



## Jamestown Branch

Volume 20, Issue 1

September/October 2014

### From the Editor

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”

-- Eleanor Roosevelt

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### Calendar of Branch Events

#### Sept. 11, 2014; Thurs.

**Program:** AAUW Kick-Off Meeting and Potluck Dinner

**Packet:** Pick up your Directory as well as posters and tickets for the AAUW What's New Fair.

**Place:** Celoron Community Center, corner of Dunham/Boulevard.

**Time:** 6:00 PM

*Bring dish to pass and place setting. Coffee and tea provided.*

#### Sept. 18, 2014; Thurs.

**Program:** “The Invisible War” screening: Sexual Harassment in the Military, co-sponsored by AAUW Jamestown Branch & JCC

**Place:** JCC Student Union, Hamilton Collegiate Center

**Time:** 7:00 PM

#### Oct. 21, 2014; Tues.

**Program:** Candidates Forum, co-sponsored by AAUW Jamestown Branch & the League of Women Voters

**Place:** Robert H. Jackson Center

**Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 PM

**Speakers:** Candidates running for Local, County, State, and National offices

#### Nov. 1, 2014; Sat.

**Program:** District 1 Meeting

**Host:** Dunkirk/Fredonia Branch

**Place:** SUNY--Fredonia Science Center

**Time:** 9 AM - 2 PM

#### Nov. 8 and 9, 2014; Sat./Sun.

**Program:** AAUW What's New Fair

**Place:** JCC Hamilton Collegiate Center

**Time:** Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM, Sun: 10 AM - 4 PM

Breaking through Barriers  
for **130** Years

Mark these  
meetings on  
your calendar.



## Past President's Message

-- By Maggie Irwin, President

Summer is over (alas!), and we are beginning a new AAUW year with many fun and educational programs and events planned. I am looking forward to participating in all our AAUW events.



I am writing as past president because I decided not to take on a second two-year term as branch president. It is time for me to step aside and let others take over the running of the branch. I treasure the last two years I have spent leading a fantastic branch of women, a wonderful board of directors, and welcoming lots of new members to the branch.

We continue this year with much mission based programming as well as our devotion to women and girls through Get in the Game, the 59th What's New Fair, the International Women's Day

dinner, and Pay Equity Day. Like all of you, I will volunteer to help out at all these events as well as develop a new committee that will involve the exploration of partnerships with JCC, JBC, and local public schools.

This is an exciting year of change for our branch. While change can be scary, read what President Barack Obama said, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." I hope you will be part of the change and growth of our branch. You will be richly rewarded, as I have been, by taking part in the branch activities, enjoying the like-minded women who support our mission, and, for some of you, by stepping up to offer your leadership.

## Remembering Inez

-- By B. Dolores Thompson

Inez Alston passed away Sunday morning, August 17th, at the age of 92, in Buffalo to where she had relocated a year ago to be near her family.

Inez joined AAUW July 1, 1964. Throughout those 50 years, she has been active in many capacities, including a 4 year stint as president. She served in many other leadership roles with the Branch and with the What's New Fair. Inez also served a 2-year term as the Membership Vice President of the New York State AAUW as well as serving on several committees throughout the years.

I have had the privilege for many years of working with Inez in our Jamestown branch and with the NYS AAUW. We have traveled together, shared a room - and perhaps even a bed at times - as we pursued our commitments to AAUW.

Inez always had a smile on her face and a welcoming message on her lips for everyone she met. I never heard her say an unkind word about anyone or anything. She will be missed. Rest in peace, dear friend.

### 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.

## AAUW Branch Kick-Off Party

-- By Janet Forbes, Program Co-VP

Here's hoping that your summer has been full of good times with family and friends, and all that makes your life joyful. We are set to begin another rich, full AAUW year together. We will be launching the new program year at our Branch Kick-Off Party on Thursday, September 11, 2014 from 6-8 pm at the Celoron Community Center, corner of Dunham and Boulevard Avenues.

Please bring a dish to pass, table service, and your own beverage if it is other than coffee/tea/water,

which will be provided.

This evening will be a great opportunity to mix and mingle with the AAUW Board of Directors and committee chairs, meet and greet new members as well as catch up with long-time friends. We will receive our new Branch directories and AAUW What's New Fair information and tickets. Members will be able to sign up for both Branch and WNF committees.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 11th as we kick-off our AAUW year together.

