



Upstate Update

*AMSTERDAM * GLOVERSVILLE* JOHNSTOWN BRANCH*

The American Association of University Women advances equity for woman and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

January 2014

Important Meeting

Monday, January 6, 2014
6 pm at Johnstown Public Library

Subject: March Fundraiser Planning
Event Organizer: Helen James

All Members Are Urged to Attend

Co-President's Message

Liz and I hope that everyone is having a very Happy Holidays! I don't know about you but it seems to be going by too fast. It is fun sharing the holidays with family and friends.

In January we will be having 3 meetings – 1/6/14 planning meeting for March's fundraiser, 1/13 our monthly meeting and then on 1/22 Board Meeting. The planning meeting is an important meeting. All members will be able to contribute to this fundraiser. Helen James needs volunteers for various committees and will need all of our feedback. We need a name for our event, need names of people who we can invite to attend, need assistance in getting ads for our program book. All levels of participation are available to our members. If you don't think you are creative or handy with making decorations, then Helen has a bunch of other tasks that you will probably be able to do or would enjoy working on.

On November 16th Mohawk Harvest Co-Operative Market and AGJ presented "A Place at the Table". About 2 weeks later Gov. Andrew Cuomo named a diverse group of 2 dozen people to serve on his new state Anti-Hunger Task Force. (Nice coincidence on the timing following our movie showing.) The panel has been given three primary goals: maximizing federal dollars for the state's anti-hunger efforts; promoting public-private partnerships; and increasing the participation of New York's farms in combating hunger while simultaneously stimulating economic activity. The membership includes anti-hunger advocates including Margarete Purvis, president and CEO of the Food Bank of New York City, who will serve as its chair, and Mark Quandt, president of the Food Bank Association of New York State. Representatives from the greater Capital Region include Richard Ball, owner of Schoharie Valley Farms.

In a statement, Cuomo said the task force would be "a key resource and tool in our ongoing efforts to eliminate hunger in New York. ... In the 21st century, it is simply intolerable that one million New York children are going to bed hungry and so many households are struggling to put food on the table." The commissioners of a variety of state agencies — Agriculture & Markets; Children & Family Services; Education; Temporary & Disability Assistance; and Health — as well as the director of Farmers Markets at Empire State Development Corporation and the Director of the State Office for the Aging will serve on the panel in ex-officio roles.

An advocate, Ron Deutsch of New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness, said Monday that he was "encouraged by the governor's commitment to helping end hunger by launching this new task force. We hope this is just the first step and that his 2014-15 budget will make a serious financial commitment to begin to address the scourge of hunger in one of the richest states in the country."¹ I am looking forward to see the progress from this task force.

You probably heard by now but the Flu Season has hit in NYS. If you haven't received your flu shot or pneumonia shot, it is not too late. If you have the sniffles or other respiratory ailments, please avoid visiting a patient at the hospital or at their home. The healthcare facilities in New York State are now required to have their employees who have not been vaccinated wear face masks during their shift in patient care areas. The State law requires the healthcare facilities to have the patient care staff following the regulation. If an employee fails to either have the vaccine or wear a mask, then they will be asked to leave work. This law is a modification to the one a few years ago that demanded all patient care staff receive a flu vaccine – no options. The previous law didn't last for very long as various labor groups worked to have it abolished as it violated civil rights.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our January meetings.

Co-president Linda Hammond

¹ "Hunger Panel Takes Shape" by Casey Seiler, Times Union 12/9/2013

**AAUW Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 22nd
6pm**

Johnstown Public Library

All branch members are welcome!

Officers and committee chairs are encouraged to attend or send a report.

