



Jamestown Branch

Volume 18, Issue 3

January/February 2013

From the Editor

2013 Launches Must-Do AAUW Programs and Events

This issue describes must-attend programs during the months of January and February, so be sure to put the dates on your calendar. Also, it's time to sign up for Get-in-the-Game, our National Girls and Women in Sports Day, which is held in March. Read about needs regarding this event on p. 4, and then call Rae Lynn to volunteer. You'll be glad you did.

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Calendar of Branch Events

January 15, 2013, Tues.

Board Meeting

Place: Celoron Community Center

Time: 6 - 7:30 PM



January 17, 2013, Thurs.

Program: Being in the Driver's Seat . . . Destination Dreamland: Planning for your financial future in difficult times

3 Presenters: Kathryn "Kat" Colvin, Edward Jones; Marcia Bliss, CPA; and Hope L. Fredrickson, Esq., AAL.

Following the presentations will be a panel discussion.

Place: Robert H. Jackson Center

Time: 5:30

(See article on p. 3)

February 19, 2013, Tues.

Board Meeting

Place: Celoron Community Center

Time: 6 - 7:30 PM

All members are encouraged to attend these meetings.

February 20, 2013, Wed.

Program: Crossing the Line Panel: AAUW Sexual Harassment Report

Panel Discussion about Sexual Harassment in School with

Moderator Carm Proctor, Jefferson Middle School Principal.

Place: Robert H. Jackson Center

Time: 7 PM

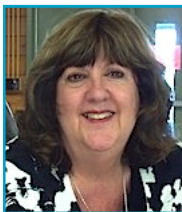
(See article on p. 3)



President's Message

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

Happy New Year! As 2013 begins, you may be examining your lives, making resolutions, and thinking about how you make a difference in our world. I am reminded of Sir Winston Churchill who said, "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give." I believe our Jamestown Branch does make a difference in our community, and it is members like you who make it happen.



Just to remind us, this fall we held a **voter registration drive** and our annual **Candidates' Forum**. All of us worked hard to produce a successful **What's New Fair**. I'm happy to report that we netted \$8500 for our scholarship fund from the Fair and gained seven new members!

We have a challenging few months coming up with many opportunities to make a difference to women and girls in our area. But, we cannot do it without all of you.

In March we need to muster all able-bodied members to put on our 14th annual **Get In the Game**. (See the related article about this fantastic day of sports for girls in grades 4-7.) On March 9th, we will have 100+ young girls coming together to try eight different sports while learning teamwork and improving their own self-esteem. Please volunteer--whether it is helping with registration, serving lunch, or being a team leader.

On Friday evening, March 8th, we will celebrate **International Women's Day**, a holiday observed around the world, with a dinner at the Robert H. Jackson Center in collaboration with Zonta International. Our speaker, Katherine Mang, will tell us about her micro-lending organization, Mothers Clubs of Tanzania and Haiti. We need volunteers to help with the planning of this event.

Tech Savvy, a STEM event founded by Buffalo AAUW Branch, will be held on March 16th in Buffalo. Our member Janet Forbes is spearheading our effort to organize local girls to attend Tech Savvy. She will need help from members.

We have **three terrific programs** that need your support with your attendance. On January 17th we will have a program on your financial future (see the related article), and on March 19th Superior Court Judge Paula Feroletto will speak about "Breaking into a Man's Field." On February 20, we are organizing a panel discussion on last year's AAUW breakthrough research report, "**Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment in High Schools**." We need volunteers to help with this program.

Pay Equity Day is April 9th this year. In 2011, women working full time earned only 77% of what men earned—a ratio that has remained stagnant for 10 years. Pay Equity Day is the day that women typically catch up to men's salaries from the previous year.

Last year we put together a Pay Equity Day rally on Tracy Plaza with Mayor Teresi issuing a proclamation. We need to make plans for this year and are looking for a few good women to work with Public Policy Chair, Dolores Thompson, to organize a meaningful event.

As you can see, there is a lot to do—a lot of opportunities for all of us. Please consider making a difference in our branch. Margaret Mead wrote, "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Please contact me to let me know which activity you will join to make a difference.

(Mlrwin@stny.rr.com; 483-5448).

National AAUW Calls for Artists!

Here's a great opportunity to showcase your artwork! You can help create our spring note cards, which will be mailed to AAUW members.

January 2013 Submit your art design online.



Original art can be in any medium but must be submitted electronically.

February 2013 Members vote for their favorite designs on the AAUW website. For more info visit www.aauw.org/contests.

Upcoming Programs 2013

-- By Candy Johnson, Program Co-Chair

Our first program for 2013 (on January 17) deals with a top priority issue for us all **“Being in the Driver's Seat...Destination Dreamland: Planning for your financial future in difficult times”** focuses on what we can do now for a better financial future tomorrow. First, we will have three presenters, followed by a panel discussion with Charlotte S. Carlson, CTFA & Trust Officer, Community Bank, N.A., as moderator.

Presentations:

“Investment Rules of the Road” by Kathryn “Kat” Colvin, AAUW member and Financial Advisor, Edward Jones, Lakewood

“Health Care and Taxes--The Road Hazards Along Your Journey” by Marcia Bliss, CPA, Jamestown

Public Policy

-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

The NYS AAUW 2013-2015 Biennial Action Priorities will be adopted at the State Convention April 26-28 in Lake Placid. The current Priorities read:

1. To support a strong system of public education in New York State that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity, AAUW New York State advocates:

- * Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students
- * Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- * Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls in elementary and secondary education
- * Opposition to the use of public funds for non-public elementary and secondary education
- * Responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education

2. To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW New York State advocates:

- * Fairness in compensation, including pay equity,

“Rest Assured - Your Legacy Lives On” by Hope L. Fredrickson, Esq., Attorney at Law, Sinclairville

This event is open to the public; bring a friend or two. Held at 5:30 PM at the Robert H. Jackson Center, a light dinner will be offered for a nominal fee.

Our February 20th program's focus is on one of AAUW's most recent reports: **CROSSING THE LINE**, which deals with sexual harassment in schools. AAUW member Carm Proctor, Jefferson Middle School Principal, will moderate a panel discussion about Sexual Harassment in the schools. Panel members are drawn from the areas of school counseling, mental health, and law enforcement. The panel will address this critical issue in our schools and will answer your questions.

Held at the Robert H. Jackson Center, 7 PM, open to the public. Please invite a friend.

- Social Security and other pension benefits for women
- * Equitable access and advancement in employment
- * Vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes
- * Access to affordable, quality, comprehensive health care; and choice in reproductive health care for all women
- * Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce and improve women's earning potential, including women's entrepreneurship
- * Greater availability of and access to quality, affordable dependent care

I am suggesting that the phrase "special needs students" be included somewhere in one of the statements in #1. I need to respond to Donna Seymour by January 15, 2013. If you have any comments, please contact me asap.

Get in the Game

--By Rae Lynn Reimondo

Attention all AAUW members!! We are in need of member volunteers for our 14th Annual Get in the Game! Our 14th annual Get in the Game event will be held at JCC, Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

What is this? It is our local celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day and has been a huge success. Girls in grades 4-7 spend the day at JCC rotating through several different sports sessions. We cannot continue this wonderful event without the support of our members. Please consider donating some of you time to encourage our area's young girls to participate in sports. This year we are working on including kayaking, basketball, rugby, track, gymnastics, Zumba, and others.

Here is a description of the various "jobs" that we need our members help with. We ask for volunteers to assist us with the following duties:

1. Registration: Registering/ checking in participants and handing out T- shirts to each registered attendee (from 8 - 9:15 AM). (Most girls are pre-registered.)

6 volunteers needed

2. Lunch: Helping to serve the delivered pizza etc. (from 11:45 AM - 12:45)

4 or 5 volunteers needed

3. Dismissal: Recording each child's pick up by authorized person (from 3 4 PM.)

6 volunteers needed

4. Group Leader: Taking your group of girls to their designated scheduled sport and making sure your group stays together completing all rotations. The Group Leader can be full day 8am-4pm) or 1/2 day morning (8-12pm) or afternoon (12-4pm) but we need 2 adults Group Leaders per group for both morning and afternoon shifts.

14 volunteers needed.

If you have never participated in Get in the Game, you will NOT be disappointed! You will get so much joy out of introducing these girls to sports they can participate in.

Email me at rreimondo@stny.rr.com or call me at 386-2052 or 450-8465 if you are interested in volunteering or would like more information.



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.

Legal Advocacy Fund Support

-- By Kathy Herron, LAF Co-VP

The following items may be of interest to you from the *LAF Express* newsletter for December.

- This year the LAF awarded more than \$100,000 in case support and Fund 15 LAF Campus Outreach Grant programs.
- AAUW Board of Directors voted to support the lawsuit “LeBlanc v. Trustees of Indiana University.” Ms. LeBlanc is the former director of the Hudson and Holland Scholars Program at the university, which is a scholarship program that serves primarily African American students. The suit claims gender and pay discrimination after allegedly facing resistance when Ms. LeBlanc tried to resolve the pay disparity internally.
- The book *Stop Street Harassment: Making Public Places Safe and Welcoming for Women* is now available in paperback at Amazon for \$15.00. This book addresses the all too common form of harassment that is generally dismissed as harmless but can make

Emerging Leader and EOF Honorees Named by Board

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

It is with great pleasure that the Branch Board of Directors voted on December 18th to name Barbara Russell as this year's Emerging Leader and Elaine Damsteegt and Kathi Clark as our Educational Opportunities Fund honorees.

