



Jamestown Branch

Volume 19, Issue 1

September/October 2013

From the Editor

Sept/Oct Member Birthdays

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

Janet Forbes	Sept. 5
Rita Brown	Sept. 7
Lori Cornell	Sept. 8
Marion Gibbons	Sept. 10
Elaine Damsteegt	Oct. 10
Joan Swanson	Oct. 21

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Calendar of Branch Events

Sept. 12, 2013, Thurs.

Program: "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School"

Speaker: Panel Discussion monitored by Carm Proctor, Jefferson Middle School Principal

Place: Jefferson Middle School Auditorium

Time: 7:00 PM

Sept. 17, 2013, Tues.

Board Meeting

Place: 33 LaSalle Avenue, Jamestown

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Sept. 25, 2013, Wed.

Program: Kick Off Business Meeting, Dinner, and Speaker

Speaker: Gail Black, Author of *Angels and Asses*

Branch Business: Handing out *Branch Directories* as well as What's New Fair posters, raffle, and admissions tickets.

Place: Marvin House; **Cost:** \$20 dinner; **Time:** 6:00 PM

Call Linda Fellows, 969-2720; dbfellows@sny.rr.com, to make reservations

Oct. 19, 2013, Sat.

Program: District 1 Meeting

Speaker: Journey Gunderson speaking on "Lucy--The Business Woman" followed by

Panel discussion of Women Business Owners

Tour: Included is a tour of the Lucy-Desi Museum Playhouse

Place: Lucy-Desi Center

Time: 9:30 AM ~ 2:30 PM

Oct. 22, 2013, Tues.

Board Meeting

Place: Celoron Community Center

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Oct. 24, 2013, Thurs.

Program: Candidates Forum

Place: Prendergast Library

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

All members are encouraged to attend these meetings.

Breaking through Barriers
for **130** Years



President's Message

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

I hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer. Now -- welcome to autumn -- my favorite time of the year. While leaves turn brilliant colors, we have new beginnings (at schools and on the football and soccer fields). We certainly have a new beginning for the AAUW year and a lot of great plans. Check out the "Save the Date" section of TWIGS and be sure to put the dates on your calendars.



We begin working in earnest now on November's What's New Fair. This event is the keystone of our Branch's commitment to women's education. We have distributed \$8,000-\$12,000 annually to local women going on to complete four-year degrees. We need to work hard to keep up our momentum and legacy to advance education for women in our area. And, remarkably, we do this work every year. I'm so proud of the women of our Branch who put in so much sweat equity to provide these scholarships.

We start our mission based program year with the long anticipated panel discussion on September 12th: "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment in the Schools." Our member, Carm Proctor, who is the Jefferson Middle School Principal, will be moderating this panel that is based on an AAUW 2011 research report. This event is free and open to the public. We hope we can especially draw parents and teachers to this event at the Jefferson Middle School beginning at 7 pm. Please see the related article and spread the word to your friends and family.

Later in the month, on September 25th, we will have our kick-off dinner at the Marvin House and hear a wonderfully entertaining speaker, Gail Black, owner of the Sugar Shack and author of "Angels and Asses." It will be a relaxed evening to catch up with each other and share a meal. It is also the time we will distribute the new Directories as well as WNF posters, raffle and admission tickets. You'll have the opportunity to sign up for the various WNF committees and select a time to work at the Fair on November 9th and 10th. And our meeting is open to non-members, as we are offering the reduced price membership of \$45.50 to individ-

uals who join that night. (Non-members must make reservations and pay for dinner just as members do.) So, bring a friend you have been thinking about as a potential AAUW member or who simply wishes to learn more about AAUW.

Our Branch is hosting this year's District One meeting on October 19th. We will entertain branch members from Fredonia/Dunkirk, Buffalo and Erie, Pa. The meeting title is "Lucy-the Business Woman." We will be meeting in the Tropicana Room and will hear Journey Gunderson, Director of the Lucile Ball & Desi Arnez Museum, tell us about how Lucille Ball ran the Desilu Studios. We will also have a panel of women discussing how they started their own businesses and the opportunity to tour the museum. We need volunteers to help with this day, so contact Candy Johnson, and please plan to attend.

Also in October, our branch, in collaboration with the League of Women Voters, will host the Candidates Forum at the Prendergast Library Fireplace Room on October 24th at 6:30 pm. We are working on adding another program in October, so "stay tuned." We will send out information when it becomes available.

