



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

December/January

Branch Officers:

Presidents

Liz Russo - Linda Hammond

Vice Presidents - Program

Sandy Maceyka – Ginni Mazur

Vice Presidents - Membership

Patsy Suydam- Susan Smmerfield

Vice President – ED Opp Fund

Kaye Schrader

Vice President – Legal Advocacy

Ginni Mazur

Recording Secretary

Bonnie Van Wie

Treasurer – Michelle Acquaro

Assistant Treasurer – Ella Ryder

Co-President’s Message

Liz and I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. It is a fun time being with our family and catching up with friends who you haven’t seen as much as you would like. This is the time of the year where I actually enjoy shopping. I used to drive my mom crazy because I would buy one gift and get two things for myself. I could always see her hold her breath when she asked what I had bought as she was

one of those who did most of her shopping before Thanksgiving. This Thanksgiving will be something new for me. We will actually have a bunch of people in for the meal as opposed to the small family dinner of four. My son is cooking (yeah!) and I get to taste it all. It is fun sharing dishes that were part of other family traditions and listening to the stories of past.

I am really excited about this year’s program. We have had a great couple of months so far and the program is becoming more interesting as we move along. As a result of their efforts our committee chairs and members have added to our membership and e-student affiliates. Many of our new members attended our auction in November. It was fun watching Paula Becker and the out-bidding of each other going on. I hope many members will be able to attend our holiday brunch at Union Hall. Sandy Maceyka organizes a lovely event. It is a nice way to kick off the Season.

Many of our programs this year include a donation of some

sort. I hope that everyone will remember these community efforts during the year and especially if you find that you are unable to attend. If you are unable to participate at a meeting, you can send your contribution to the program chair for that month or to either Liz or me. We will see that your contribution is applied to the collection. It is a hard time for all. You hear it on the local, state, and national news. You hear it from your place of worship; and you know, yourself, what you are going through right now with the bad economy. Our portfolios have been hit as well as our employers’ operating finances. Many of us are thankful that we have a job. Though there are many in our community who are without a job or don’t know for how long their current one will last. Any contribution, large or small, is very much appreciated.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our December gathering. I would like to wish our “snow-birds from ‘upstate’ NY” a happy and safe winter. (Those who go to Florida will understand the

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

modified snowbird description. “No, we are not from New York City.”) We would like to send congratulations to one of our newest members, Anne Thane, for a successful mayoral campaign and to the other candidates who won this November. A “thank you” and “a pat on the back” goes out to all of our members for their contributions and participation in our branch meetings and venues. We are a great bunch of ladies with a huge heart!

--Linda Hammond

Holiday Buffet

Our Holiday Brunch will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 3 at Union Hall, E. Main Street, Johnstown. The Penny Jar group including Laurie Freeman (an AAUW member) will provide entertainment. We always have a nice time so hope you will all be able to attend this fun meeting. The menu will include quiche, salad, sausage tart, bread pudding for dessert, juice, coffee, and tea. Those interested in attending should send a check for \$17 made payable to AAUW to Sandra Maceyka, 100 East 6th Avenue, Johnstown, 12095. For more information, call 736-5130.

The local AAUW branch has chosen the Turning Point, run by The Family Counseling Center, Inc. as our Christmas Outreach. Each year, our branch seeks out a local group which works to serve families in Fulton and Montgomery counties and takes up a collection to aid that organization. The Turning Point pro-

vides trained and certified host families who temporarily provide homes for children ages 5-18 who are experiencing behavioral an/or emotional issues due to a mental health diagnosis. The goal is to give the affected child and his/her birth family needed understanding, guidance, support, and education while working toward the reunification of the family. Host families devote precious time, energy, and money to strengthen and reunite troubled families.

To help, we have created a list of items which can help provide for the children they have welcomed temporarily into their homes and hearts. Suggested items for Turning Point Families:

Gift Cards for entertainment, such as movies & restaurant gift cards & gas cards

School supplies, children's books & Target or WalMart Gift Cards

Hats, mittens, scarves - as every family can use extras

If you have a question, please feel free to call Jaydene Scofield at (518) 673-8280.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. For more information, go to www.agjaauw.org

If you weren't at the November meeting to pick up your AAUW directory for 2011-2012, they are gorgeous again this year, thanks to Patsy Suydam! Hope you'll be there in December to get your copy.

