



Upstate Update

AMSTERDAM * GLOVERSVILLE * JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

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

July 2014



PLANNING MEETING July 30, 2014

Pot Luck Supper Meeting
6 – 9 pm Mayfield Yacht Club

Please bring your program ideas and contacts and your 2015 calendars!

Things to consider...

Do we want to return to Union Hall for our Dec. brunch?
If so which Sat. in Dec. do you think would be best?
Any ideas for musical entertainment?
If so bring contact info, cost etc.

Any ideas for Sept recruitment meeting?
Speaker (or just meet and greet and info re AAUW)?
Location?

*Directions to Mayfield Yacht Club:

By GPS: 214 Lakeside Dr. Mayfield, NY
Otherwise:

North on Rt 30 out of Vail Mills. Pass Rt 349 that goes to Gloversville, and pass Fuel and Food on the Right. Continue about 1/4 mile and turn Right onto School St. Cross a small bridge, and at 20 mph go up a hill and turn Right at the top of the hill. Go 1/2-3/4 mile, you will go down a hill that has a sharp Left turn at the bottom (you will see docks straight ahead through the trees at the bottom of the hill as you make the turn). Go about 1/10 mile; turn Right into the yacht club. Park in the guest parking lot behind the big reddish-orange barn. Walk in the back door of the clubhouse, the kitchen is right there.

Hope to see you at the end of the month.

-Liz

Co-President's Message

The 2013-14 AAUW year has come to a close. Our AAUW branch has accomplished a lot. Membership Chair, Catherine Julius did a great job recruiting new members last fall and we hope they have decided to continue with our branch. Our monthly programs including: speakers Senator Cecilia Tkacztk regarding women in politics and Jackie Goffe-Mcnish and the Jamaican evening in October; "A Place at the Table" movie and panel presentation education and outreach on stereotyping of hunger; historical and musical informance by harpist Nancy Walko; reading the books "The Language of Flowers" regarding aging out of foster care and "The Story of My Life" about Helen Keller; learning about heart health from Helen James and trying out line dancing with Darcelle Winchell as well as hearing NYS AAUW Public Policy VP Donna Seymour speak at our annual meeting provided a year of well-rounded offerings thanks to the organization of chair Darcelle Winchell and the program planners.

In addition, in March, we held a very successful "Celebration" scholarship fundraiser thanks to Helen James and Catherine Julius. In April a group of our members attended the NYS Convention in Ellenville and came home with several awards including the Platinum for programing to market the mission of AAUW. In May, under the guidance of Linda Bumpus, we held our 15th Summit for middle school girls, the third year with the Tech Savvy theme which drew 180 girls and engaged 14 of our branch members in preparation for the event.

In July, several members of our branch will head for Cazenovia College for the NYS AAUW Summer Leadership Conference. On Wednesday, July 30 our branch will hold our own Summer Planning Meeting at the Mayfield Yacht Club to organize our program offerings for the upcoming 2014-15 AAUW year. In August, we will also hold a summer Lunch Bunch Book Discussion.* see article for details

If you have not renewed your membership or submitted your branch survey of ideas for next year, please do! Please RSVP to Paula Lerner by August 28 if you plan to attend the summer planning meeting and potluck supper.

Thanks for all the help this year. We look forward to increased involvement in the future. Have a wonderful summer!

Co-president Liz Russo

4 hours in the life of a Brand-new Lobbyist by Jennifer Garren

An email mentioning Lobby Day for the Women's Equality Act (WEA) was sent to me. I thought it was asking for women to show up and be present and accounted for...kind of like the more, the merrier...so I quickly asked if our resident lobbyist, Bev Alves, intended on going...if so perhaps I'd tag along. This is something I always wanted to do and I certainly want to be more active politically... (the last time I did something this political was 30 years ago). I was in luck. Bev signed on and would walk me through it. I shared with her my novice status and that pretty much I would be her shadow. (which is kind of fun if you know what we both look like...for those who don't...I tower over her.)



were off lobbying senators & legislators in an up close and personal way.