Enjoy the fall. Get involved with AAUW if you are able. If you are not able, cheer us on as we take on another year of advancing equity for women and girls. If you want to get involved and do not know how, give me a call (483-5448) or email me (mirwin@stny.rr.com). We will find a place to match your interests to our branch needs!

We're happy to announce that Terry Klein has agreed to serve on the scholarship committee.



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.

Branch to Present Panel Discussion on Sexual Harassment in Schools

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

Our Jamestown Branch will present a panel discussion based on the 2011 AAUW research report, "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment in the Schools." The program will be held on Thursday evening, September 12th, at the Jefferson Middle School on Martin Road in Jamestown, beginning at 7 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

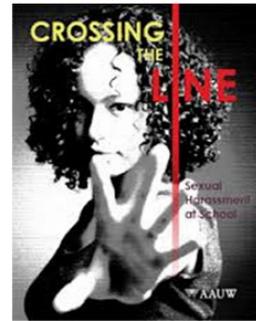
Sexual harassment is part of everyday life in middle and high schools. Nearly half of the students surveyed (48%) in the AAUW research reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment in the 2010-2011 school year, and 87% of the students said it had a negative effect on them. Verbal harassment made up the bulk of the incidents, but physical harassment was far too common. Sexual harassment by text, e-mail, Facebook, or other electronic means affected nearly 30% of the students. Many of the students who were sexually harassed through cyberspace were also sexually harassed in person.

Our AAUW member, Carm Proctor, Jefferson Middle School principal, will moderate the panel. Members of the panel are Karen Briner Peterson, Director of Human Services, Jamestown Public Schools; Thom Wright, School Counselor, Jefferson Middle School; Alycia L. Johnson, Chautauqua County Mental Health Department; and Timothy Hollern, Chautauqua County Deputy Sheriff.

We will be offering our reduced priced membership of \$45.50 to individuals who join by cash or check at the event. Please bring your friends and family members who have been thinking about joining AAUW.



AAUW Presents



Sexual Harassment at School: A Panel Discussion

Thursday, September 12th, 7 pm
Jefferson Middle School Auditorium
195 Martin Road, Jamestown



Free and open to the Public

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.

Public Policy

-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

It is still summer as I write; however, the up-coming November election is in the news almost daily. The major focus this Fall is Chautauqua County government, which impacts our lives on a daily basis.

AAUW again this year will co-sponsor a **“Candidate Forum”** with the League of Women Voters:

Thursday, October 24, 6:30 - 8:30
Fireplace Room, Prendergast Library

6:30 -7:30:

County Executive Candidates: Vincent W. Horrigan and Ronald R. Johnson

County Clerk Candidates: Larry L. Barmore and Lori B. Cornell

Fun at the District 1 Conference –

-- By Kathi Clark, District 1 Co-Coordinator

You are invited to experience the flare of Lucille Ball at our District One meeting on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 9:30 AM. We will join with the Buffalo and Dunkirk, New York AAUW branches, meeting at the Lucy-Desi Center in the Tropicana Room on the 3rd Floor. There is an elevator to transport us.



Journey Gunderson of the Lucy-Desi Center is our guest speaker, and she will tell us a bit about “Lucy--The Business Woman.” We all know Lucille Ball was quite an awesome character, so learning more about her will be a treat.

Following our guest speaker, there will be a panel discussion by area women business owners, sharing their personal experiences, joys, struggles, and accomplishments.

Then, we will enjoy a delicious meal Lucy style. And, if you’re lucky, you may even catch a glimpse of Lucille Ball herself. To top it all off, included in the price is a tour of the Lucy-Desi Museum Playhouse. This is definitely a meeting you will want to attend.

