



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

October & November

Branch Officers:

President

Helen Martin

Vice President - Program

Sandy Maceyka

Vice President - Membership

Phyllis Nicoletta

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

Well, whether we're ready for it or not it looks like Fall is upon us complete with the changing of the leaves, pumpkins, and cooler temperatures. I hope all of you have time to enjoy the season even though I'm sure that all of you suffer from the same problem I do – too many things going on competing with too many things to do to get ready for winter!

I want to thank all of you for your gracious welcome to our September speaker, Wally Funk. I hope you all enjoyed having her speak as much as I enjoyed having her in our area for five days. She kept Russ & I hopping, that's for sure! If you didn't buy a book that evening and would like one, I still have some that Wally autographed on the way to the airport!

Now we are on to the District IV Fall Conference that we are hosting. I hope that all of you will be able to attend if your schedule permits. Linda and Sandy have been working very hard to put this together, and I know it will be informational and fun at the same time. Plus, it will give us a chance to visit with those members from the other branches in our district. Let's leave them with a good impression of our A-G-J Branch by attending in force!

As I mentioned at the September meeting, we need your help! Linda Bumpus has stepped up to the plate (thank you Linda!) and offered to work with Sister to Sister but since she fully admits she doesn't do a lot on the computer, we still need someone to share the duties with her that can help her out in this department. Anne Campos has done a wonderful job, has everything so well organized and will be helping with the transition – thank you Anne – that the new volunteers should be able to pick up the reins easily. So if you are able to help with this very important program, please contact either Anne or I as soon as possible. If we are going to be able to offer this program next year, we have to get started soon.

Other areas where we need members to pitch in are Public Policy Chair since Michelle Aquaro has assumed the position of Assistant Treasurer and also Historian to succeed Ginni Mazur.

Please consider helping in one of these areas. It is always a good thing

for an organization when there is a "changing of the guard" so to speak. New leadership promotes new ideas and encourages different people to get involved with projects and committees. So, if you are able, please increase your participation by either chairing or working on a committee. Also, please remember that all members are not only welcome but are encouraged to attend the board meetings – whether it's to offer ideas, air a concern, or lodge a complaint. The board meeting dates will be emailed to everyone well in advance, so please let us hear from you!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference on the 23rd!

Best, Helen

Don't forget to sign up for our October meeting/District IV Fall Conference at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown.

*Includes a Guided tour of historic Johnstown by Nancy Baird Brown and a Silent Auction

Registration is 9 a.m.; Program runs from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

November Meeting "Maintain Your Brain"

Our November meeting will be Wednesday, November 10 at 6 p.m. at the Fireside Restaurant on Ext. Steele Avenue in Gloversville. Our guest speaker will be Karen Britt of the Alzheimer's Association. The program will feature information on Alzheimer's including nutritional and lifestyle advice, strategies to keep your memory sharp, interactive exercises,

and take home materials. Come and learn what you can do to keep your brain healthy and reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease. Read the attached flyer and send in your reservation today. —Anne Campos

Fulton and Montgomery Counties Chambers of Commerce

We have renewed our membership in both the Fulton County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for another year. This decision was based on the results of the vote taken during the summer.

Once again Gloria will be emailing the calendars for both Chambers as well as any special announcements that we receive. Please take advantage of the various events as a way to network and promote our branch. As members you are entitled to attend any of the events offered; just mention your membership when making your reservations. The Business After Hours, for example, are always a lot of fun and affords members the opportunity to visit businesses that they might not otherwise frequent. —Helen Martin

December Information

This year the December meeting will be at Union Hall on December 11 at 10:30 a.m. for brunch. The Bobcats will sing at 11:45 a.m. We will be collecting for the food bank which is in great need during these not so great times. You can bring food or make a monetary donation which is probably actually easier for everyone. The suggested amount is \$5. Please no food items in glass!

We had also decided to have a joint meeting with the other women's groups in honor of Elizabeth Cady Stanton (similar to the domestic violence shower), but were unable to get something going this fall before the holidays, so Dianne suggested doing it in May around Mother's Day and celebrate Mother's and Father's Day with the Golden Agers at the Infirmary in Gloversville, and on May 17 we will be doing that. So stay tuned. Meanwhile if you would like to bring some items at this time for their holiday or to be saved until May, we will

be happy to collect things. We are looking for costume jewelry necklaces, note paper AND stamps, or assorted cards AND stamps, lap blankets, lotions, large print books, knitting supplies, etc. So you can bring things now, wait until May, or bring things both times. Also, they would like people who could come to visit the residents or people who would be willing to perform for them. Just thought I could get your thoughts working in this direction for some of the elderly who are often forgotten.

