



# 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.

2010 – 2011

March

### Branch Officers:

*President*

*Helen Martin*

*Vice President - Program*

*Sandy Maceyka*

*Vice President - Membership*

*vacancy*

*Vice President – Ed Foundation*

*Kaye Schrader*

*Vice President – Legal Advocacy*

*Ginni Mazur*

*Recording Secretary*

*Sue Summerfield*

*Treasurer - Barbara Nigro*

*Assistant Treasurer - Michele Acquaro*

### President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Hope all of you are staying warm and well. Winter is certainly not going away gracefully!

We are making some progress with a slate of officers for next year; however, **there is still one major vacancy – President of our branch.** I want to thank all of you who have stepped forward and agreed to take on new positions but I am very concerned that no one is willing to take this role. This doesn't have to be just one person – two of you can act as Co-Presidents, something that

has been done very successfully in the past. I urge you to consider doing this. Please call me at any time if you want to ask questions just to talk about the position. If I'm not at home, just leave me a message and I will call you back. **We need to have a slate of officers to vote on at our April meeting, so this is very important.**

Our January and February meetings were wonderful, and I want to thank those that arranged them for doing such a great job!

The book discussion in January that was organized by Carol Cownie and Maryanne Abad was both enlightening and interactive as everyone who was there offered their thoughts and observations on the book *Half the Sky*. Additionally, Michele Acquaro volunteered to coordinate a fundraiser that will ultimately be put towards a group project that will benefit women in a Third World country. So my thanks go out to all of these ladies for all of their work. This project is part of the NYS "My Sister's Keeper" initiative, so it is important to be a part of that effort as well.

February's meeting at the YMCA, organized by Sandy

Maceyka, put all of the exercise participants through their paces for sure, but they were rewarded with lots of wonderful appetizers and desserts when they were done, so it wasn't all work! Thanks to the YMCA for letting us take part in their Line Dancing and Water Aerobics classes!

Thank you again ladies for all of your support and hard work to keep our branch the success that it is.

Don't forget to wear your green to our March meeting in honor of St. Patrick's Day!

See you then, Helen

### **EMERGING LEADERS 2011**

I am very pleased to announce that Patsy Suydam and Linda Bumpus have been selected as our Emerging Leaders for 2011. Patsy and Linda have gone above and beyond in their efforts as co-chairs of our Sister to Sister Summit scheduled for May 16. Patsy is a new member having joined us in September of 2010 and Linda, a past member and former President of our branch, rejoined us at the same time. They are always willing to do whatever is asked of them (or

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

even mentioned to them!) and that is greatly appreciated.

Please join me in congratulating Patsy and Linda! --Helen Martin

### **100th Anniversary of International Women's Day**

March 8 marks the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day (IWD). The day was proposed by Clara Zetkin, the German labor leader, in 1911, in memory of the early campaigns of women workers in the United States who lead the movement of decent working conditions.

IWD was celebrated by hundreds of thousands of European women for the next 60 years. By 1967, women's groups in the US began celebrating IWD and by 1970, due to the growing women's liberation movement, thousands of events were planned across the nation.

In 1980, International Women's Day was used as the focus for the first National Women's History Week in 1980. In 1987, the entire month of March was recognized as National Women's History Month.

—Liz Russo

### **Antique Show & Sale**

The Palatine Settlement Society will hold its 6th Annual Indoor Antique Show & Sale at the Arkell Museum, 2 Erie Boulevard, Canajoharie, NY, on Saturday, March 12, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Twenty-five dealers will be exhibiting and selling furniture, quilts, books, postcards, paintings, toys, jewelry, early brass and iron, etc.

Admission is \$4 or a combination ticket for \$7 will also include admission to the museum

exhibits. There will be an appraisal booth with a charge of \$5 for 2 items. A light lunch will be available.

This is one of our major fundraising events for the restoration of the 1747 Nellis Tavern – the other being the annual Rhubarb Festival, this year to be held on Sunday, June 5, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the tavern.

Donna Reston is the Show Manager and can be reached at (518) 843-1601. —Sandy Lane

**Maxine Getty Performance** On Sunday, March 13, in celebration of Women's History Month, the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium of which AAUW is a member, will present Maxine Getty's portrayal of Civil War Nurse Mary Ashton Rice Livermore. Although Mary was also an abolitionist, teacher, writer, and suffragist, Maxine Getty will concentrate her performance on Mary's role as a nurse during the Civil War and affiliated with the U.S. Sanitary Commission. Maxine Getty will dress as Mary Livermore would have while nursing in the 19th century and share with the audience the experiences Mary had during her participation in the Civil War.

