



Upstate Update

AMSTERDAM * GLOVERSVILLE * JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

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

March 2014

Our First Annual

Celebration!

Saturday, March 29, 2014

11 am – 2 pm, Eccentric Club, Gloversville

Have you mailed in your RSVP yet?

Co-President's Message

We hope all of our members are faring well in the old fashioned winter we are experiencing this year. A look ahead to March 29 and the garden party theme of our 1st Annual Celebration scholarship fundraiser will help us set our sights on spring. (Yes, spring will eventually arrive after what for some is too long a winter season.) While planning for The Celebration is foremost, we continue with Lunch Bunch Book Discussions, plans for attendance at the NYS Convention in April and organizing our annual Tech Savvy Summit for Girls which will occur in May.

We invite all members to attend our March 3 board meeting to provide input into next year's budget and officers' slate as well as help to put the finishing touches on the rest of this year's events.

In honor of Women's History Month, our branch will be reaching out to libraries in Fulton, Montgomery and Hamilton Counties in March to donate copies of the book *Remarkable Women in New York State History* and spread the word about AAUW. The book produced as an NYS AAUW project and funded by the Syracuse branch is a compilation of biographies submitted by members of branches across NYS. Our branch contributions to the book include biographies of Rose Knox, Amelia Bloomer and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Since we are so busy with The Celebration, there will only be the March 3 board meeting and a Lunch Bunch book discussion in March. Our next branch dinner meeting will be after the NYS Convention on Monday, April 28 at FMCC when we will look forward to hearing NYS Public Policy VP Donna Seymour speak.

Until then, we hope you will all support our 1st Annual Celebration scholarship fundraiser on March 29 and consider joining those of us who are already registered for the NYS AAUW Convention in Ellenville, April 5-27.

Stay warm and think spring!

Co-president Liz Russo

MARCH HAPPENINGS

March 3 - Board Meeting 6pm JPL

We encourage all members to attend and provide a voice in decisions our branch makes for the future. Committee chairs are asked to send a report if they are unable to attend. The agenda will include updates from the nominating and budget committee, convention attendance and award applications, Women's History Month book donations to libraries, reports on the Celebration and Tech Savvy and details of the April Annual Meeting. See you there!

Budget Committee

Those who wish to make recommendations regarding expenditures for the 2014-15 year should contact Ella Ryder, Linda Hammond or Liz Russo by March 3 so that they may be included in the proposed budget. The final budget will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on April 28.

CELEBRATION! - March 29 Scholarship Fundraiser

Our branch's 1st Annual Celebration scholarship fundraiser is becoming a reality thanks to the organization of Helen James and Catherine Julius. The Celebration will take place at the Eccentric Club, 109 N. Main St. Gloversville on Saturday, March 29 from 11am-2pm. We will be celebrating the accomplishments of our past scholarship winners and raising money for future awards. The Celebration which will have a garden party theme includes brunch catered by Wine and Roses. There will also be a cash bar for those who would like mimosas and Bloody Marys, wine or soda. Musical entertainment will be provided by harpist Nancy Murphy Walko and pianist Frank Manning. Hats fashioned by Donna Cerasuolo of Chapeaux de Valse will be modeled. Darlene Bornt of Moments by Darlene will be the photographer. In addition, there will be an auction and a raffle of theme baskets. Bob Cudmore, local author, Gazette columnist and WVTL radio personality will serve as master of ceremonies and auctioneer. Autographed copies of Bob's books will be for sale with \$5 from each sale going to our AAUW scholarship fund.

Many AAUW members are working behind the scenes to make it all happen. Holly Rigos designed the invitations and Sandy Lane compiled the invitation list from names submitted by members. Paula Lerner and Nancy Reynolds assisted with mailings. Linda Hammond created the donor form and will be receiving contributions and ad copy for The Celebration program which she will produce.

Jahnn Gibson will be in charge of the hat models who are being contacted by Catherine and Helen. Branch member Melissa Ackerknecht, our 2013 FM scholarship winner will be one of the models.

