



# Upstate Update



## AMSTERDAM \* GLOVERSVILLE \* JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

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

**2011 – 2012**

**September**

### Branch Officers:

#### *Presidents*

*Liz Russo - Linda Hammond*

#### *Vice Presidents - Program*

*Sandy Maceyka – Ginni Mazur*

#### *Vice Presidents - Membership*

*Patsy Suydam- Susan Smmerfield*

#### *Vice President – ED Opp Fund*

*Kaye Schrader*

#### *Vice President – Legal Advocacy*

*Ginni Mazur*

#### *Recording Secretary*

*Bonnie Van Wie*

#### *Treasurer – Michelle Acquaro*

#### *Assistant Treasurer – Ella Ryder*

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### **President's Message**

Welcome back to AAUW!

A lot has been going on since our June tea party at Fort Johnson. We started off by attending the AAUW NYS Summer Leadership Conference July 15-16 at Cazenovia College. The experience provided us with good ideas for the AAUW year ahead.

On August 8 we met with Jane Kelly, Director of Student Affairs at FMCC. Now that FMCC has joined AAUW as a College/University AAUW Member we are making plans to

recruit not only faculty, but also student affiliates.

Treasurer Michele

Acquaro graciously offered her home for our summer planning meeting on August 9. Ten of us worked to plan the programs for the year assisted by the 20 surveys, which were returned by members. There are always so many ideas offered that we will save some for future years.

Meanwhile our new assistant treasurer, Ella Ryder audited the books, Membership VP Patsy Suydam updated the membership brochure, Ginni Mazur, Sandy Maceyka and Pat Valachovic organized the August 19 Ice Cream Social and Bake Sale and Sue Summerfield and Gloria Kimball planned the September Fashion Show and dinner.

We are grateful to Kaye Schrader who agreed to come out of retirement (she was previously newsletter editor for 4 years) and take care of this September newsletter while Gloria's broken wrist bones heal. In October, Bernadette Pecora will fill in as newsletter editor. We are

fortunate to have such a strong team of talented women who are willing to step up to the plate. Thank you to all.

This year's branch theme will be **CONNECTING....**

Connecting with the community, Connecting with prospective members, Connecting with our local community college, Connecting with National and State AAUW, Connecting with women around the world, Connecting with our mutual interests in the arts, music, history and health. Perhaps the most important "Connecting" we can do will be with our fellow AAUW branch members. Let's really get to know each other.

Looking forward to a wonderful year ahead. *-Liz and Linda*

### **Cazenovia Summer Conference**

#### **Highlights**

Linda Hammond, Liz Russo and Ella Ryder attended the AAUW Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College in July. The weekend featured a whirlwind of speakers on topics including Susan B. Anthony, our connection with Girl Scouting, working with our local colleges, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), raising funds for women in developing nations as part of

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

“My Sister’s Keeper” outreach, understanding what the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and the newly named Educational Opportunities Funds (EOF) can provide for women, applying for an NYS AAUW 21st Century Award as well as the concerns about hydrofacking techniques to extract natural gas.

We also heard from those who attended the National Conference in DC and had a chance to participate in “Lobbying on the Hill”. Past NYS AAUW President, Nancy Mion, talked about her experience running for the National board of directors, and we heard about Cynthia D’Amour, the author of “The Lazy Leader’s Guide to Outrageous Results” whose National Convention inspiring keynote message was “Delegate!”

During the weekend on the beautiful Cazenovia campus, we dined frequently on delicious meals during time which we had many opportunities to network and exchange ideas with members of area branches including Schenectady and Adirondack. Informal time included an ice cream sundae party, wine and cheese hour, a chance to play Pictionary, and watch a movie. The weekend was an excellent value for \$100!

### **AAUW College Connection - Thanks Linda Bumpus!**

FMCC College is now a College/University member of AAUW thanks to the recruitment efforts of Linda Bumpus. Jane Kelly, Director of Student Affairs at the college will be the contact between National AAUW and FMCC. Linda Hammond, Liz

Russo and Patsy Suydam met with Jane to welcome FMCC as an AAUW College/University member. Jane is now a National AAUW member and has been invited to join our branch.

