



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

October

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

Wednesday, October 12th.
 FMCC is now a
 College/University member in
 AAUW. The Faculty will have a
 chance to look at us again PLUS
 we get to hear our own author,
 Sandy Nellis Lane, speak.
 Membership is doing an awesome
 job!

is a great way to stay on top of what's going on with AAUW.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our October meeting.

Linda

OCTOBER MEETING

Our October meeting will be held on Wednesday October 12th at the FMCC Auditorium. We will be having a Meet and Greet with the faculty/staff of FMCC at 5:30pm. Light appetizers will be served with drinks. Following the Meet and Greet, we will have a presentation of Sandy Lane's book *The Trail of the Wildflowers*, which she has edited and photographed. Following Sandy's presentation, there will be a book purchase and signing available. In conjunction with this presentation, we will be holding a used book sale and all proceeds will benefit the scholarship program. Please plan to attend and send in your reservations today. We already have 15 members signed up!

President's Message:

Fall has arrived! I don't know about all of you but I am not ready for it. Where did this summer go? Our September meeting was a great evening thanks to Sue Summerfield, Patsy Suydam, Gloria Kimball and our models. The Fashion Show was a hit! Just loved the outfits everyone had picked. We may also have future models especially the little ones! As you know, September is our recruitment month. This year we are expanding the length by having a meet & greet at FMCC on

Have you looked at the benefits that we receive for being a member of AAUW? If not, check out our National website (www.aauw.org). There are all sorts of benefits such as discounts on magazines, pet insurance, financial information and services and travel. As many organizations that I have belonged to over the years, I have never used the benefits that were available to members. I think that may change this year. Take another look at the National AAUW and NYS AAUW websites. New information is available quite frequently. Have you friend these sites on Facebook? Or Twitter? I receive something on almost a daily basis from either National or state? It

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

Books, Books, Books!

Our October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12th at 5:30 pm at the FMCC Auditorium. We will be having a used book sale in conjunction with this meeting so we need your donations. Most books are acceptable including children's books, paperbacks, novels, fiction, non-fiction, etc. But NO encyclopedias or textbooks are accepted. All proceeds will go to the scholarship fund. If you cannot attend and have books to donate, call Ginni Mazur at 773-7180 to arrange a pick up or drop off of books. PLEASE dig for books or ask neighbors or relatives for donations. Any left over books will be donated to libraries.

September meeting a success!

Our first meeting of the year was held on Wed. September 14 at the Fonda Reformed Church. It was great to see old friends and meet prospective members. A delicious meal catered by the Winners Circle was enjoyed by everyone-especially the éclair dessert! Our co-president Linda Hammond gave a brief overview of AAUW for our guests and a brief business meeting followed. Our models then entertained us for the evening who showed off great fashions from Peebles in Johnstown. Our own AAUW members Nancy Krawczeski, Sandy Lane, Melanie Pombrio, Sue Summerfield, Patsy Suydam, Bonnie VanWie, and Rebecca Weideman modeled. Nancy's two granddaughters also showed off fashions for the "younger"

generation. A great big thank you to Carol and Judy from Peebles for joining us for the evening. Also, thank you to Gloria Kimball and Patsy Suydam for organizing the meeting and thank you to everyone who helped clean up!

Sue Summerfield
Membership Co-chairperson

LAF UPDATE

AAUW is "profoundly disappointed" in the recent ruling of the Supreme Court on the *Wal-Mart vs. Dukes* case. In June, the Supreme Court announced that the case was simply "too large." They chose to ignore more than 40 years of established jurisprudence and now have restricted workers fighting gender discrimination through a class action suit. Each woman has the ability to file a claim as an individual.

The ruling of the Supreme Court in this case does **NOT** determine the guilt of Wal-Mart. It merely says that they do not have the right to address gender discrimination through class action suits. As you can imagine, this has far reaching effects in workplace discrimination suits.

AAUW is not giving up. AAUW Public Policy Director Lisa Maatz says, "The Supreme Court has been wrong before – just ask Lilly Ledbetter."