Meanwhile, Cece Alexander has been very busy soliciting ads and items for our silent auction including a rocking chair and wooden rocking horse. In addition, Carol Cownie has donated a handmade quilt and obtained a basket from Mohawk Harvest. Jen Garren has donated tickets to Phantom of the Opera at Proctors and dinner. Helen James obtained a sun face outdoor sculpture by artist Alex Higgins. Additional items for raffle baskets and the silent auction have been solicited by Catherine Julius, Ginni Mazur, Bonnie Van Wie, Sara Luck and others in our branch. Silent auction items so far include a Webber Grill donated by Ace, jewelry donated by J-Fine Jewelry, gift cards from Union Hall, Sam's and Ruby and Quiri, a Kindle plus Ap card donated by Helen James, and a Keurig coffee maker donated by Catherine. To date we have a Miss Kitty Basket from Ginni Mazur, a Mary Kay basket and Candles from Cece Alexander, Books from Mysteries on Main St., Children's toys from Something Special, Ice Cream, You Scream basket from Sara Luck, Dunkin Donuts certificates, a pizza gift card basket, and wine from

Adirondack Wine and liquor from Demis. Those attending our February meeting donated lottery scratch off tickets for a raffle basket.

Other donations for the Celebration include table linens from Robinson and Smith, printing of invitations from Post Net.

The deadline for raffle basket and auction items is March 1. Baskets will be assembled at the Broadalbin Pharmacy site at a date to be announced. Those who wish to help should contact Catherine Julius. Ads for the CELEBRATION program booklet continue to be solicited and should be turned in to Linda Hammond by March 1 also.

Invitations to The Celebration have been mailed to AAUW members and friends. Tickets for The Celebration are \$30. RSVP is March 14.

We hope to see you and your friends at The Celebration. (You could be one of the lucky winners of a raffle basket or auction bid!) If you can't attend The Celebration, any donation toward our local scholarships would be appreciated. As a team, we will make this a very successful fundraiser!

February 12 Meeting

We would like to thank Darcelle Winchell for getting us up and moving at our recent February branch meeting which focused on Dance for Fun and Exercise. Darcelle shared the benefits she has gotten from dancing including cardio and strength, improved balance, meeting new friends, stress relief and increased self-confidence. Darcelle talked about her travels to attend dance conferences also.

In addition, Helen James focused on heart health as she shared her personal story with heart disease. She stressed that as women we have different symptoms than men and should persist with doctors to get testing and correct diagnosis when we feel things are not right with our bodies.

Our meeting also including a brief presentation regarding 1 Billion Rising for justice for victims of violence. Members present took turns reading lines from the poem, *1 Billion Rising For Justice* after which we all rose up and danced.

Nominating Committee

Thanks to Ginni Major and Paula Lerner for volunteering to join Helen James on the nominating committee. We hope you will say "yes" when they approach you to help lead our AAUW branch. Officers that will be up for election in April include:

- Treasurer
- Vice Presidents:
 - Program
 - Membership

Those in office now may run for a second term of 2 years. The slate of officers for 2014-15 will be included in our April newsletter and will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on April 28.

Can "One Vote" Make A Difference?

Before answering that question the first step would be to think of what "one vote" can do. It can change 1 into 2 and 2 into 3, 3 into 4 and on word. It creates camaraderie amongst people places and things. It can cause arguments, strife and open up people to discussions. It creates winners while on the other hand creating those whom lose. One vote can assist in the circulation of money in society as well as aide in the despair of not having it. One vote can change people's choices and direction in life. It can take part in creating a life and even ending it; much like in the ongoing debate on abortion and the death penalty.

Change is unenviable and the laws, rights and privileges that embrace our lives of today will not constitute their existence in our future.

So can “one vote” make a difference? Absolutely! It can change the world!

Ellie DiScioscia
Voter Education Chair

Watch for the next chapter in our upcoming newsletters. Ellie will be submitting a series of articles or chapters on Voter Education.

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

HELP WANTED

Also needed are an [assistant Newsletter Editor](#) to work with Linda Hammond and an [AAUW Funds Chair](#). The Funds Chair or co-chairs would receive information from National and NYS AAUW regarding the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) and Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and share it with our members by submitting articles to our newsletter; assure that our branch donations to EOF and LAF are sent to National AAUW in December; and prepare LAF basket/purse donations for the NYS Convention.

