

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.

2012 – 2013

May

Branch Officers:

Presidents

Liz Russo

Linda Hammond

Vice Presidents - Program

Anne Campos

Ginni Mazur

Vice President – Membership

Trish Isabella

Catherine Julius

Vice President – Edu Opp Fund

Anya Biel

Vice President – Legal Advocacy

Danielle Scahff-Turchin

Recording Secretary

Bonnie Van Wie

Treasurer – Ella Ryder

Membership Treasurer

Michele Acquaro

Co-President's Message

Liz and I have just returned from a great NYS Conference. Catherine Julius, Bev Alves, Patsy Suydam, and Sandy Maceyka were there also as AGJ representatives. Our speakers were really great this year. Lake Placid is the perfect town for a conference. Friday we visited some of the stores along Main Street. The surrounding moun-

tains were so pretty, some still with snow on their tops. Mirror Lake was true to its name with reflections of the blue sky, surrounding mountains and homes. By the time I left on Sunday, I was really looking forward to the end of July when the Ironman Race is happening. Our keynote speaker on Friday evening was Lisa Maatz, AAUW's top policy advisor who works to advance AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and in coalition with other organizations. Lisa also provides leadership to several coalitions working to advance opportunities for women and girls. We learned about the many stages that VAWA had to go through before it was finally passed by the House and Senate. She spoke of how AAUW played a strategic role in the passage from its members to the staff in Washington. We were all advised to continue our efforts on Get out the Vote during the upcoming elections. The need to support

the local elections is just as important as the national elections.

Bev and I stopped at John Brown's Farm on our way out of Lake Placid. The building wasn't open yet, but you are able to walk around on the trails and grounds all year. On Sunday morning we listened to the Sounds of the Northway. One of their songs, *Mary Brown, Abolitionist (Herstory, Turning the World Right-Side Up album)* was about John Brown's death. As many times I have been in the Lake Placid region I have never visited this landmark. It is behind the two ski jump towers that you see along the highway going into Lake Placid. It is a very peaceful area where you could enjoy a nice walk or picnic. The tours begin on May 1st.



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

We had a great April meeting at Harold's Restaurant. Joan Monk spoke of her participation on many NYS initiatives, on her fundraising tips, next phase of Your Sister's Keeper, on Eleanor Roosevelt, and on *Choosing Civility* by P.M. Forni. The latter is a book that supports the adult level of the "Have you Filled a Bucket Today?" initiative.



Joan's presentation listed many references and she will send this information to us in the near future. This information will also be posted in our newsletter and on our website. We have also recorded Joan's presentation and will post that on the website in the future for those who were unable to attend the meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone at the May 22nd meeting being held at the Holiday Inn. We are collecting items for the Domestic Violence Shelter. These items can be brought to the Holiday Inn or to Anne Campos' home. Page 2 of the meeting flyer provides items that are needed.

Enjoy our spring weather that has finally arrived. It will be great to see the flower beds filled with color once again!

Linda, Co-President

MAY MEETING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence was the topic of our district meeting last fall. Those that attended heard about the difficult topic through the eyes of a prosecutor and the Domestic Violence coordinator from Schenectady County. We decided to learn more about the topic and what assistance is available to victims in Fulton Co. and have set our May meeting to address this topic.

The May meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown on Wednesday, May 22, at 5:30. Our speaker will be Linda Horan, Coordinator of Domestic Violence programs for the Family Counseling Center. Linda has been involved in this program for many years and has a wealth of information to share with us. She will discuss the "Cycle of Violence" that is the predictable path that a relationship takes when Violence is likely to occur. She will also discuss the legal and emotional path that victims might take. Linda has been involved with the Domestic Violence Safe House since its inception and will be telling us about the operation of this haven for victims. The Safe House does depend on volunteer donations for the upkeep and operation of the house. We would like to ask anyone attending the May meeting to bring one of the following items that the house needs. We will make a Donation of Care to the Safe House from AAUW.

Please read the list on the back of this month's flyer and find something you could donate.

—Anne Campos

OFFICERS FOR 2013

The following Slate of Officers was adopted.

