



Upstate Update

AMSTERDAM * GLOVERSVILLE* JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

The American Association of University Women advances equity for woman and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

2013 – 2014

October

Branch Officers:

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Linda Hammond

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Vice President – Ed Opp Fund

Open Position

Vice President – Legal Advocacy

Open Position

Recording Secretary –

Bonnie Van Wie

Treasurer – Ella Ryder

Public Policy – Jennifer Garren

October Meeting

Jamaican Culture

Speaker: Jackie Goffe-McNish

October 24, 2013

FMCC, Large Lounge

Cost: \$20

Jamaican Meal prepared by Nicoy Pusey

Co-President's Message

Welcome to Fall! Isn't this weather beautiful? At least we haven't seen the w____ stuff like out west!

We had a great start to our year at our September meeting. Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk spoke to our members and guests. She is a very interesting woman and I enjoyed listening to her. The Senator truly promotes careers in the political arena of our government. She had told of how she takes the students down to the chamber floor and has them sit in the leather chairs. Feels this is a more powerful image, the image of sitting in the chamber, than having someone tell them about it. I liked the story of her conversation with 1 of the Princesses from a County Fair and how she asked the girl if she could see herself doing the Senator's work. After the girl chuckled and denied the ability, Cecilia said that she was once a County Fair Princess just like her. So it is not impossible!

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

Thank you, Darcelle Winchell, for all of your help in organizing the meal & facilities at FMCC. We had a great meal and evening.

I will be attending the District IV meeting on 10/19 in Poughkeepsie. There will be workshops on Ethnicity, Gender and Culture Diversity with speaker, Ellie Nieves, a leadership speaker, writer & coach. If anyone has bras to donate to the "Free the Girls" fundraiser, please let me know. We will make arrangements to insure that your donation is included with AGJ's collection. For those not familiar with this fundraiser, Free the Girls is an organization that collects bras (new or next to new). The bras are then given to girls who were sold into slavery often as children. These girls then have a great source of income. Thank you to Jen Garren for donating bras for the Free the Girls effort and Catherine Julius for the childrens' books that will be utilized for the Leading by Reading workshop at the Conference.

October's meeting will be another great meeting. You will really enjoy Jackie Goffe-McNish or "Jackie from Jamaica". She is the Poughkeepsie Branch President and will speak about her Jamaican culture. PLEASE NOTE: Liz has added new books for reading before the meeting. The other book is still okay to read but the number of books available is very few.

Elections are just around the corner. At the end of our newsletter, I have inserted some information on the new ballot proposals. The proposals are amendments to the New York State Constitution. Donna Seymour was asked to provide the information on these proposals and I think she did an excellent job providing us with an equal sided view.

I wish the best of luck to our candidates. Our member, Helen Martin, is the Conservative Party candidate for Mayor of Johnstown while Catherine Julius's husband is the Democratic Party candidate.

Do you like the new format of our newsletter? I have been reading many of the branches newsletters as they are being posted to the state website. So I have been stealing some of the styles. It will probably change again next month. This format is very easy to work with. If anyone would like to assist with the newsletters, please let me know. As you can see our newsletters can be created in different styles.

In preparation for our November meeting, please keep on your grocery lists peanut butter &/or jelly for our donation to the food pantries. If you are a collector of coupons, there has been a few in the weekly newspapers. Every little bit helps. Helen James had told us that these 2 items are the first to go off the shelves at the pantries.

-Linda Hammond

Have you gotten
your flu shot
yet?

Did you know...

- 10/11/84 Eleanor Roosevelt born
- 10/14 Canada's Thanksgiving Day
- 10/15 National Grouch Day
- 10/24 United Nations Day

HELP WANTED

AAUW FUNDS Chair (Co-Chairs)
***TECH SAVVY SUMMIT CHAIR (Co-Chairs)**
NEWSLETTER EDITOR (assistant)

AGJ MEMBERS:

Have you paid your 2013/14 dues?

THIS IS YOUR FINAL ISSUE if you
have not paid your dues.

Received a personal thank you note from Senator Tkaczyk



Catherine

Thank you so much for inviting me to speak at the AAUW meeting. I had a great time. You all are an amazing group of women and I was honored to speak.

Best regards,
Cecilia

I Had a Dream Commemoration Rally

Talk at NYSUT RC 12 --Fall General Membership Meeting

Beverly Alves

September 17, 2013

On August 24, I attended the 50th year commemoration of the "I Had a Dream" Rally in Washington; I went on an AFT/NYSUT bus. Although I had not been to the first Rally 50 years ago, because at that point in my life, Washington was just too far away to travel, I felt it was very important for me to attend its anniversary. Shortly after the original Rally, I rode a bus on the second wave of freedom rides to Trenton NJ (Oct, 63). It was one of the best days of my life!

Because of this experience, I planned to go to Mississippi to work on voter registration after graduation from Rutgers. The murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, in June of 64, however convinced me this would not be a good thing to do at that time. Fortunately, after a bit, I was able to find a job in an anti-poverty program in Newark, the city in which I grew up. I also taught math in Newark's inner city before my husband Joe and I moved here in 1973. Joe had been a special Ed teacher there. The fight for equal rights for all, has always been part of my nature; I think it's part of the nature of most teachers.

I thought the commemoration of the original Rally last month was wonderful! In spite of some small glitches like not having enough loud speakers and having some of the routes on the mall closed off (a friend said he heard these problems were caused by the Sequester), there was a spirit of camaraderie among all the participants; there was not a harsh or negative word said throughout the entire day. On the contrary, the spirit of goodwill and friendship shone bright. I'd like to give a special thanks to Wendy Hord who guided us, throughout the day; she was a lifesaver. I'm really glad I went to the Rally in DC; it was a great day!

