

March's General Meeting

AAUW-NYS District IV Conference
hosted by the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown AAUW

In Honor of Women's History Month

*You are invited to participate in the
Celebration of the 200th birthday of
Elizabeth Cady Stanton*



OUR HISTORY IS OUR STRENGTH

Saturday, March 21, 8:30-3:30

Location: HFM BOCES Center, Route 67, Johnstown

Cost: \$35 includes a light breakfast and lunch.

The deadline to register is March 6. Sign up TODAY!

Registration Form and Workshop Choices

Luncheon Program:

A Conversation with Coline Jenkins,
the Great-Great Granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton,
Conducted by Stanton biographer Penny Coleman

*Join us as we carpool to this event! Contact
Jennie Pennington at 372-7503 or pennington2276@cs.com*

Our Branch NEEDS YOU!

We are in need of people to fill the following positions for next year:

Co-President Treasurer Membership Programming Newsletter

We realize many of you have been active in the past,
NOW is the time to rejoin our Board.

If you could help, or know someone who might be interested, *even to doing it on your own terms*, please contact:

Bobbi Richardson at 596-3787, Roberta_Richardson@hotmail.com or
Robin Eddy at rjeddy321@gmail.com, 346-1683.

**Mark Your Calendar is on Page 3.*





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



My message this month is going to focus on a headline in today's (Feb. 3, 2015) *New York Times*, "More Women Than Ever in Congress, but With Less Power." *As I read it, I reflected on the reality that women* constitute 51% of the population but still face obstacles to achieving political and economic parity with men. And then I thought of all the programs that AAUW has which seek to address this disparity - and how wonderfully empowering our organization is.

Back to the article: In November, 20 women were elected to the Senate and 84 were elected to the House, so for the first time ever there are more than 100 women in Congress. However, the change in political control over the Senate and House cost women committee leadership positions - and many new challenges. Over two-thirds of females in Congress are Democrats and when power shifted, these women lost top positions.

It was only 22 years ago - the "Year of the Woman" elections, when the number of women in the Senate doubled - from two to four!!! And many in Congress noted that when women were chairing committees there was greater consensus, more civility, more cooperation than confrontation. There are many studies that do support the observation that women are less focused on power and more focused on securing agreement. They see bipartisan agreements as signs of success, not failure. So while there are more women today than there were 22 years ago, they wield less power because of the structure and power shift. Let's hope that their very presence in Congress has a beneficial effect on negotiations.

Our role is to continue doing what we do so well: to provide opportunities for women to influence both society and government for the better. We are doing the right thing by working with younger women, by providing leadership experience, by encouraging participation in civic life. Congress needs to be reflective of the population at large and we should not rest until it does. *Eleanor Aronstein*



ELECT HER: CAMPUS WOMEN WIN



What is the *Elect Her Initiative*? It is a collaboration between AAUW and *Running Start* and *She Should Run*, the only program in the country that encourages and trains college women to run for student government and future political office.



Elect Her addresses the need to expand the pipeline to women running for office and to diminish the longstanding political leadership gender gap. The 4-5 hr. training covers skills such as how to mobilize a constituency, craft a message, speak confidently, and present oneself as a candidate.

This year *Elect Her* is being offered on 50 campuses nationwide including the University at Albany which was sponsored by the Schenectady branch at no cost. Miriam Cajuste and Ann Hicks had the opportunity to attend segments of the program and were quite impressed with the exceptional effectiveness of the program for engaging and involving students in significant learning activities. The presenters were well chosen, prepared and credible---very open about sharing their life experiences and various challenges that had been beneficial to them including mistakes made along the way. Students were expressing appreciation (during Q&A) to the speakers (student government and community leaders). The photographs which Miriam took, reflect the enthusiastic and focused involvement of the students.

Eighty-seven people registered for the event. All who were students became AAUW e-affiliates. This is an innovative initiative by AAUW to promote awareness of the organization and encourage future membership. We look forward to receiving and reading the evaluation of the event from the U. Albany staff ~ *Ann Hicks*



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Every day, we ask you – our members and volunteers – to make an effort to empower women and girls. Not only do you do this, but you do it well. You do so much to help AAUW's mission, and we cannot thank you enough. With that in mind, we urge you to renew your membership next month and continue to look for new member candidates who, like you, are interested in promoting equality for women. Remember AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership, so look beyond the ordinary.

Take 50 percent off national dues when branch members gift a national membership January 1-March 15. National membership is a great gift for those who want to support our mission but whose schedules don't allow time to participate in regular meetings and activities. Now through March 15, 2015, a branch member can give the gift of a regular annual national membership for just \$24.50 online! Apply appeal code M15BRJN2015 to give one year of membership to a friend today. ~ *Arlene Maranville & Pat Gregor*

WOMEN'S EQUALITY ACT - Nine Points or None ~ Linda Rizzo

The New York State Senate passed in January eight points of the Women's Equality Act. Senator Diane Savino (D) sponsored the bill citing that she is willing to forgo passing the ninth point (The Reproductive Health Act) so that the other eight points can be passed. She urged Assembly Democrats not to toss out good reform for politics' sake.

