

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

September

Branch Officers:

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Helen Martin

Vice President - Program

Sandy Maceyka

Vice President - Membership

Phyllis Nicolella

Vice President – Ed Foundation

Kaye Schrader

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Ginni Mazur

Treasurer - Barbara Nigro

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President's Message

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone has enjoyed this wonderful summer that we're having. I'm a hot weather person so this has suited me perfectly! Still time for summer fun before we move into autumn, so enjoy!

Our summer planning meeting at Sandy Maceyka's house went well, and the coming year promises to be full of interesting programs. Some new ideas were proposed that I am sure you will all enjoy.

Thanks to Phyllis Nicolella and Sandy Maceyka for attending the Summer Conference in Cazenovia. As our new Membership VP, Phyllis took full advantage of her time to meet with others in the same capacity and came back with lots of information that she will be sharing with all of us over the next few months. Thank you ladies!

I was asked by Eileen Hartmann and have accepted the position of Cultural Interests Director on the State Board. I will be taking over from Joan Monk who has held that post for some time now – big shoes to fill, but I am looking forward to my new duties. I will be looking to all of you for ideas and input on program ideas that can be shared with the entire AAUW membership.

Linda Hammond is chairing the AAUW District IV Fall Conference that our branch is hosting. The Conference will be held on Saturday, October 23 at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown. This will also serve as our October meeting, so I look forward to seeing our branch well represented. Linda will be sharing the plans for the meeting with all of us, so stay tuned!

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and I look forward to seeing you all at our September 13 meeting at Lanzi's on the Lake!

Best,
Helen

Our September 13 Meeting!

Wally Funk

From Women Aviators

Wally Funk is a human dynamo.

Her contributions to aviation have earned her countless honors and praise as a trailblazer. As a professional flight instructor and goodwill flying ambassador, her place in history is



inevitable. She is simply indefatigable and her presence indelible. Flying professionally since the age of twenty, Wally has accumulated over 18,500 hours of flying time. Her role as a professional flight instructor is equally impressive. To date, she has soloed over 1,000 students and put through thousands of Private, Commercial, Multi-Engine, Seaplane, Glider, Instrument, CFI and Air Transport pilots.

Women in Space

In 1961, Wally volunteered for the Women in Space program with aspirations of becoming an astronaut. Her dream coincided perfectly with America's hope for launching the first woman into space. Twenty-five women were selected to undergo a series of grueling physical and mental tests. The tests were conducted in three phases and included swallowing three feet of rubber hose, drinking a pint of radioactive water, enduring sensory deprivation conditions in an isolation tank (Wally spent a record 10 hours and 35 minutes in the tank without hallucinating, but admits to sneaking a few naps!), passing the altitude chamber and seat ejection tests.

Not only did Wally pass the tests, becoming one of 13 qualified candidates (now known as the Mercury 13), she rated third among her group and scored higher than astronaut John Glenn. Hours before the women were to undergo the final round of testing, NASA refused to authorize the completion of the tests, fearing such an

action might be construed as approval of female astronauts. Amid brewing controversy and charges of sexual discrimination, the Mercury 13 program ended abruptly and without explanation.

Flying Tour

Wally remained optimistic and forged ahead. She undertook an extensive three-year goodwill flying tour, traveling over 80,000 miles to Russia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. After returning to the U.S., Wally received the FAA Gold Seal as a Flight Instructor. In 1971 she was the first woman to complete the FAA General Aviation Operations Inspector Academy course. Four years later she became the National Transportation Safety Board's first female Air Safety Investigator. As a strong proponent of safety, Wally continues to share her expertise through seminars and lectures all over the world. She has traveled with special delegations to India and China to exchange ideas and information relating to aviation. She has been preparing for a trip into space in with Space Adventures, fulfilling a lifelong dream.

Throughout her career, Wally has drawn upon an image from home to rekindle her spirit: the majestic Taos Mountain in New Mexico. Its uncompromising strength and integrity represent endurance, peace and ultimately, freedom. Wally is a genuine soul whose boundless energy originates from the purest wellspring on earth: love.

Documentaries

She was one of 226 women interviewed for the documentary, *Wings of Their Own*, (2004) produced by Mary Scott and Abby Dress



Wally Funk

womenaviators.org

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And Kagan Makes Three...

