



Upstate Update



AMSTERDAM * GLOVERSVILLE * JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

- The American Association of University Women advances equity for woman and girls through advocacy, education and research.
- In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

2011 – 2012

November

Branch Officers:

Presidents

Liz Russo - Linda Hammond

Vice Presidents - Program

Sandy Maceyka – Ginni Mazur

Vice Presidents - Membership

Patsy Suydam- Susan Smmerfield

Vice President – ED Opp Fund

Kaye Schrader

Vice President – Legal Advocacy

Ginni Mazur

Recording Secretary

Bonnie Van Wie

Treasurer – Michelle Acquaro

Assistant Treasurer – Ella Ryder

Co-President’s Message

Vacation was wonderful; however, now it is time to get back into the swing of AAUW.

From reading the October newsletter and conversations I have had with fellow members upon returning, it seems that the September and October branch meetings were a positive start to our 2011-12 year. Thank you to all who made it so!

I hope to see our new members Catherine Julius, Ann Thane, Trish Isabella, and Janice Blodgett at our November 7 White Elephant Auction. We look forward to having as much fun and

raising as much money for the AAUW Legal Advocacy and the Educational Opportunities Funds as we have in past years.

A reminder that our Friendly’s Fundraiser to raise money for our local branch scholarships takes place on Monday, November 14, from 5-8 p.m. Flyers were distributed at our September and October meetings and will also be available at our November meeting. Please share them with family, friends, neighbors, and distribute them to local schools. Our scholarships go to 8th grade girls and high school seniors from Hamilton, Fulton, and Montgomery counties as well as FMCC grads. The more people who buy food that evening, the more money we make to meet our goal of \$1,000.

Finally, don’t forget to vote on Tuesday, November 8 (the day after our meeting). Our own Elizabeth Cady Stanton worked tirelessly for women’s suffrage and never lived to see the amendment passed. Let’s honor her by taking the time to vote.

As a footnote, we are fortunate to have three women from our

branch on the ballots in Johnstown, Caroga Lake, and Amsterdam respectively. Rosemary Leo-Pappas, Helen Martin, and Ann Thane are to be commended for stepping up to serve in their communities. –Liz Russo

How Can I Help?

Many times people wonder how they can help. AAUW is very supportive of women who suffer from discrimination in the workplace or at school. For this we have LAF, which helps to support cases that are based on discrimination. EOF supports women who want to further their education. These are two worthy causes. We are having an auction on November 7 to help support these causes. Please come and help us by bringing an item to auction and bringing a friend.

We will have appetizers and drinks and we promise a fun time. Paula Becker has offered to be our auctioneer. The more friends you bring, the better our bidding will be and thus a bigger “send” for our cause.

AAUW members can donate an item to be auctioned, an appetizer, or pay \$5 to help cover some costs. We need all members to step up and support this event. Auctioned items can be gently used, new, gift baskets with goodies, an

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

offer to make baked goods, appetizers, plants, a re-gifted item or any creative item you can dream up!

Hope to see you and your guests at the auction on November 7 at the Johnstown Senior Center at 5:30 p.m. If you don't come, you will be missed! Please fill out the flyer and send it to me or email me. Any questions, call Ginni Mazur @ 773-7180.

ECSWC Antique Show and Sale

The Antique Show and Sale sponsored by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium will be held on Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23 at the Johnstown Area Community Center and Johnstown Senior Center on Main Street in Johnstown. Show hours are 10-4 on Saturday and 11-3 on Sunday.

With over 25 dealers slated to take part, there promises to be something for everyone and is a perfect time to do some early Christmas shopping!

Lunch will be provided by the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, another Consortium member organization, and the desserts will be provided by the International Club of Johnstown High School.

Our Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown AAUW branch was one of the reasons that the Consortium was originally founded following the first successful Women's Symposium in 2006. We now have nine member organizations, and it is important that we all work together to advance the goals of all of our suffrage sisters.

Your support of the antique show and sale is important since

this is our primary fundraiser for our next women's symposium scheduled for March 10, 2012.

The theme of the next Symposium is "Recovery" and will be focused on "turning life's lemons into lemonade." This theme was selected in light of the horrific events that have taken place in our area over the last two months (Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee) and the devastation our neighbors have incurred. There will be more about the programs that will be offered at the Symposium in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you at the show—if you have signed up to work either or both of the days, we thank you!

--Helen Martin & Sandy Maceyka
Antique Show Co-Chairs

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

At the October meeting, we had a used book sale, and \$123 was made. This profit will go to the Scholarship Fund. A big thanks to all who supported this by bringing books or buying books. Thanks for your generous support! --Ginni Mazur

Friendly's Restaurant Fundraiser Monday, November 14 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

AAUW will receive a percentage of all meals served during this time for the scholarship funds.

NO coupons or tickets are needed. Posters will be distributed at the November meeting. Please share them with others, post at schools, libraries, and other public venues. This is an excellent opportunity to raise funds from outside of our branch for our local scholarships.

–Liz Russo

Public Policy

With the upcoming election this is a very busy time for our country politically. Regardless of your political affiliation, it behooves each and every one of us to familiarize ourselves with the names and platforms of all of the candidates.

Since many of our local elections are uncontested races, it is predicted that voter turnout will be low. Please do whatever you can to encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to make their voices heard at the voting booth. This is a perfect opportunity to impress on everyone you know how much their vote counts—especially as a prelude to next year's Presidential election.

Unfortunately I have not been able to watch the first two episodes of the PBS series "Women, War & Peace" that began on October 11. This series, according to information received from our AAUW Washington update, "continues through November 8 and chronicles the stories of women living in conflict-ridden zones around the world. Challenging the notion that war and peace belong solely in men's domain, the series reveals how women have become both primary targets for violence and vital brokers of peace in the post-Cold War era." This is a 5-part series airing on Tuesday nights from October 11 until November 8 and features the stories of women at the center of conflict and security from 11 war-torn zones."

As I said, this series has already begun airing on PBS but if you have the opportunity to see even part of it before it concludes, it would be worth your time considering how many of our sisters are serving in war zones at the present time. --Helen Martin



A Victory For Women's Suffrage

At the Seneca Falls Women's Right Convention in 1848, the right for women to vote was earnestly proposed. Women finally got the right to vote throughout our great nation in 1920, with the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. It took 72 years to come into fruition but women had now gained the right to vote! It was a long and arduous road to suffrage and one that should not be taken for granted. Voting is not just a right; it is a privilege and an opportunity to have your voice heard. Become a mentor. Bring a young girl who is 18 years old the information she needs to be an active, involved citizen. Everyone's voice counts and there is power in numbers. We should all become engaged citizens, actively involved in our democracy by participating in nothing other than the voting experience. For more information and to obtain a voter registration form visit:
<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/NYSBOE/download/voting/voteform.pdf>

--Bernadette Cole

Looking Ahead.....

Christmas Outreach

It may be hard to believe, but Christmas is right around the corner! Each year, our AAUW branch seeks out a local group which works to serve families in Fulton and Montgomery counties and takes up a collection to aid that organization. For 2011, we have selected a program called the Turning Point, run by The Family Counseling Center, Inc.

The Turning Point provides trained and certified host families who temporarily provide homes for children ages 5-18 who are experiencing behavioral and/or emotional issues due to mental health diagnoses. The goal is to give the affected child and his/her birth family needed understanding, guidance, support, and education while working toward the reunification of the family.

Families who offer a troubled child a temporary home must be special indeed. They devote precious resources of time, energy, and money to the goal of strengthening and reuniting troubled families. To help these selfless people, we have created a list of items which you can give to help them create memories with and provide for the children they have welcomed temporarily into their homes and hearts.

Suggested Christmas Gifts for Turning Point Families:

- *Gift Cards for entertainment, such as movies
- *School supplies such as notebooks and paper
- *Restaurant Gift Cards for local chains such as Ruby Tuesday and Applebee
- *Gas Cards to cover added transportation expenses
- *Target or WalMart Gift Cards to help with everyday essentials
- *Hats, mittens, scarves (handmade is especially nice!) as every family can use extras
- *Children's books

Thank you for taking this opportunity to help these families in Fulton, Montgomery, and surrounding counties. Please bring your donations to our December

meeting.

If you have a question, please feel free to call me at (518) 673-8280.

--Jaydene Scofield

Looking Ahead to our January Meeting

If you like to eat, this is the meeting for you! We will gather at the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market at 30 North Main Street. in Gloversville on January 17. Our program begins with a quick tour at 5:30 p.m., and our speaker will be Crystal Stewart of the regional Cornell Cooperative Extension. She will give us an overview of localism and the challenge that women farmers face. We will also have a representative from "Micropolis" Art Gallery speak to us about the gallery which is housed in the store. Dinner will be provided by the Co-op. More information will be in the next AAUW newsletter. I hope you will attend and bring a friend!

--Carol Cownie

February Meeting

For our Thursday, February 16 meeting, we are to read and discuss The Hospital by the River. The book is written by Dr. Catherine Hamlin who, with her husband Reg, established what has been heralded as one of the most incredible medical programs in the modern world. The Hamlins dedicated their lives to women suffering the catastrophic injuries, called fistulae, of obstructed labor. Until the Hamlins began their work in Ethiopia, fistula sufferers were neglected and forgotten--a vast group of women facing a lifetime of incapacity and degradation. Catherine and Reg, with their team of dedicated fistula surgeons, have successfully operated on over 25,000 women, and the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital has become a major teaching institution for gynecologists from all over Ethiopia and the developing world. Set against the backdrop of Ethiopia, this is a moving and utterly compelling account of

an extraordinary life. The New York Times calls Dr. Hamlin "the new Mother Teresa of our age."

The book is available on amazon.com for \$10.19. I have three copies and put two into circulation at our October 12 meeting at FMCC. Linda Bumpus and Jahn Gibson are now reading the book and will pass them on to whoever asks when they are finished. I just ask that you let me know when a book is handed on so that I can keep up with them.

–Patsy Suydam

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 22-23

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium Antique Show
Johnstown Senior Citizens Center/Johnstown Area Community Center

Proceeds to raise money for the 2012 Women's Symposium

November 7

Branch Meeting (light refreshments)

White Elephant Auction
(for Educational Opportunities Fund/ Legal Advocacy Fund)
Johnstown Senior Citizens Center
5:30pm

November 8

Election Day

November 12

Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Birthday

November 14

Friendly's Fundraiser (for AAUW local Scholarships)

5-8 pm (our branch gets % of all who eat)

Johnstown Friendly's RT 30A

December 3

Branch Meeting Holiday Brunch
Union Hall - Johnstown

January 17

Branch Meeting (light supper)

Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market /
Micropolis Gallery -
30 Main St, .Gloversville

COME ONE, COME ALL

Please come to support EOF and LAF. This is our very fun auction that we all love. Paula Becker will be our auctioneer. Proceeds will go to a worthy cause: LAF and EOF.



WHEN: Monday, November 7th

WHERE: Johnstown Senior Center

TIME: 5:30 arrival with auction starting at 6 p.m.

COST: Bring an appetizer and no cost. Or else donate \$5 for drinks, paper products.

Bring an auction item and help support this worthy cause. See article for suggestions and tips. Bring a friend too~

Name: _____

Appetizer or \$5? _____

Reservations to **Ginni Mazur by November 4**. Send to 176 W Bush Road, Gloversville 12078 or 773-7180 or ginnimazur@hotmail.com