So we arrive at the designated area and sign in. We put our Rosie the Riveter sticker on our shirts. We receive our two signs. Equal Laws = Equal Lives was my favorite one. People were being asked to do different things. I was asked to stand outside the legislative chambers and raise the signs to all who passed. I held up my signs trying to make eye contact and smiling to everyone. Several clergy went by and they all gave me a thumbs up. Later on I found out they represented Concerned Clergy for Choice, one of the very many groups who were present and accounted for during this lobby day. Other women including our Bev (the more seasoned veterans)

After an hour or so, Bev & I returned to the meeting place and accompanied Kim Pollard, AAUW Regional Field Organizer on an AAUW fact finding task. We tagged along and went to three senator's offices. Kim was able to leave a message for each of them. AND THEN we needed to get to the press conference.

Many, many women & men spoke eloquently on why NY State needs to pass the Women's Equality Act. Cameras were rolling and women were cheering. I was cheering and holding up my signs when I saw Mary Lou Davis, AAUW NYS President across the room. I went to join her. Bev was already there. AAUW was well represented. It was a high-energy, positive experience. For those who want to find out more about WEA, please visit www.nywomensequality.org. For those who may be as intimidated as I was about getting active politically...my advice is...it will be just fine as there are many AAUW women ready to help. Thank you Bev, and Kim and Mary Lou.

Thanks, Nancy!

We would like to thank Nancy Reynolds for stepping up to volunteer to serve as AAUW Funds Chair for our branch. The position has been open for two years. Nancy helped with the purse and basket donations for the LAF auction at the NYS AAUW Convention last April and would like to continue. We look forward to Nancy's ideas regarding fundraising for our Education Opportunities Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund branch donations.

June 9 Meeting was Canceled

Unfortunately, our Queen Victoria's Birthday Celebration at the Brown House Inn was canceled due to illness of the owner's aunt. The Brown House Inn was temporarily closed and all money was refunded. If there is interest, we will try to reschedule. We will choose a day other than Monday since there seemed to be many conflicts on that day of the week.

Book Discussion Update

August Branch Lunch Bunch Book Club

We had hoped to read "A Taste of Molecules", but the book will not be in print until September so we will read "In the Shadow of the Banyan", the Adelante pick for May. There are multiple copies including large print available through the Mohawk Valley Library System. Copies have been reserved at the Johnstown Public Library. The Book Discussion Luncheon will take place on **August 12 at noon. Contact Liz Russo at 762-9702** if you plan to attend.

In the Shadow of the Banyan

By Vaddey Ratner

For 7-year-old Raami, the shattering end of childhood begins with the footsteps of her father returning home in the early dawn hours bringing details of the civil war that has overwhelmed the streets of Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. Soon the family's world of carefully guarded royal privilege is swept up in the chaos of revolution and forced exodus. Over the next four years, Raami clings to the only remaining vestige of her childhood — the mythical legends and poems told to her by her father — and fights for her improbable survival. Displaying the author's extraordinary gift for language, *In the Shadow of the Banyan* is a brilliantly wrought tale of hope and transcendence.

May Blind Awareness meeting

Thanks to Jahnn Gibson for organizing a most pleasant evening at the Mayfield Yacht Club where we experienced pouring a beverage, dining and walking blindfolded. We discuss the amazing accomplishments of Helen Keller based on reading the book “The Story of My Life”.

After removing our eye coverings, we enjoyed sampling each other’s contributions to the potluck dinner. It was very relaxing to sit and eat on the enclosed porch overlooking the Great Sacandaga Lake.

Thanks again, Jahnn!



Photos compliments of Sandy Lane – Thanks Sandy!!

And The Winners Are.....

8th Grade Excellence in Math and Science Awards:

Amsterdam	Lindsay Veeder
Canajoharie	Sydney Weingart
Fonda-Fultonville	Allison Codi
Fort Plain	Victoria Wilday
Gloversville	Brooke Finley
Johnstown	Abigail Baker
Lake Pleasant	Abby Crouse
Mayfield	Katelyn Frisch
Northville	Haley Monacchio
Oppenheim/Ephratah/St. Johnsville	Madison M. Richardson
St. Mary's Institute	Melissa Noriega Jaime
Wells	Alyssa Lewis
Wheelerville	Jenah Winters

Each girl received a scientific calculator, certificate and AAUW pen. Students were nominated by their math and science teachers at each school. Our branch established the award in 2003 to encourage girls in the tri-county area to continue to take math and science in high school and consider STEM careers. Marie Wojeski and Linda Zilka chaired the 8th grade math and science award committee.

