



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

June

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

Hello all! Beginning of summer is just about here. Graduations have started, end of the year school recitals/presentations, and soon the summer weddings. Time just needs to slow down a bit so I can keep up! We had a great weekend in Rochester as you will read later in the newsletter. One of the workshops offered was on Harriet Tubman. A spokeswoman from the Tubman Home in Auburn, NY, spoke about her efforts with the Under-

ground Railroad. She helped many slaves to escape from the south to areas in the north and Canada. She earned her nickname “Moses” or “General Tubman” through her efforts and bravery.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman served with the Union Army as a cook, laundress, nurse, scout, and spy behind Confederate lines. Afterwards, feeling that she had more work to do, she became involved with the suffrage efforts for voting rights for women and blacks.

Our chapter won the Gold 21st Century Award and program awards for our College Connection, our “Women in Farming” presentation and “Sister to Sister”, as well as, recognition for our LAF contributions. Our branch won for having the highest number of e-student affiliates throughout NYS. Our prize from Doris McCollum was a gallon of maple syrup!! We have recently received a request to do a presentation at the Summer Leadership Conference on our College Connection. A-G-J will need to

work on the feasibility and presentation outline for this.

Speaking of the Summer Leadership Conference – registration forms are now available online for this great conference. It will be in Cazenovia on July 20-22. Please let Liz Russo know if you are interested in attending this year. Saturday only attendance is also available. This is a great opportunity for us to learn what other branches are doing and new ideas for various ongoing programs.

We had a great meeting at the Kneseth Israel Synagogue with Marsha Smith’s presentation on the Chagall windows at Hadasah Hospital Synagogue in Jerusalem. The ladies served a delicious meal and provided a tour of the Synagogue. It is really a beautiful building. The Chagall windows are very unique and must be really beautiful to see on a sunny day.

Hope to see many of you at our June 6th meeting at the Fulton County Museum on Kingsboro Avenue in Gloversville. Patsy Suydam has prepared a great meeting for us.

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

This summer I will be working on our website – www.agjaauw.com (agjaauw.org site is still online but has outdated information.). I feel that our branch’s website needs to embrace some of today’s technology. We have many great presentations during the year. I am looking at the possibility of recording the presentations and then posting them on our website. This will enable our members who are unable to attend the ability to view the presentation from their home. Also, it would provide our e-students and college students members a chance to learn from our programs. Has any of our members written blogs? This could be another area that we could use as an interactive communication tool among members and our website visitors. There are branches that have Facebook accounts. Poughkeepsie, for example, has a great site - [My Sister's Keeper - Poughkeepsie AAUW Branch](#). I would be interested to hear back from our members on this idea. If I miss you at our June meeting, have a great summer. Be safe! And we will see you at our September meeting.

Linda Hammond
Co-President

June 6 Meeting

Our meeting, June 6, at the Fulton County Museum is scheduled during NY State Museum week. The week was designed to encourage NY State residents and visitors to explore the breadth of the state’s outstanding museums

and heritage organizations. Thanks to the arrangements made by Patsy Suydam, we look forward to hearing from Mark Pollak, president of the Fulton County Museum and touring the facility which includes exhibits about the FJG Railroad and the local glove business. Following hors d’oeuvres catered by Mohawk Valley Harvest, Fulton County Historian Peter Betz will give a presentation on Clarissa Putnam and her connection to the family of Sir William Johnson. Some of you may have read the historical novel, Clarissa Putnam of Tribes Hill by John J. Vrooman. Hope to see you all at the Museum on S. Kingsboro Avenue in Gloversville.

--Liz Russo

May 14 Board Meeting Update

Many new ideas were fielded at the recent board meeting regarding fundraising, marketing our branch, and videotaping speakers to share. We hope to keep the ideas coming as we move our branch forward into the 2012-13 year! --Liz Russo

Mother’s Day Flower Sale for Fistula Repair Fund

Thanks to all who purchased flowers, we made \$95.40 towards the \$106 we needed to reach the \$450 for one fistula repair surgery. We had initially received \$344 in donations at our February My Sister’s Keeper meeting and voted at our May meeting to take the remainder from our AAUW treasury to make up the difference, and send

a check for \$450 to the Fistula Repair Fund. Thank you, Connie Chamberlain and Jahnn Gibson, for organizing the Flower Sale. The bouquets of carnations were beautiful!

