



# 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.

2010 – 2011

January

### Branch Officers:

**President**

*Helen Martin*

**Vice President - Program**

*Sandy Maceyka*

**Vice President - Membership**

*vacancy*

**Vice President – Ed Foundation**

*Kaye Schrader*

**Vice President – Legal Advocacy**

*Ginni Mazur*

**Recording Secretary**

*Sue Summerfield*

**Treasurer - Barbara Nigro**

**Assistant Treasurer - Michele Acquaro**

### **President’s Message**

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for a Great 2011!

For those of you who attended our Holiday Brunch at Union Hall in December, I think you will have to agree with me that it was wonderful and a lot of fun! The Bobcats entertained us with a great program and, once again, the food was superb! There was time to visit and relax and enjoy each other’s company—the perfect way to usher in the holidays.

As we begin the New Year, it is always nice to reflect on our accomplishments of the previous

year. Our branch had a very active 2010 with many wonderful programs, networking at Chamber functions, participating in the Equality Day celebration in August, welcoming several new members, and attaining Platinum status at the convention last April. Lots to pat ourselves on the back for!

I hope the great participation and attendance at our meetings that we experienced in 2010 continues throughout 2011.

Our schedule is planned through June; so if you have any ideas for the 2011-2012 year beginning in September, I would love to hear from you. The objective is to present programs that will be of interest to the entire membership; so if there is something in particular that you would like included, speak up!

I am grateful for the fact that several of our new members have stepped up to the plate and become actively involved. Patsy Suydam and Linda Bumpus are hard at work on Sister to Sister, Bernadette Pecora submitted three biographies for the NY State “Women Making a Difference” project, and Jahnn Gibson has agreed to help with the mem-

bership tags at the meetings. Thank you ladies!

Now I will have to sound like a broken record. There are still positions to be filled; so if you would like to chair or even co-chair, let me know. Don’t shy away from a position because you’ve never done anything like it before—we have lots of people to help you and teach you the ropes!

On that note, I will close by saying I hope to see all of you at our January meeting for the discussion on the book “Half the Sky”. Happy 2011!

--Helen Martin

### **AAUW January Meeting**

Start the New Year with a fresh look at a global problem that strikes at the heart of the AAUW mission.

We will be reading *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Our national organization has chosen this book as part of the global theme of “Our Sister’s Keeper”. The Johnstown Library has many copies or you can buy it at our local book store, Mysteries on Main Street, or through the AAUW website portal.

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

If you do not have time to read the book, please take 20 minutes to watch the TED presentation by WuDunn at [www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/09/05/wudunn.women.oppression/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/09/05/wudunn.women.oppression/index.html)?

We will meet downstairs at the Johnstown Library on January 19, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. It will be a dessert meeting and the community is invited; bring a friend. Bring a dessert to share or pay \$5. A flyer will be sent in early January. Have a wonderful holiday season!

--Carol Cownie &  
Maryanne Abad

### **My Sister's Keeper**

by Natasha Josefowitz

I am my sister's keeper.  
We are in this together.  
Not to win  
Not to compete  
Not to conquer  
But to educate  
To nurture  
To help.

We are each other's keeper.  
Let us celebrate  
The power within us all  
To make the difference  
To change the world!

### **Our Festive December Meeting**

The December meeting was well attended and everyone enjoyed the Union Hall Brunch, the cookie raffle, and the entertainment by the Bobcats. We collected lots of food and money for the local food bank. January 19 should prove to be a compelling meeting at the Johnstown Public Library, and hopefully you will all dig into your heritage to come up with lots of yummy international desserts to share. I hope that lots

of you will be able to attend. On February 8, we will have a 'get out of the winter doldrums' meeting at the new YMCA and will have at least two choices of exercise available. At this meeting, we will be trying to come up with healthy hors d'oeuvres. So get your thinking hats on. Also, if you have not picked up your membership booklet, they will be available at the January meeting. See you soon. --Sandy Maceyka

### **New Branch Member**

We have a new branch member, Jennifer Shaad-Derby. Jennifer lives in Mayfield. She is retired after 34 years of teaching elementary education in Mayfield. She received a BS from SUNY Oswego where she majored in elementary education and music. She and husband Bill have two daughters, Sierra who is a junior at Hartwick College and Margo who is a junior at Mayfield High School. Jennifer enjoys travel, volunteer work, gardening, and music. She is a parent member of the Mayfield Youth Group that participates in community service within the United States and Guatemala. She is also an usher at Proctors Theatre and retired volunteer of the Mayfield PTA. She recently visited the King Tut Exhibit in NYC twice, once with daughter Sierra who has been to Egypt. Jennifer was recruited by Linda Zilka and attended our September meeting. We look forward to welcoming Jennifer at our January meeting! --Liz Russo

**Volunteers Needed!**

At the recent NYS Board Meeting, I volunteered (in a moment of weakness!) to stuff and mail the convention packets in January. Just wondered if any of you would like to help?! Shouldn't take too long -- they will be sending me all of the materials shortly. If anyone would like to help, please let me know. I'll provide the snacks! Thanks so much,  
Helen

### **Fundraisers**

Since doing the Antique Show in 2008 we have been fortunate to be able to hold on to quite a bit of the proceeds. But, before those funds are depleted, we really need to think about some new fundraising ideas to keep the coffers full. Do any of you have any thoughts on new kinds of fundraisers we might want to try--a book sale, spaghetti dinner--anything at all? Put those thinking caps on and see what you can come up with! --Helen

### **Board Meeting**

Our next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1 at the Johnstown Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars to attend, or submit any requests or comments about the budget prior to February 1. If you email anything, please be sure to send it to both Barb Nigro and me. Thank you,  
Helen

### **Literacy Volunteers**

In late November I received a call from a gentleman associated with Literacy Volunteers who would like to address our group with the hope of recruiting some volunteers to help with the program. Before I tell him yes or

no, I would like to know if there is any interest. We are fortunate to have so much talent in our membership, but I know everyone has priorities in their lives, and I would like to know whether you would like to hear his presentation.

--Helen

### **ECS Hometown Association Book Discussion**

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association is starting a book discussion group that will be discussing "80 Years and More," ECS's biography. The book will be divided into sections with a group of pages being discussed each month—the first will be pages 1-50. There will also be a speaker at each meeting—the first speaker will be Noel Levee, Johnstown City Historian. The discussions will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Johnstown. The first book discussion is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12 at 7 p.m. They will meet monthly with the exception of June and July.

Attendance is open to anyone who has an interest. Please contact Nancy Brown at [nbrown2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nbrown2@nycap.rr.com) if you are interested. --Helen

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Wednesday, January 19** – Book Discussion: *Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn at the Johnstown Public Library's Community Room, 5:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 1** – Board meeting at the Johnstown Public Library at 5:30 p.m.

**April 15-17** - AAUW NYS 2011 Convention will be held at the Glen Cove Mansion on Long Island.



# AAUW

Amsterdam \* Gloversville \* Johnstown

January Meeting

At the Johnstown Public Library

January 19, 5:30 p.m.

Dessert Meeting    Bring a Friend

Book Discussion: *Half the Sky*

By Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

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RSVP to Carol Cownie by January 16; send form below,  
Check payable to AAUW to

**Carol Cownie**  
**232 N Main Street**  
**Broadalbin, NY 12025**

Bring a dessert or pay \$5.



Name:

Payment:

Dessert: