

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 September

Branch Officers:

Presidents

Liz Russo Linda Hammond

Vice Presidents - Program
Darcelle Winchell

Vice President – Membership Trish Isabella Catherine Julius

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

Co-President's Message

Welcome back! We hope that you all have survived the very rainy and later very hot and humid summer we had.

We will begin our AAUW year with our September 18 meeting at FM where we can reconnect with AAUW friends and meet prospective members over a light supper. Membership VP Catherine Julius has been organizing the meeting. We will be celebrating Constitution Week and the signing of the United States Constitution (September 17, 1787) with a presentation by Sena-

tor Cecilia Tkaczk who represents the 46th District in the NY State Senate. In addition, those interested can come at 5pm for a tour of the FM clean room and automation lab led by AAUW member Jeremy Spraggs. *See the attached flier for details. Hope to see you there!

This seems to have been the "summer of AAUW" for me. Despite the heat and humidity in June in New Orleans (much like what we experienced here) the air conditioned conference was wonderful! Ideas on how to run a good meeting, membership recruitment and retention and program ideas were take aways. In addition, the speakers including retired US Senator from Maine, Olympia Snow, Cynthia D'Amour, author of "The Lazy Leader ", Lily Ledbetter of the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and Robin Gerber author of "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way" who came to FMCC as keynote speaker for our ECSW Symposium in 2009 provided inspiration. Walks down Bourbon Street, tours of the French Ouarter, Jazz brunches and cruises and plantation tours added lots of fun to the week long visit to the Big Easy.

The July Summer Leadership Conference in Cazenovia was a great team building experience. It was back to college days with Darcelle Winchell, Ella Ryder, Jen Garren, Linda Hammond and I sharing a dorm suite and brain storming into the wee hours. The weekend involved not only attending workshops and hearing speakers, but also ice cream sundae and wine and cheese parties, making lotions and playing cards and games. Our branch not only learned from other branches, but shared our ideas and our warm shawls and sweatshirts with others as well. (During the heat wave we were in very cool air conditioned quarters at the college!)

As a result of the networking opportunities we connected with a fascinating woman, Jackie Geof-McNish from the Poughkeepsie branch whom we met meet at Cazenovia in 2012 and became reacquainted with at this year's summer conference. Jackie who is a Literature professor at Dutchess County Community College and of Jamaican heritage agreed to come to speak at our branch meeting on October 24 about Jamaica and Caribbean culture.

In addition, our Branch Lunch Bunch Book Discussion group met in August and plans to continue. We have now grown to 10

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

members. The new list of AAUW Adelante books is just out and looks interesting. We will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in September and plan to read a book about Caribbean Culture suggested by Jackie Geof-McNish for our October meeting. We are already looking at lunch the first week in December at the Century Clubs's Festival of Trees in Amsterdam.

Last October, several of our members attended the AAUW District IV conference in Schenectady. This year's District IV conference will be held in Poughkeepsie on October 19. A very interesting program has been planned (Jackie Geof-McNish is part of the planning team.) and we hope some of our members will attend to represent our branch and bring back ideas to share. More information is included in this newsletter.

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. Help is needed now to sell adds for the program booklet and put up yard signs and in October to set up on Friday, and sell tickets on Saturday and Sunday. Contact Helen Martin or Sandy Maceyka if you can volunteer as a representative of AAUW.

Our branch program planning committee under the direction of Darcelle Winchell has been meeting in July and August to come up with an interesting line up of programs for the 2013-13 year. We hope that you will join us for as many as work into your schedule.

September Meeting

Summer is flying by and soon it will be time to get back to business, so to speak. This year for our first meeting we will be at FMCC again. September 17th is Constitution Day and therefore we decided to invite State Senator Cecelia Tkacyk to speak to us and she graciously accepted. She is Senator for the 46th district which includes Amsterdam. The topic of her speech will be the importance of women in office. We will also learn about two AAUW programs:

Elect Her-Campus Women Win and Project 2020. The year 2020 will be the 100th anniversary of the signing of the 19th Amendment, giving women in the United States the Right to Vote.

As you probably know, our first meeting is also our Membership Recruitment Meeting and again this year we are offering the Shape the Future Discount to new members. Although we are an active branch and have accomplished much, we can do more. Sometimes the easiest way is by bringing in "new blood" with fresh ideas. So let's have a large turnout of our members in September. Let's engage in conversation with prospective new members, making them feel at home, explaining who we are, what the AGJ-AAUW has done and our goals for the future. We are a wonderful group and we can make them feel welcome.

Come to FMCC on Wednesday September 18th, 2013 and let's start off the year on the right foot! See attached flyer for details. Catherine Julius Co-chair VP Membership Committee



August 26, 1920 - The 19th Amendment of the US Constitution is ratified granting women the right to vote

September 10, 2013 – Primary Day – Be sure to get out and vote if you have candidates in your district.

September Adelante Book -Lunch Discussion – September 30

The next meeting of the Lunch Bunch Book Discussion group will be on Monday, September 30 at a place to be announced. To commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Lunch Bunch will be reading <u>Caramelo</u> by Sandra Cisneros.

Every year, Celaya Reyes' family aunts, uncles, mothers, fathers, and Lala's six older brothers - packs up three cars and, in a wild ride, drives from Chicago to the Little Grandfather and Awful Grandmother's house in Mexico City for the summer. Struggling to find a voice above the boom of her brothers and to understand her place on this side of the border and that, Lala is a shrewd observer of family life. But when Lala starts telling the Awful Grandmother's life story, seeking clues to how she got to be so awful, her grandmother accuses Lala of exaggerating. Soon, a multigenerational family narrative turns into a whirlwind exploration of storytelling, lies, and life. Like the cherished *rebozo*, or shawl, that has been passed down through generations of Reyes women, *Caramelo* is alive with the vibrations of history, family, and love.

Nine copies of <u>Caramelo</u> have been requested from the Johnstown Public Library under the name AAUW Book Club. Our newest Lunch Bunch book discussion member, Paula Lerner, has volunteered to lead our next book discussion. We welcome others interested to join us on September 30 as we expand our horizons and become better acquainted.

Save the Date - October 19 - District IV Conference

The District IV conference will take place from 9am-2pm on Saturday, October 19 at Dutchess Community College. A light breakfast and lunch are included in the \$30 registration fee. Each branch attending will have 3 minutes to share branch events. Workshops on ethnicity, gender and culture will be held in the morning followed by an activity based on children's books. Those attending are asked to bring several new or gently used children's books. Following lunch and keynote speaker participants will plan a program for their branch using the discussions of the day. Please contact Linda Hammond if you are interested in attending and representing our branch. * See attached flier.



Our branch has a new mom - Congratulations Anya!

We have not seen Anya Biel in a while. The reason is she became the proud mom to baby boy, Alyosha. in June. She will be taking a break from AAUW Student Organization advisor for the first semester. We hope she will drop by a meeting and bring Alyosha with her.

<u>Branch Unsung Hero –</u> <u>Bonnie Van Wie</u>

Bonnie Van Wie was honored as the Unsung Hero of our branch at the June picnic at Peck's Lake at the home of member Maryann Abad.

Van Wie was chosen for her dedication and enthusiastic participation in all of our branch meetings and activities. Besides serving as the Secretary of the branch, Bonnie has presented a program on Ireland, assisted with set up for several Sister to Sister Summits, worked at the Pancake Breakfast fundraisers, and helped organize the newly formed Lunch Bunch Branch Book Discussion group.

The Unsung Hero award was originated by past branch president Helen Martin to acknowledge the special behind the scenes efforts of local branch members. Past recipients include Susan Summerfield, Gloria Kimball and Carol Cownie.

Alyssa Catherine Henry-AAUW Literary Award Winner

Alyssa Catherine Henry, daughter of Daniel and Mary Henry, was chosen as the winner of the annual AAUW Dorothy Anderson Wemple Literary Award.