Ginni Mazur
VP LAF

My Sister's Keeper Disbursement

Most of the members at our September meeting voted to split the proceeds of the Equal Exchange fundraiser. So we are sending \$180 to the Fistula Foundation and \$175 to Kiva. Michelle and I selected a group of 13 women from Senegal, Africa to loan the money to. They will be using the funds to expand their store that sells incense and perfume. Maty the coordinator of the group has been in business for a year and a half and she and her husband have 5 children. Senegal is a very poor country and our donation has (as of this writing) put the group at 56% funded. We will get updates on the loan and Michelle has access to the secure site so as to keep our treasurer informed. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this adventure!
Carol Cownie

New Member Update

Although we had 8 women on board to attend our September meeting, in the end only 3 were able to attend. Two of these have joined. However, there are in addition to the 5 who did not attend, 4 others who have indicated they would like to be members; the movement for new members is still active and on going.

Our two new members are Janice Blodgett, Family and Community Educator for the Gloversville Enlarged School District; and Ann Thane, Mayor of Amsterdam.

Janice Blodgett graduated from FMCC with an AAS degree in Human Services and was elected to Phi Theta Kappa. She is a life-long resident of Fulton County. In her position as Community Educator, Janice is a liaison between home and school and she works with various local agencies to facilitate positive changes for families. In

addition to those tasks, Janice also manages several out-reach programs for the school district. She is a member of the Sacandaga Valley Arts Network, the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative, and the Knitty Bitty knitting group. She enjoys nature photography, knitting, reading and cross country skiing. Janice, who was invited to join AAUW by Carol Cownie, is very interested in supporting women's issues.

Ann Thane considers her election to Mayor "a gift" and has laid out an ambitious plan to protect and advance the interests of the Amsterdam taxpayers. She is involved in organizations that would fill our page and has received honors and awards from the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Upstate History Alliance, and the Montgomery County Democratic Star Award. Prior to being elected mayor, Ann has been the Director at Walter Elwood Museum, a Freelance Graphic Artist in Amsterdam and has worked as Assistant Art Director, and Art Director at various other firms from New Jersey to Albany. She was very actively encouraged to join our AGJ branch by Liz Russo. Ann has a degree from the University of Delaware in Fine Arts & Art History and is very interested in working with our branch to help and support AAUW.

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. So far we have held an Ice Cream Social. A Used Book Sale is planned for our October 12 meeting and a Friendly Fundraiser for November 14. In addition, our biennial White Elephant Auction to benefit the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund and the Educational Opportunities Fund will take place November 7. We hope that each of you will graciously support our efforts by donating items, making purchases or making a monetary donation. If each branch member contributes some, the burden will not fall on just a few to fund these worthwhile undertakings. Thanks in advance.

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. NO coupons or tickets are needed. Posters will be distributed at our September, October and November meetings. Please share them with others, post at schools, libraries and other public venues. This is an excellent opportunity to raise funds from outside of our branch for our local scholarships.

Looking Ahead.....

Our November meeting will be held on Monday November 7th and it will be the EOF/LAF Auction. More details will be in the November newsletter, but with the meeting so close to the beginning of the month, it is best to mark your calendar now! We are looking for items to be auctioned: gently used items, plants, dinners or a delivery of appetizers, baked goods, baskets of goodies, re-gifted items, etc. Items should be worth around \$25.

Since this fundraiser is held every other year, we need to make it successful. It would be GREAT if everyone brought a friend or 2 who would then help to build up our "purchasing power." Drinks and appetizers will be served, so bring an appetizer or pay \$5.

Call if you have questions or concerns.
Ginni Mazur
773-7180

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

November 14

Friendly's Fundraiser (for AAUW
local Scholarships)

5-8 pm (our branch gets %
of all who eat)

Johnstown Friendly's RT 30A

December 3

Branch Meeting Holiday Brunch

Union Hall - Johnstown

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT: AAUW OCTOBER 2011 MEETING

WHERE: FMCC AUDITORIUM

DATE AND TIME: WED. OCT 12TH AT 5:30PM

PROGRAM: MEET AND GREET WITH THE FMCC STAFF AND ALSO SANDY LANE WILL PRESENT HER BOOK

THE TRAIL OF THE WILDFLOWERS WITH A BOOK PURCHASE AND SIGNING TO FOLLOW.

EXTRAS: A USED BOOK SALE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP FUND OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

FOOD: Drinks and light appetizers will be available.

COST: \$10

RESERVATIONS: by Oct. 7th to Ginni [Mazur](mailto:ginnimazur@hotmail.com)

[773-7180/ginnimazur@hotmail.com](mailto:ginnimazur@hotmail.com)

MORE INFO: See article in newsletter.

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Cost \$10. **Make Checks payable to AAUW**

Deadline: Oct.7th to Ginni Mazur

176 W Bush Rd

Gloversville, NY 12078

773-7180