—Sandy Maceyka

Looking Ahead--January

Our National AAUW is promoting the new book by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn called *Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. We will be using this book for discussion at our January 19 meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Johnstown Public Library's Community Room.

The old Chinese proverb states, "Women hold up half the sky." This book looks at the challenges and promise of educating millions of the world's girls and women. Though this book may be difficult to read in spots, its overall inspiration will stay with you for a long time.

To get a head start on the book, you may check out the website www.halftheskymovement.org. We will be asking the library to get extra copies in November or request a copy as a meaningful holiday gift from the AAUW portal or our local book store, Mysteries on Main Street.

Sheryl WuDunn gave an excellent (20 minute) overview of her book to a TED Global audience in July of this year. You can follow this link to reach the presentation and hopefully it will still be available. Go to www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/09/05/wudunn.women.oppression/index.html?hpt=C2

We hope you join us in January for a lively and inspirational book discussion.

--Carol Cownie and Maryanne Abad

New Members Recruited

As a result of the Member-Get-a-Member recruitment program, our members referred over thirty prospective member names to Phyllis Nicolella. Of those, eighteen attended the September Shape the Future Membership meeting and thirteen joined our branch. Included in those thirteen are four who are returning after a lapse of one or more years and one student affiliate. Thank you to Phyllis for organizing the meeting at Lanzi's on the Lake and contacting all those prospective members. It was certainly a successful venture. —Liz Russo

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following new AAUW members: Stephanie Alam, Madina Alam, Jahnn Gibson, Audrey T. Laird, Karen Palmer, Bernadette Pecora, Ella Ryder, Mary Cole Sales, Jaydene Scofield, Jane Smith, Peg Snyder, Patsy Suydam, and Rebecca Weiderman.

New Member Biographies

Jahnn Gibson, a Johnstown resident was recruited by Helen Martin. Jahnn (pronounced Jane) earned an AAS in nursing from Adirondack Community College and a BA in psychology from SUNY Plattsburgh. She is a retired psychiatric RN. She is a member of the Clio and Eclectic study clubs, and the Mayfield Yacht Club. In addition, she served as past president of the Johnstown Historical Society.

Madina Alam was our 2010 high school scholarship winner. She and her mother Stephanie Alam were invited to be our guests at our September meeting to hear Wally Funk speak. Both attended and both joined! Madina graduated from Johnstown High School and is a student at FMCC studying psychology. Madina stated that after winning the essay contest scholarship award, she strongly believes in women's equality. She said she was encouraged to join AAUW by Mrs. Martin and Mrs Russo. She joined our branch as a student affiliate.

Stephanie Alam, Madina's mother, received an AA from FMCC, and a BA and MS from SUNY at Albany. She is currently a teacher. She was recruited to join our AAUW branch by Liz Russo and stated that she joined our branch because she desires the affiliation with other educated women and believes in what the organization stands for.

Bernadette Pecora lives in Gloversville and is a science teacher at St. Mary's in Amsterdam. She learned about AAUW when she brought her students to our branch's Sister to Sister Summit.

She attended Montclair State University and City University of NY, NY University. She earned a BA and MS in education. She volunteers with Catholic Charities, and in her leisure time enjoys golfing and reading. She joined our branch to network and for leadership training.

Mary Cole Sales earned a BS in sociology and social service from Tusculum College. She also earned her contractors license in 2003. She lives in Gloversville and is in the construction business. In her spare time she enjoys walking and jogging. Her sister, Bernadette Pecora who also joined, invited Mary to attend our September meeting. Mary joined in part due to our "excellent first meeting with Wally Funk"!

Jaydene Scofield lives in Sprakers. She was one of the docents who gave our branch members a tour of the Arkell Museum at our June meeting in Canajoharie. She was encouraged to join our AAUW branch by Sandra Maceyka. She joined because she is interested in promoting education for females. She attended SUNY at Albany and St. Rose and holds a BA degree. Jaydene is a home-schooling parent and owns an equine message business. In addition to serving as a docent at Arkell Museum, she spends her leisure time at church activities, running, reading, and knitting.

Patsy Suydam, originally a Northville resident, has now returned to the area after retiring as an I.T. professional.