(*Please note the correction under Program;
 Darcelle and Sandy Maceyka will serve as Co-VP for Program and Connie will serve on the Program committee)
 New term 2013-2015
 Co-Presidents: Linda Hammond
 Elizabeth Russo
 Recording Secretary: Bonnie Van Wie
 Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter): **OPEN**
 Continuing Officers (term 2012-2014):
 Treasurer: Ella Ryder
 Co- VP Membership: Catherine Julius
 Patricia Isabella
Co- VP Program: Darcelle Winchell
**Sandra Maceyka*
*Program Committee: *Connie Chamberlain*
Ella Ryder
Beverly Alves
Jeremy Spraggs
 VP - Legal Advocacy Fund:
OPEN

Step up to "Join the AAUW Team"! We Would Love Your Help!

We are still looking for volunteers to assist with our newsletter and the Legal Advocacy Fund. If you have computer skills, fundraising experience, or would just like an opportunity to share your creative ideas to assist our branch and reach out to help "our sisters," please step up and contact Liz or Linda. We will pro-

vide assistance, but would love new ideas and energy to move the AAUW mission and our branch forward. –Liz Russo

COMPUTER/WEB UPDATES

Do You Use Outlook's (Newer Editions) Contact List as a Rolodex?

Did you know that if you have someone set up in your Outlook contacts and use their email address in an electronic distribution mailing(s); someone at the other end could right-click on a name/email address and see all of your private information on this contact?

Yes. What can we do?

Go through your contact list and click on anyone who you may have added personal cell phone # or any other personal information that should not be shared. Once opened go to the upper right hand corner and click on "Private" and "save." You will need to do this with each person you have listed with personal information available.

Once you have privatized a contact, the receivers at the other end will not be able to see the personal identification information, only the email address.

The AGJ mailing distributions lists do not contain personal identification information, and we utilize the BCC mailing category where the distribution list is not visible to the receivers.

--Linda Hammond

BRANCH ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITIONS

AGJ did very well in this year's recognition at State Convention. We should all pat ourselves on the back for an excellent program and projects! Congratulations, Ladies!! Thank you all for of your help & support!!

--Linda Hammond

Branch Programming Recognitions – Marketing the Mission Award

1st AGJ - "Their goal of "filling the bucket" of all branch members resulted in programs of broad diversity that led to membership retention and overall teamwork. Aside from topics such as single payer health insurance and palliative care, members enjoyed a kosher meal, a Moroccan travelogue, and learned about Chinese traditional medicine."

Powerful Programs Award

2nd AGJ – "Sister-to-Sister / Tech Savvy Conference

2013 Public Policy Awards

AGJ was recognized for the following:

- *Get Out the Vote Action Awards*
- *Women's Equality Agenda Leadership Awards*
- *Outreach to College Students*
- *Best Use of Newsletter Education Articles*
- *AAUW-NYS Equal Pay Day Action Awards*
- *AAUW-NYS Public Policy Taking Action Awards*

Branch Membership Awards – Membership Growth

Newsletter Awards – Awards of Excellence (top level, followed by Awards of Distinction and Awards of Merit)

Website Awards (Adoption of Site Resources)

AAUW Funds Branch Achievements – AGJ was #4 of the Top Five Branches Eleanor Roosevelt Contributions

Legal Advocacy Fund Branch Recognitions

- #8 of the Top 10 Branches in Per Capita LAF Contributions
- LAF Star Branches Per Capita Contributions of \$5 or more
- Top Contributors, Evvie Currie Giving Circle - #5

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS:

The AAUW New York State Convention held in Lake Placid on April 28, 2013 was full of events: inspiring speakers, workshops, meetings, and musical entertainment.

Luncheon and dinner speakers were Lisa Maatz and Kimberly Davis. Lisa is AAUW's top policy advisor and she works to advance AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, the White House and in coalition with other organizations. Kimberly was a plaintiff in one of the AAUW supported lawsuits filed in regards to military sexual assault.

