



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.

2010 – 2011

April

Branch Officers:

President

Helen Martin

Vice President - Program

Sandy Maceyka

Vice President - Membership

vacancy

Vice President – Ed Foundation

Kaye Schrader

Vice President – Legal Advocacy

Ginni Mazur

Recording Secretary

Sue Summerfield

Treasurer - Barbara Nigro

Assistant Treasurer - Michele Acquaro

stepped forward. I would hate to see our branch dissolve.

I would like to congratulate Bonnie Van Wie on presenting a super program on Ireland just before St. Patrick’s Day – Great Job Bonnie! It was super to see so many of you there – with most of you dressed appropriately in the “wearin’ o’ the green” plus Bonnie’s Irish Soda Bread and Sandy’s cake were delicious! Plus it’s always great when visitors join us as they did for this meeting.

Thanks also to Michele Acquaro for putting together the Fair Trade Raffle. We will be deciding as a group what organization will benefit from our contribution. We also collected enough to create a basket using Fair Trade items for the LAF auction at the Convention in April. Nice Job Ladies!

Despite the uncertainty of the status of the branch, our April meeting featuring the “Women of Flame” should be both fun and educational. Hope to see all of you there to celebrate the accomplishments of these remarkable women!

Please call either Sandy or me if you have any thoughts or suggestions about our officer dilemma. Best,
Helen Martin

One other item that doesn’t pertain to our branch per se but to AAUW in general is the unfortunate decision by AAUW National to disaffiliate the NYC Branch – the first time in the history of AAUW that this has been done. The reasons for this difficult and drastic step concerned finances and accountability. It was a long, arduous legal process. Whatever the reasons were behind this action being taken, it remains that it is unfortunate, and we should all hope that it never has to be repeated. --Helen

Our April Meeting: "The Women of Flame"

FLAME, a group from upstate New York made up of ten people with developmental/physical disabilities including autism, Down’s syndrome, and blindness, is capturing the world’s attention but their message remains the same. The band from Lexington Center, Fulton County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc., wants to change the world through music. They are a phenomenon that inspires people and changes the way the general public view people with disabilities. People of all ages and backgrounds connect with this special rock band, especially those who have a disability. Parents are often over-

President’s Message

This is a hard monthly message for me to write because I was hoping when the time came to write this that we would have a full slate of officers in place to vote on at our April meeting. Unfortunately that is not the case. Both Sandy Maceyka and I have written concerning this matter but response has been limited. I understand how life gets in the way – and I respect that that enters into any decision about adding yet one more layer to the mix. So, I am hoping that by the time you receive this newsletter the situation will have changed and one or more of you will have

come with emotion watching FLAME, seeing that it's possible to have their child achieve great things and, even more importantly, have a fun, fulfilling life.

FLAME began in 2003 from a recreation program at Lexington www.lexingtoncenter.org.

The plan was to have the band play at the agency and around town. However, the profound effect they have on their audiences made it impossible to keep FLAME within the confines of Fulton County. Word spread and requests for hire began pouring in and FLAME now averages over 70 paid performances per year, including concerts in 12 different states (NY, NJ, PA, Wash DC, ID, MA, ME, VT, RI, IN, CT, TX.) and in Europe. They perform for national and statewide conventions, corporate conferences, civic events, school functions, dances, and private parties. Their song list contains over 100 classic hits, rock, country, and blues songs from the past five decades.

FLAME is now an international touring band in high demand. They have released three CDs, travel on a custom tour bus, and are working on releasing a fourth CD.

Recent events have catapulted FLAME into the national spotlight. Performances at Manhattan's Gracie Mansion for NYC Mayor Bloomberg, being in *People* magazine and being featured on ABC TV's "Good Morning America" has positioned FLAME to greatly expand their scope of influence.

As FLAME continues their quest to change the world, their following of adoring fans and grateful parents continues to grow. If you would like more information or would like to book FLAME, contact Tim Fiori, PR Director or Maria Nestle, Manager at Lexington Center at 518-762-0024.

