

# Upstate Update

agj-ny.aauw.net

December 2015

## Co-President's Message

Hard to believe that Thanksgiving is here. It certainly crept up on me. So much going on. The Bridesmaid play that several of you worked on in conjunction with the Colonial Little Theatre and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium is over and done and the CLT did very well... they had the biggest audiences for a non-musical ever and I think cleared close to \$3000. Not bad for 4 performances... it was a lot of work and we are not sure we want to do it again.. It was not exactly what we had hoped, but I guess better than they had hoped... They were very happy with the results. We also had a great meeting in November at the Johnstown Senior Center arranged by Lin-

da Hammond. The Alzheimer brain games were fun and the stress talk was great too. And of course as always we had yummy food... Next month on Saturday Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 we'll be having our social event of the season... A lovely warm luncheon at Union Hall in Johnstown with a grab bag present and donations for the food pantry. Hope you are all planning to attend and I will see you there. January will be a localvore/vegan meal and movie arranged by Linda Hammond and Jahn Gibson. See the flier at end. I am hoping that anyone planning or co-planning a meeting in 2016 will get in touch with Catherine or me with the final details ASAP.

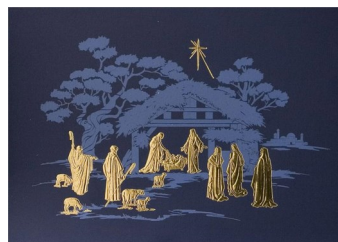
The **next executive / planning meeting** will be in the new year on Tuesday **January 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 5:30** at the Johnstown Library. Time does fly. Put it on your new calendar!!  
*Sandy Maceyka*



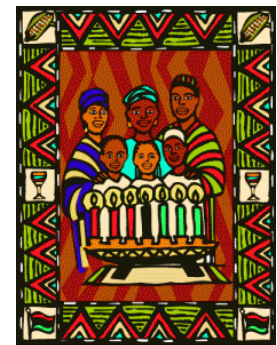
## Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas! Kwanzaa Greetings!



Hanukkah  
Starts at Sunset December 6  
through December 14



Christmas  
December 25



Kwanzaa  
December 26-January 1

## Immersed in the Suffrage Movement

In celebration of the 200th birthday of suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the Branch Lunch Bunch Book Club met on November 18 at the Holiday Inn to discuss Stanton's autobiography **80 Years and More**. We were pleased to have prospective member, Joyce Caputo, join in the wonderful discussion about the book. It was interesting to learn about Elizabeth's time in Johnstown and the influence that had on her future as an advocate for not only the vote for women, but

treatment of African Americans, better conditions in jails, women's property rights, and even care of children. We marveled at all she experienced as she travel westward riding in donkey carts, driving a sleigh over the snow, sleeping in bed-bug infested beds to lecture on women's right to vote. We learned about her studies of the Bible to locate the passages that were being used by clergy to prove that women were inferior in the eyes of the creator. We marveled at the many trips back and forth across the

ocean she took without getting seasick to visit her children and continue spreading the word about suffrage for women in England and France. While in England Elizabeth met Mrs. Pangborn who was advocating equality for pay and the vote for women.

*Liz Russo*



## Off to the Movies

Our Theatre Group traveled to Saratoga to see the movie **Suffragette**. It was an excellent movie that shed more light on the fight for equal rights and the vote that went on for more than 40 years. The story was set in a laundry in England where women and young girls labored long hours at less pay than the men. Mrs. Pangborn incited the women to carry out violent acts to get attention to the women's issue. Women were jailed and beaten

by police, and husbands turned them out. It seems so strange now that considering women to be equal to men and giving them the right to vote seemed so contentious. We were appalled at the fact that in some countries in Europe such as France and Italy, women did not get the right to vote until 1944-45, other countries not until the 1970s. We learned a lot and appreciate the rights our foremothers worked so hard to win. We

are ever thankful that Elizabeth and the others never gave up the fight. Bonnie Van Wie put it "...it was a wonderful day...women having fun together AND learning.

*Liz Russo*

## Our Environment

So, now that 98% of our scientists say we are in human-caused global warming (typo in the last letter), we need to start doing something about it.

The Christmas Holidays are fast approaching, and it's time to start thinking about decorating our homes, and, as many do, our lawns. Every year, I notice more and more lighted outdoor displays that are really "over the top". Starting this year, let's all cut back on these displays, for the sake of our home,

the earth. The amount of electricity that is used in these displays really boggles the mind. Less is more: Candles in the windows, a few lights around the front door and porch columns makes for a very elegant display. Add a little greenery, and it's quite festive. All those blow-up figures littering the lawn lead one to think of Disneyland.

