



Elmira - Corning Branch

News & Views

empowering women since 1881

November 2013

Janet Winfield and Joan Russen, Co-Presidents

Calendar

Sat., Nov. 16, 2013, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Books & Bites at Steele Memorial Library, Elmira, NY

Sun., Nov. 17, 2013 - Silver Bowl Tea & New Member Reception, Norma Doane's, 401 Lone Pine Terrace, Elmira, NY

Weds., Dec. 11, 2013 at 7:00 pm - Rick Pirozzolo on the Student Scholastic Awards Display, Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY

Sat., Dec. 21, 2013, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Books & Bites at Steele Memorial Library, Elmira, NY

Tues., Jan. 7, 2014 (note change in date from posting in membership roster) at 6:30 pm - Jennifer McKenzie on Physical Therapy Issues for Women, Petrie West Room at Arnot Medical Center, Elmira, NY

Sat., Jan. 18, 2014, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Books & Bites at Steele Memorial Library, Elmira, NY

Tues., Feb. 6, 2014 6:30 pm - Mark Woodhouse on the Mark Twain Archive, Gannett-Tripp Library at Elmira College, Elmira, NY

Presidents' Message

We would like to thank everyone involved in the fashion show for making it a fine success. This includes the models, the decorator, the cake and model retriever, the basket makers, the ticket takers, the banker and all of our wonderful patrons. This is truly a group effort with all playing their part. You make this work easy.

The Let's Eat Out group meets at a area restaurant the first Tuesday of every month. We will be meeting at the Indian restaurant on Market street at noon. Please give V Nossiter a

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Silver Bowl Tea November 17, 2013

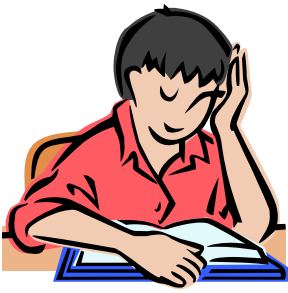
1-3 p.m.

Norma Doane's
home

401 Lone Pine Terrace, Elmira

AAUW provides a number of scholarships for women's education. We had a successful Fashion Show to raise money for local scholars that we meet at the annual luncheon. Come meet **Kay Resch**, a senior at Elmira College, doing research into intimate partner violence and the effect of children's maltreatment on young girls development. She is our Leadership Scholar for this year.

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Books & Bites

Betty Reiter,
Chair

Our October meeting was a time to talk about a few good books. They included: My Beloved Brontosaurus by Brian Switek, The First Eagle by Tony Hillerman, Dick Francis's Refusal by Felix Francis, The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown, Laplace De La Concorde Suisse by John McPhee, Empty Mansions by Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr. and The Hunt for Red October by Tom Clancy.



Our next meeting will be at 2 PM on Sat. Nov. 16th in the small conference room at the Steele Memorial Library. (The Dec. meeting will be on the 21st.) I hope you can come and enjoy an hour or two just talking about books.

Presidents' Message

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call at 654-7822. We are also looking for a host for a movie night.

Happy holiday season,
Joan and Janet



AAUW Websites

AAUW - USA

<http://www.aauw.org/>

AAUW - NYS

<http://www.aauw-nys.org/>

AAUW Elmira-Corning

<http://elmiracorning-ny.aauw.net/>

AAUW NYS Diversity

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

There shall be no barriers so to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW's mission statement emphasizes its determination to meet the needs of women of all ages, cultures and abilities. Bringing a diverse population into programs and membership is the feature that results in an influential organization that mirrors the community.

AAUW VALUE PROMISE

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

AAUW VISION STATEMENT

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

Membership Corner News

Lenore Lewis

We have a request for another Interest Group. This Interest Group would be for anyone who enjoys knitting with others. There are a number of agencies from babies to senior citizen groups who have need for knitted items. If you would like to join our Knitting Interest Group please call Lenore Lewis at 739-2290. Remember, we have other Interest Groups, too: Let's Eat Out, Bridge Groups, Books & Bites, and Travel. We are still looking for members for our Movie Goers Group. Please tell your friends to check out our new website: <http://elmiracorning-ny.aauw.net>. Our membership dues are still \$73.00 with \$46.00 of our dues being tax deductible. Remember to tell your friends to become part of our successful women's organization by JOINING OUR AAUW BRANCH NOW.

