



Jamestown Branch

Volume 21, Issue 1

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From the Editor

Exciting things are ahead this year for the Jamestown branch! Here's a glimpse of some of activities you will definitely want to put on your calendars and become involved with. You don't want to miss out on anything.

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Calendar of Branch Events

Sept. 16, 2015; Wed.

Program: The Clothesline Project

Place: Jamestown Community College, by the Pond

Time: Noon - 1:00 PM

Sept. 23, 2015; Wed.

Program: Branch Year Kick-Off Potluck

Place: Celoron Community Center

Time: 6:00 - 8:00

Mark these
meetings on
your calendar.

October 17, 2015; Sat.

Program: AAUW District One Conference

Host: Buffalo Branch

Place: UB Center for Tomorrow

Time: 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM



October 20, 2015; Tues.

Program: Community Collaborations for Children's Health and Wellness

Speaker: Christine Schuyler, Chautauqua County Commissioner of Social Services/Public Health Director

Place: YWCA Jamestown Auditorium

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 PM

October 22, 2015; Thurs.

Program: Candidates Forum w/ League of Women Voters & JCC

Speakers: Local Candidates

Place: JCC, Sarita Week Room

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Breaking through Barriers
for **130** Years

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 summer BOD meeting on August 12, 2015.

- Janet Forbes was approved as the second signatory for our Branch checks and accounts.
- Audit will be completed by Phoebe Forbes
- There are 61 current Branch members - down from 80 in 2014-15. Alicia Hodnett is working on strategies to re-engage non-renewing members.
- Proposed program for 2015-16 reviewed and discussed. Focus is on collaborating with community organizations to meet local needs and STEM--Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for girls and women.
- AAUW will serve as sponsor of Women Create exhibit in April 2016. \$50 donation approved.
- Janet Forbes serving as STEM chair for our Branch. Collaborating with Cummins Engine for STEM event for girls and local promotion of Tech Savvy 2016 at UB.
- Committee chair appointments reviewed and discussed. International Issues chair position remains open. Discussion of structure of Scholarship Committee. Decision made to reduce number of committee members from 4 to 3.
- Educational Opportunities Fund - Jamestown Branch funded AAUW grant fund supported the New York City Urban Debate League Summer Debate Institute. This is the first girls debate league in the nation.
- Communications Committee - Kathi Clark is chairing and needs volunteers interested in serving on the committee.
- Educational Partners- Rita Freeborough, JCC C/U representative, presented overview of plans to create Advisory Board and AAUW Club at JCC.
- Laurie Ginnitti discussed flexible approaches for Branch leadership and by-laws.
- Next meeting schedule for Wednesday, Sept., 9, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Celoron Community Center. Linda Fellows will chair the meeting.

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.

Program Year Kick-Off

-- By Janet Forbes, Program VP

Our new AAUW year will kick-off with a potluck dinner and fun time together on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Celoron Community Center at the corner of Dunham Avenue and Boulevard Street. Bring a dish to pass, table service, and beverage. Coffee will be provided.

You can pick up your Branch Directory, What's New Fair posters and tickets, sign up for shifts at the WNF, etc. as well as mix and mingle with long-time and new AAUW friends. Hope to see you there!

What's Happening With Membership

-- By *Alicia Mae Hodnett, Membership VP*

I am so excited about this new year and hope you get involved and are excited too. For the 2015-2016 AAUW Year we have 66 members, which includes 2 lifetime members. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining us, we'd love to have him/her attend a branch meeting or come to the AAUW What's New Fair and join our amazing group. We're hoping the Directories will be ready for you to pick up at our first AAUW branch meeting, September 23, 2015. Please read and notice within the Directory all of the events planned for this year. I'd encourage you to identify at least one or two events, put them on your personal calendar, and invite a friend. Remember, the more new members we acquire, the more opportunities we have to receive FREE memberships.

Also, take a look at the AAUW National website. There's a lot happening. If you know someone who could use an educational grant, encourage her to apply! AAUW is making a difference in the lives of women and girls, spread the word!!!

From my own calculations, if someone joined AAUW in "1965," they would qualify as a "lifetime" member. According to the National database, we have 3 members who joined in 1966, so they should qualify next year. I will make note of this. I have also cc'd Shirley.

