



Jamestown Branch

Volume 18, Issue 5

May/June 2013

From the Editor

Congratulations

AAUW member [Theresa Levandoski](#), had a six pound baby boy--[Jackson John Levandoski](#). Congratulations to Theresa and her husband. And Congratulations to Grandma, AAUW member, [Shirley Sanfilippo](#)!

Welcome also our new members: [Sue Massey](#), [Alissa Walker](#), [Mary Keeney](#), [Lyn Harris](#), [Sarah Goebel](#), [Holly Gatto](#), and [Patty Luciani](#). See page 7 for bios on four of them.

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Calendar of Branch Events

May 21, 2013, Tues.

Board Meeting

Place: Celoron Community Center

Time: 6 - 7:30 PM

June 18, 2013, Tues.

Board Meeting

Place: Celoron Community Center

Time: 6 - 7:30 PM

June 20, 2013, Thurs.

Program: Jamestown Branch Annual Dinner

Place: Hare N' Hounds, Bemus Point; **Cost:** \$ 22 dinner

Menu: Salmon fillet baked with orange tarragon champagne cream; pork mignon tenderloin mignon coated in a nut breading baked and served with burgundy wine and honey walnut sauce; apricot encroute chicken boneless breast baked in a puffed pastry; Mediterranean pasta with vegetables, garlic and herbed olive oil. The cost of the dinner includes choice of entrée, salad, and dessert. Reservations with choice of entre should go to Dolores Thompson 484-8289 or Phoebe Forbes 565-6166. Guests are welcome if members want to invite someone.

Time: 6 PM

July 29, 2013, Mon.

Program: 2013 AAUW Day at Chautauqua

Theme: Crime and Punishment as Portrayed in the Arts

Speaker: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, US Supreme Court Assoc. Justice

Place: Chautauqua Institution

Time: Lecture 10:45 am Amphitheater; ticket valid 9 am - 8 pm

Cost: \$29.70/person plus \$26.25 lunch at historic Athenaeum Hotel;

Total: \$55.95. (Make checks payable to AAUW Jamestown) Mail coupon and check to Juanita Jackson, P.O. Box 52, Chautauqua, NY 14722. Questions? jwallacejackson@yahoo.com.

All members are encouraged to attend these meetings.



President's Message

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

I am writing from Lake Placid where I am attending the 2013 AAUW State Convention. It is wonderful for me to meet like-minded women, to discuss new ideas, and to catch up with old friends. Last night at the President's Dinner, our branch won a \$500 scholarship that we can add to next year's scholarship "pot."



We also learned today about the awards and honors that our Branch earned, beginning with the **Marketing the Mission Award** for overall programming and the **Powerful Program Award** for our International Women's Day dinner. (See a related article about all the awards.) Our own Public Policy Chair, **Dolores Thompson**, was given the AAUW NYS Public Policy Director's **Special Leadership Recognition Award**. Congratulations, Dolores! Once again, our newsletter, TWIGS, was given the **2013 Newsletter of Excellence Award**-congratulations to our Editor, **Kathi Clark**. Our branch received the AAUW-NYS **Communications Trailblazer Website Award**-congratulations to **Kathy Colby**, Social Media Chair.



Loreen Ginnitti, Maggie Irwin, and Dolores Thompson
at NYS Convention

We have had a busy two months in March and April, beginning with our successful International Women's Day dinner. Our collaboration with the Zonta Club enabled us to organize a dinner of 70 attendees with over half of them being

AAUW/Zonta non-members. Following immediately the next day was our **14th annual Get in the Game**. We took 100+ 4-7th grade girls through eight different sports that day. Many girls commented how "awesome" the day was. This energizes us to plan an even more terrific **15th Get in the Game on March 8, 2014!** We finished off the month with NY State Supreme Court Justice Paula Feroleto speaking to us at the Jackson Center. While it was snowing outside, we had a hardy group of members and the public who were impressed with Feroleto's knowledge, graciousness, and willingness to answer all our questions.