She was a member of AAUW in other locations including Alabama "years ago." She now resides in Johnstown and was encouraged to come back to AAUW by member Beth Connelie while both were participating in the Women's Division of the Johnstown Memorial Day Parade. Patsy attended Lasell College and U of Alabama and received AA, BA, and BS degrees. She is a member of the E C S Home-town Association, Soroptimists, and is on the marketing committee of the Pine Brook Golf Club. She enjoys golfing and working on computer graphics projects. Patsy joined because she likes the programs AAUW offers, and she is anxious to offer her computer skills to our branch!

Karen Palmateer holds an AAS in Animal Husbandry from SUNY Cobleskill and a BS in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Phoenix. She lives in the Town of Johnstown where she serves as the Town Justice. She is also a herdsper-son. She enjoys reading in her leisure time. Karen learned about AAUW from Linda Hammond as they both were BPW members.

Rebecca Weiderman was recruited by her mom, Bonnie Van Wie. Rebecca who lives in Johnstown attended SUNY Binghamton and SUNY Albany. She earned an AA, BA, and a Masters in Social Work. She is currently a counselor for CFC Addiction Services. Rebecca is a tri-athlete. When she is not running, bicycling, and swimming, she also enjoys spending time with her two children and reading. She joined AAUW to advocate for women.

Welcome Back to Our Branch

Ella Ryder is returning to our branch after a year break. She lives in Mayfield and holds an AAS in Accounting and an AAS in Business in Administration from FMCC. She works as a technician for the state of New York. She is a volunteer with the Nathan Littauer Hospital Auxiliary. In her leisure time she enjoys walking, reading, spending time with family, and especially swimming at Northampton

Beach. She was recruited by Liz Russo.

Peg Snyder, a Mayfield resident, was a past member of our branch. She holds a BS from SUNY at Plattsburgh. She is currently an elementary teacher. In her spare time she enjoys Tole painting; in fact, she has graciously donated one of her paintings for our LAF-EF Auction that will be held at the District IV Conference Oct 23. Peg was encouraged to rejoin AAUW by friends in the branch including Linda Zilka.

Jane L. Smith is also a past member of our branch and at one time served as president and corresponding secretary. Although her life had not allowed her the time to be an active branch member recently, she has been a Life Member at Large of AAUW for over 20 years. Now that she is a retired from being a school psychologist, we are pleased that she has rejoined our branch to become reconnected! Jane lives in Johnstown and was recruited by Nancy Reynolds.

Audrey T. Laird who lives in Gloversville was also a past member of our branch years ago. She attended SUNY at Oneonta and SUNY at Albany and earned Bachelors and Masters Degrees plus 36 hours. She is currently a retired elementary teacher. She volunteers with the Fremont Foot-hills United Methodist Church and in her leisure time enjoys reading, making wreaths, decorating, and painting. She has rejoined AAUW because she wants more opportunities for girls in sports and jobs. Ginni Mazur encouraged Audrey to become a member again.

Street Harassment

You know that under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it is illegal to make unwelcome sexually explicit or sexist remarks in the workplace. But did you know that in 2010 it is NOT illegal to do so in public places?

Sexual harassment in public is known as Street Harassment. It is done to make women feel uncomfortable and let them know they are not welcome there. Street harassment can

be anything from leering, whistling, honking, making sexist remarks, or following someone to perform illegal acts.

Several studies have been done which have proven that this is widespread and many women have experienced this form of harassment. Because this is happening, women tend to be more wary of some public places than men. Think of it this way. Do you assess your surroundings when alone in a public place? Are there places you would not go alone? Do you park your car in certain locations and not in others when returning to it at night? Do you have your keys in hand when returning to your car parked in a public place? Have you ever skipped attending a class or pres-

entation because you don't feel safe traveling alone at night?

While many of these actions seem to be practicing safe habits, do men do the same? LAF program manager thinks not. She has written a book *Stop Street Harassment: Making Public Places Safe and Welcoming for Women* available at

www.bn.com/aauw. Also you can find more information on this subject at www.stopstreetharassment.com.

--Ginni Mazur
LAF VP

Public Policy

Let me remind all members to check the AAUW Congressional Voting Record on the AAUW.org website. You will find out how our incumbents voted on issues important to AAUW.

While you are there, make your voice heard by our Members of Congress on two pending pieces of legislation. High School Athletics Accountability Act (HHR 2882) and High School Sports Information Collection Act (S 471) are currently up for vote. These bills will help enforce Title IX requirements on the high school level. The bills would make participation rates and expenditures for high school athletes available to the public. Such information is required of colleges presently, and if this information was available from high schools, the community could help enforce equality in school sports. --Michele Acquaro

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 16 & Sunday, October 17 – Johnstown Historical Society Antiques Show and Sale—see flyer on right.