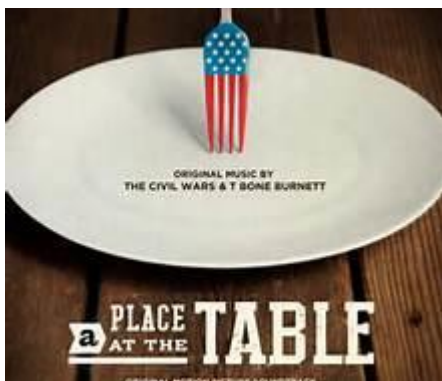
I would also like to share with you another event that I attended those many years ago in which this spirit of good will prevailed. In April 1968, in Newark, we held a funeral procession to honor Dr. Martin Luther King after his assassination. This was only a year after major riots had taken place in Newark and in other cities throughout the country. In Newark, the National Guard was called in; I remember seeing tanks on the streets of my Newark. It was horrifying!

The riot in Newark was especially heinous as a total of 26 people were killed and 725 people were injured. Some people were shot, merely for looting. Things in the city were grim! However for some, living life in Newark was grim! The riot occurred during the time I was working in the anti-poverty program; I could see how difficult life was for some people living there.

So as the funeral procession for Dr King began, there were only about 150 people present. My friend and I were surprised there were so few, but as we started to walk along the route, amazingly, people started to join in. They came out of their homes and got out of their cars; they joined in, black and white together, arm in arm, singing, weeping, laughing and paying tribute to this man of exceptional courage and faith. By the end of the procession there were about 20,000 people.

It too, was an amazing day, one I will also always remember and cherish.

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2013



Our November Meeting will give us an opportunity to see what it is really like to be hungry in America. On November 16th at 2pm at the Glove Theatre in Gloversville, we will present the 2013 film “A Place at the Table”. Hunger in our country is a multi-faceted and hidden crisis and a deep threat to our nation’s public health. This film exposes the challenges we face as well as some innovative solutions to the problem of food insecurity. The admission is free but we are encouraging free will donations or jars of peanut butter (or substitute) and or jam to be distributed to area food pantries. The film is an hour and a half long and we will have a short panel discussion after the film by local experts.

Please consider bringing a friend or spreading the word to other organizations. You can also enjoy brunch before the film at the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market (706-0681) by calling in your reservation 4 days prior to the showing date. Mohawk Harvest is partnering with us and paying for the use of the Glove Theatre. For more information contact Helen James or Carol Cownie.

Many thanks!

Helen and Carol

Additional Note: Bill Moyer, Moyer & Company, has an excellent show on this movie - The Faces of America’s Hungry (June 28, 2013). He interviewed various people from the movie which provides a lot for thought and discussion.

<http://billmoyers.com/episode/full-show-the-faces-of-america%E2%80%99s-hungry/>

Lunch Bunch Adelante Book Club at Centro Civico September 30

The lunch brunch celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by reading two books - *Caramello*, the Adelante Book Club choice and some of us also read *Into the Beautiful North* which was recommended by NY State Diversity Chair Heidi Parreño. Our new member Ladon Alamor, executive director of Centro Civico Inc. graciously provided our Lunch Bunch with a place to meet and an authentic Hispanic meal (made with love!) of rice and beans, fried plantain, chicken stew and flan for dessert. We were given a history of Centro Civico by Ladona as well as her story of how she come from Iran via Italy to attend college in the U.S. and eventually ended up being an advocate of the Hispanic population in Amsterdam. Nine attended the luncheon. Counting those who

were unable to attend this month, we are now up to fourteen in the Lunch Bunch Book Club. We shared our thoughts about the books, immigration, our ancestors' journeys and the common reasons for coming to the U.S. We realized that we had missed a lot by not knowing our own grandparents stories and we vowed to share our stories with our grandchildren as a result. The audio book format of *Caramelo* was recommended by Ella Ryder since the Spanish words and songs in the book were spoken and sung on the audio copy adding much to the experience.



Paula Lerner leads the discussion of Carmello



Ladon Alomar talks about her dream for Centro Civico



Cecilia Alexander and Jahn Gibson enjoy authentic Hispanic food

October Books for Discussion

Since there will be some discussion of the books at our October 24 meeting by Jackie, we are not planning to hold a separate book discussion luncheon in October. By request, we will try to hold a special evening session in November, however, for those who are unable to attend in the daytime.

November Evening Date for Book Discussion Sought

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, Ride the Wind: The Story of Cynthia Ann Parker and the Last Days of the Comanche by Lucia St. Clair Robson was chosen as the Adelante Book for November.

In 1836, when she was 9 years old, Cynthia Ann Parker was kidnapped by Comanche Indians. This is the story of how she grew up with them, mastered their ways, married one of their leaders, and became, in every way, a Comanche woman. It is also the story of a proud and innocent people whose lives pulsed with the very heartbeat of the land. It is the story of a way of life that is gone forever. Available in print, Kindle, NOOK Book, and audiobook formats.

We would like to open up the book discussion group to those not available during the day. Let us know when and where you would like to meet and discuss the book.

MEMBERSHIP:

Welcome to our 9 new members! We have two Gift to Grad Members: Melissa Ackernecht and Ellen DiScioscia, both graduating with a degree in Human Services AAS from FMCC this past May. Congratulations ladies!

Our September 18th meeting at FMCC was our fall Membership Recruitment meeting and we were able to attract 7 new members though not all were able to attend the meeting. Thank you to State Senator Tkaczyk for being our guest speaker and to our own Jeremy Spraggs for providing a tour of the Clean Room.

Also thank you to Darcelle Winchell for all her help with Chartwells who provided a scrumptious buffet dinner once again.

So the 7 new members of our AGJ-AAUW branch are: Cecelia Alexander, Ladan Alomar, Mary Jablonski, Paula Lerner, Sara Luck, Holly Rigos and Teresa Storti. We are so glad you have joined our group and look forward to getting to know you all better!

Since we have so many new members I will have to submit some of the bios in next month's newsletter.
Catherine Julius, Co-VP of Membership

September Meeting in Review

It was a pleasure to have Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk speak to us. She shared her journey from working on her family's farm in New Jersey and graduating from Rutgers with a degree in agricultural studies to moving to Boston and becoming a union support organizer, moving again to NY State where she served on the school board and eventually ran and won her Senate position after redistricting resulted in a district she felt was created just for her as it included large agricultural areas. She stressed the importance of women running for office and the different ways women work to accomplish their goals.

Thanks to Membership VP Catherine Julius for a very successful recruitment campaign and arranging for Senator Tkaczyk to speak. Her assistant Julia Caro who attended with the Senator and is pursuing her degree at Empire State College is interested as well in joining AAUW as a student affiliate.
Liz Russo

Santa Pumpura - NCCWSL Scholarship Recipient Speaks at FM

FM graduate, Santa Pumpura, traveled from Rutgers University in New Jersey where she is pursuing her Bachelor's degree to speak in the FM theater during common hour on Friday September 20 about her experiences at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Maryland last May. Santa received a scholarship from our branch to attend NCCWSL. She shared information from workshops she attended at NCCWSL on career development, preparing for a job interview, as well as how to present one's self when sitting, standing, and speaking at a podium. She also discussed negotiating for salaries and why women rarely do. She also gave tips on college success to students and faculty in attendance and shared photos and the excitement of her first views of Washington, D.C.

Interest in Project 2020

We were pleased to see the interest generated for Project 2020. Several members signed up as interested in working on a mini lesson (5min) to share with elementary schools targeted at those who will graduate and vote for the first time in 2020, the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote. The purpose would be to not only educate students about the 19th amendment but to create excitement and anticipation for voting for the first time and being a very special part of the 100th celebration milestone in 2020. (Especially the girls!)

The year 2020 will also be a presidential election year and therefore of even more significance since it has been found that those who cast their votes for the first time in a presidential election are more likely to continue voting throughout their lives.

October 24 Meeting - Jamaican Theme - Celebrating United Nations Day

In the interest of expanding our branch's understanding of the diversity of cultures, we have asked Jackie Goffe-McNish, a fascinating woman whom we met at Cazenovia in 2012 and became reacquainted with at this year's summer Leadership Conference, to speak to our branch. Jackie is an English Literature professor at Dutchess County Community College and of Jamaican heritage. She will give a presentation about her Jamaican background, her life's journey to teaching and the English Literature courses she teaches. In addition, we hope she will share why she joined AAUW and her experiences as president of the Poughkeepsie branch.

Program VP Darcelle Winchell has arranged for a very special menu to go with the theme. Nicoy Pusey, FM employee who hails from Jamaica will prepare an authentic Jamaican meal served buffet style including white fish lightly breaded, seasoned and fried, onion/peppers/carrots sautéed drizzled with vinegar, curry chicken stew, rice and beans, steamed cabbage, plantains, Jamaican punch, coffee, with coconut/mango tart for dessert. The cost is \$20. Checks are to be made payable to AAUW and sent to Bonnie Van Wie by October 18. *See the attached flier for details

Since October 24 is United Nations Day, we are inviting members to show their heritage by bringing a representation of the flag or flags from the country(ies) of their ancestors. These can be printed out from a computer, or just provide us the country names and we will print out your country's flag to display at the meeting.

This is a meeting not to be missed! We encourage you to invite a friend.

Suggested Reading Before the Meeting

Jackie suggested three books for our book group which all in the branch might be interested in reading in preparation for our October 24 meeting.

Copies of

- *Praisesong for the Widow* by Paule Marshall
- *Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
- *Brownstone Brown Girl* by Paule Marshall

Copies of Bluest Eye are now on reserve at the Johnstown Public Library for the AAUW Book Club. Just ask at the desk. Copies of *Praisesong for the Widow*, *Bluest Eye* and *Brownstone Brown Girl* have been ordered at Mysteries on Main Street book store on Main St. in Johnstown for those who wish to purchase their own copies to read.

Can't make October 24 ??-

Hear Jackie at FM Theater on October 25 at noon!

If you can't make the October 24 meeting or just would love to hear Jackie speak again, please come to the FM Theater on Friday, October 25 at noon. Jackie and her husband will be staying overnight so that she can speak to the students and faculty on Friday. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. There is no charge. Bring friends; we would like a good crowd.

Antique Show and Sale October 19 and 20

Also on the weekend of October 19-20, the Antique Show and Sale will be held to benefit the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium of which our AAUW branch is a part. Proceeds will fund the ECS Women's Symposium to be held in the spring of 2015 to celebrate the 200th birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

The Twelfth Annual Antiques Show and Sale will take place on Saturday, October 19 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, October 20 from 11am to 3pm at the Johnstown Community Center and Johnstown Senior Center, 109 East Main St.

We encourage you all to stop by the Antiques show. Perhaps you will find a unique gift from the assortment of antiques including buttons, books, photos, postcards, art work gold, silver, costume jewelry, crystal,

and porcelain and glass items on display by the 19 dealers. In addition, plan to purchase lunch and baked goods prepared by the Insurance Women of Fulton County.

There will also be informational exhibits by the Johnstown Historical Society and the Pecks Lake Historical Society as well as by several of the Consortium member groups.

Admission is \$3.50. Coupons for .50 off the admission price are available from members of the Consortium.

