



American Association
of University Women

BATH BRANCH

FEBRUARY
2024

February 29th, 2024

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Happening Nearby:

Hammondsport Central School's Production of Anastasia: March 8th, 9th, and 10th

March 2024 Meeting

Our first in person meeting of 2024 will be on March 5, 2024.

We are meeting at the

**Bath Haverling High
School Library at 5:30pm**

for social time. Our meeting begins at 6pm. Parking is behind the high school next to the athletic fields at 41 Robie St.

Our presenter is Carrie House, the Director of Domestic Violence Services, Steuben County and Domestic Violence Shelter for women and children in Bath

-Program co-chairs Lisa Herrick and Linda Haley

Women in the News:

- Women in Congress work to make it easier for new moms to serve, as they themselves struggled to balance kids and work in an institution designed for men.
- A university in England is creating a center, whose goal is to help stop online violence against women. "Prof Olga Jurasz said: "Online violence is a societal problem that needs to be tackled urgently.""

President's Message

From the desk of Suzanne Curran.

Hello and Hoping your February is Happy! May our hearts be healthy!

"We choose love. Our love for our children.
Our commitment to leaving them a better world.
Our love for our country...our love for our fellow citizens...that's what we choose."
-Michelle Obama

I'm writing this as we celebrate President's Day holiday weekend and have been reminded that in over 230 years of U.S. presidents, not a single one has been a woman.

You may have been receiving emails from AAUW National referencing NCCWSL and wondering what is it???? NCCWSL is the acronym for AAUW's "National Conference for College Women Student Leaders." Hundreds of college women from across the country are invited for two and one half days of leadership training, inspiration, and networking in late May. An overview of the program can be found on the national website—NCCWSL - AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our Bath Branch could sponsor a local young woman so that she could attend? Donations can be made online to this annual event.

Our membership will vote online between April 3rd and May 15th on eliminating the degree requirement for AAUW. Most members will receive an email from vote@simplyvoting.com with their unique Elector ID and password. Our two members without an email address will receive instructions and a paper ballot in the mail. Please familiarize yourself with the argument for eliminating the degree requirement. Join in a discussion at our March or April meeting and/or please visit AAUW National online to read the wealth of information that has been presented there. Click on Membership and then select Governance and Tools. There you will find information on revising AAUW bylaws as per the upcoming election.

AAUW is recommending the following books written by women to better understand black history month.

- A Black History's History of the United States By Diana Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross
- Blues Legacies and Black feminism; Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday By Angela Davis
- Free Joan Little: The politics of Race, Sexual Violence and Imprisonment By Christina Greene
- Bond in Wedlock: Alave and Free Black Marriage in the Nineteenth Century By Tera W. Hunter
- Black Folk: The Roots of the Black Working Class By Blair LM Kelley
- The Vice President's Black Wife: The Untold Life of Julia Chinn By Amrita Chakrabarti Myers
- Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle By Shannen Dee Williams
- The Famous Lady Lovers: Black Women and Queer Desire Before Stonewall By Cookie Woolner

NOMINATIONS FOR 24-25!

The nominating committee (Bonnie Taggart, Marianne Furfure and Jerine Faber) met to decide on a slate of officers for 2024/25.

There can also be nominations from the floor.

Nomination of Officers: The proposed slate of officers for 2024-25

Co-Presidents: Sally Jacoby-Murphy and Ruth Barry

Educational Opportunity Fund Vice President: Joan Rogerson

President Elect: Deanna Tompkins

Secretary: Elfie Tompkins

Nominating Committee for 2025: Mary White and Carin Tobin

**THE VOTE
WILL BE
AT THE
APRIL 2ND
MEETING**

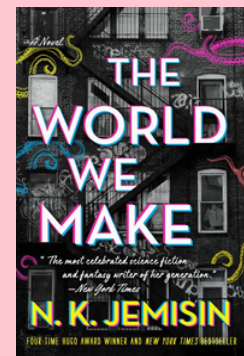
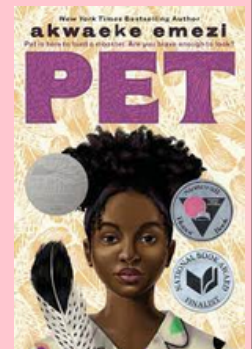
DEI Newsletter

