



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

November

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

Chairperson needed

Recording Secretary

Bonnie Van Wie

Treasurer – Ella Ryder

Membership Treasurer

Michele Acquaro

NY State Assembly person as well as 4 NY State Supreme Court Justices.

Since our local voting districts have changed, there may be some new names representing us. Study up to prepare and then get to the polls on Tuesday, November 6!

As we enter the last two months on 2012, we will enjoy the spirit of the seasons beginning with our November 8 Harvest Dinner meeting and then our Holiday Brunch December 8. We hope you will be able to join us for both.

In between our branch meetings, we are working to provide educational opportunities to local students. Our branch is sponsoring the Princeton SAT Practice Test at FMCC on November 17 with follow up and explanation of their test results on November 28. In addition, we will be raising money to send another female FMCC student to attend the National Conference for College Student Women Leaders (NCCWSL). Meanwhile Sister to Sister Summit chairs Linda Bumpus and Patsy Suydam are

already gearing up to begin organizing the 2013 TECH SAVVY Summit for Girls.

On November 26 we will hold our next board meeting at the Johnstown Public Library. All are invited. We have several issues to discuss and would appreciate your ideas. We will be discussing possible events for May, our KIVA microloan, fundraising for the Fistula Fund, and our HUGS Bears donation. In addition, we need a new LAF chair and a nominating committee. Furthering education, philanthropy and fun continue to be our goals for the branch. Any help will be appreciated!

Finally, as Hurricane Sandy approaches, stay safe.
-Co-President Liz Russo

October Meeting/ District IV Conference Follow Up

Our October 27 joint branch meeting and District Conference at Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) was attended by 7 of our members. Ella Ryder, Ginni Mazur, Sandy

President’s Message

Election time is here! Time to remember the fight fought for women to get the right to vote, time to exercise that right and time to encourage other women to do so as well. Our votes do make a difference. There are many choices for us to make in the upcoming election including our next President and Vice-President, a US Senator and a member of the House of Representatives, a NYS Senator and

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

Lane, Liz Russo, Anne Campos, Bonnie Van Wie and Carol Cownie attended and Carol brought along a friend also.

SCCC Assistant VP for Administration, Susan Beaudoin, welcomed us and provided a history of the college which was established in 1967 on the site of the old Van Curler Hotel. The site was placed on the Historic Register and recently won an award for renovation of Elston Hall where we met in the Van Curler Room for the conference. The topic of the Conference was "Violence Against Women and Girls: Prevention/ Support/ Advocacy". This is also the focus of the NYS "My Sister's Keeper" 3.0 project.

Gwen Wright, the Acting Executive Director of the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence spoke about her role of her office in advising the State Government, training professionals to deal with domestic violence and outreach to the public to provide educational awareness of the problem. The roots of abuse to women including male privilege, societal norms, legal protection, and religious dogma were explained. In addition, laws to help victims including the recently signed Omnibus Bill which provides better protection for victims and accountability of perpetrators were discussed.

SAVIN - the State Automated Victims Information Notification which provides victims and the court with notification as soon as an Order of Protection has been served was also explained.

Tracey Brunecz, Special Victim's Bureau Chief for the Schenectady County District Attorney's Office provided a local prospective on the issue of Domestic Violence. She explained the difficulties in getting convictions due to the reluctance of victims to pursue arrest of their attackers. Changes in the criminal justice system are being made for "victimless" prosecution so that attackers can be arrested without the victim bringing the charges.

At the meeting, we also had an opportunity to shop for Fair Trade jewelry handcrafted by women in Uganda. Proceeds benefitted the Women's Shelter at the YWCA of Northeastern New York. We had a chance to view a display of masks designed by women in the Domestic Violence Support group to express their emotions.

Those attending also brought toiletry items which will be donated to the Women's Shelter. Lunch provided us with networking opportunities as we sat with members of other branches in attendance and exchanged ideas about programing and projects.

After lunch, Ella, Ginni, Sandy and Liz stayed to make earrings - one pair to keep and one pair to donate to the Women's Shelter. It was fun and a chance to express our creativity. Those of us who attended have many ideas to share.

- Liz Russo

**Reminder!
November 8th Branch
Meeting**

The meeting will be on THURSDAY NOV 8 at 5:30 at Wine and Roses at 101 W Main St Broadalbin.

Member Patsy Suydam will be presenting a program on Morocco based on her recent trip there.



December Meeting

Our Annual Holiday Brunch will be held on Saturday, December 8th at 10am. Please note this is a bit earlier than previous years. It will be held at Union Hall in Johnstown on hopefully a "no snow" Saturday!

We hope you will be able to join us this year. It is always a festive and fun meeting. This year we will be entertained by an a cappella group, **Duly Noted**, and we will also be having a presentation by Helen Thomas-James on the **HUGS ACROSS AMERICA** program. This is a not for profit charity that brings comfort to children in crisis through hugs of teddy bears with messages of hope and care. We will be able to help children

right here in our community. A free will offering will be taken.

So check out the flyer in this newsletter, get your reservation in by the deadline, and plan to come and have a tasty brunch of many yummy offerings! If you have questions, call Ginni Mazur at 773-7180. See you there~

AGJ AAUW Internet Update

<http://agj-ny.aauw.net>

Members Only Page - This page is a secure site – you will need to enter the password in order to see the information on this page. Currently, our password is AGJAAUW (all caps). **Please take a look at this.**

Currently, this page states that it is “under construction” and then my information is posted. This will show you what the members’ information will look like.

At our November meeting members will vote on approval to place a copy of the membership roster here. This will not replace the booklet. But it will provide the information for our members who prefer to have an electronic membership listing. The production cost of the booklets will decrease considerably – reduction in copy cost, prep cost, distribution time & postage.

How about a photo of each member along with their name? The member can use the photo taken at the meeting or one of their own. The Kingston branch includes this on their site. I thought this would be great for our new members and for people

like me who have a hard time remembering names.

I would love to hear your feedback! –Linda Hammond
Co-President & Webmaster

NCCWSL Raffle **to Continue**

The raffle of a basket of wine and chocolate which started at the September meeting will be continued at the November meeting to give those who were not present a chance to participate.

Proceeds will go towards a scholarship to once again send a female FM student to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) as we did last **May**.



AAUW Offers Princeton SAT Practice Test - Still Time to Sign Up!

There is still room available for any student who would like to take the Princeton SAT Practice Test on Saturday, **November 17**. Our branch is offering the opportunity to area High School students to help them

prepare for applying for college admission. Princeton will provide the service free of charge and we can use it as a fundraiser for our branch. We are charging \$10 per student for the service which includes two sessions; the test which will be administered from 9am-1pm on Saturday Nov. 17 and the follow-up 90 minute session which will take place on Wed. Nov 28 at 6pm.

Students participating should report to FM Classroom Building room C-130 by 8:45am on Saturday, November 17 with a pencil and calculator to take the Princeton Practice SAT Test.

Parents are invited to attend the second session in C-130 when students will receive their practice test scores and go over answers. In addition, strategies will be outlined for preparing for the actual SAT test which will be offered in the spring at area high schools. Both sessions will take place in the classroom building at FMCC. (See the attached flier)

Those participating will also have an opportunity to tour the campus and talk to recruiters while at FM. If you have a friend, family member or student who is interested in taking the test, a check for \$10 made out to **AAUW with the memo “SAT Practice” and the student’s name address and phone number should be sent to Treasurer Ella Ryder, PO Box 111 Mayfield, NY 12117 ASAP (See attached flier)** For more information contact Liz Russo at

762-9702, or e-mail erus-so03@nycap.rr.com

November 4 Celebration of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Birthday

On Sunday, November 4, at 2pm there will be a one-woman show at the Glove Theater in Gloversville honoring Elizabeth Cady Stanton's birthday and women's right to vote. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth's longtime friend will be portrayed by Sally Matson. The event is being sponsored by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium of which our local AAUW branch is a member.

General admission is \$5 and \$2 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance from Jo-Ann Clear by calling 725-7791, at Mohawk Harvest Co-Op or at the Glove on the day of the performance. (see flier attached)

Danielle Shaff-Turchin

We will miss you.

Danielle joined our branch last February and was an enthusiastic and active member. She attended our February and March meetings last year and helped with our Pancake Breakfast. She was serving as our LAF chair. Now has taken a new job in Albany and moved away. Her AAUW membership runs through June 2013 so we will still be in touch with her via our e-mails. However, Danielle has resigned as Legal Advocacy

Fund (LAF) chair. Any volunteers for that position?

LAF Chair Needed

Responsibilities of the Legal Advocacy Chair include organizing donations of baskets or purses for the LAF Fundraiser at the AAUW State Convention April, 2013 and planning a fundraiser with EOF Chair, Anya Biel for the fall of 2013-14.

AAUW on FM Campus

We continue to keep our college connection with FM. The AAUW Student Organization participated in the college Club Fair October 1 and 2 and signed up 32 new AAUW e-student affiliates. These students are now connected to AAUW by e-mail free of charge since FM is an AAUW College/University Partner. Branch members Anya Biel, Darcelle Winchell and Liz Russo assisted with the recruitment efforts.

Presidential Debate Parties: Baked Goodies, Buttons and Bingo!

Our branch took advantage of the suggestion from AAUW to hold Presidential Debate Watching Parties on campus to reach the millennium voters. As a result, we registered with the National AAUW Action Fund and received "Get Out the Vote" buttons and stickers which we distributed to students who attended our first party.

Gwendolyn Ossenkop, Coordinator of Student Activities/ Director of the College Union helped to organize the initial event for the "Get Out and Vote" program. It was held as part of the Books and Bytes series in the cafe outside of the college library from 8-10:30 on October 3. John Roth, the Recreation Assistant, assisted with set up. During the hour before the debate, Jean Karutis played a political game with the students to help them determine the differences between progressives and conservatives and the political parties. Santa Pumpura, Student Government Treasurer discussed marketing techniques used to sell products and also used in political campaigns to sell candidates. Branch members Bonnie Van Wie, Darcelle Winchell, Carol Cownie, and Catherine Julius baked desserts for the party. These were really appreciated by students living on campus away from homemade goodies!

Audrey Egelston, Assistant Director of Residence Life helped to register new voters who attended and also assisted those who needed to request an absentee ballot. She also took care of submitting the completed forms to the Voter Registration Office.

Audrey proceeded to organize Debate Watching Parties for the last two Presidential Debates in the College dorm which attracted 25 students. At the final Debate Watching Party, the Presidential Debate Bingo Game pro-

vided by the AAUW Action Fund was played. It encouraged listening closely to the candidates speeches to hear phrases and ideas covered. The heading of each card (instead of BINGO) was MYVOTE. The first person to get six in a row was the winner. Listed in each square, for example, were: Spending, Middle Class, National Debt, Medicare, Equal Pay, Social Security, Jobs, DREAM Act, Title IX, Tax Cuts, Healthcare Reform and Ledbetter.

Audrey reported that "Students found it to be a lot of fun. It got students involved who hadn't attended the previous debates because everyone loves Bingo! It also got a dialogue going about what was in the squares (Ex. "What does Ledbetter mean?"). Audrey also commented that she "would love to do that Debate Bingo on a larger scale in Books and Bytes."

In addition, as a result of the 3 Presidential Debate Watching Parties, a total of 62 students were registered by the October 12 deadline.

New Member Update

Jennifer Christopher attended our September meeting after reading about it in the newspaper.

She joined our branch shortly afterward because she wants to support Women's issues and to network with other women. She wants to stay informed and active. She got an Associate Degree in Health Education in 1988

and graduated from the College of Saint Rose with a Bachelor of Science from the College of St Rose in 1992. She is retired but was Supervisor of Department of Labor for New York State working with at risk youths and the economically disadvantaged population.

Jennifer volunteers when and where needed- school, church, community and sports. She enjoys swimming, boating, camping and downhill skiing. The parents of three children and two grandchildren with 2 more on the way, she and her husband are fortunate to have their family in the area.

Our newest member, another Jennifer, is **Jennifer Garren** but she goes by Jen. She heard about our organization through the newspaper and joined after speaking to a couple of our members at a recent political event.

Jen received her BA in Liberal Arts in 1993 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

After High School she enlisted and went to college on the GI bill. While in the army she was a Journalist. She was honorably discharged and worked for 15 years as a counselor. Her concentrations in college were Psychology and Women's Studies.

For the last 12 years she has been self-employed as a landlord, renting properties, which has left her feeling isolated. She joined our branch of the AAUW because she wants to network and she wants to help support

women's issues. Her other interests include politics.

She is the proud mother of a son in the Air National Guard, based in Scotia. She also has two grandchildren.

--Catherine Julius

Mark Your Calendars!

2013 Sister to Sister Summit At FMCC Tuesday May 21, 2013

This year we should all be on the campus as the dining area has been redone and Chartwell's has a new manager and much better food than in the past. We plan to have the same topic ideas as last year with STEM focus in the TECH SAVY world.

The girls really had a great time last year and some of the presenters are already asking to be involved again. Anyone willing to get involved, no matter how small the task, please let Patsy Suydam or myself know.

If you have ideas or presenters or want to present yourself, we would be very grateful for your involvement.

Respectfully Submitted.
Linda Bumpus

Get Out the Vote!

Late Breaking Pre-Election News!

Hurricane Sandy prompts state elections officials to extend absentee ballot deadlines.

The NY State Board of Elections has extended the deadline for mail application for an absentee ballot for this year's election due to the disruption caused by Hurricane Sandy.

The board approved a resolution extending the deadline "for an absentee ballot by mail shall be extended from no later than seven (7) days before the November 6, 2012 General Election to no later than four (4) days before the November 6, 2012, General Election."

They also extended the date by which a mailed absentee ballot must be received to be counted. The postmark must be no later than Nov. 5, but the receipt date is now by Nov. 19, an extension of six days. - AAUW-NYS GOTV / *Counterpart Newsletter* November 1, 2012

AAUW Empire State Virtual Branch Update

NYS AAUW founded the Empire State Virtual Branch last summer to provide a branch for Members at Large who do not live near an established branch or do not have time for attending branch meetings but who would like to take an active part in AAUW. It is hoped that students who graduate and receive a Give

a Gift to Grad free National AAUW membership might also join the Virtual Branch to have a "home" until they have found a local branch to join.

In addition, those who are already members of an AAUW branch may join as dual members for just \$10. Several of our branches are now also members of the Empire State Virtual Branch. Our branch member Darcelle Winchell is serving on the Virtual Branch Board of Directors as College Connection representative.

Empire State Virtual Branch Board Meeting - Darcelle Winchell

I participated in the Empire Branch Board Meeting (by conference call) last night (September 18) and came away with some very cool ideas.

St. Vincent's College is working with their partner branch to "get out the vote" and that chapter has women in government come in and speak. They don't invite the ones currently running for office but they have managed to obtain at least one a year and the speech is always well attended. (This ties in with one of the speakers they had on the conference call who spoke on her research and work regarding women in politics – she said that there are more women Democrats than women Republicans but also that for each year the number of women in politics does go up although not much. She claimed in the 80's and 90's a lot of

woman decided to leave politics as it was felt that they were not accomplishing anything while serving).

Another chapter sponsored a contest in order to choose their "Nick Whistle" (NCCWSL - National Conference for College Student Women Leaders) participant. They had interested students write an essay on "Why Women Leaders are Important" and picked the best one.

The other speaker spoke on leaving Zambia and moving to Albany, NY and researching the violence and discrimination against Zambian woman. She is still helping out "at home – Zambia" financially but is now researching and working to bring wages and rights to woman there equal to what the males are getting.

All in all it was a new experience for me and very interesting. The branch worked on the by-laws and policies (as the ones applicable to physical branches do not really fit with a virtual, on-line branch) for the first 45 minutes and then went to the speakers and did questions and answers for the other 45 minutes.

Shall We Do Lunch in December??

Last year a group of us traveled to the Century Club's annual Festival of Trees in Amsterdam to enjoy the decorated trees, listen to music, enjoy lunch and shop. We hope to do it again this December.

The dates for the group luncheon are: Monday, December 3; Tuesday, December 4, Thursday, December 6 or Friday, December 7. The time is 11am-2pm.

Please contact Liz Russo at 762-9702 if you are interested in going so that we can chose a date that works for us. We need a group of 10 for the discount of \$7 each for lunch and admission. Lunch includes a sandwich, soup, dessert and beverage.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6

Election Day - Don't Forget to Vote!

November 8

Branch Dinner Meeting

Wine and Roses Restaurant
Broadalbin

5:30 pm

Topic: Morocco

Speaker: Patsy Suydam

November 12

Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Birthday

November 17

Branch Fundraiser

Princeton SAT Practice Test

9am-1pm

(High School Juniors)

FMCC Classroom Building

Room C-130

November 26

AAUW Board Meeting

Johnstown Pubic Library, **6 pm**

November 28

Branch Fundraiser

Princeton SAT Practice Test Follow-up **6-8:30 pm**

(Students and Parents)

FMCC Classroom Building

Room C-110

December 8

Holiday Brunch

Union Hall Restaurant, Johnstown 10am

Entertainment by Duly Noted A Capella

Donation to HUGS

(to provide stuffed bears to children in crisis)

December 1-8

Festival of Trees

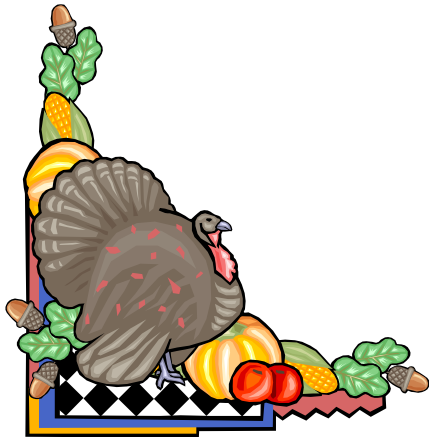
Century Club, 130 Guy Park

Ave., Amsterdam

Group Luncheons (\$7 for groups of 10)

Dec 3,4,6,7

11am-2pm



AGJ AAUW
NOVEMBER
BRANCH MEETING

We're Off on the Road to Morocco...

Presentation by Patsy Suydam

THURSDAY NOV 8 5:30 PM

Location: Wine and Roses Restaurant

(formerly Vandelines)

101 W. Main St Broadalbin

\$18.00 – soup, dinner, dessert and beverage
.....

Return by November 1 with your check for \$18.00 to:

Anne Campos - 211 West Montgomery St, Johnstown 12095

Name _____

Tel number _____ e-mail _____



Princeton SAT Practice Test

**Where: Fulton Montgomery Community College
Classroom Building, Room C-130**

When: Nov. 17th at 9AM

Bring: A pencil and a calculator

All test-takers are invited to a follow-up 'scores back' session

Nov. 28th - FMCC Classroom Building, Room C-110 from 6-8PM.

Students and parents can see an SAT expert present on the test
All guests are invited to go on a guided tour of the college as well.
And answer any questions they have.

Sponsored by:

The American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch

To reserve a place at the test:

*Send \$10 check made payable to AAUW to:

Ella Ryder
Box 111
Mayfield, NY 12117

*Please include student name, and phone number

**Deadline: ASAP



AAUW Branch Meeting

**Come and Join Us
For**

Our Annual Holiday Brunch

Musical Entertainment by DULY NOTED
Learn about HUGS Across America, Inc.

**Saturday December 8th
10 am**

Union Hall-Johnstown

\$15



Send check for \$15 made out to **AAUW** by November 28th to:
Ginni Mazur 176 W Bush Rd Gloversville 12078 773-7180

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch AAUW Meeting Schedule

2012-2013

Board Meetings: Nov. 26th; Jan. 28th; March 4th; May 20th-at Johnstown Public Library 6pm

September: Tues. Sept 25th **Membership Meeting**-Marie Thomas, Speaker; FMCC-5:30pm; Darcelle Winchell, reservations \$10

October: Sat. Oct. 27th **District IV Joint Meeting**-SCCC-9am; Linda Hammond, reservations \$25

November: Thurs. Nov. 8th **Morocco**-Patsy Suydam, Speaker; Wine and Roses, Broadalbin-5:30pm; Anne Campos, reservations \$18

December: Sat. Dec. 8th **Holiday Brunch**-Union Hall-10am; Ginni Mazur, reservations \$15

January: Mon. Jan. 14th **An Introduction to QiGung & Traditional Medicine**-Carol Cownie, Speaker; Covered Dish Dinner; Johnstown Senior Center-5:30pm; Ella Ryder, reservations no cost

February: Tues. Feb. 12th **Healthy You Inside and Out**-Ace Day Spa-5:30pm; Helen James and Trish Isabella, reservations \$10

March: Thurs. Mar. 21st **Universal Single Payer; Medicare for All and Palliative Care**-Bev Alves, Speaker; Raindancer-5:30pm; Sonnet Gravina, reservations \$20

April: Thur. Apr. 25th **Annual Meeting**-Joan Monk, Speaker; Harold's-5:30pm; Connie Chamberlain, reservations

May: TBA

June: Mon. June 10th **End of the Year Picnic Pot Luck**-Mary Ann Abad's home 5:30pm; Mary Ann Abad, reservations no cost