



## THE NORTH COUNTRY CONNECTION

AAUW - NEW YORK STATE

November 2014

The St. Lawrence County Branch was founded in 1927  
PO Box 909, Potsdam, NY 13676-0909

### Branch Officers and Board Members 2014-15

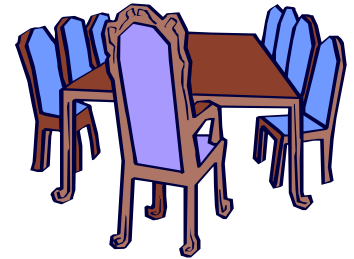
|                             |   |                 |                  |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| President:                  | Betty Connolly  | Development VP: | Sue Rice         |
| Program VP:                 | Tina Flanagan   | Secretary:      | Relani Prudhomme |
| Membership VP:              | JoAnn Rogers  | Open Windows:   | Faye White       |
| Treasurer:                  | Ann Carvill   | Public Policy:  | Kathy Stein      |
| Newsletter/PR:              | Donna Seymour   | Book Group:     | Pat Musante      |
| <b>Branch webpage:</b>      | <a href="http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw">http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw</a> |                 |                  |
| <b>District 7 Facebook:</b> | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/AAUWDistrict7">http://www.facebook.com/AAUWDistrict7</a>   |                 |                  |
| <b>AAUW-NYS webpage:</b>    | <a href="http://www.aauw-nys.org">http://www.aauw-nys.org</a>                               |                 |                  |

Check out the many events coming up in the next few weeks!



**Tuesday, November 4: VOTE** at your local polling place from 6 am to 9 pm. This year we'll be electing 15 St. Lawrence County Legislators, 4 state Assembly members and 3 State Senators, a new member of Congress from NY 21, the Governor, the Attorney General and the NYS Comptroller, as well as voting on 3 state-wide ballot initiatives!

**Saturday, November 15:** The AAUW Young Women's Leadership Institute - **Community Connections** – a day-long conference for young college women leaders from the four local colleges at in St. Lawrence University's Eben Holden hall. The keynote is by Clarkson's Dr. Dayle Smith and the closing talk is Dr. Kristen Esterberg, the new SUNY Potsdam president (the first woman to lead the college in its 198 year history!). Read the article on page 5.



**Wednesday, December 3 at 7 pm:** AAUW's **Laura Ettinger** will be interviewing former **Congresswoman Connie Morella** about her career (1987-20003) in the House of Representatives as a Moderate (remember when they were a valued part of the political landscape?). This special event will take place after the election, so we'll be asking the Congresswoman to look into her crystal ball for some insights in the 114th Congress. (Full details on page 7.)

**Saturday, December 6** – AAUW members from District 7 will woman the phone banks at **WPBS in Watertown** for their fall fund-raiser from 11 am to 5 pm if you would like to participate, we'll be car pooling from Canton. Contact Donna Seymour at 265-6985 to sign up! WPBS has been a great community partner with AAUW-District 7; this is our chance to give back. This will give AAUW a lot of North Country visibility – please join us.



## AAUW Book Group: Pat Musante

265-7230 (w) 353-6671 (h)

[musante@potsdamlibrary.org](mailto:musante@potsdamlibrary.org)



The AAUW-sponsored Book Group meets second Wednesday of every month at Noon for Lunch and a Book (bring a bag lunch) at the Potsdam Public Library. Guests are always welcome.

December 10: **A Child's Christmas in Wales** by Dylan Thomas - In print for fifty years, this gem of lyric prose has enchanted both young and old from its very first edition. Dylan Thomas, one of the greatest poets and storytellers of the twentieth century, captures a child's-eye view, and an adult's fond memories, of a magical time of presents, aunts and uncles, the frozen sea, and in the best of circumstances, newly fallen snow.

January 14, 2015: **The Swan Thieves** by Elizabeth Kostova - Kostova's masterful new novel travels from American cities to the coast of Normandy, from the late 19th century to the late 20th, from young love to last love, to create a story of obsession, history's losses, and the power of art to preserve human hope.