I met with AAUW District IV representatives, and we decided that a District IV Conference

will be held in October, location to be chosen at a later meeting. The theme will be Diversity. We discussed, after the theme was decided, the length and format of the event; morning, or full day ...workshops or speakers. Details will be developed over time.

As a member of the NY State Nominating Committee, I met twice with fellow members to develop guidelines for the coming election year in which we will advance nominees for New York State President, Program Vice President, and AAUW Funds VP.

The two workshops I attended were Women of the World and Summer STEM Camp for Seventh Grade Girls

□ The summer camp was motivated by the AAUW report: *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.* One of the findings in the report is that women and girls are consistently outperformed by men and boys in 3D and spatial reasoning skills. However, research shows that these skills can be dramatically improved in a relatively short time through training. Spatial visualization is an important pre-engineering skill, and is also useful in a wide variety of other fields.

The objective of the summer camp was to develop the pre-engineering skills of spatial visualization and the ability to reason about the objects in our 3D world through their various 2D representations.

□ The Women of the World workshop was motivated by the AAUW belief that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking and that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people.

*There was a DPI/NGO briefing, entitled "Social Storytelling in the Age of Data: Meaning and Momentum"

*Advocacy at the United Nations was related to AAUW CSW57 which is a statement of "feminist and women's organizations on the very alarming trends in the negotiations of outcome document of the 57th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The statement was motivated by a concern that the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is wavering in its commitment to advance women's human rights as demonstrated in the constant negotiation of the language in the outcome document.

--Patsy Suydam

Convention Recap from Liz

As we drove closer to Lake Placid a flood of memories came to me....

Trips to the Olympic venues the year before the event to watch ski jumping, skate on the Olympic rink, cross country ski on the

Olympic course, ride the bobsled and enjoy the toboggan ride onto Mirror Lake; summer camping in the area while our sons participated in an outdoor swim meet on Mirror Lake; and of course, there was my first attendance at an AAUW convention at Lake Placid 10 years ago. It was so good to be back!

EOF Fundraiser in Downtown Lake Placid

As Linda mentioned, we shopped, gathered raffle tickets from participating merchants, and had a chance to win prizes as part of the fundraiser for the Education Opportunities Fund. Our branch proved to be very lucky and brought home many prizes-mine was a large leather designer purse.

LAF Raffles and Silent Auction

At the LAF fundraiser, purses and baskets were raffled and auctioned. I was fortunate to win two raffle prizes: Kingston Branch's Peter Pan I won't Grow Up green leather purse, crafts and children's books; and Greater Rochester Area Branch's Celebrate Women basket with items from women-owned businesses such as chocolate, oils, and vinegars, a giant chocolate covered fortune cookie, and children's books. The three purses our AGJ branch donated for the silent auction received bids of \$45 for the Go Cool - Purse for Summer, \$45 for the Go Tapestry - for Summer and \$70 for GO Bling - For Evening Or Not. Sandy and Patsy won auction bids to take several baskets home also. Money raised from our donations will be credited to our branch LAF contributions.

MAY HIGHLIGHTS in US WOMEN'S HISTORY (*The National Women's History Project*)

□ **May 1, 1950** - Gwendolyn Brooks becomes the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry; named Library of Congress's Consultant in Poetry (later called Poet Laureate) in 1985

□ **May 5, 1938** - Dr. Dorothy H. Andersen presents results of her [medical](#) research identifying the disease cystic fibrosis at a meeting of the American Pediatric Assn.

□ **May 8, 1914** - President Woodrow Wilson signs a Proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day

□ **May 10, 1872** - Victoria Woodhull is nominated as the first woman candidate for U.S. president for the Equal Rights Party

□ **May 12, 1968** - A 12-block Mother's Day march of "welfare mothers" is held in Washington, D.C., led by Coretta Scott King accompanied by Ethel Kennedy

□ **May 21, 1932** - Amelia Earhart Putnam is the first woman to complete a solo transatlantic flight. She flew from Newfoundland to Ireland, a 2,026-mile trip, in just under 15 hours

□ **May 21, 1973** - Lynn Genesko, a swimmer, receives the first athletic [scholarship](#) awarded to a woman ([University of Miami](#))

□ **May 29, 1977** - Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman to qualify for and complete the Indy 500

Message from Donna Seymour, Public Policy Director, AAUW-NYS

Since 2006, a coalition of civil rights organizations has been working to pass GENDA - the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act - here in New York State. The 2013 bill numbers are:

Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act ([A.4226/Gottfried](#))([S.195/Squadron](#)).

