



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.

2011 – 2012

April

Branch Officers:

Presidents

Liz Russo

Linda Hammond

Vice Presidents - Program

Sandy Maceyka

Ginni Mazur

Vice Presidents - Membership

Patsy Suydam

Susan Summerfield

Vice President – ED Opp Fund

Kaye Schrader

Vice President – Legal Advocacy

Ginni Mazur

Recording Secretary

Bonnie Van Wie

Treasurer – Michele Acquaro

Assistant Treasurer – Ella Ryder

Co-President’s Message

Since the last newsletter, our AAUW branch has been busy connecting with the community by joining with other organizations for fundraising, meetings, and events. We accepted the invitation from our sisters in Soroptimist International of Fulton County to partner with them in their annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at the Johnstown Moose Lodge on February 26, a venture which was very profitable for both of our organizations.

Our branch was invited by the local Girl Scout Troops to their 100th Anniversary Celebration of

the founding of Girl Scouts on March 12. Both opportunities gave us a chance to “spread the word” about AAUW in the community and pave the way for working together in the future. The Soroptimists have already asked our AAUW branch to partner with them for another pancake breakfast fundraiser next year, and the Girl Scout leaders have expressed an interest in working together on a project in 2012-13 also.

As members of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women’s Consortium, members of our AAUW branch were involved in organizing the very successful March 10 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women’s Symposium. At all three events, we set up our AAUW displays and generated interest in joining our branch.

In April, we look forward to connecting with our local Fulton-Montgomery Community College as well as making connections with NYS and national AAUW initiatives. On April 17, (Pay Equity Day) AAUW New York State will be holding a Public Policy Advocacy Day from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Albany to focus on pay equity, and women’s and family issues including child care for third shift workers. *This would be an excellent “destination” lunch date for those

interested and available. (See article and flyer for details.)

On April 18 our meeting at FMCC - (the last chance to dine in the Mohawk Room which will cease to be due to remodeling plans) - will offer members a chance to tour the new nanotech clean room at FM, as well as hear Doris McLellan, NYS AAUW Board past C/U chair and present EOF chair speak to us about C/U partnerships, AAUW Student Organizations, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Maryland in June and also EOF Fellowships and Grants that are available. In addition, we will find out first hand where our yearly donation to EOF goes as we are fortunate to have an EOF fellowship winner, RPI doctoral candidate, Becky Wachs with us to tell us about the fellowship she received and the work she does as a biomedical engineer. (See flyer for details.)

To continue connecting with AAUW NYS, eight branch members including two first time attendees will be traveling to Rochester to the NYS Convention April 20-22. The deadline is March 30 if anyone else would like to join us. (See article for details.)

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

To prepare for enlightening, entertaining, and worthwhile monthly programs again next year, we are still looking for members for our program planning committee. We are still seeking leaders (VP's) for program and membership committee as well. We hope you will SAY YES when asked, or better yet come forward and VOLUNTEER your services! New ideas and fresh faces will keep our branch moving forward and help us all have fun! "Many hands make light work."
 --Liz and Linda

- ***Co-VP for Program** – Ginni Mazur (one year mentor)
- ***Co--VP for Program - OPEN**
Committee member: Anne Campos
MORE members needed!
- ***VP for Membership - OPEN**
Committee members: Trish Isabella, Catherine Julius, Helen James
- ***VP for Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)** - Danielle Scahff-Turchin
- ***VP for Education Opportunities Fund (EOF)** - Anya Biel
- ***Treasurer for Membership** - Michele Acquaro
- ***Assistant Treasurer** - Ella Ryder

Stacy Wesley has a BA in speech and hearing for the handicapped, an MA in elementary education from the University of Central Florida, and an MS in Information Science from the University at Albany. She just received her New York State Public Librarian Certification and is in the process of interviewing for professional librarian positions. Stacy is a New York State Library volunteer in the government documents cataloging unit. The [Research Library](#), established in 1818, collects, preserves, and makes available materials that support State government work. Stacy devotes most of her leisure time to her children. She learned about AAUW while working at the Johnstown Public Library where she was approached by none other than: Liz Russo! Stacy was interested in becoming an AAUW member because she values helping and listening to others and supporting education and personal betterment efforts.
 --Patsy Suydam

ECSWC 2012 Women's Symposium
 Linda Hammond and I would both like to express our thanks to all of our AAUW members that helped to organize, worked on a committee or attended the recent ECSWC 2012 Women's Symposium. Special thanks to Sandy Maceyka, Liz Russo, Jahnn Gibson, and Anya Biehl.
 The Symposium was a great success, and we are in the debt of everyone who took part. Thank you!
 --Linda Hammond and Helen Martin

New Member Update
 We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our AGJ branch.