7:30 - 8:30:

Area Legislators:

Sharon M. Lisciandro and Paul M. Wendel, Jr.
Robert W. Whitney, Jr. and David E. Wilfong
Frederick A. Larson and William F. Prieto
Samuel J. Ognibene and Lisa A. Vanstrom
Tamara Downey or Ronald A. Lemon and Thomas A. Erlandson

There are many important and pressing issues facing us as citizens and taxpayers. It behooves us to be informed. There will be ample time for questions from the audience. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Here's a SAVE THE DATE LIST:

- For September and October, see the Calendar on p. 1 of this *Twigs* issue.
- November 9-10: What's New Fair
- November 15: New Member Party (for all members)
- December 12: Holiday Party
- January 23: Potluck Dinner
- February 5: “The Invisible War” movie showing/LAF fundraiser
- March 7: International Women's Day Dinner
- March 8: Get In The Game
- April 8: Pay Equity Day
- April 17: Membership Social
- May 21: Spring Fling
- June 19: Annual Dinner/Installation of Officers

AAUW New York State Leadership Conference

-- By Elaine Damsteegt

The Conference theme was “Violence Against Women and Children. The theme took many interesting twists and turns:

- From domestic abuse, to trafficking, to Title IX coverage of Sexual Harassment.
- From use of dogs in the courtroom, to AAUW members in courtrooms monitoring attitudes of Judges & District Attorneys towards abused women.
- From the 2020 Women's History Trail project, pointing out the struggle for Women's Right to Vote
- To finding ways for more women to become interested in STEM subjects.

I'll include here some of the thoughts I found significant:

- Batterers batter because they can. This has to stop.
- Battering is purposeful behavior--It is Domestic Terrorism. Batterers, who get away with it, become empowered to do more intense battering.
- Women get harder sentences than men do in similar situations. Police, District Attorneys, and Judges often choose those careers because of the power connected with them.
- Maya Angelou: “There is no greater agony than carrying the burden of an untold story.” It takes incredible courage for a child who has been abused or an adult survivor of domestic violence to break the silence and tell what has happened.
- We have a relationship with women all over the world-when we help them, they have the potential to help us.

- More than “athletics” is covered by Title IX. It also includes: Access to higher education, career education, employment, learning environment, math and science, sexual harassment, standardized tests, technology, treatment of pregnant girls, and violence against women.
- STEM is not an acronym; it is a concept. M no longer stands only for Math, but also for Medicine and Media.

Some things we can do:

- Find out how legislators vote on Domestic Violence issues; hold them accountable at election time.
- Judges and District Attorneys are elected officials, too. Find out how reasonable they are about domestic violence situations and make findings public.
- Instead of calling women “prostitutes” we need to learn to say “women who are prostituted” because of the overwhelming number who are forced into prostitution against their wills.
- Work to get the bill called Rosie's Law out of committee. It would extend the use of dogs in the courtroom to people of any age who might find it difficult to tell their stories in court. A petition is available.
- Make sure that the designated Title IX Coordinator for your school is known to all kids and parents. Each school must have one and the name must be in all school directories and websites. Call the school if not in compliance. Also suggest that the name be posted in restrooms.

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-nys.org

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

New Member Bio

-- By *Barbara Russell, Membership VP*

Susan Massey was born and lived most of her life in Erie, PA. She has a Master of Science Degree in Nursing and has worked for over 40 years in staff nursing and nursing education. She was the founding Director of the Mercyhurst University Associate Nursing Program. Prior to that she taught at Hamot, St. Vincent, and The Behrend College Schools of Nursing. Seven years ago she moved to Jamestown when "I married my wonderful husband,

Chuck." She recently retired from Jamestown Community College's nursing program. She states: "I enjoy traveling on our Gold Wing touring motorcycle and volunteering at our church's 4th Street Café and the Thrift Shop. I am member of The Crèche Inc Board, serving as Assistant Treasurer. Crèche is a local group of volunteers who assist needy children. I am so excited about joining AAUW to enhance educational and employment opportunities for women in the community and beyond."

International Affairs

-- By *Loreen Ginnitti, International Affairs Chair*

"We must be the change we wish to see in the world." Mohandas K. Gandhi

Our branch survey showed that violence against women was the primary area of interest you wished to study this year, so I will be writing articles, reviewing books on this topic, and summarizing organizations that are funding projects you might wish to support. I will try to bring you information and topics you might find interesting and enlighten your knowledge of international issues. Here is a

calendar of International Days of Recognition you might want to be aware of:

- August 26: Women's Equality Day
- September 8: UN's International Literacy Day
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- October 11: UN's International Day of the Girl Child
- October 24: UN Day
- November 14: World Diabetes Day
- November 20: UN's Universal Children's Day
- November 25: UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- December 1: World AIDS Day
- December 10: Human Rights Day

Uplifting Support for "Free The Girls"

-- By *Loreen Ginnitti, International Affairs Chair*

Thanks to all of you who supported the "Free the Girls" bra collection campaign. Our members and members of other women's groups supported an effort to help international women rescued from sex trafficking by collecting more than 280 gently used bras.