Kathi Clark and I will be working on a new interest survey for members so you can become involved in the parts off AAUW that interest you the greatest. You may receive notifications to participate on a committee and if this looks like a good fit for you, please say "yes."

What's Happening With Education Partners?

-- By *Christina Marsh, Education Partners Co-Chair*



What's happening? Exciting things! The Jamestown Branch of the American Association of University Women and Jamestown Community College have joined together to create the AAUW/JCC Women's Issue Advisory Group. The mission of the joint working group will be to explore women's issues especially related to college aged women. The group will create and produce workshops, talks, and action events related to women.

On Wednesday, September 16 from noon – 1 PM, we will be holding The Clothesline Project, an event on the JCC Campus to address Violence Against Women. It is a vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt and hanging the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women.



The group also expects to repeat the HIRE ME series next Spring, which includes the Dress for Success fashion show, Compensation and Negotiation Interview skills, and Resumes workshops, while adding a few more workshops.

We are looking for women to join us in helping to contribute to and expand knowledge in the area of women's issues as well as assistance with the workshops and events. If you wish to join the Advisory Group, contact Education Partners co-chairs, Maggie Irwin, at mirwin@stny.rr.com or Christina Marsh at christina.alesia@gmail.com.

Public Policy

-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

Summer is definitely waning; it will soon be Fall...which signals the restart of school and the increasing voices of the politicians anticipating the November election. You will have the opportunity to hear some of those voices on October 22nd in the Weeks Room on the JCC campus from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at our annual Candidate Forum, cosponsored with the League of Women Voters and the Political Science Department of JCC.

This is a very low-key election year, local elections only. But they are as important as state and national elections, as they deal with local issues...of most importance, our local property taxes and how those \$\$\$ are spent.

Jamestown City council has 5 seats which are being contested, and the 10 candidates will be available to answer your questions and concerns. Mayor Teresi is running unopposed, as are the three At-Large candidates and the Ward 6 candidate. Also on the agenda are the candidates for two of the County Legislature

seats, which represent our area. Eleven of the County's 19 seats are unopposed, a very disturbing fact.

When our founding fathers (no mothers) wrote and signed The Constitution in 1787, 228 years ago, there was no mention anywhere of women. It was simply assumed that everything referenced males; women somehow seemed not to even exist. However, we know Susan B. Anthony and a host of other women changed that, beginning with the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. The main focus was the right to vote. As the western frontier was being settled, women's suffrage was established in many of the territories in the mid-late 1880s. However, these covered only local elections. Skipping many years and many details, women finally had the right to vote for the President of the United States and all other governmental officials in 1920. Women were, finally, full citizens of the country to which they had pledged allegiance.

The right to vote is a privilege not accorded to a majority of women on Planet Earth. In honor and recognition of them....VOTE...



NYS Special Project and Possible New Interest Group

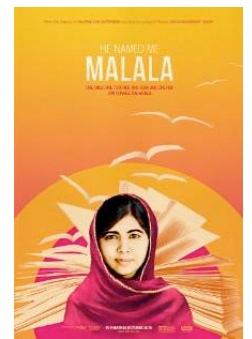
-- Kathi R. Clark, Communications Chair

At this year's leadership conference in Cazenovia, NY, attended by Linda Fellows, Laurie Ginnitti, Janet Forbes, Kayla Crosby, and myself, we were challenged by Joan Monk, AAUW-NYS, to embrace the NYS Special Project this year: "Leadership: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow." She asked us to focus on Eleanor Roosevelt (yesterday), Malala Yousafzai (today), and young women and girls (tomorrow).

To start our embrace of this NYS Special Project, we began discussion about going to see as a branch the upcoming movie "He Named Me Malala," which is projected to be in movie theaters October 2. I've emailed Dipson Theaters to see if they will be getting this movie, but to this date they did not respond to me, so I will be following up on this. Developing this further, Kayla Crosby, who is on the Education Partners committee, and I discussed not only seeing

this film as an AAUW branch, but also seeing it with JCC students and talking to professors about it. Once I know if Dipson Theater or the Reg Lenna is getting this movie, we can proceed in our plans for both the branch and JCC, so stay tuned to your email.

Out of this may also develop a new interest group I would like to form--A movie night interest group. Another movie scheduled to come to area theaters is called "Suffragette," released October 23, and I'd love to see this one with my AAUW family as well. I will keep you posted as new information comes available and plans develop.



