



Jamestown Branch

Volume 19, Issue 4

March/April 2014

From the Editor

Lucyism:

*"The more things
you do, the more
you can do."*

-- Lucille Ball

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Calendar of Branch Events

March 7, 2014; Fri.

Program: International Women's Day Dinner

Speaker: Deputy Elizabeth Fildes

Place: JCC Weeks Room

Time: 6:00 PM

Dinner: \$25; Honey Ginger Chicken & Vegetable Alfredo

Reservations: Call Loreen Ginnitti, 716-326-4270

March 8, 2014; Sat.

Program: Get in the Game

Place: JCC Athletic Complex

Time: 8:30 - 4 PM



March 19, 2014, Wed.

Program: "The Invisible War"

A Documentary about Sexual Harassment in the Military

Place: JCC Carnahan Theatre

Time: 7:00 PM

April 8, 2014; Tues.

Pay Equity Day

"Pay Equity Restaurant Day"

Contact Dolores Thompson at 484-8289 to help.

May 1, 2014; Thurs.

Program: Membership Social

Place: The Sheldon House

Time: 7:00 PM

All members are
encouraged to
attend these
meetings.

President's Message

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

It's been a long winter here in Jamestown. And now, it's time for us to come out of our houses and gear up for spring. We have some wonderful programs and good work ahead of us in the Jamestown Branch.



In March and April, we are particularly thinking about the fourth leg of our AAUW mission-- **ADVOCACY**. The Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary states that to advocate is to "plead in favor of." Advocacy is a major part of our National AAUW office in Washington, DC and of many local AAUW branches in their state capitals and local governments. Without AAUW, the Lilly Ledbetter Act would not have passed. Our organization has a strong legacy in making good things happen for women and girls.

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.

Our branch wants to strengthen our work in this area and to include more members in the task. But, we need to learn how. We will be rescheduling our "Advocacy 101" workshop that had to be cancelled due to a death in the speaker's family. This program will teach us how to write op-eds or letters to the editor, start petitions, talk to our elected officials, and use social media to share our message. Join us and let our voices be heard!

On April 8th, we will mark "Pay Equity Day," the day when women's salaries catch up to men's salaries from the prior year. Women continue to make 77 cents for every dollar men make. We are planning to raise awareness with our second "Pay Equity Restaurant Day" where local restaurants give a 20% discount to women. We started with five restaurants last year and will expand that much further. We will ask our members to get the word out to family and friends, to patronize the participating restaurants, and to help with information tables at JCC, the Prendergast Library, and the restaurants. Give yourself a day off from cooking and have lunch and dinner out! I plan to!! Contact Dolores Thompson with your offer to help (484-8289).

On Wednesday, March 19th, we plan to air "The Invisible War" at the JCC Carnahan Theatre at 7 pm. It is an award-winning documentary on sexual harassment in the military. Our National AAUW Office has supported female officers bringing lawsuits against the military through the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund and advocated on the Hill for better treatment of women by the military. This screening is free and open to the public. We will be selling popcorn to raise funds for our LAF contribution. Please call Mary Keeney to volunteer for this event (664-4758).

We have a busy spring coming. I hope you will get involved with our branch through your attendance at our events and by volunteering to help in the organization. Happy early spring!! At least we can hope!

Branch to Host Screening of "The Invisible War"

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

Join us on Wednesday, March 19th, at 7 pm at JCC's Carnahan Theatre for an AAUW Legal Advocacy Fundraiser -- a screening of the award winning documentary, "The Invisible War," about sexual harassment in the military. The event is free and open to the public.

From the November 7, 2013 *New York Times*: "Reports of sexual assault in the military increased sharply during the last fiscal year, new Pentagon figures showed Wednesday, just weeks before a defense bill with provisions to tackle the problem is expected to reach the Senate floor..... Last summer that survey found that about

26,000 men and women in the military were sexually assaulted in 2011, up from 19,000 in 2010." This is an ongoing problem in the military for men and women. AAUW has been supporting litigants in their lawsuits against the military. We want to continue to support the AAUW effort to stop sexual harassment in the military through advocacy work and fundraising.

