



# Jamestown Branch

Volume 19, Issue 3

January/February 2014

## From the Editor

Lucyism:

*"I'd rather regret the things I've done than regret the things I haven't done."*

*-- Lucille Ball*

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## Calendar of Branch Events

**Jan. 23, 2014; Thurs.**

**Program:** Potluck Dinner/LAF White Elephant Fundraiser

**Place:** Celoron Community Center

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Feb. 18, 2013, Tues.**

**Board Meeting**

**Place:** Celoron Community Center

**Time:** 6:00 - 7:30 PM



**Feb. 19, 2014; Wed.**

**Program:** Advocacy Training by AAUW National

**Speaker:** Kim Pollard

**Place:** JCC Carnahan Theatre

**March 7, 2014; Fri.**

**Program:** International Women's Day Dinner

**Speaker:** Deputy Elizabeth Fildes

**Place:** JCC Weeks Room

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**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

*All members are encouraged to attend these meetings.*



## President's Message

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

Happy New Year! Like many of you, I am looking back over 2013 and thinking about what is ahead for me in 2014. When I do look back at our AAUW Branch's year, I cannot help but be proud of the amazing group of women we are and of what we have achieved. We welcomed 20 new members in 2013; awarded \$10,000 in scholarships last spring; raised \$12,000 in scholarship monies at the What's New Fair; treated 104 young girls to a day of sports at Get in the Game; advocated for equal pay for women and co-hosted a Candidates Forum; held our first ever International Women's Day dinner; organized programs on Sexual Harassment at School, Breaking into a Man's Field; held a financial/legal seminar; and hosted one of the best District One meetings. None of this could have happened without our board members, chairwomen, and each and every one of you. So, be proud of yourselves and the organization you choose to support.



We have a lot to look forward to. On March 8th, we will be hosting our 15th Get in the Game. Wow-15 years! We need to muster all able-bodied members to put on this big event. For 14 years we have hosted 100+ young girls who try eight different sports while learning teamwork and improving their own self esteem. Please volunteer when you are asked --whether it is helping with registration, serving lunch, or being a team leader.

The evening before, March 7th, will see us at the 2nd International Women's Day dinner. We will collaborate again with Zonta of Jamestown. Deputy Elizabeth Fildes will speak to us about human trafficking in WNY. She is a devoted advocate and will bring us up to date about the issue and tell us what we can do about it.

Our first event of the New Year will be a potluck dinner and White Elephant LAF fundraiser at the Celoron Community Center on Thursday, January 23rd at 6 pm. Those of you who have played the White Elephant game tell me it is loads of fun. We will also review the branch's strategic plan to obtain your input on our future.

We are currently working on two programs. On February 19th, our branch will be hosting Kim Pollard from AAUW National who will conduct advocacy training at the JCC Carnahan theatre. AAUW members, students, and the public are invited to learn how to advocate our points of view to our local, state, and federal representatives. On March 19th, again at the JCC Carnahan theatre, our branch will host a screening of "The Invisible War," a documentary about sexual harassment in the military. This documentary was nominated for an Academy Award, won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, and won the Independent Spirit Award for Best Documentary. Please note: These are changes to the current schedule in the Directory.

I hope you will become involved in our branch activities and let me or one of the officers know how and where you wish to become involved. If you are a new member and not familiar with our activities, please do call me (483-5448). I will answer your questions and send you onto the appropriate branch officer or chairwoman. We need all our helping hands to make another fantastic year happen. Happy New Year!

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### **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.

## Potluck Dinner/LAF Fundraiser/Fun

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-- By Maggie Irwin, President

Come socialize and eat good food with us at a Potluck Dinner on Thursday night, January 23rd at 6 pm at the Celoron Community Center. We ask that you each bring a dish to pass in the categories of meat, vegetables, salads, and/or desserts. Also bring your own plate, utensils, and glass/cup. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please let us know you are coming and what you will bring (or at least what category). Call or email Linda Fellows with the information (dbfellows@stny.rr.com; 969-2720; 665-6863).