--Sandy Maceyka

January Meeting

The January Meeting will be on the 17th at the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market at 30 North Main Street in Gloversville. If you come at 5:30 p.m. there will be volunteers there to give you a tour, and you may purchase items then as the store will still be open. At 6 p.m. Linda Hinkle will give us a mini-tour of the Micropolis Art Gallery housed in the co-op. By 6:30 p.m. we should be enjoying a “from scratch” light dinner and at 7 p.m. Crystal Stewart will give a presentation on women and farming. You will also receive a booklet from the American Farmland Trust regarding food, farming, and the Farm Bill 2012. Our food has lots of politics in it, so come and learn how it affects us locally and nationally. For more information, contact Carol Cownie at 883-8099 or cmcownie@msn.com. Hope to see you there. Thanks.

Many Thanks

Thanks to all who supported our recent EOF/LAF auction. Many pulled together to give people opportunities to education and legal support through their monetary donations. It was a fun evening with Paula Becker offering to make this event a success. A big thanks goes out to those who attended, those who donated items to be auctioned, those who helped set up, those who purchased items, and those who donated money. We were able to raise over \$500 for these causes. If you were not able to attend or

donate, it is not too late. Send your donations to our treasurer Michele Acquaro and put EOF/LAF in the subject line.

–Ginni Mazur, LAF Chair

Women Making Strides

Although the total number of women CEO's of Fortune 500 companies fell from 15 to 12 this year due to 3 women leaving their positions and being replaced by male counterparts, there was a noteworthy occurrence. Beth E. Mooney of KeyCorp became the first ever woman chief of a top 20 U.S. bank.

AAUW's persistent efforts to draw attention to the inequities in awarding top positions to primarily males even when a woman or women in the same organization may be equally, if not more, qualified and with an equal amount of time on the job is rewarded by an occurrence such as Ms. Mooney's rise to the top with KeyCorp.

But, it is not just in positions such as Ms. Mooney's that women are continuing to make strides. In the recent election in New York State, Ann Crowell won election as the first female judge on the New York State Supreme Court.

Women will continue to surge forward with the support of organizations such as AAUW and its members. It is more important than ever that we volunteer our support in whatever areas we feel best suited to further the advancement of those women who aspire to positions of leadership.

--Helen Martin

College Student Organization Recruitment Continues

On November 28, recruitment of e-student affiliates will continue at FMCC. Students can join for free since FMCC is a College/University Member of AAUW. Trish Isabella and Liz Russo will continue the efforts of Patsy Suydam who signed up six e-student affiliates in October. Trish and Liz will be in the Student Union from noon to pm. Liz will also be signing up students from 5-6 p.m. in the college library area. If you know someone who is a student at FM, tell them to come over to the AAUW College Student Organization table and sign up!

New Members

We are happy to welcome Darcelle Winchell as a new member who learned about AAUW at our FMCC October meeting. Darcelle is FMCC Confidential Secretary for Student Affairs and is an AAS FMCC graduate. She was able to speak with several AAUW members at the impressive FMCC-hosted meeting. Darcelle has done volunteer work at health care facilities, orchestrated blood drives, and worked at various other community events. She is interested in dance, scrapbooking, travel, photography, and the Arts. Darcelle feels that AAUW is a worthwhile organization that promotes growth and equality.

Catherine Julius attended the University of Montreal and graduated with a Bachelor of

Science in Pharmacy. She was the co-owner of the Broadalbin Pharmacy and is a registered Pharmacist but currently not working. Catherine is helping with the care of her 89 year old mother. She is interested in yoga, reading, and attends the YMCA. Catherine is the mother of a 21 year old daughter, and it was this that interested her in joining AAUW. She is concerned about the inequities that still exist for women. Liz recruited her to be a member.