The agenda will include:

- Forming a budget committee for 2013-14. Committee heads are asked to submit their budget needs at this meeting. A nominating committee of 3 members will also be needed. According to our By Laws, officers that will be up for election in April include treasurer and vice presidents (program and membership). Those in office now may run for a second term. In addition, we are still looking for a permanent newsletter editor and AAUW Funds Chair.
- Looking ahead to the NYS Convention at the end of April, we will also begin work will on the application for AAUW NYS awards and plan for LAF basket and/or purse donations.
- Finally, updates on our April meeting, March 29 fundraiser and May 20 Tech Savvy Summit for Girls will be on the agenda.

We have a full plate! Please join us and be in on the planning and decision making for our branch.

January 13 Dessert Meeting - Foster Care

Carol Cownie has organized our next meeting which will focus on what happens to children when they age out of foster care. The first half of our meeting will involve discussion of the book "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, a novel about a girl in foster-care who uses the language of flowers to communicate mistrust and solitude. In the second half of the meeting we will hear from our speaker, Amber Beard, Community Coordinator for Berkshire Farms who will provide us with an understanding of what is happening with foster care in our area. It is interesting to note that in the December 15 Parade magazine included in the Sunday paper there was an article titled "Guiding Light". It was about helping kids in Georgia who had aged out of foster care take back their

lives. The article stated that youth who age out of the system face an increased risk of unemployment and incarceration. We look forward to learning more at our January meeting.

“The Language Flowers” including large print and audio copies have been reserved at the JPL under AAUW Book Club for our branch to borrow. If you don’t have time to read the book, please join us to learn from our speaker about this social justice issue. The meeting will take place at the Johnstown Public Library from 6-8pm. There is no charge and guests are welcome to attend. Reservations are requested by January 6 to plan for seating and refreshments. Please contact Paula Lerner at 736-2449.

Branch Officers:

Presidents

Liz Russo

Linda Hammond

Vice Presidents – Program

Darcelle Winchell

Sandy Maceyka

Vice President – Membership

Catherine Julius

Vice President – Ed Opp Fund

Open Position

Vice President – Legal Advocacy

Open Position

Recording Secretary –

Bonnie Van Wie

Treasurer – Ella Ryder

Public Policy – Jennifer Garren

Know someone who would like to try out AAUW?

A half year AAUW membership is available for \$37

HELP WANTED

AAUW FUNDS Chair (Co-Chairs)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR (assistant)

“A Place at the Table” - Follow-up

We were pleased that sixty attended our November branch showing of “A Place at the Table”, the movie regarding the stereotyping of hunger. Our branch partnered with the Mohawk Harvest Coop to provide the program. Thirty stayed for the panel discussion that followed. Fifty-five jars of peanut butter and fifty-five jars of jelly plus other food items as well as \$60 cash were donated by attendees. Thanks to Helen James and Carol Cownie for organizing the event, to the Mohawk Harvest Co-op for covering the cost of the Glove Theater and the Glove Theater for showing the movie and assisting us with arrangements the day of the event. We were glad to see 18 of our branch members in attendance with their family and friends. It was a very enlightening documentary and the panel members, Crystal Stewart, Elizabeth Blodgett and Dr. James added to our knowledge of the “healthy food” shortage as well. Special thanks to Dr. James and wife Helen who graciously purchased the “A Place at the Table” for the showing and donated it to our branch. The movie, therefore, is now available to AAUW to show to other community groups and to offer to other branches to show in their communities as well.



Donations to Gloversville, Johnstown and Amsterdam Food Pantries

In addition to collections taken at the showing of “A Place at the Table”, Helen James organized a coordinated food pantry collection by the JHS student council and Mary Jablonski encouraged students at Glebe Street Elementary school in Johnstown to bring in cans of soup. The PB and J and soup were delivered to the Johnstown food pantry at St. John’s Episcopal Church. A check for \$56 collected by the JHS Student Council will be sent there as well. PB and J collected at the Movie showing was donated to the Salvation Army food pantry in Gloversville. In addition, \$60 collected at the event will be sent to Catholic Charities for the Amsterdam food pantry.

