

February's General Meeting

Wednesday, February 18th
6:30 p.m.
McChesney Room
Schenectady County Public Library



In honor of Black History Month, our speakers this month are
Paul and Mary Liz Stewart
Co-founders of The Underground Railroad History Project

Program: **A NEW INTERPRETATION of an OLD STORY**

Many voices have been excluded from the standard retelling of Underground Railroad History, which if listened to, speak about this early civil rights movement as an international story with relevance for today.

Hear about the Underground Railroad story and the recent discoveries that come from the voices of those who lived it, including the women involved, and what was happening in the Capital Region and throughout New York State.

For more information about the Underground Railroad History Project, go to:
<http://undergroundrailroadhistory.org>



Mark your Calendar



February is Black History Month

Wednesday, February 4
Board Meeting 6:45
Niskayuna Town Hall

Saturday, Feb. 7, 9:00-5:00
Sunday, Feb. 8, 1:00-4:00
Friends of Schenectady County
Public Library
Fiction & Non-Fiction Book Sale
ALL BOOKS ARE \$1.00

Wednesday, February 18
General Meeting 6:30
Schenectady County Public Library

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Wednesday, March 4
Board Meeting 6:45
Niskayuna Town Hall

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings Time
International Women's Day
<http://womensdaylive.com> and <http://onedayunite.org>

Saturday, March 21 – Our General Meeting

AAUW-NYS District 4 Conference with the theme,
Our History is our Strength, sponsored by the
Amsterdam-Johnston-Gloversville AAUW Branch.
Celebrating the 200th birthday of Elizabeth C. Stanton.
Contact Jennie Pennington to car pool. 9a.m. to 3p.m. A
light breakfast and lunch will be included as part of the
\$35 registration fee. Registration form on Page 6.
For more information go to <http://agj-ny.aauw.net>.

April 17-19

AAUW-NYS Convention
Bybios Niagara Resort and Spa
Grand Island, NY

June 18-21

AAUW National Convention in San Diego
<http://convention.aauw.org>





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With a snowy winter upon us, we have to look to friends and family for our warmth and sunshine! Reflecting our warmth for each other and our commitment to gender equality, it is a very cozy moment for me, and it should be for all who share in our goals, our activities, our many outreach efforts.

Let me share a long-cherished memory with you: In 1963, just a year after becoming a mother, I was feeling a bit unfulfilled professionally. Societal pressures kept most young mothers at home back then. My husband recognized signs of restlessness - and he suggested that I get out for an evening and do something interesting. He would take care of the baby! Well, Betty Friedan was speaking at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie (where we lived at that time) and I went to hear Ms. Friedan speak. Wow!!! She was probably the most militant, angry woman I had ever heard. She put some interesting ideas in my rather sheltered head and I must confess that she started me on the long path to self-discovery. We've come a long way since 1963! But we haven't come far enough - and AAUW is one of the principal pushers in this endeavor - to raise the consciousness of girls so that they aspire to realize their full potential, to raise the numbers of women in government so that our political institutions more accurately reflect our numbers, and to provide US with an effective organization within which we can continue to work for greater equality.

I'm proud to say that our Schenectady Branch is working to help prepare young women through our support and involvement in SUNYA's (State University of New York at Albany) AAUW Elect Her Training on January 31st.

As we continue to work (and play) together, I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year and I look forward to all our good works! ~ ***Eleanor Aronstein***

A REVIEW OF AAUW'S PUBLIC POLICY FOR 2014

AAUW is committed to promoting women's issues through its public policy program. It underscores the advancement of equity for women by advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. "I am woman hear me roar. Numbers too big to ignore," is a concept that helps advance women's causes.

During 2014, the public policy principles for action covered many important issues. Some of these issues included: 1) education advancement of women, 2) affordable housing, health care, and a clean environment, 3) right of privacy, freedom from violence, and reproductive rights, 4) affirmative action, 5) promoting human right and justice internationally, 6) pay equity, 7) protection of social security, 8) vigorous protection of civil and constitutional rights, 9) enforcement of antidiscrimination statutes, 10) condemnation of human trafficking, 11) condemnation of sexual harassment in the military, 12) improvement of retirement benefits for women.

Other priorities included the support of a strong public school system, economic self-sufficiency for all women, and the guarantee of equality, individual rights, and social justice for our diverse society.

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid will need our continued support in 2015. These entitlement programs serve as essential support for a large segment of our population. These vital programs come under attack from various political groups under the false guise of causing a major budget deficit. In addition, there will be renewed emphasis on pay equity for women. AAUW will again lobby state and national leaders to pass this legislation so that women receive the same pay as men for doing the same job. In addition, AAUW supports a fair and just path to legal status for immigrants residing in the United States. ~ ***Linda Rizzo***

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Important membership reminders as we begin 2015: New members who join at an AAUW public event pay only 50% of national dues! Ergo, each new member pays \$12.25 to national. After March 15, however, branches are asked to focus on the next fiscal year for membership recruitment, so the discount offer becomes moot.