Bonnie Van Wie and Jahnn Gibson will be assisting with admission. Catherine Julius will be setting up our AAUW display at the Antiques Show. In addition, thanks to all who put up lawn signs. Special thanks to Pat Valachovic for selling so many ads for the program. Helen Martin and Sandra Maceyka are serving as co-chairs for the Antiques Show and Sale fundraiser. For more information contact 736-5130 or 762-7638.

***Will we hold a 15th Summit for Girls in 2014?**

Time is running out for us to decide whether or not we will be able to once again offer the wonderful AAUW Mission based Tech Savvy Summit for girls. We are still in need of a volunteer or volunteers to chair or co-chair the event. We encourage anyone who is comfortable with computer word processing and e-mail to share their talents and keep the program going.

Letters to schools, preparing registration materials and sorting girls into their workshop choices are among the tasks to be completed.

Those agreeing to step in would have guidance. All the plans, forms, and contact information were saved on a disk by former co-chair, Patsy Suydam. Last year's co-chair Linda Bumpus will offer assistance as well. There is a committee ready and facilitators willing; someone just needs to "steer the ship". Last year the summit was held on May 20. The college is available on May 22 if we decide to reserve. Will you step up?

Happy 32 Years, Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)! Thanks for Making a Case for Women

In 1978, five female professors brought a class action lawsuit against their employer, Cornell University, citing violations of [Title VII](#) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and [Title IX](#) of the Education Amendments of 1972. Claiming they were denied tenure and passed over for less-qualified candidates, the named plaintiffs were Donna Zahorik, Jacqueline Livingston, Antonia Glasse, Charlotte Farris, and Judith Long-Laws. They numbered five, but they represented a larger group of 11 female professors and coaches who had officially submitted sex discrimination complaints against the university. The lengthy case remained in court for several years and received much national publicity. In 1984, the Cornell 11, as they were called, received a settlement payment from the university amounting to \$250,000. Nearly 30 years after [Zahorik, et al. v. Cornell University](#) was settled, the case still occupies an irrevocable place in AAUW's institutional memory.

When the case first came to court, members of the AAUW Ithaca (NY) Branch were concerned that legal costs and loss of professional status and income would be insurmountable for the plaintiffs. The branch established a support and fundraising group called the Friends of the Cornell 11. The group included some Ithaca (NY) Branch members and also former AAUW Presidents Marjorie Bell Chambers and Mary Grefe. Recognizing AAUW's commitment to equity for women in academia, the branch reached out to the national office to help raise and handle funds to support the case. At the time, however, the budget did not have a line item for this type of work. So in June 1981, the association sprang into action at the AAUW centennial convention held in Boston.

There, in a perfect example of branch and national teamwork, AAUW created the [Legal Advocacy Fund](#) to support cases of sex discrimination in academia. It was initially created as a two-year pilot program, and the Cornell 11 became its first plaintiffs. Katherine (Kappy) Eaton served as the first president of the fund. She wrote on the need for the fund in the July/August 1982 issue of AAUW's journal *Graduate Woman*: "Until very recently, most sex discrimination claims against higher education were unsuccessful. ... Courts have been

reluctant to interfere in academic decisions. Litigation is extremely expensive and time consuming and may be detrimental to the future careers of the women involved.” In total, the LAF donated \$22,500 to the Cornell 11 but didn’t stop there; the fund continues to support scores of similar sex discrimination lawsuits in the workplace today.

Sadly, 2013 marked the passing of two of the Cornell 11 plaintiffs: Donna Zahorik and Jacqueline Livingston. Zahorik passed away in February; Livingston in June. After the settlement in 1984, Livingston reflected on the hardships and the triumphs of the case. Without the support of the Friends of the Cornell 11 group and the establishment of the LAF, she said, the plaintiffs “would not have had any chance at all.” In another *Graduate Woman* piece, she painted a much better picture of women’s workplace rights in 1985 than had existed before 1981:

Today, a professional person in an institution of higher learning who feels that she has been a victim of sex discrimination in her field or at her institution will be directed toward a lawyer who is a specialist in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. There will be a local AAUW support group, part of a national network of university women and the LAF, who will help her emotionally, financially and legally.

Today, we thank AAUW leaders for their vision in realizing the need for the Legal Advocacy Fund. We also thank Donna Zahorik, Jacqueline Livingston, and all of the Cornell 11 plaintiffs who paved the way for [so many others fighting](#) gender discrimination. We honor their commitment and bravery.

Local Elections are Upcoming - Be an Informed Voter!

In the next few weeks candidates for local elections in our area cities and towns will be campaigning. Ask questions, read up, attend candidate forums. Being informed about the issues and the qualifications of the candidates running is the best way to insure a positive outcome for the future of our hometowns.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)

As of October 1st, citizens are able to enroll for health insurance coverage under the ACA. This is a great benefit for people who have pre-existing conditions (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, cancer, etc.). For those on Medicare there aren’t any changes to your plan.

However, there are some changes that we may experience if still working. For more information, here are some websites that may assist:

<http://www.healthbenefitexchange.ny.gov>

<https://www.healthcare.gov>

<http://nystateofhealth.ny.gov>

From *Donna Seymour / AAUW-NYS Public Policy VP*

College Students:

Mark Griffin, a researcher for Insurance Quotes, a project dedicated to helping consumers understand the complexities of insurance. His piece was published at: <http://www.insurancequotes.org/2013/07/19/the-complete-guide-to-college-students-healthcare-reform/>.

