

October—November 2017

Upstate Update

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown AAUW
<http://agj-ny.aauw.net/>



AGJ AAUW CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 2, 2017

Hales Mills Country Club
146 Steele Road, Route 29, Johnstown

12 Noon

Flyer - Page 6 of Newsletter

RSVP by Nov 29th to Bonnie VanWie
518-762-9377 or 518-332-6857

Collecting items
for adopted family

Empowering Women and Girls Since 1881

*"Learn from mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself."
Eleanor Roosevelt*

Century Club Festival of Trees December 4 (11am-2pm) in Amsterdam

For the past several years members our branch members and friends have enjoyed visiting the Festival of Trees at the Century Club in Amsterdam in December as an extra activity. The Century Club is decorated for the season with Christmas Trees donated by the community. There is a chance to vote on your favorite and perhaps even bid on one to take home.

Musical entertainment provides a festive atmosphere and there is a gift shop for purchasing presents as well. A light lunch of soup, sandwich, beverage and dessert is served.

Cost for admission and lunch on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday is \$8 for groups of 10 or more. We have chosen Monday, December 4 to attend.

Please invite a friend and join us for this tradition. We will be supporting a fellow Women's Organization as well. Contact Liz Russo to make reservations and carpooling arrangements. [518-762-9702](tel:518-762-9702)

District IV Conference Attended by 4 A-G-J Members

Four members of our branch traveled to Poughkeepsie to the NYS AAUW District IV Conference on October 21. District IV includes, Adirondack, A-G-J, Schenectady, Poughkeepsie and Kingston branches. The conference provides a way for branches to exchange ideas and for members who might not attend the NYS Convention or summer Leadership conferences to meet each other and get a bigger picture of AAUW. "Moving Forward: Influencing the Future - How can AAUW members make their voices heard" was the theme of this year's District IV Conference.

The program for the day included opening remarks from Hudson River Housing about the repurposed Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory where the conference was held. It is an urban renewal project in the City of Poughkeepsie. The factory which formerly employed all women and provided tennis courts for their workers as well as including them in work place decisions. We learned that the Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory now includes housing, art studios and an industrial kitchen and provides internships and job training as well as a central meeting option for organizations such as AAUW. The new meeting area was furnished with large wooden tables made from old beams and small iron tables with bases from old sewing machines. The brick walls were exposed as well.

The first session was on Women's Health. The CEO of Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley spoke on the current status of women's access to affordable health care, the impact of defunding Planned Parenthood, and the slow erosion of protections to women's health. Stress was made on educating younger women who take for granted birth control access.

Women and Education was the second session. The latest information on the status of public schools, charter schools, vouchers and state potential State Constitutional Convention was presented by a speaker for NYSUT. She explained the upcoming vote November 7 on whether or not to have a NY State Constitutional Convention. Issues of concern regarding the Convention include the cost of \$80,000 per delegate for each year, protection of equal education for all, pension funds, and environmental concerns. It was explained that the NYS Constitution can be altered by amendments without a costly convention which could drag on and cost the tax payers of NY. Examples of such amendments were provided.

The final session was Women in Politics: Getting to 50% - Elect Her: How to support women candidates. The energetic panel was comprised of women from the Poughkeepsie area who are or were politically active and had run for office in the locally. Their experiences as women while campaigning or serving in office were eye opening. We collected names and contacts as potential speakers for our branch.

Linda Hammond graciously offered to drive attendees Ella Ryder, Nancy Peck and Liz Russo to the District IV Conference in Poughkeepsie after which the group visited the gardens of the FDR residence which was nearby to see roses still in bloom due the unusually warm weather.

Liz Russo

NYS AAUW DISTRICT IV MEETING — UNDERWEAR FACTORY, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY



CEO of Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley



Tables made from sewing machines used at the underwear factory.

Ella Ryder, Liz Russo, Roli Wendorf (NYS AAUW President), Nancy Peck, and Linda Hammond



Women In Politics Panel



Women and Education - NYSUT speaker

Franklin D Roosevelt Home

Liz Russo, Nancy Peck & Ella Ryder



THANK YOU!

I wish to thank those who elected me as Emerging Leader of the AAUW for this past year.

Luckily, I was able to attend the Friday events in Syracuse, as Sandy Maceyka was driving over and coming back the same day, since I had the Earth Day/Clean Energy Fair in Johnstown the next day and had to be there for that.

I had a nice time, and met many very nice women at the different events I attended. We were treated to a very nice tea, with the most excellent refreshments in the early afternoon. Then, we all walked down about a block and visited the Joslyn Gage House and Museum. This was really a hands-on museum, as opposed to the kind where you stand behind ropes to look at the exhibits and can't touch anything. We were encouraged to try on clothes from the Victorian Era, and the Hodenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy. I tried on a Victorian coat that fit me as if it were made for me. We were encouraged to play the piano and sit on the furniture. Several of the walls were covered in whiteboard and we were also encouraged to write our thoughts thereon. As Joslyn Gage was an abolitionist, as well as a worker for women's rights, in one room there was a telling display on the floor. The silhouettes of men lying, shoulder to shoulder on their backs were painted on the floor to represent the manner in which people were packed into the holds of the slave ships. This was most illuminating. One wonders how anyone survived this treatment. Later, we visited the Stickley Museum, which is located in the library on an upper floor. There were many pieces of original Stickley furniture on display, which was so interesting. The library, itself, was great. In one area, many oriental rugs were laid on the floor, with wonderful stuffed Stickley pieces arranged in conversation groups on top of the rugs. A young woman was curled up on a couch in a window with an afghan over her legs, reading, and a man was sitting in a chair by a fireplace with a book in hand. How inviting!

We finally went to the hotel, and had wonderful h'ors d'ouvres, and had a great time meeting lots of interesting women. Then, we received our yellow rose corsages, and went in to a nice dinner. The honorees were seated at a round table in front, and we all had a good time conversing with ladies from other places.

So again, thank you so much.

Jahnn Gibson

Jahnn Gibson has faithfully submitted a Letter to the Editor at our local newspapers and they have been published. This is a task that AAUW has asked of their members as a proactive measure for our causes. Many times our Letters to the Editor are done for a cause that is important to ourselves. Some letters don't take just but a few minutes to write. Many of the topics have information available on the National AAUW website to assist our writers. Jahnn is one of our members who is concerned with the environment and has done her homework in researching the facts. I apologize for not communicating these letters to our members. At the end of our newsletter, please take a few minutes to review the great work that Jahnn has done and continues to do. This is another example why Jahnn was selected as our Emerging Leader.

Linda Hammond

NEW MEMBERS

Paula Mroz is both a new member and a returning member. Paula received her Bachelor's Degree at Ithaca College, her Masters at College of St Rose, and Masters + 30 at MCLA. Paula has 2 children, Ashley 27 who attends the University of Texas, and Toria 25 who attends Clarkson. Paula volunteers at the YMCA, and is the Brass Director of the Mohawk Valley Chamber Ensemble. Paula is the Administrative Coordinator for Special Education at BOCES. She lives in Caroga Lake with her husband Randy.

New member, **Elizabeth Gundersen**, was the recipient of this years non-traditional \$1000 award. Elizabeth lives in Gloversville with her 25 year old son, one of her four children aged 23 to 31. Ms. Gundersen graduated from FMCC in 2017 with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. She anticipates continuing her online education to obtain a Bachelor's Degree at Empire State College, majoring in History and Asian Culture.

We have a new member: **Helen Seward** lives in Amsterdam. Helen graduated from SUNY at Albany and College of St. Rose. She has a BS Speech and Hearing, a MS Education Speech Pathology and a MS Ed Education-Learning Disability. She volunteers at Ladies of Charity, Century Club in Amsterdam and Friends of the Library. Helen was recruited by Mary In-sogna.