"Free the Girls" - launched in August 2010, and to date has collected over 130,000 gently used bras from women all over the world. In spring 2011, working alongside their safe house partner, Project Purpose, they launched a pilot program in Mozambique, Africa. "Free The Girls" provides bras to these young women whose lives and education have been interrupted when they became sex slaves through no fault of their own. During recovery from this life tragedy

the bras become an "at home" business that these girls use to support themselves while they attend school and attempt to get their lives back. The results of the pilot program were very promising-the women made 3-5x minimum wage selling between 100-500 bras each per month. Educated girls are less susceptible to early pregnancy and marriage and more likely to recover their lives more successfully.

For more information see the FreetheGirls.com website and you can watch the CNN documentary on Free The Girls on the CNN website - (video) Freedom Project.

Thanks again to all who made bra donations to the "Free the Girls" project. Your "support" was very "uplifting."

Violence Against Women Book List

-- By Loreen Ginnitti, *International Affairs Chair*

Below is a list of four books dealing with the issues of various forms of violence against women. Books like this are difficult to read because of the disturbing nature of the topic so reading one is probably enough. The first book listed I have read and it really gives you an in-depth look at the life of a Moslem woman from childhood through adulthood and chronicles the physical and psychological abuses she faced. Ultimately, she escapes Africa and rebels against her culture and her religion.

Hirsi Ali, Ayaan: *Infidel*. The personal journey of an Islamic woman born in Somalia whose life led from a traditional Moslem childhood in Africa through rebellion against an arranged marriage to refuge and citizenship in Holland, where she became a member of Parliament and a passionate advocate for the rights of Moslem women. An eye-opening look at family violence, female circumcision and suppression of women in the name of religious beliefs and direction from Allah and the Quran.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi: *Purple Hibiscus*. The story of a 15-year-old girl growing up in the power of a father who is a "Big Man", a pillar of society and philanthropist in his community but is an abusive tyrant at home, and of her painful emergence as a courageous young woman. The book takes the reader deep inside a troubled family while larger troubles beset the world in which they live.

Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn: *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. This husband and wife team of New York Times reporters have written a clear-eyed report on the gender-based cruelty to women common throughout the world, and a call to action by the international community to alleviate the oppression and poverty from which so many women suffer.

Walker, Alice: *Possessing the Secret of Joy*. A novel written around the issue of female genital mutilation in West Africa by the author of *The Color Purple*. Walker tells a good story which at the same time informs the reader about the issues surrounding FGM and what it does to the lives of women.

Circle of Distinction

-- By B. Dolores Thompson

The Circle of Distinction was established in 1982 to recognize the women of our community who were pioneers in one way or another. The first 20 were highlighted in previous *Twigs* issues this year. Following are 5 more honorees.

[Anna Clift Smith](#) was a woman way before her time as a liberated and independent woman, living a solitary life on the shores of Lake Erie. Her diary included examples of her artistic skills.

[Rev. Dr. Ruby Elinor Hare](#) established the Women's Advocate Ministry in New York City in 1983 in response to the needs of the women incarcerated on Riker's Island. She later brought her ministry to Chautauqua County.

[Ruth Barker Winch](#), a devoted educator at all levels, was the driving force in the establishment of the Chautauqua County BOCES. She also established a number of scholarships at SUNY Fredonia.

[Ruth Olson, RN](#), served on the staff of Jamestown General Hospital. Active in community organizations such as the Audubon Society, she traveled extensively and piloted her own airplane.

[Esther Sessions Keyser](#) was the first female guide of Algonquin Park in Ontario, Canada. Her deep love of and commitment to nature led to a career in Chautauqua County's Girl Scout programs. The man-made lake at Camp Timbercrest is named in her honor.



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 VPs:	Candy Johnson
Membership VP:	Barbara Russell Alicia Hodnett
EOF VP:	Frances Fair
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
<i>Calling:</i>	Holly Gatto
<i>Social Media:</i>	Kathy Colby
Social:	Linda Fellows Dixie Siegel
Scholarship:	Wendy Present Kathy Stedman Kathi Clark Terry Klein
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