How Were the Funds Used for Our AAUW Grant #1445?

-- By Elaine Damsteegt, EOF VP

Meet the recipients of our Jamestown Branch Grant for 2015: THE NYC GIRLS DEBATE LEAGUE. In an email of appreciation from them is this statement: "We owe so much to the AAUW for the incredible support!"

I have been enjoying this exciting group through their emails this summer and thought you might also. You can find them at the following:

Website: www.debate.nyc

Blog: <http://debate.nyc/news/blog/>

Email: nycudl@gmail.com

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/nycudl

Twitter: [#nycdebateleague](https://twitter.com/nycdebateleague)

This is the largest debate league in the nation. Over 100 NYC schools and 1000 NYC youth participate in debates each month. They use evidence-based argumentation curriculum to increase student literacy, writing, public speaking, & critical thinking skills. Their motto is "Empowering NYC youth to achieve excellence through academic debate."

They offer a year-round extensive program of debate education opportunities, including debate practices every day, debate tournaments every weekend,

and debate institutes all summer. Programs are for elementary, middle school, high school, college, and alumni debate. They also have the Debate Club, Girls Debate League, NYC Travel Debate Team, Curricular Debate, Intelligence Squared Debates, Legal Education, and Diversity Pipeline Initiative, under their umbrella.

Their debaters have higher grades, attendance rates, test scores, high school graduation rates, college acceptance rates, college graduation rates, and civic engagement than their non-debater peers.

Among many others, recent topics they have taken on are: The Equal Rights Amendment, STEM issues, Domestic Surveillance, Racial Justice issues, Animal Cloning, Immigration Amnesty, and a review of the 1st Presidential Debate.

I feel proud that we have been able to participate in such a worthy program with money we have earned through our Educational Opportunities Fund. Our EOF Jamestown Career Development Fund Grant is #1445.



Results of the EOF/LAF Garage Sale Fundraiser

*EOF/LAF Garage Sale Fundraiser
to support our Jamestown Branch Grant
and women seeking legal redress for discrimination*

We are happy to report that we earned a total of \$855.77 from the 'discards' that you donated. This

makes \$427.89 each for EOF and LAF. These 2 arms of our fundraiser efforts will continue to work together. Be sure to come to the September 23 Branch meeting to learn about our next intriguing projects.

LAF News

-- By Laurie Holthouse, LAF Co-VP

Susan Burns began to work at Yale University in 1999 as a communications specialist. In 2012 she filed a suit against Yale alleging sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title IX. Burns claims she was a victim of discrimination, leading to her termination after years of attempting to help sexual assault survivors on campus and alerting Yale to

potential Title IX violations. Burns claimed her concerns were not addressed and her warnings ignored as she attempted to help students achieve justice. The University retaliated against her through humiliation, narrowing her authority, and eventually terminating her position. AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund began supporting the case in 2015.

Circle of Distinction

-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

Catherine Dickes Harris, selected in 1984, was the third woman honored by the Circle of Distinction. She was honored for the role she played in the Underground Railroad in the mid 1880s. Her small house, at what became 12 West 7th Street, sheltered an unknown number of runaway slaves on their way to freedom in Canada. In this endeavor, she had strong support from the community, which helped her provide food and clothing during the runaways' brief stay.

Catherine was born June 10, 1809 on a farm near Meadville, PA. At age 19, she married her husband. They came to Jamestown in 1831, building a small house on 7th Street, gradually enlarging it. It has been claimed that she, on one occasion, sheltered 17 runaways. She was well known in the community as a natural doctor/herbalist, nurse, and midwife. She was described in her obituary as "tall and slender with a

refined and intelligent face. She was a woman of a peculiarly sunny and happy disposition, generous, thoughtful, and unselfish."

In her defiance of the Fugitive Slave Act, Catherine risked \$1,000 fines and 6 months in prison. She was one of the few Blacks in the US to do so. She died February 12, 1907 from pneumonia, a few hours after her daughter succumbed to the same illness.



Catherine's home was the site of the birth of the A.M.E. Zion Church in 1881, later serving for many years as the church parsonage. The house is now demolished, but the Church continues to own and maintain the property. A New York State historical marker, erected in the 1930s, stands in front of the property.

Behind the Scenes of Social Networking and Fun Activities

A special Thank You to Kathy Colby for all you do as the Social Networking and Fun Activities chair!

