have bags with toiletries for Haven of Hope and any gifts for the families.) Reservations – Sandy Maceyka

January 15 (Thursday)

Program: Global Warming (discussion of book *Eaarth*” and view movie on global warming

Place: First Presbyterian Church, S Market Street Johnstown

6 pm

February 10 (Tuesday)

FM Large Lounge

Tech Savvy Summit Workshop Presenter and FM Professor Ruth Scott will present the

Lego Challenge

March 4 (Wednesday)

Tour P-Tech Center (Former Jansen Avenue Elementary School in Johnstown)

Time – TBD

Desserts and Coffee Service

March 21 (Saturday)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Symposium at HFM BOCES

Reservations go directly to the Symposium

April 11 (Saturday)

FMCC Theatre

6:30 pm Refreshments, Gallery Viewing and Basket Raffle

7:00 pm Movie

Movie Night at FMCC

Fund raiser – LAF; No reservations (open to public)

April 17-19 (Friday – Sunday)

NYS AAUW Convention in Buffalo

April 29 (Wednesday)

AGJ AAUW Business Meeting – Vote on Budget and New Officers

Johnstown Senior Center

6 – 7:30 pm

May (Date to be announced) –

Yearly Meeting to elect officers and vote on up-coming budget. Possibly a speaker from Convention.

June (Date to be announced) – Recruitment/Membership Picnic

AGJ AAUW NOVEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

6 pm

Fonda Reformed Church

19 Broadway, Fonda

Speaker: Pat Brookins



HAVEN OF HOPE FARM AND RESIDENCE

Transitional housing for homeless women with children



Pot Luck Supper

Contact Paula Lerner 736-2449

by November 14

to indicate what dish you will bring



Pre-Meeting Reading:

A Framework for Understanding Poverty, A Cognitive Approach, by Ruby K. Payne or *Bridges Out of Poverty; Strategies for Professionals and Communities*, by Ruby K. Payne.

A limited number of books are available at the Johnstown Library. Liz Russo also has a few books to borrow.



Union Hall Holiday Lunch Buffet

Saturday, December 6th

12:30 pm

\$15 includes tax & tip with Cash Bar

Lunch includes:

Assorted Sandwich Platter – including Grilled eggplant, with tomato & Roasted Peppers on Ciabatta Bread, or Turkey or Grilled Chicken

(if you are choosing the eggplant sandwich, please let me know, so there will be enough of them for the vegetarians and others who choose this item, otherwise it will be an even split on the sandwiches!)

Mediterranean Salad & Fresh Assorted Fruit Slices

Coffee & Tea & Seasonal Dessert

Please RSVP by Thanksgiving Week November 24th at the very latest to Sandra Maceyka 736-5130,

Checks should be made payable to AAUW

Mail to 100 E 6th Ave., Johnstown, NY 12095

Entertainment: Julio Rodriguas, a classical guitarist will play from 1:30 until 2PM

Also in the holiday tradition we are collecting Eleanor Roosevelt's Holiday gift bags with items for Haven of Hope.



Save the Date!

The 2015 AAUW New York State Convention:

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

April 17th-19th, 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.