February 11, 2015: **The Alchemist** by Paulo Coelho - This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and inspiring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts.

March 11, 2015: **Up Country** by Nelson McMillen - Retired army homicide investigator Paul Brenner is asked by his former commanding officer to investigate a murder that took place in wartime Vietnam. Back in Vietnam, Brenner is plunged into a world of corruption and thrust back into a war that never ended.

April 8, 2015: **The Storied Life** of A. J. Fikry by Gabrielle Charbonnet - An unexpected occurrence gives Fikry the chance to make his life over and see things anew.

¡Adelante! Books of the Month 2014-15  
Personal growth and branch change go hand in hand. That's the idea behind the ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club, a component of AAUW's diversity outreach program. Book clubs are a fun, social way to open a dialogue on women, diversity, and change.

January 2015 (National Mentoring Month)

**What Works for Women at Work: Four Patterns Working Women Need to Know** By Joan C. Williams and Rachel Dempsey, with a forward by Anne-Marie Slaughter

An essential resource for any working woman, *What Works for Women at Work* is a comprehensive and insightful guide for mastering office politics as a woman.

Williams and Dempsey's analysis of working women is nuanced and in-depth, going far beyond the traditional cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all approaches of most career guides for women.

February 2015 (Black History Month)

**Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities**

By Craig Steven Wilder

Wilder lays bare uncomfortable truths about race, slavery, and the American academy.

Many of America's revered colleges and universities — from Harvard, Yale, and Princeton to Rutgers, Williams College, and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill — were soaked in the sweat, the tears, and sometimes the blood of people of color. Our leading universities, dependent on human bondage, became breeding grounds for the racist ideas that sustained them.

March 2015 (Women's History Month)

**My Beloved World** By Sonia Sotomayor

The first Hispanic person and the third woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself. Through her still-astonished eyes, America's infinite possibilities are envisioned anew in this warm and honest book, destined to become a classic of self-invention and self-discovery.

## From the President:

The St. Lawrence Branch of AAUW is making a difference!

At the Fall membership meeting in October over thirty gathered to hear Daisy Cox, Director of the Potsdam Neighbor Center share the needs of the emergency food banks in the County. We made a difference by providing over 100 pounds of food to the SUNY Canton food pantry donated at the meeting.



Our next action item will be the Community Connections on November 15, 2014. We are partnering with the Associated Colleges of St. Lawrence Valley to bring together 100 college students and women leaders of the community to discuss women's leadership, initiate mentoring and offer ideas about future programming. This is the first in a series of leadership development events and is designed to make a difference to the young women in the Canon-Potsdam area. Read more on Page 5!

Join us in making a real difference-become a member!

**Betty Connolly**

## AAUW District 7 Leaders Meet



Recently leaders from both the Jefferson County and St. Lawrence County Branches of AAUW met in Gouverneur to discuss joint programming efforts. Among the topics discussed were Human Trafficking and education issues covering Hour of Code, STEM and the Common Core. Watch for more information in the months to come!

Pictured are: Relani Prudhomme, Canton, Gabi Hoover, Theresa, Peggy Coe, Watertown and Lynn Schwabenthal, Felts Mill (front row), and Erika Montandon, Watertown, Betty Connolly, South Colton, Donna Seymour, Potsdam, Karen Carr, Watertown, Andrea Pedrick, Dexter and Tracy Gyoerkoe, Watertown (second row).

# SAVE THE DATE!

## April 17th - 19th, 2015



### THE 2015 AAUW NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION:

#### AAUW Leading the Way: Women Leadership in the 21st Century

#### Special Recognition:

A celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the AAUW Buffalo Branch

#### Workshops will address topics such as :

- 21st Century Education Issues
- The Trial, Tribulations and Triumphs of Women Elected Officials: Women Leading NY into the 21st Century
- Countdown to the Century of Women's Right to Vote in the US
- Domestic Violence and Women's Self Empowerment
- And more!