Danielle Schaff-Turchin graduated from Wesleyan University with a BA, the College of Saint Rose with an MS, and Walden University with an MBA. She is currently at FMCC as Principal Clerk in the Admissions Department. Danielle enjoys working with Literacy NY – Fulton, Montgomery & Schoharie Counties. LNY has 36 local, community-based affiliates throughout New York State (excluding New York City) and provides high quality, one-to-one, and small group tutoring to low level reading, math and English as second language students. During 2010, the LNY network served 6,200 adult learners with basic literacy services through more than 6,500 volunteers in 55 counties of New York State. Recruited by Liz Russo at the E-Student Affiliate table, Danielle says she had been "looking for a good group that was community-based, educational for me, helpful to others, and fun!"

Kiva Update
 Ella Ryder and I connected to select the recipient of our next Kiva loan. Our branch has decided to relend the \$175 returned to us by the group of women in Senegal. We decided to support Soeun, a 59-year-old mother of 10 in Kampong Cham province, Cambodia. Soeun still has two children at home who attend school. Her other children are either factory workers or help her with the family business which is rice farming. Soeun joined VisionFund Cambodia, Kiva's field partner and has successfully repaid a previous loan used to improve her life. She is requesting a second loan to buy fertilizer for her farmland and to build a new latrine. She has been in business for 20 years to feed

Election of Officers to be Held April 18 at Annual Meeting
 We are still in need of someone to serve as Program VP with Ginni Mazur. Ginni has agreed to serve as a mentor for a year. We need others to volunteer for the program committee as well. We also still need a VP or co-VPs for Membership! Hope you will agree to step up. Thanks to new members Danielle and Anya for agreeing to serve for the first time as LAF and EOF VP's respectively.
 We will accept nominations from the floor at the April Meeting.

Slate of Officers for 2012-2014

her big family. She earns about \$6 (US) a day.

Kiva's field partner, VisionFund Cambodia (VFC) is a 4 star (out of 5) microfinance banking organization that is noted for its impact on poverty and transparency. This agency has a strong emphasis on poverty outreach focusing on the poorest rural areas within Cambodia. Full payment is due September 2013.

At the time Ella and I were online, Soeun needed another \$175 to complete her loan. So our donation completed her funding request. We would like to thank all of you for your continued support. If you are interested in learning more, go to kiva.org. Any questions please call or email me. MANY thanks!

--Ella and Carol

Fistula Repair Fund

To date our branch has raised \$344 towards our goal of \$450 to provide one woman in Ethiopia with surgery needed to repair a fistula and improve her life. If you were unable to attend our February My Sister's Keeper meeting and would like to donate, please make checks payable to AAUW with "Fistula Repair Fund" in the memo line. We only need \$106 more to meet our goal! Every dollar brings us closer to providing "A Walk to Beautiful." Donations will be accepted at the April meeting.

AAUW-NYS Convention (Registration deadline March 30)

Eight members of our branch have already registered for the AAUW NYS Convention which will be held on April 20-22, 2012 at the Woodcliff in Rochester. Convention registration, hotel registration, and complete information

packet are available at AAUW-NYS.org. It was also sent by email to those of you who receive the AAUW-NYS *Focus* by email. You must register separately for the convention and for the hotel.

This year's theme, "In Their Footsteps," will highlight the contributions of New York State women to the women's rights movement. Guest speakers will include Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, AAUW Lobby Corps Chair Kathy Kelm, and Co-founder of 34 Million Friends of the United Nations Population Fund Jane Roberts. We'll also hear speakers on the Women's History Trail and 2020 Project Women, as well as participating in two sessions of workshops on related topics. Friday arrivals will be able to take a tour of the Susan B. Anthony House.

There will be opportunities to hear about and influence AAUW's State, National, and District policies; to interact with other members and branch officers from around the state; and to enjoy military bridge, walking, swimming, yoga, and a theatrical presentation of "Memoirs" by the Bath Branch.