Maxine Getty has been doing historical presentations for the past 18 years. While accompanying her husband on reenactments, she became interested in living history. Getty's research led her to realize the struggle that many, if not all women, had to educate themselves and become equals in society to men. She was thus inspired to further research and to speak about these struggles and what it took for women to obtain equality.

The performance will take place at the First Presbyterian Church in Johnstown on Sunday, March 13 at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students.

Refreshments will be served following the show. —Liz Russo

### **Equal Exchange Fundraiser**

January's book discussion on *Half the Sky* created much dialogue and concern for the plight of women in poverty across the world. Those AAUW members attending that evening felt that our branch should pursue a project that would help women in need. AAUW has always worked to improve the condition of women and girls in our country. Now is our opportunity to make a difference in Africa, the Middle East, India, or Asia. Future discussions can decide what project our branch will choose, however, we will need to raise funds to support a project. A simple fundraiser that uses Equal Exchange products is available to us. Equal Exchange foods are sold in a way that empowers both farmer and consumers. Small farmer cooperatives use sustainable methods rather than agribusiness methods that exploit labor and use harmful chemicals. For the month of February, our branch will be taking orders for coffee, tea, chocolate, and nuts. As a branch member, we encourage your support (order) of this fundraiser. Just a small amount of money can go a long way to help women in need. Let us help women become leaders in their communities who can be self-sufficient and productive.

The following is a listing of products that can be ordered. Organic Coffee:

- ◆ Breakfast Blend; Mind, Body & Soul; Decaf; French Roast; Love Buzz(\$11)
- ◆ Organic Dark Chocolate: Very Dark; Dark with Almonds; Milk with Hazelnuts; Mint (\$4/ea)
- ◆ Hot Cocoas: Regular Cocoa; Spicy Cocoa(\$8)
- ◆ Three tea sampler(\$16)
- ◆ Complete Fair Trader Gift Box (\$75)
- ◆ Chocolate Sampler (\$30)
- ◆ Coffee & Chocolate Pairing (\$45)

Coffees are available in ground or whole bean. Call Michele Acquaro (863-2417) or e-mail at [acquaro@adelphia.net](mailto:acquaro@adelphia.net) to place an order or to ask a question. All orders must be prepaid before they are placed with the company. Make checks payable to Michele Acquaro and mail to PO Box 101, Northville 12134.

### **Win a Free Membership! Raffle at March Meeting**

The first of three free AAUW memberships for the 2011-2012 year will be raffled at the March meeting. Our branch earned the free memberships from National AAUW for recruiting over six members at our branch's September "Shape the Future Membership" meeting. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The other two memberships will be raffled at the April and May meetings. Good luck! -- Liz Russo

### **AAUW Receives Cy Pres Award**

AAUW does great work in fighting gender discrimination and now others have acknowledged our fight. AAUW was recently honored to receive a Cy Pres Award of \$23,500 as part of

a judgment in the largest gender discrimination case ever to go to trial. A Cy Pres Award is a way to distribute funds to charitable organizations that promote the interests of the class and that typically conduct activities to discourage the behavior presented in the case.

The class action lawsuit against Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. included approximately 5,600 women sales force employees who claimed gender discrimination based on pay promotion and pregnancy. A jury found them liable for gender discrimination in May 2010. In July 2010, the settlement to allocate award funds to the plaintiffs was filed. Judge Colleen McMahon of the US District Court for Eastern NY approved the settlement agreement in November.

AAUW is honored to receive this award as our mission to fight gender discrimination is our main goal. It will be used to support our mission to advance equity for women and girls. To read more, go to:

[aauw.org/media/pressreleases](http://aauw.org/media/pressreleases)

--Ginni Mazur, VP LAF

### **Public Policy**

AAUW has announced the proposed Biennial Action Priorities for Public Policy. They are to:

- ◆ Support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity through equitable funding, opposition to use of public funds for nonpublic education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and standards as public schools, pro-

tection of Title IX, support and access to higher education for women and disadvantaged populations, increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in STEM fields.

- ◆ Achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women through pay equity, equitable access and advancement in employment, greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work life balance, programs that provide women with education, training and support for success in the workforce, strengthening programs to improve postsecondary education access, career development and earning potential, strengthening retirement benefits and programs.
- ◆ Guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society through protection and access to civil and constitutional rights, choice in determination of one's reproductive life, freedom from violence, increased access to quality, affordable healthcare and family planning, support for U.N. programs that address human rights, freedom in the definition of family and a guarantee of civil rights in all family structures.

--Michele Acquaro

### **Sister to Sister Summit Update**

Deborah Borie has been selected as the capnote speaker for the Sister to Sister Summit conference for tri-county middle school girls that will be held on

Monday, May 16 at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. Borie currently serves as Project Co-Director of the *Training 2000+* grant: Just Kids Early Childhood Development Center. She was a speaker at the 2010 NY State AAUW Convention where she discussed the negative aspects of mass media marketing of sex and beauty to young girls.

Borie will present the topic "You Decide" at the Sister to Sister Summit. She will focus on helping girls become aware of how media and advertisers work hard at influencing the decisions young people make. It is hoped that this information will help girls make good decisions despite the influences that are targeted specifically at them.

Borie's presentation is being funded by Nathan Littauer Hospital. In addition, Nathan Littauer Hospital will be printing the registration brochures as well as the day's programs for the Summit. Furthermore, a \$1000 donation from Stewart's Shops will provide t-shirts for girls attending the event.

Sister to Sister Summits are an American Association of University Women (AAUW) initiative and are presented annually across the nation to assist girls in dealing with issues such as stress, self esteem, healthy relationships, bullying, and body image in their difficult transitional years.

This is the twelfth Sister to Sister summit organized by the local Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of AAUW. Co-Chairs of the event are Patsy Suydam and Linda Bumpus.

The local Sister to Sister Summit will feature workshops on topics ranging from internet

social networking to dealing with stress. In addition, adults attending as chaperones will be offered a tour of the new Clean Room at FMCC by Greg Truckenmiller, VP of Academic Affairs.

Registration for the Sister to Sister Summit will be handled through area middle schools. Each district will be invited to bring 15 girls to the Summit. Last year's event drew over 200 girls from Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery counties. Information packets will be distributed to each school district in March. There is a registration fee of \$8 per girl and adult to cover the cost of lunch and breakfast snacks. The deadline for registration is April 1. --Liz Russo

### **Summit Volunteers Needed**

At least eight volunteers are needed the day of the Summit to assist with set up, registration, directing girls to workshops, lunch assistance, passing out the t-shirts, collecting evaluations, and cleanup.

For more information, contact Linda Bumpus at 725-1927.

--Liz Russo

### **JPL Raffle Basket**

Thanks to all who generously donated items for the College Survival Basket that our branch donated to the Johnstown Public Library for their Story Book Sundae fundraiser.

Our basket along with about 40 others, are on display around the JPL, and raffle tickets may be purchased at any time. The drawing will take place at the event which will be from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on March 20 at FMCC. We donate a basket each year as thanks for the use of the JPL Community Room for branch, board, and Sister to Sis-

ter planning meetings free of charge.

You can view our basket by going to the JPL website [johnstownpubliclibrary.info](http://johnstownpubliclibrary.info)

--Liz Russo

### **Silent Auction**

In March, April, May, and June, members will have a chance to bid on two great items to raise money for EF and LAF. The items will be given to the high bidders at our June meeting. Barb Nigro has graciously contributed a handmade quilted purse with lottery tickets and Peg Snyder is donating a lovely tole painting basket.

Items will be available for viewing at the March meeting; so get ready to bid!

--Sandy Maceyka



### **Nominating Committee**

The officers have been acting as the nominating committee, and we have had several new members step up to the plate to take positions, but we are still short of a President or joint Presidents and of a Program VP. If anyone would help out with these positions by stepping up or suggesting someone, I know that they will get lots of help. Thanks. --Sandy Maceyka

### **Our April Meeting:**

#### **"The Women of Flame"**

**FLAME**, a group from upstate New York made up of ten people with developmental/physical disabilities, including autism, Down's syndrome, and blindness, is capturing the world's attention but their message remains the same. The band from Lexington Center, Fulton County

Chapter, NYSARC, Inc., wants to change the world through music. They are a phenomenon that inspires people and changes the way the general public view people with disabilities. People of all ages and backgrounds connect with this special rock band, especially those who have a disability. Parents are often overcome with emotion watching FLAME, seeing that it's possible to have their child achieve great things and, even more importantly, have a fun, fulfilling life.