Looking Back on our 50th Anniversary Celebration and Reunion

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who made the event so special. To Nancy and Ella for getting our speaker, to Ella for the decorations and the photographer, to Nancy for making the cake and cupcakes, to Laurie for the slide show of remembrances and to Ginni for keeping all the archives so that Laurie could reference them. To Catherine who printed out the name tags, to Jen Garren who assisted with check in and the AAUW display for membership recruitment, to Darcelle who made our new AAUW tri-fold and to Pat Valachovic who contacted past members to invite them to attend. Also thanks to Mary Insogna for bringing two prospective members, Jessica George and Helen Seward. We hope they will decide to join our branch.

Letter from US Congresswomen Elise Stefanic

Although received too late to be read at the 50th Anniversary, we would like to acknowledge and thank our US Congresswomen Elise Stefanic who sent our presidents Ella and Nancy a letter of congratulations on the milestone of our branch. It will be framed and saved for the archives.

BOOK CLUB

January 11th

Book: *The Winona LaDuke Chronicles: Stories from the Front Lines in the Battle for Environmental Justice* by Professor Winona LaDuke

Chronicles is a collection of timely, persuasive, and inspiring stories of indigenous communities from the Canadian subarctic to the heart of the Navajo Nation. It is a collective account of Winona LaDuke's personal journey to recovery, beginning with her home burning down in 2008. It is also a story of strength and resilience — not just LaDuke's own, but that of all tribal and First Nations communities in the North American first world who struggle just to survive.

Place & Time—TBA

Contact: Paula Lerner 518-736-2449

February 1st

Book: *Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy* by Cheryl Sandberg & Adam Grant

When Option A is not available, how do you make the most of Option B? That's the question Sheryl Sandberg had to confront after her husband's unexpected death. Combining research and personal anecdotes, *Option B* not only explores Sandberg's loss, but a wide swath of hardships including job loss, sexual assault, war, sickness, and natural disasters. In so doing the book explores how to help others in their time of need, treat ourselves with compassion, and develop the resilience to brave whatever is ahead.

Place & Time—TBA

Contact: Paula Lerner 518-736-2449



Board Members:

Co-Presidents:

Ella Ryder &
Nancy Peck

Membership VP:

Jennifer Garren

Program: VP:

Darcelle Winchell

Treasurer:

Irene Collins

Recording Secretary:

Paula Lerner

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AAUW.ORG



@AgjAauw



AJW
Christmas Party

Hales Mills Country Club
146 Steele Road, Route 29, Johnstown
Saturday, December 2nd
at Noon

Members will order from the menu

Please RSVP to Bonnie Van Wie
518-762-9377 or 518-332-6857
November 29th





The family we will gift with Christmas this year is a Mom who has pancreatic cancer and has 2 children. The daughter is 9 and the son is 8. Gift requests are below —please notify Catherine Julius or Jennifer Garren on the item you are providing.

Daughter:

- Size 9 -10 Women's Jeans/Pants
- Size Large Shirts
- 6-1/2 Sneakers (likes ones that light up) / Shoes
- Favorite colors are Baby Blue, Gray and Black
- Paints
- Craft sets
- Books (Goosebumps and Pokeman)

Son:

- Size 14 Jeans
- Size Boys Large Shirts
- Sneakers size 4-1/2 (he likes high-tops)
- Underwear (needs them) Boys Large
- Minecraft
- Legos
- Video Games
- Favorite colors are Gray an Blue

Catherine Julius (518-542-628) and Jennifer Garren (518-725-5667) will shop for items if money is donated.

Please bring wrapped gift to Holiday Lunch on December 2nd or call on of the women to pick it up.

Jen will deliver gifts to family on Dec 16thso please have gift to her by 15th.