As a fundraiser for our AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, we will be selling popcorn and conducting a 50-50 drawing. We also will offer reduced priced AAUW memberships -- \$45.50 for a new membership through June 30, 2015. Please invite your family and friends to this free event.

Get in the Game

This Saturday, March 8 marks our 15th year offering Get in the Game, a day-long event for girls grades 4 to 7 in celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Get in the Game starts at 8:30 AM through 4 PM. Girls rotate in age-appropriate groups through eight different sports at the JCC Physical Education Complex. This year the sports featured are kayaking, rugby, soccer, Zumba fitness, tae kwon do, self-defense, track, and basketball.

Call Rae Lynn Reimondo (386-2052 or 450-8465) if you are interested in volunteering.

Branch Social to Be Held May 1

-- By Alicia Mae Hodnett, Membership VP

The 2014 AAUW Jamestown Branch Membership Social will be held on Thursday, May 1st at 7:00 PM at the Sheldon House. We will be honoring the 2013 Scholarship winners as well as our new AAUW Members. The guest speaker will be the Vice President of Jamestown Business College (JBC), Rosanne Johanson. She has held this position since early Spring 2012.

As the Vice President, she assists the President with overall functions of the college. In addition she serves as the JBC liaison to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and as a peer evaluator for the Middle States Commission and the New York State Education Department. She has been involved with JBC since 1978 as an instructor, Director of Financial Aid & Career

LAF Fundraiser -- Great Fun

An enjoyable evening was had by all who attended the LAF Fundraiser Potluck last week. And by the time the evening was over, \$103 was earned for LAF. We had a wonderful sampling of foods followed by a White Elephant Auction game where packages were opened, gifts were either kept or auctioned, bidding abounded, and monopoly money was hoarded (by some). After everyone had a gift, then there were a few unopened wrapped gifts left for and "blind bidding wars" occurred. Thanks to Candy Johnson for being our auctioneer and organizing this event.

Placement, Director of Career Development, and as the Dean of Student Affairs. It is apparent that with the strides she's made and the positions of influence held, she has made and is currently making a positive influence with the communities in which she serves. For this reason, we welcome her as our 2014 AAUW Jamestown Branch Membership Social guest speaker.

In addition to hearing our speaker of the evening we will be electing the 2014-2015 slate of officers. Also, during this event, we will be offering new members a reduced price membership of \$45.50 good through June 30, 2015. Please invite friends and family members to the Social as potential members. Any AAUW member who recruits new members during this event will be entered into a drawing to receive a free 2014-2015 membership.

Public Policy

-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

It is relatively quiet on the public policy front at the moment. However, it won't remain so much longer. The primaries are not far off and we are already hearing about some of the key states in Congressional races. The outcomes could impact issues in which AAUW has great interest. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, I continue to receive Action Alerts, both state and national, on pending legislation. These "2 minute activist" opportunities are a perfect way to let our legislators know where we stand on issues relating to women and girls. If you are not receiving them in your email and are interested, please let me know. Our opinions may not change

2014 Educational Opportunities Fund Honorees

Mary Lee Talbot: Mary Lee Talbot joined the Jamestown Branch of AAUW in 2008. Since 2010, she has served as Co-Chair of the AAUW What's New Fair, the Branch's major, annual scholarship fundraiser. She received her B.A. from the College of Wooster, her M.Div. from Andover Newton Theological School, and her Ph.D. from Columbia University. A Presbyterian minister, she is an author and editor.



Kathryn Colvin: Kathryn Colvin joined the Jamestown branch of AAUW mid-2011. She served as a volunteer for the AAUW What's New Fair and Get in the Game her first year. In 2012 Kathryn served as the What's New Fair Raffle Co-Chair and was asked by Mary Lee to serve as What's New Fair Co-Chair in 2013. Kathryn received her



their minds and votes, but it is vital to let them know where we stand on these issues.

Tuesday, April 8th - Pay Equity Day this year will be noted with activities that will be determined after this newsletter goes to press. We will keep you informed; please keep this date open and marked on your calendars. We will need everyone's participation.

We were disappointed that we needed to cancel the advocacy workshop and we hope to be able to reschedule it in the future.

Chinese Proverb: When Sleeping Women Wake, Mountains Move...