Trish Isabella attended Skidmore College and graduated in 2000 with a B.S. degree in Marketing. She does free lancing in real estate investing. Trish enjoys volunteering and that is why she had an interest in AAUW.

After Hurricane Katrina she qualified as a Red Cross driver and went to New Orleans to render her help. She was recruited by Patsy Suydam who is a neighbor. Patsy says that Trish initiates many neighborhood gatherings and has lots of energy. Trish has already started recruiting for AAUW and wants to bring a friend, a possible new member, to our next meeting.

Two new members joined AGJ/AAUW at the November meeting and immediately joined in the humor and fun of the White Elephant auction.

Helen James has been a former member of AAUW, and we are delighted that she has returned. Helen lives in Johnstown and has degrees from the University of Colorado and Wichita State University. In 1987 she

received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology and in 1993 a MA/PhD in Community and Psychology Combined Studies. Helen is interested in organizations that support the rights of women. She arrived with another new member, Catherine Julius, who was attending her first meeting.

Anya Biel, a History Instructor at FMCC, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Foreign Languages (English and German) from Oryol State University in Russia. She has Master's Degrees in History and Russian Studies, and a PhD in History; all from SUNY Albany. Before joining FMCC in 2010, Anya taught Russian and History as an adjunct instructor for Union College and Schenectady County Community College. She volunteers at the Mohawk Harvest Coop and with the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Consortium. Liz Russo and Jane Kelly both spoke to Anya about joining AAUW.

--Patsy Suydam

AAUW Makes the Front Page

On November 7, AAUW's new research report, [Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School](#), made the front pages. Based on findings from a national survey conducted this spring, the report presents the most comprehensive research to date on sexual harassment in grades 7-12 and reveals some sobering statistics about the prevalence of sexual harassment and the negative effects it has on students' education. [The Associated Press](#),

[New York Times](#), [Washington Post On Parenting blog](#), [Education Week](#), and [Capitol Hill Blue](#) have all posted stories as did our local [Leader Herald!](#) The report was [officially released](#) on November 15 at an event at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. It's exciting to be part of the "Big Teal Machine" as AAUW is now on Captial Hill!

--Liz Russo

January 12 Board Meeting

With half a year gone by, we would appreciate your input on what we have done and ideas for what we can do in the future to make our branch even better. The January 12 board meeting will be open to all members, not just the executive committee. The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. at the Johnstown Public Library.

Please mark your calendar.

--Liz Russo

Friendly's Fundraiser

Thank you to Trish Isabella, Jahnn Gibson, Bonnie Van Wie, and Michele Acquaro for acting as greeters at our recent fundraiser at Friendly's. In addition, thank you to those who either dined at Friendly's on November 14 or got the word out to others who attended. However, attendance was not what we hoped and as a result we still have at least \$500 more to raise towards the \$1,000 our branch gives annually in local scholarships awards. --Liz Russo

Pancake Breakfast February 26

We are fortunate to have been offered an opportunity by the Soroptimists to help our AAUW branch raise additional money for our local scholarships. The Soroptimists will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast at the Johnstown Moose on Sunday, February 26 from 8-11 a.m. We will be partnering with them to sell tickets and work shifts on the day of the breakfast. The profits will be split between AAUW and the Soroptimists who are organizing the event. At the upcoming meetings, we will be asking for 15 volunteers to commit to working one of two shifts - either 7:30-10 a.m. or 9-11:30 a.m. on February 26. In addition, tickets (five to each AAUW member) will be distributed at the AAUW meeting on January 17. Ticket money will be collected at the February 16 AAUW meeting. We will need the support of all of our members to at least sell tickets to make this a success. Thanks in advancing for saving the date of February 26 for AAUW. --Liz Russo

February Meeting

For our Thursday, February 16 meeting, we are to read and discuss [The Hospital by the River](#). The book is written by Dr. Catherine Hamlin who, with her husband Reg, established what has been heralded as one of the most incredible medical programs in the modern world. The Hamlins dedicated their lives to women suffering the catastrophic injuries, called fistulae, of obstructed labor. Until the Hamlins

began their work in Ethiopia, fistula sufferers were neglected and forgotten--a vast group of women facing a lifetime of incapacity and degradation. Catherine and Reg, with their team of dedicated fistula surgeons, have successfully operated on over 25,000 women, and the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital has become a major teaching institution for gynecologists from all over Ethiopia and the developing world. Set against the backdrop of Ethiopia, this is a moving and utterly compelling account of an extraordinary life. The New York Times calls Dr. Hamlin "the new Mother Teresa of our age."

