



Jamestown Branch

Volume 21, Issue 3

January / February 2016

From the Editor

If you haven't already filled out a branch interest survey in the last month, you will be receiving one in your email. Please be sure to promptly fill it out and return it to Kathi Clark at 7676 Rte 474, Panama, NY 14767 or email to wordsintheworks@gmail.com. We greatly appreciate your input.

Calendar of Branch Events

Jan. 9, 2016; Sat.

Program: Screening of *Suffragette* Movie

Place: Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

Time: 8:00 PM

Jan. 19, 2016; Tues.

Fun Event: Divas Dine at Fuji Sushi Steakhouse

Place: 279 E. Fairmount Ave, Lakewood, NY

Time: 7:00 PM

RSVP: Kathy Colby, kcolby@hotmail.com or 720-0234

Mark these meetings on your calendar.

Jan. 27, 2016; Wed.

Program: 21st Century Public Libraries Meeting Community Needs

Place: James Prendergast Library

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Speaker: Tina Scott, JPL Executive Director

Feb. 24, 2016; Tues.

Event: Dress for Success Interview Attire Fashion Show

Place: JCC, Scharmann Theater

Time: 7:00 PM

Feb. 26, 2016; Thurs.

Program: Bring Out the Engineer in Every Girl

Place: Cummins Engine

Time: TBA

March 5, 2016; Sat.

Event: Get in the Game

Place: JCC Athletic Complex

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



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Board Message

-- By Janet Forbes, Program VP

Board of Directors Updates

Here is a summary of reports and key decisions made by our Branch Board of Directors at our November and December 2015 Board meetings. All BOD meetings are open to all members.

- Our Branch finances are strong with solid balances in our accounts and thoughtful, careful use of financial resources by all BOD members.
- Full financial reports are available to all members for your review. Get in touch with our Branch Treasurer, Shirley San Filippo.
- 65 current members. 5 new members added at the What's New Fair.
- Kathi Clark and Alicia Mae Hodnett have developed a Branch survey of interests and commitments which will be distributed at the What's New Fair to all member volunteers. Kathi will compile results.

AAUW Mission

The American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW Vision

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

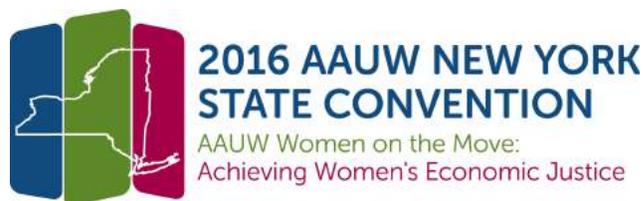
AAUW Diversity

In principle and in 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.

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

- AAUW/JCC Women's Issues Advocacy group has completed the Clothesline Project (addressing violence against women) and Dress for Success over the past year. They are working on Pay Equity Day event, fashion show, screenings of *The Hunting Game* movie, and an etiquette dinner where students will learn networking and fine dining skills.
- Per AAUW National, all Branches will use the word "collaborate" rather than "partner" when working with other organizations.
- Fundraising for Legal Advocacy Fund and Educational Opportunities Fund - Wreath sales and Schwan's fundraiser are continuing and need support.
- Approved that the 2016 AAUW Membership Social will be held at the Sarita Weeks Room at JCC on April 28, 2016 since the Sheldon House is in the process of being sold.
- AAUW will host the January 18, 2016 meeting of Interclub Council. Dolores Thompson and Alicia Hodnett, both IC Board members, will take the lead with this event.
- AAUW NYS is seeking nominees for Program VP. Detailed info available on AAUW NYS website.
- Approved to pay \$30 annual fee for email upgrade for our Branch website.
- BOD consensus that the What's New Fair continues at JCC even if an alternate date from the preferred date.



AAUW NYS Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, April 15 -17, 2016.

Program Update: *Suffragette*, one night only local screening

-- By Janet Forbes, Program VP

Suffragette

*One night only local screening
Saturday, January 9, 2016 8 pm
Reg Lenna Center for the Arts
116 E. 3rd St., Jamestown*

Suffragette is a drama that tracks the story of the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement in the UK, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State. These women were not primarily from the genteel educated classes; they were working women who had seen peaceful protest achieve nothing. Radicalized and turning to violence as the only route to change, they were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality - their jobs, their homes, their children and their lives. Maud was one such foot soldier. The story of her fight for dignity is as gripping and visceral as any thriller, it is also heart-breaking and inspirational.

Rated PG-13. 106 minutes. Starring Carey Mulligan and Meryl Streep.

Members of the AAUW Jamestown Branch will be in the lobby to promote our programs and will have information available about women's suffrage in New York State and nationally. New branch members can join at a reduced rate at this event. Volunteers are



needed to staff our table before and after the screening and share the good news of AAUW. If interested, please contact Janet Forbes at #490-2616 or jlforbes@hotmail.com.