Briefly, GENDA is New York State's transgender non-discrimination bill. It would add the category of "gender identity and expression" to the already existing New York State human rights laws.

Current law makes it illegal in New York State to discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, sex and other categories in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, education and credit.

This act would extend current law to ban discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression as well. Similarly, it would add gender identity and expression to these same categories already included in New York's hate crimes law.

I am very pleased to tell you that AAUW-NYS has formally joined the GENDA Coalition to secure passage in the Assembly (where it passes every year) and the NYS Senate (where is yet to make it to the floor for a vote, despite the fact that, in one poll,

78% of New York voters support passage of such a law).

This much needed civil rights bill will protect all New Yorkers, including transgender New Yorkers, from harassment and discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression in areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, and education. Many of these same protections are included in the NYS Women's Equality Agenda, which AAUW also vigorously supports.

AAUW-NYS worked with many of these same groups for years to pass the Dignity For All Students Act which went into effect last July. Just as with the Women's Equality Agenda Coalition, I encourage all Branches in NYS to also consider joining the GENDA Coalition individually. Broad support across the state by local organizations will help to strengthen the effort and support for passage.

Gender identity and expression refer to the way people self-identify and present their masculinity and femininity to the world. Gender identity is an individual's internal sense of being a man, a woman, a boy, a girl, or something outside of these binaries. Since gender identity is internal, it is not necessarily visible to others. Some ways in which people may express or represent their gender include dress, hair style, mannerisms, body characteristics, name and pronouns.

Transgender is an umbrella term that refers to people who identify their gender differently

from what is traditionally associated with the sex assigned to them at birth. This includes people who have undergone medical procedures to change their sex and those who haven't.

Sexual orientation refers to one's romantic and sexual attraction. Gender expression is not in itself any indicator of sexual orientation. Just like everyone else, gender non-conforming and transgender people may be straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual or asexual.

FYI, **April 30 is [LGBT Equality & Justice Day 2013](#)** - Come to Albany for Equality & Justice Day: Everyone, Everywhere and come together with us and hundreds of others, as friends, family, allies, parents, and transgender New Yorkers. Our presence will send a message to the state Legislature. Let them hear the demand that they once again summon the courage to do the right thing and pass the law that will guarantee human and civil rights.

For more information about how your branch can support GENDA, please contact me. Thank you for all you do for AAUW. --Donna

Books for Sale - Remarkable Women in NYS History, the culmination of six years of work by Helen Engel and Marilyn Smiley members of the Oswego Branch were on sale, given as speaker gifts and included in the Celebrate Women basket. The book is a compilation of biographies of women of NY State

living and from the past who have made a difference in their professions, their communities, their state and the nation. AAUW members from branches across NYS submitted bios of some well-known NYS women and some that were not recognized outside their own communities. Autobiographies were also submitted.

Our AGJ members contributed bios a few years ago that appear in the book.
Liz Russo co-author - Amelia Bloomer
Ginni Mazur - Rose Knox
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Proceeds from the sale of the books go to the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund.

Swimathon for GEMS

Thanks to all our branch members who pledged money for me to represent our branch on the annual convention swimathon. This year, the funds will go to GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services), a non-profit agency in Harlem that help teen girls leave the sex trade. I swam 52 lengths of the High Peaks pool, and you contributed \$320 to GEMS, and we won the runner up Mermaid award (for distance swum and money collected).

College Connection

I attended the session presented by Female presidents of Canton and Jefferson County Community College, who spoke about how AAUW can build connections with colleges. They stated that utilizing college fa-

cilities and encouraging faculty to join helps AAUW branches and it also helps faculty with their needed community involvement component of their career development. They also stressed that co-hosting events with colleges also increases AAUW name recognition.