The article helps college students understand what healthcare reform is and what it means for them. It is a good primer on the topic, easy to understand, and particularly useful right now as we get close to the Oct. 1 deadline with the Affordable Care Act media information *and* disinformation ad wars in full force. Please share this with any college students you know who may be struggling with this issue.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 19, 2013

ECSWC Antique Show and Sale 10am-4pm
Johnstown Senior Center/Johnstown Area
Community Center

Saturday, October 19, 2013

District IV Conference 9am-2pm
Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie

Sunday, October 20, 2013

ECSWC Antique Show and Sale 11am-3pm
Johnstown Senior Center/Johnstown Area
Community Center

October 24, 2013

Branch dinner meeting 5:30pm
FMCC - Large Lounge - Student Union Building
Caribbean Culture Theme
Speaker Jackie Goffe-McNish

October 25, 2013

The African Diaspora: living away from your
culture
FMCC - Theater 12 noon
Speaker Jackie Goffe-McNish
Free

November 12, 2013 Board Meeting, 6 – 8 pm,
Johnstown Public Library

November 16, 2013

Education & Outreach
AGJ AAUW & Mohawk Harvest Co-Op pre-
sents *A Place at the Table*
2 pm Glove Theatre, Gloversville
Fee: Donation of Peanut Butter and./or Jelly
for local food pantries.
Brunch on your own at Mohawk Harvest Co-
Op **Reservations required**

December 7, 2013

Holiday Luncheon at Parillo's Armory Grill in
Amsterdam
Buffet Lunch at 12:30 pm;
Entertainment: Harpist Nancy Walko

January 13, 2014

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Deffen-
baugh
Dessert meeting
Johnstown Public Library, 6 pm



Diversity in Programming AAUW-NYS District IV

**October 19, 2013
Washington Hall
Dutchess Community College
53 Pendell Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

This conference is not to be missed! Our presenters are outstanding women and you will learn about a highly successful project and help plan a ground breaking program.

Cost: \$30

Includes continental breakfast and lunch

Reservations: Include your name and branch with check payable to ***Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc.*** and mail to:

**Kathy Brown
8 Wilbur Blvd**

Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Questions: kabrown@vassar.edu or 845/486-4605

9:00 - 9:30 am
9:30 - 10:00 am
10:00 – 11:30 am

Coffee, Tea and bagels, etc.

3 minute sharing of important events from each of the branches attending

Workshops:

Ethnicity- **Dr. Mia Mask**, Associate Professor of Film at Vassar College.

Gender – Dr. Cathy Collins, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in Newburgh.

Culture – Jacqueline Goffe-McNish, President of Poughkeepsie AAUW, Inc. and professor of Dutchess Community College.

English at
11:30 – 12:00 noon

Activity led by **Betty Harrel** and the "Leading to Reading" community project committee from Poughkeepsie. "Leading to Reading" will show how to form the "book kit" they use to enhance the enjoyment and educational value for the children receiving the books. ***Please bring 2 or 3 new or gently used books.*** You may take your book kits with you or leave them for distribution in the Poughkeepsie area.

12:00 – 1:00 pm
1:00 - 1:45 pm
the day.

Lunch/ Speaker: **Ellie Nieves**, Leadership Speaker, Writer and Coach.

Workshops in which participants will plan a program for their branch using the discussions of

We ask participants from each of the morning workshops to scatter themselves among the three workshops so that each group will have members from each session.

Facilitators: **Mary Coiteux, Marcine Humphrey and Ellie Charwat**

1:45 – 2:00 pm

Wrap up

Directions: From the North (Albany) via the NYS Thruway:

Take the New York State Thruway (I-87). Go south to Exit 18 (New Paltz). Exit and turn right onto Route 299 east. At the end of 299 turn right onto Route 9W south. Bear right at the signs for the Mid-Hudson Bridge. Stay in the right lane as you cross the bridge. Exit at US Route 9 for Wappingers Falls/Hyde Park. Stay on the ramp, which bears left taking you on a

AAUW OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

JAMAICAN CULTURE

Suggested reading
before the meeting:



Bluest Eye
by Toni Morrison



OCTOBER 24

5:30

FMCC

Student Union - Large Lounge

Speaker :

Jackie Goffe-Mcnish

Professor at Dutchess Community College
President of Poughkeepsie AAUW branch
Chair of AAUW NYS District IV Conference

Cost \$20

Checks payable to AAUW
send to:

Bonnie Van Wie
102 Prospect St.
Johnstown, NY 12095
762-9377

RSVP by October 18

Jamaican Meal prepared by Nicoy Pusey

MENU

White fish lightly breaded, seasoned and fried
Onion/peppers/carrots sautéed drizzled with vinegar
Curry Chicken Stew
Rice and Beans
Steamed Cabbage
Plantains
Jamaican Punch
Coffee
Coconut/Mango Tart

Celebrate United Nations Day (October 24)!

Jackie is from Jamaica. Where are you from?

Research your heritage.

Bring in representations of flags from the countries of your ancestors.

We will display them at the meeting

Please join Amsterdam, Gloversville, Johnstown AAUW and Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market for a screening of

a PLACE AT THE TABLE

"A Place at the Table is an ENGAGING AND ENRAGING movie that will enlist supporters for its cause."

— Variety

"A Place at the Table doesn't offer any answers. Instead, it asks you to help find them by getting involved, which is the mark of an EXCELLENT DOCUMENTARY."

— Toronto Film Scene

November 16, 2013 at 2pm
The Glove Theatre, North Main St, Gloversville, NY

Jars of peanut butter &/or jelly accepted
for distribution to area food pantries.

FREE ADMISSION

Don't miss this special screening event, followed by a discussion about making healthy food available and affordable for all.