To win the award, Henry was required to write a 300-500 word research or autobiographical essay on the topic "Women in Combat - Pro or Con". The award is available to female high school seniors in Fulton, Montgomery, and Hamilton Counties who will be pursuing an associates or bachelors college degree upon graduation. Alyssa will attend Nazareth College to major in nursing.

The \$300 award is given annually in memory of Dorothy Anderson Wemple who was a member of AAUW for over 50 years and a member of the local AAUW branch since its inception in 1967. Wemple, who died in 2007, was an English teacher at Knox Junior High School in Johnstown and was a past judge for the essay contest which began in 1991.

Thanks, Rosemary Leo-Pappas for again serving as chair of the High School Literary Award!

8th Grade Math and Science Winners

In June our branch presented fifteen local, eighth grade girls with an Excellence in Mathematics and Science Award. Administrators and school counselors from the local schools assisted AAUW Chairwomen Marie Wojeski and Linda Zilka in the selection of the recipients.

The criterion for the award was excellence in mathematics and science, the students' genuine interest in these subject areas, and their likelihood to pursue a career in these fields. Each recipient received a certificate of recognition, pen and scientific calculator. The winners and their respective schools were as follows.

- Amsterdam Calynn Vitus
- Broadalbin-Perth Julie Capito
- Canajoharie Jessica Hutt
- Fonda-Fultonville Sarah Subik
- Fort Plain Kierra Reid
- Gloversville Kaitlyn Zarrelli
- Johnstown Chole Salisbury
- Lake Pleasant Tia Thompson
- Mayfield Emily Barker
- Northville Jasmine Vrooman
- Oppenheim-Ephratah Savannah McFarland
- St. Johnsville Abby Mosher
- St. Mary's Institute Alexis Nicole Tirado
- Wells Madeleine Brown

ECSWC Antique Show October 19-20

Since our AAUW branch is one of the members of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium (ECSWC), we will be adding our assistance to help with the fall Antique Show fundraiser which will take place on Saturday October 19 from and Sunday October 20 from . The deadline for soliciting ads for the program booklet is August 31. In September assistance will be needed to put up lawn signs. The weekend of the event help will be needed to set up on Friday October 18, sell and collect ticket and assisting vendors on Saturday and Sunday.

The money raised will go towards a year's worth of celebrations in 2015 to commemorate the 200th birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. This will include the daylong Women's Symposium that will take place in March of 2015. Please contact Helen Martin to volunteer.

The next planning meeting for the Antique Show and Sale fundraiser will be held on August 27 at 5:30pm in the community room at the Johnstown Public Library.

Branch "Classified" Opportunities:

AAUW FUNDS Chair (Co-Chairs)

Job Description: Receive via e-mail information from AAUW National and NYS AAUW regarding the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and Educational Opportunities Funds (EOF)

Submit brief articles for the branch newsletter regarding LAF and EOF. Assist in raising funds for our branch contributions for LAF and EOF.

Organize branch donation of baskets/ purses for the LAF fundraiser at the NY State AAUW convention in April.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

(assistant)

Job Description: To train to assist and provide backup for Linda Hammond.

Receive via e-mail articles written by members. Compile into the newsletter format. Maintain a list of member's e-mail and snail mail contact information. Distribute newsletters (September - June) via e-mail to those with internet access. Photo copy newsletters for those without e-mail and send via snail mail. (Expenses for copying and mailing will be reimbursed by submitting receipts to treasurer.)

TECH SAVVY SUMMIT CHAIR (Co-Chairs)

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

We still are in need of a volunteer or volunteers to chair or co-chair the event if we are to continue with this wonderful AAUW mission based program for middle school girls. 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. There is a committee ready and facilitators willing; someone just needs to "steer the ship". Will you step up?

Forget to Renew Your AAUW Membership?

This will be the last newsletter distributed to those who have not yet renewed their membership. We hate to have anyone miss out on all the fun and informative meetings ahead this year. We will be assembling our membership booklet in October and don't want to leave anyone out.

