



Upstate Update

AMSTERDAM * GLOVERSVILLE * JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

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

October 2014



AAUW BUNCO GAME NIGHT

Wednesday, October 22nd

Cost: \$20

6:30 pm meet & greet

Dice roll at 7 pm!

Patricia's Restaurant
32 S Perry Street, Johnstown

**BRING A FRIEND!
BE READY TO HAVE FUN!!**

Having Fun Raising Funds!

Our October 22 meeting will be a Bunco Game Night Fundraiser for AAUW Funds - Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF). Patricia's Restaurant, 32 S. Perry St. in Johnstown - a woman owned business - has square tables for 4 players to fit the needs for our Bunco dice game.

To add to the October fun, those attending are invited to dress as famous women - historical, contemporary or fictional - and be rewarded with a free ticket for the raffle basket drawing. A simple hat or accessories to suggest the character you portray will work.

If you don't have a costume idea or don't want to dress up - just come for the fun and fundraising and bring friends (The public is invited). The more who attend, the more we will make for AAUW Funds.

The cost for the Bunco Game Night meeting is \$20 which includes a donation to the AAUW Funds, cheese, crackers and veggies snacks and game prizes. A cash bar will be available for soda and "adult beverages". We will meet, greet and get our seats at 6:30pm. The dice will roll at 7pm!

The idea for the Bunco Game night game came from the summer AAUW conference at Cazenovia. The Bunco Game Night replaces the White Elephant Auction our branch held in past years. Let's have a good turn out as we try something new.

Ideas for Dressing up for our Bunco Fundraiser.

Remember when our branch used to do programs about famous women and some of us dressed up and talked about our the women we portrayed? We had Lady Godiva, Amelia Earhart, Sacajawea, and Carrie Nation. You could go as a fictional character like Wonder Woman or contemporary woman like Hillary Clinton or Lady Gaga.

Eleanor Roosevelt on Women's Dress of the Past

"When we look back over the achievements of women in the past and realize what handicaps they worked under, and think how very free we are today, it should give us a sense of confidence in our own possible achievements. Merely think of the dresses these women wore – then let's rejoice in our own ability to move freely, and let's go out and work harder."

Eleanor Roosevelt August 25, 1945 – My Day

Co-President's Message

Cool temperatures, fall festivals, pumpkins and crisp apples are all signs that a new season has arrived. The same is true for AAUW. Our program committee headed by Darcelle Winchell and Paula Lerner has lined up a nice variety of monthly offerings for the year ahead.

We will start off next month with a **Bunco Game Night fun Fundraiser for AAUW Funds on October 22. (*See included article and flier for details)** In November we will have a pot luck and presentation by Pat Brookins of Haven of Home Farm regarding her working helping homeless women with children. In December, we will celebrate the holidays with lunch and classical guitar music at Union Hall Inn and gather donations for the Haven of Hope Farm. In January, we will have a presentation about Global Warming.

To give us a taste of one of the workshops offered to middle school girls at our annual TECH SAVVY Summit, we will go to Fulton-Montgomery Community College in February to work in teams to try our hand in a STEM Lego building challenge. Continuing with the STEM theme, in March, we will take a "field trip" to the new HFM P-Tech School at Jansen Ave. in Johnstown to learn more about this innovative educational program to prepare students for jobs in technology.

Save the date- March 21 - for the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium. The event will serve as the AAUW NYS District IV conference as well. Our branch is involved in the planning. In April, as part of our celebration of the anniversary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's 200th birth year, our branch will present the documentary "The History of Feminism" and Q and A with the director.

In addition, we will soon begin planning for our 4th TECH SAVVY Summit for Girls which will take place next May.

As you can see, we have a full year planned and we hope to see you at most if not all of our events!

Co-president Liz Russo

We Welcome Our New AAUW Members!

We were thrilled to have so many join as a result of our September "All About AAUW" meeting.

We welcome our new members: **Susan Orcatt, Courtney Downing, Irene Collins, Charlene Dybas and Ruth Scott.** They represent the future of AAUW. Special thanks to those who recruited them! Learn all about them in the November newsletter and meet them at our upcoming meetings.