December Happenings

Festival of Trees

The Branch Lunch Bunch and friends enjoyed their second annual gathering at the Century Club's Festival of Trees in Amsterdam on December 2. In addition to lunch, the group of 12 enjoyed festive decorations, music performed by the AHS select choir and Liberty bell ringers and an opportunity to shop for holiday decorations and gifts.



For those of you who missed our Holiday Party...

Our annual holiday party was held this year at Parillo's Armory Grill in Amsterdam. For those who have never been to Parillo's, it is truly a pleasure. The restaurant exudes an elegant Victorian atmosphere, and indeed, one feels more like one is visiting a high Victorian home, rather than eating out in a restaurant. The dining area is divided into smaller seating areas, adorned with stained glass lamps and other Victoriana. There is so much to look at, it is really most delightful.

The food was delicious. I had the Chicken Francaise, which was tender and juicy. The bread was excellent, as was the dessert an Italian pudding. We also had Italian goodies from Dolci bakery nearby - compliments of member Catherine Julius.

All this would have been a reward in itself, but the real hit of the day was our harpist Nancy Murphy-Walko, whose diligent husband brought in her full sized (almost 6ft) harp. What a gorgeous instrument. Several different woods were used including birds-eye maple to produce this harp. The front of the harp was carved, having the appearance of a Greek Column, and was covered with real gold leaf. Nancy said that the

harp was quite old, and that all of its owners had been accounted for except for a short period, during which time she thought it had been perhaps in Hollywood. As large as it is, the strings exert about 200 lbs of pressure on the harp, and one has to take care that the pressure doesn't pull it apart. Estimate of current cost would be about \$67,000.

Nancy told us that she had been playing the harp for about 25 years. Her program was a mix of anecdotes about the harp itself and the music which she played, and her playing was a true delight. She told us about the history of harps, and played a medieval piece. One could picture Henry VII enjoying it. The Chinese used harps, and when she played a Chinese tune, one could easily envision Mandarins at the Chinese Court. She gave us the history of the harp in Ireland and we heard an Irish piece that at least to my ear was very identifiable as Irish.

As an interesting tidbit of history, we learned about Bards, who were singer/historians in the Celtic world. Not only did they entertain, but they recorded the history of their people. Bards were itinerant. They also went into battle, to sing encouraging songs and to watch the battle, so they could later set the battle history to music. It was illegal to kill a Bard during battle, as that action would erase the people's history. When Oliver Cromwell came into power in England in the mid 1600's, he not only outlawed Christmas Celebrations, but ordered all the harps destroyed, as well.

Harp music is so beautiful and relaxing and Nancy was such a good harpist and raconteur that we were all sad when the party ended and it was time to go. In truth, it was a very special day. - Jahnn Gibson

Special Thanks!

Thanks to Linda Hammond for the yummy holiday gifts of jars homemade jelly. Linda purchased them at the NYS AAUW Board Meeting in November. They were prepared by NYS AAUW Legal Advocacy Chair (LAF), Nancy Mion, to raise money for the LAF Evvie Curry Giving Circle. Linda bought the jelly to give to branch members who attended our December meeting. Her donation will be credited to our LAF branch contributions for 2013.

And More Thanks!

In addition, Linda Hammond also donated a basket to raffle to raise money for the Fistula Repair Fund. Each person who donated \$10 received a raffle ticket. Mary Jablonski was the winner of the basket. Congratulations, Mary!

Book Discussion Update

Branch Bunch Book Discussion November 20

The book discussion session took place in the evening on November 20 at House of Pizza. Two books about Native Americans were reviewed: "Ride the Wind: The Story of Cynthia Ann Parker and the Last Days of the Comanche" and "Kateri, Flower of the Mohawks". The differences between the plains Indians on the west coast and our own Mohawk Indian cultures was discussed as well as the different reasons each was eventually wiped out. In the west, expansion of white settlements threatened the hunting grounds of the natives as well as the availability of wild ponies for them to catch and train. In the east alliances with the French and English in wars against the colonies was a large result of their downfall. Member Jahnn Gibson who includes Native American as part of her heritage, dressed for the occasion with feathers in her hair and read with great emotion "Black Elk's Prayer" to conclude the evening.