AAUW develops women leaders by strengthening their sense of empowerment. Don't miss this exciting opportunity!\*

\* Registration information will be on the AAUW-NYS website beginning in January 2015

## North Country Matters - Fall 2014 Show List

### College Leadership Series:

**Dr. Zvi Szafran**, the new president of **SUNY Canton** (Sept. 16, 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiM0kae2gjY>

**Dr. Kristen Esterberg**, the new president of **SUNY Potsdam** (Oct. 14, 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzmYz97ZWv4>

**Jefferson Community College President Dr. Carole McCoy** (Oct. 14, 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BruRr0v6ll>

The **AAUW Student Leadership Insitute** with **Lynn Fox**, local Chair for AAUW- St. Lawrence County Branch (Oct. 21, 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14JQjUgWthk>

### Public Education Series:

**Gazing into the Common Core Crystal Ball** with **Tom Burns**, the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES School Superintendent (Oct. 14, 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivxGvITX4e8>

**Steve Todd**, the **Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Superintendent** (Oct. 24, 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9oRVqitc40>

### Public Policy Issues Series:

**St. Lawrence County Community Food Security Assessment** with **Heather Sullivan-Caitlin** (Sept. 9, 2014) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkJSAzXiuQl>

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month** with **Valarie Dana** and **Caitlin Hill**, from Renewal House (Oct. 3, 2014) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBSFJA6GHlq>

**Greg Hart** from the **Regional Workforce Development Institute** (Sept. 16, 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykRscFLOnik>

**Andrea Montgomery**, Director of the **St. Lawrence County Office of the Aging** (Oct. 31, 2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjmoINfw8lw>

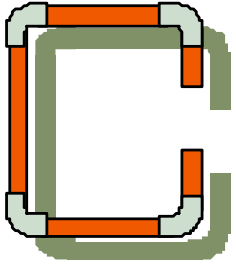
**Jeanette Zoeckler**, Occupational Health Clinical Center Project Manager, **The Low-Wage Workers' Health Project** (Oct. 31, 2014)

**Marie Regan**, AAUW member and Supervisor of the Town of Potsdam; **Town Check Up** (Nov. 7, 2014)

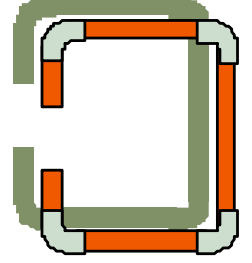
**Dan Dullea**, Director of the Center of Excellence in Communication at Clarkson University, **Drones, Ethics and Privacy** (Nov. 7, 2014)

North Country Matters is the local public affairs video magazine produced by WCKN under the direction of Dan Dullea of the Center of Excellence in Communication at Clarkson University. The NCM civic partners working to educate North Country residents about critical public policy issues facing our region include AAUW-St. Lawrence County, the League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County, and Clarkson Media and Mass Communication students, who provide the technical expertise for the productions. The shows are filmed at the WCKN studio on the Clarkson campus.

This 10<sup>th</sup> NCM season's schedule was our most ambitious ever. In addition to the shows you see listed above, we did 8 Conversations with Candidates and a show on the Canton-Potsdam School Merger. All the shows can be seen on WCKN, Time Warner Digital cable 30, or on YouTube anytime. We'll be back in the spring semester with more new shows. Anyone with an idea for a show is invited to contact Kathy Stein or Donna Seymour. See a full listing with links on the branch website at <http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaaauw/NCMshows.htm>.