### **e-Student Affiliates**

The college membership allows all FMCC students to become e-student affiliates of AAUW free, by simply signing up on line. They will then directly receive all information regarding AAUW including scholarships, fellowships, grants and leadership opportunities. In addition, they will receive a Give a Gift to a Grad free national membership upon receiving their associate’s degrees.

Membership VP Patsy Suydam has agreed to set up a computer and display at FMCC in mid September during the college’s Clubs/Activities Fair to “enroll” students as e-student affiliates of AAUW. The hope is that this will lead to formation of a college student satellite of our branch. In addition, students will be encouraged to apply to attend the National College Conference for Student Women Leaders (NCCSWL), which will be held June 2012 at the University of Maryland.

### **October Meeting to Recruit FM Faculty**

We will continue making connections with FMCC as we were invited by Jane Kelly to hold our October meeting in the theater area of the college. A reception will be held and staff interested in joining AAUW will be invited. AAUW member Sandy Lane, author of “The Trail of the Wild

Flowers” will give a presentation regarding her book. We will also hold a used book sale to raise funds for the \$500 scholarship our branch gives yearly to a nontraditional female FMCC graduate who plans to pursue a bachelors degree.

In addition, our branch will return to FM in April for our annual meeting with NYS AAUW C/U Director Doris Mc Lallen as our guest speaker.

### **Ice Cream Social and Bake Sale**

Thanks to Ginni Mazur and Sandy Maceyka for suggesting that we hold an Ice cream Social during the last Johnstown Citizens Band Concert August 19. Pat Valachovic chaired the event and obtained donations of ice cream from Stewarts, soda from Price Chopper and ice from Mc Donald’s. She also took the time to call all of our members to bake. Additional thanks to those who responded to her request with delicious cakes and cookies. Not to be forgotten are John Mazur who scooped the ice cream, Barbara Skoda who acted as cashier, Paul Russo who helped with set up and cleanup. In addition to Ginni, Sandy and Pat, AAUW members Dee Brown, Theresa Korian, Bonnie Van Wie, Linda Hammond, and Liz Russo assisted with the event. Over \$300 was raised for our local scholarships. The Ice Cream Social also provided us with an opportunity to set up our AAUW display to inform the community about our AAUW branch and hopefully recruit some new members. We hope to have another one next summer.

### **FMCC Graduate, Maureen Kavanaugh, Awarded Scholarship**

Maureen Kavanaugh was chosen as this year’s recipient of our branch’s annual award to an FMCC graduate. Established in 1999, the \$500

award is given to a nontraditional female graduate of FMCC who plans to continue her education to earn a bachelors degree. The scholarship is given annually in memory of Rita Mary Burke, FMCC English professor and one of the original members of the local AAUW branch. Maureen also received an AAUW membership for the 2011-2012 year as part of the award.

After having raised two daughters who are now twenty and twenty-two years old, Maureen returned to college. She attended FMCC full time as a Human Services major to work toward her goal of becoming a Social Worker. While a student at FMCC, she served as a volunteer tutor, note taker and test reader. She was also the secretary of AWARE, the Human Services Club on campus.

Having received her associate's degree in Human Services, Maureen Kavanaugh is transferring to the College of Saint Rose to begin work towards a bachelor's degree in Social Work this September. She hopes to eventually earn a Master's degree in that field.

Terry Conaway served as chair of the AAUW FMCC Scholarship Award committee.

### **8th Grade Girls Awarded For Excellence in Math and Science**

The following 15 girls from Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery County schools were presented with a scientific calculator, certificate and AAUW pen for their efforts and interest in math and science while in 7th and 8th grade. Each was recommended for the Excellence

in Math and Science award by their middle school teachers and counselors based on the student's grades, genuine interest in these subject areas and likelihood to pursue a career in these fields.

