

Upstate Update

AMSTERDAM * GLOVERSVILLE* JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

- The American Association of University Women advances equity for woman and girls through advocacy, education and research.
- In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

2012 – 2013

April

Branch Officers:

Presidents

Liz Russo

Linda Hammond

Vice Presidents - Program

Anne Campos

Ginni Mazur

Vice President – Membership

Trish Isabella

Catherine Julius

Vice President – Edu Opp Fund

Anya Biel

Vice President – Legal Advocacy

Danielle Scahff-Turchin

Recording Secretary

Bonnie Van Wie

Treasurer – Ella Ryder

Membership Treasurer

Michele Acquaro

Our postcard campaign to our US Senators to ask their support for the Violence Against Women Act had a happy ending when VAWA passed not only the Senate, but also the House and was voted into law. AAUW fought for this version of VAWA because it will create meaningful change on college campuses, which is essential in light of high-profile cases of rape and sexual assault. Colleges and universities will now be required to create prevention programs for students and have greater transparency in reporting and better services for victims.

In addition, our branch board voted to unite with 500 other organizations including other NY State AAUW branches in joining the NY State Women's Equality Coalition to support Governor Cuomo's 10 point Women's Equality Agenda.

Meanwhile, out at the college, the AAUW Student Organization at FM helped write messages on tags and attach them to HUG

Bears in preparation for distribution to the Domestic Violence Shelters in Fulton and Montgomery Counties. Planning is also underway for the Women's Panel - "Leading by Example" - to be held April 10 at noon at FM in Raider's Cove.

After an enjoyable lunch and book discussion in February, the second one is scheduled for Equal Pay Day, April 9. We are happy that additional members will be joining us around the table. The Adelante book discussion lunches seem to be gaining momentum and as a result may be continuing through the summer for those interested in reading, meeting, and eating!

We are busy getting ready for convention: collecting items to fill donated purses for the LAF fundraiser, soliciting pledges for the swimathon, preparing branch displays, and encouraging more members to register before the April 5 deadline. So far six will be attending from our branch.

Co-President's Message

Even though there is still snow on the ground, the calendar tells us that spring has arrived! We hope that more hours of sunlight will encourage members to get out to the branch evening meetings we have lined up for the coming months. During the last days of winter we have been busy.

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- ♦ The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

Our March meeting had a great turnout with several guests attending to hear our speaker. Thanks to Bev Alves for a very well-prepared, informative presentation on Single Payer Health Insurance and Palliative Care. In addition, special appreciation goes to Trish Isabella for making the arrangements for the dinner at the Raindancer Restaurant and to Sonnet Gravina for taking reservations. It was good seeing new faces at our meeting. We hope to see even more of our members at our April 25 annual meeting at Harold's in Gloversville as we look forward to a visit from Joan Monk, the AAUW NYS District Coordinator and "Unofficial Director of Whimsy" who will speak on AAUW Memories and Reflections. We will also be voting on the slate of officers (see below) and the budget for 2013-14.

Looking ahead, our May meeting focuses on Domestic Violence. A list of items needed by the local Domestic Violence Shelter have been included in this newsletter to give everyone time to shop perhaps at sales for items to donate at the May meeting. Contact Anne Campos with any questions.

Please note that due to the AAUW National Convention conflict, we voted to change the date of our June branch picnic meeting to Wednesday, June 26. It will still be held at Peck's Lake at the home of Maryann Abad.

In addition, to round out our officers for 2013-14, we still

need a Newsletter Editor and a VP for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Will you volunteer?

--Liz Russo

AGJ Website Interruption

Sat 3/30/13

6:00 AM to 2 PM EDT

www.agj-ny.aauw.net

April 25 Dinner Meeting -



Speaker Joan Monk

Topic: "AAUW Memories & Reflections from the "Unofficial Director of Whimsy"

Join us at Harold's Restaurant, W. Fulton St. in Gloversville for our annual meeting. We are fortunate to have NY State AAUW District Coordinator Joan Monk from the Poughkeepsie branch, as our speaker. A dinner buffet will be served. The cost is \$20 and reservations are due to Connie Chamberlain by April 18. (See attached flyer.)

Joan Monk is a fairy tale enthusiast and creator of Enchanted Circles: Personal & Professional Development through Mythic Story. Her email moniker is 'ftmaven' because of her passion for fairy tales. As the former Education Director of the Peter Pan Children's Fund, she has unlimited access to pixie dust, sprinkling it wherever she goes!