Celebrate Black History Month 2024

No one has played a greater role in helping all Americans know the black past than Carter G. Woodson, the individual who created Negro History Week in February 1926 to ensure that school children be exposed to black history. Woodson chose February for reasons of tradition and reform to coincide with Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass's birthdays. The second black American to receive a PhD in history from Harvard—following W.E.B. Du Bois by a few years—Woodson had two goals. One was to use history to prove to white America that blacks had played important roles in the creation of America and thereby deserve to be treated equally as citizens.
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/black-history-month-2024>

Is Black History Month celebrated in other countries? Other countries devote a month to celebrating Black history such as Canada and the United Kingdom. Canada and Germany celebrate in February, but countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Netherlands recognize their own celebrations of the contributions of Africa, Africans and people of African descent in October. In Belgium, Black History Month is held in March.

Celebrate Black History Through Literature



DEI Newsletter

What is DEI?

DEI stands for diversity, equity and inclusion. AAUW seeks to encourage ongoing dialogue that will inspire all members to bring these values to their personal and professional interactions. We encourage all members to seek ways to incorporate inclusive practices into their branches and daily life.

Diversity is the condition of having or being composed of differing elements, variety especially the inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization programs intended to promote diversity in schools. It is an instance of being composed of differing elements or qualities, an instance of being diverse, a diversity of opinion.

Diversity is only the beginning, and it isn't enough. To create truly diverse spaces, those spaces also need to be inclusive, where all parties feel welcomed, appreciated and respected – and have full access to all resources and can contribute to AAUW's success.

As diversity advocate Verna Myers once said, "Diversity is being invited to the party, and inclusion is being asked to dance." If you don't have both, neither works. Equity is justice according to natural law or right specifically, it is freedom from bias or favoritism, something that is equitable. Although equality and equity have the same root, they don't mean the same thing. They are often used interchangeably, even though they differ in meaning. Equality means everyone gets the same access to – or amount of – something. Equity, by contrast, is about everyone having equal access to what they need to be successful. And those needs can be quite different.

Inclusion is the act of including, the state of being included. It is the act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (as because of their race, gender, sexuality or ability). Diversity refers to characteristics, the dimensions that make each of us unique. Inclusion entails behaviors and actions that make us feel welcomed or not. An environment that creates a sense of belonging, where everyone feels welcomed and included, is essential for the success of diversity efforts.

To be truly inclusive, we often have to change the culture – and culture shifts can make people uncomfortable or give the sense that they are losing something. But that is absolutely not the case. In fact, the exact opposite is true: Research suggests that in environments where people feel supported, welcomed, respected and valued are actually more productive; everyone feels a greater connection to the organization's mission.

Minutes of AAUW February Meeting on Zoom
Secretary Deanna Tompkins
February 6, 2024

President Curran introduced our guest Sheila Allen. She is the President of the Hammondsport Alumni Association.

Tonight's presentation was given by Jennifer Sellers a staff member at Corning Community College. Jennifer runs Full STEAHM Ahead!

The Full STEAHM Ahead! Summer Workshop is a week long program at SUNY Corning Community College for area middle school girls focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Health, and Math education. The program is August 5-9, 2024, 8:30am-4:00pm for students completing 4th or 5th grade or entering 4th or 5th grade from Steuben, Schuyler, or Chemung counties.

President Curran opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

On a motion made by Nancy Cole, seconded by Mary White and carried, all approving the minutes from the January meeting.

President's Update

Bonnie Taggart, Linda Haley, Sally Jacoby Murphy and Suzanne Curran completed and submitted the survey conducted by AAUW National before the January due date. They were pleased at how well our Bath Branch appears on paper in relation to the Five Star Criteria.