Calendar of Events Coming Soon to Amsterdam, Gloversville, Johnstown Branch of AAUW

November 9th

- Program planning meeting 6pm
- Darcelle Winchell's home
- Contact Darcelle Winchell 518-725-5963

November 19th

- Showing of "The Glass Castle"
- Johnstown Public Library (call Library FMT)
- Free to the public

November 30th

- Book Club meeting 3:30pm
- Rainedancer restaurant
- Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides will be discussed
- Contact Paula Lerner 518-736-2449

November 30th

- Board meeting 6pm
- Johnstown Public Library
- Contact Ella Ryder 518-848-7250 or Nancy Peck 518-661-7558

December 4th

- Festival of Trees 11am to 2pm
- Century Club of Amsterdam
- \$8.00 pp
- Contact Liz Russo 518-762-9702

December 2nd

- Holiday Party 12 noon
- Hales Mills Golf Course
- Order from the menu
- Contact Bonnie Van Wie 518-762-9377 or 518-332-6857 BY NOVEMBER 29th

January 10th

- January (Environmental) program 5:30
- First Presbyterian Church
- We will view "Before the Flood"
- Vegetarian covered dish
- \$5.00 donation please
- Contact Jahnn Gibson 518-705-2835

January 11th

- **Book Club meeting**
- The Winona LaDuke Chronicles by Professor Winona LaDuke will be discussed
- Place and time TBA
- Contact Paula Lerner 518-736-2449

February 1st

- **Book Club meeting**
- Option B by Cheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant
- Place and time TBA
- Contact Paula Lerner 518-736-2449

February 3rd

- **Get a Grip on your Property Taxes**
- Presented by Irene Collins
- 11 am – 1 pm
- Place TBA (looking into Inman Center)
- Deadline to Register – Jan. 25th
- Open to Public

March 22nd

- **Trivia Night**
- 5:30 pm
- Details TBA

April 25th

- **Annual Meeting** (elections and budget)
- Harold's at 5:30 pm
- Speaker TBA

May 21st

- **Sexual Harrassment**
- FMCC Large Lounge at 5:30 pm
- Speaker TBA

June 12th

- **Pot Luck Supper** (Recognition and Farewell for Summer)
- TBA (Looking into the Mayfield Yacht Club)

AAUW CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY, MARKS MILESTONES

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Dusten Rader/For The Recorder

The event featured keynote speaker Gabriela Hoover, cultural and international director for the Jefferson County American Association of University Women branch. Hoover, center, presented current Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown AAUW presidents, Nancy Peck, left, and Ella Ryder, with certificates honoring the branch's 50th anniversary.

By DUSTEN RADER

For The Recorder

MAYFIELD — A reunion 50 years in the making drew dozens of local women together for the common goal of providing opportunities to their sisters across the region and the world.

More than 45 current and past members of the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown American Association of University Women branch gathered Wednesday at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts in Mayfield for a 50th anniversary celebration.

The event included dinner catered by Lanzi's on the Lake, a walk down memory lane slide show created by Laurie Kozakiewicz and Pat Valachovic, the sharing of stories and memorabilia of the past, and a performance by the Dream Catchers, an all female group featuring AAUW members Connie Chamberlain and Linda Bumpus.



Dusten Rader/For The Recorder

Current and past presidents of the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown American Association of University Women branch gathered Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts in Mayfield for a 50th anniversary celebration. Front, from left: Dee Brown, Catherine Julius, Pat Valachovic, Liz Russo, and Rosy Pynadath. Back, from left: Linda Bumpus, Sandy Maceyka, Helen Martin, Linda Hammond, Ella Ryder, and Nancy Peck.

AAUW member Liz Russo gave a speech detailing the extensive history of the group as well as recognition of members who played a significant role in its evolution.

"In 1968, 15 women, mostly faculty from Fulton-Montgomery Community College, organized to create our local AAUW branch," Russo said. "In the last 50 years, our branch has gone from those 15 original members to what we are today. We have broadened our membership from primarily teachers to nurses, accountants, lawyers and business women. In 2005, changes in national AAUW membership requirements enabled us to welcome those with associates degrees as well as men ... For those of you who are still members, we thank you for all you have done and continue to do."