B.S. in Philosophy from the University of Puget Sound and her Master's of Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. She is a wife and mother of two boys and is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones.

Mary Lee Talbot and Kathryn Colvin are named as the Jamestown Branch EOF honorees for their hard work at organizing this year's AAUW What's New Fair, an annual Fair of 70 merchants that has provided over \$300,000 in scholarships to local women for 58 years. In addition to overseeing the work of 10 chairs, they increased the merchant attendance to 70 up from 65 and increased the income by \$2,000 approximately. They reorganized the Fair layout so customer traffic flow improved. And, they made increased use of computers to monitor merchant contracts and improve the floor layout model. And, they are continuing to look for improvements for next year.



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.

Candy Johnson Named Branch's AAUW Emerging Leader

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

Each year, New York State AAUW branches are asked to select an emerging branch leader to be recognized at the State Convention. This award is presented to one of our members who is a first term board member or officer or a member who demonstrates leadership potential through her enthusiasm, creative ideas, and commitment to AAUW's mission. This year our branch board selected Candy Johnson to be our Emerging Leader.

Candy Johnson has an Associate's Degree in Paralegal Sciences from Kaplan University and has worked in the legal field for 22 years. Candy joined the AAUW Jamestown Branch in 2010 and has served as the branch's Legal Advisory VP for one year and is currently completing her second year as Program VP. Candy also helped organize Pay Equity Day activities (a rally in 2012 and the Pay Equity Restaurant Day discount program for women



in 2013), as well as chairing The Gingerbread House in 2013 for the Branch's important event, the AAUW What's New Fair. Candy is a willing enthusiastic AAUW member and steps in to help when asked. She always thinks creatively.

Candy has volunteered for many organization including the former AIDS Community Services, the Reg Lenna Civic Center, Southern Tier Legal Secretaries, Girl Scouts, PTA, and the American Heart Association to name a few. In 2003 she received the honor of being chosen as the new bear artist of the year for Broadway Cares - Equity Fights AIDS. To showcase her hometown of Jamestown, she created a one-of-a-kind Lucille Ball bear in her role as Wildcat on Broadway. The bear brought a top price at the auction of \$2,000.00 towards AIDS research. In 2003 she received an award from the Chautauqua County Youth Sled Hockey Association in appreciation for her work in establishing their group.

Join me in congratulating Candy for this honor.

Member Birthdays

Mary Keeney	March 6
Juanita Jackson	March 7
Karen Finson	March 14
Frieda Fairburn	March 16
Rae Lynn Reimondo	March 26
Alice O'Grady	April 1
Dolores Thompson	April 7
Rosemary Hedberg	April 16
Sue Carvella	April 16
Mary Lee Talbot	April 18
Bridget Lynch	May 1

*send your birthday (month/day)
to Maggie Irwin

Member-Get-A-Member

-- By Alicia Mae Hodnett, Membership VP

AAUW does some great things to empower women. As an AAUW Member, I have had the opportunity to participate in the November, annual "AAUW What's New Fair" and the "Get in the Game" event that is held in March. There are many other areas to get involved in which we are able to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. Take note of the upcoming events during the last few months of the membership year:

March 7, 2014 – International Women's Day Dinner – Sarita Weeks Room, JCC

March 8, 2014 – "Get in the Game" – Jamestown Community Complex

Girls – grades 4 through 7 (adult volunteers needed)

(continued on p 6)

(continued from p. 5: Member-Get-A-Member)

March 19, 2014 – The Invisible War: Sexual Abuse in the Military (Documentary)

LAF Fundraiser – Carnahan Theatre, JCC

April 8, 2014 – Pay Equity Day

May 1, 2014 – Membership Social – Sheldon House

May 21, 2014 – Spring Tune-Up – Den Adelsman's Klub

June 19, 2014 – Annual Dinner/Installation of Officers - TBD

As you can see, it's not too late to get involved. Please communicate the great ways that AAUW actively gets involved with the lives of women and

Afgan Women's Writing Project

-- By *Laurie Holthouse*

I am a new member of AAUW Jamestown Branch and was reading *The Focus* when I saw the article about the Afghan Women's Writing Project (AWWP). The article intrigued me, so I contacted the writer for further information. What I found was that the AWWP needed mentors who were teachers or "writers" to mentor Afghan Women so that their voices may be heard. I applied, wondering if I would qualify and was accepted into the mentoring program.