Contact Carol Cownie [518 883-8099](tel:518-883-8099) or ccownie232@yahoo.com

To learn more about A Place at the Table, visit www.takepart.com/place-at-the-table

ACTIVE voice

participant MEDIA

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch AAUW
Meeting Schedule
2013-14

Board Meetings – September 16, November 12, January 22, March 3 and May 14

September: Wednesday the 18th at 5:30 (tour of clean room at 5:00) – Membership Meeting; Women in Politics – Cecilia Tkaczyk
At FMCC in the Large Lounge; Reservations by Sept. 10 to Jahnn Gibson - \$10.00

October: Thursday the 24 – Jamaican Literature and Culture: Jacqueline Goffe-McNish – at FM in the Large Lounge at 5:30; Reservations: Bonnie Van Wie by Oct. 18 – FIRM! \$20.00 (Please print out flag/flags from your country of heritage and attach to a straw to put in our vases!)

November: Saturday the 16th – A Place at the Table – Helen James and Carol Cownie – at the Glove Theatre at 2:00 (Brunch at the Co-op before hand – you reserve 2 or 3 days ahead directly with the co-op) – No RSVP for Movie – Admission – Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly for Food Pantries

December: Saturday the 7th – Holiday Luncheon at Parillo’s Armory Grill in Amsterdam 12:30 Meet and Greet and Buffet Lunch at 1:00. Harpist Nancy Walko will entertain. Reservations – Ella Ryder by Dec. 1 \$17.00

January: Monday the 13th – Dessert Meeting - Language of Flowers: Johnstown Library at 6:00; no reservations required – Read ahead The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Deffenbaugh

February: Wednesday the 12th Dancing for Health and Fun by Darcelle Winchell and Catherine Julius at the Broadalbin Hotel at 5:30 for sign in, cash bar and socialization – Buffet Dinner at 6:00 – Reservations to Catherine by Feb. 3 \$17.00 (please wear red to recognize Heart Awareness Month)

March: Saturday the 29th Fund Raiser (in the planning stage) Woman’s Day (venue to be determined) – Hat Fashion Show and Luncheon (Helen James)

April: Monday the 28th – Annual Meeting – Donna Seymour (Restaurant to be determined) at 5:30
Cost and Reservation person to be determined.

May: Tuesday the 20th - Blind Awareness – Jahnn Gibson (Read The Story of My Life by Helen Keller before hand) at the Mayfield Yacht Club 5:30 – Potluck; Reservations to Catherine Julius by May 15

June: Monday the 9th – Queen Victoria’s Birthday Celebration Tea Party at the Brown House. Reservations and dress size to Liz Russo by May 28 – FIRM! (We also need to let them know if we will be a double group ahead of time – 1-17 is one group) \$20.00 (There is a \$50.00 deposit due)

2013 New York State BALLOT PROPOSALS
Compliments of Donna Seymour, AAUW NYS Public Policy Vice President

This *Voter Guide* will help you to evaluate the 6 ballot proposals that will be on the November 2013 ballot. The proposals are amendments to the New York State Constitution. Read about the amendments and decided whether you wish to vote for or against each one. Look carefully for them on the ballot; sometimes they are easy to miss. The League of Women Voters of New York State does not have positions for or against any of the proposed amendments on the ballot this year.

PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE: AN AMENDMENT

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot):

Authorizing Casino Gaming

The proposed amendment to section 9 of article 1 of the Constitution would allow the Legislature to authorize up to seven casinos in New York State for the legislated purposes of promoting job growth, increasing aid to schools, and permitting local governments to lower property taxes through revenues generated. Shall the amendment be approved?

WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT DO IF APPROVED?

Currently, the NYS Constitution prohibits all gambling except for (1) pari-mutuel wagering and horse racing; (2) State lotteries; (3) bingo conducted by certain charitable, non-profit and religious organizations; and (4) games of chance conducted by these same charitable, non-profit, and religious organizations. This proposal would amend the constitution to authorize casino gambling within the state, allowing for no more than seven casinos.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

Proponents of the amendment argue that casino gambling has significant potential to be a major economic engine for New York State. They note that gaming already exists in the state, with five Native American owned casinos and nine racinos operating in the state, but that currently the state is not allowed to gain its benefits. They say that the amendment would enable New York to benefit from the tourism, revenue, and good jobs that they believe casinos will provide. Proponents also argue that limiting casino gambling to no more than seven facilities guarantees there will not be an excessive proliferation of casinos within New York State.

Opponents of the amendment argue that expanding casino gambling in New York State could potentially increase gambling addiction, exploit those suffering from gambling addiction and their families, and have harmful effects on the communities in which the casinos are located. They say that even without including non-economic costs, the hidden costs of adding a casino to a region are two to three times more than the touted League of Women Voters of New York State 2-13 Ballot Issues 2 benefits. Some opponents also argue that increased crime is associated with the addition of a casino to a community.

PROPOSAL NUMBER TWO: AN AMENDMENT

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot):

Additional Civil Service Credit for Veterans with Disabilities Certified Post-Appointment

The proposed amendment to section 6 of article 5 of the Constitution would entitle a veteran who has received civil service credit for a civil service appointment or promotion and subsequently is certified as disabled to additional civil service credit at subsequent appointment or promotion. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT DO IF APPROVED?

The State Constitution currently grants veterans additional credit on civil service exams (5 points for an original appointment and 2 ½ points for a promotion). Disabled veterans are entitled to additional credit (10 points for an original appointment and 5 points for a promotion). Veterans are eligible for only one grant of additional credit, and so a veteran who is appointed or promoted before being certified as disabled currently is not eligible for the

higher amount of credit he or she would have received if he or she had been certified as disabled before his or her appointment or promotion.