Please share info about this screening on your Facebook page and invite your family and friends. This screening is a great lead-up to the celebration of women's suffrage in New York State which was approved in 1917 and ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. It is also a terrific, first-time collaboration with the Reg Lenna Civic Center and great outreach opportunity. Let's pack the Reg!!

Please stay after the movie for tea, cake and a lively discussion on suffrage and the women's movement both internationally and at home. Members and representatives from the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts Board of Directors, a local book club, the Child Advocacy Program and the AAUW will participate in the discussion. We'll convene in the inner lobby. It'll be a riot!

Program: 21st Century Public Libraries Meeting Community Needs

-- By Janet Forbes, Program VP

*Wed., January 27, 2016 7 - 8:30 pm
at Jamestown Prendergast Library
Fireplace Room*

*Speaker - Tina Scott, JPL Executive
Director*

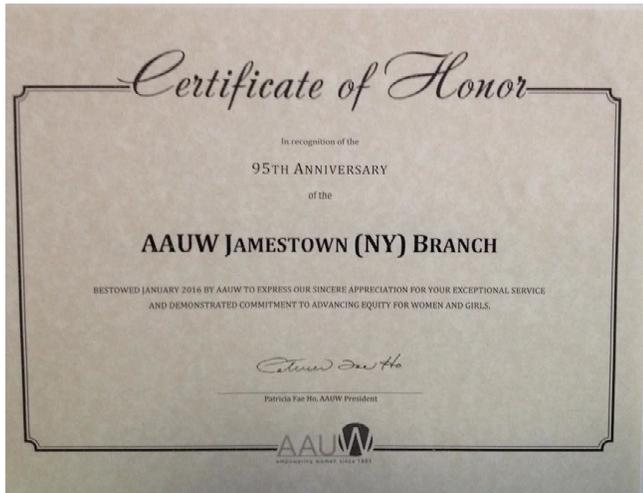
Public libraries are adapting to meet the many rapidly changing community needs. Join us for this

exciting opportunity to learn from Tina Scott about how public libraries as a whole, and the Prendergast Library in particular, are adapting to these changes and becoming vital community educational centers. There will be plenty of time for discussion and questions and answers. Invite those in your network to join you for this meeting. New members can join at a reduced rate at this event.

AAUW Jamestown Branch Honored by AAUW National

-- By Janet Forbes, Program VP

AAUW Jamestown Branch is honored by AAUW National on our 95th Anniversary! Our Branch recently received a letter and Certificate of Honor in recognition of our 95th Anniversary.



The certificate reads: Certificate of Honor - in recognition of the 95th anniversary of the AAUW Jamestown New York Branch - Bestowed January 2016 by AAUW to express our sincere appreciation for your exceptional service and demonstrated commitment to advancing equity for women and girls. It is signed by Patricia Fae Ho, AAUW President.

The letter from Linda D. Hallman, CAE, AAUW Chief Executive Officer, in part reads:

Dear AAUW Jamestown (NY) Branch Members: On behalf of AAUW, it is my honor to recognize the AAUW Jamestown (NY) Branch on its 95th anniversary. We applaud your exceptional service and demonstrated commitment to advancing equity for women and girls. Please accept this certificate of honor as a small token of our gratitude.



We're on Facebook! Please visit our Facebook page and **Like** us. Find our page by typing in AAUW Jamestown Branch in the Search space at the top of the page.

Because of your many efforts and hard work, AAUW continues to grow with more than 170,000 members and supporters nationwide. Our shared commitment to empowering women and girls translates into positive change across the globe.

A list of advances for women and girls in 2015 was noted including \$3.7 million in fellowships and grants; *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing* was published in March 2015; more than 3,211 middle school girls and parents participated in one-day Tech Savvy conferences; AAUW's \$tart \$mart, Elect Her, and student organizations continue to grow along with AAUW college/university partner members.

We are proud of these accomplishments that you helped make possible. These efforts remind us why we are passionate members of AAUW - and we will not stop here. As women gain access to educational and economic opportunities, we must keep up our efforts to further their progress. As an AAUW member, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Congratulations again on this incredible milestone! We appreciate all the hard work and activism your branch has accomplished and look forward to your continued support in the coming years.

Program Date Changes

Get in the Game - Sat., March 5, 2016

Women Create Salon - Wed., May 4, 2016

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-nys.org

Jamestown Website: <http://jamestown-ny.aauw.net>

Our Branch EOF Grant Recipient

-- By Elaine Damsteegt, EOF VP
(and Michelle Patten, grant recipient)

This year's recipient of our branch EOF Grant #1445 was Nicole Patten. She received \$7300.00 from us. I have been in communication with her, and it has been a joy. Following is a letter from her:



Let me tell you a little bit about what I've been up to and how I plan to move forward with my career in the future. I've been teaching myself computer programming and web development and design for the past year and a half. Most of my work has been online or at meet-ups such as Girl Develop It. I have a background in bio-chemistry, psychology, and neuroscience and had never taken a computer class until recently, so the learning curve has been very difficult, but I have been persistent.