Our Bath Branch has two delegates that can serve at the annual AAUW NYS hybrid business meeting that will be coming up this year on June 28th and 29th. Any member in good standing can serve. It's a good way to learn about what is going on at the state level. It is an opportunity to put faces to names of our state officers and to see our State Board in action. It can be done over Zoom although Carol, our State President, is hoping for a good turnout, in person, in the Poughkeepsie area of members throughout the state.

Bonnie Taggart will serve as one delegate.

March is Women's History Month. Our Branch has sponsored an essay contest for several years now for local 5th grade girls. Kristina Snavelly, one of our members, has headed up this project for its duration and wishes to pass the torch to a member who would like to get involved with this. It involves getting in touch with the principals at Hammondsport and Bath Haverling and asking that they share information about the essay contest with their 5th grade teachers. After essays are completed a committee composed of our members reads over the essays and has the difficult yet rewarding task of selecting the top essay writers. At our June scholarship banquet we have enjoyed having the girls and their mothers share their essay with us. It is always touching to meet the girls and hear what they have written. Contact President Curran if you are interested.

Treasurer's report–Juanita Rosenbloom: Juanita was not able to be at the meeting but she prepared a report. We have \$2870.03 in our bank account and that reflects an increase of \$13 since the last bank statement. We had a new member join at the end of December thus the payment into our account of \$13.

Public Policy–Michele Foster: Michele could not attend the meeting due to a last minute issue at work.

AAUW members have the opportunity learn more about the ERANY ballot amendment that awaits ratification on November 5th 2024 by attending a Zoom webinar to hear a presentation by the Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of NYS. The zoom link can be shared with family and friends. Register for this event that will take place on February 29th at 6:00pm. Check your email inbox for the link to register.

More help is needed for the Essay Contest. Christina Snavelly is passing the essay contest on to another member. She did a fantastic job with the contest. The job of the chair is to touch base with the principal and pull together a committee to select the winning Essay. Contact President Curran if you are interested.

Sally Jacoby Murphy spoke about the upcoming vote. AAUW is looking to open parameters of the membership to those without a college degree. People who want to join AAUW should be mission focus. Go to AAUW's website to vote. April 3- May 15.

Programs: Linda Haley/Lisa Herrick

The group would like to plan a trip to Seneca Falls on either March 9 or March 23 to the Women's History Museum. Get in touch with Linda or Lisa if you are interested.

Membership: Amanda Herrick Smith

Amanda reported that we have 41 members. If Laurie and Sheila join it will be 43.

EOF: Mary White and Annie Stone

Mary reported that we received the transcript from the 2023 winner. She received a 4.0 in her first semester. The EOF Fund has \$2,572.544 in a CD. It matured on Feb. 1. There is \$538.16 in the checking account. \$1,000 will go to Chelsea.

On a motion made by Nancy Cole, seconded by Linda Haley and carried, all voting Aye to donate \$500 in memory of Martha Treichler and Willie Bilancio to the National Education Fund.

One potential expenditure is to give \$70 to girls on the run. It will give enough money to sponsor a girl from Bath and Hammondsport.

On May 11 volunteers will be needed to pick up flowers and bring them to the firehall. Volunteers are also needed for the interview committee. Linda Haley, Ruth Barry, and Terry Underhill volunteered. Donna Sue Kerrick volunteered her truck.

Action Fund: Bonnie Taggart - No new update

Newsletter: Bridget Steele and Annie Stone- Bridget requested that if you are submitting anything for the Newsletter put AAUW Newsletter in the subject line.

DEI: Sally Jacoby Murphy/Linda Haley- No updates

Social Media: Thank you to Bridget who has been posting on Social media.

Old Business

Potential House Tours- A group met to explore the possibility of having house tours. They determined it will be \$25 pp. Dates still need to be explored.

Jerine Faber is organizing the play in October. It will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Bath. We can rent the space from 1-5 pm. We will charge \$20 a ticket.