The proposed amendment would create an exception to the one-time-only additional credit rule. It would permit veterans who are certified disabled after having already received credit at one appointment or promotion, because of their status as veterans, to receive additional credit one more time after certification of their disability. After being certified disabled, a veteran would be entitled to an additional grant of credit equal to the difference between 10 and the number of points received at the initial appointment or promotion. This would bring the total additional points of civil service credit such a veteran can receive to 10 for either an appointment or a promotion.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

Proponents of the amendment argue that it would benefit individuals who, through no fault of their own, were not classified as a veteran with disabilities at the time of their first civil service appointment. They say that veterans applying the credits will be less limited by time constraints, making them more likely to be hired to civil service positions. In addition, they note that veterans are more likely to be unemployed than the average citizen. They argue that this amendment would not only increase employment opportunities for veterans, but would also help put their training and experience to work for the State and local governments.

The League of Women Voters of New York State could not identify any organizations or expressed opinions in opposition to this amendment. League of Women Voters of New York State 2-13 Ballot Issues 3

PROPOSAL NUMBER THREE: AN AMENDMENT

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot):

Exclusion of Indebtedness Contracted for Sewage Facilities

The proposed amendment to Article 8, section 5 of the Constitution would extend for ten years, until January 1, 2024, the authority of counties, cities, towns, and villages to exclude from their constitutional debt limits indebtedness contracted for the construction or reconstruction of sewage facilities. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT DO IF APPROVED?

The proposed amendment would extend until January 1, 2024 the authority of counties, cities, towns and villages to exclude from their constitutional debt limits indebtedness contracted from the construction and reconstruction of facilities for the conveyance, treatment and disposal of sewage.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

The exclusion of sewer debt from the constitutional debt limits of counties, cities, towns and villages was originally authorized in 1963 for a ten-year period. When first enacted, the general purpose of the exclusion was to encourage and enable municipalities to participate in the State's then-new sewer construction assistance plan without fear that, by incurring indebtedness for sewer purposes, they would diminish their power to incur debt for other capital improvements which they desired to undertake and finance. It initially was believed that limiting the exclusion to indebtedness incurred during a 10-year period would encourage municipalities to take action during such 10-year period, and that the exclusion would thus assist in accomplishing the purposes of the State's water anti-pollution program. Reflecting the fact that these pollution concerns are continuing and require an ongoing effort, however, the exclusion has been subsequently extended for four successive ten-year periods. Without a further extension, the exclusion will apply only to debt contracted through the end of 2013. This amendment would permit the exclusion of such indebtedness until January 1, 2024.

Proponents of the amendment argue that the concerns addressed in 1963 and by subsequent extensions of the exclusion are still valid today. They note that although many pollution problems have been abated, there are still significant concerns that need to be addressed. Technology continues to evolve to make more efficient systems available, additional development necessitates the construction of new systems, and existing sewage treatment facilities age, necessitating reconstruction and refurbishment. Proponents say the amendment would allow mu-

municipalities to address these sewage needs without impairing municipalities' ability to finance other essential capital requirements. The League of Women Voters of New York State could not identify any organizations or expressed opinions in opposition to this amendment. League of Women Voters of New York State 2-13 Ballot Issues 4

PROPOSAL NUMBER FOUR: AN AMENDMENT

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot):

Settling Disputed Title in the Forest Preserve

The proposed amendment to section 1 of article 14 of the Constitution would authorize the Legislature to settle longstanding disputes between the State and private entities over certain parcels of land within the forest preserve in the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. In exchange for giving up its claim to disputed parcels, the State would get land to be incorporated into the forest preserves that would benefit the forest preserve more than the disputed parcels currently do. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT DO IF APPROVED?

The "Forever Wild" clause of the NYS Constitution forbids the lease, sale, exchange or taking of any forest preserve land. The proposed amendment would allow the legislature to settle 100-year-old disputes between the State and private parties over ownership of certain parcels of land located in the forest preserve, in the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County, by giving up the State's claim to disputed parcels. In exchange, the State would get other land, currently privately owned, to be incorporated into the forest preserve. The land exchange would occur only if the Legislature, or its designee, determines that the land to be conveyed to the State would benefit the forest preserve more than do the disputed parcels.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

For the past century, the titles to more than 200 hundred of parcels around Raquette Lake, located in the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County, have been in dispute, with both the state and private individuals claiming ownership. Some cases have been resolved in the courts with mixed outcomes. More than 200 parcels of land are still contested. An earlier attempted collective settlement failed in 2007 because the land owners claimed they could not afford the fees demanded by the state. The proposed settlement would allow the private parties to advance their title clearance by paying a fee into a fund held by the Town of Long Lake. When the fund is sufficient, it will be used to purchase replacement land that will be added to the forest preserve. Occupants could reduce their cash payment by entering into conservation easements with the town of long lake or by conveying a portion of their land to the state.

Proponents of the amendment argue that it would finally remove the uncertainty and cost of the longstanding land dispute while making significant additions to the forest preserve. They claim that a lack of documentation concerning ownership has made the settling the claims in court difficult expensive and unpredictable.

Opponents of the amendment argue that a legislative settlement would establish a poor precedent for other private land ownership disputes in the Adirondack Park, inviting an endless stream of private bills and constitutional amendments. They argue that similar land disputes have been resolved via the judicial system and that that is the appropriate vehicle to settle such disputes because it provides transparency and an independent authority, which they say the proposed process does not. In addition, they claim that the fees to be collected from the occupants is greatly less than the accessed worth of the land and will not be sufficient to acquire comparable or better land to be added to the forest preserve, thus delaying the private parties' clear land title until the town government and state government can agree upon a land purchase. League of Women Voters of New York State 2-13 Ballot Issues 5

PROPOSAL NUMBER FIVE: AN AMENDMENT

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot):

In Relation to a Land Exchange in the State Forest Preserve with NYCO Minerals, Inc.

The proposed amendment to section 1 of article 14 of the Constitution would authorize the Legislature to convey forest preserve land located in the town of Lewis, Essex County, to NYCO Minerals, a private company that

plans on mining the land. In exchange, the NYCO Minerals would give the State at least the same amount of land of at least the same value, with a minimum assessed value of \$1 million, to be added to the forest preserve. When NYCO Minerals finishes mining, it would restore the condition of the land and return it to the forest preserve. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT DO IF APPROVED?

The “Forever Wild” clause of the NYS Constitution forbids the lease, sale, exchange, or taking of any forest preserve land. The proposed amendment would allow the State to convey approximately 200 forest preserve acres to NYCO Minerals for mining. In exchange, NYCO Minerals would give the State at least the same amount of land of at least the same value, with a minimum assessed value of \$1 million. This land would be added to the forest preserve. When NYCO Minerals finishes mining, the company would restore the condition of the land it received in the exchange and return it to the forest preserve.

The proposed amendment also would allow NYCO Minerals to test to determine the quantity and quality of the mineral to be mined on the land to be exchanged before the exchange occurs. It would require NYCO Minerals to give the State its test results so that the State can use them to determine the value of the land to be conveyed to NYCO Minerals. The proposed amendment also would require that if, after testing, NYCO Minerals does not want the forest preserve land, NYCO Minerals still must give the State at least the same amount of land of at least the same value of the land that was disturbed by the testing. This land would be incorporated into the forest preserve.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

The legislation proposing this constitutional amendment was introduced at the request of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. NYCO Minerals is a producer and supplier of wollastonite (calcium metasilicate), which is a rare, white mineral having commercial application as a reinforcement or additive in ceramics, paints, plastics, friction products and various building products. The Lewis mine produces 60,000 tons of wollastonite annually—a little more than eight Percent of the annual worldwide production. NYCO Minerals has indicated that its mine is approaching the end of its pit life because the remainder of the wollastonite vein extends onto adjacent forest preserve land.

Proponents of the amendment argue that the land swap would (1) preserve jobs and ensure one of the largest employers in Essex County remains viable; (2) provide new access to mountain peaks and trout streams for outdoor recreation; and (3) result in the state preserve acquiring a greater quantity of land and higher-quality land than the land it is trading to NYCO Minerals.

Opponents of the amendment argue that the land swap is not vital to NYCO's survival and that it would diminish the strength of the “Forever Wild” clause. They say that (1) the land swap would set a dangerous and historic precedent because it would be the first forest preserve constitutional amendment to be undertaken for private commercial gain rather than for a clear public municipal purpose and public benefit and; (2) there are viable alternatives to the land swap, given that there are considerable permitted reserves of wollastonite available on NYCO's current land and that such reserves are expected to last for 15-20 years. League of Women Voters of New York State 2-13 Ballot Issues 6

PROPOSAL NUMBER SIX: AN AMENDMENT

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot):

Increasing Age until which Certain State Judges Can Serve

The proposed amendment to the Constitution, amending sections 2 and 25 of article 6, would increase the maximum age until which certain state judges may serve as follows: (a) a Justice of the Supreme Court would be eligible for five additional two-year terms after the present retirement age of 70, instead of the three such terms currently authorized; and (b) a Judge of the Court of Appeals who reaches the age of 70 in order to complete the term to which that Judge was appointed. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT DO IF APPROVED?

The purpose of this amendment is to increase to the age of 80 the maximum age until which Justices of the Supreme Court (including Appellate Division) and Judges of the Court of Appeals may serve in the following instances:

- Justices of the Supreme Court are currently required to retire in the year they turn 70 years old, but are eligible to continue to perform the duties of a Justice of the Supreme Court for three additional two-year terms upon a certificate that their services are needed by the courts and they are competent to perform the full duties of the office. The proposed amendment would make them eligible for two additional such two-year terms, upon the same certification of need and competence.
- Judges of the Court of Appeals are currently required to retire in the year they turn 70 years old. The proposed amendment would permit a Judge who reaches the age of 70 while in office to remain in service on the Court for up to 10 additional years in order to complete the term to which that Judge was appointed. The proposed amendment would also prohibit the appointment of any person over the age of 70 to the Court of Appeals.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

Proponents of the amendment argue that it would enable the state judiciary to continue to benefit from the service of many dedicated, experienced and productive judges currently being lost to mandatory retirement. They argue that the current mandatory retirement age is archaic, noting a longer and healthier lifespan now than when the current retirement age was set. Supporters also cite The Office of Court Administration's 1999 Task Force on Mandatory Retirement of Judges, which concluded that "it is in the best interests of the judiciary and the people of the State of New York to amend the laws governing mandatory retirement of judges." The two recommendations made in that report - creation of a "senior status" and expansion of the certification process to judges not covered by it - were not acted upon.

Some opponents of the amendment argue that the proposal unfairly favors high-level judges on the State Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, while others argue that forced retirement encourages diversity. League of Women Voters of New York State 2-13 Ballot Issues 7

**AMSTERDAM-GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN AAUW 2013-2014
Membership Renewal Form**

****PLEASE NOTE ANY CHANGES AND COMPLETE THE PAGE BELOW****

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

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)**

National \$49

State \$13

Local \$7/\$12

To become a Life Member one pays 20 times the current national dues plus the current yearly state and local dues year-

_____ I have enclosed \$ _____ for dues as a Life Member.

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

____ TECH SAVVY/Sister 2 Sister ____ e-student and AAUW College Organization

____ Newsletter

Make your **check payable to AAUW** and send this form along with your check to treasurer:

Ella Ryder

P.O. Box 111

Mayfield, NY 12117

_____ **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): _____

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