—Kaye Schrader

May Meeting, date changed-- Golden Agers Collection

In May our meeting will be a joint one on Monday, May 16 at the Johnstown Senior Center with the other member groups of the women's consortium.

Each group will be collecting items for the Infirmary similar to what we did for the Domestic Violence Shelter. List to follow.

The speaker will be Deborah Borie, and her topic will be *Too Sexy Too Soon*. She was a speaker at the 2010 NY State AAUW convention where she discussed the negative aspects of mass media marketing of sex and beauty to young girls. She will focus on making us become aware of how media and advertisers work hard at influencing the decisions young people make. Borie currently serves as Project Co-Director of the *Training 2000+* grant: Just Kids Early Childhood Development Center.

--Sandy Maceyka

Dire Circumstances

So the bad story is that we have no President and no VP of program. The election is usually held at the April meeting and that is scheduled for April 7. If no one steps up, the club might have to dissolve. Possibly we could join the Schenectady

Branch. I could possibly help out or even do the program for one more year; but without a president, we would have a difficult time of it. Some branches have the other officers take turns, but our other officers are unable to do that. We could have a joint presidency or a team if anyone wants to try that. The good story is that all the other positions are filled and some of our newest members have stepped up to the plate. So if any of you have any thoughts about how to deal with this, please contact Sandy Maceyka or Helen Martin. Thanks, and if nothing changes, our last meetings will be Monday, May 16 at the Johnstown Senior Center and Tuesday, June 7 at Fort Johnson. I have attached a list of the women who have agreed to serve as officers or committee chairs.

Sandy Maceyka
Nominating Chair
736-5130

To All Branch Members

Unfortunately, we have reached a very serious point as a branch. As Sandy has pointed out, without a candidate or candidates for President for next year, we cannot continue to function and will have no alternative but to dissolve A-G-J. This is a very sad thought when you stop to consider all that the branch has accomplished over the years and all that it can still accomplish if it is allowed to continue.

I have not been a member for as long as most of you, but in the time that I have been part of A-G-J, I have been impressed by the creativity and dedication of all of the members to the mission of this organization.

Before you automatically reject the idea of serving as President, please consider what will be lost if we have to take this step:

All of the programs that we have learned from, enjoyed, and shared with all who have attended our meetings – including non-members that have been interested in learning what AAUW is all about...

The Sister to Sister Summit that has been such a phenomenal success for all of the years that it has been held...

The satisfaction from giving out scholarships to deserving students and knowing that they will benefit not only educationally but as informed women in our community...

The years of dedication by so many to grow recognition of the AAUW organization locally, statewide, and nationally...

The camaraderie we have enjoyed as a group...

Please think about it... Please get in touch with either Sandy or myself if you have any suggestions, thoughts, or ideas as to how we can keep our branch alive and well...
–Helen Martin

12th Sister to Sister Summit Approaches

The annual Sister to Sister Summit for middle school girls is set for Monday, May 16 at FMCC. Each year, for 12 years, volunteers from our Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of AAUW have worked tirelessly to bring this Summit together for young teen girls in our tri-county area. The Summit features fourteen workshops for the girls to choose from during the three morning workshop sessions and a cap-note presentation after lunch. Over 200 girls from 17 schools in the tri-county area are expected to attend.

This year's volunteer summit workshop presenters and their topics are as follows:

- *Prescription Drug Abuse - Margaret Clark, Educator HFM Prevention Council
- *Put Your Best Face Forward - Kate Schwan, Mary Kay Sr. Sales Director
- *Let Music Grab You with a Boom - Shea Lauria, Musician/Performer
- *Dealing with Stress - Carol Tomlinson, Community Health Educator, HealthLink
- *It Can Happen to You - Claudia McDuffy & guests, Montgomery Co. Drug Court
- *Sexual Decision Making- Christy O'Callaghan-Leue, Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson
- *Banish Bullying- Jennifer DeCuyke, Catholic Charities
- *Fun and Festive Snacks - Alexandra S. Henderson, FMCC Professor
- *Let's Face It - Michael Daly, FMCC Librarian/Instructor
- *Zumba - Patty Brown, Aerobics Instructor