In 2005, Joan received the "Second Star to the Right Award" from the Peter Pan Children's Fund in honor of the philanthropy pilot program developed and implemented at Paideia School 15 in Yonkers, NY. This work, entitled "Get Hooked on Peter Pan," is the foundation of the Philanthropy Education Guide and outreach of the Peter Pan Children's Fund today. Her latest fairy tale endeavor is The Enchanted Book/Film Club, working with seniors as they explore "Bridging the Generation Gap: The Fairy Tale Connection."

As a Master Teacher in the Yonkers Public Schools, Joan has been "working her magic" lovingly there for nearly four decades. She considers herself "an inspired, not retired" educator, having worked as an early childhood teacher, parent trainer, workshop leader, and college professor. Through local teacher centers, her fairy tale seminars were popular with teachers from Pre K-Grade 12. Joan was honored as 2005 Teacher of the Year in Yonkers and also by the United Nations with the CTAUN (Committee on Teaching about the United Nations) Award for Best Practices in Literacy. Her project is entitled "Fairy Tales: From Inner Peace to World Peace." She received this award again in 2011 for her project, My Sister's Keeper.

Now she is putting volunteer work center stage in her encore career. The American Association of University Women, Jacob Burns Film Center, and

Westchester Children's Museum all benefit from her energy and enthusiasm. Joan is active on the AAUW NYS Board as District Director and has served as International Affairs Chair and Cultural Interests Director. Joan also serves on the Leadership Board of The Academy for Character Education at the Sage Colleges, Troy, NY and received their "2012 Volunteer of the Year Award." She lives in Yorktown with Rob the husband, Toto the dog, and Binky the cat. –Liz

Election of Officers will take place at our April 25 meeting.

The Slate of Officers is listed below. Nominations will be accepted from the floor the night of the meeting.

Slate of Officers

New term 2013-2015

Co-Presidents: Linda Hammond
Elizabeth Russo

Recording Secretary:

Bonnie Van Wie

Corresponding Secretary

(Newsletter): OPEN

Continuing Officers

(Term 2012-2014):

Treasurer: Ella Ryder

Co- VP Membership:

Catherine Julius

Patricia Isabella

Co- VP Program:

Connie Chamberlain

Darcelle Winchell

Program Committee:

Sandra Maceyka

Ella Ryder

Beverly Alves

Jeremy Spraggs

VP-Legal Advocacy Fund: Open

WEB UPDATE

Have you seen the new AAUW logo?



Along with the new logo, a new branding program was rolled out. The look of our National AAUW website is a nice change. Have you visited the site recently? Site Resources is currently working on the branches website design. When you view our website, the design at the top of the page and along the right side of the page was created and maintained by National. When they have finished the design work which will include AAUW's new logo and match the organization's new color palette, the template will be uploaded to our site.

Broken links – You may experience a couple of disconnects on various parts of the website. This is because of the changes in the URLs made as a result of the web design. Links will be repaired in the near future.

New Page on our Website – *Program Speakers*: Videos from our September meeting are finally uploaded onto our site. This page is located under "Newsletters". –Linda Hammond

April 5 Deadline to Register for the NY State AAUW Convention in Lake Placid

It's not too late to register for the NY State AAUW convention which will be held April 26-28 at the High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid. It promises to be a weekend of inspiring workshops and speakers, good food, and good company. Those attending can get a better idea of what AAUW is all about and make new friends with AAUW members from across the state. Our branch is entitled to send 3 delegates to vote on issues regarding AAUW business. Our branch has budgeted to pay the \$45 registration fee for those who attend and serve as delegates. Additionally, the cost of a room for Friday and Saturday which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch are \$504.65 for a single; \$350.69 for a double; and \$314.14 for a triple. So far, Linda Hammond, Liz Russo, Sandy Maceyka, Patsy Suydam, Catherine Julius, and Ella Ryder plan to attend. Please contact Linda or Liz if you are interested in also attending and would be willing to serve as a delegate or an alternate.

–Liz Russo

LAF Purses for Convention!