Now that the US Senate has confirmed that Elena Kagan will serve on the Supreme Court, for the first time in history three women will serve together on our highest court. This is indeed an important milestone in our journey toward equal rights for women.
—Liz Russo

First Women's Equality Day Established in 1971

To ensure that the nation would remember and celebrate the 72-year long, non-violent Women Suffrage campaign that won US women's right to vote, Congresswoman Bella Abzug successfully championed a Congressional Resolution in 1971 which established the first "Women's Equality Day." August 26 was chosen since that is the day that the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified finally giving women in the US the right to vote.
—Liz Russo

Women of Influence Luncheon

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Home-town Association is hosting the Women of Influence Luncheon on Thursday, August 26 in honor of Women's Equality Day. The luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown from 12-2 p.m. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

Other events that day include a trolley tour of historic locations and a presentation of the film *Iron Jawed Angels* at the Glove Theater that evening.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call Debra Kolsrud at 848-3552. If you plan on attending, let Debra know that you are a member of AAUW as she is trying to seat people together if possible.
—Helen

Women's Equality Day in the Park Celebration

Come and take part in the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote! The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium with all of their member organizations taking part is sponsoring this event.

Where: Downtown Johnstown
— by the Band Shell

When: Friday – August 27

Time: 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Period attire (black skirts, white blouses and your purple "Herstory" sashes) is encouraged – hats are optional!

There will be an ice cream social and special concert by the Bobcats (along with the Suffrage Singers!)

Our AAUW Branch will have a table set up in the park with information about the branch and other goodies.

If you would like to help man the AAUW table, pass out song sheets to the audience, scoop ice cream, bake a cake – ANYTHING AT ALL! – please let me know. Or just come to the park and we will gladly find a job for you to do!

Many thanks to AAUW members Liz Russo, Linda Hammond, Sandy Maceyka, and Bonnie Van Wie for all of their help in organizing this event.

If you would like more information, please feel free to call either Liz or myself!
--Helen Martin



Public Policy

The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform will be reviewing Social Security benefits as part of the expense cutting procedure in government. As we know, women are especially vulnerable if the government decides to cut Social Security benefits or raises the retirement age. Social Security does not add to the budget deficit nor would cutting benefits reduce the deficit. Let's keep Social Security separate and safe. Take action through aauw.org. Compose an email message (they help) and contact the commission today.

--Michele Acquaro

JOHNSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY/DAR ANNUAL DINNER

I know that Wally Funk is scheduled to be our keynote speaker at our September 13 dinner, but if any of you would like to see Wally twice, she will also be the keynote speaker at the Johnstown Historical Society/DAR annual dinner on Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown. Several members from the Ninety-Nines, the women's aviation organization, will be attending the meeting as well.

Please call or email me for information and/or a reservation form.

--Helen Martin

Summer Planning Conference

A full agenda awaited Sandy and me when we arrived July 9, 2010, on the beautiful campus of Cazenovia College. Everything was in place for a quick and easy settling-in before our first appointment for dinner, a yummy and a generous buffet from soup to desserts.

Our first evening consisted of a welcome from the President of Cazenovia College emphasizing the women graduates who made a difference. Our first presenter was Ginny Donahue, founder of **On Point for College** in 1999. With a corporate career background, she was able to develop a successful, beginning from the trunk of her car, program educating inner-city youth who either have no parent in the picture, homeless or in foster care, etc. It has since attracted volunteers and donors and, to date, 1,748 students have gone to 170 colleges/universities.

A social gathering followed with numerous ice cream choices available--a great opportunity to meet other branch state-wide members.

July 10, a full day, as I was soon to find out, of interesting and informative presentations. The variety of areas covered in various countries by the founders, some AAUW members, of these programs, were remarkable. The programs were: **Beads** founded by Debby Rooney started in 1993. Making beaded jewelry has provided scholarships, business development, and conservation for African women. Education puts these women in a position to make choices for her own life. **Stress starts with Self Love** founded

in 2001 by Maria Pascucci who is a national college speaker who specializes in teaching rising female student leaders about Lead-HER-ship and campus calm. Other presentations related to AAUW projects: **Public Policy presentation on Voter Education** by Lecia Imbery promoting AAUW's support for the upcoming election. **Keys to Corporate Communications** by Tamara Brown promoting the breaking of barriers for women and girls, and **Communications presentations** by AAUW NYS Board Members.

Again a social gathering was arranged with the movie *Complicated* followed by snacks and drinks.