Russo noted that since 1999 the local AAUW has sponsored 17 yearly conferences for middle school girls. The first 12 focused on issues such as boy-girl relationships, self-esteem and depression. The most recent focused on STEM topics. The group has also donated to local and international causes.

Following Russo's speech, the audience cheered and applauded. One attendee stood and pronounced: "Liz, we all thank you for everything you have done — this is one tireless lady. She works for AAUW like no one else."

The event also featured keynote speaker Gabriela Hoover, cultural and international director for the Jefferson County AAUW branch. Hoover, a native of Brazil, spoke about her experience as a journalist in Brazil. She noted that her passion is education, and that the way to change culture is through education.

Hoover began her speech by looking back 50 years to events in 1967 that reflect similarities to today. She pointed to racial riots, protests for peace, a Middle East conflict and a hurricane that devastated portions of Texas. Hoover also spoke about what it was like in Brazil in 1967. She said the country was oppressed by a military dictatorship. The government used censorship to control the media and any social movement could be considered rebellion.

At that time, she said, many young people and students were arrested, tortured and some even disappeared. However, the same year, the country's first academic research on women's issues was published. In contrast, she said, the first academic research on women's issues in the U.S. was published in 1885.

Hoover said that today, Brazil is no longer governed by a dictatorship, but it is still far behind in terms of true democracy. She noted that voting in Brazil is not an option, it is mandatory. A lack of quality education means voters cannot make informed decisions.

Brazil elected its first female president, Dilma Vana Rousseff, in 2011, but impeached her in 2016 on charges of corruption. Brazil's current president, Michel Temer, who was Rousseff's vice president, has already managed to deflect three investigations of corruption. "It's hard for a woman in a position of leadership, and I know her impeachment threw us back in my country by years," she said.

In conclusion, Hoover said she sees current times as overwhelming as far as fighting for equality.

"We are battling on so many fronts: Equal pay, equality in the workplace, rape culture, domestic violence, human trafficking, the voices over the now trending hashtag MeToo, maternity leave, family paid leave, the right to choose, and immigration issues — it's hard to pick one battle," Hoover said. "Honestly, do we need to pick one when they are all connected? No matter what, we still have to fight."

Hoover then quoted a Times Magazine editorial titled "Women Will be the Ones to Decide What Happens Next" by Laurie Penny: "Unfortunately this isn't history being re-written, it is history being re-read and read aloud so all the ugly and uncomfortable stories in the margins can finally come out. This is not a trend or an overreaction, this is a rebellion."

Hoover then noted that ultimately the world needs more women in leadership positions to lead the rebellion.

"I believe that together we are strong, but if we are united then we are unstoppable," Hoover said.

For more information about the local AAUW branch, visit AGLNY.AAUW.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: BY JAHNN GIBSON

April 2017

Antarctica--the biggest ice sheet in the world. There is ten times more ice there than in the Arctic, but photos of glaciers taken in 1916 show that there has been a massive drop in Antarctica's glaciers. Most of it has happened in the last 30 years. One glacier retreated almost 5 miles in 35 years. Antarctica has been warming by nearly 5.1 degrees F, ten times that of the rest of the planet. Antarctica accounts for 75% of the world's fresh water, all locked up in ice. It's 3 miles thick in places and is one and one half the size of Australia. Glacier floes form much of the sea ice, and are being melted by the warming seas underneath them. This fresh water sea ice holds the land ice back from flowing into the sea, but as it melts, the land ice advances. A 1.7 degree F increase in temperature has helped break apart 7 major ice shelves in 30 years, and the ice they were holding back has advanced toward the sea 6 times faster than it did before the breakup. In 2008, an enormous ice shelf broke in half that was over 1 mile thick, the other half is due to break up soon. As the interior ice sheet advances into the sea, this will have a great effect globally. What happens in the polar regions effects our climate more than any other change, by driving up the temperature due to lack of reflectivity of the sun's rays. It will also contribute to a rise of sea level by more than 3 ft. by century's end, affecting many island and coastal communities. And, it will affect the salinity of the ocean, and it's currents, as cold water comes in contact with the warm currents than now drive our weather patterns. Life as we know it will probably not be sustainable.