Part of our branch LAF donation is from our donation to the raffle/silent auction at the state Convention this April 26-28 in Lake Placid. Sandy Lane and Nancy Reynolds have each donated a purse. I hope some of

you can donate items to go in a purse. Examples would be a wallet, key ring, gloves, comb, mirror, scarf, etc. Please let me know ASAP if you have any items to donate and then we can probably see what we have and decide if there is more needed. Thanks a lot. --Sandy Maceyka

Branch Emerging Leader to be Honored at State Convention

AAUW provides a platform for developing leaders. The 2013 AAUW-NYS Emerging Leader Award will recognize one AAUW member from each branch who demonstrates leadership potential through her enthusiasm, creative ideas, and commitment to AAUW's mission. The nominee can be an existing member who now assumes leadership positions in the branch or a new member. Each branch in New York State is asked to select **one** person only who has shown through her actions and ideas that she should be selected as the branch's Emerging Leader. Each honoree will be recognized by AAUW-NYS at the 2013 State Convention.



We are proud to nominate Catherine Julius as the Emerging Leader for the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown AAUW branch. Catherine Julius joined AAUW in September 2011.

In January 2012 she stepped forward to assist with our Pancake Breakfast fundraiser by organizing ticket distribution and collection of ticket money. She continued to carry out these duties for our 2013 Pancake Breakfast as well. Last spring we also approached her to audit the books. She carried out both tasks efficiently and with great care to detail. She exhibited her interest in AAUW by attending the NYS AAUW Leadership Conference last summer in Cazenovia. In addition, Catherine has become an avid AAUW recruiter wherever she goes. As a result, we asked her to serve as co-Membership VP, a position she is serving at present. In that capacity, she updated the branch membership brochure, writes the new member biographies for our branch newsletter, and has single handedly recruited four new members to our branch.

Catherine will be honored at the NY State Convention at Lake Placid on Friday evening along with Emerging Leaders from other NYS branches. --Liz Russo

Income Tax Preparation is at Hand.

A reminder that Forty-six (\$46) of the AAUW National dues are 501 C (3) charitable donations to an organization and therefore are tax deductible for 2012.

(If you need a receipt, please contact Liz Russo)

Fistula Repair Fund Contributions

Thank you to all who have contributed to date to the Fistula Repair Fund to cover the cost of a fistula repair surgery. We will continue collecting through June as part of the NYS AAUW My Sister's Keeper initiative. Donations will be accepted at upcoming meetings or may be sent to Linda Hammond. We can think of it as a way to "Fill a Bucket" for a woman less fortunate.

--Liz Russo

Sister to Sister Update

Our 14th annual Sister to Sister Summit will be held at FM on Tuesday, May 21, 2013. We have 12 workshops on STEM and a Tech Savy theme. In addition to the ones we had last year, we have a Communication workshop that will incorporate TV productions and use the newly acquired communication equipment. We also have a new hands-on Science Experimentation workshop. This year we will be on the FM campus for the entire day. The student gift bags have been ordered and received, our student, chaperone, and presenter folders are in, and Patsy is working hard to get the materials ready for the schools so that Sue Summerfield and Melanie Pombrio can get them in the mail to the schools by April 8 after everyone gets back from Spring Break. Donations are coming in to help offset the cost of the summit, but we will not be receiving anything from the Montgomery County Youth Bureau as

their funding has been cut. We will be setting up on Monday, May 23 at 4 p.m. so if you can volunteer to help on either May 23 or 24, please call Patsy or me. Many hands make light work.

Thanks.
Linda Bumpus

MAY MEETING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence was the topic of our district meeting last fall. Those that attended heard about the difficult topic through the eyes of a prosecutor and the Domestic Violence coordinator from Schenectady County. We decided to learn more about the topic and what assistance is available to victims in Fulton Co. and have set our May meeting to address this topic.

The May meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown on Wednesday, May 22, at 5:30. Our speaker will be Linda Horan, Coordinator of Domestic Violence programs for the Family Counseling Center. Linda has been involved in this program for many years and has a wealth of information to share with us. She will discuss the "Cycle of Violence" that is the predictable path that a relationship takes when Violence is likely to occur. She will also discuss the legal and emotional path that victims might take. Linda has been involved with the Domestic Violence Safe House since its inception and will be telling us about the operation of this haven for victims. The Safe House does depend on volunteer donations

for the upkeep and operation of the house. We would like to ask anyone attending the May meeting to bring one of the following items that the house needs. We will make a Donation of Care to the Safe House from AAUW.

Please read the list and find something you could donate. Information on the May meeting will be in the May newsletter.

Domestic Violence Shelter Wish List

Please Note: We are requesting specific colors of linens because shelter bedrooms are color-coordinated to avoid conflicts and theft.