July 11, a half day, again crammed. First was a choice among **My Sister's Keeper, Convention Planning, or Computer Lab Tutorials** presented by AAUW program heads. Then the focus was on **EF and LAF updates, AAUW NYS Educational Fund, AAUW NYS Legal Advocacy Fund, and Micro-financing and the Future of Women.**

The breaks and meal times catered to every appetite preference, all professionally prepared and presented. All activities, events, and presentations lent to a rewarding weekend.

--Phyllis Nicolella



AAUW Summer Leadership Conference
Phyllis, Nancy Mion, and Sandy

The summer planning conference at Cazenovia College in July was a great experience. The speakers and food were great.... Living in a dorm again left something to be desired. One lady asked in the morning joint bathroom bit if the rooms had always been that small, but they were air-conditioned albeit up a few flights! There was a lot going on. I have focused on a couple of speakers whom I felt were doing important work.

One of the speakers, Ginny Donahue from Syracuse, had started a program called **OnPoint for College**. One of her kids had come home one day with a friend who had no knowledge

or background to go to college and said to her Mom, please help. Ginny left her corporate career in 1999 and now the program has helped more than 1700 students go on to 170 different colleges. With the help of 140 volunteers and mentors, **OnPoint** supplies the students with what they need to be successful. Counselors are available 16 hours per day, 7 days/week. Students are given rides to colleges for interviews and pre-registration. They are helped with their applications; they are tutored, given college supplies, books, helped with life decisions. **OnPoint** is opening the often daunting door to higher education for inner city youth, breaking down the barriers that hinder students from entering college, and providing the support that empowers them to succeed. What a fantastic program started by one woman to change Syracuse degree by degree. It was so moving that I was wondering if we might sponsor even one student in our community who might otherwise not make it through school. ??? I have some literature if anyone is interested.

Another presentation was by Debby Rooney, who with a friend started a program called **Beads for Education** to educate girls in Kenya. You can "adopt a girl" and pay about \$400/year to help a girl go to school. You can do it for one year or multiple years. A younger child will write to you and send her grades, etc. to you, or you can do this for an older child who may have lost her sponsor. Girls in Kenya usually have no chance for an education. I also have more info on this program, if anyone is interested and contact info for Debby. You can just send a donation or pair up with someone to sponsor. What a worthwhile program!

We also heard Maria Pascucci talk about stress on young people and how to handle it. College is just one chapter in life; grades are merely a sentence in that chapter. Obsessing over being perfect and doing everything perfectly makes one lose sight of what is really important. She wrote a book called *Campus Calm University* and is traveling on the lecture circuit spreading a dose of campus calm to stressed-out students worldwide. She was writ-

ten up in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and has a website: www.campuscalm.com. I have her book if you would like to borrow it.
–Sandy Maceyka

Math & Science Awards

Recently, AAUW presented fifteen local, eighth grade girls with an Excellence in Mathematics and Science Award. Administrators and school counselors from the local schools assisted AAUW Chairwomen Marie Wojeski and Linda Zilka in the selection of the recipients.

The criterion for the award was excellence in mathematics and science, the students' genuine interest in these subject areas, and their likelihood to pursue a career in these fields. Each recipient received a certificate of recognition, pen, and scientific calculator. The winners and their respective schools are:

Amsterdam – Rebekah Izzo
Broadalbin-Perth – Emily Spraggs
Canajoharie – Shelby Mead
Fonda-Fultonville – Jeananna Warner
Fort Plain – Dorian Oeser
Gloversville – Hannah Gillis
Johnstown – Saisree Cherukumalli
Lake Pleasant – Jessica Rhodes
Mayfield – Sarah Montgomery
Northville – Veronica Arceri
Oppenheim-Ephratah – Breanna Dunn
St. Johnsville – Jessica Senft
St. Mary's Institute – Maxine Mary Petrosino
Wells – Emilie Belyea
Wheelerville – Courtney Ivancic

AAUW Literary Award presented to Madina Alam

Johnstown High School graduate Madina Alam was the winner of this year's essay contest. High school seniors from Fulton, Montgomery and Hamilton Counties who planned to pursue a 2 or 4 year college degree were eligible to compete. The \$300 scholarship is given annually in memory of former Johnstown English teacher and 50 year AAUW member Dorothy Anderson Wemple.

Students applying were required to write a three to five hundred word essay on the topic "If Not Now, When?" Scholarship applicants were asked to discuss why they feel the

United States has not as yet elected a woman as Head of State as well as what they think it will take to elect the first woman President of the United States.