*Self-Protection - Michael Campos, ZenDoKai Martial Arts

*Fun in Your Backyard - Kristin Harrold Health Teacher Northville Central School

*Theater Games - Jason Radalin, FMCC Assistant Professor

*Yoga/Pilates - Sue Williamsen, Health Teacher, Wells Central School

After lunch, Capnote Speaker Deborah Borie will present the topic "You Decide." Borie will focus on helping girls become aware of how media and advertisers work hard at influencing the decisions young people make in the hope that this information will help girls make good decisions despite the influences that are targeted specifically at them.

In addition, adults attending as chaperones will be offered a tour of the new FMCC clean room led by Greg Truckenmiller the college's Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Information packets have been sent to the 17 middle schools in the tri-county area. The deadline for registration is April 1. There is a registration fee of \$8 for each girl and chaperone attending to cover the cost of lunch and breakfast snacks. Those schools registering girls after April 1 will pay a late fee of \$10 for each attendee.

Nathan Littauer Hospital is graciously funding Borie's presentation and also the printing of the registration brochures and programs for this year's Sister to Sister Summit. Stewart's Shops has donated \$1,000 which will pay for the commemorative t-shirts for the participants. Our branch has also been awarded a \$700 grant from The Montgomery County Youth Bureau. In addition, several area businesses and organizations have also donated to make this program possible.

Patsy Suydam and Linda Bumpus are serving as co-chairs of the 12th Annual Sister to Sister Summit. Susan Summerfield and Melanie Pombrio are overseeing registration. All registrations will be handled through the area middle schools. For information about registration, contact Sue Summerfield or Melanie Pombrio at 922-6034 or 736-2265.

--Liz Russo

Volunteers Needed May 15 and 16 for the Summit!

Setup for the Sister to Sister Summit will take place on Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed to count out t-shirts, put up signs and balloons, and set up the registration area for the Monday conference. Your assistance will help to make the job go more quickly. We will meet in the college Student Union. In addition, at least 8 volunteers are needed for Monday, May 16, the day of the Summit, to assist with set up, registration, directing girls to workshops, lunch assistance, passing out t-shirts, collecting evaluations, and cleanup. For more information contact Linda Bumpus at 725-1927. --Liz Russo

Equal Exchange Fundraiser

Thank you to all who participated in the branch fundraiser to support an activity for women in poverty. Through the sale of Equal Exchange products and additional donations, we are able to provide a struggling woman with a loan or scholarship to provide education for a girl. We have raised \$345 along with collecting money to send two baskets to convention for LAF.

Helen will be discussing possible projects with you at the next meeting. There is still time for you to send a donation to this cause. Make a check payable to AAUW and send it to Barb Nigro if you still wish to support this worthwhile cause.

--Michele Acquaro

Win a Free AAUW Membership! Raffle at April Meeting

The second of three free AAUW memberships for the 2011-2012 year will be raffled at the April meeting. Our branch earned the free memberships from National AAUW for recruiting over 6 members at our branch's September "Shape the Future Membership" meeting. Liz Russo was the March winner. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The third membership will be raffled at the May meeting. Good luck!

AAUW Dorothy Anderson Wemple Literary Award

The AAUW Dorothy Anderson Wemple Literary Award is available to all high school seniors in Fulton, Montgomery, and Hamilton Counties who will be pursuing a 2- or 4-year college degree upon graduation. Students applying will be required to write a three- to five-hundred word essay on the topic "How I Can Change the World." According to Literary Award Chair Rosemary Leo-Pappas, in writing their essays, scholarship applicants are asked to make an honest and candid assessment of their talents and passions now and then project them 10 years ahead and predict how they will develop and utilize those talents and passions to make the world a better place. Entries will be judged on interest, language

skills, and knowledge of the subject.

