

# AAUW-St. Lawrence County Branch News & Notes for March 27, 2017

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



A busy few weeks coming up for AAUW-St. Lawrence County:

**March 28:** Join [AAUW's Online Chat](#) with the Author of a New Book on Justices O'Connor and Ginsburg at 8 pm. Register to join the conversation.

**March 28-29-30: 17th annual Professional Clothing Fair Students by AAUW & SUNY Canton** - Students can "shop" on **March 28 from 10 am - 5 pm**. The general public is welcome on **March 28 from 10 am - 6 pm** and on **March 30 from 10 am - 5 pm**. "Gently used" or new clothing and accessories will be available for free, thanks to the generous donations of many North Country organizations and people.

**March 28:** In celebration of Women's History Month, Planned Parenthood of the North Country, Inc., and the St. Lawrence University Democrats are sponsoring a free screening of [Connie Cook: A Documentary](#), a film about visionary, reformer, and legislator, Constance Cook, a Republican Assemblywoman who decriminalized abortion in New York State in 1970 and upon whose work the *Roe V Wade* decision was based. Two years in the making, the film by Sue Perlgut and Nils Hoover of CloseToHome Productions, tells the story of Connie's life. The film will be screened at St. Lawrence University, Sullivan Student Center, Winston Room, 23 Romoda Drive. Filmmaker Sue Perlgut and staff of Planned Parenthood will hold a "talk back" discussion after the screening. Donations to support Planned Parenthood will be gratefully accepted.

**March 29 :** [Hidden Figures](#), showing at Clarkson and co-sponsored by AAUW, is a film screening of the movie which chronicles the true story of the African-American women who provided NASA with important mathematical data needed to launch the US's first successful space missions. After the film, we are hoping to have a panel discussion with African-American women mathematicians, scientists, and engineers who are Clarkson alumnae. [AAUW, Clarkson co-sponsoring 'Hidden Figures' film.](#)

The poster is for a Wednesday event on March 29th. It features a central image of three African-American women standing in front of a large archway, with the title 'HIDDEN FIGURES' overlaid. The text on the poster includes:

**WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 29TH**

Panel of African-American  
Clarkson University Alumnae  
5:30 p.m.  
Clarkson Student Center Forum

*Hidden Figures* Screening  
6:30 p.m.  
Clarkson Student Center Forum

Alumnae Panelists

**Melissa Carole Richards**  
BS, Mechanical Eng., '01 Clarkson University  
MS, Mechanical Eng., '06 Clarkson University  
PhD, Mechanical Eng., anticipated in '18 | Clarkson University  
Upon completion of her degree, Melissa will be the first African American woman to earn a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at Clarkson

**Lauren Lager**  
BS, Mechanical Eng., Aeronautical Eng., '11 Clarkson University  
Lead Engineer in Blades, Nacelles, and Spinners Center of Excellence at GE Renewable Energy

**Simon L. Cannon**  
BS, Chemical Eng., '01 Clarkson University  
MBA, Strategic Management | University of Maryland, College Park  
Executive Doctoral Business Candidate | Georgia State University  
General Manager, Fuel Division, Logistics Organization at Delta Air Lines

Dr. Laura Ettinger, Associate Professor of History at Clarkson University, will moderate this discussion.

Clarkson University Sponsors: Office of Student Life (OSL), Humanities & Social Sciences Department, David A. Walsh Arts & Sciences Seminar, DUPO, SPECTRUM, CUB, GUSA, & Student Success, Diversity, & Inclusion.  
Co-Sponsored by the St. Lawrence County American Association of University Women

**March 30: The YWLI presents Leading From the Bottom-Up--How to Take A Leadership Role Without the Title** at Mama Lucia's, Potsdam, from 5-6 pm; Social Hour with guest speaker [Rebekah Grim](#). [RSVP HERE](#).

**April 2-8:** Plan to take action during [International Anti-Street Harassment Week](#) and help bring local and international attention to the issues.