FLAME began in 2003 from a recreation program at Lexington [www.lexingtoncenter.org](http://www.lexingtoncenter.org).  
<http://www.lexingtoncenter.org>.

The plan was to have the band play at the agency and around town. However, the profound effect they have on their audiences made it impossible to keep FLAME within the confines of Fulton County. Word spread and requests for hire began pouring in and FLAME now averages over 70 paid performances per year, including concerts in 12 different states (NY, NJ, PA, Wash DC, ID, MA, ME, VT, RI, IN, CT, TX.) and in Europe. They perform for national and statewide conventions, corporate conferences, civic events, school functions, dances, and private parties. Their song list contains over 100 classic hits, rock, country, and blues songs from the past five decades.

FLAME is now an international touring band in high demand. They have released three CDs, travel on a custom tour bus, and are working on releasing a fourth CD.

Recent events have catapulted FLAME into the national spot-

light. Performances at Manhattan's Gracie Mansion for NYC Mayor Bloomberg, being in *People* magazine and being featured on ABC TV's "Good Morning America" has positioned FLAME to greatly expand their scope of influence.

As FLAME continues their quest to change the world, their following of adoring fans and grateful parents continues to grow. If you would like more information or would like to book FLAME, contact Tim Fiori, PR Director or Maria Nestle, Manager at Lexington Center at 518-762-0024.

—Kaye Schrader

### **May Meeting, date changed-- Golden Agers Collection**

In May our meeting will be a joint one on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Johnstown Senior Center with the other member groups of the women's consortium. Each group will be collecting items for the Infirmary similar to what we did for the Domestic Violence Shelter. List to follow.

The speaker will be Deborah Borie, and her topic will be *Too Sexy Too Soon*. She was a speaker at the 2010 NY State AAUW convention where she discussed the negative aspects of mass media marketing of sex and beauty to young girls. She will focus on making us become aware of how media and advertisers work hard at influencing the decisions young people make. Borie currently serves as Project Co-Director of the *Training 2000+* grant: Just Kids Early Childhood Development Center.  
--Sandy Maceyka

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- March 3**, ECSWC meeting  
5:15 p.m. at JPL
- March 7**, Sister to Sister Summit Planning Meeting  
3:30 p.m. at JPL
- March 8** International Women's Day
- March 13**, ECSWC Maxine Getty portrayal of Civil War Nurse, Mary Livermore  
2:30 p.m. at Johnstown Presbyterian Church
- March 15**, Dinner Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Partners Pub, Johnstown  
"Ireland Today"  
Speaker, Bonnie Van Wie

- April 7** Annual Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Raindancer Restaurant, Amsterdam  
Music, Women of Flame

- April 15-17**  
NYS AAUW Convention  
Glen Cove Mansion  
Long Island

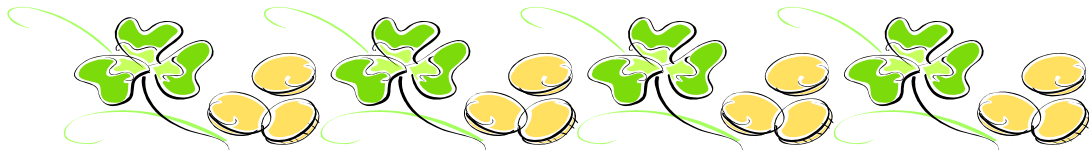
- May 16** Sister to Sister Summit  
8:15am -1:30pm FMCC
- May 16 Meeting** 5:30 p.m.  
Johnstown Senior Center  
Speaker Deborah Borie

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### AAUW MARCH MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, March 15, 2011

LOCATION: Partner's Pub



21 South William Street



Johnstown

TIME: Gather @ 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner @ 6 p.m.  
Program @ 7 p.m.

TOPIC: Ireland Today

PRESENTER: Bonnie Van Wie

\*\*\*\*\*Partner's Pub will be serving Corned Beef and Cabbage that week, however, we may order from the menu.

Salads and entrees range from \$6 to \$11.

If you would like to attend, please call or e-mail:

Bonnie Van Wie



762-9377



[bonnywee@gmx.com](mailto:bonnywee@gmx.com)