Membership Committee
Lenore Lewis
Barbara Friedman
Mary Ann Cleary



Silver Bowl Tea

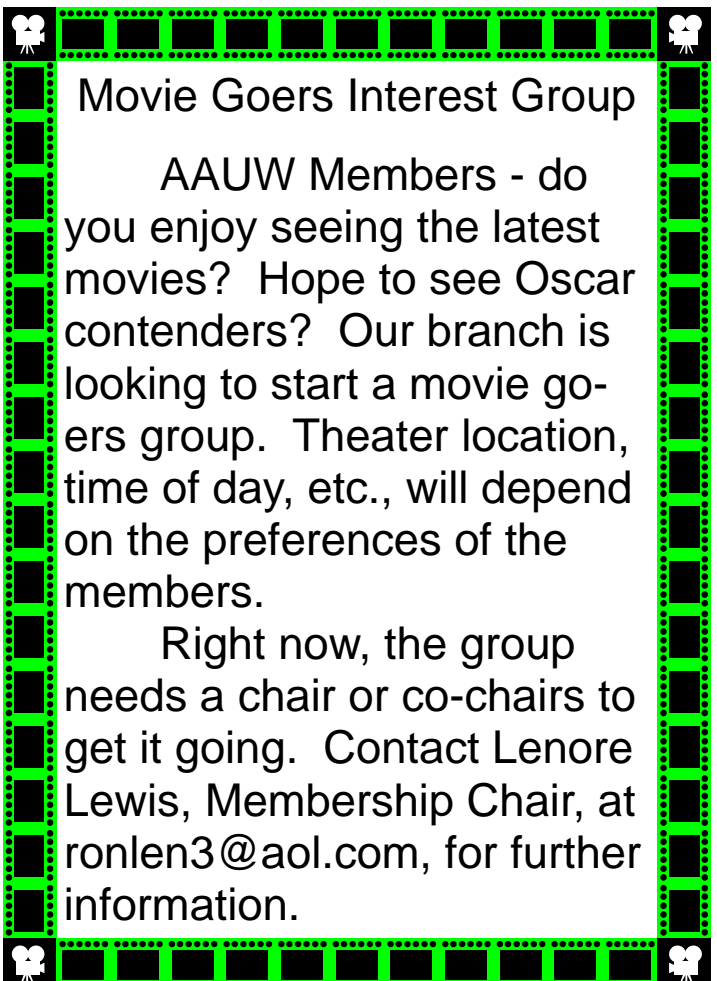
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She is involved with Active Minds and Women and Gender studies groups. Come find out what her plans are for future studies.

You will also have a chance to meet two AAUW Fellows from Cornell University and hear their stories. **Darcy Regan** is doing graduate work in archeology in the ancient Meso-American culture. **Angela McArdle** is a chemical engineer researching sustainable food projects. We have always learned a lot about current fields of study and enjoyed meeting these interesting young women.

Come and enjoy our delightful edible treats and socialize with the recipients of our fund raising. Remember to bring something for the Silver Bowl to continue helping young women.

- Bonnie Chollet



Movie Goers Interest Group

AAUW Members - do you enjoy seeing the latest movies? Hope to see Oscar contenders? Our branch is looking to start a movie goers group. Theater location, time of day, etc., will depend on the preferences of the members.

Right now, the group needs a chair or co-chairs to get it going. Contact Lenore Lewis, Membership Chair, at ronlen3@aol.com, for further information.

AAUW Supreme Court Preview Call Outline

Mollie Lam and Beth Scott

A conference call was held on Oct 24, 2013 to discuss the Supreme Court, its importance and some of the cases it may address during the coming year. An outline of the call is reproduced here.

I. How the Supreme Court Works and Why the Court is Important

a. How the Court Works

Most of the cases the Supreme Court hears are appeals either from a federal circuit court of appeal or from a state supreme court. The Supreme Court has discretion to choose the cases it wants to hear; just because you want the Supreme Court to take your case does not mean it will. If you want to appeal to the Supreme Court, you must petition the Court by submitting a writ of certiorari (abbreviated as “cert” or a “petition for cert”) explaining why the Court should hear your case. If at least four of the justices agree that the Court should hear your case, your petition will be granted. You will then submit legal briefs to the Court and participate in oral argument before the Court. Additionally, an outside party, known as amicus curiae, may request permission from the Court to submit its own brief. Amici are usually organizations, like AAUW, that are invested in the issues at play in a case and wish to offer the Court

additional arguments. AAUW has signed on to many amicus briefs over the years; in fact, we’ve signed on to amicus briefs in a number of the cases we’ll discuss today. If the Court denies your cert petition, the ruling of the lower court (either the federal circuit court or the state supreme court) stands.

