



Jamestown Branch

Volume 20, Issue 5

May / June 2015

From the Editor

We are always looking for mission-based articles. If you have an article you would like to have considered for Twigs, please email Kathi R. Clark, editor, at wordsintheworks@gmail.com or call me at 716-355-6201.

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Calendar of Branch Events

May 9, 2015; Sat.

Program: AAUW NYS Updates and Call to Action
Speaker: Edwina Martin, AAUW NYS President
Place: Marvin House; **Time:** Noon - 2 PM

May 13, 2015; Wed.

Board Meeting
Place: Celoron Community Center
Time: 6:00 - 7:30 PM



May 28, 2015; Thurs.

Program: Dining Divas
Place: Main Landing Restaurant, 142 Blvd. Ave., Celoron
Time: 7 PM; **RSVP:** Kathy Colby, kjcolby@hotmail.com, 720-0234

June 12 - 13, 2015; Fri. - Sat.

Event: EOF/LAF Garage Sale

Mark these meetings on your calendar.

June 17, 2015; Wed.

Program: Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers
Place: Landmark Restaurant
Time: 6 PM



July 9, 2015; Thurs.

Program: 2015 AAUW Day at Chautauqua
Time: Lecture 10:45 AM, Amphitheater; Ticket valid 9 AM - 8 PM
Cost: \$62.50 payable to AAUW Jamestown Branch (*Details on P. 7.*)

July 24 - 26, 2015; Fri. - Sunday

Program: AAUW NYS Summer Leadership Conference
Place: Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY

Board Message

-- By Janet Forbes, Program VP

Summary of reports and key decisions made by our Branch Board of Directors at our March and April meetings.

- We are operating well within our budget
- Membership is 83 with new members expected at our Membership Social on April 30th
- \$70 was requested and approved for support of the "Hire Me!" series at JCC.
- The Fenton History Center is considering giving a free one month membership to AAUW members. Final proposal not complete yet may include a tour and possible program.
- Linda Fellows prepared two Legal Advocacy Fund baskets for the AAUW NYS Convention.
- Linda Fellows chaired the Nominating Committee. Offices to be filled included: President (one year term), Treasurer, Educational Opportunities Fund VP, and Program VP (two year terms)

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.

- Dolores Thompson wrote and submitted a pay equity op-ed for April 14th - Pay Equity Day. She also appeared on the WJTN Breakfast Party on April 11th to discuss pay equity.
- Laurie Ginnitti reported that the International Women's Day Dinner held on March 6th at JCC in partnership with Zonta Club of Jamestown was a very good program with 25 attendees; 11 of them AAUW members.
- Voting delegates to the AAUW NYS Convention were elected - Laurie Holthouse, Alicia Hodnett, and Kathi Clark. Alternates were Elaine Damsteegt, Janet Forbes, and Maggie Irwin. Linda Fellows and Laurie Ginnitti served as voting delegates in their roles with AAUW NYS. Dolores Thompson also attended the Convention.
- Voted to approve \$50 for each AAUW NYS Convention attendees.
- Two free AAUW memberships will be allocated to a drawing for members who renew their membership before June 1st. These will be announced at the annual meeting in June.
- \$10,000 from WNF was allocated for JCC and JBC transfer scholarships.
- Kathy Stanton and Alicia Hodnett facilitated a Start Smart workshop at University of Pittsburgh-Bradford on April 16th.
- Voted to fund one YWCA Jamestown summer campership.
- BOD nominees: Treasurer - Shirley Sanfilippo, Educational Opportunities Fund VP - Elaine Damsteegt, Program VP - Janet Forbes. Continuing to seek nominee for President.
- May BOD meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at Celoron Community Center at 6:30 pm. Elaine Damsteegt will chair. The BOD meetings are open to all members.

Branch Welcomes AAUW New York State President

-- By Janet Forbes, Program VP

Saturday, May 9, 2015 - Noon - 2 pm - Marvin House



We are very excited to host our AAUW NYS President, Edwina Frances Martin, for her first visit to the Jamestown Branch. Edwina will lead a conversation about the AAUW vision and initiatives to expand the reach and impact both locally and nationally.