Secondly, let's cut back on the number of days we light up these displays: two weeks

before Christmas and one week after ought to be sufficient. China has recently surpassed us in fossil fuel emissions overall. However, per Capita, that is, for each person, Americans are far and away ahead in their consumption of fossil fuels, with their resulting emissions of greenhouse gases. So please, let's all have conservative Christmases from now on.

*Jahnn Swanker-Gibson*



## Tech Savvy Summit for Girls Planning

The date has been set for our branch's annual Tech Savvy Summit for Girls. The conference for middle school girls will be held at Fulton Montgomery Community College on May 24. The event focuses on STEM related hands-on workshop in the hopes of encouraging girls to consider careers in science, technology, engineering or math. Last year's event attracted 200 girls. Linda Bumpus has taken care of finalizing the contract with the

college. Liz Russo has notified schools in Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery Counties of the date. The next step will be contacting past workshop presenters to confirm if they will be available this year. Linda Bumpus will soon begin sending letters to businesses and individuals to ask for donations to cover the costs of the Tech Savvy Summit. As we proceed, we would like to thank Darcelle Winchell for all her help in the past with this event. We

wish her a happy retirement. She has provided us the new contacts we will work with in the coming year to make the transition smooth. Anyone interested in working on the Tech Savvy Summit committee should contact Linda Bumpus, Liz Russo or Linda Hammond.



## Festival of Trees Luncheon, December 2

Our Lunch Bunch Book Club and friends will again celebrate the holidays by attending the Festival of Trees at the Century Club on Guy Park Ave in Amsterdam.

This year we are trying something new, the Holiday Cheer Luncheon on Wednesday, December 2 from 11am-2pm. The buffet includes Mimosas (Champagne) Eggplant Parm, Tortolini Alfredo con Chicken, Italian Green Beans, Bread and But-

ter, Coffee and dessert. The proceeds from the luncheon will go to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and there will be a speaker on a health topic. Seasonal background music and festive decorations will set the mood.

There is a gift shop providing those interested with an opportunity to buy items. To date, we have 13 signed up to attend. The cost is \$15 which must be prepaid to Liz Russo. RSVP deadline is November 29.

All are welcome to attend. Car pooling to Amsterdam will be organized. For more information contact Liz Russo at 762-9702 or by e-mail [erusso03@nycap.rr.com](mailto:erusso03@nycap.rr.com).

## New Members

### Chantel Batuk:

Chantel graduated from Fulton Montgomery Community College in December 2014 with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. She volunteered with her mother Paula O'Neil at BO-CES this past March at the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium.

Paula sponsored Chantel's membership at our Shape the Future Membership meeting at the Raindancer in September.

Chantel is currently attending SUNY at Albany. She was accepted into the Social Welfare Program and is earning her BSW. She plans on applying to the advanced standing program and will hopefully be able to obtain her MSW in only one year after completing her BSW.

She is currently living in Fultonville with her boyfriend Mike Dufel and her Chihuahua Piggy

Piggy. Chanel is an avid outdoors person who enjoys hiking, camping and fishing. She says she's pretty low key and presently focused on her education.

Welcome Chantel!

### Colleen Leo:

Colleen Leo graduated from Penn State in 1990 with a B.S. in Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management. She was hired and worked for six years as the Hotel Manager of the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ. In late 1996 she moved to Salt Lake City, UT and worked as support manager in the Reservation center for Continental Airlines for eight years. After 9/11 she moved back to Gloversville, her native home and continued to work for Continental at the Albany airport until 2007. While working in Albany she

was also working for the family business, R & D Sales. She still works there and is co-owner. Colleen is also a certified group fitness instructor for over twelve years and teaches two morning a week at Fit Happens. She was certified as a 200 (RYT) Registered Yoga Teacher last February.

Colleen is single but in a relationship and she loves to cook, travel and entertain. She enjoys being active- instructing fitness classes, practice yoga, walking and skiing. She is a member of the Soroptimist

International of Fulton County and is the current President of the Eccentric Club in Gloversville.

She is looking forward to being a member of the AAUW because she strongly believes in the equality of women, the empowerment of women and helping women in our community. She is very interested in serving on one of the committees for our Celebration Fund Raiser. Welcome Colleen! I'm so glad that I approached you this past summer at SPAC.