**April 4:** [Equal Pay Day](#)

**April 11:** YWLI & AAUW present a **Start Smart Salary Negotiation Seminar** at Clarkson University Campus in Snell Hall from 5:30 – 9 PM (Food Provided). This seminar is specific to female salary negotiation techniques and strategies. [Register HERE](#)

**April 12:** Sheryl Scales, “**How Common Core Got It Right?!: Let’s Explore the Lesser-Known Stories**” from 12 noon to 1 pm in SUNY Potsdam’s Rebecca V. Sheard Literacy Center Balcony, Satterlee Hall. This presentation is part of the SUNY Potsdam Spring 2017 [Disciplined Inquiry in Education Seminar Series](#).

**April 13:** Diane Wilcox, the Social Security District manager for DO 116, will be speaking in Dr. JoAnn Rogers' "Wealth, Health, Inequality and the Environment" class from 2:30 to 3:35 pm in Room 169 at Snell Hall, Clarkson University. She will talk about how important Social Security is to people’s financial security throughout the lifetime. The public is invited.

**April 14:** AAUW: Tune In for Our Panel on How to #StandUptoSexism - [The F-Word: How to Be a Feminist in the Workplace](#) at 1 pm. This panel will focus on the challenges women face while navigating their feminism at work. AAUW’s new #StandUptoSexism campaign has sparked lively conversation on social media, in the news, and in communities. AAUW and NYU Washington, DC, are convening a series of panel conversations now through October 2017 to keep this important dialogue going both online and off. Join us online or in person for this discussion series to learn how to fight gender bias in your thoughts, at your workplace, and through your activism. If you can’t make it in person, join us for a livestream of the event!

**April 15:** SUNY Potsdam's GSA and Center for Diversity are co-hosting this year's annual **GAY PRIDE MARCH at 11 am**. Starts at the Main Street parking lot (arrive by 10:30 am) and goes to Knowles Conference center for guest speakers, activities and refreshments.

**Saturday, April 15:** NY 21 Town Hall Meeting with (or without) Elise Stefanik from 4-6 pm in the Hugh C. Williams Senior High School Auditorium, 99 State Street, Canton, NY 13617. Doors open at 3:15 pm. This non-partisan Citizens Town Hall event has been created by citizens of NY District 21 who wish to have an open and honest face-to-face meeting with Rep. Elise Stefanik. While our Congresswoman has held many small meetings behind closed doors and tele-town halls, we would like to open up the opportunity for her to meet in a public forum where an active back and forth dialogue is more possible, and where she must go on record with her views.

**April 24: AAUW Branch Board meeting**, 4 pm, Location TBA at St. Lawrence University. All members are welcome.

**April 28 & 29 @ 7 pm and 30 at 2 pm:** [Working in the North Country](#), An Original Musical about the New York that Nobody Knows! An original musical will highlight north country workers - Relani Prudhomme, the producer, said the script was based on interviews with 20 different north country workers in various types of jobs. They included construction workers, immigrant dairy farm workers, food service employees, cleaners, health care workers, people who work with developmentally disabled and others. The play shows in Pickens Hall, 83 State St., Heuvelton.

**May 17: Women In Engineering Day at SUNY Canton**, co-sponsored by AAUW-St. Lawrence County. See what we did [last year!](#)

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## North Country Matters Spring 2017 Show List

### **Bobby Gordon, Potsdam Public Library's Fred W. Cleveland Computer Center Coordinator**

North Country Matters explores the Potsdam Public Library's Computer Center and the many ways it serves the community. Bobby Gordon who serves as the Computer Center Coordinator for the Library talks with NCM host Donna Seymour. (Feb. 3, 2017) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Scg0JHsLQiE>

### **Sue Dragan, The Stephen Ministry Caregivers Program**

North Country Matters looks at caregiving through the lens of the Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministry Leader Sue Dragan talks about the program with NCM host Donna Seymour. Stephen Ministries of St. Louis, MO is a not-for-profit, trans-denominational, religious and educational organization. (Feb. 3, 2017) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoMHbch3mnk>

### **Addie Jenne, 116th "River District" Assemblywoman**

In this North Country Matters, we talk with Assemblywoman Addie Jenne who represents the 116th Assembly "River District" seat. She discusses the start of the Legislative session and what she thinks will take priority as the legislators come to grips with the budget, education funding, and other issues of interest to her constituents in the North Country. (Feb. 10, 2017) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlnI9OkhIA8>