September Membership Recruitment Meeting

Thanks to Melissa Ackernecht and Cece Alexander for their work on setting up our "All About AAUW" September meeting. It was a great way to kick off the 2014-15 year, reconnect with fellow members, meet prospective members, enjoy delicious food and learn about the programs and projects in store for October-June! We were thrilled to have 10 prospective members attend.

Our FM Scholarship winner, Sarah Ralston spoke about what receiving the award meant to her. We gifted her a branch membership as part of her scholarship and she has expressed an interest in being an active member of our branch. In fact, she has already signed up for the next Celebration fundraiser!

thank you!

Honoring Members

At the September meeting we took time to honor members who have given their time and talent to our branch including **Catherine Julius** who has completed her term as Membership Vice President. Catherine has been active almost since she joined, assisting with our Pancake Breakfast fundraiser with the Soroptimists and most recently co-chairing the very successful 1st Celebration scholarship fundraiser last March.

Rosemary Leo Pappas was honored for serving as chair for the High School Literary Scholarship. Since 2008, Rosemary has been creating the essay topic, distributing the applications to schools in Fulton and Montgomery counties and reading the essays. We thank Rosemary for her dedication.

In addition, our branch gives *Unsung Hero* awards. A very well deserved award went to **Helen James** who along with Catherine Julius organized the Celebration Fundraiser which earned over \$5500 for our local scholarships.

"Critical Thinker"

Voting for the best candidate to fill an elected position takes critical thinking on the part of the voter. To be a critical thinker one has to have the desire to seek out the facts. It can be difficult not to allow personal feelings, views or prejudices to cloud the decision making process.

Election time often becomes a "feeding frenzy" for the media. Voters are bombarded by numerous articles, mailings, interviews, commercials and even phone calls requesting their support for a candidate that most voters have not even met. These media sources often are driven by political affiliation, rumors, gossip, and personal opinion. They use persuasive techniques to dictate a particular view point in order to gain the viewer's support and most of all "vote".

Most often the best way to make an informed decision is to seek the truth through researching for the facts. Meeting the candidates and asking your own questions is a good beginning to being a critical thinking voter.

"Critical thinking" takes time, work and a lot of thought; however it's well worth the effort to vote the best candidate into office.

Ellie DiScioscia

A Year with Eleanor Roosevelt - Mentoring and Letting Go

We begin a year with Eleanor Roosevelt as part of WILD (Women in Leadership Development) initiative by NJ and NY AAUW branches. Each month we will share inspirational quotes by Eleanor some of which might already be familiar to you. You may remember them from "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way" by Robin Gerber which our Branch Lunch Bunch Book Group read last year or if you watched the Ken Burns series about the Roosevelts which aired recently on PBS. Eleanor Roosevelt was fortunate to have had a mentor in her life who helped her find her potential. In turn, Eleanor mentored others. So many worthwhile organizations are struggling these days to find volunteers to step up and take over leadership roles. As we proceed this year, let's all try to reach out and teach each other the AAUW ropes and then be willing to "let go" and, in turn, empower others to take over and keep AAUW energized with new ideas.

Branch to Branch Networking

We were pleased to have a special guest, Eleanor Aronstein, the new president of the Schenectady branch at our September meeting. She was originally a member of the Poughkeepsie branch. She had expressed interest in meeting with co-presidents, Linda and Liz to gain ideas for leading the Schenectady Branch. As a result, we invited her to attend our All About AAUW meeting. Eleanor was joined by Schenectady branch members, Maxine Borom and past president Bobbi Richardson. They shared information about the Poughkeepsie and Schenectady branches and learned about what our Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch is doing. As they visited with our prospective members at dinner, they talked about their AAUW branch activities and why belonging to AAUW was important to them. It was so nice to have others from outside

complement our branch work and encourage prospective members to join our branch. Thank you Schenectady AAUW for helping us with our recruitment efforts! Branch to Branch networking is great!

Book Discussion Update

Branch Lunch Bunch to Dine and Discuss at Nicollino's

Since we enjoyed the ambiance and food at Nicollino's at our dinner meeting, our Branch Lunch Bunch decided to return for our book discussion on Tuesday, September 30.

We welcome any member to join us whether or not you have had a chance to read "The Woman Who Changed Her Brain". Those of us who have will fill you in! A copy of the book is available at the Johnstown Public Library under AAUW Book Club. Contact Liz Russo at 762-9702 by September 28 if you plan to attend. We order from the menu when we arrive. We can discuss the Bunco Fundraiser as well.