The AAUW Young Women's Leadership Institute  
**Community Connections**  
Saturday, November 15, 2014

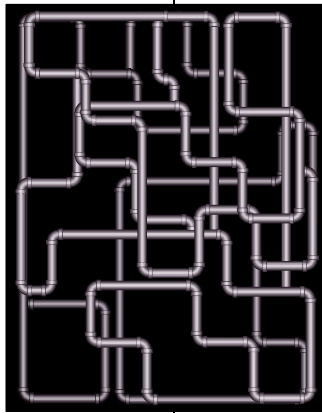


AAUW is committed to leadership development for girls and women and the St. Lawrence County Branch is designing a new leadership development institute for young women in the Canton-Potsdam area. Utilizing local women leaders, AAUW intends to provide mentors and leadership education opportunities to students from the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley (ACSLV) on an on-going basis, with occasional conferences on topics of concern. Over time, an additional goal is to train and encourage the college students to mentor and support younger girls in the community. This initiative is meant to support young female leaders by providing participants with leadership skill training, enterprise development, networking opportunities, and mentoring relationships.

On November 15th, 2014, a "Community Connections" conference on the St Lawrence University Campus will bring together students from the four colleges and women leaders from the community to discuss women's leadership, initiate mentoring relationships, and offer additional insights about potential programming. It is expected that 100 to 120 students will participate in the conference along with 25-30 women leaders. The conference is supported with funding from the Associated Colleges of the St Lawrence Valley and the AAUW. Speakers for the event are **Dr. Dayle Smith**, Dean of the School of Business at Clarkson University and **Dr. Kristin Esterberg**, President of SUNY Potsdam.

The opening talk by Dr. Smith will be followed by lunch and discussion with women leaders from the

community who will serve as table hosts. A cross section of political, business, academic, non-profit leaders have been invited. Information garnered in spring 2014 student focus groups will be used by the organizers to create a discussion agenda for the tables. A dessert reception after the luncheon and Dr. Esterberg's remarks will allow attendees to meet attending community leaders who were not hosts at their table, increasing the possibilities for networking.



The organizers plan to follow up the conference with other events and workshops in the spring. A website will also be unveiled shortly after the conference where attendees and others interested in encouraging women's leadership will be able to find information about the local follow-up

activities, future conference plans, and links to other relevant sites.

---

### Watch the North Country Matters Video:

**Lynn Fox**, a member of the St. Lawrence County Branch of the American Association of University Women, is the Chair of the AAUW Young Women's Leadership Institute, modeled on AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). She and Donna Seymour, the AAUW-NYS Public Policy VP, discuss women's leadership, the local event on Nov. 15, and the why more women need to run for elected office. They showcase the Elect Her - Campus Women Win program by AAUW and Running Start.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14JQjUgWthk>

## Eleanor Roosevelt and Friends are the Focus of the Family Book Series at the Potsdam Public Library



Just as AAUW sponsors a Book Group for adults (see page 2), now we are collaborating with the Potsdam Public Library (the recipient of this year's Potsdam Commitment to the Community Award!) on a Family Reading and Discussion Group for students in 4th to 6th grade.

Eleanor Roosevelt, born on October 11, 1884, is honored and recognized throughout the world as an icon of democracy. The Family Reading Series will be exploring the impact of Mrs. Roosevelt and her friends through a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities to host a Family Reading and Discussion Group for 2014-15.

Youth Services librarian Sarah Sachs has chosen a mix of picture books and nonfiction texts to explore the influence of this famous first lady, particularly on pioneers like Amelia Earhart and Marian Anderson. The five books will be discussed over five months: Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 14, Jan. 18 and Feb. 22, all from 2 – 3:30 p.m. For more information and to register, contact Sarah Sachs at 315-265-7230 or [ssachs@potsdamlibrary.org](mailto:ssachs@potsdamlibrary.org). More families are welcome to participate!

---

## 24<sup>th</sup> annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Gender-Based Violence!

Positioning the 16 Days Campaign from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and December 10 (Human Rights Day) rightfully stresses that gender-based violence is an international human rights violation. In the lead up to, and during, the 16 days of activism, participants will highlight the systemic nature of gender-based violence and militarism which encourages inequality and discrimination and prioritizes weapons spending over funding for quality education and healthcare and safe public spaces.