Diversity Discussion

Heidi Perreno from the Rochester Branch was curious about "what happened to the NYS Diversity Chair position." As a result she now holds that office! Heidi put out a call at convention for others who would like to work on a Diversity Committee with her. I attended the organizational meeting to listen in and many from several branches around the state also joined the group and provided a great discussion for the direction for the state AAUW to go regarding Diversity - a definition was needed - and encompassing not only race, gender, religion, age, careers, but also health challenged (hearing impaired, blind, etc.). Awareness and understanding may provide a key to making diversity a value that is embedded in our AAUW structure. We look forward to some exciting ideas from Heidi and the committee.

Hope and Bullying

Those were the two "short names" for the workshops I attended.

Hope

"Women Helping Women: Bringing My Sister's Keeper to Your Branch" provided information about projects that further

the My Sister's Keeper vision of AAUW. Melissa Guardaro, the AAUW UN representative, and Karen Sparacio discussed micro-loans, the Women of Grace Widows Fund and other sustainable programs branches could undertake. Cecilia Dinio Durkin a leading Fair Trade advocate had many items available for sale during the Convention which were made by women in developing nations. The "Hope" workshop also involved conversations with a representative of public TV via skype encouraging AAUW branches to contact the local PBS to promote events and the AAUW name. Volunteering to take phone calls during PBS (like our WMHT) fundraising drives could give AAUW branches recognition. In our AAUW Convention packet, we received a thumb drive with more information about these opportunities as well as other information from Convention for us to use as reference as we plan to 2013-14.

Bullying

The actual title was "From Page to Stage: Bullying Prevention and the Arts and was an expansion of the Bucket Filling (making people feel good) - the opposite of Bucket Dipping (bullying) we have tried to practice in our branch. Workshop presenter, Ann Marie Garinier Halstead has produced a new play based on Carol McCloud's book *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* It is intended to be produced by middle school or older students to be presented to ele-

mentary students as part of anti-bullying programs. It was even suggested to partner with college theater arts and early education classes on the project.

We learned that Ann Marie was originally from Amsterdam, and she was interested in meeting members of the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch. We invited her to sit with us at lunch. We also learned that her dad had graduated from FM. We hope she will come to the area perhaps to speak and together we may consider production of her play in the area.

AAUW will continue to work to end bullying and harassment in schools; we encourage branches and states to initiate discussions in their communities and contact their lawmakers about the importance of addressing school climates and its relationship to gun violence in schools as a key component of the gun violence prevention debate.

Within our branch and our local communities, what can we do?

Perhaps Ann Marie Garinier Halstead's play *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* would be a place for our branch and community to start our initiative to end bullying and harassment and prevent gun violence.

Dancing to the Music at Convention

Music by *Sounds of the Northway*, three women singing songs about women, was a wonderful way to end our Sunday morning sessions. The last song they presented "Dance a Revolu-

tion" had us clapping and up dancing around the room together. It was a perfect joining of the sisterhood of AAUW and celebration of our accomplishments and the joy of being together and being energized by likeminded women.

NYS Women's Equality Coalition Branch Representative - Bev Alves

As a result of all the advocacy networking Bev Alves did at the convention, NYS Public Policy Chair Donna Seymour suggested that Bev be appointed as our branch representative to the NYS Women's Equality Coalition. Our branch united with other NYS AAUW branches and organizations in March in support of Governor Cuomo's 10-point Women's Equality Agenda. Bev has already taken part in an early WEA teleconference call. We will look forward to updates from Bev and suggestions about what our branch can do to get the Women's Equality legislation passed in the coming months. Thanks Bev!

Convention memories from Bev Alves

I never imagined how good the convention was going to be. Until I attended the state convention, I had never really understood how important the goals of AAUW were. I am an advocate and I was greatly impressed by the advocacy aspect of our organization and by the advocacy of other members. AAUW

works to uplift and improve our society.