(Note of interest: Member Ella Ryder took her bouquet to work to display with information about the My Sister’s Keeper initiative and the Fistula Repair Fund. What a wonderful visual way to promote such a worthwhile cause and also let others know what AAUW “does”. Thanks, Ella!)

Sister to Sister Summit May 22

Thanks to the efforts of Co-Chairs Linda Bumpus and Patsy Suydam, by the time you receive this newsletter the 13th Annual Sister to Sister Summit will be underway. Approximately 160 girls and chaperones from 11 schools will be in attendance at this Tech Savvy focused conference for tri-county middle school girls. With our president’s recent visit to the SUNY Nano College and all the focus on furthering careers in the area of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) our AAUW branch is hopefully assisting in the future of our local students as well as our local economy.

We would like to thank the donors who helped to make this year’s Sister to Sister Summit possible. Monetary donations came from St. Mary’s Hospital, Stewart’s Shops, Mayfield Teacher’s Association, Fulton County Credit Union, Soroptimist International of Fulton Co.,

Johnstown Teachers Association, NBT Bank, FIT Happens, Montgomery County Youth Bureau, Post Net, Fonda-Fultonville PTA and Delta Kappa Gamma.

Food donations were received from Hannaford (Amsterdam and Gloversville), Price Chopper (Amsterdam, Gloversville, and Johnstown), Dunkin Donuts, McDonald's, and Washburn's Dairy. Capnote speaker honorarium, notepads, and pens were provided by Nathan Littauer Hospital.

In addition, thanks to Sue Summerfield, Melanie Pombrio, Anne Campos, MaryAnn Abad, and all the volunteers who helped with the set up and on the day of the Summit as well as Theresa House and Paula Carnevale and the girls at Fonda-Fultonville School who put together the registration materials.

--Liz Russo

New Member Update

We are delighted to welcome four new members: **Mary Ann Delany, Jane Kelley, Jeremy Spraggs, and Beverly Alves** to our AGJ branch.

Mary Ann Delany has an Associate's degree in Advertising, Design, and Production from SUNY at Albany. She previously studied at SUNY Mohawk Valley Community College. Mary Ann works in the gift shop at the National Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine in Fonda. The Kateri Shrine venerates Kateri Tekakwitha, a young 17th century Mohawk woman who is the first Native American woman

to be venerated in the Roman Catholic Church. Mary Ann also works as an illustrator and holds art workshops for children and adults with mental health issues, as well as for the general population. She has a farm with her husband where she tries to fit in riding her horses when she can. Mary Ann has worked as a vendor at two symposiums at FMCC where she met members of AAUW whom she found very active and enjoyable. Liz Russo spoke to Mary Ann about joining AAUW.

Jane Kelley, Vice President for Student Affairs at FMCC, graduated from Maria College with an AAS degree. She also holds a BS in Business Administration from The College of St. Rose and an MS in Education from Capella University. Jane is a member of Soroptomist International of Fulton County, is on the Foundation Board of Directors of St. Mary's Hospital, is a member of the Gloversville Women's Alumni Club, and a member of the State University of New York Chief Student Affairs Officers organization. FMCC President Dustin Swanger has said that Jane has a knack for remembering students, even after meeting them only once. "She walks across campus and knows almost every student's name," he said. When "a few students had a car accident ... she got up at 2 a.m. and went to the hospital and stayed until they were discharged." Jane was recruited by Liz Russo.

Jeremy Spraggs has a BS in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Recently hired by FMCC as an Electrical and Computer Technology Instructor, previous teaching experience includes developing and delivering seminars to technicians and engineers. A member of the New York State Engineering Technology Association and past member of the American Institute of Plant Engineers, he has written (and co-written) curriculum modules for National Science Foundation-funded programs. Jeremy is a Fulmont Community Action Agency board member and serves as treasurer for three Eastern New York Chapters of American Field Service (AFS) Student Exchange Organizations. He and his family have hosted exchange students in their home several times. He volunteers his time with local and regional judging and activities for Odyssey of the Mind programs. Jeremy's 10th grade daughter helped to promote his interest in STEM careers beginning with middle and high school girls. Liz Russo spoke to Jeremy about joining AAUW.