So far Linda Hammond, Liz Russo, Sandy Maceyka, Ginni Mazur, Patsy Suydam, Bonnie Van Wie, Ella Ryder, and Helen Martin will be attending. There's still time to join us for this wonderful weekend! **The registration deadline is March 30.** (See Liz or Linda if you are interested in attending and would like a printed registration form.)

Purses Needed for LAF Raffle at NYS Convention

There is still time to donate a purse or "stuff to put in it" (perhaps a bottle of wine, a mirror, lottery tickets, a scarf, or jewelry) for the

LAF fundraiser at the NYS Convention in April.

Branches are invited to raise funds for LAF while adding to the fun at the convention by submitting purses for a drawing. Purses (new ones, of course) will be raffled as a way to honor the suffragist Susan B. Anthony for whom a woman's purse was a symbol of her economic independence. Purses can include designer bags, small purses, shoulder bags, or evening bags. You may choose to include other items to enhance their value.

Contact Sandy Maceyka if you have donations.

March meeting Followup

Our March meeting celebrated Women's History Month in a different way. We attended a Girl Scout meeting and were treated to ice cream and birthday cake. Seventy-five girls and their leaders provided the program for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts from Johnstown and Gloversville educated us about founder Juliet Low, the history of Girl Scouting, the uniform, Girl Scout cookies, and SWAPS. The five troops participating exchanged SWAPS (Special Thing-a-ma-gigs Affectionately Pinned Somewhere) they had made. They even gave each of our AAUW members in attendance SWAPS to take home! Our members donated enough cake mix, frosting, and candles to provide over 20 Birthday Bags which the Girl Scouts will give to foster children in the area as part of their community service project.

We brought our AAUW display and explained to the girls and leaders who we are and what we do and that we were at their meeting to learn about the Juliet Low and the

history of Girl Scouting from them. We also told them about the programs we provide for girls such as Sister to Sister Summits and scholarship awards we give. We encouraged the girls to study hard in school so that one day they might also become members of AAUW.

We generated interest in AAUW from Girl Scout leaders and parents in attendance and hope to recruit some new younger members to our branch as a result. The leaders also expressed an interest in doing a project with our branch next year. We hope, therefore, that we can keep the AAUW-Girl Scout connection we have made. --Liz Russo

Pancake Breakfast Local Scholarship Fundraiser

The February 26 Pancake Breakfast at the Moose Lodge was a wonderful and very successful joint venture with the Soroptimist International of Fulton County. We served 259 breakfasts with our sister Soroptimists. The Soroptimists split the proceeds with our AAUW branch and reimbursed the Moose for the cost of the food. In addition, to our share of the profit from the actual breakfast (exact amount forthcoming) our branch also made \$170 on the Family Fun Raffle, \$6 on our Used Book Sale we held at the event, and the \$240 individual donations to the scholarship fund we received in lieu of ticket purchase.

Thanks to Patsy Suydam and Helen Martin for suggesting to the Soroptimists that AAUW might be interested in partnering on this fundraiser and for helping to serve at the breakfast. Thanks also to Pancake Breakfast Committee members: Jahnn Gibson for mailing out the tickets and calling to remind volunteers of their work

shift times, Catherine Julius for collecting, counting, and keeping track of all the money and tickets and working all morning at the breakfast, Trish Isabella for selling the most tickets, calling to remind those who had not yet turned in ticket money and being a wonderful "fun creator" providing us with colorful aprons and ribbons and butterflies for our hair at the breakfast. Attired in PJs, she worked all morning clearing tables, selling raffle tickets, and reminding us all to have FUN!

Thank you to all of you who worked shifts and brought your families to eat including Ella Ryder (who had the largest family group), Bonnie VanWie, Connie Chamberlain, Linda Bumpus, Helen Martin, Linda Hammond, Marsha Smith, Anne Campos, Traci DiMezza as well as our AAUW newest member, Danielle Schaff-Turchin!

In addition, thanks to those who obtained donations for our Family Fund Raffle including Anne Campos for the Perry Lanes Bowling games and ZenDoKai Karate lessons, Catherine Julius for the pizza from House of Pizza, Sarah Slingerland for Royal Mountain Ski area day pass and Sandy Maceyka for the Wendy's gift card. Thank you all so very much! Wonderful things happen when women work together! --Liz Russo

Don't Miss This...