## Public Policy

-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

One of the most important freedoms we have is the power of our vote - each and every one counts, whether it is for the winning candidate or not. Before we go into the voting booth and select our preferred candidates, we need to be informed on the current issues of importance and where the candidates stand on those issues.

To inform and assist the Jamestown area's voters on these issues, our Jamestown Branch has, for many years, hosted a Candidate Forum, open to the general public, presenting the candidates for the major public offices to be elected at city, county, state, and national importance.

Again AAUW Jamestown Branch will be co-hosting the Candidate Forum with the Chautauqua County League of Women Voters:

**WHAT:** Candidate Forum

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014, from 7 to 9 pm

**WHERE:** Robert H. Jackson Center

**WHO:** local, county, state, national offices

**WHY:** to be an informed voter

Scheduled speakers include:

- **Tom Reed and Martha Robertson**, candidates for the House of Representatives in the US Congress for this area;

- **Andrew Goodell and Barrie Yochim**, candidates for the NYS Assembly;
- **Joseph Gerace and Russell Payne**, Chautauqua County Sheriff candidates;
- **Beth Kresge and Elizabeth Rankin**, to represent District 12 in the City of Jamestown.
- Candidates for **Chautauqua County Family Court Judge**. They will be determined by a Primary Election in early September.

The different government levels will appear separately. Those definite times will be announced when they have been finalized. Stay tuned to your emails and to the local news media.

I expect to see YOU on October 21st at the Jackson Center!

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



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.

## Jamestown Hosts AAUW Day at Chautauqua Institution

-- By Maggie Irwin, past president

The Jamestown AAUW Branch hosted its fourth annual AAUW Day at Chautauqua Institution on Friday, August 8th. The featured speaker at the famous Chautauqua Amphitheatre that week was Ken Burns, well-known documentarian. On August 8th, Burns and his collaborator, Geoffrey C. Ward, spoke about their forthcoming documentary: "The Roosevelts: An Intimate History," airing on PBS this September. We welcomed 100 AAUW members from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and NY State (Saratoga Springs, A-G-J, Bath, Elmira/Corning, Buffalo, Greater Rochester Area, Fairport). Most of us opted to dine in the Parlor at the famous Athenaeum Hotel. The hotel has a new chef this year, and the food was exquisite. Afterward, members had the opportunity to spend the remainder of the day exploring Chautauqua (guided bus tour), enjoying a lecture and the beautiful, sunny 70 degree day.

The Branch began planning for the AAUW Day last winter when Chautauqua Institution began to announce speakers who would appear at the Institution. We already knew that Ken Burns would be here for a week and had already decided last summer that we would feature one of his program days. The Group Sales Department at Chautauqua was very helpful and easy to work with. Once they gave us the ticket prices and a luncheon menu, we decided on the

day and the lunch menu. We updated our AAUW Day flyer and began to distribute it in April through email to local branches, to last year's attendees, and included it in our State convention packet as well as through the AAUW Ohio State convention package, thanks to Isabel Seavey who is on the AAUW Ohio State Board. AAUW Jamestown member, Barb Russell, a fantastic computer whiz and organizer, took over ticket sales this year and all went smoothly. We welcomed members at the Main Gate, provided maps and encouraged all to get to the Amphitheatre pronto, as the Amphitheatre had been packed for every Ken Burns lecture. We are looking forward to next year's AAUW Day at Chautauqua in 2015.



(AAUW Jamestown members Frieda Fairburn and Gayle Schulte welcome AAUW member Dolores Thompson, to AAUW Day at Chautauqua at the Institution's Main Gate.)

## Educational Opportunities Fund

-- By AAUW New York State

Here are some facts about AAUW EOF:

- AAUW EOF is one of the world's largest and oldest sources of funding for graduate women.
- AAUW EOF provides more than \$4.5 million in funding for more than 250 fellowships, grants, and special awards to outstanding women and groups, based on the 2011-12 Class of Fellows and Award recipients.
- AAUW EOF continues to produce ground-breaking research reports, including the most recent "Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women

and Men One Year after College Graduation."

Continuing this longstanding tradition is only possible with your continued support. Remember, you are the face of EOF, so share these facts with others.

The National Fund provides funds for:

- Groundbreaking Research
- Fellowships and Grants
- Special Awards
- Vital Community Action Projects
- Leadership Programs
- AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

## Legal Advocacy Fund

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-- By Laurie Holthouse, LAF Co-VP

On Tuesday, July 15, 2014, I participated in the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's Supreme Court Wrap Up Conference call hosted by Holly Lam, AAUW National. The following are some of the highlights from the call.