The culture of militarism builds on and protects systems of power by controlling dissent and using violence to settle economic, political and social disputes. Militarism draws on and perpetuates patriarchal models of political, economic, and social domination of people by a small number of elites and privileges violent masculinity as acceptable behavior.

The 16 Days Campaign focus on the intersections of gender-based violence and militarism is an effort to work toward a more equitable and peaceful world. In a global effort, thousands of organizations are working in 172 countries to raise awareness about the pervasiveness of the multiple forms of violence women face. Learn more at <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/>.

# Congresswoman Constance A. Morella

Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow and  
Former Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

will be at St. Lawrence University and in the North Country from  
Monday, December 1 – Friday, December 5, 2014  
You are invited to these events:

**Lecture: “Tripping on High Heels:  
Women's Progress Despite the Potholes and High Hurdles”**  
Tuesday, December 2 at 4:30 pm – SLU's Sykes Common Room

**The North Country Matters ~ Clarkson Conversation:  
“An Interview with Congresswoman Connie Morella”**  
Wednesday, December 3 at 7 pm  
Clarkson University in the CAMP Building, Room 177  
Building 13 on the campus map: <http://www.clarkson.edu/about/map.html>  
Cosponsored by AAUW-St. Lawrence County, SLC League of Women Voters

**Lecture: “Mending the Broken Branch of Government”**  
Thursday, December 4 at 7:30 pm in SLU's Eben Holden

Constance A. Morella served as Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) from 2003-2007 and is the first United States Ambassador to the OECD ever to have served in the United States Congress. From 1987 until 2003, Morella represented Maryland's 8th Congressional District where she developed a national reputation as a leading advocate for women, children, and families.



During her sixteen years in the House of Representatives, Morella was a leader in efforts to promote economic growth through science and technology, serving as a member of the House Committee on Science and chairing the Subcommittee on Technology. A strong supporter of economic growth through free trade, Morella advocated for liberalized trade rules and heightened international engagement. She chaired the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, advancing efforts to promote access to micro-enterprise capital among women in developing countries.

On her watch as Ambassador to OECD, she was a key participant in the negotiations and agreements leading to a strategy of enlargement to include five potential country members: Chile, Estonia, Israel, Russia, and Slovenia. She also advanced the program to engage with the rapidly developing countries of Brazil, India, Indonesia, China, and South Africa as well as the Southeast Asia region.

She is on the board of the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange, Institute for Representative Government, Cafritz Foundation Advisory Board, and the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs. She was appointed by President Obama in 2010 to the American Battle Monuments Commission. In 2009, she was appointed Ambassador in Residence at American University School of Public Affairs where she teaches “Women, Politics, and Public Policy.”

# *The AAUW Calendar of Events*

**November 4: Election Day**

**November 11: Veteran's Day**

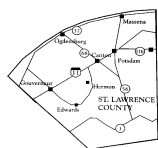
**November 12: Latina's Equal Pay Day** – when they catch up to men's 2013 earnings.

**November 15: AAUW-St. Lawrence County's Student Leadership Institute** at SLU's Eben Holden Hall. Details on page 5.

**November 19: Branch Board meeting** at SUNY Canton in Room 208 of the Miller Campus Center at 4:30 pm. We'll hear a report on the Student Leadership conference.

**December 3: Former Ambassador and Congresswoman Constance Morella** will be at Clarkson's CAMP Building on the hill campus at 7 pm to discuss the election and her role as a Moderate during her time in Congress. AAUW is cosponsoring this event. All are welcome. Full details on page 7.

The **American Association of University Women** advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. AAUW is 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. The **AAUW Educational Foundation** provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change. The **AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.



## THE NORTH COUNTRY CONNECTION

November 2014 Newsletter

Editor: Donna Seymour

8 Cedar Street, Potsdam, NY 13676

**Because Equity is Still an Issue**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BRANCH, NEW YORK STATE

Visit our webpage at [www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw](http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw)