



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

October

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

the membership committee for all their recruitment efforts including updating the membership brochure and display board and our webmaster for the continual updates on our new website. Nice job! Your efforts are appreciated!

We started off our 2012-13 year with AAUW Past, Present and Future at FMCC. It was good to reconnect and meet prospective members who came to see the exhibit at the Art Gallery and tour the newly renovated Union Stations cafeteria and hear about upcoming AAUW activities.

As a past member of AGJ, and current member of the Schemm branch, Faith Weldon related her experiences in various branches over the years as she moved around the country and what being a member of AAUW meant to her. She also discussed her AAUW award winning painting which was influenced by a trip to Morocco and painted over another that was very orange which influenced the final pallet. The art work adorns AAUW notecards

sent to members as a fundraiser and also graced the pages of the National's *Outlook* Magazine.

Our main speaker, Marie Thomas, our NCCWSL scholarship recipient, enthusiastically related with Power Point presentation which illustrated her experiences at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders last May in Maryland. We all had a chance to get up and stretch as we expressed our opinions on issues from being feminists, whether or not we thought we would see a woman as president in our lifetime and whether or not women should serve in the front line of the military. Marie did an excellent job moderating the discussion and we all got to know each other a little better. Hearing Marie, an FM grad and Sienna student, gave us hope for the future of AAUW.

One more bucket to fill - Special thanks to Jared Hammond - Linda's son who assisted our branch by videotaping the speakers and providing tech support for Marie. We are hoping to

President's Message

Have you filled a bucket today?

If you have lent a hand or provided support and encouragement you are "filling the buckets" of others with your good will. So many in our branch have stepped up so far and "filled my bucket". In turn I would like to fill yours by thanking first the program committee for their work in setting up our schedule for the upcoming year,

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

have the video available for those who missed the meeting.

Attached to this newsletter you will find our program line up for this year. The monthly meetings include joining with other branches, enjoying programs presented by our members, visiting new venues and trying new activities. From restaurants to potlucks, dinners and brunch, we have varied the times, dates, places and costs to hopefully provide meetings of interest to everyone. Come to what you can. Don't worry if you can't make them all!

-Co-President Liz Russo

October 27th Branch Meeting/ District IV Conference (See attached flier)

We decided to take advantage of the excellent program on Violence against Women and Girls that District IV has planned and use this as our October branch meeting as well.

We will be carpooling to Schenectady County Community College on Saturday AM, October 27 for our branch meeting and District IV Conference. The theme of the meeting will be building awareness and preventing violence against women and girls internationally as well as in New York State.

Speakers from state and local agencies will be addressing global and local issues. In addition, My Sister's Keeper 3.0 initiative will provide direction for branches to help women better their lives. There will also be a

chance to network and share branch highlights.

For those who wish to stay after lunch, the (optional) Baubles, Dangles and Beads jewelry workshop will be held from **2-3pm** to create a pair of earrings to keep and one to give to the Women's Shelter at the YWCA of Northeastern New York. **We are asked to bring a toiletry item donation for the shelter also.**

This is a special chance for those who have never attended an AAUW convention or summer conference to have the opportunity to build relationships and partnerships with members of the seven branches in District IV and experience the fun we have with our AAUW sisters! We were fortunate that Elise Russo, Co-Director of District IV and member of the Schenectady branch, was able to attend our September meeting and give us the details of the upcoming conference on Violence Against Women and Girls that will take place on **Saturday, October 27 from 9am-3:30 pm at Schenectady County Community College.**

Please contact Linda Hammond by Oct. 10 if you plan to attend so that carpooling can be arranged. Deadline for RSVP is Oct 12 and checks for \$25 payable to AAUW - Schenectady should be sent directly to Elise Russo 2174 Lynnwood Drive, Schenectady 12309 (*See registration form at end of newsletter). - Liz Russo

November 8th Branch Meeting (See attached flier)

We will be having a Harvest Dinner for our November meeting. Shelly and Jim Rose have opened Wine and Roses restaurant (formerly Vandelines) in Broadalbin. Shelly is the former owner of the Turkey Farm and has agreed to prepare a Turkey dinner, from soup to dessert, for us.

Member Patsy Suydam will be presenting a program on Morocco based on her recent trip there. Please join us as we begin the Thanksgiving season with this symbolic feast.

The meeting will be on THURSDAY NOV 8 at 5:30 at Wine and Roses at 101 W Main St Broadalbin. See flyer to sign up. -Anne Campos

AGJ AAUW Internet Update

Have you checked out our new website?

www.agj-ny.aauw.net

It has been fun setting up our site and adding information to it. Right now you will see on our face page information related to the Get Out the Vote campaign. I have been keeping a record of the changes so it can be used for a 21st Century submission. We have room to expand our coverage on S-2-S and to include our FMCC student activities.

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.**

At our November meeting we will have some discussion as to placing 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.

We will have a vote taken, if necessary, at our November meeting to approve proceeding with this design plan.

Another item that could be added to the membership list is a photo of each member. 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.

Have you missed a meeting to later hear how great the speaker was? Soon you will be able to still catch that moment. With help from my son we have started to record our speakers to then make them available for our members on our website. Once we have the recording process down, a video of the speaker should be available within a couple of weeks, if not sooner.

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

September Meeting / Membership

On September 25th we had our first meeting of the year at FMCC. Some of us took the opportunity to visit the FM Art Gallery and see the magnificent exhibit by Patricia Kay of Gu-moil prints and Clay Sculptures. The exhibit, called The Maya: An Artistic Homage was inspiring and really showcased the artist's incredible talent. Other members checked out the new cafeteria. Then at 6 o'clock we had a delicious buffet by Chartwells in the Student Union Large Lounge.



Marie Thomas, Elise Russo,
Faith Weldon

Following our meal we heard from three speakers: Elise Russo from the Schenectady branch of the AAUW who spoke to us about the NYS District 4 Conference, Faith Weldon, winner of National AAUW Art Contest who spoke about her experiences as an AAUW member and Marie Thomas, who with the help of our donations attended NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). She reported on her experience and asked us several questions from the conference that led to some interesting discussion.

Since this was our Membership meeting we had invited several prospective members. Unfortunately only 4 ladies were able to attend, Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, Lucianna Batty, Eileen Andrzejewski and Jennifer Christopher. Of the four, Lucianna (Luci) joined on the spot and Gina DaBiere-Gibbs membership followed. We welcome them to our family! Hopefully the other 2 will also join and take advantage of the Shape the Future discount.
–Catherine Julius

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 Sponsors Half the Sky series on WMHT Oct 1, 2

The series "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" will be shown on WMHT on October 1 and 2 at 9pm. It is being underwritten by donations from AAUW NYS District IV

branches including our Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch, Albany, Schenectady, Adirondack, and Kingston. This joint effort is a first!

The series by Maro Chermayeff, Jamie Gordon, and Mikaela Beardsley is based on the book of the same name by *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. It relates the experiences of six celebrity activists including Diane Lane, America Ferrera, and Olivia Wilde as they travel to six countries and meet inspiring, courageous individuals who are confronting oppression and developing real, meaningful solutions through health care, education, and economic empowerment for women and girls.

Our branch read the book "Half the Sky" as part of the My Sister's Keeper NYS AAUW initiative two years ago. As a follow-up, we raised money through an Equal Exchange fundraiser and provided a microloan of \$175 through the KIVA microfinance banking organization to a group of 13 women in Senegal to start a business. That microloan was repaid and relent to a mother of 10 in Cambodia to buy fertilizer to grow rice and also build a new latrine. Our branch plans to continue reloaning the money once it has been repaid to continue to help other women in developing nations better their lives.

Hope you all will tune in at 9pm Oct 1 and Oct 2 to see the AAUW name and logo. This is a wonderful opportunity to get the

AAUW name out to the public and show that our organization supports the efforts women around the world are making to better their lives.

Special thanks to Robin Reddy Co-Director of District IV for making this happen!

Meet the Officers of the AAUW Student Organization at FMCC



Front row (left to right): Sarah Wyzomirski, Ellen DiScioscia, Anya Biel
Back row (left to right): Karmilla Parker, Sonnet Gravina

On Thursday, September 13th, the AAUW Student Organization at FMCC held its first meeting and elected its officers for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Karmilla Parker will serve as our President. Karmilla is 22 years old, in her second semester at FMCC. She plans to transfer to University at Albany to get her B.A. in Psychology.

Ellen DiScioscia will serve as our Vice-President. She is in her second year of working on her Associates in Human Servic-

es. Prior to attending FMCC, she was a nurse's assistant and aide at Hospice. Ellen's past employment and personal experiences are in advocating, politics, family, and community involvement.

Sarah Wyzomirski will serve as our Student Government Association Representative. Sarah is a graduate of Fonda-Fultonville Central School. She is a freshman at FM studying Criminal Justice and Human Services for a double major. She is currently on the FM volleyball team. She works part time at Olympia Sports in Amsterdam.

Samantha Yates will serve as Treasurer. She is a 2003 graduate of Mayfield High School, now in her last semester at FMCC. She owns her own photography business.

Two faculty members - Sonnet Gravina, a Math Instructor, and Anya Biel, a History Instructor, are the advisors for the organization. -Anya Biel

The AAUW Student Organization Holds a Pancake Stacking Contest at FMCC

On Wednesday, September 26th, the AAUW Student Organization, in coordination with the FMCC Chartwells food service, sponsored its first event on campus - a pancake stacking contest. All elected officers of our organization, several members of FMCC faculty, and Liz Russo from the AGJ AAUW branch volunteered to help with the event. The contest attracted ten participants. The winning team,

which built the highest pancake tower in 3 minutes, received \$20 and a gift card from the FMCC bookstore. The AAUW Student Organization raised \$15 toward the AAUW NCCWSL scholarship and recruited three new e-student affiliates during this event. The photos of the pancake stacking contest made the front page of *The Leader Herald* the following day. -Anya Biel

Presidential Debate Viewing at FMCC

The AAUW Student Organization, in cooperation with the Student Activities Board and Chartwells, will be sponsoring the viewing of the first Presidential Debate on October 3rd, at 8 pm at the Books&Bytes café at FMCC. This event comes as part of the FM Books&Bytes series and aims to raise students' awareness of the current political dialogue, to increase students' knowledge of the platforms of both presidential candidates, and to encourage students to vote in the upcoming presidential election. Voter registration forms will be handed out to students during the event. Two FM faculty members – Anya Biel (History Instructor) Jean Karutis (Director of Grants and Grant-Funded Programs and Sociology Adjunct Instructor) – will moderate students' discussion following the viewing. Refreshments (beverages and desserts) will be provided by Chartwells and by the dedicated volunteers of the AGJ AAUW branch. Free admission. -Anya Biel

Mark Your Calendars!

Our December meeting will be on Saturday December 8th. We will be meeting at lovely Union Hall at 10 am, and more information will be in the November newsletter. Just wanted you to know now so you can mark your calendars and plan to attend this merry affair! Be sure it will be yummy and we have some great entertainment planned!
-Ginni Mazur

New Member Update

Lucianna (Luci) Batty joined the AGJ branch at our membership meeting on September 25th. She is a Graduate of St. Rose earning her Masters in Communication Disorders in 1994. She works as a Speech Language Pathologist.

Luci grew up in Johnstown but now lives with her husband in Gloversville. The mother of five children and 6 grandchildren scattered up and down the east coast, so they travel quite a lot. When she's not working or visiting with her family, she plays Mah Jongg, does Pilates, works out at the YMCA and enjoys reading.

She learned about the AAUW from Catherine Julius this summer and because she believes in women helping women she decided to join although she realizes that she will not be able to attend all the meetings.

Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, who accepted our invitation to September's meeting also joined our branch. She became acquainted with AAUW through contact with Marsha Smith and Professor John Kohn.

Gina went to SUNY Delhi and in 1999 received an AAS in Travel and Tourism Management. In 2001 she graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a BAS in Travel and Tourism. Then in 2012 she received an AAS in Accounting from FMCC.

She lives in Amsterdam with her family but is currently the Tourism Director for the Fulton County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Gina's interests include Scrapbooking and working with the Home and School Association of St. Mary's Institute.

She mentions that the education of her two young daughters is very important to her and she sees a connection with furthering that interest through AAUW.

Erin Hollenbeck heard about the AAUW from Catherine Julius. She was unable to attend September's meeting but decided to join because she wants to support Women's Issues.

In 2000 Erin received an AAS in Physical Therapy from SUNY Canton. She graduated from the University of Phoenix in 2005 with a BA in Health Care Service and also has a certificate from Mildred Elley in Massage Therapy.

She works as a Physical Therapy Assistant and a Massage Therapist. She volunteers every

year with the Fulton County Scholarship Pageant. She and her husband and two young children live in Johnstown. --Catherine Julius

Get Out the Vote!

The AAUW Action Fund has prepared valuable resources to help us become better informed voters in the upcoming November elections. The [Congressional Voting Record for the 112th Congress](#) explains the positions of and votes taken by Representatives and Senators on priority bills moving through Congress. Also you can [Check out the voter guides](#) provided by AAUW to understand how presidential candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, and candidates in key Senate and House elections, stack up this year on issues important to women. In addition, check out the Obama Report to find out what the Obama administration has accomplished over the past four years and where has it fallen short. You can [Read AAUW's report](#) on this administration and decide for yourself!

New York State – Let's get out to vote! New York is traditionally one of the lowest voting states in the nation – apathy doesn't solve anything.

Know anyone who just turned 18??

Here are some important dates to pass along:

Voter Registration for General Elections

in person: Friday October 12
by mail: Postmarked by Friday, October 12, received by Wednesday October 17

Know anyone who will be away from home on Election Day

on vacation ??
at college??

Absentee Ballot for General Election:

To apply for ballot in person: Monday, November 5
To apply for ballot by mail: postmarked by Tuesday, October 30

To deliver ballot in person: Tuesday, November 6

To deliver ballot by mail: Monday, November 5: received by Tuesday, November 13

Military ballots to be received by Monday, November 19

DEBATE CENTRAL

The dates for the presidential debates are:

- Wednesday, October 3, moderated by Jim Lehrer, Executive Editor of the PBS NewsHour
- Tuesday, October 16, moderated by Candy Crowley, Chief Political Correspondent, CNN, and Anchor, CNN's State of the Union
- Monday, October 22 moderated by Bob Schieffer, Chief Washington Correspondent, CBS News and Moderator, Face the National

AAUW Offers Princeton SAT Practice Test

On Saturday, **November 17** our branch will be offering the Princeton SAT Practice Test 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 27 at 6pm.

Parents are invited to attend the second session 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 by Nov. 1.** (There is a flier at end of this newsletter, please print and post to help us publicize the Practice SAT. Thanks!)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1 and 2

“Half the Sky” series for TV
WMHT (2 part series)

9 pm

October 3

AAUW Student Organization
Presidential Debate Watching
Party
FMCC Books and Bytes

8-10:30 pm

October 11

Vice Presidential Debate

October 16, 22

Presidential Debates

October 27

Branch Meeting/District IV Conference

Schenectady County Community
College

Topic: Violence Against Women
Workshops/speakers; Continental
breakfast/ lunch

9 am - 1:30pm

(Optional) Earring making

2-3pm

*Bring Toiletry Item for Domestic
Violence Shelter

November 4

ECSWC sponsored
“Susan B Anthony, the Invincible”

Sally Matson as Susan B. Anthony

Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Birthday
celebration

2 pm

Glove Theater

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 Birth-
day

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 Public Library, **6 pm**

November 28

Branch Fundraiser

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

(Students and Parents)

FMCC Classroom Building

Room C-110

AAUW-NYS DISTRICT 4 CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 27, 2012

*Schenectady County Community College
Van Curler Room
78 Washington Ave.
Schenectady, NY*



PROGRAM

Violence Against Women and Girls Prevention Support/Advocacy

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Registration/Continental Breakfast |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Welcome |
| 10:00 – 11:45 | Speakers from state and local agencies addressing global and local issues |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | My Sister's Keeper 3.0 |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Carousel: Branch Highlights |
| 12:30 – 1:30 | Networking Lunch/Action Planning |
| 1:30 - 1:45 | Share and Farewell |
| 2:00 - 3:30 | “Baubles, Dangles, and Beads” - our jewelry workshop (optional)
COGO – “Create One, Give One”
Create a pair of earrings for yourself; Give a pair to the shelter |

Registration Fee \$25

Donation: Please bring a toiletry item for the
Women's Shelter at the YWCA of Northeastern New York

Continental Breakfast and Luncheon (salads, sandwich selection, dessert, beverage)

Directions:

From the **west:** NYS Thruway Exit 26, I-890 east to Exit 4B “Erie Blvd.” Stay left follow ramp “To Route 5 Scotia”. Left at traffic light to State St. Route 5 West Take “Schenectady County Community College” exit Right at stop sign, left to parking lot

From the **south and east:** NYS Thruway (I-90 now) to Exit 25 “Schenectady”, I-890 West to Exit 4C “To Route 5, Scotia” – follow as above

RSVP by October 12, 2012 Send check for \$25 made payable to “AAUW-Schenectady” with this tear-off form to: **Elise Russo, 2174 Lynnwood Drive, Schenectady, NY 12309**

Name _____ Branch _____

Phone _____ Branch Position _____

E-mail Address: _____

Will you be staying for “Baubles, Dangles, and Beads”? _____ Yes _____ No



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 November 1

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