In her winning essay, Alam included that when she was younger she had dreamed of becoming the first woman president although her older brother had told her that there would definitely be a woman president by the time she was old enough to run. Alam expressed that she feels stereotypes have kept women from being elected. She also feels that a woman need to start standing up for herself and not be satisfied with the way things are now just because "We have come so far already."

While at JHS, Alam was a member of the National Honor Society and maintained a 90 average. She received Most Dedicated Player for Soccer, Most Valuable Player for Track, and was chosen as Student Athlete of the Year. She was also active in the International and French Clubs, served on the student council, and was elected as secretary of the JHS Class of 1020. Alam will attend FMCC this fall to study psychology. She is the daughter of Stephanie and Samsul Alam.

Madina and her mom, Stephanie, will be joining our branch for dinner on September 13. We look forward to meeting them and hope they will both consider joining AAUW.

Rosemary Leo-Pappas served as chair for the AAUW Literary Award.
–Liz Russo

FMCC Graduate, Regan Jobin, Awarded Scholarship

Regan Jobin 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. Regan was a guest at our June meeting at the Arkell Museum and Galleries in Canajoharie. At that time, she was presented with an AAUW membership for the 2010-

2011 year as part of the award. She has been accepted into the School of Social Welfare at SUNY Albany where she will be one of 40 students in the 3-year accelerated program which will lead to a master's degree.

Ellie Fosmire and Terry Conaway served on the FMCC award committee.
–Liz Russo

History is The Name of The Game

We all know the importance of history in our lives. AAUW is also concerned with history – our branch history. Each year of our existence is documented in a scrapbook and I need your help. If you see any articles about AAUW or articles that include AAUW members, they should be part of our yearbook. Please cut and save them and pass them along to me. I really appreciate your help in creating our branch's history.
--Ginni Mazur

There will be an AAUW board meeting on Tuesday, August 24 at 5:30 at the Johnstown Public Library in the downstairs conference room.

Thanks, Helen

WANTED!

Not related to AAUW, but I'm hoping some of you can help! I am looking for old photos of Johnstown women – any occupations, although I would love some of women in uniform or women in business. I would like to use these in the new display at the Johnstown Historical Society, "History of the Women of Johnstown". The photos can be from any time period. I will make digital photos of them and return them. I am hoping for a grand opening of the display in mid-September, so if you have any photos you would like to share, please call me!
--Helen Martin

Don't Fill That Landfill

Here's a great Community Outreach project. Are you a teacher and are you watching all of that good "stuff" being thrown out by students at the end of the school year? It's too much trouble for them to take it home or give it away.

Check out my nephew's website:

www.Greenseedsupplies.com

See how Mitchell Nellis and a group of volunteers over the last five years have collected gently used (or never opened) school supplies in the Rochester area and distributed them back to the schools that need to hand out free supplies. Ask him questions.

In 2009, they collected:

2550 3-ring binders

1125 spiral notebooks

17 boxes of lined paper

1800 folders

130 bottles of glue

and boxes of pens, pencils,
markers, crayons, etc.

What is being thrown out at your local school? Who will be wishing they had some supplies to start school with, but they don't have the money to buy them?
--Sandy Lane

Forget to Pay Your Dues?

Please fill out the 2010-11 Renewal Form found on Page 6 of this newsletter and hand in with a check for \$70 to join as a renewing member. Copies of the form will be available at the September meeting, or you can download and complete the form at home. The people who have already joined will need to complete a form if they have not done so. It is crucial that we have accurate mailing addresses, current email addresses, and committees of interest for all AAUW members. I will have tax forms at the meetings, and they can be picked up after I get a completed 2010-2011 Renewal Form. This will help save us some postage.

Thanks....Treasurer...Barb Nigro

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 24

Organizational Board meeting at
Johnstown Public Library
5:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 26

Women's Equality Day Luncheon
Johnstown Holiday Inn
12-2 p.m.

Friday, August 27

Women's Equality Day in the Park
Celebration, 5:30-8 p.m.
Near the Johnstown Band Shell

Saturday, September 11, Wally Funk, female pilot/astronaut-Mercury 13 will be presenting at the Holiday Inn. This event is sponsored by the Johnstown Historical Society and the DAR.

**Monday, September 13, will be our membership meeting at Lanzi's on the Lake with a presentation from a female pilot/astronaut Wally Funk.
6:00 p.m. Registration and appetizers
6:30 p.m. Dinner and program**

Thursday, September 30 - Flame will be at the Johnstown High School.

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

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 \$ _____ * for dues before June 1, 2010. *(\$ 64)

_____ 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.