NCCWSL Scholarship Winner Casey Madden

Casey Madsen was chosen to receive our AAUW branch scholarship to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. (NCCWSL) in June. Casey lives in St. Johnsville and majored in radiology technology while at FM. She graduated in May with an AS.

She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government Association Trustee, and Member of Medical Imaging Student Organization. She received the Who's Who in American Junior Colleges Award and Distinguished FM Student Service Award.

Casey will be attending SUNY Albany in the fall to continue her studies in pre-med. Her goals are not only to be a doctor, but perhaps run a hospital someday. Casey drove to Maryland for the conference and met girls from around the country and did a lot of networking. She was particularly impressed with the Women of Distinction who were honored and spoke at NCCWSL. They included: Hattie Kauffman, TV anchor and news correspondent; Lily Liu, entrepreneur; Pamela Ann Melroy, NASA astronaut; DeRionne P. Pollard, President of Montgomery College in Maryland; and Judy Smith, founder and President of Smith & Company. She also heard Chelsey Clinton speak about the Clinton Foundation of which she is vice chair. We are hoping to have Casey Madsen share her experiences at one of our fall meetings.

**The scholarship is given in memory of our 2013 NCCWSL scholarship winner,
Santa Pumpura,
who lost her life in an automobile accident this past March.**

Fulton-Montgomery Communication College Award

Broadablin resident Sarah (Reynolds) Ralston was chosen as this year's recipient of the annual award to a Fulton-Montgomery Community College graduate. Ralston recently received an associate of science in business administration from FM. She plans to continue her studies in accounting and human resources this fall at Empire State College. Her goal is to open an automotive business with her husband, Mike, in which she would handle the office aspect of the business. Ralston attended Stillwater High School and graduated from Saratoga High School in 2000.

She attended Adirondack Community College for a brief time. Over the years, she has worked in a variety of jobs, including food service and house painting. While studying for her degree at FM, she worked at a deli in Ballston Spa. She recently began a full-time office position with Coretech Industrial. In addition to the scholarship Ralston received a Gift to a Grad membership.

Established in 1999 the \$500 award is given to a female non-traditional student graduate of FM who plans to continue her education to earn a bachelor's degree. Laurie Freeman chaired this award selection.

Dorothy Anderson Wemple Literary Award

Canajoharie graduate, Morgan Gray, was awarded the Dorothy Anderson Wemple Literary Award. To win the award, Gray was required to write a 300-to-500 word research or autobiographical essay on the topic "The Power of the Women's Vote." Gray will attend the State University of New York at Delhi in September. The \$300 award is given annually in memory of Dorothy, who was a former AAUW member and past judge for the essay contest, which began in 1991. Rosemary Leo-Pappas chaired this award selection.

Thank you, Marie, Linda, Laurie & Rosemary, for all of your time and contribution to our awards program! Your contribution is a tremendous support for our area students.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 25 – 27

AAUW Summer Leadership Conference
Cazenovia

July 30

AGJ Planning Meeting for 2014/2015 Program
Mayfield Yacht Club

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015

March 31, 2015 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium

April 17 – 19, 2015 AAUW NYS Convention in Buffalo

June 18-21, 2015 AAUW National Convention in San Diego, CA

African American Women's Equal Pay Day

July 20 represents the [symbolic day](#) when African American women's earnings catch up to non-Hispanic white men's earnings from the previous year. African American women typically make just 64 cents on the dollar compared to white men.

Read [Brittany's story](#) and [Cheryl's story](#) on the AAUW blog, and share them on social media.

Distributed by AAUW National

HELP WANTED

Needed are

- an [assistant Newsletter Editor](#) to work with Linda Hammond.
- and a [Social Media Helper](#) – AGJ has a facebook page that we need to have more activity on. We don't have a Twitter address yet but this could be another area if someone is interested. This person(s) would work with Linda Hammond who oversees AGJ's webpage.

**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, 2014. *(\$69)

_____ **I have enclosed \$ _____ ** dues on or after June 1, 2014. **(\$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 Equi-
ty/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.