*Submitted by Catherine Julius*

### Elizabeth Press:

Elizabeth Press was approached by Liz Russo on Constitution Day this past September while she and Catherine Julius were recruiting e-students at FMCC. She joined the F-M faculty as Instructor for Communication and Broadcast Media. She has more than ten years of experience in working in TV/ Journalism as director, videographer, producer and editor.

She relocated to Upstate NY after having lived in Brooklyn

for 13 years. She presently lives in Troy with her partner and two cats. She is renovating an old brick house and enjoys gardening and fermenting food. She volunteers at the Sanctuary for Independent Media in Troy.

Elizabeth holds a M.F.A. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a B.A. from Ithaca College. She has teaching experience at RPI, New York University and the New School. Her profes-

sional experience includes The International Institute for Sustainable Development, Brooklyn Independent Media, Democracy Now!, streetfilms.org WNET/World Focus and GRIT TV with Laura Flanders. Welcome Elizabeth!

## Women's Economic Equity News from Donna Seymour, NYS AAUW Public Policy VP

### Number of female lawmakers in Albany hits new high

ALBANY — The number of women serving in New York's Legislature will hit a record high in January, with women occupying 55 of the 213 seats in the Senate and Assembly. On Tuesday, there were five special elections for seats vacated by male legislators who had either been convicted of a felony or left office voluntarily. The Democratic candidate in each of these races was a woman; four of them won. The number of female lawmakers has gradually inched up over several dec-

ades, according to data maintained by the Center for American Women and Politics and a POLITICO New York analysis of other historical records. From the 1940s through the beginning of the 1970s, the number of female representatives in Albany was typically in the low single digits. This increased to an average of 22 throughout the 1980s, and then gradually ticked up to 48 during the first decade of this century. The May election of Diana Richardson brought the total to 52, matching the previous peak that had been

reached in 2009. The election of Roxanne Persaud, Alicia Hyndman, Pamela Harris, and Pamela Hunter on Tuesday brings the total to a new high of 55. (Persaud will vacate her Assembly seat when she begins serving in the Senate, so the total only increases by three).

But this doesn't mean there's anything close to gender equality in Albany yet. <http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/albany/2015/11/8581909/number-female-lawmakers-albany-hits-new-high>

### January Meeting

Our January meeting will be held on the 11th at First Presbyterian Church, on Market St in Johnstown from 6- 9pm.

Jahnn Gibson and Linda Hammond are hosts and our chef is Jared Hammond. A plant based dinner will be offered. Following dinner a global environment movie will be viewed.

For more details see attached flyer.

### Global Climate March, November 28 & 29

Concerned citizens express support for the success of the Paris Climate Talks which will take place Saturday and Sunday, a news release said.

From left, Bonnie Van Wie, Liz Russo, Jahnn Gibson, Jen Garren and Trish Isabella express their support for the talks to motorists and pedestrians on Main Street in Johnstown recently.



### Save the Date—AAUW NYS Convention

April 15-17, 2016

Holiday Inn

Saratoga Springs, NY

**Student Track—Saturday,  
April 16 10:30—5:30**

Do you have a granddaughter in College? This is a great opportunity for a weekend adventure for the two of you!

Or maybe pay for a local college student to attend.



**2016 AAUW NEW YORK  
STATE CONVENTION**

AAUW Women on the Move:  
Achieving Women's Economic Justice

## Celebration!

Our second major fundraiser is **slated for Saturday, April 2, 2016**. It will be an afternoon tea. The theme is **Keep Calm and Drink Tea**. Time is just flying by and we have a whole lot of work that needs to be done between now and then.

Unfortunately we have hit a snag. We cannot have it at the Lexington Center in Johnstown because it is not open to the public according to Wally Hart. So we are



now looking probably at the Eccentric Club in Gloversville. Since it will not be a sit down luncheon we will use the downstairs only. Another possibility is the new Paul Nigra Center in Mayfield. Helen is meeting with Wally the first week in December.

It will not be by invitation only, but open to the public, so we need to have lawn signs made and flyers to be distributed to various places of business, etc. We plan on sending an e-mail via the ECSWC to all the presidents of each group, who can then distribute it to their members.

The entire purpose of this event is to raise money for our Scholarship fund to local students, so our goal is to keep costs down without skimping on what makes such an event fun and memorable. The cost will be \$50 a ticket, which is the normal price for a fundraiser.

We had a meeting on November 17th but unfortunately only 4 of our members were able to attend.