Nine justices sit on the Supreme Court. Generally speaking, Court watchers divide the justices into two voting blocs, one conservative and one liberal. Justices Scalia, Thomas, Alito, and Chief Justice Roberts make up the generally conservative bloc; Justices Ginsburg, Breyer, Sotomayor, and Kagan make up the generally liberal bloc. In recent years, Justice Kennedy has often been described as the “swing vote” on the Court; however, last term it appeared that Justice Kennedy was leaning more toward the conservative bloc than the liberal bloc. It is notoriously difficult to predict how individual justices will vote and how the Court as whole will rule in a given case.

b. Why the courts and judicial nominations matter

The entire judicial branch has enormous impacts on our lives. AAUW monitors the judicial nominations process because so many of our fundamental rights

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AAUW Supreme Court Preview Call Outline

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and liberties have been established and are protected by the federal courts and the Supreme Court's decisions. Federal courts are often the last, best hope for women who have experienced discrimination in education, employment, health care, and other aspects of their lives.

AAUW members and supporters push for judges who will uphold our Constitutional values of liberty, equality, and justice for all. This is the best way to ensure that the clock is not turned back on decades of progress for women and girls.

II. McCullen v. Coakley

Anti-choice activists challenged a Massachusetts law designed to protect patients at reproductive healthcare clinics from intimidation and harassment. They argue that the law, which creates a 35-foot buffer zone around reproductive healthcare clinics, violates their free speech rights. The First Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the Massachusetts law, and the Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case. AAUW joined an amicus brief arguing that the law is constitutional.

III. Cline v. Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice

In 2011, Oklahoma passed a law that prevented doctors from

administering drugs used to end pregnancy in any manner that deviated from the FDA label, even though the FDA label was significantly outdated and even though best medical practices allowed for off-label uses. Because of the restrictions, the law risks effectively banning nearly all medication abortions in the state. The Oklahoma Supreme court declared the law unconstitutional. Before hearing the case, the U.S. Supreme Court has asked the Oklahoma Supreme Court to clarify parts of its ruling. The case is on hold until the Oklahoma Supreme Court responds. Under AAUW's Public Policy Program, AAUW strongly supports reproductive choice and access to reproductive healthcare.

IV. Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action

Anti-affirmative action advocates in Michigan proposed a ballot initiative (Proposal 2) that would ban affirmative action in the state. The ballot initiative passed and created Section 26 of the Michigan constitution, which bars any consideration of race, ethnicity, or gender in public university admissions. In the past, the affirmative action cases before the Court typically concerned a challenge to the constitutionality of a particular univer-

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AAUW Supreme Court Preview Call Outline

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sity's affirmative action program. Unlike those cases, the question is Schuette is whether a state may amend its constitution to ban affirmative action altogether. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals declared the ban unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court heard arguments in the case on October 15. AAUW supports affirmative action programs to increase equity and diversity in education and signed on to an amicus brief urging the Court to declare the amendment unconstitutional.

V. Contraceptive coverage

Across the country, a number of for-profit business owners filed lawsuits challenging the Affordable Care Act's requirement that employee health insurance plans cover reproductive healthcare, including contraception. The business owners argue that they are morally or religiously opposed to the use of contraception and that therefore the ACA violates their constitutional right to freedom of religion or, in some of the suits, their rights under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The Supreme Court has not yet agreed to hear any of the cases, but it is currently considering several appeals. The Court is likely to hear at least one of the contraceptive coverage appeals this term, particu-

larly because the federal courts of appeal are split over the question. Continuing AAUW's long-standing support for access to contraception and reproductive healthcare, AAUW signed several amicus briefs in different circuits, arguing that for-profit business owners should not be exempt from providing healthcare coverage to their female employees.

VI. Separation of Church and State

The Supreme Court will take up the question of legislative prayer for the first time in thirty years in *Town of Greece v. Galloway*. Although in previous cases the Court declared legislative prayer constitutional, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals declared the legislative prayers at issue in *Galloway* to be unconstitutional because they were largely Christian prayers presided over by Christian clergy. AAUW firmly supports separation of church and state.

VII. Looking ahead

We will watch these cases closely over the coming term. We hope to have another conference call when the term ends and the Supreme Court has issued its rulings. Keep an eye out for a notice about another Supreme Court conference call early next summer!

Source: www.aauw-nys.org