The Nominating Committee has a slate of officers to be voted on at our April 2nd meeting:

Co-Presidents: Sally Jacoby Murphy and Ruth Barry

President Elect: Deanna Tompkins

EOF VP: Joan Rogerson

Secretary: Elfie Tompkins

Nominating Committee for 2025: Marianne Furfure, Mary White, and Carin Tobin

Jerine Faber spoke about the Fund for Women Event. Their mission is to further the career and education of females. Every year they have a fundraiser, this year it will be held on June 13th. The cost is \$125 pp for a table of eight. The following members are interested:

Linda, Nancy, Terry, Bonnie, Amanda, Suzanne, Mary and Ruth.

On February 24 from 6-9 pm come out to support Jerine at the Recyclable Runway. She has 3 designs in the show.

With no further business, on a motion made by Ruth Barry, seconded by Donna Sue Kerrick and carried all voting Aye to close the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Tompkins

News

EOF Report

We are donating \$500 to the National organization, Education and Training Fund, in memory of Martha Treichler and Willie Bilancio. We just received the straight A transcript from the 2023 High School recipient, Chelsey Stewart. Her \$1000 scholarship check is on its way. The 2024 applications have been distributed to the guidance counselors from Hammondsport, Bath and Prattsburgh. Ruth Barry, Linda Haley, Terry Underhill, Annie Stone, and Mary White will serve on the interview committee.

Our annual flower basket fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 11 with distribution at the pavilion behind the Hammondsport Fire Hall. Besides asking members to sell baskets to family and friends, we will need volunteers to work at the event on May 11th.

Donna Noteware and Donna Sue Kerrick have volunteered their vehicles to transport baskets from Penn Yan. Be on the lookout for Flyers!

From EOF Co-Vice President Mary White

From our President Suzanne Curran

There will be a vote this spring on the degree requirement for membership .

As AAUW has changed to adapt to a changing world, its membership requirements have changed many times to become more inclusive.

This change would allow all who support our mission to join with us.

The AAUW name will not change. For example, the Young Men's Christian Organization (YMCA) has progressed far beyond Men and Christians, yet they retain their name as their foundation.

AAUW will do the same.

Please visit the AAUW National website to familiarize yourself with the proposed bylaws changes.



News

League of Women Voters Zoom

You will find the link below to register for the upcoming webinar with the Deputy Directory of the League of Women Voters of NYS. The topic will be the upcoming vote November 5th here in NYS on ratifying the ERA NY amendment.

The webinar is free and the link can be shared with family and friends! Once you click on the link you will fill in your name and your email address and click the Register button.

It's a great opportunity for AAUW Bath Branch members to learn more about this historic vote. Equality will be on the vote in NYS.

By way of reference, Sandy Camillo is VP of Public Policy for AAUW NYS.

The registration link for the February 29, ERA NY Zoom presentation hosted by Erica Smitka, Deputy Director of League of Women Voters New York. **YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE.** Again, this is open to family and friends as well as to all our AAUW NY members. Here is the link to register.

Zoom Link

Women's History Field Trip

Celebrate Women's History with other AAUW-Bath Branch members in Seneca Falls on March 9th (inclement weather date - March 23) with a field trip to:

The Women's Rights National Historical Park,
136 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148. (315) 568-0024.

We will carpool from Hammondsport, meeting at 8:30am. We are currently a group of 5.

Contact Linda Haley if you'd like to join us. (607) 857-2771 haleys3984@gmail.com

This park consists of the Wesleyan Chapel, where the first women's rights convention took place, and a visitor center/museum about women's rights.

Admission is free.

Hours are 10am - 4pm Thurs - Sun. <https://www.nps.gov/wori/index.htm>.



VOTE ERA NY NOW

- ✓ On the ballot in November 2024
- ✓ Be informed! Join us for the discussion

February 29, 2024 6:00pm

Presentation by:

Erika Smitka
Deputy Director, LWV-NYS



Register

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtf-CqgTsuHtfMLEhS6sYdBPrNIPUCqRW](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZMtf-CqgTsuHtfMLEhS6sYdBPrNIPUCqRW)



Website: <https://aauw-nys.org>