Reminder: The AAUW fiscal year runs from July 1 - June 30. A check for \$74 made out to AAUW and sent to Treasurer Ella Ryder, P.O. Box 111, Mayfield, NY 12117 will assure that you continue as part of our AAUW branch. Please include the attached renewal form to make updates in education, address, phone contacts and volunteer opportunities of interest.

Thanks!

Memories of Cazenovia -

Jennifer Garren

Being a new AAUW member, I decided to tag-along with Liz, Linda, Ella and Darcelle to the Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College. I wanted to learn more about AAUW and also I was hoping to become better acquainted with my branch members. Hopefully, I would also meet other interesting women from across NY State. I was not disappointed.

We arrived with plenty of time to get settled in our "suite" before the first meeting on Diversity began. The spacious suite gave us five separate bedrooms and a common area with a shared bathroom. The program was jam-packed from that moment on. Many different AAUW topics and workshops were covered and several prominent speakers were highlighted. Emma Condori's talk on women in Boliva, Judy Lombardi's update on her battered women's shelter. Geeta Desai with the international women's agenda and Dr. Uma Gupta who spoke about the STEM program were but a few of the wonderful speakers. During the year, we five will share as much as we can about the information and ideas presented during the weekend at Cazenovia and probably incorporate much of it in the annual programming.

What stood out for me was the unique character of each branch of the NY AAUW and the accomplished, intelligent, warm-hearted and serious-minded women who whole-heartedly believe in the education and advocacy of girls and women worldwide.

The program kept us thinking, sharing, debating and sometimes quite entertained as we mingled with each other.

Another highlight for me personally was winning first place at the speed-table-card playing game. (This was the night-time fun portion) Not that I am overly competitive or anything but two on my team members didn't know a lick about cards and kept confusing clubs and spades. I provided a fast and furious tutorial and it worked. Darcel and Liz brought in 2nd and 3rd place. This game was fun as it allowed us to enjoy women from across the state in a relaxed setting.

Networking is not my strong suit. I had hoped to brush up on this or at least watch the pros go at it. I learned a lot and I do believe I am less of a wall-flower having gone to this conference. I would highly recommend this to any AAUW member.

-Jennifer Garren



Our Card Playing Champs!

Lunch Bunch Book Discussion

The Lunch Brunch Book Discussion group met for lunch at Forever Youngs Restaurant in Johnstown on August 13 to discuss "Out on the Sound" and "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl". Once again we enjoyed each other's company and sharing our thoughts about the

books we read and related life experiences. Nine attended including prospective member Paula Lerner.

Hat's Off!!

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association will celebrate Women's Equality Day on August 26 with presentation of its first annual Equality Award. The recipient is **Johnstown Mayor Sarah Slingerland**, the city's first female mayor in its 250 year history.

Best of Luck to
Helen Martin in her campaign run
for Mayor of Johnstown!

AAUW NYS Communications/ Visibility Director

Linda Hammond has accepted this position on the State board. Ruth Wahtera, Kingston Branch, had held this position recently but had to step down due to health reasons. I am looking forward to the challenge. I will continue to hold my positions with our branch.

Emergency Preparedness

We should all have a plan for any level of emergency that may occur in our lives. Most of our emergencies will probably be medical related. In either case, we should have a plan. Many of our neighboring communities have had "mother nature's" emergencies but all of us can have a fire or something along that line.

If you have a cell phone, do you have an "ICE" number in your contacts? ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. When 1st responders are tending to your medical emergency, they will check your cell phone for emergency contact information. This will put them in contact with your family member in a short amount of time. Just create the number by typing ICE-family name & then their numbers. We should all have emergency contact cards in our wallets for times when there isn't any power or our cell phone may have lost its power or become damaged.

The following is just a small bit of what the Red Cross has available on their website. There is information available on all aspects of someone's life – children, seniors, pets, etc. The information below is designed to cover lengthy emergency periods. It is important that we have something available to grab – a bag of our medications, a list of medications in our wallets.

Be Prepared for an Emergency. Be Red Cross Ready!