The book is available on amazon.com for \$10.19. I have three copies of the book to circulate in our branch. Check with me to get on the "reserved" list.

–Patsy Suydam

My Sister's Keeper 2.0

As part of the NYS AAUW program "My Sister's Keeper 2.0", we have extended an invitation to our sisters in the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium to join us on February 16 for discussion of the book, The Hospital By the River. To make the book more readily available, our branch will be donating copies of the book to local libraries. We hope to increase awareness of the debilitating damage women endure in developing countries due to prolonged delivery without proper care.

–Liz Russo

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 28

E-student Affiliate Recruitment
FMCC Student Union noon-1 p.m.
FMCC Library area 5-6 p.m.

December 1

Sister to Sister Summit planning meeting at 5:30 p.m.
FM College Board Room
Student Union Building

December 3

Branch Meeting Holiday Brunch
10:30 a.m. at Union Hall,
Johnstown
Musical Entertainment by Penny Jar
Gift donations to Turning Point

December 6

ECSWC Symposium planning meeting
5:30 p.m. at Johnstown Public Library

January 12

AAUW Board meeting
6 p.m. Johnstown Public Library

January 17

Branch Meeting (light supper)
5:30 p.m. at Mohawk Harvest
Cooperative Market /
Micropolis Gallery
30 Main Street, Gloversville
Speaker - Crystal Stewart
Donations to flood victims

February 16

Branch Meeting with ECSWC
(dessert)

6 p.m. at the Johnstown Public Library
Our Sister's Keeper 2.0
Book Discussion - *The Hospital by the River*
Donations to Fistula Repair Fund

February 26

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
7:30-11:30 a.m.
Johnstown Moose
Rte. 30A, Johnstown
Benefit AAUW local scholarships



Sat Dec 3 2011 AAUW Meeting

Brunch 10:30 a.m.

Union Hall

E. Main Street Johnstown, NY

Menu

Quiche Choices, Mixed Salad, Sausage Tart,
Bread Pudding for Dessert, Juice, Coffee, and Tea

Cost: \$17 including tax & tip

Christmas Outreach Collection:

Items will be collected for Turning Point,
run by The Family Counseling Center, Inc.

Gift Cards for entertainment & Restaurant Gift Cards & Gas Cards
School supplies, children's books & Target or Walmart Gift Cards
Hats, mittens, scarves, etc

If you have a question, please call Jaydene Scofield our Community Chair
at (518) 673-8280.

Entertainment - The Penny Jar

Name: _____

**Return with check for \$17.00 payable to AAUW
(If you are unable to attend & wish to donate to Turning Point,
please send along your donation to)**

**Sandra Maceyka
100 E 6th Ave
Johnstown, NY 12095**

736-5130, email smaceyka@frontiernet.net



**AAUW January Meeting
January 17, 2012 6pm.**

**The Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market, 30 North Main St.
Gloversville, NY**

**Crystal Stewart from Cornell
Cooperative Extension, speaker
and mini-tour of Micropolis Art
Gallery with Linda Hinkle**

**Light, homemade dinner of tomato
cheddar basil soup, sandwich,
choice of cookie and coffee or tea,
\$12.50**

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**Sandwich Choice.....Circle One
Chicken & Cranberry on Croissant

****Hummus Veggie on Wheat Bagel**

**RSVP by January 12th to Carol
Cownie, 232 N. Main St, Broadalbin
NY 12025 or call 883-8099.
Checks made out to AAUW.**