After some freelance and pro-bono projects I was lucky enough to get a full-time job as a web developer almost a year ago where I realized how much more there was to the field that I had yet to learn. I decided to apply to Fullstack Academy and after a rigorous application process (two tests and three interviews) I was finally accepted. The course was set to begin this September but was pushed back due to program restructuring and will now start with pre-course work next month. The course tuition was also raised to \$15,000. It is a full-stack software development

boot camp and is one of the most (if not the most) renowned program of its kind in the US. I am very eager to start and would not be able to attend if it weren't for the grant from AAUW.

This past Monday I began a new full-time position as a web developer at a new company called Experience Interaction. It has been an exciting yet busy and stressful week as I'm realizing how far I still have to go as a developer. As they say in my field, "The more you know, the more you realize you don't know."

Once classes start next month I will be working full-time and taking part-time classes another 20 hours a week for six months. I am extremely excited to get started although I know it will be difficult. I am very grateful for this opportunity and it would not be possible without the grant from AAUW. In the future I have goals of helping to create new technology that can positively impact our world and possibly the field of mental health, although I'm taking things one step at a time.

Thank you for your encouragement! Please stay in touch!

Warmly,

Nicole J. Patten

Get in the Game

Attention all AAUW members!! WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are in need of member volunteers for our 17th Annual Get in the Game event, which will be held at JCC, Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

What is Get in the Game? It is our local celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day and has been a huge success for the past 15 years. Girls in grades 4-7 spend the day at JCC rotating through several different sports sessions, trying them out and learning new skills. They also create new friendships

and develop self-confidence. We cannot continue this wonderful event without the support of our members. Please consider donating some of your time to encourage our area's young girls to participate in sports. This year we are working on including GITG favorites like kayaking, basketball, rugby, track, gymnastics, self-defense, and others.

Email Rae Lynn DeAngelo at reimondo@stny.rr.com or call her at 386-2052 if you are able to volunteer or would like more information.

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Public Policy

-- By *B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP*

Election 2015 is over and all figures and statistics compiled. According to the Chautauqua County Board of Elections commissioners, the turnout was in keeping with previous local-only elections. Out of the 75,296 eligible registered voters, only 19,945 - 27% - took advantage of the opportunity. Basically, for everyone who voted, 3 stayed home.

Another equally, or even more disturbing figure, is the number of uncontested races. Of the 195 races only 41 were contested, barely 20%. This diminishing interest in political office does not bode well for the future. With no choice for a particular office, there is no incentive to vote. Of interest, 12 incumbents in the 41 contested races lost their bid for reelection.

Circle of Distinction

-- By *B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP*

In 1986 Jamestown celebrated its centennial as a city. The CoD celebrated two daughters of Gov. Reuben E. Fenton. Born into privilege and married to prominent businessmen, they founded, created, and served six organizations that contribute to Jamestown's cultural life today, nearly 150 years later.

Josephine was born April 15, 1845 in the family home in Frewsburg. Jeanette followed November 2, 1849. Josephine graduated from Elmira College in 1864 with a BA degree. Jeanette attended Elmira College. Both attended Mme. Meers' French School in NYC where Jeanette studied voice.

Jeanette married J. Niven Hegeman in 1870 with whom she had three children. Following a divorce (a

Another Successful What's New Fair

-- By *Mary Lee Talbot, What's New Fair Co-Chair*

About 1350 people attended the AAUW What's New Fair. We have cleared about \$11675 toward scholarships for 2016. The community was very generous, providing 51 prizes for the raffle and supplying the Hospitality Cart. Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance. Our members volunteered their time and talent to work at the Fair, make or find items for the

The voting records reveal another area of deep concern. Who is voting - who is not voting? The older generations, those over 65, claim 42% of those who voted, while those aged 34 and under only 7% took advantage of this right. Also of interest, nearly 1,000 more women than men voted. Why more women? Fellas, where are you? Women do not outnumber you by that margin.

The seeming lack of interest in politics and voting in the younger generation - my grandchildren's ages - is deeply disturbing. If hardly anyone votes, there will be no reason to have elections, which will lead to ??? Is this the America George Washington and all the others fought for? Is this the United States millions of women marched for? Went to jail for?

real scandal), she married Albert Gilbert in 1883, an officer with Fenton Metallic Co. They had one son.