Edwina Frances Martin, Esq., is a public interest lawyer

specializing in Government Relations, Non-Profit Management, and Strategic Communications. In March 2012 she became the Legislative and Budget Director and Counsel for New York City Councilwoman Debi Rose (49th District, North Shore, SI), responsible for, among other things, coordinating the Councilwoman's budget priorities and implementing the Councilwoman's public policy and legislative platform. For 11 years prior to this appointment she was the Director of Communications and Government Relations for Legal Services NYC, responsible for the development and management of communications tools and programs that promoted Legal Services NYC's image and educational messages to target audiences and various media entities.

Program Update: Annual Dinner

-- By Janet Forbes, Program VP

**Wednesday, June 17, 2015 6 pm
Annual Dinner / Installation of Officers
Landmark Restaurant, 516 W. 4th St., Jamestown**

Come join us for our annual dinner meeting to celebrate all the good work, collaborations, and successes throughout our AAUW year, install new officers, meet and greet new members, and enjoy fun and fellowship together. Laurie Ginnitti, AAUW NYS Secretary, will install our officers.

We will host a shower for the YWCA Summer Camp and ask members to bring healthy non-perishable food items such as dried fruit snacks, cheerios, pretzels, animal crackers, juice boxes, trail mix, granola bars, bottled water, and arts and crafts supplies.

We will have the banquet room and will be able to order off the menu and have separate checks.

Please contact Mary Keeney, Social Chair, at 664-4758 or grandmakeeney@yahoo.com with your reservation by June 15th.

Membership News

-- By Alicia Mae Hodnett, Membership VP

The April 30th Membership Social added 4 new members to our branch. Welcome to Eileen Harte Carlson, Shirley J. Forbes, Madeline Morganti, and Maryann W. Wilcox. We have had a successful year!

As a reminder, membership renewals have gone out. Get your renewals in!

LAF Baskets at the State Convention earned us \$165 for the Chautauqua Basket and \$50 for the Garden Basket for a total of \$215 toward the Legal Advocacy Fund!

Start Smart

-- By Alicia Mae Hodnett, Membership VP

On April 16th, Kathy Stanton and I had the opportunity to facilitate a Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshop for 21 young women at the University of Pittsburgh, Bradford. The responses were positive. The young women reported learning a lot about the interview and negotiating process and were looking forward to a joint program with their local branch.

Thank you from Lindsey Clark: I want to thank you for inviting me to the AAUW social last night. The talks and discussions were empowering and inspirational. I am grateful to be an AAUW scholarship winner.

Scholarship Recipients Honored and an Incredible Panel of Leaders Presented

-- By Kathi R. Clark, Scholarship Committee

What an amazing night, April 30, 2015 at our branch Membership Social where AAUW Jamestown Branch honored 15 scholarship recipients and enjoyed a panel conversation by three dynamic female leaders!

The evening started off by celebrating our scholarship winners. Wendy Present, scholarship committee chair, and Kathi Clark, scholarship committee member, presented roses and told of each winner's accomplishments.



(Pictured clockwise from left to right are Brita Howe, Lindsey Clark, Kimberly Gage, Alivia Sheffield, Taylor Kickbush, Allene Spearbeck, Lacey Clark, Yadira Bautista, Emily Harrower, and in the center is Lindsey Woodard. Howe is a student at Jamestown Business College while the others attend Jamestown Community College. Scholarship recipients who were not present include Alexandria Barton, Ellen Reed, Alisha Szumigala, and Samantha Mann.)

To qualify for the scholarships, the women had to have a minimum GPA of 3.5, be graduating with an associate's degree, and be accepted into a bachelor's program. Each of these women also demonstrated leadership qualities, community service, work experience, and career goals, and they were active participants on their college campuses and had overcome some challenges.

Thank you from Emily Harrower: Thank you for your generous scholarship. I am so appreciate to have been selected as a recipient for this award. This scholarship is a blessing to both me and my family. It will be used to help cover tuition and fees for the fall. I cannot express how grateful I am to all of you for all of your hard-work to make scholarships possible. Thank you again for your generosity and support.



(Pictured from left to right: Katie Geise, Dr. Lillian Ney, and Tory Irgang)

Following the scholarship honors, the speakers began their conversation. This amazing panel of female leaders included Dr. Lillian V. Ney; Katie Geise, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board; and Tory Irgang, executive director of the United Way of Southern Chautauqua County. They discussed women in leadership and what that means.