The convention was a perfect opportunity to spend a lot of time networking with women who had similar goals and objectives to improve our society. I met Donna Seymour, NYS Public Policy Chair, Lisa Maatz, National Public Policy Chair, and NYS Assemblywoman Addie Jenne Russell. I asked Addie to sign on to NY Health, the new state single payer bill sponsored by Assemblyman Dick Gottfried, and she agreed. I also met and spoke with LAF litigant, Kimberly Davis who was a victim of sexual attack while serving in the military. It's good to know that AAUW is working to protect the rights of those who are abused by those in power.

At the conference I even won one of the EOF raffle prizes, a pair of pinecone earrings, which is perfect for me. I'm really glad I joined this noble organization and had the opportunity to attend the convention in beautiful Lake Placid. --Bev Alves

"Hats Off" to Helen Martin

Our past branch president, Helen Martin, recently received an award from the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce for her continued work as president of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium. Hats Off to you, Helen, for continuing to promote Johnstown as the birthplace of Elizabeth Cady Stanton!

Branch Lunch Bunch Book Discussion



On April 9 we enjoyed the wonderful ambiance at the Armory Grill complete with many tiffany style lamps, period furnishings, and old photos that made it seem like we were in grandma's parlor and dining room. We entertained a lively discussion of *Grace and Grit* and Lilly Ledbetter's struggle and shared related stories of workplace discrimination and "woman's place is in the home" attitudes of the past. With the assistance of Catherine Julius and her smart phone, we used the Salary Calculator on the AAUW website to figure how our occupations lined up regarding equal pay for men and women. Attired in red, we acknowledged that women are still "in the red" financially as compared with men. We ended lunch with a dessert of *Pay Day* candy bars in honor of Equal Pay Day. Our Brunch Lunch Book Discussion group has grown to 8! We plan to reserve a table for 10 next time as we hope to attract new members.

--Liz Russo

Japanese History, Culture and Food on Menu for Next Branch Lunch Bunch

To commemorate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, the Adelante book choice for May is the novel *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka. To continue with the Asian-Pacific theme, the next Branch Lunch Bunch Book Discussion will take place on Tuesday, May 28 at 11:30 a.m. at Mt. Fuji Japanese Restaurant in the Arterial Plaza in Gloversville

The Buddha in the Attic, Julie Otsuka's long awaited follow-up to *When the Emperor Was Divine* is a tour de force of economy and precision, a novel that tells the story of a group of young women brought over from Japan to San Francisco as picture brides nearly a century ago. In eight incantatory sections, *The Buddha in the Attic* traces their extraordinary lives, from their arduous journey by boat, where they exchange photographs of their husbands, imagining uncertain futures in an unknown land; to their arrival in San Francisco and their tremulous first nights as new wives; to their back-breaking work picking fruit in the fields and scrubbing the floors of white women; to their struggles to master a new language and a new culture; to their experiences in childbirth, and then as mothers raising children who will ultimately reject their heritage and their history; to the deracinating arrival of war.

Eight copies of *The Buddha in the Attic* were requested from the JPL through the interlibrary loan. The books were distributed by Bonnie Van Wie at our April meeting. Contact Liz Russo if you are interested in borrowing the book and attending the book discussion luncheon. Ten members have signed up already!

Fistula Repair Fund Contributions

Thank you to all who have contributed to date to the Fistula Repair Fund to cover the cost of a fistula repair surgery. We will continue collecting through June as part of the NYS AAUW My Sister's Keeper initiative. Donations will be accepted at upcoming meetings or may be sent to Linda Hammond. We can think of it as a way to "Fill a Bucket" for a woman less fortunate.

--Liz Russo

Women and Community Colleges: Access to Success

AAUW will release their latest research report, *Women and Community Colleges: Access to Success* on May 22 at 2 p.m. The report highlights two key barriers to women's success at community colleges. Those interested in hosting a watch party of the live-steamed research report launch event, can e-mail WomeninCC@AAUW.org

Win a Free Membership!

The second of three free AAUW membership renewals for the 2013-2014 year was raffled at the April meeting.

Thanks to all who purchased tickets; we made \$93. Congratulations to our March AAUW membership raffle winner, Sue Summerfield!

Our branch earned the free memberships from National AAUW for recruiting over six members at our fall and winter "Shape the Future Membership" meetings. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The other last membership will be raffled at our May meeting. Good luck!

--Liz Russo

Membership Recruitment

This is a great time to invite a friend or relative to attend a meeting and join our AAUW branch. Those who join now will get a year and a half membership for the cost of a year - \$74! Encourage those interested to join now. They will not have to renew until June of 2014!

--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 2013-14 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

Give a Gift to a Grad

College graduations are at hand. Need to give a present? Why not consider giving that friend, daughter, granddaughter, or niece a free AAUW membership at no cost to you or her! Remember, only members can take advantage of this offer. Just complete the online membership application now or download the application (MSWord) (PDF). Your grad will receive a one-year member-at-large membership, a \$49 value. She can join a branch at any time but will be responsible for paying branch and state dues. (Or you can pay the state and branch dues as the rest of your gift.) This is an offer that only AAUW members can take advantage of at no cost. You can apply online or download the application at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>. If you do not have a computer and wish to give a gift to a May or June graduate, (associate, bachelors, or masters degree) contact Liz Russo at 762-9702.

Leadership Development Conference, July 19-21 in Cazenovia, NY

This conference is held on the beautiful Cazenovia College campus in a relaxed atmosphere and offers much in the way of very practical information and suggestions for our members. The fee is subsidized by the AAUW-NYS and is an extremely affordable weekend for \$100 (2 nights in air conditioned dorm suites and 6 meals).

AAUW officers, committee chairs, and all interested members are encouraged to attend. This is a great chance to join in the fun with other enthusiastic AAUW members from around the state, participate in interactive workshops related to AAUW activities, learn more about AAUW initiatives, take part in discussions on current topics such as violence against women and pay equity and bring home specific programs for our branch and community.

Our branch has funds budgeted for those who wish to attend the summer conference in Cazenovia July 19-21. Please contact Liz or Linda if you would like to join us. (see form attached)

Complete your application at www.aauw-nys.org. Mail check payable to AAUW-NYS for \$100 (or \$105 for paper registration) to:

Betty Harrel
28 Laffin Lane
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

The deadline is July 1 - should be mailed by June 25th. There are no refunds after July 1.

The AAUW Student Organization Sponsors a Women’s Panel, Holds Its Last Meeting

The AAUW Student Organization has been busy this past academic year, and we completed our first year’s list of activities on a high note. Using the great idea of our devoted member, Ellie DiScioscia, the AAUW Student Organization put togeth-

er and sponsored a women’s panel on April 10. The panel, entitled “Leading by Example,” featured six women speakers – the Johnstown City Engineer Chandra Cotter, the director of Centro Civico Ladon Alomar, the former president of Fulton Co. Habitat for Humanity Naquana Mitchell, the BOCES speech therapist Lynn Brown, the RN and FM alumnus Margo Reid, and the Council Woman from Schenectady Marion Porterfield.



The panelists shared their stories of success and leadership with FM students and our honored guests—the former AGJ AAUW member Audrey Bowman and the co-presidents of AGJ AAUW Linda Hammond and Liz Russo. The panel was well attended by students who had an opportunity to chat over lunch with the panelist whose story inspired her most. Four of the attending students signed up as AAUW e-student affiliates.

On May 1, the AAUW Student Organization held its last meeting of the school year. Enjoying delicious ice-cream with the maple syrup brought by Liz Russo, we reviewed our accomplishments this past year and

brainstormed for ideas for next year’s campus activities, recruiting new members, fundraising, and marketing the organization on FM campus and in the community. Among the ideas discussed was a possibility of reaching out not only to current FM students, but also to prospective FM students by visiting local high schools during their College Fairs. Two of the students who joined the organization at the women’s panel – Liniha Morton and Sarah Hancock – wrote personal notes to the panelist they had met on April 10. Liniha agreed to serve as our club’s representative on the Student Senate next year and be in charge of online marketing of our club (utilizing all forms of social networking). We also wished all the best to Ellie DiScioscia who is graduating from FMCC this May.