The bill passed by the Senate would fight sex trafficking, stop discrimination based on family status, end pregnancy discrimination in the workplace, prevent housing discrimination, protect women against sexual harassment, and ensure equal pay for women. The "sticking" point in the Assembly is that all nine points are not included. As of February 5, they will only pass the total package and refuse to vote on the other eight points. The Senate will not pass the Reproductive Health Act. This would align state abortion law with federal law set by Roe v. Wade.

Amy Paulin, a Scarsdale Democrat, believes that members of her conference might support voting on each bill separately. Paulin told Capital News that more members in the Assembly have voiced support to pass the eight points. She stated that "civil rights were not achieved in one lump. It was achieved over time in many baby steps." Many major social issues took years to rectify. We have to start at some point to take action.

Will the Assembly pass each bill separately is the question that only they can answer. It would be a shame if another year passes with no action. The losers in this political battle are the women in New York State.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Wednesday, March 4

Board Meeting 6:45
Niskayuna Town Hall

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings Time
International Women's Day

Wednesday, March 11

Program: "The New York State Grand Jury:
Should It Be Changed?"
Schenectady Library (see page 5)

Saturday, March 21, Registration on page 5
General Meeting/ District IV Conference

Friday – Sunday, April 17-19

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

Wednesday, May 20

Annual Dinner
Mohawk Golf Club

Friday–Sunday, June 18-21

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



Join us for a program our AAUW branch is co-sponsoring with the League of Women Voters

"The New York State Grand Jury: Should It Be Changed?"

Schenectady County Public Library Main Branch

Wednesday, March 11, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Panelists at the session will be: Robert M. Carney, Schenectady County District Attorney; Mark Caruso, head of the Schenectady County Public Defender's Office; and Robert Keach, III, civil rights attorney.

The panel will explain the grand jury system and its use from the prosecutorial and defense perspectives. It will also address whether changes need to be made. Recent controversial cases taken to the grand jury have raised issues about its secrecy and a process that favors the case brought by the prosecutor.

Mr. Carney has been a district attorney since 1990 and a lawyer for 26 years. Mr. Caruso has experience as a former prosecutor and a current defense attorney, a decade each. Mr. Keach is in private practice and handles civil rights litigation.

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 Coline 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.



Study and Interest Group Meetings for March 2015

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



Will March come in like a LION...

and go out like a LAMB?

Book Exchange I

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

Niskayuna Book Exchange

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

Couples Gourmet

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

Friday, March 13, 2015

Theme: Hostess Favorites
Hosts: Barbara and Frank Piliere
Blanche and Mike Payne

Quilting

Leader: Pat Terry (372-8431)
Tuesday, March 24, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Program: Marguerite's Surprise
Hostess: Pat Terry
Location: 1059 Garner Ave, Schenectady

Diverse Topics

Leader: Gail Karl (393-7590)
Monday, March 17, 2015, 1:30 p.m.
Program: Eating Out
Restaurant TBA

Science Topics

Leader: Emily Hart (374-3229)
Monday, March 2, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Program: The John Muir Trail
Speaker: Sally Dewes
Hostess: Ellie Rowland
Location: 216 Lois Lane, Niskayuna

Mah Jongg

Leader: Robin Eddy (346-1683)
Monday, March 9, 2015, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Harriet Severenko
Location: 23 Olde Coach Rd., Schenectady

Varied Interests

Co-Leaders: Arlene Maranville (384-1639)
Grace Mueller (346-8064)
Thursday, March 12, 2015, 12:30 p.m.
Program: Saratoga Academy of Arts & Science
Hostess: Arlene Gollmer
Location: Route 9, 2 miles South of Rt. 146

Monday, March 23, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

Hostess: Robin Eddy
Location: 1222 Hempstead, Niskayuna

Serendipity

Co-Chairs: Jennie Pennington (372-7503)
Reba Mehan (374-7886)
No meeting

Modern Literature

Co-Leaders: Joan Amell (399-4709)
Andrea Versaci (370-1455)
Monday, March 10, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Book: *Longbourne* by Jo Baker
Reviewer: Joan Bergin
Hostess: Susie Leon
Location: 12 Laury Lane, Glenville
Co-hostess: Susie Leon

Quote of the Month

*"The history of the past is but
one long struggle upward to equality."*



Spring Garage Sale

Start Saving your Donations!

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

AAUW
Schenectady Branch
C/O Bobbi Richardson
1417 Fox Hollow Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309



VISIONS

Schenectady Branch Newsletter AAUW
(published monthly except
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The deadline for newsletter items is the
1st week of the month
prior to publication.

Editor Roberta Richardson
Circulation: Carol Reynolds

President Eleanor Aronstein

Website: schenectady-ny.aauw.net

AAUW's MISSION

AAUW Advances Equity for women through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW'S VISION

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.

AAUW'S PROMISE

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and educational barriers to so that all women have a fair chance.

IN PRINCIPLE AND IN PRACTICE AAUW VALUES and seeks 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.