Equally important to remember is that \$46 of the \$49 national dues is **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** by the individual member; \$3 of the national dues payment is not tax deductible because it will be used to support the AAUW Action Fund's Lobby Corps and election-related activities.

Pat Gregory and Arlene Maranville



Quotes of the Month

by Shirley Chisholm

(I couldn't decide on one, so I am posting 2 quotes this month)



~ *"I want history to remember me not just as the first black woman to be elected to Congress, not as the first black woman to have made a bid for the presidency of the United States, but as a black woman who lived in the 20th century and dared to be herself."*

~ *"Of my two "handicaps" being female put more obstacles in my path than being black."*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR REUSEABLE TOTE BAGS

Last year the Schenectady branch of AAUW donated 50 reusable bags and over-the-counter medication for "The Rose and Roberto Medical Mission to Haiti". I thank all who donated to this environmental friendly cause. The men and women who received the bags were extremely grateful. The photograph below shows two young women with your donated bags surrounded by the medical team.

May I encourage you to donate your reusable shopping bags for the upcoming medical mission this year! I will be accepting donations until May. Please give your reusable bags to your Study and Interest group leader, a board member, bring them to a general meeting or call me at [518-290-8998](tel:518-290-8998) and I will pick them up. Thank you all for your response.

Miriam Cajuste



Calling All AAUW Artists!



Want to share your artwork with thousands of AAUW members and the head of the National Museum of Women in the Arts?

Enter the [2015 AAUW Art Contest](http://www.aauw.org/contests/) at <http://www.aauw.org/contests/>



Submissions close January 28, 2015.

Did you know that only 5% of the art currently displayed in U.S. museums is by women?



Campus Women Win at Four NYS Sites for 2015!

New York will be hosting four sites for AAUW's Elect Her—Campus Women Win trainings! **Ithaca College** and **Stony Brook University** will continue as 2015 Elect Her 2nd year training sites, while **SUNY Albany** and **SUNY Buffalo** have been selected as a new sites. Only 50 colleges from across the nation and Jamaica host Elect Her—Campus Women Win.

Elect Her—Campus Women Win, a collaboration of AAUW and Running Start, is a unique campus-based program that teaches women how to run for elective office and leadership positions.

Its goal is to address the disparity between the high percentage of women in colleges and universities and their low representation in student government by encouraging women to run for campus leadership positions.

This day-long program covers skills such as how to mobilize your constituency, how to craft your message, and how to speak and present yourself confidently as a candidate. By encouraging more women to run for student government during their college years, we are confident that we are preparing more women for local, state, and federal office candidacy.

In 2014, Elect Her-Campus Women Win trained more than 1,000 participants on 50 campuses.

Of the students who reported running for student office after the training, **78% WON!** Approximately 12% more students said they are considering running for political office after the training than before. Plus, 100% of the participants reported that they would recommend Elect Her-Campus Women Win to a friend.

To learn more about Elect Her—Campus Women Win, please visit:

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/campus-programs/elect-her-campus-women-win/

www.facebook.com/ElectHer

[#ElectHer](#) on Twitter and Instagram



Study and Interest Group Meetings for February 2015

If you're interested in attending a meeting, contact the leader.



Book Exchange I

Leader: Dottie Potochnik (399-3854)
No regular meetings

Book Exchange 2

Leader: Ellie Rowland (250-4302) No regular meetings

Couples Gourmet

Co-Leaders: Jennie Pennington (372-7503)
Jackie Mendini (869-3816)

Friday February 13, 7:00 p.m.

Theme: AAUW Patchwork Recipes
Hosts: Jennie Pennington
Katherine Stanczyk

Diverse Topics

Leader: Gail Karl (393-7590)
Monday, February 16, 1:30 p.m.
Program: Back to the Homeland
Speaker: Chris Witkowski
Hostess: Gail Karl (393-7590), Linda Ward
Location: 2513 McGovern Drive, Niskayuna

Modern Literature

Co-Leaders: Joan Amell (399-4709)
Mary Delory (393-6811)
Monday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.
Book: **Sand Castle Girls**
Reviewer: Ellie Rowland
Hostess: Toni Walsh (371-8764)
Location: 113 Alexander Ave, Scotia
Co-hostess: Grace Riccobono

Mah Jongg

Leader: Robin Eddy (346-1683)
Monday, February 9, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Robin Eddy (346-1683)
Location: 1222 Hempstead Road, Niskayuna
Monday, February 23, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Ellie Rowland (250-4302)
Location: 216 Lois Lane, Niskayuna