Beverly Alves graduated from Rutgers University with a BA in psychology. She taught special education for almost 30 years, retiring as a Herkimer County BOCES teacher. Beverly, along with Dr. George Jolly, a Saratoga Springs physician, has worked to raise awareness and support for a single-payer health

care system. When Beverly struggled to coordinate care for her husband, the experience led her to become involved in Single Payer Health Care Palliative Care, a movement that advocates a bill, HR-676, that has been introduced every year since 2003 by Rep. John Conyers Jr., Democrat of Michigan. That bill aims to create a publicly financed, privately delivered, nationwide health care program. Beverly frequently speaks and writes about single-payer health care and palliative care. She is also active in the Women Democrats. Beverly was encouraged to join AAUW by Marsha Smith.

--Patsy Suydam



Please update your membership address booklet by adding the following four members who have recently joined our branch:

Beverly Alves
368 Murray Hill Road
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
762-1564
balves@frontiernet.net

Mary Ann Delany
655 Bullshead Road
Amsterdam, NY 12010
887-5301
810-1804

Jane Kelley
108 Woodlawn Drive
Gloversville, NY 12078
H 725-1803
W 736-3622 EXT 8100
jane.kelley@fmcc.suny.edu

Jeremy Spraggs
116 Oakland Drive
Gloversville, NY 12078
424-0088
jeremy.spraggs@fmcc.edu

What I did on my summer vacation ... whoops .. I mean Convention "memories" for newsletter

One of the first things I did was get a massage at the hotel. The facilities were great.

The next thing I did was join the tour group going to the Susan B. Anthony House which is more than 150 years old, and where she lived and worked for 40 years. As predictable, it was interesting. The photo was in the Rochester Democrat and Chroni-



cle and I am next to Docent Joann Middleton who is displaying a photo of Susan B. Anthony as she explains how the parlor was a place where Anthony's friends and fellow reformers met to work and plot strategy. She kept photos of her close friends like Frederick Douglass and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the parlor and on her mantel.

- I attended The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Influence on Early American Feminists workshop led by Sally Roesch Wagner. Dr. Wagner is a feminist pioneer, speaker, activist, and the author of several books and numerous articles. She was one of the first to receive a Ph.D. for work in Women's Studies (U.C. Santa Cruz) and is a founder of one of the nation's first women's studies programs. Dr. Wagner feels that the Iroquois women provided an early model of freedom for women at a time when Euro-American women experienced few rights. Women of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy possessed freedoms far beyond those of their white contemporaries. It is possible that the thoughts of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Matilda Joslyn Gage were shaped by their involvement with these women.

- I also attended the Chatauqua Women: Inspiration and Influence on Chautauqua and the Nation. This workshop was led by Janet Myers Northrup who feels that today's Chautauqua continues to influence national issues, especially through the Contemporary Issues Forum. Founded in 1889, the Chautauqua Women's Club became an organization that was a force for developing women's voices in America... although in earliest meetings there was considerable attention paid to "housekeeping" issues. But, the organization also hosted and heard influential women of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. These included influential women from Susan B. Anthony to Sandra Day O'Connor.

Your election to serve on the NYS Nominating Committee

- It is important for AAUW to have representatives from as many branches as possible on the New York State nominating committee. This year I am an alternate to the committee and next year I will be a delegate. A principle duty will be to present a list of qualified candidates at the Fall/Winter Board meeting. Of course I will be looking for qualified candidates and when I do find (them) I must obtain three written endorsements for each candidate. All qualified candidates will be introduced via *FOCUS*, the NYState newsletter, and the qualifications for

each office to be listed at the state website.

Best Part of the convention

- I especially enjoyed listening to Jane Roberts, Founder of 34 Million Friends of UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities). Her work fits right in with "My Sister's Keeper" because Jane started a grassroots movement to help women in developing countries who suffer because they do not have access to reproductive health services. These women have stories so similar to those we have heard from the Kristofs' book and the books about obstetric fistulas.
- I also was pleased I got a chance to speak personally to Dr. Dot McLane who spoke about "AAUW's **IMPACT ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.**" Among other things she is Middle Atlantic Region Liaison to the National Girls Collaborative Project focused on STEM for girls. I had an empathetic ear when I talked with her about the changes we are trying to make to our Sister to Sister Conference. We discussed some ways our branch might advance technology-wise and she took my name to send me some future thoughts.
- Another highlight was winning not just one, but two very nice baskets.

