

November 2015

Dr. Geraldine Wolfe and Barbara Luther, Co-Presidents

Calendar

Thurs. Nov. 11 - Sat., Nov. 14, 2015 - BonTon Community Days Fundraiser
Sun., Nov. 15, 2015 - Silver Bowl Tea and New Member Reception at
West Elmira Community Center

Sat., Nov. 21, 2015, 2:00 pm - Books & Bites, Steele Memorial Library

Sat., Dec. 19, 2015, 2:00 pm - Books & Bites, Steele Memorial Library

Sat., Jan. 16, 2016, 2:00 pm - Books & Bites, Steele Memorial Library

Presidents' Message

October is behind us! However, it provided us with a very successful fundraiser: the annual Fashion Show! Accolades go out Janet Winfield for, once again, spearheading such a well-attended event, which will tremendously benefit our scholarship fund. Gratitude is also extended to all of our models.

I am pleased to announce that JoAnne Krolak and Ann Brouse have agreed to manage our website, under the tutelage of Mary Beth Fredrick. AAUW members will not only continue to be able to access our newsletter on the website, but, also in the future, minutes of our Board meetings. The password is News&Views. Thank you, Mary Beth, JoAnne, and Ann.

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AAUW District 2 Conference

Barb Luther, Co-Pres.



I recently attended the NYS AAUW District 2 conference in Bath, NY. All the Branches in the District were represented. Those Branches were Bath, Greater Rochester Area, Yates, Elmira-Corning, Alfred-Hornell and Fairport. It was wonderful to see old AAUW friends and to meet new ones.

The theme was "Women Rising Out of Poverty as Entrepreneurs". The speakers were very informative and their stories reinforced AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. A second recurring theme was giving back to our

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Books & Bites

Betty Reiter, Chair



Our October meeting of books and Bites was fun and interesting, as always. We talked about the following books: The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd, Two Years Before the Mast by Richard Henry Dana, Greensleeves by Eloise Jarvis McGraw, The Viking by Marti Talbott, All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, Witch Hunt by S.M. Reine, Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen, The Cat Who Talked to Ghosts by Lilian Jackson Braun and A More Perfect Heaven by Dava Sobel.

Note the wide range of books we talk about each Month and consider joining us.

Our meetings will continue during the Winter, weather permitting. Note the dates are all the 3rd Sat. of each month. Our next two will be on Nov 21 and Dec. 19.

Chemung County Council of Women Report

Barb Luther



In honor of National Women's History Month, the community is invited to attend the Chemung County Council of Women's 7th Annual, Salute Your Favorite Woman in History. The

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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.

2015 AAUW Fashion Show



From the left: Jennifer McKenzie, her mother, Julie Biviano, Donna Winsor, Carol Ann Mitchell, (in front) Lucie McKenzie, Lisbeth Patterson, (our scholarship winner) Patricia "Diva" Tucker, Nancy Taft, her mother, Louise O'Dell, Nancy Yonko and her daughter, Catherine Westlake.

A very big thank you to the models for the fashion show. You all were super. I really appreciated all your time and effort.

- June Ford

AAUW District 2 Conference

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communities by our actions.

Did you know that each Branch in NYS can apply for a grant of up to \$500. to fund an event day; i.e. Tech Savvy for middle school girls? I will present to the Board information on applying for a grant if we wish to develop a program for next year that meets our mission.

The NYS Convention will be April 15-17, 2016 at Saratoga Springs and I hope we can get a carload or 2 of members to attend. I will keep you in the loop.

Council of Women Report

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event will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at the Chemung Valley History Museum beginning at 6:30 PM.



Each year women from member organizations of the Chemung County Council of Women portray historic women who have made a difference here in Chemung County, throughout the country and around the world. I hope at least 1 or 2 AAUW members will take part in the program. Please call me, Barb Luther 734-1321 for further information.

This is a wonderful FREE event for the community that we hold each year during National Women's History Month. Recent portrayals of women have included Clara Barton, Coco Chanel, Eleanor Roosevelt, Madeleine Albright, Annie Oakley, Mother Teresa, Annis Ford Eastman, Polly Hendy, Esther W. Ballou, and Irene Marsh Rhodes.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments are served. High school and middle school students are invited to join us and learn about some of the women who helped shape our world.



ALERT !!! Silver Bowl Tea Change !