January Book Discussion

Since we will be reading "Language of Flowers" as a branch in preparation for the January meeting on aging out of foster care, we will not have an additional Lunch Brunch Book Discussion in January. Multiple copies of the book including large print and audio versions are available at the JPL under AAUW Book Club.

February Book Choice

In celebration of Black History Month, the suggested AAUW Adelante book is "[The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White](#)" by Henry Wiencek. **Unfortunately, copies are not readily available through the library system** due to the fact that it was written in 1999.

Therefore, we can choose a book from a different month that would be easier for us to access, perhaps the **January book**, for National Mentoring Month: "[Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead](#)" by Sheryl Sandberg. Sandberg is the chief operating officer of Facebook and is ranked on *Fortune's* list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Business and as one of *Time's* 100 Most Influential People in the World. In 2010, she gave an electrifying TED Talk in which she described how women unintentionally hold themselves back in their careers. Her [talk](#), which became a phenomenon and has been viewed more than 2 million times on the TED website, encouraged women to sit at the table, seek challenges, take risks, and pursue their goals with gusto. In *Lean In*, Sandberg examines why women's progress in achieving leadership roles has stalled, explains the root causes, and offers compelling, commonsense solutions that can empower women to achieve their full potential. Multiple copies of "Lean In" are available through the Mohawk Valley Library System. Do you have another choice to suggest? **Let us know your preference for February and when and where you would like to meet to discuss the book.**

MEMBERSHIP:

Welcome to our new members!

Melissa Ackernecht

Melissa received an AAUW scholarship from our branch when she graduated from FMCC this past May with an AAS in Human Services. She is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development. She is married with 3 adult stepchildren and a 9 month old granddaughter. She lives in Johnstown with her husband and they enjoy riding motorcycles in her free time. She's an avid reader and loves to cook and bake, both personally and professionally.

Melissa works as a Direct Support Coordinator for Lexington Center where she has been for the past 13 years and she also owns her own business "Creative Comforts" which she established in 2005. She sells soy candles and a variety of gifts. Welcome aboard Melissa!

Mary K. Donohue

Mary is the Library Director of Fulton-Montgomery Community College and a Professor of Computer Science. She received her Bachelor of Arts in 1982 from SUNY Geneseo and her Masters of Science in Library Science in 1989 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. From 2003 to 2009 she earned 60 credit hours towards a Ph.D. in Informatics at SUNY Albany. She worked at several elementary schools and at Broadalbin-Perth Middle School as either Director or Library Media Specialist before getting a job as Technical Services/Reference Librarian in 1992 at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. From this position she made her way up to where she is today.

Through the years she has a long list of Professional Accomplishments. For instance, in the summer of 2012 she was instrumental in the acquisition of a 30 iPad "Mobile Classroom" for information Literacy Program used by the faculty and library staff in the Library and throughout the campus at FMCC. She has been in a Leadership role in several different Committees, Boards and Councils including SUNY Council of Library Directors and New York Library Association. She has published "The Autobiography of a Modern Community College Librarian". She was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship in 2003 and procured two substantial Grants for FMCC.

As we can see, Mary is dedicated to her work and we hope to learn more about her personal life and her hobbies when she attends our meetings next year. I am personally looking forward to getting to know her better.

Ladan Alomar

Ladan is Executive Director of Centro Civico of Amsterdam, Inc., a not-for-profit community-based organization in downtown Amsterdam. She is originally from the Middle East but has been an active resident of the Capital District area for the past 32 years. She learned about AGJ AAUW from Liz Russo and though she is a very busy lady she is interested in supporting women's issues and networking with other women as well as receiving AAUW publications.

She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Directing from SUNY Albany and then her Masters of Arts in Educational Administration from SUNY Albany in 1990. In 1989 she was hired by Centro Civico to coordinate the Liberty Partnership Program (LPP), a program serving youth at risk of dropping out of high school. This was funded through the New York State Education Department. Ladan was so successful with this program that within six months she was promoted to Deputy Director of Operations. Three years later she became only the second person to hold the title of Executive Director for the organization. She was able to raise the capital needed to purchase and renovate the property which now houses the agency's operations. Under her direction, it has been recognized as a model service provider using education and intervention strategies showing the possibilities of transformation with Hispanic and low-income communities. The agency's slogan is "Building Community One Block at a Time".

Ladan has served on many Boards of many worthy agencies in the past and is currently serving on the boards of the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities, University at Albany, the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. and the Capital Area Urban League. She has also received a long list of special awards and recognitions. She graciously hosted our AAUW Lunch Bunch meeting at the Centro Civico in September and she talked about her work and a little about her past experience as a foreign student. I found her to be charming and very intelligent. I hope she can come to at least a few of our meetings.

Teresa Storti

Teresa who prefers to be called Teri is a relatively new resident of Johnstown. She learned about AGJ AAUW from one of our other new members, Paula Lerner. She joined because she's interested in supporting women's issues and she wants to network with other women in the area. Teri grew up in Kansas and received her Bachelor of Science from Kansas State University in 1973 with a degree in Speech and Theater. She was with a touring theater company while at KSU and then she lived for a time in Chicago where she was doing theater and odd jobs.

She literally met her husband on stage in the production of Room Service where they played girlfriend and boyfriend. She then went on to Grad school in California. She earned a Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Southern California in 1981. After Grad school she was married and moved to southern Florida where she was MIS director of a business until the move to Orlando. There she worked for the Civic Theater of Central Florida as the assistant director to Director John Loesser.

Her husband had graduated from the University of Vermont, so the next move was to Vermont where she landed a job as the Annual Funds Director and Alumni Relations Director for a small college near Brattleboro, Marlboro College. Her husband who had Juvenile Diabetes became disabled and very ill in 2008 and passed away

in 2009. After losing her job she met and fell in love again with Jack Smolik in Bennington VT. Jack is retired and a widower with 2 grown daughters.

About a year ago, while healing from a hip replacement Teri decided to come live with Jack. She plays sous-chef to Jack who loves to cook and they enjoy driving. They have 2 cats- Niles and Daphne. Teri works as Administrative Assistant at the Mental Health Association. She was a board member of the Glove Theater and enjoys acting, directing, and singing. She will be acting at Home Made Theater in Saratoga Springs. She also enjoys Tennis and is a History Buff especially, Ancient and Tudor history.

We are looking forward to her working with us on our first Annual Capital Fundraiser, especially with all the experience she has and she says she would love to head one of the many committees needed to pull it off. Welcome Terri and see you January 6, 2014.

Ellen DiScioscia

Ellen received a Gift to Grad membership donated by Liz Russo when she also graduated from FMCC in May 2013 with an AAS in Human Services. She lives in Gloversville, is on the Fulton County Board of Elections and also works at the Gloversville Senior Center. She learned about AAUW from Anya Biel and served as President of the AAUW Student Organization at FMCC in 2012. Unfortunately that's the only information I have so hopefully we will learn more about our new member when she comes to our meetings. Welcome Ellen!

Catherine Julius, Co-VP of Membership

LAF and EOF Branch Donations

At our November board meeting, we finalized our annual branch donations to the AAUW Funds. As in past years, our branch donated \$300 to the Legal Advocacy Evvie Currie Giving Circle which is a Campus Outreach Program Grant. The money donated to the Evvie Currie Giving Circle can be used only in NY State to establish and continue College/University connections to help protect students from discrimination, harassment and assault. Evvie Currie was past NYS AAUW president, LAF chair and longtime champion organizing many LAF auctions at the NYS Conventions. She is a member of the Schenectady Branch. It was of particular significance that we donate to the Evvie Currie Giving Circle this year because Evvie just celebrated her 90th birthday! Her daughter Meg, orchestrated a "birthday card shower" Those in attendance at our board meeting signed cards to show Evvie our branch support of her milestone and thank her for all her dedication to LAF and AAUW over the years.