**Our next Celebration meeting is slated for Monday Dec 28th, 5:30PM at the Johnstown Public Library.**

I hope we will all put it on our schedules and make every effort to attend.

**Everyone of us can assist or chair the various committees:**

- **Advertising/ Fundraising:** Jen Garren, Catherine Julius
- **Entertainment:** Darcelle Winchell, Helen James
- **Program:** This will be small but still needs to be put together by the date of the event, so we need someone to volunteer.
- **Tickets:** They need to be designed and printed so that we can all sell them ahead of time! We will also need people at the door selling tickets and checking that those who already have them have been paid for. Again, volun-

teers needed here! Linda Hammond has agreed to keep track of tickets sold and the money collected.

- **Auction Items:** Everyone needs to approach businesses you frequent and ask for donations for both auction items and raffle baskets
- **Raffle baskets:** We will probably have about 10 baskets, plus a Downton Abbey themed one as a door prize. We will need to have a committee to put these baskets together. Irene Collins, Sandy Maceyka?
- **Printing: ?**
- **Decorating: ?**

I know Paula Lerner, Bonnie Van Wie and Jahn Gibson had volunteered at the Preliminary Celebration meeting, but I cannot find what committee they agreed to chair or work on.

As you can all see there is a lot of work involved, but if we all donate some time and use our various talents we can make this a huge success! I am expecting a huge turn-out on December 28th! We are running out of time so we need to get going!

Catherine Julius, Co-President

## Board Members:

### Co-Presidents:

Catherine Julius  
Sandra Maceyka

### Co-Vice Presidents—

#### Membership:

Vacant

#### Treasurer:

Ella Ryder

#### Recording Secretary:

Paula Lerner

#### Newsletter Editor:

Linda Hammond

### Contact Info:

Phone: 518-229-2058

E-mail:

agjaauw@yahoo.com



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

[AAUW-NYS.org](http://AAUW-NYS.org)

[AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org)



Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown (NY) Branch

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

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

## Calendar of Events

### 2015:

- December 5      Holiday Lunch  
Union Hall, Johnstown  
12:30 pm
- December 28      Celebration Planning Meeting  
5:30 pm  
Johnstown Public Library

### 2016:

- January 5      Executive / Planning Meeting  
5:30 pm  
Johnstown Public Library
- January 11      Branch Meeting  
6 pm  
First Presbyterian Church,  
Market Street Johnstown
- April 2      Celebration!  
*Keep Calm and Drink Tea*

### 2016 (cont.):

- April 15-17      AAUW-NYS Convention  
Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs
- May 24      Tech Savvy Summit for Girls,  
FMCC
- June 2-3      National Conference for  
College Women Student  
Leaders (NCCWSL),  
Univ. of Maryland, College Park



**January 11, 2015**

**5:30 pm**

**First Presbyterian  
Church**

**Market St, Johnstown**

# Our Environment

## Dinner & Movie Night

**Cost: \$15.00 (Bring your dishes & utensils to the meeting)**

Includes: Plant based dinner (soups, ziti, butternut squash risotto, creamy avocado spaghetti squash, orecchiette with broccoli rabe, - made without meat, eggs and dairy) with beverages and dessert

Movie—Global environmental subject

**RSVP by: January 7, 2016**

Contact: Jahnn Gibson

705-2835 or

302 S Melcher Street

Johnstown, NY 12095



© 2014 Greenpeace USA





## **SAVE THE DATE:**

### **STUDENT TRACK ANNOUNCEMENT**

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION  
HOLIDAY INN, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY**

**APRIL 16, 2016 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM**

The American Association of University Women New York State Board is pleased to announce and welcomes ALL College and University students to join us for a day of learning and inspiration!

Come and hear great speakers including our keynote speaker, Dean Nada Marie Anid, Professor and Dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. Her expertise includes Industry-academic partnerships; Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Emerging Technologies; Sustainability; Global Engineering Education and STEM K-12 Outreach.

Dean Nada Marie Anid, Ph.D., is the first female dean of NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences (SoECS). In this role, she oversees 77 engineering and computing sciences faculty members and approximately 1,700 graduate and undergraduate students at campuses located in Manhattan and Old Westbury, N.Y., the Middle East, and China.

To pre-register for this educational and fun event, email Maria Ellis, AAUW NYS College & University Director at [mellis@fsacap.com](mailto:mellis@fsacap.com) or for more information call 973-216-4181.



Do you have concerns about handling your finances and college loans after college?

This student conference includes a workshop with financial counselors.