Entries should be submitted to high school guidance departments who along with area English teachers have received information regarding the award. To ensure objective judging, neither the name nor the school should appear on or be included in the essay. A separate sheet with the student's name and school, college they plan to attend, and the counselor's signature should be submitted with the entry. Deadline for the AAUW scholarship application is April 26.

The \$300 award is given annually by our branch in memory of Dorothy Anderson Wemple who was a member of AAUW for over 50 years and a member of our local branch since its inception in 1967. Dorothy Anderson Wemple, who died in 2007, was an English teacher at Knox Junior High School in Johnstown and was a past judge for the essay contest which began in 1991.

--Liz Russo

There is a \$3 increase in State membership; therefore, dues for the 2011-12 year are **\$69**. Please send your payment to

Barbara Nigro
484 County Highway 122
Gloversville, NY 12078

Payment must be in Barb's hands before June 1, not in the mail.

Please send a check made payable to AAUW along with a membership renewal form that will be available at the April and May meetings. Dues received June 1 or later will be \$74.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. On-time payments make membership a much easier job.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 7

Annual Dinner Meeting
5:30 p.m. Raindancer Restaurant,
Amsterdam
Music by Women of Flame

April 14

ECSWC meeting
5:15 p.m. at the Johnstown Public
Library

April 15-17

NYS AAUW Convention
Long Island

April 18

Sister to Sister Summit Planning
Meeting, 10 a.m. at the Johnstown
Public Library

May 15

Set up for Sister to Sister Summit
3 p.m., FMCC Student Union

May 16

Sister to Sister Summit
8:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at FMCC

May 16

Joint Dinner Meeting, Golden Agers Giving
5:30 p.m. at the Johnstown Senior Center,
Deborah Borie speaker "Too Sexy
Too Soon"

June 5

ECSWC Golden Agers Event
2 p.m., Fulton County Infirmary
Music by "Bobcats", desserts

June 7

June Dinner Meeting
Tour of Fort Johnson Garden and Tea
Party at 5:30 p.m., intersection of Rte 5
and Rte 67

July 16

ECSWC Bus Trip to Seneca Falls
Rededication of Wesleyan Chapel
National Women's History Center

AAUW Members...



We have a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the joy and happiness of our Fulton County infirmary patients during the 'Mothers and Fathers' Day season! We really need everyone's participation in this event to make it successful and meaningful for our recipients. *Whatever we give will come back to us a hundred fold!* It will feel so good....and it doesn't have to cost us a lot! Here is the plan...

On Monday, **May 16th** we will meet jointly with several other ladies' group at the Senior Center in Johnstown. A guest speaker will be in attendance, along with a social hour at 6 p.m. to chat and enjoy 'finger foods and beverages. It is during this gathering that we will collect the items you have so graciously donated to the infirmary's men and women. We want to give you plenty of time to collect, find, purchase, create, or make the gifts they will cherish receiving. Hopefully, you will remember the suggestions below as you spring clean, shop, knit, sew, or just go about your daily routines. We are sure you will each find a unique variety of items that will feel special to the 165 infirmed.

It was suggested by the infirmary that there is a need for **portable** radio/cd/dvd players, old 40's era music, and movies, nail care kits/dryers, jewelry (slip on bracelets/lapel pins/over-the-head necklaces), small pillows or neck bones, small stuffed animals, lotions/body sprays, large print books, notecards/stamps, lap robes/afghans, and any other items that you know the elderly often enjoy or possibly need from your own experiences. Of course, a monetary donation is always a grand idea and would combine to help purchase the portable music players.

Many of us are very clever with our knitting, crocheting, sewing, quilting, painting, crafting! We all could benefit from cleaning out our drawers, jewelry boxes, and closets. New or gently used as well as antique items are appreciated. Perhaps we can find some real bargains while out shopping. Almost anything goes! So, please help to make this event one that will be remembered by all of us on Mother's and Father's Day. AAUW will mingle with the infirmed patients while we present them with their gifts and enjoy a concert from the Bobcats on Sunday afternoon, **June 5th**. Oh... the joy and smiles we hope to exchange! Plan early to be a part of it. Thanks for supporting your community and this great cause. We are so blessed! Let's share our resources.