Clare Bonnie Chollet

Norma Doane has hosted our annual Silver Bowl Tea at her lovely home many times, and had agreed to do so again this year, however, due to Norma's recent hospitalization, we have changed the location of the Silver Bowl Tea to the Town of El-



mira Community Center. It will still be held on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 15 from 1-3.

We will meet our new members and hear from our leadership scholarship winner as well as from two or three young graduate AAUW Fellows from Cornell University who will tell us about their current re-

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Attention, Anglophiles!

Are you eagerly awaiting the sixth and final season of Downton Abbey? Is Violet, Dowager Countess of Grantham with her acerbic wit your role model?

If so, your opportunity to participate in the Edwardian world has arrived. Our AAUW scholarship fundraising event of May 15, 2016 will feature the theme of "Tea at the Abbey." We're looking for AAUW members who delight in donning the costume and character of a denizen of this famous country estate.



You may already own clothing in the style of the Edwardians that can be combined to create an appropriate costume. If not, our theater maven, Julia Lavarneway will assemble the perfect outfit for you to wear on May 15.

Whether you fancy yourself as a Crawley or one of the equally zestful members of their staff, you can be part of the wonderful world of "The Abbey." No acting will be required, but should you toss off a few bons mots from your favorite character to entertain your tablemates, so much the better!



If wearing a costume is not for you, yet "Downton Abbey" is a favorite program of yours, we'd be delighted to have you join the committee to help plan details of "Tea at the Abbey."

Please contact Ann Brouse, agbrouse@hotmail.com so that we may be assured of sufficient host family and staff for this exciting event.

--Spring fundraising event committee: Ann Brouse, Julia Lavarneway, Joy Perry

Silver Bowl Tea Change

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search and what they hope to do in the future. We always have a delightful time socializing, indulging in special treats, and most importantly learning about how our fund raising events support young women.

Directions to the Town of Elmira Community Center:

From Rte 86, take the Elmira Exit to Church St. Travel West on Church St. through Elmira to Grandview Ave. (one street beyond the Hendy Ave. School.). Turn left on Grandview and continue to the stop sign. Cross Water St. continuing on Grandview. (It is a jag across Water St. and looks like an alley - watch the speed bump.) **The Community Center is all the way to the end of the road.**

Plenty of parking.

From Corning on Rte. 352 - travel east and turn right on Grandview just after the school sign. If you pass the West Elmira Fire Station you have gone too far. Go around the block and try again.

Thank you all in advance for making this adaptation and make sure that you bring your curiosity



for learning and a check for the Silver Bowl!

Thank You Janet Winfield

I would like to thank everyone for the supreme cooperation that I received for the organization of the fashion show.

I would like to thank June Ford for soliciting the models, Ann Brouse for the decorations, and Pat Stadelmaier for tickets and money manager. Super jobs, ladies. I would like to thank the following for their donations of the baskets: JoAnne Sarli, Ann Brouse, Carolyn Clack, June Ford, Louise O'Dell, Janet Proudfoot, Miriam Smith and Carol Messing. Thank you to Betty Reiter and Nancy Spaulding for manning the hallway and JoAnne Sarli and June Ford for selling raffle tickets. Julie Biviano and JoAnne Krolak took care of publicity. The fashion show works as our fundraiser for scholarships because of all of you. Please forgive any names that I omitted and know that you are appreciated.

Presidents' Message

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With the advent of November we are also looking forward to our annual Silver Bowl Tea, proceeds from which will also be used to fund our scholarships. However, it is on a sad

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Presidents' Message

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note that I report that the Tea will not be held at Norma Doane's this year. Norma has graciously hosted the Tea for several years. However, due to health reasons, she will not be able to do so this year. Rather, the Tea will be held at the West Elmira Community Center (located behind the West Elmira Town Hall) on Sunday, 15 November 2015 from 1:00-3:00. We are grateful to Pat Stadelmaier for arranging the new accommodations and to the Hospitality Committee (Jan Cummings and Pat Buttolph) for agreeing to make all of the arrangements on a short notice. In the interim, I am sure that Norma would appreciate receiving a get well card from members.

Our Bon Ton book sales are going quite well. Thank you to all of you who are supporting the project, and a special thank you to Carolyn Clack and Louise O'Dell who have taken on the task of organizing the event for the second year. A few books remain. If you have not purchased one and would like to do so, please call Carolyn or Louise.