April brought us **Pay Equity Day** on April 9th. We had five restaurants signed up to give women a 20% discount off menu prices. Many of the restaurants are already in for next year. We will make this an annual event, expanding it and adding activities. This past week we held our annual **Membership Social** where many things happened. We enrolled six new members. We recognized our twelve scholarship recipients, and learned about their goals from our member and Scholarship Committee Chair, **Wendy Present**. We awarded \$10,000 to these wonderful women! We also elected **Frances Fairs** as our Educational Opportunities Fund VP for the next two years and appointed **Alicia Hodnett** as Co-Membership VP for next year. And finally, we heard an excellent presentation by AAUW member and JCC Academic VP, **Marilyn Zagora**, about Education as a Pathway to Leadership. Thank you, Marilyn!

Our membership renewal season is upon us. By now, you have received your membership renewal notice at the same membership price as last year. Once again we are offering to give away two free memberships drawn from members who pay their membership dues by June 1st. Are you feeling lucky? Get your dues in now! We will also be offering to give away one free membership drawn from members who referred new members to the branch. There are also two free memberships to give away to members who joined this 2012-2013 year. All five memberships will be given away at our dinner, on Thursday, June 20th. Please put that date on your calendars. More details will follow soon.

New York State Branch Awards

The State Awards were set up differently this year than past recent years. The distinction of "Platinum Branch" is no longer used for the top award. Instead the Jamestown Branch received the top awards now named the "Marketing the Mission" award for overall programming and the "Powerful Program" award for our International Women's Day dinner.

In Public Policy the branch was recognized with a "2013 Equal Pay Day Action Award," a "Get Out the Vote Action Award," and a "Policy Programming Award" for best use of Op-Eds to Educate the Public, and was named as a "NYS Women's Equality Agenda Leadership Branch." Our own Public Policy Chair, Dolores Thompson, was given the "AAUW NYS

Public Policy Director's Special Leadership Recognition Award."

Once again, our newsletter, *TWIGS*, was given the "2013 Newsletter of Excellence Award." And, our branch received the "AAUW-NYS Communications Trailblazer Website Award."

Barb Russell was recognized as our Emerging Leader and our Branch placed in the top 10 branches for the total Educational Opportunities Fund. Our EOF honorees, Kathi Clark and Elaine Damsteegt, were recognized. We were also named a Legal Advocacy Fund Star Branch for contribution of \$5 per capita or more. We also placed in the top 10 branches in total LAF contributions in the state.

Leadership Development Conference, July 19-21 in Cazenovia, NY

-- By AAUW NYS Communications, Donna Seymour

We have just completed a highly successful AAUW-NYS Convention at Lake Placid. Our thoughts now move to the summer and the Leadership Development Conference, July 19-21 in Cazenovia, NY.

This conference is held in a relaxed atmosphere and offers much in the way of very practical information and suggestions for our members. The fee is subsidized by the AAUW-NYS and is a extremely affordable weekend for \$100 (2 nights, 6 meals). We hope to see AAUW leaders and all interested members.

Complete your application at www.aauw-nys.org. Mail check payable to AAUW-NYS for \$100 (or \$105 for paper registration) to:

Betty Harrel
28 Laffin Lane
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

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.



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.

Public Policy

-- By *B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP*

In recognition of Pay Equity Day - April 9th - The Post-Journal printed an Op-Ed in the Sunday, April 7th edition, which focused on Lilly Ledbetter's much publicized pay discrimination lawsuit. She filed ultimately with the US Supreme Court. Unfortunately, due to technical details, she lost her case. President Barack Obama's first official duty was signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

In observance of the date - April 9th - and through the dedicated efforts of Maggie Irwin, Candy Johnson, and Kathy Colby, 5 restaurants recognized the 20% discrepancy between men's and women's average pay for

the year 2012. Cibo, the Pub, Lisciandro's, and Babalu offered a 20% discount for women on their luncheon menu. Roberto's offered the discount on the dinner menu. Unfortunately, it coincided with the AIDS community's annual fundraiser, which presented conflicts for a number of our members.