In addition, we voted to direct our Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) donation of \$300 to the Carolyn Joslin Donovan International Project Fund. Carolyn Donovan has long served as our AAUW NGO representative to the United Nations until her recent retirement. In honor of her service a new fund dedicated to supporting the work of international scholars in their home countries has been established. Think of it as community action grant which would expand on the research that they did as international scholars. Although Carolyn Donovan is a member of the North Shore branch she has a connection to our AGJ branch. Fifteen years ago Carolyn Donovan was in attendance at the Summer Leadership Conference during which we were together in a workshop session to set a goal and determine means to implement it. As new co-president (with Pat Valachovic) my goal was to bring the AAUW Sister to Sister Summit to our community. It was Carolyn's encouragement and "cheerleading" that resulted in our branch undertaking our first Sister to Sister Summit in 1999. Our branch donation to the Carolyn Joslin Donovan International Project Fund is a way of honoring her 15 years later for the mentoring she provided.

Fistula Foundation Collection

We collected \$160 at our December 7 meeting for the Fistula Foundation. This is the third year we are raising money as part of My Sister's Keeper NYS AAUW initiative. We will continue with collections at the January 13 meeting. Anyone interested in donating who cannot attend the January meeting is welcome to use the *attached form and send check to Linda Hammond. Our goal is to reach \$450, the amount needed to repair one fistula. Obstetric fistulas which occur during delivery as a result of lack of proper medical care result in injuries to the wall of the bladder and bowel leading to incontinence and leakage of wastes. Women with these symptoms are outcasts and often abandoned by husbands and families. Donations help women in 15 countries in Africa and Asia. The Foundation will determine where the greatest need is for our contribution. The first fistula repair hospital was established in Ethiopia. Since then the Fistula Foundation has been able to expand the availability of the surgeries. We are lucky to have obstetric care readily available in this country, let's help our sisters who are not as fortunate.

JPL Basket Donation

As in years past our branch will be donating a basket for the Johnstown Public Library's fundraiser which will take place in April. We donate to the JPL because we hold several meetings a year including board meetings, committee meetings and occasional regular monthly meetings in the community room of the JPL free of charge. The basket donation is our way of saying "Thank you". In addition it provides visibility for our AAUW branch. We will put together a coordinated basket with items of use to a girl entering college and dorm life. If you would like to help shop for items for our College Survival Basket, please let us know. We will accept monetary donations to cover the items at our January 13 and February 12 meetings.

Women Equality Agenda / Update from Bev Alves:

The meeting I had planned to report on had been very brief and the women in leadership talked about potential plans for next year.

I contacted Marc Butler re the Agenda: I received a note from him stating that he could not/would not endorse any agenda unless abortion was removed from it. This seems to be the general consensus from Republicans in the legislature; I heard the same thing when I went lobbying last spring. They want the 10 point agenda to be presented as 10 separate agendas. I'll let you know as soon as things start up again.

Cindy Gilmore

We lost a former member on December 17th. Cindy was a member for many years until 2010-2011. Has been in failing health for the past couple of years. I have known Cindy for many years. She was also a member of the former BPW club of Fulton, Montgomery & Hamilton Counties. Cindy was active with our initiatives and was an officer in many capacities. She was fun to work with. There were times when she wasn't able to attend some of the meetings but she kept in contact through her computer and helped us many times.

AAUW Title IX Champions

AAUW members do vital work to ensure that students' rights under Title IX are enforced. They have investigated Title IX compliance, assembled lists of Title IX coordinators in schools, promoted better sexual assault policies, and helped teach students, parents, educators, coaches, and administrators about Title IX's requirements. The U.S. Department of Education simply cannot enforce Title IX alone, and AAUW members are helping shrink the enforcement gap.