Afterward we will hold a brief meeting at which we will review the branch's strategic plan. Kathy Colby and I will walk participants through the plan and ask for questions and suggestions. Copies of the strategic plan will be

## Public Policy

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-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

Public Policy is a 24/7 endeavor. It is more than voting every November. It is concerned with the National, State, and community issues being formulated and discussed every day of the year. The decisions reached - usually after much discussion and at times with rancor - can have significant impacts on our daily lives. As intelligent, thinking individuals, it is our responsibility to stay informed and to let our elected officials know what we think. And they have a corresponding responsibility to listen to us.

We all lead busy lives. How are we supposed to know what is being discussed and when a bill may come up for vote, especially those of interest to us concerning women's issues? The AAUW National and State Public Policy Vice Presidents are on top of all these legislative proposals and pass along the pertinent information to the branch public policy chairs, who keep branch members up-to-date. However, when an especially important issue is nearing a vote, AAUW has devised a way for all members to convey their thoughts directly and very quickly to the appropriate legislator -- the 2-minute activist.

It is appropriately named -- it really need not take more than 2 minutes to let your legislator know your

emailed ahead of time for members to read and mark up. Please bring your own copies to the dinner.

The highlight will be a [LAF White Elephant Auction game](#), a fundraiser for our Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Everyone should bring one or two items for the sale. They can either be "like-new" items from your home that you want to "re-gift" or items you want to purchase, each either gift-wrapped or in a brown paper bag. Also, bring either cash or checks to use to buy items. It is tons of fun!

See you on January 23rd at the Celoron Community Center. The Center is in Celoron at the end of Dunham Avenue off of Fairmount Avenue (turn off of Fairmount at the traffic light intersection between the Wegman's and Sam's Club traffic lights)

thoughts. Instructions are simple and direct. A discussion text is provided which you may edit and/or add your own words if you wish. Most of the legislators quickly email an acknowledgement. You may have received in your email a forwarded 2-minute activist November 21st. I hope you looked through it. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

The Women's Equality Agenda (WEA) continues to be discussed in the NYS Legislature. As you may remember, our Jamestown branch signed on to the WEA Coalition, 1 of the first 6 branches in the State to do so (the Coalition now numbers well in the hundreds of endorsers). As you may also remember, the NYS Assembly passed the 10-point Agenda as a whole package. The Senate chose to vote on each point separately, passing 9 of them. The 10th point (actually first on the list) did not pass. It deals with reproductive health and choice. Given the differences concerning these issues, this point has little chance of passage by the Senate. How the Assembly will deal with the issue remains to be seen. We will keep you informed.

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

## Get in the Game

-By Rae Lynn Reimondo

Attention all AAUW members!! We are in need of member volunteers for our 15th Annual Get in the Game! Our 15th annual Get in the Game event will be held at JCC, Saturday, March 8, 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 your 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](mailto:rreimondo@stny.rr.com) or call me at 386-2052 or 450-8465 if you are interested in volunteering or would like more information.



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.

### Member Birthdays

Traci Langworthy	Jan. 10
Kathi Clark	Jan. 15
Shirley Sanfilippo	Jan. 26
Elaine Rissel	Jan. 29
Laurie Ginnitti	Jan. 31
Gayle Schulte	Feb. 4
Reni Bob	Feb. 4
Becky Nystrom	Feb. 11

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

## What's New Fair Finals

-- *By Mary Lee Talbot & Kat Colvin Fair Co-Chairs*

Thanks to the hard work of all the members of this branch, we will have almost \$12,000 to give away in scholarships in 2014. Our scholarships go to women who are graduating from Jamestown Community College and Jamestown Business College who will be going on for a four-year degree.

The 58th What's New Fair was held on November 9 and 10, 2013 at Jamestown Community College. Mary Lee Talbot and Kat Colvin served as co-chairs for the event. Attendance was 1649, the best since 2010 (1641). Final profit after expenses is \$11,329, which breaks down as follows: Admissions \$5100, Raffle \$1810, Gingerbread \$405, and Sweet Shoppe \$462. The AAUW Table made approximately \$600, which goes into our General Fund to keep membership costs down.