Kathy Stanton and Dolores Thompson attended the Buffalo Branch AAUW sponsored program featuring Lilly Ledbetter on April 22. Her courage to stand up to corporate America is an inspiration for all men and women who seek equality in our still unequal society workforce.

News From National AAUW President Re: One Member - One Vote

-- By *Carolyn Garfein, AAUW President*

AAUW's One Member, One Vote election process gives every one of us a say in the future of AAUW. As you probably already know, online voting begins April 15 and closes June 10. I am writing today to urge you, as leaders, to encourage your members to vote and to find opportunities, including meetings, to help others to vote online. A voting guide is included in the current *Outlook* and is posted on our voter website, with a link also featured on the AAUW homepage.

Since April 1 and continuing through May 2, members who prefer to vote on paper may request to have a paper ballot mailed to them by e-mailing connect@aauw.org or calling 800.326.2289. No paper ballot requests will be processed after May 2, and paper ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m. EDT

on May 17 to be counted. Online voting continues until 9 p.m. CDT on June 10. If they choose to do so, members attending the convention in New Orleans may vote online from the convention.

Please note that write-in voting can only be done online. Detailed instructions for online voting are included in the current issue of *Outlook*, and members can find their voter PIN and member ID on the back cover of the current *Outlook* magazine. A reminder e-mail, including online voting instructions, voter PIN, and member ID, was also sent today to all members with an active e-mail address.

Thank you for helping to ensure that all members understand their voting privileges and that everyone who wants to participate is helped to do so. If you have any questions, please e-mail connect@aauw.org or call 800.326.2289.

Educational Opportunities Fund

-- By *Elaine Damsteegt, Educational Fund VP*

For the 2013 fiscal year, AAUW has awarded more than \$4.3 million in fellowships and grants to more than 278 outstanding women in America and abroad. One of these grants came from our Jamestown Branch Grant that we proudly support by giving to the Educational Opportunities Fund. We

help women advance their education, and that helps all of society. There is a new pin that you will receive when you make a monetary donation of \$100 to the Educational Opportunities Fund. You may send or give your check (made out to AAUW Funds with EOF on the bottom line) to Elaine Damsteegt so the Jamestown Branch will get proper credit for your donation.

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Educational Opportunities Fund Garage Sale



It's time to load up those boxes with things you don't use anymore--then bring them to 186 Hallock Street for the

AAUW EOF GARAGE SALE

-- By Elaine Damsteegt, Educational Fund VP

This Garage Sale is for the purpose of raising money for the Jamestown Branch Career Development Fund #1445 which each year provides a Grant to a woman pursuing her Graduate Studies.

JUNE 14 and 15 are the dates of the Sale. I'd like to have your items for the Sale by JUNE 10 and would prefer them sooner. You may bring them any time now. Call me at 483-0858 or 450-7423 and we'll open the garage for you. OR...you may leave things on my front porch (I'll check there regularly).

Some ideas: Housewares, Decorative items, Clothing, Shoes, Costume Jewelry, Linens, Toys, Games, Books, Tools, Lawn care items, small furniture, DVDs, VHS's, CDs, Audio books, Magazines, Holiday items. Ask your kids for things your grand-kids don't use anymore.

***Also, if you can help on the days of the Sale or with setting it up and pricing the items anytime on June 7, 8, 10, or 12 or the evening of June 13, please let me know. My email is gordnlane@windstream.net.

LAF News

-- By Kathy Herron, LAF Co-VP

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year's campaign focused on preventing child sexual abuse through talking about healthy sexuality. AAUW's "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School" report shows that sexual harassment and sexual violence can begin very early in life. The statistics show that it's not only youth who are affected though. Almost 1 of 5 women surveyed had been raped or had experienced an attempted rape.