Ideas from convention for our branch programing and goals for 2012-13

- Any of the workshop leaders and speakers would make good speakers for future events. We should consult the list in the future.
- In future we might use programs from other branches... especially those that won awards...and keep, where possible, formal documentation of our successful programs to share with others.
- Most branches don't make members send in checks prior to an event. If they send a confirmation of attendance but do not attend they are responsible to pay. Otherwise, they pay at the door.
- Partner more with other groups (Soroptimists!) who share our goals. Invite them to particularly interesting programs.

--Patsy Suydam

NYS Convention

What a wonderful gathering and it covered info important to Johnstown ... all about developing the woman's history trail across NYS. A tour of the Susan B. Anthony house was included. And several of the speakers had been to Johnstown: Sally Roesch Wagner of the Mathilda Joslyn Gage House in Fayetteville, Coline Jenkins whom we all know and love, Janet Northrup of Chautauqua fame. There was also a talk about the Harriet Tubman House in Auburn, and also Deborah Hughes from Su-

san B. Anthony House was part of a panel. New US Congresswoman Kathy Hochul from the Buffalo area was a keynote speaker and spoke of her interesting career path to where she is now and never expected to be and all the women who had helped her.

The Bath branch did a wonderful play, "Momoirs: ,The Umbilical Cord Stops Here!" I think we should do it here. It was the highlight of the convention. There was a great presentation by a PR firm for developing a traveling road show about women's history and all in all it was a great convention. Sorry you missed it. Next time... Lake Placid! We also had our purses raffled, and several of us were winners. And the greatest purse of all was raffled, and I won a numbered Susan B. Anthony purse. --Sandy Maceyka

Convention Memories

The Convention was a whirlwind weekend renewing friendships and making new ones in between workshops and lots of food! Swimming as part of the My Sister's Keeper 34 Million Laps initiative helped work off some of the calories.

Although card playing is not my forte, I tried out Military Bridge on Friday night. It was fast paced and a great way to meet people as we switched tables.

All the speakers were excellent. The plans for the 2020 celebration of the 19th Amendment are exciting. I hope the planned traveling display on the history of women's rights comes to Johnstown since it is, after all, the birthplace of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

I so enjoyed the workshops on The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Influence on Early American Feminists and The Temp Economy: From Kelly Girls to Permatemps in Postwar America that I purchased books to bring the memory of the presentations home with me. I can't stop thinking about the later, and the transition temporary employment has made to outsourced labor and the lack of benefits and accountability by corporations that have resulted. The presenter Dr. Erin Hattan made good use of the powerpoint presentation to make her "powerful points."

On Sunday, I was pleased to learn I had won one of the LAF purses complete with scarf and pins to bring home as a souvenir. In addition, *Momoirs - the Umbilical Cord Stops Here!* was presented by the Bath Branch as a wonderful finale for the weekend! So many aspects of motherhood were presented in skits, monologues, and through song; some serious and many hilarious. Bath presented it in May 2010 as a very successful fundraiser. Perhaps our branch could give it a try also.

Although we arrived too late to take the trip to the Susan B.

Anthony Home on Friday, Paul and I did get a chance to take the wonderful tour on our own Sunday after convention. What an experience to be in the home where Susan and others worked to get us women the vote! We had hoped to do more site seeing on Monday, but awoke to SNOW so decided just to travel slowly and carefully home. What a change from the warm weather when we arrived in Rochester on Friday!

Next year's NYS AAUW Convention will be held in Lake Placid. I hope even more of our members will attend. It is always an energizing experience!

Liz Russo

Women's History Trail

At the AAUW NYS Convention, plans for the 2020 celebration of the Centennial Celebration of passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote were discussed. A traveling display illustrating the history of women's fight for suffrage is being undertaken. It was suggested that we begin focusing on educating 10-year-old girls about the importance of voting since they will reach voting age in 2020, and as a result, their first voting experience will be to help elect a president! Statistics show that those people whose first voting experience is in a presidential election will continue voting for life. Plans were also made for AAUW to partner with the Girl Scouts to develop a 2020 Patch to be earned by learning about the history of

women's suffrage. One component might be to have the Daisy age girls plant sunflowers to represent the need to be strong as the stems of sunflowers to hold their heads up high into the sun. This is the reason Elizabeth Cady Stanton purportedly chose the sunflower as her pseudonym when she wrote in the "Lily", Amelia Bloom's newspaper.