Lilly Ledbetter is a perfect example of LAF hard at work. You probably all are aware of Lilly Ledbetter who has led a fight against Goodyear Tire Factory. AAUW supported her with funds to help her in her lawsuit. She recently authored a book with Lanier Scott Isom, *Grace and Grit*, which details her life that led to this fight. It is a

MUST read....I do have to recommend it. This book is truly amazing and details her struggles and leaves you wondering just what year it is. I had to constantly remind myself that this was NOT the early 1900s and Lilly was pursuing her fight in my lifetime.

Lilly Ledbetter is an amazing woman who saw and supported the fight for women to have equal pay for equal work. Even as I type this, it frightens me that this fight is so real, even now. She certainly stood by her convictions, no matter what. Read this book: It will not disappoint you. You will learn many things about a woman who didn't fight a major company because it was fun. Lilly did this because it was the right thing to do for ALL people. --Ginni Mazur
VP LAF

Win a Free Membership! Raffle at Branch Meeting

Traci DiMezza was the winner of the March Raffle. She won the first of three free AAUW memberships for the 2012-2013 year. Our branch earned the free memberships from National AAUW for recruiting over six members at our fall "Shape the Future Membership" meetings. Thanks to all that "took a chance" in March; we raised \$54 which will go toward future membership recruitment efforts. The next Free Membership Raffle will be held at our April 18 meeting. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Good luck! --Liz Russo



The following two news items were contained in a list of Public Policy topics that I recently received in the AAUW Washington Update.

Men Still Surpass Women in Political Donations

Men [give](#) more than two-thirds of all itemized political donations (those greater than \$200) despite being outnumbered by women in the U.S. population and among voters. During the 1990 election cycle, women gave 24 percent of the total \$151 million in itemized donations to congressional candidates. In 2008, the percentage of female donations rose to 28 percent of the \$641 million total contributions. At that rate of growth, women will not have equal [influence](#) via political donations until the 2110 midterm elections.

Global Gender Pay Gap Unchanged in Last Decade

A new report by the International Trade Union Confederation [found](#) that women are paid 18 percent less than men on average worldwide. The [report](#), *Frozen in Time: Gender Pay Gap Unchanged for 10 Years*, analyzed women's wages in 43 countries and concluded that no significant progress had been made in closing the global gender pay gap for more than a decade. The report found that workers in traditionally unionized sectors tend to fare better in terms of the gender pay gap. The report also showed that childrearing is much more detrimental to female wages than to male wages.

I found both of these articles very interesting primarily for the reason that if you take into consideration the disparity in the pay gap it stands to reason that women have

less disposable income than their male counterparts to donate to political candidates and/or parties. Even though the Gender Pay Gap article is addressing that problem on a global scale the fact remains that the pay gap is still – unfortunately – alive and well in the United States despite the best efforts of those who would see that corrected.

Perhaps with the upcoming elections now, more than ever before, it would behoove us all to take some time to explore the voting records of our elected representatives with relation to gender pay gap legislation before we make a decision as to where to cast our vote. Women fought to obtain the vote for many reasons – pay equity is only one of them – but, it is one that continues to remain elusive. --Helen Martin

Public Policy Advocacy Day April 17 – “Destination Lunch”

AAUW New York State will be holding a Public Policy Advocacy Day at the Legislative Office Building in Albany on Tuesday, April 17. The day will provide an exciting and informative program followed by meetings with our New York State representatives. NYS AAUW is hoping to make this an annual event and need your participation!

AAUW members will be advocating for issues such as pay equity, violence against women and children, child care, and family issues.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with a welcome from **Assembly-women Ellen Jaffee and Addie Russell**. At 10:30 we will be briefed on effective advocacy techniques from a professional lobbyist and a member of the state legislature. A panel discussion on the key topics of pay equity, women's and family issues will conclude the morning program.

Each branch will schedule our own meetings with our respective senators and representatives between 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. The Assembly will also issue a proclamation for AAUW in the afternoon. Please [contact Liz Russo if you are interested](#) in attending as we will need to make Reservations. For reservations, directions, and details go to <http://aauwppd2012.eventbrite.com> It would be a great learning experience and make a great “Destination Lunch” event! --Liz Russo

13th Sister to Sister Summit

Thanks to the dedication of our AAUW members, our branch will be offering this wonderful conference for girls in grades 6-8 for the 13th year!