Beginning early in the new year, AAUW will launch an effort to recognize, celebrate, and publicize contributions to the effort! In January, AAUW members and branches will be nominated as Title IX Champions. Some branches have mounted an awareness campaigns, made a commitment to attend women's athletic events, and used the AAUW Know the Score program to investigate Title IX compliance, or found another creative way to promote Title IX in their communities.

Tech Savvy Summit for Girls - May 20

Organization is underway for the 3rd annual Tech Savvy Summit for Girls. This is the 15th Summit for middle school girls our local branch has offered, the third that focuses on science, technology, engineering and math.

The day-long conference will take place once again at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. Girls can choose three hands-on workshops to attend. Breakfast snacks and lunch will be provided as part of the \$8 registration fee. Darcelle Winchell has been contacting faculty at FMCC who facilitated workshops in the last two years to ask if they will be willing to continue. Liz Russo has sent "save the date" e-mails to schools to confirm correct contacts.

Linda Bumpus is currently sending out letters soliciting donations from those businesses and organizations who have support the Sister to Sister Summits in the past. Registration materials will be sent to the schools in March. Each middle school in Hamilton-Fulton and Montgomery counties will be encouraged to send fifteen girls to attend.

Deadline for registration is April 17 to allow time for Linda Hammond to sort the girls into their workshops choices. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Linda Bumpus.

Title IX in Your School District?

Here's some "homework" for you...

Do you know who the Title IX coordinator is in your school district? Let's see if we can come up with a list by the January 22 board meeting. Perhaps we can work to become AAUW Title IX Champions as part of our mission.



AAUW Student Organization

The AAUW Student Organization has reorganized thanks to the efforts of Andy Haas the new president. Andy had attended the presentations by Santa Pumpura and Jackie Goeff-McNish and recruited others to join in the effort. The group is working on marketing itself by creating an AAUW Student Organization display board and designing name tags. We would like to thank Susan McLeod for serving as acting advisor while Anya Biel has been on maternity leave.

Hour of Code

AAUW celebrated Computer Science Education Week (December 1-15) and the Hour of Code for the first time. Our branch submitted a Letter to the Editor regarding the Hour of Code which appeared in the Leader Herald on December 13. I accessed the computer link and earned my certificate for completing an Hour of Code (programming) as I successfully "wrote code" for Angry Bird to capture Pig. It was all done with forward, and left and right commands. My 7 year old grandson tried it out also and progressed much faster than I did! There is also a lesson (program in a box) using cups, paper and pencil for those without computers. Perhaps next year our branch might organize an event for the community during Computer Science Education Week focused on using the computer tutorials to develop codes. *Liz Russo*

ECSWC Participation in Ag Literacy Week (March 17-21)

In response to a request from Bonnie Peck, Extension Resource Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Fulton & Montgomery Counties the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium will be donating 20 copies of the book "Who Grew My Soup?" to be used during Ag Literacy Week – March 17-21, 2014. This will be the 8th year for this event and up until now grant funds were used to purchase the year's selected book. No grant funding was available for the book purchase this year so Cornell Cooperative has reached out to the community and ECSWC was more than pleased to be able to help with this worthwhile project. Since AAUW is one of the Consortium member organizations I wanted to make sure you were all aware of this project.

To quote Bonnie, "As the nation's conversation is focused on healthy living and eating nutritious foods, it is the perfect time to help our students to build the knowledge that nutrition starts on the farm. After listening to the story, the students will participate in an activity featuring My Plate, eating at least 5 servings of vegetables and introducing actual farmers that grow their favorite vegetables.

In addition to accepting donation to purchase the books (\$8.00 each) Cornell Cooperative is also looking for "readers" to read the selected book to students in second grade classes throughout Fulton and Montgomery Counties.