Book Discussion Update

February 25 Lunch Bunch Book Discussion

We look forward to having lunch at Jackie’s Diner on Route 29 in Gloversville and meeting the owner and hearing her story about starting her own business. *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead* by Sheryl Sandberg is the book we are reading this month.

March Lunch Bunch Book Discussion

In celebration of Women’s History Month, the Adelante book for March is *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan. At the height of World War II, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was home to 75,000 residents, consuming more electricity than New York City. But to most of the world, the town did not exist. Thousands of civilians, many of them young women from small towns across the South, were recruited to this secret city, enticed by solid wages and the promise of war-ending work. Kept very much in the dark, few would ever guess the true nature of the tasks they performed each day in the hulking factories in the middle of the Appalachian Mountains. That is, until the end of the war, when Oak Ridge’s secret was revealed.

Drawing on the voices of the women who lived it, women who are now in their 80s and 90s, *The Girls of Atomic City* rescues a remarkable, forgotten chapter of American history from obscurity. Denise Kiernan captures the spirit of the times through these women: their pluck, their desire to contribute, and their enduring courage. Combining the grand-scale human drama of *The Worst Hard Time* with the intimate biography and often troubling

science of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *The Girls of Atomic City* is a lasting and important addition to our country's history.

We will also get a start on reading "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way" by Robin Gerber for discussion in April. Suggestions for time and place for the March and April Branch Lunch Bunch book discussions will be appreciated. Contact Liz Russo.

New Dual Branch Member - Ann Christensen

Ann Christensen has just joined our branch as a 1/2 year dual branch member. She is already a member of the Staten Island, NY branch. She also has an "upstate" home in Sprakers in the town of Root in Montgomery County. She has visited our AGJ website and is interested in attending our meetings when she is in her Sprakers home. A dual member is eligible to join another branch by just paying the local branch dues since they have already paid the National and NYS dues. We look forward to meeting Ann in April.

Membership Renewal Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Helen James for winning the first of three AAUW membership renewals for the 2014-15 year that was raffled at the February meeting. Our branch earned the free memberships from National AAUW for recruiting over six members at our fall "Shape the Future Membership" meeting. The other two memberships will be raffled at the April and May meetings. Thanks to all who purchased a raffle tickets at the February meeting, we raised \$72. The money will go toward future membership recruitment efforts.

Fistula Foundation

We concluded our collection of donations for the Fistula Repair Fund. The winner of the Fistula Fund donation thank you raffle basket was Bev Alves. The basket was donated by Linda Hammond. Thanks to all who donated, we raised the \$450 necessary to cover the cost of surgery to repair an obstetric fistula. This is the third year we are raising money as part of My Sister's Keeper NYS AAUW initiative. 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, and happy to be able to help our sisters who are not as fortunate.

College Survival Themed Basket Donated to the JPL

Thanks to all who donated at our January and February meetings to "buy an item" for the basket. The College Survival Basket is now on display at the Johnstown Public Library. Drawing for the basket winners will take place at the JPL 2nd Annual Mini Golf Tournament fundraiser which will be held at the JPL on Saturday, April 26. Our branch donates a basket annually 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.

2014 Scholarship Update

High School Scholarship Essay Topic Announced

The suggested essay topic for the 2014 Dorothy Wemple Literary Award is “The Power of the Women’s Vote”. Political analysts and commentators speak about the “power of the women’s vote” in the last general election. Scholarship applicants are asked to address whether or not they believe such a voting block actually exists and, if so, what national issues they think appeal specifically to women voters. The research or autobiographical essay should be 300-500 words. Entries will be judged on literary form, research and clarity of thought.

Entries should be submitted to high school guidance departments who along with area English teachers have received information regarding the award. To ensure objective judging, neither the name nor the school should appear on or be included in the essay. A separate sheet with the student’s name and school, college they plan to attend, and the counselor’s signature should be submitted with the entry. Deadline for the AAUW scholarship application is April 23.

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

The scholarship is available to women high school seniors in Fulton, Montgomery, and Hamilton Counties who will be pursuing a 2- or 4-year college degree upon graduation.

Rosemary Leo-Pappas serves as the AAUW branch Literary Award Chair.