Amsterdam -Anatasia Lazarou  
Broadalbin-Perth - Christa Decker  
Canajoharie - Paige Shovelton  
Fonda-Fultonville - Ashley DaBiere  
Fort Plain -Gabrielle Bridgewater  
Gloversville - Kelsey Barkley  
Johnstown - Brianna Esposito  
Lake Pleasant - Danielle Aceto  
Mayfield - Maria VanNostrand  
Northville - Sarah Dickey  
OppenheimEuphrata-SamanthaMumford  
St. Johnsville - Marissa Nellis  
St. Mary's Institute- Anne Bryan Riley  
Wells - Gabrielle Tebo  
Wheelerville - Samantha Deming

Linda Zilka and Marie Wojeski headed the award committee, distributing information, preparing certificates, purchasing the calculators and hand delivering the awards to each school!

### **Fundraising Effort Upcoming**

Our branch gives \$1000 annually for local scholarships as well as \$300 each for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and Educational Opportunities Funds (EOF). As a result we will need to do some additional fundraising this year. We are considering a barbeque on Rt 30A, a pancake breakfast at Applebee's or dinner at Friendly's perhaps this November. Once we have the details, we hope that each of you will graciously support our efforts by either selling tickets, or making a donation. If each branch member contributes some, the burden will not fall on just a few

to fund these worthwhile undertakings.

Thanks for your support in advance!

### **"Women's Equality Day," August 26**

August 26, 2011, is the 91st Anniversary of women in the United States winning the right to vote. To ensure that the nation would remember and celebrate this historic event, Congresswoman Bella Abzug successfully championed a Congressional Resolution in 1971. Since that time, events are held throughout the country on August 26th to honor the 72-year, non-violent Woman Suffrage campaign that won US women's right to vote, and to recognize the need for women's continuing efforts toward full equality.

### **AAUW United Nations Day October 11**

Space Is Limited!

This special program will focus on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development. The achievement of sustainable development requires the integration of its economic, environmental and social components at all levels. Women will play a key role in achieving sustainability.

The morning schedule will include welcome by Carolyn Donovan, AAUW's Representative at the UN,. Briefing I on Women's Leadership in building a Sustainable Economy: Preparing for Rio +20 in May, 2012 and Briefing II: Jane Roberts, founder, 34 Million Friends of UNFPA Group Tour of the United Nations.

The afternoon program is features a panel discussion Developing a Sustainable Future for Women will feature Rebecca Tinsley, author of "When the Stars Fell To Earth", founder of Network 4 Africa and Kimberly

Campbell, Director, Metropolitan New York Chapter of the US National Committee for UN Women.

Deadline for registration is September 27. Registration fee of \$30 includes tour of the United Nations. (Lunch is on your own.) For further information please contact Melissa Guardaro, NYS AAUW's International Chair, at (914) 906-0242 or [mmg4@netzero.net](mailto:mmg4@netzero.net). Please send \$30 check payable to AAUW NYS to AAUW NYS International Chair, PO Box 384, Valley Cottage, NY 10989. Include name, branch, phone and e-mail address with your check.

### **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.

A reminder that the AAUW fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30. A check for \$74 made out to AAUW and sent to treasurer, Michele Acquaro, PO Box 101, Northville, NY 12134 will assure that you continue as part of our AAUW branch.

### **Gloversville's Stegeland wins AAUW literary prize**

#### **The Teen Vox Blog**

#### **June 28, 2011 - Teen Vox**

GLOVERSVILLE — The Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch of the

American Association of University Women has named Allison Stegeland as the winner of the 2011 Dorothy Anderson Wemple Literary Award.

Stegeland is a 2011 graduate of Gloversville High School and salutatorian of her class. She plans to study English at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

The \$300 award is given annually to an area high school senior in memory of Dorothy Anderson Wemple, who was an English teacher at Knox Junior High School in Johnstown and a member of AAUW. The winner is chosen based on the quality of a 500-word essay. In a news release, AAUW Award Chairwoman Rosemary Leo-Pappas congratulated Stegeland on her winning essay.

“How refreshing and encouraging it is to find a young person with enough love and respect for our language, our primary communication tool, to actually learn to use it,” Leo-Pappas said.