PERSONAL SUPPLIES

**Sanitary napkins
Liquid hand soap
Mouthwash
Deodorant
Toilet paper
Diapers all sizes, except newborn
Tampons

LINENS

Towel sets (bath & hand towels, washcloths) - purple, blue, green, pink, burgundy, tan, or white
Twin-sized Blankets - purple, blue, green, pink, burgundy, tan, or white (in pairs please, as there are 2 beds in each room)
Twin-sized sheets - purple, blue, green, pink, burgundy, tan, or white (in pairs please, as there are 2 beds in each room)
Waterproof, bedbug-proof mattress covers
Dish cloths and dish towels
Curtains

KITCHEN

Baking dishes (casserole type)
Silverware
Children's plastic dishes & utensils

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Brooms
Pails
Mops
Dust pans
Paper towels
Mr. Clean/Spic and Span (preferably ammonia-free)
Sponges
Glass cleaner
Spray bottles
Laundry "pods" suitable for HE washer
Dish soap/dishwasher detergent
Toilet bowl cleaner
Toilet bowl brushes
Vacuum cleaner
Dustbuster or stick vac for stairs
Laundry baskets

MISCELLANEOUS

Light bulbs (60W)
Batteries (any size for flashlights & children's toys)
Flashlights
Alarm clocks
Outlet covers for baby proofing electrical sockets
Toys suitable for children ages 4-10
Storage totes
Baby monitors

You may bring your items to the meeting, or you may drop them off at my house after May 1.

--**Anne Campos**
211 West Montgomery Street
Johnstown

**AAUW PUBLIC POLICY
NEWSLETTER ARTICLE 021913**

ARE WOMEN BEING SELFISH? According to columnist Ross Douthat, the declining birth rate in the United States is primarily due to the fact that women have become selfish and are focusing on careers rather than reproduction. With the battles that women face in trying to juggle homes, careers, and families, Douthat's comments are belittling to say the least. While many couples have chosen to delay beginning a family, or adding more children to their family, the unstable economy is more to blame than a woman's desire for workforce advancement.

As AAUW continues to lobby for workplace equality with things such as on-site day care facilities and enhanced family leave policies for someone to state outright that women are shirking their responsibility to the country by choosing not to have children or to limit the number of children they are having is reprehensible. Douthat's further comment that since "raising children is easier than it used to be, there's really no excuse for women to be so selfish" is further indication that Mr. Douthat is living under the impression that women should be kept barefoot and pregnant and subservient to the men in their lives.

So, what does this have to do with public policy? In my opinion it speaks volumes to the necessity for AAUW to not only continue the battles they are fighting, but to rally against men

such as Mr. Douthat who are obviously not living in this century. Sounds like a petition drive to me?!

I encourage all of you to read the article found at <http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/man-bemoans-selfish-women-not-having-enough-kids/> and let me know how you feel...

--Helen Martin

PUBLIC POLICY

Education Funding:

St Lawrence County branch Donna Seymour, NYS Public Policy Director, and Ann Carvill interviewed NYS Assembly-women Addy Russell in January 2013 on NYS Education Budget. This is a very good video to watch if you have any questions on financing of unmandated mandates and pending legislation to correct old financial allotments for school districts.

You can watch it on our website or here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wU2hk6hS4M> --Linda H.

AGJ AAUW Joins New York Women's Equality Coalition

Our branch recently united with other NYS AAUW branches in joining the NYS Women's Equality Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of more than 500 labor groups, business leaders, civil rights organizations, women's groups, medical associations, and religious groups united in vigorous support of

Governor Cuomo's Women's Equality Agenda.

During his January 9 State of the State address, the Governor presented the Women's Equality Agenda, a 10-point plan to break down barriers women face in the most essential areas of life. The Women's Equality Agenda will reduce discrimination in the workplace and in housing, improve women's safety and well-being, and ensure equal treatment under the law.

Despite New York's place in history as the home to many advances for women, the coalition marked the start of Women's History Month highlighting the many barriers that now exist for women in the Empire State.

- Women in New York earn 84 percent of what men earn, and that disparity is even more drastic for African American and Hispanic women.
- Inequality persists throughout the course of a woman's life, meaning a woman is twice as likely as a man to live out old age in poverty.
- Women who are pregnant or have children are less likely to be hired, promoted, or given raises.
- Eighty-eight percent of public assistance cases for families are filed by women, and 71 percent of public housing units are occupied by female-headed households.
- Women are five times more likely than men to be sexually harassed, and one in four women will experience intimate partner violence in her lifetime.