In addition, we had eight people join AAUW at the Fair. We welcome Valerie Champlin, Ginny Greene, Rosemary Hedberg, Laurie Holthouse, Mary Jane Pond, Mary Richie, Michie Muirhead, and Tory Irgang. Earlier in September, we also welcomed Anne Madden, Francine Pokracki, and Evelyn Thorndike as new members."

We tried a new layout this year. Our aim was to reinforce the work that AAUW does and that the Fair's purpose is to raise money for women's scholarships. On the whole it worked well to move the admissions table near to the parking lot and to have people see the Raffle and Gingerbread areas first.

## New Member Bios

-- *From Barbara Russell, Membership VP*

**Laurie Holthouse** was born in Grand Rapids, MI, grew up in rural Nebraska, and currently lives in Panama, NY. She has a BA in Psychology from Central University of Iowa in Pella, IA and an MS degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Mankato State University in Minnesota. She currently works as a mobile therapist for Corry Counseling Center in Corry, PA. She states: "I am also learning to be a "fiber artist" and own two alpacas (with more to come, hopefully, as well as angora rabbits, and a

future store) that are currently boarded at Big Tree Alpacas in Jamestown and will come to live with us in the spring once we get buildings, fence, etc. I am married to Steve, who is a dairy farmer, and have two daughters, Anna, who is currently a freshman at JCC, and Sara, who is currently a freshman at Clymer Central School. My mom is Elaine Damsteegt and my sister is Kathi Clark, so AAUW has been gradually growing on me for the last several years, and I finally made the decision to join this year."

The Fair is a success because of the hard work of the members. The following served as chairs of the Fair committees: Phoebe Forbes, treasurer; Admissions Chairs Terry Klein, Vange Morris, and Rita Brown; Raffle Chairs Kathi Clark, Holly Gatto, Becky Nystrom; Publicity Chair Maggie Irwin; Sweet Shoppe Chairs Kathy Colby, Shirley Sanfilippo, and Theresa Levandowski; Gingerbread House Chairs Candy Johnson and Linda Burgess; Volunteer Coordination Chairs Ruth Wahl and Wendy Present; Hospitality Chairs Alice O'Grady and Dixie Siegel; Membership Table Chairs B. Dolores Thompson and Kathy Stanton; AAUW Table Chairs Elaine Damsteegt and Linda Fellows.

Kathy Colby also developed our Facebook Page, which gave us a new audience and should show great dividends in the years to come. She took many photos of the Fair that will appear on Facebook.

Jamestown Community College allowed us to use The Hamilton Center without charging us rent which saved us \$2000. The buildings and grounds staff at JCC was exceptionally helpful and made our set up and take down time and the time during the Fair comfortable and easy. We left the Sunday crew the 20 gingerbread cookies that we did not sell.

Kat and Mary Lee plan to take on the coordination of the Fair in 2014. We will be meeting to have our own recap and a recap with the committee chairs in the near future and begin plans for the 2014 Fair.



## New Member Bios (cont.)

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-- From Barbara Russell, Membership VP

**Tory Peterson Irgang** grew up in Jamestown and Lakewood, graduating from Southwestern Central School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from University of Mount Union in Alliance Ohio. She returned to the area after college and spent a short time in education.

She has been working in the non-profit sector for almost 10 years and is currently the Executive Director for

United Way of Southern Chautauqua County. She has been in that role for almost 3 years.

She states: "I live in Jamestown with my husband Adam and 18-month old daughter Anna. We have a dog and a cat who were our first children. I joined AAUW because I wanted to dedicate some of personal time to learning more about key issues affecting women and girls. I also discovered that some of the women I respected most in the community were members of AAUW. And Maggie was very persuasive!"