For our children, please, help mitigate this change which is happening now, by refraining from beef and conserving fossil fuels. Please, work for sustainability.

June 2017

Now, maybe you don't think that there is such a thing as climate change/global warming, in spite of all the scientific evidence, and the evidence you can see in your own backyard.

So, how about this, globally, new discovery of oil peaked in 1973, and it is expected that globally, new discovery of gas will peak in 2020, which is almost here. So basically, from now on, it's all downhill for us. Or is it? Now is the time for our country to invest in clean, renewable energy, wind power, solar, geothermal, tidal and hydropower. This would help us not only with our energy needs, but also it would help mitigate global warming. But what does our minority-elected President want to do? He wants to help his big fossil fuel friends by exploring and drilling everywhere he can, even in our National Parks, and by urging filthy coal on us. He has taken us out of the Paris Climate Accords. He totally ignores scientific facts, and wants to shut down the EPA. He thinks this will make us "great". Truly, it will make us a laughing-stock and a pariah in the eyes of the world. We could become a world leader in "green energy", but instead, he wants to take us backwards. This is unconscionable, and I urge you to take your concerns to your Senators, Schumer and Gillibrand, and to your Representatives, Tonko, Faso, and Stefanik. The other things you can do are to eat less beef, as cattle cause methane, and conserve fossil fuels. Because now, any progress on mitigating climate change has got to come from the people, states, and communities. We have a Federal government that doesn't care if we go extinct in the long term, as long as big business can make a lot of money in the short term.

July 2017

Global Warming is here, whether we like it or not. Here are some recent headline concerning the temperatures of our warming planet. These are real facts, not "alternate facts."

- RECORD HEAT AND DROUGHT SEEN IN AMAZON DURING 2015-16 EL NINO"
- INTENSE HEAT GRIPS EASTERN AUSTRALIA"
- CLIMATE MODELS MAY UNDERESTIMATE FUTURE WARMING ON TROPICAL MOUNTAINS"
- WE'RE NOW BREAKING GLOBAL TEMPERATURE RECORDS ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS"
- EARTH SETS A TEMPERATURE RECORD FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR"
- GLOBAL WARMING NEVER "PAUSED" AND COULD SOON ACCELERATE, WARNS NASA SCIENTIST"
- 2016 OFFICIALLY DECLARED HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD"
- 'EXTRAORDINARILY HOT' ARCTIC TEMPERATURES ALARM SCIENTISTS"
- NORTHEAST WARMING MORE RAPIDLY THAN MOST OF THE US"
- THERE WERE A CRAZY NUMBER OF RECORD HIGHS IN 2016"
- NEW STUDY CONFIRMS NOAA FINDING OF FASTER GLOBAL WARMING"
- WITHOUT ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE SAY GOODBYE TO POLAR BEARS"

Please, help us keep a sustainable environment, conserve fossil fuels, give up methane-causing beef, and encourage your Congressmen to stand strong for the EPA and Paris Accords against our minority-elected President.

August 2017

Life on earth, human life in particular, evolved to live in our current environmental conditions. However, we humans are fighting against ourselves, changing the chemical composition of the atmosphere with our fossil fuel-generated greenhouse gasses, methane and carbon dioxide. This, in turn, melts the glaciers and the polar ice caps, resulting in a change in the chemical composition of our oceans, which will effect sea life, ocean temperatures, and ocean currents. In turn, the currents will effect our weather. How very like a set-up of dominoes, when one falls, they all fall in turn.