If you are interested in getting more involved, there are a number of opportunities to join a subcommittee. Subcommittees include: Women's Equality Campaign Planning Workgroup, Women's Equality Teach-in Committee (They assist in developing materials and background on the issues.), Women's Equality Media & Messaging, Women's Equality Legislative Strategy Committee, Women's Equality Fundraising, and Women's Equality Business Committee. Most groups are meeting by conference call. —Liz Russo

AAUW and Clinton Global Initiative Form Strategic Partnership, Working Together to Engage the Next Generation of Leaders, WASHINGTON —

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a Strategic Partner of the Clinton Global Initiative and the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U), a move that brings together two leading organizations dedicated to making a tangible impact on the world.

“We are thrilled about this new partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative and CGI U, which expands AAUW’s campus leadership and provides opportunities for global outreach and collaboration,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. “We have been helping women blaze new trails for

more than a century. Through this partnership we will continue that wonderful tradition in a fresh and exciting way.”

“We are excited to welcome AAUW as a sponsor of CGI University this year as we mobilize more than 1,000 young leaders from around the world to create positive change,” said Robert S. Harrison, chief executive officer of CGI. “AAUW’s experience, knowledge, and leadership in the Women’s space will serve to enhance CGI U’s ongoing focus on empowering the next generation of girls and women, which we believe is critical to future prosperity for everyone. We look forward to their participation and insight as we help students turn their ideas into action at Washington University in St. Louis in April.”

Established in 2005 by President Bill Clinton, the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges. Hallman, representing AAUW, attended the recent CGI winter meeting in New York. CGI Annual Meetings have brought together more than 150 heads of state, 20 Nobel Prize winners, and hundreds of leading CEOs, heads of foundations and NGOs, major philanthropists, and members of the media. To

date, CGI members have made more than 2,100 commitments, which are already improving the lives of nearly 400 million people in more than 180 countries. When fully funded and implemented, these commitments will be valued at \$69.2 billion.

From April 5 to 7, 2013, President Clinton will host the sixth annual meeting of CGI U at Washington University in St. Louis where student leaders, including those from the AAUW community, as well as NGO representatives, topic experts, and celebrities will gather to address global challenges with practical solutions. Each CGI U student must make a Commitment to Action: a specific plan of action that addresses a pressing challenge on campus, in the community, or in a different part of the world. More than \$400,000 in funding will be provided to CGI U 2013 student attendees to turn their ideas into action to help confront some of the world’s most urgent challenges. To date, CGI U meetings have convened more than 4,500 students from nearly 750 schools, more than 130 countries, and all 50 states.

March 5, 2013 News Release

HYDROFRACKING

Is this a subject that you are interested in?

**Sunday, April 7, 2013
1:30 p.m., Johnstown Library**

Hosted by: Fulton County
Women Democrats

Nationwide Is Now on AAUW's Side!

We are proud to announce that AAUW is collaborating with Nationwide to offer members a discount on home and auto insurance. Discounts apply to members who are new to Nationwide as well as those who already have Nationwide as their provider. Get a quote today, or visit the nearest Nationwide office. —Linda Hammond

Membership Recruitment

This is a great time to invite a friend or relative to attend a meeting and join our AAUW branch. Those who join now will get a year and a half membership for the cost of a year - \$74! Encourage those interested to join now. They will not have to renew until June of 2014!

--Liz Russo

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser -Nice Work Ladies!

Our branch sold over 200 tickets to the joint Soroptimist/AAUW Pancake Breakfast in February and raised \$1043.49 towards the scholarships we give locally to 8th grade girls, high school seniors, and FM grads.

Assisting the day of the event were Bonnie Van Wie, Trish Isabella, Helen Martin, Linda Hammond, Catherine Julius and husband Michael, Linda Bumpus, Anya Biel, Liz Russo, and Ella Ryder. Bonnie and Trish donned their PJ's. Trish

provided aprons. Linda Hammond and Bonnie helped in the kitchen. Helen Martin split her time to help for both Soroptimists and AAUW. In addition, AAUW e-students from FM assisting included Sarah Wyzomirski, Denea Sisti, Santa Pimpura, Ellie DiScioscia and her granddaughter.