It was recently brought to my attention all that Kathy Colby does behind the scenes as the Social Networking and Fun Activities chair. I found what she had to say very interesting and thought you would enjoy reading it too. ~ Kathi R. Clark, *Twigs* editor

-- By Kathy Colby, Social Networking and Fun Activities Chair

The job as Social Networking Chair is an almost daily job. This involves checking/managing AAUW email, creating attractive programs and Diva announcements, updating *Twigs* on the website, posting important and interesting information on Facebook, Twitter, and our website. I act as a liason, for lack of a better word, with the AAUW resource site staff. They are the back-up for me if I have issues managing our website.

Note something new: The Banner at the top of our website has been changed to match the Facebook page. I also added a Fun Activity page to post Diva Nights.

To honor Kathy's efforts I invite each one of you to take a look at and visit regularly our beautiful website as well as our Facebook page.

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-nys.org

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



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.

Looking for Committee Workers

If you have an interest in working on the Communications team, we would love to have you. We need help proofreading *Twigs*, writing newspaper articles regarding events we are hosting, speaking on the radio to advertise events, designing posters for events, placing posters around, etc. Contact Kathi Clark at 450-1839 if interested in this committee.

In addition, we're looking for help on the Membership team, calling former members to rejoin us, working on new membership recruitment ideas, encouraging our new members with a ride to an event, and caring for existing members. Contact Alisha Hodnett at 720-1730 to join her committee.

Thanks in advance for your help.

AAUW What's New Fair Table

-- By Elaine Damsteegt and Linda Fellows

We are ready to enlist all of you clever, creative people to aim your efforts towards items for the WNF AAUW Table. We love handmade things, but also

invite you to donate nice, unused, eye-catching items to sell. Keep in mind that the community will be Christmas shopping. We'll let you know when we are collecting your items--just want you to think about it and prepare some lovely things now.

AAUW Chautauqua Day -- A Most Enjoyable Time

-- By Maggie Irwin, AAUW Day Organizer

Below are emails with feedback from our absolutely wet AAUW Day at Chautauqua, which was held this past summer on July 9. There were 23 of us at lunch and probably 5-6 others who chose to lunch elsewhere. Wes Moore was an outstanding speaker. We had AAUW members from Pittsburgh, Erie, Bath, Buffalo, and Jamestown.

We could not have had this day without the good work of Barb Russell who processed all the ticket and lunch orders and kept me on track and Shirley Sanfilippo, our treasurer, who keeps track of the monies.

Hope next year you can make plans to join us.

Maggie Irwin
AAUW Day organizer

~ Alise ~ Maggie! I am sorry I did not get to see you Thursday. Thank you SO much for again extending us the wonderful opportunity to come to the Chautauqua Institution for the day. We Bath people had a great time! Wes Moore was thoroughly impressive; we did the bus tour (again); and some of us saw that tremendous production of "OUR TOWN" which was -well- wonderful! Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

~ Dolores ~ Maggie, Thank you for selecting Wes Moore for AAUW Day at Chautauqua. Wes is an excellent speaker...his subject is of great, if not critical, importance in our society today. Those who did not attend missed an opportunity to explore, to learn and, more importantly, to think about how we, as a nation, raise our sons. As the mother of 4 sons, all grown with families of their own, I think I have done an okay job.

Thanks, Maggie, we in AAUW need to address these critical social issues and not only women's issues.

~ Ann Carlson, Jane Depee, Peggy Garbooshian ~ Hi Maggie, While I still have my soggy notes for today's events, I want to tell you that the three of us from, North Hill - McKnight, Pittsburgh, thoroughly enjoyed the day (well, maybe not the rain so much!!). I actually thought the buffet was excellent - probably a better idea than individual entrees. Having the separate room was very nice.

I hope that you will continue with this event, and that you will keep us on your list...I don't know who your contact was, but any of the three of us would be happy to spread the info next year.



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

Committee Chairs

Public Policy:	B. Dolores Thompson
Communications Chair:	Kathi Clark
<i>Publicity:</i>	TBA
<i>TWIGS Editor:</i>	Kathi Clark
<i>Directory:</i>	Debra Eck
<i>Social Media:</i>	Kathy Colby
<i>Member Communications:</i>	Kathi Clark
Social:	Mary Keeney
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