Registration packets have been sent to middle schools in the tri-counties for our 13th annual Sister to Sister Summit which will be held on May 22 at FMCC. Fifteen students from each school will be invited to attend the event. Registration will be handled by the schools.

This year's summit which is chaired by Linda Bumpus and Patsy Suydam will feature a Tech Savvy theme to focus on topics designed to encourage girls to explore **STEM** opportunities: **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math**. Studies show that after middle school, girls often become disinterested in science and math courses. High school girls tend to enroll in science courses at lower levels than their male counterparts. The workshops offered this year are all designed to show that math and science can be fun and interesting. At Sister to Sister, participants will meet interesting professionals, most of them from the FMCC staff.

Thirteen faculty members from FM will provide the workshops which involve using math and science. Robotics, forensic science, medical diagnostics, theater technology, DNA exploration, and introduction to the nanotech clean room will be included in the sessions. Three of the workshops will be facilitated by faculty members

John Kohn, Sonnet Gravina, and Sherry Warner who are also AAUW members. AAUW member Laurie Freeman, Associate Professor of Science and Science Division Chair at FM, will be the capnote speaker and will highlight the theme with a talk entitled: Tech-Savvy and Ready for Anything!

Sister to Sister committee members Mary Ann Abad and Anne Campos have been busy securing donations of snacks for the event. Melanie Pombrio and Sue Summerfield are handling registration. Deadline for registration is April 5. –Liz Russo

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 31

Deadline to Register for AAUW NY State Convention

April 17 NYS AAUW Public Policy Advocacy Day

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Legislative Office Building
Albany

April 18

Branch Annual Dinner Meeting

5:30 p.m. FMCC Mohawk Room
Tour of:

Nanotechnology “Clean” Room
Speakers:

*Doris McLallen NYS AAUW
College University Chair

*Becky Wachs, Doctoral Candidate
Biomedical Engineering, RPI
AAUW EOF American Fellowship
Award Recipient

April 20-22

AAUW NY State Convention

Rochester -Woodcliff Hotel &
Spa, Fairport

Theme: Women’s History Trail

Contact Liz Russo or Linda

Hammond

May 9

Branch Dinner Meeting

5:30 Tour Fulton-County Art
Show at Congregational Church
Program on Chagall Windows/
Frank Lloyd Wright design
Knesseth Israel Synagogue
Gloversville

May 22

AAUW Sister to Sister Summit
Tech Savvy Conference for area
middle school girls

June 6

Branch Meeting

(Hors d’oeuvres) at 5:30 p.m.
Fulton County Museum Tour
Talk on Clarissa Putnam
Gloversville

June 9-12

AAUW National Convention
New Orleans, Louisiana



AAUW New York State has found its voice and it is your voice.



We will be conducting a **Public Policy Advocacy Day** in Albany on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, Pay Equity Day. Please join us for an exciting and informative program followed by meetings with your New York State representatives. We are hoping to make this an annual event and need your participation!

We will be advocating for issues such as pay equity, violence against women and children, child care and reproductive rights.

The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a welcome from Assemblywomen Ellen Jaffee and Addie Russell. At 10:30 we will be briefed on effective advocacy techniques from a professional lobbyist and a member of the state legislature. A panel discussion on the key topics of pay equity, women's and family issues will conclude the morning program.

Each branch will schedule your own meetings with your respective senators and representatives between 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. The Assembly will also issue a proclamation for AAUW in the afternoon.

AAUW

Annual Dinner Meeting College Connections

Wednesday, April 18

FMCC

Student Union Building-Mohawk Room

Meet at 5:15

Tour of Nanotech Clean Room

Fruit punch & Vegetable Crudites

Business meeting

6:30

Dinner Buffet

Chicken Francaise, Eggplant Parmesan, Pasta, Tossed Salad,
Vegetable, Bread Sticks, Soda, Bottled Water, Coffee or Tea
Cheese Cake with Fruit Toppings

Speakers:

Doris McLellan NYS AAUW Board

past C/U chair and present EOF chair

Becky Wachs- EOF American Fellowship recipient - RPI

\$20 Checks made payable to AAUW

RSVP by April 10

to: Darcelle Winchell

277 Bleecker St., Gloversville 12078 725-5963