### **Sue Rice, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the VITA program**

It is tax filing season, so North Country Matters takes a look at two important tax programs that benefit local families with Sue Rice. The Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable federal tax credit for low- to moderate-income working individuals and couples, particularly those with children. It is one of the best and one of the largest anti-

poverty tools we have. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who meet certain guidelines. (Feb. 10, 2017)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpBwdd8imno>

### **Being Mortal, Mary Jones, Hospice and Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley**

North Country Matters explores end-of-life issues, both globally and in our local communities. Mary Jones of Hospice and Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley talks with NCM host Bess Kirnie in a conversation that touches us all. (Feb. 21, 2017)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYLZo\\_mHlwg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYLZo_mHlwg)

### **Bob Gorman, Poverty in the North Country and the ALICE Report**

Bob Gorman, the Executive Director of the United Way of Northern NY, talk about Poverty in the North Country and what the ALICE Report can tell us about the families who are struggling to make ends meet in our communities. He and NCM host Donna Seymour examine the county statistics, what lies behind the numbers, and how communities can help these families. (March 17, 2017)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9HIYuGNdvl>

### **Lead Exposure & The Workers' Memorial Theater Project 2017**

Relani Prudhomme, the Outreach/Education Coordinator for the Occupational Health Clinical Center of the North Country, discusses the risks and consequences of lead exposure with NCM host Donna Seymour. They also talk about the Workers Memorial Day theater project and OHCC fund-raiser, **Working in the North Country**, An Original Musical about the New York that Nobody Knows!, that will be shown in late April at Pickens Hall in Heuvelton. (March 21, 2017)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xET\\_c2kFhPE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xET_c2kFhPE)

### **Steve Todd, Education Matters**

Steve Todd, the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Superintendent, NCM host Donna Seymour to discuss education matters and trends in his 18 component schools and New York State. They discuss federal changes in education focus, state education funding, poverty, health concerns, and testing. (March 24, 2017)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQYAJ6nVMjw>

### **Julie Vaisey, Neighborhood Center for Parishville, Colton, & Pierrepont**

Julie Vaisey is the Director of the CDP Neighborhood Center for Colton, Parishville & Pierrepont, one six such centers that are part of the CDP network in St. Lawrence County. The St. Lawrence County Community Development Program - known as CDP, is a private, not-for-profit agency that serves St. Lawrence County. She discusses the work of her Neighborhood Center to meet the needs of the folks in her three towns.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUG1yqwrFiM>

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Apply for 2017 AAUW Memorial Scholarship by May 1

The St. Lawrence County Branch of the American Association of University Women is now accepting applications for its 2017 Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to a female SUNY Canton student who is a permanent resident of St. Lawrence County continuing her higher education by transitioning from a local two-year college program to an accredited four-year program.

The \$500 scholarship is a one-time award. Applicants must have a GPA of at least 2.5 to apply. Preference will be given to non-traditional aged women who show leadership and community service potential and are pursuing their degree in one science, technology, engineering or math.

The 2017 AAUW Scholarship is given in memory of long-time member Beverly Darnell Washburn (1931-2015). Mrs. Washburn was a fifth and sixth grade Social Studies teacher at Potsdam Central School from 1966 until retirement in 1986. She enlisted in the US Air Force and was stationed in San Antonio, TX from 1949 until 1953. She was a founding member of the Women's Air Force band, as tuba player, which formed in 1951 and performed until it's merging with the men's band in 1960.



She was a member of the St. Lawrence County Branch, AAUW, where she served as treasurer for several years. She and her husband, Dr. Robert Washburn, visited over 76 countries on six continents in the course of their careers, both for pleasure and for research, traveling extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, the Orient, South America, Africa, and Australia.

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Download a copy of the Spring Issue of the NYS Focus  
<http://www.aauw-nys.org/attached%20files/focus/2017-Spring-FOCUS.pdf>

Read all about the **AAUW-NYS Convention** coming next month in April.

This year's Convention is very special because 2017 is the centenary of women's rights in New York State, so it's a study, a retrospective, and a testament to all of the courageous women who came before us and whose many legacies we enjoy today. These women all had one thing in common: they understood that women were innately powerful and that once summoned, this power would elevate women to gender equality.



April 21 - 23, 2017 at the DoubleTree Inn  
in Syracuse, New York