Thanks to all who purchased tickets and brought their families to eat. The "winner" this year for the most tickets sold (20!) is new branch member Jennifer Garren! Catherine Julius was in charge of ticket distribution and collection for AAUW. —Liz

NCCWSL Dinner Out Raffle

At the Pancake Breakfast we also held a raffle for a basket of restaurant gift certificates obtained by Trish Isabella to raise money to send a FM student to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The winner of the raffle was Michael Julius. We made \$219 toward the \$395 NCCWSL registration fee. Raffles at our September and November meetings provided the remainder of the fee. --Liz Russo

FMCC AAUW Student Organization Update

On Friday, March 15, the AAUW Student Organization held a Tag-a-Bear event at Raiders' Cove. The AGJ-AAUW member Helen James brought about a hundred beautiful and amazingly colorful stuffed bears on campus. With the help of two FM students recruited on the

spot as AAUW e-student affiliates and other members, we signed and attached tags to the bears. All tagged bears will be donated to children in local Domestic Violence Shelters in May.



Throughout February and March, the organization has been collecting donations of toiletries for women in domestic violence shelters as well. Everything we have collected will be added to the donations collected by the AGJ branch of AAUW to be donated in May.

On Wednesday, April 10, at noon, the AAUW Student Organization is organizing another big event – a women's panel entitled "Leading by Example." The panel will feature the Johnston city engineer Chandra Cotter, the director of Centro Civico Ladon Alomar, the former president of Fulton County Habitat for Humanity Naquana Mitchell, and a BOCES speech therapist Lynn Brown (who is a niece of the former AAUW member Audrey Bowman). These four women from the local community will share their stories of success and leadership with FMCC students and faculty. The event will take place at Raiders' Cove on FM campus (in the Physical Education building)

and will be accompanied by lunch sponsored by the AAUW Student Organization. We will be delighted to see you there!

The next AAUW Student Organization meeting will take place on Monday, April 1, at noon, in C-106 on FM campus.

--Anya Biel

Santa Pumpura to attend NCCWSL

Fulton-Montgomery Community College senior Santa Pumpura has been chosen by the college to receive the scholarship to attend the National Conference for College Student Women Leaders (NCCWSL) in May in Maryland.

Santa is a business major. She is the treasurer for the FM Student Government Association, serves on the Student Life Committee, and sits on the Disciplinary Appeals Committee. She is in PTK and Hands for Animals. In addition, she is an AAUW e-student affiliate and member of the AAUW Student Organization. –Liz Russo

Hats off to Linda Hammond for putting our branch on the forefront of AAUW!

The e-mail below was sent out by Donna Seymour, AAUW-NYS Public Policy Director, to all AAUW NY State branches as a result of co-president Linda Hammond being the first to send out the New AAUW information in our last newsletter.

“Many, many thanks to the AGJ Branch who sent out the New/Old URLs for AAUW's updated website tonight.”

Donna then sent the alphabetical list of the top URLs from the old website and the new address where each can be found to all NYS branches and asked that the branches update your own resources and keep the list handy.- something Linda was already “on top of!” We are “cutting edge” in AGJ, thanks to Linda’s fast action to share the news with our branch. –Liz Russo

April 9 - Equal Pay Day Book Club meeting

Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 9, 2013. This is the day when a woman finally earns as much as a man did in the 12 months of 2012. It is on a Tuesday for that is the day a woman makes as much as a man did the preceding week. Our Branch Lunch Bunch Book Club will be reading *Grace and Grit* by Lilly Ledbetter to commemorate April 9 Equal Pay Day. Arrangements for our April 9 book discussion time and place will be decided at our February 25 lunch meeting. We can also wear RED/carry a RED purse to draw attention to the fact that women are in the red financially. In addition, we can ask our US Representative to co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act by using the AAUW Two Minute Activist. –Liz

Lunch Bunch Adelante Book Club

On February 25, five of our members lunched at Sam’s Restaurant in Johnstown and discussed the Adelante Book Club book, “Bagdad Burning” (among other things!) It was a chance to get to know each other a little better. On Tuesday, **April 9**, the Lunch Bunch Book Club will meet at Armory Grill in Amsterdam. We are reading “Grace and Grit” by Lilly Ledbetter. Interest in the book club seems to be growing and we will probably continue through the summer months. –Liz Russo

Adelante Books for April -Aug

Here are the suggested books we can pick from for our future Lunch Bunch Book Discussions. **May**

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

[The Buddha in the Attic](#)

by Julie Otsuka

Julie Otsuka’s long awaited follow-up to *When the Emperor Was Divine* is a tour de force of economy and precision, a novel that tells the story of a group of young women brought over from Japan to San Francisco as picture brides nearly a century ago. In eight incantatory sections, *The Buddha in the Attic* traces their extraordinary lives, from their arduous journey by boat, where they exchange photographs of their husbands, imagining uncertain futures in an unknown land; to their arrival in San Francisco and their tremulous first nights as new wives; to their back-

breaking work picking fruit in the fields and scrubbing the floors of white women; to their struggles to master a new language and a new culture; to their experiences in childbirth, and then as mothers raising children who will ultimately reject their heritage and their history; to the deracinating arrival of war.