Barb Russell joined AAUW at the 2010 Branch Social. Later that summer she volunteered to co-chair the WNF Raffle and did so for two years. At the same time she joined the Membership Committee and in 2012 agreed to be the Membership Vice-President. Barb is a real team player and always willing to help out.

Kathi Clark is being honored for her 15 years as the What's New Fair Co-Chair. Kathi has dedicated herself each year to making the Fair a success. Words cannot express how grateful this branch is, as well as the hundreds of scholarship recipients, for Kathi's hard work in raising our annual scholarship fund monies. Kathi also has been our invaluable *TWIGS* editor for a number of years. Just last year she joined the Scholarship

women feel unsafe in some public places. LAF Program Manager Holly Kearl published the book and has given many talks to AAUW members at state conventions on the subject.

- The documentary “The Invisible War” about military sexual assault (which features several AAUW supported cases) is available from Netflix and Amazon. This film is number 10 on *TIME*'s top 100 movies of 2012. Our branch could also host a screening of this film by downloading the “program in a box” and show the film for \$150.00.
- AAUW members can receive a special 50% discount on Anita Hill's book “I Still Believe” when ordering from the Feminist Press. Use discount code ISBAH50212.

Thank you everyone for donating at this year's Christmas Party to the LAF and EOF funds. We received \$168.00 for each fund. Your donations are supporting the legal rights of those facing discrimination in the workplace (including the military) and schools.

Committee to help determine who will receive the Jamestown Branch AAUW Scholarships. Also last year Kathi became our District One Co-coordinator along with her mother, Elaine Damsteegt. Whew! No wonder Kathi wants to retire from the WNF!

Elaine Damsteegt, our Educational Opportunities Fund Vice-President, is being honored for her strong contributions to our Branch. For the last two years, Elaine has raised over \$1,000 per year for our branch donation to the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund. Elaine has also been the Branch President for four years, Membership Vice-President, and held different WNF Chair positions. In addition to her current position, she is our District One Co-coordinator with her daughter, Kathi Clark. Elaine epitomizes the definition of hard worker, innovative thinker, and reliable volunteer!

Please join me in congratulating all three women for their honors and please thank them for their valuable contributions to our branch.

Educational Opportunities Fund

-- By Elaine Damsteegt, Educational Fund VP

History of Jamestown Branch's Own Grant #1445

In 1980 we made a monumental commitment to create our own Branch Research & Project Grant.

In 1982 we began to put our money towards what was called (at that time) a "Named Unit" within the Research and Project Endowment area of the Educational Foundation. We needed to have \$25,000 in the fund to establish the Grant.

In 1984 new policies were made within the Educational Foundation. But it wasn't until 1988/89 that our funds were transferred to "Endowment" status. At that time we were given 15 years to reach stipend-producing completion status and learned that the new amount needed was \$35,000.

Although we had given 2004 as the target date, we were able to reach our goal early. There is an award from National in our records congratulating us on the completion of the Grant, dated October 2002.

During the years that our Branch worked to establish Grant #1445, the money often came from What's New Fair Funds and personal donations. More recently, the money we donate towards maintaining the Grant comes from your personal donations-monetary (gifts at Christmas, etc.) and from the EOF Garage Sale.

Circle of Distinction

-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

The Sep/Oct issue of *Twigs* briefly mentioned the history of the Circle of Distinction. The Nov/Dec issue named the first 5 women. This issue highlights the 6th-10th women.

Bertha Stoneman with a PhD in Botany traveled to South Africa to teach at the newly established Huguenot College, became its third president, and published a botany book still in print. She founded the South African Association of University Women.

The Chautauqua Women's Political Equality Club, organized in Jamestown at Allen's Opera House, was the largest in the US. One member, **Edith Ainge**, active

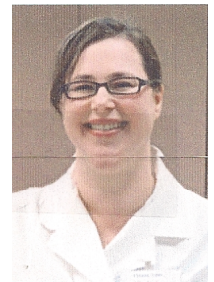
(By the way, our Grant is now in a part of AAUW FUNDS called Educational Opportunities Funds-therefore, EOF.)

At the discretion of National AAUW, the amount of a grant awarded to an individual or project can vary from \$2000-\$12,000.

From 2004/05-2010/11 our Grant, as a Career Development Grant, was awarded each year to a woman who had a 4-year degree and needed assistance in order to continue her education toward her career goal.