(www.redcross.org)
Being prepared means being
equipped with the proper supplies

you may need in the event of an emergency or disaster. Keep your supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

At a minimum, you should have the basic supplies listed below:

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food—non-perishable, easy-toprepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers (Include battery chargers; don't assume you will have power)
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area

Consider the needs of all family members and add supplies

to your kit. Suggested items to help meet additional needs are:

- Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc)
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Games and activities for children
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Two-way radios
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Manual can opener

Additional supplies to keep at home or in your survival kit based on the types of disasters common to your area:

- Whistle
- N95 or surgical masks
- Matches
- Rain gear
- Towels
- Work gloves
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Plastic sheeting
- Duct tape
- Scissors
- Household liquid bleach
- Entertainment items
- Blankets or sleeping bags

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 16, 2013

Branch Board Meeting 6 – 8 pm, Johnstown Public Library

September 18, 2013

Branch Membership Recruitment Dinner Meeting FMCC - Large Lounge - Student Union Building 5 pm tour of clean room and automation lab 5:30 meet and greet 6pm Light supper Speaker: Cecilia Tkaczk

September 30

Lunch Bunch Book Discussion "Caramelo" by Sandra Cisneros Place to be announced.

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 Geof-McNish



AGJ AAUW SEPTEMBER MEETING



This year's first monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18th at FMCC.

We will be commemorating the signing of the US Constitution (Sept. 17, 1787). Come celebrate the rights women now have to vote and run for office.

SPEAKER: 46th District State Senator Cecelia Tkaczyk

PLACE: Fulton Montgomery Community College

Student Union Building - Large Lounge

TIME: 5:00 PM Optional Tour of FM's Clean Room

with Jeremy Spraggs

5:30 PM Sign in and Socialize

6:00 PM Light Supper

7:00 PM Senator Tkaczyk's presentation &

Branch Meeting

Menu: Buffet by Chartwells

Soup and Salad

Sandwiches

Assorted cookies and brownies
Assorted sodas and bottled water

Cost: \$ 10.00 - checks made payable to AAUW

RSVP: Jahnn Gibson

302 S. Melcher St.

Johnstown, NY 12095-2924

tel. 762- 5036

Deadline: Sept. 10, 2013

Come renew old friendships and make new ones with prospective members.





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 Coffee, Tea and bagels, etc.

9:30 - 10:00 am 3 minute sharing of important events from each of the branches attending

10:00 – 11:30 am Workshops:

English at

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.

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

1:00 - 1:45 pm Workshops in which participants will plan a program for their branch using the discussions of

the day.

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 U-turn, and merge right onto Route 9 North - Hyde Park. Proceed north about 2 miles. Make a right at Fulton and a left

when Fulton ends. Make the right onto Cottage Road. Visitor parking is available in Lot D. Entrance to Lot D is located on Cottage Road. Washington Hall is the first building on the left. There is handicapped parking and also an easy place to drop off passengers at Washington Hall (top of hill on the left) and then return to park in Lot D at the bottom of the hill. http://www.sunydutchess.edu/aboutdcc/visitus.html

See www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

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 yea	ar(s) of graduation:
Current Email Address:	
*********	***************
Please Check One of the Follow	ing:
I have enclosed \$	* for dues before June 1, 2013. *(\$69)
I have enclosed \$ National \$49 State \$13 Local \$7/\$12	** dues on or after June 1, 2013. **(\$74)
To become a Life Member one p dues year-	pays 20 times the current national dues plus the current yearly state and local
udes year-	I have enclosed \$ for dues as a Life Member.
Are you interested in serving	on a committee?
ProgramComHistoricalNon Educational Equity	nittee descriptions are available from membership chairperson. munity OutreachFinanceMembership ninatingCulturalPublic PolicyInternational IssuesDiversity //ScholarshipLAF - Legal Advocacy Fund er 2 Sistere-student and AAUW College Organization
Ella Ryder P.O. Box 111 Mayfield, NY 12117	AUW and send this form along with your check to treasurer:

I am resigning mem	•
My reason(s) is/are as follows: _	Family obligationsMoving out of the areaDues amount