June

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

[Out on the Sound](#)

by R. E. Bradshaw

Becky Bradshaw, in her late 30s, was set for life. She had an incredibly lucky life up to this point—excluding the brief marriage to her son’s father. She had a great job, plenty of money, and a very comfortable existence. Bradshaw figured if someone ever came along that tickled her fancy, she’d know. She never thought for one second it would be a woman. Neither did her mother. Follow Bradshaw as she finds new love and deals with her, “Tennessee Williams in drag,” overly dramatic, southern mother, Lizzie, and the hurricane of events she brings.

July

[Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America](#)

by Melissa Harris-Perry*

(Melissa will be the keynote speaker at the National AAUW convention in New Orleans in June.)

In this groundbreaking book, Melissa V. Harris-Perry uses multiple methods of inquiry, including literary analysis, political theory, focus groups, surveys, and experimental research, to understand more deeply black women’s political and emotional responses to pervasive negative race and gender images. Not a traditional political science work concerned with office-seeking, voting, or ideology, *Sister Citizen* instead explores how African American women understand themselves as citizens and what they expect from political organizing. Harris-Perry shows that the shared struggle to preserve an authentic self and secure recognition as a citizen links together black women in America, from the anonymous survivors of Hurricane Katrina to the current first lady of the United States

August

[Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl](#)

by Harriet Ann Jacobs

This autobiographical account by a former slave is one of the few extant narratives written by a woman. Written and published in 1861, it delivers a powerful portrayal of the brutality of slave life. Jacobs speaks frankly of her master’s abuse and her eventual escape in a tale of dauntless spirit and faith. —Liz Russo

Win a Free Membership!

The first of three free AAUW membership renewals for the 2013-2014 year was raffled at the March meeting. Thanks to all who purchased tickets, we made \$92. Congratulations to our March AAUW membership raffle winner, Marie Wojeski!

Our branch earned the free memberships from National AAUW for recruiting over six members at our fall and winter “Shape the Future Membership” meetings. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The other two memberships will be raffled at the April and May meetings. Good luck! --Liz Russo

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 1

AAUW Student Organization

Meeting at noon

FMCC Classroom Building Room C-106

April 5

Registration Due for NY State AAUW Convention

(April 26-28 in Lake Placid)

April 9 (Equal Pay Day)

Branch Lunch Bunch Book Discussion

Grace and Grit by Lilly Ledbetter

Armory Grill, Amsterdam

11:30 a.m.

April 10

AAUW Student Organization

Women's Panel Luncheon

"Inspiring By Example"

Raiders Cove - FM

noon

April 25

Annual Dinner Meeting

Harold's Restaurant, W. Fulton St., Gloversville

5:30 p.m.

Speaker -NYS AAUW District Coordinator Joan

Monk

April 26-28

NY State AAUW Convention

High Peaks Resort

Lake Placid

May 22

Branch Dinner Meeting

Holiday Inn

Johnstown

5:30 pm

Speaker, Linda Horan

on Domestic Violence

(donations to shelter)

June 9-11

AAUW National Convention

New Orleans

June 26 (note change in date!)

Branch Picnic Meeting

Home of Maryann Abad, Peck's Lake

6 pm



NEW YORK FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

New York has long served as a model for equality and fairness on several issues including women's rights. At the 2013 State of the State Address, Governor Cuomo announced plans to advance a 10-Point Women's Equality Act that will break down barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequality based on gender.