At issue in the [Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby](#) case was contraceptive coverage and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The Court ruled that closely-held corporations may prevent their employee health plans from covering forms of contraception to which the corporation's owners are religiously opposed. AAUW feels this decision will spur a lot of litigation in the future. The Court determined a "corporation" is a "person." The Government failed to prove there weren't other ways to provide contraceptive care that were less restrictive. The decision only concerned for-profit corporations that were not religious. There is concern by corporations, including the Chamber of Commerce, about this decision, as corporations tend to want to distinguish themselves as separate from being a "person" due to litigation concerns so individual "people" do not lose everything if a corporation is sued. AAUW is concerned this decision could embolden others to deny coverage all together.

In the case of [McCullen vs. Coakley](#), at issue was protective buffer zones around reproductive clinics. The Court ruled that Massachusetts' buffer zone law violates the First Amendment. This ruling was unan-

imous. AAUW feels this decision is not as dire as first thought. It did not overrule [Hill vs. Colorado](#) and some buffer zones are still upheld. The Massachusetts law went a little too far and included targeting sidewalks. The buffer zone was also 35 feet. The zone was much smaller in the Hill case, 8 to 10 feet. AAUW is pleased [Hill vs. Colorado](#) remains intact.

In the case [Schuette vs. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action](#), at issue was the state constitutional amendment prohibiting Affirmative Action. The Court ruled that a Michigan state constitutional amendment prohibiting considering race in state university admissions may stand. AAUW thinks this decision is only tenable if one believes society is race-neutral. This decision does not affect the status of any standing Affirmative Action plans.

In the case of the [Town of Greece vs. Galloway](#), at issue was legislative prayer. The Court ruled that the town's practice of legislative prayer was constitutional. What distinguishes this case is the way the town of Greece was practicing legislative prayer. There was no coercion or endorsement of any particular religion.

The Supreme Court Wrap Up Call concluded with some upcoming cases for which to watch. [DeJong vs. UPS](#) is a case where at issue is the pregnancy Discrimination Act. There are also Marriage Equality cases on the horizon. Universally, every court has ruled that same sex marriage bans are illegal.

## AAUW What's New Fair Sweet Shoppe

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-- By Kathy Colby, Shirley Sanfilippo, and Theresa Lavendowski, Sweet Shoppe Committee Chairs

Put on your aprons and conjure up some tasty treats in your kitchen for the What's New Fair Sweet Shoppe.

Start now and freeze them. We need your help to make this year's SWEET SHOPPE a success. Some ideas include:

Caramel Clusters, Swedish Cookies, Dipped Chocolate Candies, Cupcakes, Sweet Breads, White Trash, Cookies, Peanut Butter and Chocolate Fudge, Chex Mix, Tarts, gluten free baked goods and Brownies.

Keep in mind that we cannot sell items that require refrigeration. If you can bag or wrap items for individual sale, that would be great. Otherwise we will do this the morning of the Fair.

## The Circle of Distinction

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

The Circle of Distinction was established in 1982 to recognize those women in our community who defied the cultural norms of their times - those women who did things women were not supposed to be doing at the time they were doing them...i.e. the mavericks who made it possible for the opportunities we women today enjoy.

With this issue of *Twigs*, we recognize - again - the Chautauqua County Women's Political Equality Club and the role they played in the opportunities women today have to play a vital role in the day-to-day lives of all citizens through the political process.

The Circle of Distinction recognized Edith Ainge in 1988. Inspired by Edith and her commitment to women's right to vote, the Chautauqua County Political Equality Club organized in Jamestown at the, now, Lucille Ball Little Theatre of Jamestown, in 1888, dedicated to pursuing the right to vote for all citizens, including women. It was the first county-wide Club in New York State and for a time the largest in the entire country. This was finally realized on June 14, 1919, with the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. The requisite number of states had ratified the Amendment by August 26th, 1920, when Bainbridge Colby signed the document, finalizing the right of women to vote in time for the presidential election of that year.

## Donations for "THE AAUW TABLE" at the What's New Fair

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-- By *Elaine Damsteegt and Linda Fellows, AAUW Table Co-chairs*

The AAUW TABLE is our own Branch Booth at the What's New Fair. The income from it makes it possible to keep our Branch dues at \$8. We'd love to have a booth full of exciting things for this year's Fair buyers to purchase. And...that's up to YOU, the AAUW members.

Here's what we're looking for:

Handmade items-knit, crocheted, crafted, etc.

White Elephants,

Items you may have picked up intending to use or give as gifts.