As reported in the September 2014 and the November 2014, there will be no membership meetings in December, January, and February. While there will be no general membership meetings, nor Board meet-

ings, committees may choose to continue to meet. Books & Bites, under Betty Reiter, will continue to meet on the third Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Steele Memorial Library. Our Program Committee would welcome input regarding topics for membership meetings for 2016-17, and the Nominating Committee, names of potential officers and committee members. Please refer to our Directory for the names of Program and Nominating Committee members.

Since this will be our last News & Views until March, I would first like to take this opportunity to announce that the subject of our March membership meeting will be Finn Academy. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 16 March 2016 at 4:00. Julie Biviano will inform us of the location.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and those who share special places in your lives, a Happy Holiday season. May each of you have a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

All warm wishes,
Gerry



MEMBERSHIP CORNER NEWS

If you know someone who is a National AAUW member but not a local Elmira Corning AAUW member, tell her that for an additional \$17.00, she can become a local Elmira Corning AAUW member and enjoy our local activities, too.

We hope you will attend our approaching Silver Bowl Tea

where we will introduce our newest Elmira Corning AAUW Branch members. They are: Janice Barr, Dian Gerstel, Dr. Rosemarie Rynkiweicz, JoAnne Sarli, and Pat Schramm. And our returning member, Donna Winsor.

Elmira Corning AAUW
Membership Committee
Lenore Lewis
Barb Friedman
Maureen Gladke

For Women and Girls, an Important Year at the Supreme Court

October 29, 2015 It's a brand new term for the U.S. Supreme Court, but the stakes for women and girls are awfully familiar. This year, the court will see a serious challenge to affirmative action, new threats to contraceptive access, and a potential watershed case for reproductive rights. In a

year when the rights of women and girls are front and center, it's more important than ever to stay informed. You can also listen to a recording of our Supreme Court wrap-up call.

If you've been following the Supreme Court for the last few

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BonTon Community Days Fundraiser

Wednesday, November 11-Saturday, November 14th

It's time to enjoy shopping with your Bonton coupon booklets! AAUW members will be selling the booklets in the store from noon- 2pm on each of the sale days should you need to purchase more.

Thank you so much for supporting our Scholarship Fund with your involvement in this fundraiser. We are striving to match last year's profit of \$2000.

Need more booklets? Call us!

Carolyn Clack (796-6463), Louise O'Dell (734-2648):
co-chairs

For Women and Girls, an Important Year at the Supreme Court

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years, you'll recognize *Fisher v. University of Texas*. *Fisher* first came before the court in 2012, but the justices sent it back to the lower court for rehearing. This term, however, the court will hear the case, its first major affirmative action case since 2003.

Under the university's admissions policy, Texas high school seniors who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class are automatically admitted without any consideration of race or other factors. That 10 percent policy fills most of the spots in each entering class. For the relatively small number of spots that remain, Texas uses a holistic, race-conscious admissions policy.

In last year's disappointing *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that closely held corporations can't be required to cover contraception through their employee health insurance plans. Despite Justice Alito's assurance that the *Hobby Lobby* ruling would have limited reach, fallout from the decision could seriously threaten even more employees' access to preventative health care.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, the government created (and AAUW supported) an exemption to the contraceptive care requirement for religious organizations and an accommodation for religiously affiliated nonprofits. Under the accommodation, religiously affiliated nonprofits simply fill out a form that ex-

plains their religious objections to contraception, and the government arranges for coverage of their employees' contraceptive care instead of the nonprofit. But a small number of religious nonprofits filed lawsuits objecting to the accommodation. They argue that even having to fill out the accommodation form is an impermissible infringement on their religious liberty because it triggers contraceptive coverage for the employees. *Hobby Lobby's* legacy could mean that even more employers will be able to restrict their employees' access to contraception.

Although we've talked a lot about reproductive rights and the Supreme Court in the last few sessions, this could be a truly defining term when it comes to access to abortion care and the right to choose. In the last few years, a number of states across the country have passed so-called TRAP (targeted regulation of abortion providers) laws in an attempt to restrict and even eliminate women's access to legal abortion. While many anti-choice laws impose restrictions on patients, TRAP laws are designed to prevent doctors from performing abortions altogether. TRAP laws are passed under the guise of protecting women's health, even though the provisions generally do nothing to increase the standard of care.

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