Stegeland has been a contributor to the GHS newspaper Paw Prints and to Teen Vox. **The text of her winning essay follows:**

### **My goal is to have a positive influence**

#### **By ALLISON STEGELAND**

I'm a 17-year-old girl. In the fall, I will be heading off to college, where I will major in English. I'm a straight-A student who has always worked for her grades. I'm the one who always hands in her homework. I'm the one who can make anything into a Harry

Potter reference. I'm the theater enthusiast who is in all of the community productions. I'm that girl with the peanut allergy. I'm the one who cares about the people around her. I'm the one who is never satisfied with her work until it's just right. Right now, I'm fairly average. However, that does not mean that I'm insignificant.

Now let's look 10 years into the future and see where I am. Twenty-seven years old, probably living with a roommate. I'm probably not wealthy. I will most likely have an average income and live in an average neighborhood. I'm probably working in some publishing company, or maybe writing my own works. On the surface, I'm nothing special. I may not look like much, but I have the power to change the world.

There is one way to make a difference — by affecting others. You don't have to be wealthy or have a genius IQ to influence the lives around you. People don't even have to try to make a difference in a person's life.

Everybody changes the world in some way or another. They donate a dollar toward relief in Japan. They vote for the president of the United States. They choose not to drive while intoxicated and save a life. These are things that we don't even have to think about. I will make a difference in the world whether I try to or not. Despite this, I know that I will make an effort to make a difference.

I have been influenced by almost everybody who I've met. In turn, I want to have a positive influence on those who I encounter. I can start with simple things right now — complimenting somebody on their hairdo, smiling at strangers.

As I get older, I want to further my own influence. I plan on having a career dealing with the written word. The reason I am so passionate about this is because I have always been an avid reader. The books I have read have taught me numerous life lessons and inspired me to have adventures and write books of my own.

I know how powerful language can be. Someday, I will put out my own words, or help circulate the words of others. By doing this, I will be making a difference in other readers' lives. I will inspire them and help them realize their own life goals.

I will change the world one person at a time. It may not sound like much, but as a person who has had her life shaped by language, I know how powerful that influence can be.

## Planning Ahead.....

Mark your calendars as the **October** meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12th at 5:30pm and it will be a meeting that you won't want to miss! The meeting will take place at FMCC and will begin with a café reception to meet college students and faculty interested in AAUW. The theme of this meeting will be **BOOKS**. Our very own Sandy Lane will speak to us on her recently published book The Trail of the Wild Flowers and books will be available for purchase, which will be signed by the author. Also, we will be having a **Book Sale** so here is your opportunity to donate books that

you can no longer use. Proceeds will go to the Scholarship fund. So start cleaning now to get a head start and then bring your books to the meeting. Books may be delivered to me **AFTER** October 6<sup>th</sup> if you are unable to attend the meeting. Right now, the most important thing is to mark your calendar for a great meeting and start getting those book donations ready!

Ginni Mazur

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Just to get it on your calendar, I'd like you to know that the **November** meeting will be the Auction meeting to benefit LAF and EF. It will be held on **Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**. We will be auctioning off "gently used" items, new items, re-gifted items, and any creative item you may build. Some ideas in the past that have been popular have included a dinner to be held at your home, a fun time at a picnic spot with food provided, bottles of wine, a platter of pastries, horsd'oeuvres for a dinner party, a boat ride, and a tote of slightly used books. So get thinking and be ready for a fun evening with details to follow in the next few newsletters!

Ginni Mazur

### **"Half the Sky" Ripple Effect**

As most of you know the Fair Trade fundraiser generated from our "Half the Sky" book discussion collected just over \$380. Now is the time to choose

where the money goes. The planning committee has suggested 2 wonderful organizations; Kiva, a micro-lending organization ([www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)) and The Fistula Foundation, which supports fistula, repair in Africa ([www.fistulafoundation.org](http://www.fistulafoundation.org)). Or you may refer to the resource section in "Half the Sky".

Please check out these worthy organizations and email me ([cmcownie@msn.com](mailto:cmcownie@msn.com)) or call 883-8099 your choice. **The following options are:** 100% to Kiva, 100% to the Fistula Project or a 50-50 split for each organization.