Gifts you received (but didn't use),

Steer away from donating clothing and expensive gift items.

You may leave donations for the WNF Table on Elaine's porch at 186 Hallock Street any time now. We'd appreciate them in advance for marking if possible. Else bring them to the Table at JCC on Friday, November 6 between 4:00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.

Along with your donations, we'd really appreciate a note with your items that would give us an idea of the price you would expect us to sell them for. It is especially difficult to judge value on handmade articles and you would know best what they are worth. (We may mark things down if they are not selling-if don't want your donations marked down, please let us know.)

## Membership News

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-- By *Alicia Mae Hodnett, Membership VP*

If you know someone who has shown an interest in AAUW, share our *TWIGS* Newsletter and highlight our calendar of events. Our challenge is to bring in new members. As a branch, we have gained a few and lost a few. As the heart beat of AAUW, our branch is strong. Share our passion about our mission, engage

others in our activities, it is our desire to serve women and girls for many generations to come. 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.

## Prendergast Family Literacy Fund & Book Sale

-- By Janet Forbes, Program VP

The James Prendergast Library (JPL) has launched the Family Literacy Fund. Community members donate to the fund and area non-profits that serve families, children, and youth can apply for \$20 vouchers, which are used to purchase books at the ongoing library book sale. Thousands of gently used, pre-loved books are available for purchase throughout the hours that the library is open. The proceeds of the book sale are used to purchase new library materials.



Information about applying for Family Literacy Fund vouchers can be found at the JPL website at <http://www.prendergastlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Voucher-Application-Form.pdf>

Information about donating to the Family Literacy Fund - <http://www.prendergastlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Donation-Information.pdf>

Please share this info with your family, friends, community partners, and faith community. As we work together this coming AAUW year, we will be partnering with many community organizations, including the Prendergast Library, to fulfill our AAUW Value Promise: "By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

We serve a key role in our community by working together to promote family literacy and lifelong learning which opens up opportunities for women and girls. For more information about the Family Literacy Fund, call #484-7135 Ext. 253.

## International Affairs: Global Connections

-- By AAUW National, Submitted by Laurie Ginnitti, International Affairs Chair

AAUW has a rich legacy of international work. International outreach became a priority to AAUW members immediately following World War I when AAUW member Virginia Gildersleeve and two British women established the International Federation of University Women to promote peace and understanding among women in different countries.

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*When a woman is educated and empowered, she starts a ripple effect in her community.*

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During World War II, AAUW assisted European women scholars whose lives were at risk: AAUW members helped find academic positions for these students and professors in the United States and other countries. Today, AAUW continues to advocate for women and girls in a variety of ways.

AAUW is a member of many coalitions that support human rights and equality for women and girls,

including a strategic partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative and special consultative status with the United Nations. This UN status means we have influential UN privileges that other nongovernmental organizations don't have.

When a woman is educated and empowered, she starts a ripple effect in her community. This is true all over the world. But women still face barriers that keep education and security out of reach. Only through community support and access to resources like education, health care, and career opportunities will women have the chance to succeed. That's why AAUW has given international fellowships to more than 3,000 women in 134 countries and why we regularly speak out on behalf of women and girls at the United Nations and in critical global coalitions.

**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: **Alicia Mae Hodnett**  
(716) 489-3012

### **Branch Leadership**

#### *Executive Board--(Elected Officers)*

President:	Acting Board
Program VPs:	Janet Forbes and Reni Bob
Membership VP:	Alicia Mae Hodnett
EOF VP:	Frances Fair
LAF VPs:	Linda Fellows and Laurie Holthouse
Treasurer:	Shirley Sanfilippo
Recording Secretary:	Ruth Wahl

#### *State Representatives*

NYS Member/Finance Liason: Phoebe Forbes

#### *Committee Chairs*

Public Policy:	B. Dolores Thompson
Communications:	
<i>Publicity:</i>	TBA
<i>TWIGS Editor:</i>	Kathi R. Clark
<i>Directory:</i>	Debra Eck
<i>Social Media:</i>	Kathy Colby
<i>Member Communications:</i>	Holly Gatto
Social:	Mary Keeney
Scholarship:	Wendy Present Kathi Clark Frieda Fairburn Linda Burgess
Historian:	Elaine Rissel
Interclub Council:	Rita Brown
Circle of Distinction:	B. Dolores Thompson
Education Partnerships:	Maggie Irwin and Christina Marsh
International Affairs Chair:	Laurie Ginnitti