–Anya Biel

**IN MEMORY
Cynthia (Cindy) Parker Depuy**



Cindy joined the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch in 2004. She was a graduate of Wyoming Seminary and Wilson College. In her early years she

played field hockey. Some of you may remember her as an English teacher at Fonda-Fultonville School. Cindy had many interests in her Johnstown community from the local little theater and nature study club to Big Brothers, Big Sister and Domestic Violence hot line. She had been a member of the St. John's Episcopal Church choir and supporter of the NOAH meals program.

She will be remembered for her sunny disposition and stylish dress. She was a perfect model for our AAUW fashion shows. Due to her many serious health issues over the years, she was unable to be present at many of our meetings, but when she did attend, she was an inspiration to all of us as she fought to regain her health again and again. On April 17, 2013 at the age of 80 she gave up the fight. We will miss you Cindy. —Liz Russo

AAUW One Member One Vote

Bring your AAUW Outlook Magazine to the May meeting (or your voting ID numbers from the back cover) and we can vote online at the meeting.

AAUW's One Member, One Vote election process gives every one of us a say in the future of AAUW. As you probably already know, online voting began April 15 and closes June 10. A voting guide is included in the current *Outlook* and is [posted on our voter website](#), with a link also featured on the AAUW [homepage](#).

Please note that write-in voting can only be done online. Detailed instructions for online voting are included in the current issue of *Outlook*, and members can find their voter PIN and member ID on the back cover of the current *Outlook* magazine. A reminder e-mail, including online voting instructions, voter PIN, and member ID, was also sent to all members with an active e-mail address.

There are two NYS AAUW members running for office. Past NYS president, Eileen Hartman is on the ballot for Director at Large, AAUW Board. Additionally, Mildred P. DeWitt of the Smithtown branch is a write in candidate for Director At Large, AAUW Board.

We hope that we have a “good voter turnout” from our AGJ branch! —Liz Russo

National Convention in New Orleans June 9-11

The deadline to register is May 31. Speakers include Lilly Ledbetter, Melissa Harris-Perry and Olympia Snow. The hotel and convention center is located on Bourbon St. and there are opportunities to tour the city of New Orleans. Contact Liz if you are interested in going.

June Meeting Date Change - June 26

The last meeting of our 2012-13 AAUW year will be on June 26 (note change in date!)

The Picnic Meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the home of Maryann Abad on Peck's Lake. The date was moved to accommodate those who will be away at National Convention or traveling elsewhere. The starting time is also later so that those who work will be able to join us. This will be a potluck. Details and directions will be available next month in the June newsletter.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 1

AAUW Student Organization

Meeting

FMCC Classroom Building Room C-106

noon

May 20

Set up for Sister to Sister Tech Savvy Summit

3 p.m. FMCC

May 20

AAUW Board Meeting

6 p.m. Johnstown Public Library

May 21

Sister to Sister Tech Savvy Summit

8 a.m. – 3 p.m. FM

May 21

AAUW will release latest research report,

Women and Community Colleges: Access to Success.

2-3 p.m.

May 22

Branch Dinner Meeting

Holiday Inn

Johnstown

5:30 p.m.

Speaker, Linda Horan
on Domestic Violence
(donations to shelter)

May 28

Branch Lunch Bunch Book Discussion

[The Buddha in the Attic](#) by Julie Otsuka

Mt. Fuji Japanese Restaurant

65 Arterial Plaza, Gloversville

11:30 a.m.

May 31

Deadline to Register for National Convention

June 9-11

AAUW National Convention

New Orleans

June 26 (note change in date!)

Branch Picnic Meeting

Home of Maryann Abad, Peck's Lake

6 p.m.

July 19-21

AAUW NYS Leadership Conference

Cazenovia College

**AMSTERDAM-GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN AAUW
2013-2014 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, 2013. *(\$69)

_____ I have enclosed \$ _____ ** dues on or after June 1, 2013. **(\$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 this form along with your check to:

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

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