Mentors are able to pick if they want to sign up for one or two months, so I picked one and was given March as another mentor had to back out at the last minute. So far, this new journey has been very exciting. The mission of the AWWP is "to support the

girls. Encourage friends and family to come out to AAUW events to see for themselves.

Membership renewals go out May 1, 2014 for a fee of \$70. If current members get their memberships in by June 1, they will be entered in a drawing for a free 2014-2015 membership. Members can pay for their memberships at the AAUW Scholarship Social on Thursday, May 1st, at 7 pm at the Sheldon House. We will have renewal forms at the Social.

If a new member joins our Branch because you referred her, then you again will be entered into a drawing for a free membership. There will be one entry for each recruited new member. If this new member joins at an event, they can join at the reduced price of \$45.50.

voices of women with the belief that to tell one's story is a human right."

The website (AWWProject.org) states: "In telling their own stories, we've seen these women gather strength, courage, and self-confidence. They become empowered to make change within their homes, their communities, and eventually their country."

What they need are also people who are willing to read and comment on the women's work on the website. Go to AWWProject.org and click on "Our Writers" and then "recent posts." Many of the women are writing in secret and really appreciate comments and feedback, which then encourages them to continue with their writing. Will you join me?

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-nys.org

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

International Women's Day Dinner Baskets

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

Laurie Ginnitti and Candy Johnson are doing our two baskets for the International Women's Day dinner. Candy has asked that members contribute to the basket.

Below is Candy's request for basket items. Please email directly to Candy to tell her what you will contribute (candyjohnson@windstream.net). I've put my name by items I will contribute.

From Candy:

I would like to do a **“Chicken Soup for the Soul”** basket. Here's what I need:

The color scheme will be red/tan so please tailor your submissions to this scheme

1. One of the Chicken Soup for the Soul books - possibly “All in the Family” (MAGGIE)
2. Two cans of Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup (the regular kind)
3. Red coffee mug. A nice one with a deep bowl that you can wrap your hands around
4. Box or tin or two packets of instant flavored coffee (something decadent)
5. Box or tin of soothing tea (MAGGIE)
6. Box of chocolate truffles - try for a red box if possible
7. Red or tan slippers
8. Eye mask - the gel type you can put in the fridge
9. Bubble bath or oil - red or tan packaging
10. Body or hand lotion in red or tan packaging

From Laurie Ginnitti:

Request for items for her basket that she is putting together for the International Day Women's Club Dinner. Please contribute to both our baskets.

Please email Laurie Ginnitti at loreen@fairpoint.net regarding what items you will contribute.

Theme: Nature Lovers Delight: Anything bird, plant, sun, critter, water related I would be happy to have some suggestions - Colorful, spring like

1. Annual flower seed packets
2. Trowel
3. Pretty gardening gloves
4. Bird identification guide
5. Small watering can
6. Small peat pots
7. Plant fertilizer
8. Pkg - energy bars
9. Bottle green tea or lemonade
10. Small humming bird feeder
11. Wind chimes or spinner

Please drop your items off to Maggie at 33 LaSalle Avenue in Jamestown before March 7.

Thanks for your help.



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: **Barbara Russell**
(716) 763-3346

Branch Leadership

Executive Board--(Elected Officers)

President:	Maggie Irwin
Program VP:	Candy Johnson
Membership VPs:	Barbara Russell Alicia Hodnett
EOF VP:	Frances Fair
LAF VPs:	Mary Keeney Patricia Luciani
Treasurer:	Shirley Sanfilippo
Recording Secretary:	Phoebe Forbes

State Representatives

NYS Membr./Finance Liason:	Phoebe Forbes
District 1 Coordinators:	Elaine Damsteegt Kathi Clark

Committee Chairs

Public Policy:	B. Dolores Thompson
Communications:	
<i>Publicity Writer:</i>	Mary Lee Talbot
<i>TWIGS Editor:</i>	Kathi R. Clark
<i>Directory:</i>	Debra Eck
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