--Liz Russo

Petition to Governor Cuomo

Coline Jenkins, great grand daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, presented a petition at Convention asking Governor Cuomo to appoint three additional female experts in women's history and culture to the commission to establish uniform road signs to promote museums, historic sites, and cultural institutions. (The commission is now composed of four men and one woman.) In addition, the petition asks the Governor to provide equal representation of women and men in the number and text of the road signs. Inspired by Convention, we brought home copies and circulated them at our May meeting. For those who were not present to sign at the May meeting, additional copies of the petition will be circulated at our June meeting and then sent to Governor Cuomo. --Liz Russo

Convention Awards Received

21st Century Gold Award
Program Awards
1st Place College Connection Program

"Connecting with College Students"

2nd Place Community Program
"100th Birthday Celebration of Girl Scouts"

3rd Place Community Program
"Women in Farming"

2nd Place Girls Program

"Sister to Sister Summit"

My Sister's Keeper Gem Award
Newsletter of Excellence

Visibility Award for raising awareness among local students about AAUW platforms and issues

Legal Advocacy Fund Star
Branch

Per Capita contribution or \$5 or more

Evvie Currie Giving Circle Contributing Branch Award

College Connection Update

Our branch received a "sweet reward" at the convention - a gallon of maple syrup for recruiting more AAUW e-student affiliates than any other branch in NY State!

Additional FM students have signed up since the convention taking advantage of the free membership since FM is a College member of AAUW.

FM's AAUW Student Organization application was filed with National and NYS AAUW and confirmation will be forthcoming. In addition, thanks to the efforts of e-student affiliate member Marie Thomas, application was successfully completed for the AAUW Student Organization to be an official club at FM.

At a recent meeting, AAUW e-student affiliate leaders brainstormed with advisers to come up with the following:

Goals for the AAUW Student Organization.

*Prepare and provide students with the opportunity to stand up as leaders for a good cause.

*Promote FM students' attendance at NCCWSL

*Establish connections with other AAUW members on the local, state, and national level

*Educate FM students and the community about issues such as sexual harassment.

*Empower FM students to lobby for legislative change on issues important to them.

*Form partnerships with other clubs at FM to engage the campus and community in projects that will make a positive impact on society.

*Support the establishment and continued growth of a STEM club at FM and promote female participation in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) activities.

Student Organization Leaders

Ana Sofia Gonzales Urrutia

Angela Dutcher

Marie Thomas

Faculty/AAUW Advisers

Anja Biel FM history instructor

Sonnet Gravina FM math instructor

AAUW branch liaison Liz Russo

Several AAUW Student Organization members will be assisting with the Sister to Sister Tech Savvy Summit at FM on May 22.

Those who will be still at FM this summer plan to work on their webpage to promote the new organization. They are also making plans for that maple syrup in the fall - perhaps to recruit new members or as a fundraiser!
--Liz Russo

Cazenovia -Summer AAUW NYS Conference July 20-22

As a result of our success this year in not only recruiting FM as a college AAUW member, but also signing up the most e-students in NYS and also applying for an AAUW Student Organization at FM, our branch has been asked by new AAUW NYS President Mary Lou Davis to give a "How To" presentation at the AAUW NYS Summer Conference at Cazenovia College July 20-22. So far, Sonnet Gravina has agreed to speak during the Sunday morning session on this topic.

We would love to have as many of our branch members attend the Cazenovia conference as possible. Branch funds are available to cover the \$100 registration fee which covers two nights stay at the college and six meals. The weekend will include a workshop on *Personal and Professional Development Strategies for Success*, how to apply new strategies to AAUW programming, help plan the AAUW-NYS Convention for 2013, and participate in a computer workshop or learn more about exciting programs. There will also be time for an ice cream social, movie, and other occa-

sions to get to know AAUW members from around the state. The registration form can be found at www.aauw-nys.org. Contact Liz Russo or Linda Hammond if you can attend.

Summer Branch Planning Meeting

The branch Summer Planning Meeting will take place during the week of July 23. Catherine Julius has graciously offered her Johnstown home. Specific date and time will be announced. All those interested are invited to join in the planning of the 2012-13 year ahead.

Membership Survey time again!

Many of you received a copy of the survey at the April or May meetings, but if not, there is one attached to this newsletter. Please fill it out and return via e-mail or bring to the June meeting! We value your opinions and need your ideas for the direction our branch takes in 2012-13. We will use the ideas at our summer planning meeting and invite your suggested prospective members to our September membership meeting. Thanks.