Our Projects Update

Tech Savvy Summit for Girls - May 20

Planning continues for our branch’s annual Tech Savvy Summit for Girls. The conference for middle-school girls in Fulton-Montgomery and Hamilton counties will take place on Tuesday, May 20 from 8am-1:30pm at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. The capnote speaker for Tech Savvy will be Elizabeth Serena (Pynadath) Bentley, PhD, a past Johnstown High School graduate who is currently working as an electrical engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory researching dynamic wireless networking for video communications. Her topic will be “You’re Not the Boss of Me: I Do Research!”

Thanks to the efforts of Darcelle Winchell who has been contacting FM faculty, four new presenters from FM are joining us this year bringing our total to date to 10 workshops.

- Dr. Steve Astmann will lead the workshop "Someday I'll Want a Good Job " to help participants reach their STEM or other career goal by using their computer and writing skills to practice preparing college applications, job applications and resumes
- Dr. Gilbert Ayuk workshop “Surprising, Amazing and Puzzling Experiments with a Meter Stick” will expose participants to physics principles in hopes of encouraging them to take physics in high school.
- AAUW member and FM Library director, Mary Donohue, will present a Library Technology workshop “Not Your Mother’s Librarian” during which participants will use iPads to make videos and explore other uses of technology by today’s library staff.
- Audrey Egelston, Residence Life Director at Campus View Student Housing will conduct a workshop on how to use computer searches to find money to pay for college and also share her creative use of the computer to produce the Bathroom Reader weekly FM newsletter found on the backs of the restroom stalls.

Thanks to the efforts of Linda Bumpus, we have received donations from Stewarts Shops, NBT Bank, and St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, totaling \$1,400. Ginni Mazur has ordered the registration folders for the girls, presenters and chaperones. Paula Lerner will help organize the material to fill the folders.

Next we will be working on the registration packets which will be delivered to each of the middle schools Hamilton-Fulton and Montgomery counties in March. Anyone interested in assisting with the Tech Savvy Summit should contact Linda Bumpus.

Items Needed to Fill Purses for LAF Fundraiser at AAUW NYS Convention

Each year our branch gives \$300 to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and additionally donates items for the AAUW NYS Convention raffle/silent auction fundraiser.

Thanks to the generosity of Sandy Lane and Nancy Reynolds we will be bringing 3 items to the Convention. Sandy is donating a purse, and Nancy is donating a purse and a hand painted lamp. The lamp will be paired with a copy of "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way" by Robin Gerber to make up a "Shed Some Light on Leadership" basket. (Note: NYS AAUW is advocating the reading and discussion of the Leadership book by branches.)

We are asking for donations to add to the purses. The list of suggested items includes:

- scarf
- decorative pin
- mirror, comb, brush, tissue packet, small first aid kit
- handbag holder
- scratch off ticket
- small flashlight
- spot treatment
- wet wipes/ hand sanitizer.
- gift card
- reading glasses (inexpensive) 2.0 or 1.75

Those wishing to provide items are asked to bring them to the March 3 board meeting.

How Donations to LAF Are Used

You may wonder how our donations to the Legal Advocacy Fund are used. Below are examples:

On February 14, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit heard arguments in *Klay v. Panetta*, a Legal Advocacy Fund-supported lawsuit brought by survivors of military sexual assault and litigated by attorney Susan Burke. The case was originally filed March 6, 2012, and AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman spoke at the accompanying National Press Club event. In the suit, the *Klay* plaintiffs allege that U.S. military officials tolerated sexual predators in their ranks and antagonized service members who reported rape, sexual assault, and harassment. The plaintiffs argue that this culture of sexual assault violates their constitutional rights. In early 2013, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted the defendants' motion to dismiss the case. The court held that the plaintiffs' injuries were "incident to their military service" and that the court was prevented by legal precedent from ruling on a military matter. Burke then appealed to the D.C. Circuit. Stay tuned for the appeals court's ruling.

In addition, LAF grant money is available to branches for campus outreach to connect with local college campuses. Campus Outreach Grants offer up to \$750 to help an AAUW branch host or co-host a program to educate college students about gender discrimination in the workplace or in education. Your branch could use the grant to bring an equal-pay expert to speak on campus, sponsor a booth at an activities fair to help students lobby for more-just campus sexual assault policies, or play an AAUW public service announcement and hand out information about Title IX at a campus sporting event. We can help connect branches with college/university partners. E-mail laf@aauw.org for more information and find the application [online](#).