If you wish to participate as a reader please contact Bonnie Peck at bsp8@cornell.edu or by phone at 673-5525, ext. 115. They are scheduling now for the two meeting/training opportunities to be held on March 12, 2014 – one in Canajoharie and the other at the Shirley Luck Senior Citizens Center in Johnstown.

Since AAUW is a champion of education I hope you will consider donating in one capacity or another to help with this project!

Helen Martin
ECSWC

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Monday, January 6, 2014

March Fundraiser Committee Meeting
6pm
Johnstown Public Library

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's
Consortium Meeting
5:30 pm Johnstown Public Library

January 13, 2014

Topic: Aging Out of Foster Care;
Book Discussion: *The Language of Flowers*
by Vanessa Deffenbaugh
Speaker: Amber Beard
Dessert meeting
Johnstown Public Library, 6 pm

Wednesday, January 22

Board Meeting
6pm
Johnstown Public Library

February 12, 2014

Dancing for Health and Fun
by Darcelle Winchell and Catherine Julius
Broadalbin Hotel at 5:30
Buffet Dinner \$17.00

March 17-21, 2014

Ag Literacy Week
Reading at local schools

Saturday, March 29

Spring Brunch
(Fundraiser for local scholarships)
11am -2pm Century Club, Amsterdam
*For more details?.....
Come to the January 6 planning meeting!

2014 NYS AAUW Convention

April 25 – 27, 2014

*A World of Wellness
Stimulating the Mind
Energizing the Body
Inspiring the Soul*

**Honor's Haven Resort
Ellenville, NY**

Watch for details at www.AAUW-NYS.org



AAUW
January Dessert Meeting

Monday, January 13

6pm

Johnstown Public Library
Community Room

Topic: Aging Out of Foster Care

Discussion of the book:
“The Language of Flowers”
By Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Speaker:

Amber Beard - Berkshire Farms, Community Coordinator
will join us for the book discussion and to answer questions about what is happening with foster care in our area.

Dessert and Beverages

The novel is about Victoria Jones who uses the language of flowers to communicate mistrust and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen and emancipated from the system with nowhere to go, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But an unexpected encounter with a mysterious stranger has her questioning what's been missing in her life. And when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.

The first half hour will be the book discussion and the second will allow us a Q&A for Amber. This way we can understand more of what is happening with foster care in our area

To provide enough seating and refreshments, we request that you RSVP by January 6 to Paula Lerner at 736-2449. For more information contact Carol Cownie.

**AMSTERDAM-GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN AAUW 2013-2014
Membership Renewal Form**

****PLEASE NOTE ANY CHANGES AND COMPLETE THE PAGE BELOW****

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Institution(s), Degree(s), and year(s) of graduation:

Current Email Address: _____

Please Check One of the Following:

_____ I have enclosed \$ _____ * for dues before June 1, 2014. *(\$69)

_____ **I have enclosed \$ _____ ** dues on or after June 1, 2014. **(\$74)**

National \$49
State \$13
Local \$7/\$12

To become a Life Member one pays 20 times the current national dues plus the current yearly state and local dues year-

_____ I have enclosed \$ _____ for dues as a Life Member.

Are you interested in serving on a committee?

Please indicate with an X. Committee descriptions are available from membership chairperson.

____ Program ____ Community Outreach ____ Finance ____ Membership ____ Historical ____ Nominating
____ Cultural ____ Public Policy ____ International Issues ____ Diversity ____ Educational Equi-
ty/Scholarship ____ LAF - Legal Advocacy Fund
____ TECH SAVVY/Sister 2 Sister ____ e-student and AAUW College Organization
____ Newsletter

Make your **check payable to AAUW** and send this form along with your check to treasurer:

Ella Ryder
P.O. Box 111
Mayfield, NY 12117

_____ **I am resigning membership in AAUW.**

My reason(s) is/are as follows: ____ Family obligations ____ Moving out of the area ____ Dues amount
____ Meeting topics Other (please specify): _____

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.