Free Membership Winner

Ella Ryder was the winner of the May Raffle. She won the third of three free AAUW membership renewals 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" meet-

ings. Thanks to all whom "took a chance" in May; we raised \$54 which will go toward future membership recruitment efforts.
--Liz Russo

Time to Renew Your AAUW Membership! Dues are due before June 1. It will remain at the present rate of \$69 for the 2012-13 year. On or after June 1, please submit \$74. Submit your check made payable to AAUW with the attached form to:

Michele Acquaro
P.O. Box 101
Northville, NY 12134

Please include any changes in your telephone number, address, or email. We appreciate your promptness with this matter.
--Michele Acquaro

EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it!

Did you see the recent articles about FM students with AAUW connections in the Leader Herald? Madina Alum, the 2010 winner of our AAUW branch High School essay contest and FM student, was chosen to speak at the FM 2012 graduation ceremony.

Those present at our May meeting had the chance to sign a congratulations card which we sent to Madina.

Marie Thomas head of Student Government at FM was honored as the winner of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Marie attended our April meeting.

She will attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Maryland June 1-3 thanks to your generous donations (\$240) at the April meeting toward her registration fee. She is also an AAUW e-student affiliate organizer of the AAUW Student Organization at FM.

Ana Sofia Gonzales-Urrutia AAUW e-student affiliate who heads up the new AAUW Student Organization at FM was honored for her organization of the Community Outreach Club at FM over which she presides.

Past Member, Faith Weldon - AAUW Winning Artist

There are only a few of us left in the branch who remember past member Faith Weldon, but she has not forgotten her membership in our branch! Check out the limited edition note cards designed by AAUW members that you recently received in the mail from National AAUW. They were the winners of the 2012 AAUW Art Contest. On the back of each card is the story of the artist. "Walking for Water" was captured on canvas by Faith Weldon who is at present a member of the Schenectady, NY, branch. The card states that "A friend convinced Faith to join the AAUW Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown (NY) Branch many years ago, but that was just the beginning. She has since belonged to more than five branches as she moved about the country, and she helped establish the AAUW Benicia-Vallejo (CA) Branch." --Liz Russo

Congratulations to our FM Scholarship Winner!

Kelly Sittner was chosen as this year's recipient of annual award to an FMCC graduate. Established in 1999 our branch annually gives the \$500 award to a nontraditional female graduate of Fulton-Montgomery Community College who plans to continue her education to earn a bachelors degree.

Sittner was chosen for the award because she had the highest GPA in a transfer oriented program and is a nontraditional student. Sittner graduated from Emma Willard in Troy, NY, in 1981 and took time off from her education to raise a family. During that time she continued to pursue her interest in art by undertaking practical works such as braided rugs and jewelry. As she got older she appreciated the chance to continue her education. She recently earned an AS in Fine Arts from FM.

Sittner, mother of seven and grandmother of two, currently lives in West Galway and enjoys sculpting, mixed media, painting and drawing. After a cross country bicycle trip from Boston to San Francisco she plans to resettle and continue to pursue a bachelor's degree in preparation for opening a business in the art field.

The AAUW scholarship is given annually in memory of Rita Mary Burke, FMCC English professor and one of the original members of the local AAUW branch. Laurie Freeman served

as chair of our AAUW branch FMCC award committee.

--Liz Russo

Pat Valachovic is a Branch Member for 40 years!

Pat has served as Co-president, membership VP, program VP, and EF VP over the years. Thanks for all you have done to make our branch what it is today!

Thank You for Your Continued Commitment to AAUW!

Committee Chairs who have agreed to serve for 2012-13 include:

Gloria Kimball - Newsletter
Helen Martin - Public Policy
Local Scholarship Awards
FMCC Graduate Scholarship - Laurie Freeman
High School Essay Contest - Rosemary Leo-Pappas
8th grade Math and Science Awards - Linda Zilka and Marie Wojeski

Hats Off to Bonnie Van Wie!

Branch member, Bonnie Van Wie is an inspiration to us all. She just finished running in two races this past weekend: the Johnson Jog, a 5 K on Saturday, and on Sunday, a 5 K in Saratoga.