These are troubling statistics. One of the ways the AAUW is helping is by supporting survivors of military sexual assault through its case-support system. AAUW also sponsors the "Service Women's Action Network summit" about military sexual assault which was in Washington D.C earlier in April.

Kimberly Davis from the case "Hoffman v. Panetta" is scheduled to speak at the New York State Convention. In this case thirty former service mem-

bers in the Army and Air Force say they were sexually assaulted or raped by other service members while on active duty. The case was filed on September 28, 2012 in the U.S. District Court for Northern California. AAUW board member Kathleen Cha spoke at a press event later that day. Hopefully, we will hear more on this from our members who attend the convention.

Kimberly Davis from the case, 'Hoffman v. Panetta,' spoke powerfully about her case at the recent New York State AAUW convention. This means that qualified women will no longer be excluded from top leadership positions because they can't get the promotions that require combat experience. It is hoped that having women in these leadership positions will improve the environment that until now had women subordinate to men in the military culture. AAUW strongly supports ending the ban on women in combat.

Get in the Game

Thank you to the AAUW members who volunteered their time to make the 14th Annual GITG a success! Please plan to join us Saturday, March 9, 2014 for the 15th Annual Get in the Game!

The 14th annual "Get in the Game" event was held on Saturday, March 9th at Jamestown Community College for girls in grades 4-7. Approximately 110 girls from area schools participated in interactive, hands-on stations focusing on various sports. The Jamestown Branch of the AAUW sponsored the local event in support of National Girls and Women in Sports Day along with sponsorship from JCC. The purpose of the event is to encourage girls to participate in sports, raise self-esteem through sports, highlight local young female athletes, promote gender equality, and form coalitions with community agencies to support girls and women in sports. AAUW did not sponsor any scholarships for girls in our community this year due to lack of available funds.

This year's event consisted of 8 interactive stations where girls could experience a wide variety of sports. Local teen and adult women athletes demonstrated basketball, soccer, rugby, Zumba, track, self-defense, circuit training, and kayaking. The girls were able to speak with and ask questions from the athletes, as well as to personally participate in each activity.

When asked what they learned, girls stated: (these are spelled just like they were written please note that most of these had hearts drawn at the end of them!)

- ¢ This was my first time and it was great!
- ¢ NEVER EVER GIVE UP!
- ¢ Girls are awesome and can do anything!
- ¢ I love Get in the Game!
- ¢ All girls can do sports.
- ¢ To keep strong, both physically and mentally.

- ¢ I loved the program, thanks for the fun!
- ¢ How to protect myself.
- ¢ Best time ever!
- ¢ The whole thing was amazing!!!!
- ¢ It was cool and awesome.
- ¢ How to keep myself safe!
- ¢ How to flip people and other stuff!
- ¢ To work hard toward your goals.
- ¢ Finally a day without boys.

Organizers of the event said that comments like these are exactly why they continue to hold this event year after year. "Get in the Game" is more than just a fun event for girls. It's about introducing them to a lifetime of healthy and enjoyable options. Some of the girls already play a sport, while many others don't. By showing them a variety of activities, we hope to that each girl will find one that sparks their interest and that they can continue in the future."

Thank you to JCC for donating the PHED building, Janet Forbes applied for a 500.00 grant from CRCF, Kathy Stanton for obtaining several donations from the following companies: Kennedy Supermarket, Tops, Wegman's, and Sam's Club. These donations helped to defer the cost of the snack in the morning and lunch.

Schools that attend: Bemus Point Elementary, Bush Elementary, Cassadaga, Chapman, Chautauqua Lake Central School, Clymer, Eisenhower, Falconer/Fenner, Fletcher, Fredonia, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, Panama, Persell, Pine Valley, Ring, Sherman, Silver Creek, Southwestern, Girl Scouts, Washington, Westfield.

Committee Members: Aimee Brunelle, Wendy Present, Rae Lynn Reimondo, Kathy Stanton, Kathy Stedman, Emily Deuink, and Maggie Irwin.