Poverty Topic of November Book Discussion and Branch Meeting

In preparation for our November 18 meeting presentation by Pat Brookins regarding the help to homeless women offered by the Haven of Hope Farm, **we suggest an "all branch reading" of books** to help understand poverty. A couple of our members have already read the very enlightening Understanding Poverty by Ruby K. Payne. Another book to read by the same author which 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 in October at the Johnstown Public Library under the AAUW Book Club.

On Equal Pay, It's Deja vu All Over Again! Message From Lisa M. Maatz, Vice President of Government Relations

I'll be honest: The Senate is giving me a bad case of whiplash.

Six days ago, for the first time ever, 73 senators from both parties voted to have a debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act, a much-needed bill that would help close the gender pay gap.

And then, last night, nearly 20 of them turned right around and blocked the bill from moving out of the debate phase and onto a final up-or down vote.

This was no last-minute change of heart: It's the same partisan bickering and abuse of procedural rules that we've seen time and time again. This time, the gridlock stings even more than usual because we're just two days away from the U.S. Census Bureau releasing new data about the gender pay gap.

Honestly, we're not holding our breath that the new data will show a huge decrease in the gender pay gap. While that would be terrific, the pay gap between men and women has held steady for the last decade and shows little sign of going away without some serious changes in both federal law and social attitudes.

What really gets me is that we've got a gender pay gap that hasn't budged in more than 10 years, and a Senate that refuses to vote on legislation that could make a real difference in finally shrinking that number.

Your senators need to hear how you feel about their votes:

- If they supported the bill, **thank them for standing for women**, and strengthen their resolve to keep fighting for fair pay.
- If they chose gridlock over real change for women and working families, **make sure they know how wrong they are**.

We need the Paycheck Fairness Act to bring the Equal Pay Act of 1963 into the 21st century. The Senate's failure to end Mad-men era policies has significant, real-world implications for millions of American women and their families.

The Census data coming out later this week is expected to say what it always says: Today – in 2014! – women face a gender pay gap at every education level and in every occupation, and the gap is worse for mothers and women of color.

Even when comparing "apples to apples" and controlling for all factors known to affect earnings, AAUW researchers still

found a 7 percent unexplainable pay gap between men and women just one year out of college – and 7 percent is no small change.

Gender pay discrimination isn't a myth; it's math. And the wage gap isn't just a number. It represents real dollars and cents that translates into less money for food, gas, housing, education, child care... the list goes on. All workers deserve the chance to succeed, and hard work deserves equal pay. It's just that simple. It's not a partisan issue, and it shouldn't be. It is simply the right thing to do.

[Make sure your senators know you were watching the Paycheck Fairness Act vote!](#) They need to know that this issue isn't going away – and that we are certainly not going away either.

Yours in AAUW,
Lisa M. Maatz

October Bunco Fundraiser for AAUW Funds

What are we raising money for?

AAUW Education Opportunities Funds (EOF) -

What are they and
Who is eligible to apply....

[American Fellowships](#)

Who may apply: Women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks

Funding: \$6,000–\$30,000

Deadline: November 15

[Career Development Grants](#)

Who may apply: Women pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the workforce and whose bachelor's degree was received at least five years before the award period

Funding: \$2,000–\$12,000

Deadline: December 15

[Community Action Grants](#)

Who may apply: Individuals, AAUW branches and states, and nonprofit organizations to fund innovative programs or nondegree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls

Funding: One-year grant, \$2,000–\$7,000

Two-year grant, \$5,000–\$10,000

Deadline: January 15

[International Fellowships](#)

Who may apply: Women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the United States who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents

Funding: \$18,000–\$30,000

Deadline: December 1

[International Project Grants](#)

Who may apply: Alumnae of AAUW's International Fellowships program who are living in their home countries and pursuing community-based projects to improve the social advancement and economic empowerment of women and girls

Funding: \$5,000–\$7,000

Deadline: December 15

[Selected Professions Fellowships](#)

Who may apply: Women pursuing full-time study in a master's or professional degree program in which women are underrepresented, including STEM, law, business, and medicine

Funding: \$5,000–\$18,000

Deadline: January 10

Legal Advocacy Funds (LAF)

Where does the money go that our branch donates to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)? It provides support for victims of sexual discrimination, harassment and assault with occur at their place of employment. Examples include Lilly Ledbetter's quest for equal pay at Firestone Tire and sexual assault cases in the US military.