The conversation emphasized that we need to empower each other and offer a hand to each other as women instead of competing against each other. We need to be mentors to each other. Geise said, "The best way to mentor someone is to listen and care about her next step. True compassion is necessary. You have to be in it because you care about that person."

Irgang expounded on that idea, saying "sometimes that means offering to open a door for someone. Sometimes that can mean making a phone call, but it is essential that we don't create barriers for anyone to succeed."

Dr. Ney wrapped up the discussion by saying, "We have a long way to go, and if we don't support one another, we won't see the world we wish to create."

(Over the years, AAUW Jamestown Branch has awarded over \$450,000 to over 400 women pursuing their four-year degrees.)

AAUW Jamestown Branch EOF/LAF Garage Sale

-- By Elaine Damsteegt, EOF VP; Linda Fellows and Laurie Holthouse, LAF VPs

June 12 (Fri.) and June 13 (Sat.)

It's time to round up all those things you don't want around any more and bring them to Elaine Damsteegt's Garage (or porch) - 186 Hallock Street for the EOF/LAF Garage Sale.

EOF (Educational Opportunities Fund) money earned

will go into our Jamestown Grant to help women in graduate studies achieve their educational goals. LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) money will go to assist litigants in discrimination lawsuits.

We will be pricing on June 6 (Sat.), June 8 (Mon.), & June 10 (Wed.), so would appreciate your donated items by June 8 or SOONER.

To volunteer to work at the garage sale or to mark items, please email gordnlane@windstream.net or call 483-0858.

Public Policy

-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

AAUW's Public Policy program is beginning to sound like a broken record. The major focus remains Pay Equity - the difference between the average earnings of men and women. The difference varies from state to state throughout the US. (The percentages quoted reflect what women are paid, ie, 78% of what men are paid.) Washington, DC, not surprisingly, has the best record - 91%. New York State is second with 86%. From there the percentage goes down to the lowest, 66%, held by Louisiana. It all averages out to 78% for the entire country.

In general, there is no significant difference between genders - 73% to 79% - when taking into account the level of education: less than high school = 76%; doctoral degree = 79%. The great disparity here, of course, is in the amount of the earnings at the various educational levels.

This is not true when comparing the discrepancy by age. The difference for teenagers is 90%, but it lowers steadily during the working years, and at retirement of 65 or older the difference is 74%. In other words, in retirement women are receiving 74% of what men are receiving.

The other interesting comparison is in race/ethnicity. Hispanic women earn 90% of men's earnings. For African-Americans the disparity is 91%. In the "white" population women earn 78% of what men

earn. These percentages point out the great difference in the male population's earnings, with minority men earning considerably less than "white" men.

Pay equity is an ethical issue. People performing the same or very similar work should be paid the same, regardless of gender. Lily Ledbetter made that very clear and the US Supreme Court agreed with her, awarding her millions of dollars, which she never did receive.

It is also an economic issue. Women, in general, are the shoppers. Put money in a woman's pocket, she will spend it on consumer goods of all kinds for her family and her home. This in turn, requires more goods to be produced, putting people to work to make those goods . . . a win/win situation for the US economy . . . if we can continue to produce those goods in the US.

Also, women tend to live longer than men, requiring care in specialized facilities for the frail elderly. Without sufficient personal financial resources, family and society at large must pick up the difference for their care. Higher retirement incomes, generated from higher working incomes, will lower that cost. Again, pay equity is an economic issue.

AAUW will continue to make pay equity a priority in its overall Public Policy program.

Circle of Distinction

-- By B. Dolores Thompson, Public Policy VP

In our Jan/Feb issue we recounted the extraordinary accomplishments of Kate Stoneman, a member of that remarkable Lakewood area family. This issue will feature another female member whose circumstances took her to South Africa. The CoD recognized Bertha Stoneman in March 1987.

Bertha was born August 18, 1866 in Lakewood, a daughter of Kate's brother Bryan. She graduated from Jamestown High School in 1885, when secondary education for women was still uncommon. She enrolled in Cornell University, taking 9 years to acquire her bachelor of pedagogy degree, as she needed to work her way through by teaching school. She completed her D.Sc - doctor of science in botany - 2 years later. In 1897, she was invited to join the staff of the Huguenot College in Wellington, South Africa and was put in charge of the botany department. It should be noted she found no suitable employment in the US.