Our 2011/12 Grant was a Community Action Grant that went to "The Rites of Passage Program" for a series of workshops to help girls recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science and to pursue these fields as a career.

This year the Jamestown Grant #1445 is again a Career Development Grant and has been awarded to Christine Torres who is currently working toward a master's degree at the Finger Lakes School of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine at the New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls, New York. She is particularly interested in supporting women's mental health and fertility through acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine.



in Washington D.C., was arrested 5 times for demonstrating and refused to eat prison food.

A group of philanthropic Christian women founded the Women's Christian Association Hospital in 1887, locating it in a once private family home.

Jamestown's Pioneer Women, including **Phoebe Blowers** and **Agnes "Aunt Nancy" Prendergast**, created homes in the early 1800s wilderness, which became Jamestown.

Dr. Jane Lincoln Greely was Jamestown's first woman doctor in the late 1800s, delivering babies at homes and tending to reluctant males. She reportedly drove one of the first electric cars in Jamestown.

New Member Bios

-- By Barbara Russell, Membership VP

Mary B. Schiller: I was born in Oil City, PA, moved to Harrisburg, PA where I graduated from high school, and graduated from Duke University with a BA in English. After taking two years off to work in a local marina (first female employee), I spent my first year in law school at American University, then transferred to and graduated from SUNY Buffalo Law School after realizing that I wanted to reside permanently in Chautauqua County. Mayville was a summer vacation spot, and my father had strong ties to Chautauqua, so I have always had a deep love of the area.

Following law school, I was a part-time Assistant County Attorney and worked for a local attorney. In 1990 I joined Fessenden, Laumer & DeAngelo and became a partner in 1998. Currently, I practice primarily in the area of personal injury and civil litigation.

In the community I am involved with the Chautauqua County Humane Society as the current board president and 14 year volunteer dog walker. I also volunteer as a board member for the Chautauqua Cemetery Association, a member of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, a committee member for the Eighth Judicial District Attorney Grievance Committee, current Vice-President of the Jamestown Bar Association, and chairperson of the Village of Mayville Zoning Board of Appeals. I previously was a board member and president of Legal Aid of the Chautauqua Region and the Mayville-Chautauqua Lions Club as well as a board member of the YWCA of Jamestown, the Chautauqua Lake Association, and Centaur Stride. I have also served as a Justice for the Town of Chautauqua.

I live in Mayville with my husband, Charlie, and our two dogs (both adopted from the Humane Society, of course) in what was my family's summer cottage; even though it's a little shoebox, we think it's a slice of heaven on the lake. We enjoy traveling when we can, boating when we can, and cooking all the time.

I admire the AAUW's long history of promoting real equality and independence for women through education, hard work, and self-determination. Education in particular is crucial to giving young women the confidence and tools to fight all discrimination and hatred, not just gender based. I look forward to doing what I can to help support the organization and to gain new friendships.

Alice Chrispell Alessi: I grew up in the Jamestown area and currently reside in Randolph, NY. I graduated from Jamestown Community College and received my BS and MS degrees from SUNY at Fredonia. I am a licensed speech-language pathologist and work for Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES at Ellicottville Central School. My husband is Mark Alessi and I have two daughters, Shannon and Brittany.

My hobbies include traveling, reading, skiing, hiking, spending time with my friends and family. I am politically active at the grassroots level and my current mission is to help protect our environment from hydro-fracking.



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.

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-nys.org

Jamestown Website: www.jamestown.aauw-nys.org

Kathy Colby has designed our branch website -- Take a peek. Paste this into the address bar:

<http://www.aauwjamestownny.weebly.com>



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 and Charlotte Carlson
Membership VP:	Barbara Russell
EOF VP:	Elaine Damsteegt
LAF VPs:	Loreen Ginnitti Kathy Herran
Treasurer:	Shirley Sanfilippo
Recording Secretary:	Phoebe Forbes

Committee Chairs

Public Policy:	B. Dolores Thompson
Communications Chair:	Jade Barber Mary Lee Talbot
<i>Writer:</i>	
<i>TWIGS Editor:</i>	Kathi R. Clark
<i>Directory:</i>	Debra Eck
<i>Calling:</i>	Dixie Siegel
<i>Social Media:</i>	Kathy Colby
Social:	Linda Fellows
District 1 Coordinators:	Elaine Damsteegt Kathi Clark
Scholarship:	Wendy Present Kathy Stedman Kathi Clark
Fun/Activities:	Kathy Colby
Historian:	Elaine Rissel
NYS Membr./Finance Liason:	Phoebe Forbes
Corresponding Secretary:	Vange Lamper
College/University Partners:	Christina Marsh Alicia Hodnett