Josephine served as her father's hostess during his four years as governor and later traveled with him to Europe when he was a senator on official US business. In 1881 she married Frank E. Gifford, president for 40 years of First National Bank. They had two daughters, the older dying in infancy.

Josephine was a founder of Creche and served as president of the WCA Hospital Board of Directors for 20 years. She was a founder of the Mozart Club, serving as president 40 years. Jeanette was active in these organizations also, as well as Fortnightly and patriotic activities. She was an organizer of the YWCA and served on the Agnes Home Board.

AAUW table, or bake for the Sweet Shoppe. Thank you, everyone, for your help and support! Students from Chautauqua Lake, Southwestern, Jamestown and Pine Valley came to help. Special thanks to Maggie Irwin for developing the street banner that will be able to be used for years to come. Dates for 2016 are still being negotiated with JCC.

LAF Case

-- Information provided by Laurie Holthouse, LAF Co-VP

A current LAF case concerns military survivors of sexual assault. In *Baldwin et al vs. the Department of Defense* 4 female service members were forced to endure sexual assault or rape. Each tried to seek justice through the military's system; they claim the military failed to provide fair hearings or protect them from retaliation. The military also allowed those who were themselves accused of sexual harassment or assault to serve as the convening authority in charge of each investigation.

The plaintiffs also allege that the US Department of Defense failed in its duty to protect them from a sexually hostile work environment.

Baldwin matters as 200,000 women are in the active-duty military and the DOD estimates that 19,000 sexual assaults occur in the military each year. AAUW continues to call for reform in the military justice system, and this lawsuit could help bring justice to veteran survivors.

(From Mollie Lam, LAF cases, AAUW national website)

EOF and LAF Fundraising Efforts Pay Off

-- By Elaine Damsteegt, EOF VP; Laurie Holthouse and Linda Fellows, LAF VPs

Thank you to everyone who has worked hard and donated to EOF and LAF this year. We have earned \$348.00 so far in the Schwan's Cares program. Ordering to build that even further with 5% of orders continues through Feb. 16, so please continue ordering and if you have not yet ordered, there is still time to participate.

In addition, we made \$63.76 on Christmas wreath sales this year. Put this in the back of your minds as

something you want to participate in next November.

Thank you also for your generous monetary donations at our Holiday Gathering. We raised \$225.00 for our LAF and EOF funds from the party alone.

These projects and the garage sale made it possible for us to meet fundraising goals this year. We thank you.



Education Partners' Projects

-- By Christina Marsh, Education Partners Co-Chair

With JCC's semester break ending soon, the Education Partnership Committee will begin collaborating with the AAUW/JCC Women's Issues Advisory Group to implement planned activities and events. Each activity/event will be planned by separate committees consisting of interested AAUW members and JCC students, faculty, and staff. If you are interested in helping with any of the listed events, please contact Maggie Irwin (483-5448) or Christina Marsh (569-4175) for more details. Also, please be encouraged to attend events. More details will be released as they become available.

TBD - **Hunting Ground** Film Screening

February 24th - **"Dress For Success Interview Attire Fashion Show,"** Scharmann Theater, 7pm

March 15th - **"Net 2 Work,"** Student Union 7pm

April 13th - **"Pay Equity Rally,"** Outside near pond on Jamestown Campus, 12pm

May 3rd - **"Etiquette Dinner"**



Jamestown Branch

Who Can Join AAUW?

A graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate or higher degree from a nationally accredited educational institution is eligible for membership.

Contact: **Alicia Mae Hodnett**
(716) 489-3012

Branch Leadership

Executive Board--(Elected Officers)

President:	Acting Board
Program VP:	Janet Forbes
Membership VP:	Alicia Mae Hodnett
EOF VP:	Elaine Damsteegt
LAF VPs:	Linda Fellows and Laurie Holthouse
Treasurer:	Shirley Sanfilippo
Recording Secretary:	Ruth Wahl

State Representative

NYS Member/Finance Liason:	Phoebe Forbes
AAUW NYS BOD Liason:	Laurie Ginnitti

Committee Chairs

Public Policy:	B. Dolores Thompson
Communications:	Kathi Clark
<i>Publicity:</i>	Committee
<i>TWIGS Editor:</i>	Kathi Clark
<i>Directory:</i>	Debra Eck
<i>Social Media:</i>	Kathy Colby
<i>Member Communications:</i>	Kathi Clark
STEM:	Janet Forbes
Social:	Mary Keeney
Fun Activites/Dining Divas:	Kathy Colby
Scholarship:	Wendy Present Kathi Clark Becky Nystrom
Historian:	Elaine Rissel
Interclub Council:	Rita Brown
Circle of Distinction:	B. Dolores Thompson
Education Partners:	Maggie Irwin and Christina Marsh
International Affairs Chair:	TBA