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>

New Member Bios

-- By Barbara Russell, Membership VP

Lyn Harris holds a post-graduate Certificate in Family Therapy from the Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester. She taught at JCC for 30 years and has had a private counseling practice since 1980. For the last 5 years Lyn has been the owner of Lyn Harris Designs. Her fiber works are sold in several local shops as well as some in SC and PA. Lyn also teaches fiber classes at regional and local fiber venues. She lives with her husband John, dog Murphy, and cats Sassy and Pearl. She joined AAUW for the opportunity to involve herself in providing educational opportunities for women.

Sarah Goebel has worked for the Albany, NY and Erie, PA Dept of Veteran Affairs Medical Centers in medical and Behavioral Health Social Work for the past 28 years. An Adjunct Professor at JCC for 6 years, she enjoys teaching Intro to Human Services and Working With Older Adults evening classes. She is the mother of three college-age children and helps care for her 88-year-old mother. She plays the flute, sings in St. Timothy Lutheran Church's praise band, and is preparing to help lead her 5th mission trip to Honduras, focusing on helping the children of a village complete school. She loves to walk the shores of Chautauqua Lake, travel to out of the way places, get to meet new friends, and help make a difference in the world. She states: "I joined AAUW because this organization has

many of the same goals that I do and I am pleased to join. There is, as we know, strength in numbers!"

Holly Gatto worked in the Radiology Department at Westfield Memorial Hospital, then started working for InSight Health. Currently, she is the Operations Manager for WCA MRI Department. She is active in her company's Wellness Champion program and is interested in fitness and healthy cooking. She has practiced yoga for several years and just started a cycling class. She further participates in the local Vegetarian society events. Married 30 years, her husband Jamie is a lieutenant with the Jamestown Fire department. She has two grown children: Jessica works at Fredonia University in admissions and Nicholas is a Chiropractor and owns Complete Wellness Center in Cleveland, OH. She currently lives in Bemus Point with three spoiled dogs and a cat. "I joined AAUW after meeting several members at different lectures. I am happy to be part of an organization that promotes positive events, education, and leadership to young women."

Patty Luciani was born in Topeka, Kansas but grew up in Watertown, New York. She attended RIT Rochester and Kettering University in Flint, Michigan. She lists her current job as Six Sigma Black Belt, SKF Aeroengine. Her interests include biking and Gardening (Master Gardener), and she joined AAUW to connect with others and the community on common interests.

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 15 have been highlighted in previous *Twigs* issues this year. Following are 5 more honorees.

The **Allen Family** name has been prominent since Jamestown's beginnings. The women were as active as their male counterparts in the community's cultural development and history.

Clara Livingston marched to her own drummer as the inheritor of her father's hacienda in Puerto Rico. A licensed pilot, she was attached to the Jamestown Chapter of the Civil Air Patrol. Amelia Earhart stayed at Clara's hacienda just before her ill-fated final flight.

Martha Van Rensselaer founded the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University and established Home Economics as a bona fide discipline. The College's building and home base bears her name.

Dr. Mary Agnes Burchard, along with Elda Mae Barry, provided exemplary service to the women and girls of Brindaban, India as medical missionaries.

Alfreda Locke Irwin received the Chautauqua Medal, Chautauqua Institution's highest honor in recognition of her years of service as its historian and reporter and editor of the *Chautauqua Daily*.





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>	Kathi R. Clark
<i>TWIGS Editor:</i>	Debra Eck
<i>Directory:</i>	Holly Gatto
<i>Calling:</i>	Kathy Colby
<i>Social Media:</i>	Linda Fellows Dixie Siegel
Social:	Elaine Damsteegt Kathi Clark
District 1 Coordinators:	Wendy Present Kathy Stedman Kathi Clark
Scholarship:	Elaine Rissel
Historian:	Phoebe Forbes
NYS Membr./Finance Liason:	Vange Lamper
Corresponding Secretary:	Christina Marsh Alicia Hodnett
College/University Partners:	