So, one wonders what this all has in store for us. Rising ocean levels, loss of sea life, bigger, more dangerous hurricanes, wildfires, torrential rains and floods in some areas, drought in others, and spreading disease. Does this sound familiar. Look at the headlines, or look around you. Hurricanes Sandy, Irene and Katrina, the torrential rains we have been having, flooding in Utica, on the Mohawk and the Schoharie, drought in California and Sao Paulo, Brazil, wildfires in the West, flooding in Miami at high tide, people in the Maldives considering abandoning their island country due to rising sea level, heat extremes in the Southwest, declining fisheries and die-off of coral reefs, Lyme Disease moving Northward, Zika virus, invasive vines and the die-off of pine trees in the Northeast. This is just the beginning. As Carbon Dioxide and methane increase and the temperature rises, will we be able to survive? Worldwide chaos will be the result. Our military is very concerned about our national security. Meanwhile, our current government is portraying it all as a hoax, and presses forward with its agenda of environmental destruction, while helping to make more money for Exxon, etc.

We need to press our Congressmen to fight for our environment. To save ourselves, we need to save our environment.

September 2017

Global warming a hoax? No way, Jose!! We just had 2 category 4 hurricanes hit the US within 3 weeks of each other, with another one out at sea. This broke all records. Why did this happen? Because, in spite of OUR cool summer in the Northeast, the overall earth temperature is warmer, leading to warmer waters in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricanes feed on warm water, deriving energy from it, and leading to stronger hurricanes and massive amounts of rain. At one point, the barometric pressure in Irma was 922 millibars, extremely low, as 1013.25 millibars is the normal pressure at sea level. So, not only are the winds and rain stronger, but tidal surge is higher, as well. The height of tidal surge depends not only upon the strength of winds and the tides, but also upon barometric pressure. The lower the pressure, the higher the tidal surge. I'm afraid that this is only the beginning, and we can look forward to more, and stronger storms in the future as the earth warms.

Of course, these storms cause evacuations, and damage homes and infrastructure, all of which cause us to use more fossil fuels, thereby feeding the problem of global warming in a vicious cycle. So please, conserve fossil fuels, give up methane-causing beef, and contact your Congressmen, and ask them to fight for our environment. This is our children's future we are talking about here.

October 2017

In spite of the fairly cool summer in our area, global warming is here. Just ask the folk in the Southwest, who have been experiencing temperatures of 110 degrees. Unfortunately, our current administration poo poos this problem, gagging climate scientists and gutting the EPA. So, the fight to mitigate global warming now has to start at the grassroots. That's you and me, folks. What can we do?

- Give up eating methane producing beef.
- Drive less, walk more, carpool, consolidate errands.
- Go solar, or take wind power for electric.
- Use LED or CFL bulbs and don't light up like Disneyland at Christmastime.
- Turn the heat down, air conditioning up.
- Use a shovel, a rake, and an electric lawnmower.
- Wash in cold water, use a clothesline.
- Recycle, shop at thrift stores, buy less.
- Write or call the Governor and your Congressmen both State and Federal and urge them to fight to mitigate global warming.

Remember, coal, gas oil, keep it in the soil!!

November 2017

November is the month during which we think about elections, and even though the State and Federal elections for our Congressional Representatives don't take place until next year, it is never too soon to begin considering for whom to vote in the next election.

It seems pretty clear to me, and to anyone who has watched the news or read the papers about the hurricanes that devastated Houston, parts of Florida, and the Northern Caribbean Islands, and about the massive forest fires ravaging the West, not to mention the unusually warm Autumn weather, that, whether we like it or not, global warming is here and affecting us.

For future generations, we need to do our utmost to mitigate it, but with our current administration denying that anything is wrong, gutting the EPA, gagging climate scientists, and threatening to allow the fossil fuel companies to exploit our public lands, nothing will get done, it will only make things worse.

Please, listen to the candidates who will run next year, and vote for those who have consideration for your children and grandchildren by supporting the EPA, encouraging clean, renewable energy, and working toward keeping our air and water free of toxic pollution and climate-changing greenhouse gasses.