Call me for more information. Our collective choice will be announced at the September meeting.

A heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support in this effort!!

Carol Cownie

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Friendly's Restaurant Fundraiser**  
Monday, November 14  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
AAUW will receive a percentage of all meals served during this time for the scholarship funds.

Please spread the word and join us if you can!

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**August 26**

Women's Equality Day

**August 29**

ECSWC Symposium

Planning Meeting

Johnstown Pubic Library **6pm**

**September 14**

Branch Dinner Meeting

Fashion Show /Shape the Future

Membership Recruitment

Fonda Reformed Church **5:30pm**

**October 11**

AAUW United Nations Day

**October 12**

Branch Meeting

(light refreshments)

Author, Sandy Lane

Used Book Sale

Shape the Future Members

Recruitment for FMCC faculty

FMCC Theater lobby

**5-6 pm** light refreshments

meet/greet FMCC faculty

**6pm** Author presentation

**October 22-23**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's

Consortium Antique Show

Johnstown Senior Citizens

Center/Johnstown Area

Community Center

Proceeds to raise money for the

2012 Women's Symposium

**November 9**

Branch Meeting (light

refreshments)

White Elephant Auction

( for Educational Opportunities

Fund/ Legal Advocacy Fund )

Johnstown Senior Citizens Center

**5:30pm**

**November 8**

Election Day

**November 12**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Birthday



**AAUW NEW YORK STATE UNITED NATIONS DAY**  
**Tuesday, October 11, 2011**

This special program will focus on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development. The achievement of sustainable development requires the integration of its economic, environmental and social components at all levels. Women will play a key role in achieving sustainability.

Morning Program at the United Nations

9:15-9:45 Check In

9:45-10:00 Welcome by Carolyn Donovan, AAUW's Representative at the UN

10:00-11:00 Briefing I: Women's Leadership in building a Sustainable Economy: Preparing for Rio +20 in May, 2012

11:00-11:30 Briefing II: Jane Roberts, founder, 34 Million Friends of UNFPA

11:30 -12:15 Group Tour of the United Nations

12:15-1:15 Lunch (on your own) A list of restaurants will be forwarded to registered participants.

Afternoon Program Co-Sponsored with Marymount College  
at the ICO Center, 323 East 47th Street

1:15 – 3:15 Panel Discussion: Developing a Sustainable Future for Women

- Rebecca Tinsley, author of When the Stars Fell To Earth, founder of Network 4 Africa
- Kimberly Campbell, Director, Metropolitan New York Chapter of the US National Committee for UN Women
- And Other Panel Participants to be announced

Registration fee of \$30 includes tour of the United Nations. (Lunch is on your own.)

For further information please contact Melissa Guardaro, NYS AAUW's International Chair, at (914) 906-0242 or [mmg4@netzero.net](mailto:mmg4@netzero.net).

Please postmark your reservation by September 27, 2011

**REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! Space Is Limited!**

Please send \$30 check payable to AAUW NYS with this form to AAUW NYS International Chair, PO Box 384, Valley Cottage, NY 10989

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E MAIL \_\_\_\_\_



# **AAUW Fall Meeting and Fashion Show**

**Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2011**



**5:30pm Gather**  
**6:00pm Buffet**  
**7:00pm Fashion Show**

**Fonda Reformed Church**  
**(large white church next to Stewart's)**  
**21 Broadway Street**  
**Fonda**

- **Cost \$13/person.**
- **Dinner provided by the Winner's Circle.**
- **Enjoy the newest fashions from Johnstown's Peebles modeled by our own AAUW members.**
- **Menu includes:**
  - Relish tray, Veggie platter**
  - Tossed salad, Baked chicken**
  - Roasted potatoes, Glazed carrots**
  - Eggplant parm, Rolls**
  - Éclair dessert, Coffee, Tea, Soda**
- **Reservations by September 2nd.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check out to AAUW and send to**  
**Sue Summerfield**  
**346 Noeltner Road**  
**Amsterdam, NY 12010-8285**  
**Or call**  
**922-6034**