*You are invited to contact **Dianne Kierpiec** via phone or email to let her know what you are donating.



Call 518-853-4636 or email DMKIERPIEC@yahoo.com

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown
AAUW
2011-12 BOARD

Positions with * are elected every 2 years with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms

Positions with ** are to be elected this April

The other positions are appointed

****PRESIDENT:**

?

***VICE-PRESIDENTS:**

****PROGRAM:**

?

****MEMBERSHIP:**

PATSY SUYDAM-New

ASSIST. SUE SUMMERFIELD

***EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

EF - KAYE SCHRADER -Yes

LAF - GINNI MAZUR-Yes

SECRETARIES:

****RECORDING SEC / BY-LAWS.**

BONNIE VAN WIE-New

CORRESPONDING SEC

MARSHA SMITH-yes

MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET

PATSY SUYDAM-Yes

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

GLORIA KIMBALL yes

WEB EDITOR&INTERNET CONTACT.

LINDA HAMMOND

****TREASURER:**

MICHELE ACQUARO -New

ASSISTANT TREAS.

LINDA BETZ – will help

PAST PRESIDENT

HELEN MARTIN

COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

LAURIE FREEMAN?

PUBLIC INFORMATION

LIZ RUSSO

There are SOME openings, please contact me if you are interested. Sandy Maceyka

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

JAYDENE SCOFIELD-New

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

CULTURAL

BONNIE VAN WIE-Yes

DIVERSITY

MARYANNE ABAD yes

WOMEN'S ISSUES

CAROL COWNIE-Yes

ED EQUITY/SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

MATH&SCIENCE 7& 8th GRADE

MARIE WOJESKI yes &

LINDA ZILKA yes

HS-LITERARY

ROSEMARY LEO-PAPPAS-Yes

COLLEGE/FMCC

TERRY CONAWAY-Yes

HISTORIAN

GINNI MAZUR-Yes

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

HELEN MANDATO/NANCY?

PUBLIC POLICY/ EQUAL PAY

HELEN MARTIN - New

SISTER TO SISTER COORDINATORS

LINDA BUMPUS -Yes

PATSY SUYDAM -Yes

VOTER EDUCATION

BERNADETTE PECORA-New

NOMINATING

OFFICERS

HOSPITALITY /TIME KEEPER

JAHNN GIBSON-Yes

NYS DISTRICT IV REPRESENTATIVE

LINDA HAMMOND

COME MEET



MICHELLE KING

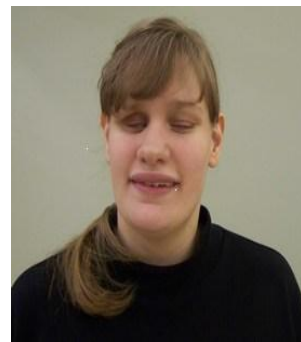


FALON McBRIDE

THE WOMEN OF FLAME



DEBBIE WOODRUFF



ADRIENNE PHILLIPS

AAUW APRIL MEETING



WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 7
5:30 PM

WHERE: RAINDANCER
4582 STATE HIGHWAY 30
AMSTERDAM, NY

DINNER CHOICES

- 1) LEMON CHICKEN FRANCAISSE
Boneless breast of chicken lightly breaded
with a lemon pepper seasoning
- 2) HOT ROAST BEEF SANDWICH
- 3) SEAFOOD CASSEROLE
Scallop, baby shrimp, and crabmeat blend
baked in a creamy au gratin sauce topped with
shredded cheese
- 4) PASTA PRIMAVERA
(Vegetarian Entrée)

All entrees include tossed salad, roll, potato,
vegetable, choice of coffee or tea and dessert

PRICE: \$20.00

RESERVATIONS TO: LINDA BETZ
TEL # 835-4421

EMAIL: praclinda@gmail.com

RESERVATION DEADLINE – MARCH 31