- 1. Achieve Pay Equity:** Women in New York earn 84% of what men earn. This wage gap is even more severe for African-American and Hispanic Women, who earn 66% and 55% of that earned by non-Hispanic men in New York State, respectively. This amendment to the current law would ensure that women receive the wages they were always entitled to, as well as provide for an additional amount of liquidated damages equal to 300% of the back wages due. This new law would also tighten current exceptions so that pay differentials are only allowed when the employer can show that the differential is based on something other than sex and is related to job performance. Additionally, the proposal will prohibit employers from terminating or retaliating against employees who share wage information, a practice that enables wage disparities to persist undetected.
- 2. Stop Sexual Harassment in All Workplaces:** Three quarters of the sexual harassment complaints filed in this State are filed by women. This amendment to the current law would protect workers from sexual and other forms of harassment regardless of the size of the workplace. Under the new law, an employee of any business, large or small, may file a complaint for sexual harassment.
- 3. Allow for the Recovery of Attorneys' Fees in Employment and Credit and Lending Cases:** Over 75% of the employment and credit and lending cases in this State are filed by women. The current law states that an individual cannot recover attorneys' fees for employment and credit and lending discrimination cases even after proving discrimination at trial. As a result (a) many who are discriminated against never seek redress; (b) those who hire an attorney on a contingency fee arrangement are not "made whole" for their losses because they must pay for their attorneys out of their recovery; and (c) some who cannot afford to hire an attorney, but who try to do so on a contingency basis, are unsuccessful because the case is either too small or too risky. This plan would amend the law to include a provision for reasonable attorneys' fees for successful litigants, and ensure that victims of employment and credit and lending discrimination – most of whom are women – have an opportunity to vindicate their rights.
- 4. Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws:** Human trafficking is a crime that exploits vulnerable individuals through force, fraud or coercion. The victims of sex trafficking are almost always women. The plan strengthens the existing law to remove the requirements that "coercion" be proven when the victims are minors, increase penalties for trafficking and create an affirmative defense in prostitution prosecutions that the defendant's participation was a result of having been a sex trafficking victim.

5. **End Family Status Discrimination:** Women with children are less likely to be recommended for hire and promoted, and, in most cases,, are offered less in salary than similarly situated men. This proposal would amend the current law to prohibit employers from denying work or promotion to workers simply because they have children.
6. **Stop Source-of-Income Discrimination:** Many households suffer discrimination by landlords who are unwilling to rent to voucher holders. Female-headed households account for 76% of all housing choice vouchers issued, including section 8 vouchers. This amendment to the Human Rights Law will prohibit landlords from discriminating against tenants based on lawful sources of income.
7. **Stop Housing Discrimination for Victims of Domestic Violence:** Discrimination against victims of domestic violence is almost always discrimination against women – 85% of domestic violence victims are women. Under current state law, victims of domestic violence have no protection from discrimination in housing, meaning landlords can evict victims of domestic violence under zero-tolerance policies. This amendment to the Human Rights Law would protect victims of domestic violence from discrimination when they attempt to purchase, rent, or lease housing. In addition, the new law would prohibit landlords from inquiring about domestic violence victim status, as well as create an eviction defense in housing court requiring judges to consider facts related to domestic violence in their decision-making.
8. **Stop Pregnancy Discrimination Once and For All:** In order to adequately protect the rights of pregnant workers, it is necessary to create a specific protection in the Human Rights Law requiring employers to provide a reasonable accommodation for pregnancy-related conditions. Once amended, New York State law will serve as a model for all other states in the nation seeking to protect pregnant women from discrimination in the workplace.
9. **Protect Victims of Domestic Violence by Strengthening Order-of-Protection Laws:** Women face too many obstacles in securing protection from their abusers. Requiring victims of domestic violence victims seeking an order of protection to be in physical proximity to their abuser in court may be traumatic, unsafe, intimidating, and may ultimately influence testimony. This amendment will ensure that victims of domestic violence will be allowed to provide all required testimony by video-conference.
10. **Protect a Woman’s Freedom of Choice by Enacting the Reproductive Health Act:** New York was a national leader protecting choice even before the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision. Governor Cuomo will continue to vigorously protect a woman’s right to choose. Therefore, he will fight for passage of the Reproductive Health Act, which will protect the fundamental right of reproductive freedom and a woman’s right to make private health care decisions. A woman facing an unplanned or problem pregnancy should have the opportunity to make the best decision for herself and her family, whether her decision is continuing the pregnancy, adoption, or abortion.

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AAUW Meeting for April

**Thursday, April 25th, 5:30 at Harold's Restaurant,
176 W. Fulton Street, Gloversville, N.Y.**

**AAUW Memories and Reflections from the
"Unofficial Director of Whimsy"... Joan Monk**

Dinner Buffet including:

**Baked Chicken
Roast Beef
Roasted Red Potatoes
Zucchini and Peppers
Pasta with Sauce
Tossed Salad**

**The cost is \$20.00 per person (gratuity included) and
includes the above selections as well as Italian bread, coffee
or hot tea and dessert.**

Please send your check payable to AAUW by April 18th to:

**Connie Chamberlain
P.O. Box 424
Johnstown, New York**

or call Connie at 762-3887