Quilting

Leader: Pat Terry (372-8431)
Monday February 24 7:00 p.m.
Program: Vacation Inspiration Marguerite
Hostess: Toni Walsh (372-8764)
Location: 113 Alexander Ave, Scotia

Science Topics

Leader: Emily Hart (374-3229)
Monday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.
Program: Topic 2015
Hostess: Nancy Walden (374-9026)
Location: 1930 Clifton Park Road

Scotia-Glenville, Burnt Hills Varied Interests

Co-Leaders: Arlene Maranville (384-1639)
Toni Walsh (372-8764)
Thursday, February 12, 12:30 p.m.
Program: History of Women's Clubs
Speaker: Toni Walsh
Hostesses: Reba Mehan ((374-7886)
Toni Walsh
Location: 134 Glenn Eddy, Niskayuna

Serendipity

Co-Leaders: Jennie Pennington (372- 7503)
Reba Mehan (374-7886)
Program: No meeting this month

**Welcome to
AAUW's Schenectady Branch!**

Phyllis Budka

2135 Morrow Ave Niskayuna
377-8734 abudka@nycap.rr.com
(Please add Phyllis's info. to your directory)



Directory Update

Miriam Cajuste
290-8998

OUR HISTORY IS OUR STRENGTH

Our symposium's theme is "Our History is Our Strength." Longer morning sessions take a then and now approach to topics that we believe were important to women of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's day and remain relevant to women of the 21st century.

SESSION A

Women on the Page. An excerpt from a documentary on the life of the author Louisa May Alcott will set the stage with a picture of the 19th century woman writer. Then three 21st century authors will share their experiences with researching, writing, and getting published today.

Greta Nettleton on her work *The Quack's Daughter: A True Story About the Private Life of a Victorian College Girl* published in May 2014. What Right did a woman have to a career in the 19th century? How many rights of any kind did she have? Greta will use the case of women physicians in the west as a jumping off point for a discussion of her research and writing.

Heidi Sprouse on writing romances about ordinary men who become extraordinary through their actions and the women who love them. Hers are small town love stories that could happen anywhere.

Ruth Holland Scott on her memoir *The Circles God Draws* which describes her remarkable journey from a segregated school to leadership of the Rochester NY City Council.

From Corsets to Spanx™. Sue McLane, the Victorian Lady, will demonstrate the ways late 19th century clothing constrained women and dictated a certain body ideal. Video excerpts from the documentary *Killing Me Softly* will set the stage for a discussion of how modern marketing still promotes unreasonable body images.

Midwifery: The Second Oldest Profession. Through discussion & film excerpts from *A Midwife's Tale* participants will learn about the history of midwifery as one of the oldest female professions in the U.S. Julie Tesi, a currently practicing midwife in Fulton Co, will discuss the profession today and answer questions.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:30—9:00	Registration / Continental Breakfast
9:00—9:25	Opening / Welcome
9:25—11:30	SESSION A
11:15-12:40	Lunch/Vendor displays Program with Colleen Jenkins & Penny Coleman
12:45—1:45	SESSION B
2:00—3:00	SESSION C
3:00—3:30	Closing / Collect evaluations

ELIZABETH CADY

WOMEN'S
SYMPOSIUM

REGISTRATION

To register, fill out the following form and mail it with payment to:

Laurie Kozakiewicz
PO Box 760
Caroga Lake, NY 12032

Cost: \$35 per person
\$15 student rate
\$40 late registration

REGISTRATION DUE:
March 6, 2015

For EACH session, indicate your first, second and third choice by writing 1, 2 and 3 in each column's box.

SESSION A	SESSION B	SESSION C
9:30 – 11:00 AM	12:45 – 1:45 PM	2:00 – 3:00 PM
Women on the Page with Greta Nettleton, Heidi Sprouse, & Ruth Holland Scott	"Johnstown's Radical Daughter" an Interview w/ Elizabeth Cady Stanton	A Glorious Woman" on getting to know Elizabeth Cady Stanton
From Corsets to Spanx™	Rx for Better Health—Get Outdoors	For the Dancer Within You
Midwifery: the Second Oldest Profession	You Won't Feel a Thing: Acupuncture	Color: Then & Now

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____

Please make checks payable to: ECSWC

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR
ALL
SYMPOSIUM EVENTS

SPACE IS LIMITED.

For more information about the other session choices (and hopefully a clearer registration form) go to <http://www.ecswc.org/#!/c1r23>

The event will be at the HFM BOCES, Route 67, Johnston, NY

Since space in each session is limited, register soon.

Contact Jennie Pennington at pennington2276@cs.com or 372-7503
if you're interested in car pooling.