Wednesday, October 20 – Sister to Sister meeting at the Johnstown Public Library at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 23 – Our October meeting/District IV Fall Conference at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown.

*Includes a Guided tour of historic Johnstown by Nancy Baird Brown and a Silent Auction

Registration is 9 a.m.; Program runs from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Monday, November 1 – Didn't renew your membership? This is the deadline for future AAUW mailings; please sign up today. Complete the form on Page 5 and mail it with your \$70 dues to Barb Nigro.

Wednesday, November 10 – "Maintain Your Brain" 6 p.m. at the Fireside Restaurant on Ext. Steele Avenue in Gloversville. Guest speaker: Karen Britt of the Alzheimer's Association.

Saturday, December 11 – Holiday Brunch at Union Hall at 10:30 a.m. The Bobcats will sing at 11:45 a.m. Collection for the food bank

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

Johnstown Historical Society

Presents the **9th Annual Antiques Show & Sale**

Sat. Oct. 16th 2010 from 10 AM until 4 PM

Sun. Oct. 17th 2010 from 11 AM until 3PM

Johnstown Community Ctr & Sr Ctr., Johnstown, NY

From rt 30A (S. Comrie Ave) Turn West to Main St, 3rd block on right is entrance to Shirley Luck Senior Center – just past the light at Chase St.

- from Amsterdam: rte67 to J'town ,right on 30A, left onto Main St, & follow directions above.
- from North & Gloversville: 30 to 30A & follow directions above
- from Fonda: rte 30A to Johnstown & follow directions above
- **from Saratoga, rte29 to south rte30A & follow directions above**

Food & Drinks Available - More Info – 736-5130

Admission \$3.50 ... with this ad \$3.00

762-7638

AMSTERDAM-GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN AAUW
2010-2011 Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____

*****PLEASE NOTE ANY CHANGES AND COMPLETE THE PAGE BELOW*****

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Institution(s), Degree(s), and year(s) of graduation:

Email Address: _____

Please Check One of the Following:

_____ I have enclosed \$_____ ** dues after June 1, 2010. **(\$70)

(*Subject to revision re AAUW National and State assessments.)

_____ I have enclosed \$_____ * for dues as a Life Member.

(*To become a life member one pays 20 times the current national dues plus the current yearly state and local dues yearly)

_____ 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): _____

@@

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please indicate by putting an X by the name of that committee. Committee descriptions are available from membership chairperson.

- ___ Program ___ Community Outreach ___ Finance ___ Membership ___ Historical
___ Nominating ___ Cultural ___ Public Policy ___ International Issues ___ Diversity
___ Educational Equity/Scholarship ___ LAF - Legal Advocacy Fund ___ Sister to Sister

***Make your check payable to AAUW and send this form along with your check to:

Barb Nigro
484 Co. Hwy. 122
Gloversville, NY 12078

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.



DISTRICT IV MEETING

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Holiday Inn

Route 29A, Johnstown, NY 12095

- * Registration starts at 9:00 AM
- * Program runs from 9:30 AM until 2 PM
- * Theme: *"Span of Life Opportunities for Improving Lives of Women & Girls"*
- * ALSO INCLUDED: Guided tour of historic Johnstown by Nancy Baird Brown
AND Silent Auction!!!

Keynote Panel:

- Cindy Rivera, Community Relations Specialist,
Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York
- Jean Karutis, Director, TRIO/Bridge Programs
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
- Kaye Schrader, OT, PT Speech & Early Intervention Coordinator
Lexington Center
- Sue Cridland, HealthLink, Community Education on Women Issues

COSTS: \$25 (includes continental breakfast, hot/cold buffet)

Reservations: Due by October 10, 2010

Please send a check made payable to AAUW to:
Linda Hammond
11 South Clark Avenue
Gloversville, NY 12078

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REGISTRATION FORM – Detach and mail with payment.

Name: _____

Branch: _____ Branch Position: Officer Member Guest

Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ Email: _____

Participating in Tour? Yes No

MAINTAIN YOUR BRAIN

Wednesday November 10 - 6:00 p.m.

Fireside Restaurant

Ext. Steele Avenue, Gloversville

\$17 - Buffet Dinner

Speaker: Karen Britt - Alzheimer's Association
Information, handouts, goodies to help us learn about
what we can do to keep our brain healthy and reduce
the risk of Alzheimer's

Reserve by: November 5

Make check to: AAUW

Send check to: Anne Campos

211 W. Montgomery St.

Johnstown, NY 12095