Girls and Women and Sports

The convergence of two events this summer brings excitement and attention to women in sports: The anniversary of Title IX, which opened the way for women's greater participa-

tion in sports in the U.S. is on June 23, 2012 - 40 years after its passage. Then, on July 27, comes the opening ceremony for the Summer Olympics in London, where an estimated 45 % of the 10,500 athletes are expected to be female, the highest level ever. —Liz Russo

Anyone Interested in Traveling to China With AAUW?

Darcell Winchell has expressed an interest and needs a roommate.* **Join the AAUW Delegation to China and Tibet!**

Don't miss this incredible opportunity, as AAUW members travel—at the invitation of the president of China Women's University and the All-China Women's Federation—to Beijing, Xi'an, and Kunming this October!

Members can extend their trip and visit Tibet or Hong Kong. Contact [Professionals Abroad](#) or call 877/298-9677 for more information.

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Michele Acquaro
P.O. Box 101
Northville, NY 12134

Please include any changes in your telephone number, address, or email. We appreciate your promptness with this matter.

--Michele Acquaro

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 21

4 p.m. Set up for Sister to Sister

May 22

AAUW Sister to Sister Summit

Tech Savvy Conference for area middle school girls

8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at FMCC

May 24

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium

(ECSWC) Meeting

5:30 Johnstown Public Library

*May 31

Renewal AAUW Membership (\$69)

**June 1 or later

Renewal AAUW Membership (\$74)

June 6

Branch Meeting (Hors d'oeuvres)

5:30 p.m. Fulton County Museum Tour

Talk on Clarissa Putnam

Gloversville

June 9-12

AAUW National Convention

New Orleans, Louisiana

July 20-22

[AAUW-NYS Leadership](#)

[Conference](#)

Cazenovia College

July (week of July 23) TBA

Branch Summer Planning Meeting

Home of Catherine Julius, Johnstown

Time: TBA



Please take a minute to read the attached May 12, 2012, *Times Union* article on Fistula submitted by Patsy Suydam.

AAUW 2012 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

AAUW MISSION: The American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Please fill this out so we can better meet the needs of our branch in planning for next year. If there is not enough space for your answers, PLEASE add on another piece of paper, or use the back side. Writing all over the margins is very difficult to read.

1. Which programs were most beneficial for you? And why?
2. How could we improve this organization? And attract new members?
3. What fundraising ideas do you suggest we try?
4. If you were happy or unhappy about the places/restaurants we used for this year's meetings, what other suggestions do you have?
5. What new ideas do you have for future programs, and who do you know that might be a good presenter?
6. Do you have specific suggestions for getting our new members to attend meetings? And remain members?
7. Give names and phone numbers for those you would like invited to our September membership meeting.
(Please list names on back with addresses and phone numbers.) Remember, you need to follow up on those you suggest.
8. Other comments or committees you'd like to work on:
9. Do you like having ten meetings a year or ?

NAME _____

AMSTERDAM-GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN AAUW
2012-2013 Membership Renewal Form

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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, 2010. *(\$ 69)

_____ I have enclosed \$ _____ ** dues after June 1, 2010. **(\$74)

(*Subject to revision re AAUW National and State assessments.) National \$49, State \$13,
Local \$7/\$12

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

(*To become a life member one pays 20 times the current national dues plus the current yearly state and local dues yearly)

_____ 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): _____

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 Equity/Scholarship ___ LAF - Legal Advocacy Fund ___ Sister 2 Sister
___ e-student and AAUW College Organization

Make your check payable to AAUW and send WITH THIS FORM to
Michele Acquaro, PO Box 101, Northville, NY 12134

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



Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Connect with

Clarissa Putnam &
The Fulton County Museum

237 Kingsboro Avenue, Gloversville, NY

Self-Guided Museum Tour
5:30 - 6:00

Hors d'oeuvres & Wine
6:00 - 6:30

Talk on Clarissa Putnam
By Fulton County Historian
Peter Betz
6:30 - 7:00



- Cost \$12.00
- Hors d'oeuvres by Mohawk Valley Harvest include:
 - Finger-sandwiches
 - Fruit plate
 - Crudités and dip plate
 - Cheese and crackers
 - And that one sweet thing: jam bar cut to bite sizes
- Wine, water, soft drinks
- Reservations by May 28th please.

Name: _____

Make check out to AAUW and send to
Sue Summerfield
346 Noeltner Road
Amsterdam, NY 12010-8285

Or call 922-6034 (summy1@frontier.com)