By 1905 Dr. Stoneman had built up a large and well-stocked herbarium and botany laboratory. Deeply involved in botanical research, she published *Plants and Their Ways in South Africa* in 1906. It became the standard text in South Africa and was reprinted 3 times. In 1921 she was appointed the 3rd president of the College. During this time, she was instrumental in the founding of the South African Association of University Women and in 1923 became its first president.

In addition to her executive ability and talent for teaching, Dr. Stoneman had extraordinary rapport

with her students. She was a friend as well as a teacher, taking them with her on field expeditions and walking and picnicking with them. Her home at Bainskloof was available when she was not in residence. Many students spent happy holidays as well as weekends at "Stonemansion." Many of her students became life-long friends and one of them, Lily Daws, cared for her during her last years of illness.



Dr. Stoneman was keenly interested in sports at the college and gave money generously for athletic facilities. She also helped indigent students. She had a talent for composing verse and published a book of verse, some of it on the whimsical side. She translated poetry from Afrikaans to English and had a great love of fun and laughter to the end of her life.

Dr. Stoneman died April 30, 1943 at her home in Bainskloof. Her funeral, held in the Dutch Reformed Church, was conducted by ministers of several denominations and attended by a long list of dignitaries. Her ashes remained in South Africa until the close of WW II when they were returned to the family plot in Bentley Cemetery in Lakewood.

Dr. Stoneman is still revered in South Africa and one of the most prestigious academic awards has been the Bertha Stoneman Fellowship for Botanical Research, now named the Bertha Stoneman Memorial Award. It is administered by the SAAUW and presented to a member who is pursuing a Master's or higher degree in botanical research.



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National Website: www.aauw.org
State Website: www.aauw-nys.org
Jamestown Website: <http://jamestown-ny.aauw.net>



2015 AAUW Day at Chautauqua

Date: Thursday, July 9th, 2015
Host: AAUW Branch of Jamestown, NY
Theme: "Boys Will Be Boys - Then Men"
Speaker: Wes Moore, author of *The Other Wes Moore*
Place: Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY (www.ciweb.org)
Time: Lecture 10:45 AM at Amphitheatre; Ticket valid 9 AM - 8 PM
Cost: \$35.25/person plus \$27.25 for lunch in the historic Athenaeum Hotel's Parlor
Total: \$62.50 (Make check payable to AAUW Jamestown Branch.)

To make a reservation, please fill out this coupon and mail a check made out for the total amount to AAUW Jamestown Branch. Include your email address, so confirmation of your reservation can be sent to you. All orders must be prepaid. AAUW Day at Chautauqua costs \$62.50 per person and includes lunch. Mail your coupon and check to Barb Russell, 2702 Salam Drive, Ashville, NY 14710. Please email questions to barbararussell@mail.sunyjc.edu. You can order ticket OR meal, only. Parking (\$8.50) is paid directly by you at the parking lot.

Check Meal selection: Traditional Cobb Salad (w/grilled chicken breast) _____;
Citrus Baked Cod with tomato & garlic cream sauce, roasted asparagus/basmati Rice Pilaf: _____;
Penne Pasta with Crimini Mushrooms (roasted tomatoes, peas, parmesan cream sauce: _____.

(All meals come with iced tea, lemonade, coffee, hot tea and chef's choice of dessert.)

Name: _____ AAUW Branch: _____

Address: _____

No. of tickets: _____ Amount of enclosed check: _____

Telephone No: _____ Email address: _____

If ordering for more than yourself, supply the other names in your party, their branch affiliations, and their meal selections. (Deadline for reservations is Friday, June 26th, 2015)

[Wes Moore](#), author, *The Other Wes Moore*, a tale of two boys from Baltimore with the same name but very different fates. Wes Moore is a youth advocate, Army combat veteran, social entrepreneur and the host of "Beyond Belief" on the Oprah Winfrey Network. In Spring 2014, PBS premiered "Coming Back With Wes Moore," on which Moore served as executive producer. The series covered the personal lives of soldiers returning from war as they attempted to reintegrate back into society.





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:	Elaine Damsteegt
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