Grants from LAF can also be applied for to provide education about gender discrimination in the workplace
Here is an example:

Get \$750 to Host an On-Campus Event This Year

It's time to apply for a Campus Outreach Grant! These grants support programs that teach college students about gender discrimination in the workplace or in education. You could use the grant to bring an equal pay expert to speak on campus, to help students lobby for more-just campus sexual assault policies, or to play an AAUW public service announcement and hand out information about Title IX at a campus sporting event. AAUW student organizations and branches are welcome to apply. Not sure what school to work with? We can connect you with a nearby AAUW college/university partner. E-mail laf@aauw.org for more information, and fill out the Campus Outreach Grant [application](#) online today!

Perhaps we can get a committee together to apply to hold a program at FM. Contact Liz Russo or Linda Hammond for details.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- September 30** **Lunch Bunch Book Discussion**
12 noon
Nicolino's Restaurant, Route 30
- October 22** **Bunco Game Night** – AAUW
Fundraiser for LAF/EOF
6:30 pm, Patricia's / Johnstown
- 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 6** **AAUW Holiday Lunch**
12:30 pm, Union Hall / Johnstown

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015

- 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

OCTOBER

Domestic Violence Awareness / National Bullying Prevention / Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- 10/11 UN International Day of the Girl Child
10/16 World Food Day
10/17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
10/24 UN Day
10/24 Last day to register in-person to vote in NYS

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)

AGJ AAUW 2014 – 2015 Program (Preliminary Program)

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: Gloria Kimball (853-3126)

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 – Date & Program speaker to be announced

Place: Presbyterian Church

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

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

Have Fun and Raise Money for AAUW FUNDS



AAUW BUNCO GAME NIGHT

Wednesday, October 22

6:30 pm meet and greet: Dice roll at 7pm!

**Patricia's Restaurant
32 S. Perry St., Johnstown**

OPTIONAL

***DRESS AS A FAMOUS WOMAN,**

(Historical, Contemporary, Fictional)

Get a chance to be in a drawing for a prize.

COST \$20 - INCLUDES:

***DONATION to AAUW FUNDS**

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)

***CHEESE, CRACKERS, VEGGIE SNACKS - CASH BAR**

***PRIZES**

RSVP by October 13

Checks Payable to AAUW

Send to Darcelle Winchell

Phone 752-7257

277 Bleecker St. Gloversville, NY 12078

**AMSTERDAM-GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN AAUW 2014-2015
Membership Renewal Form**

****PLEASE NOTE ANY CHANGES AND COMPLETE THE PAGE BELOW****

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Institution(s), Degree(s), and year(s) of graduation:

Current Email Address: _____

Please Check One of the Following:

_____ I have enclosed \$ _____ * for dues before June 1, 2014. *(\$69)

_____ **I have enclosed \$ _____ ** dues on or after June 1, 2014. **(\$74)**
National \$49
State \$13
Local \$7/\$12

To become a Life Member one pays 20 times the current national dues plus the current yearly state and local dues year-

_____ I have enclosed \$ _____ for dues as a Life Member.

Are you interested in serving on a committee?

Please indicate with an X. Committee descriptions are available from membership chairperson.

- ____ Program ____ Community Outreach ____ Finance ____ Membership ____ Historical ____ Nominating
____ Cultural ____ Public Policy ____ International Issues ____ Diversity ____ Educational Equi-
ty/Scholarship ____ LAF - Legal Advocacy Fund
____ TECH SAVVY/Sister 2 Sister ____ e-student and AAUW College Organization
____ Newsletter

Make your **check payable to AAUW** and send this form along with your check to treasurer:

Ella Ryder
P.O. Box 111
Mayfield, NY 12117

_____ **I am resigning membership in AAUW.**

My reason(s) is/are as follows: ____ Family obligations ____ Moving out of the area ____ Dues amount
____ Meeting topics Other (please specify): _____

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.