Register Now for the NYS AAUW Convention April 25-27

We hope you will consider attending the NYS AAUW Convention which will be held at Honor's Haven Resort in Ellenville, the weekend of April 25-27. The theme is "A World of Wellness: Stimulating the Mind, Inspiring the Soul, Energizing the Body. There will be workshops on women's public health issues, reproductive rights, techniques for revitalizing branches with an emphasis on growth and leadership and a historic look at issues of work/family balance. In addition, Sullivan County historian will provide a look at the history behind Catskill resorts. AAUW National President, Patricia Ho from Hawaii will be the keynote speaker.

Friday before dinner there will be a chance to play Meet 'Em, Greet 'Em, Beat 'Em an easy card game and a great mixer to get to know members from other branches.

At Friday's dinner, the Emerging Leader Awards will be presented and drawing for the branch winner of the \$500 scholarship will take place. Branch awards will be announced on Saturday morning followed by the LAF Luncheon with Title IX discrimination case litigant, Lauren Mancuso as speaker. After lunch workshop session 1 will take place. The keynote speaker for Saturday's dinner will be Dr. Savi Bisnath, Center for Women's Global Leadership. Following will be the chance to take a chance or make a bid on the baskets and purses to raise money for LAF. It is also an opportunity to work off all the meals by signing for Line Dancing! For a \$20 donation to the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) you will get line dance lesson, free food and drinks.

The business meeting and election of officers which delegates will attend will take place on Sunday morning followed by Workshop session II. Awarding of the Golden Purse and Mermaid awards for those participating in the swimathon to raise money for NCWSL scholarships will take place at Sunday's lunch as well as instillation of new officers.

So far branch members Linda Hammond, Liz Russo, Jen Garren and Paula Lerner have registered to attend. Jen has room in her car if you need a ride to Ellenville. There is an opportunity to get into the raffle drawing for a \$500 scholarship for our branch. The earlier you register the more tickets you get. Register by March 1 and get 2 tickets and by March 15 get 1 ticket. You save \$5 by registering on line for a cost of \$45. Cost of meals and hotel are extra.

Contact Liz Russo ASAP if you have questions or are interested in attending.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Monday, March 3

AAUW Board Meeting
6 PM Johnstown Public Library

Friday, March 14

Deadline to RSVP for CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 15

Deadline to register for AAUW State Convention

March 17-21, 2014

Ag Literacy Week
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium
Reading at local schools

Friday, March 28

Set-up for Celebration Scholarship Fundraiser,
Eccentric Club; Time to be announced

Saturday, March 29

Spring Brunch
(Fundraiser for local scholarships)
11am -2pm Eccentric Club, Gloversville

April 25 – 27, 2014

2014 NYS AAUW Convention

*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

Monday, April 28

Annual Dinner Meeting
Speaker: NYS Public Policy VP, Donna
Seymour
5:30 pm, FMCC

Monday, May 19

Set-up for TECH SAVVY Summit for Girls
FMCC (time to be announced)

Tuesday, May 20

TECH SAVVY Summit for Girls
7:30 – 2 pm
FMCC

Tuesday, May 30

Pot Luck Supper Meeting
5:30 pm Mayfield Yacht Club
Blind Awareness
Speaker: Jahnn Gibson

Free Entertainment and Cultural Enrichment in Our Community – Feb 18 – March 18

Visit Fulton Montgomery College and stop by the Perrella Gallery. Featured from February 18 through March 18 is *One Moment in Ireland's Three Hundred Year War*. The exhibition features Erik Schnackenberg's black and white photographs taken in Northern Ireland during the height of the political upheaval in the mid-1970's. This period, known to the Irish as "The Troubles," is chronicled in Schnackenberg's powerful images featured in the exhibition. The exhibition also juxtaposes reproductions of newspaper broadsides from Northern Irish newspapers of the time.

There will be an Artist's Reception on Friday, February 28, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Schnackenberg will also give a talk about his work on Wednesday, March 5 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in the Gallery. This event is free and open to the public.

**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.