## Understanding the Educational Opportunities Fund

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*The following information was given to us in the past from Donna Seymour, New York State AAUW, to help us understand what EOF is all about. The information is valuable, and as editor, I'd like to share it with you again. Kathi R. Clark*

### These are funds for which you may apply.

For more than a century, AAUW has helped more than 11,000 women from over 130 countries break through barriers and pursue their dreams of obtaining graduate degrees or making an impact in their communities. AAUW is providing more than \$4.3 million in funding for more than 278 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2012-13 academic year. Here in New York State, 31 AAUW Fellows are studying at colleges and universities during this academic year. Fellowship and grant recipients undergo a highly competitive selection process. Academic excellence, commitment to improving the human condition, and the promise of continued impact are cornerstones of the rigorous criteria.

Community Action grants provide funds to individuals, AAUW branches, and state organizations as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equality for women and girls. CA grants are available for 1 or 2 year projects and, although topics are unrestricted, plans must clearly define activity toward the education/equality goal, meet community needs, and develop girls' sense of efficacy through leadership or advocacy opportunities.

Application deadline: January 15, 2013.

American Fellowships support women doctoral candidates completing dissertations or scholars seeking funds for postdoctoral research leave from accredited institutions. Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of scholarly excellence; the quality and originality of project design; and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research. Application deadline: November 15.

Career Development Grants support women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the work force. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields. Funds are available for tuition, fees, books, supplies, local transportation, and dependent care. Application deadline: December 15.

Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded to women who intend to pursue a full-time course of study at accredited U.S. institutions during the fellowship year in one of the designated degree programs where women's participation traditionally has been low. Application deadline: January 10, 2013.

Learn more and apply on line at: [http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellowships\\_grants/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellowships_grants/index.cfm)

## Human Exploitation

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-- By Loreen Ginnitti, *International Affairs Chair*

If you have had time to read your latest Outlook magazine, you have no doubt seen, if not read, the article on human trafficking. The results from the survey I took earlier this year showed that our members wanted to focus on human trafficking, so this National article was particularly timely.

Too often we only think of this crime in the International sense where a person is extracted from their home and taken to another country. We normally think of a foreign person transported to another foreign country for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Human exploitation is a more inclusive term for what we usually think of as "human trafficking." I prefer exploitation because not all people affected by this crime are transported. In many countries, including

the US, some of this exploitation occurs within a community with no transport beyond the community borders. This is the side of the issue we don't often hear about but is none-the-less pervasive. Human trafficking is as much of a problem in North America as it is in Asia or Africa and in fact it is the latest focus of organized crime in the US.

Please save March 7th to hear Deputy Elizabeth Fildes, an expert on Human Trafficking in WNY and around the world, speak on this topic at the International Women's Day dinner. It will be held at JCC's Sarita Weeks Room. This presentation will also include how we might recognize when a person might be being exploited and what individuals can do to protect themselves or others from becoming victims.

## An International Book Review

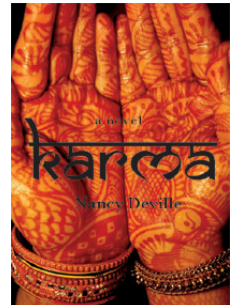
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-- By Loreen Ginnitti, *International Affairs Chair*

*Karma*, by Nancy Deville, is a novel of fiction on the topic of human exploitation. I find reading non-fiction about this topic very disturbing, so I am recommending this work of fiction that you will probably find "easier reading." If you tried to read "Half the Sky" and found it too depressing and discouraging, try this book.

*Karma* tells the story of American doctor Meredith Fitzgerald who finds herself in the underground world of the human sex slave trade during a visit to Istanbul, Turkey. The book delves into the Mafia connection to

organized crime that operates on epic scale in this realm and has characters you will love and some you will hate. I won't spoil the book by telling you too much about the plot except that you get a more personal view of all aspects of this topic.



On the hopeful side, Meredith's refusal to be a victim, and her strength of character as a survivor, encourages the reader to look within at the blessings and advantages we have and how we can be powerful "agents of change" wherever we are.

**National Website:** [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**State Website:** [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

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



## 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**

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#### *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
<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
Historian:	Elaine Rissel
Corresponding Secretary:	Vange Morris
College/University Partners:	Christina Marsh Alicia Hodnett
International Affairs Chair:	Loreen Ginnitti