



Branch members attend the AAUW National Convention

Ten Jefferson County NY Branch members spent an exciting four days at the AAUW National Convention in DC in June. We may have set a record for branch attendance! It was an amazing opportunity for all of us to network with 1000 women (and men) from around the nation who share the AAUW mission and are actively working to achieve it.

On LOBBY DAY we donned our LOBBY DAY TEE SHIRTS and descended on Capitol Hill. Members of our branch and other members of the New York delegation met with staff members from the offices of Senators Gillibrand and Schumer's offices to talk about AAUW concerns. Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, 21st Congressional District, invited 6 members of the Jefferson County Branch into her office for a 30 minute discussion. We expressed our dismay about proposed changes to Title IX which would weaken the victim protection clauses dealing with sexual assault, rape, and discrimination. The other concern was the heavy burden of Student Loans that women carry. It is a fact that 2/3 of all student loans are carried by women and because of the pay differential between men and women it takes them much longer to pay them off.

At convention we attended workshops on programming, membership, legislation, creating inclusive spaces, Women and Student Debt, Communication Skills and other topics. There were many distinguished speakers including Judy Woodruff, Co-anchor and Managing Editor PBS NewsHour, and Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia



Jefferson County NY during AAUW National Convention.

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Sotomayor. Her speech was powerful and touched the hearts and minds of all present. One highlight of our Branch President, Janice Brown, was the personal greeting and hug from Justice Sotomayor.

Other speakers included our new National AAUW Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Churches, who was the former Managing Director of the Brookings Institution and who received a rousing welcome from the delegates. Also speaking was Laura Dunn, J.D. Executive Director of SurvJustice, Inc., which enforces victims rights and holds perpetrators and enablers of sexual violence accountable in campus, criminal and civil systems.

Branch Officers:

President: Janice Brown

Program Vice President: Jordan Walker

Membership Vice President: Tracy Gyoerkoe

Secretary: Sonja Williams

Treasurer: Diane Petrowski

Communications Chair: Cathy Stendeft

Diversity Chair: Peggy Coe

Public Policy Chair: Katie Fitzgerald

STEM Co-Chairs: Erika Montandon and Libby Wheeler

AAUW-NYS Officers

President: Roli Wendorf

Program Vice President: Stephanie Lemnios

Membership Vice President: Barbara Sarvar

Public policy Vice President: Cynthia Herriott

Secretary/Bylaws: Kimberly Blanchet

Treasurer: Diane Jablonski

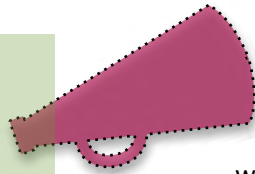
AAUW- National Officers

Board Chair: Julie Brown

Board Vice Chair: Peggy Ryan Williams

Board Finance Chair: Janet Bunger

Board Secretary: Cheryl Sorokin



President's Message

Are you ready for AAUW? A new AAUW year? I am along with our Board of Directors. We will be focusing on Education throughout the year with our programs and activities. It is exciting to think of making more impact in our community for women and girls. Keep tuned to the programs that Jordan Walker and the Program Committee have lined up for this year and do take part as you can. As each of you learn more about Jefferson County opportunities for women and girls, ask yourselves, "What can I do?" "What can our Branch do?"

As your President, I am committed to spreading the word about AAUW and all the great work we do. One goal this year will be to help establish another student organization at JCC. Our local college girls deserve more! Our community deserves more!

As great as AAUW is at working to achieve equity for women and girls, we can't do it alone. If there is an organization that we can work with to help improve the lives of the women and girls in our local community, let me know. I would like to build more partnerships with other like-minded organizations in the local community. I'm excited about this year and hope that you are too. Let us make an impact! Let us enjoy each other as we learn and work!

Janice Brown

AAUW Jefferson County NY President



Our Mission

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Vision

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

Diversity Statement

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Congratulations to the 2017 Athena Award Recipient: Catherine Burns Quencer

The Athena Award is presented to an individual who is recognized for professional excellence, for providing valuable service to their community and for actively assisting women in realizing their full leadership potential.

Cathy is a principal in the law firm of Schwerzmann and Wise, P.C. Watertown. Over the years she has been an active member of many Boards of Directors and Boards of Trustees. Her leadership skills, her creative thinking, and her knowledge of the law have made her a valuable participant and role model.

Eleanor Burns, Cathy's mother was an early member of the Jefferson County, NY Branch of AAUW. She contributed her knowledge and many skills to the branch and the membership was delighted when Cathy joined. When Cathy's daughter, Elizabeth, joined there was a three generation history. Elizabeth was at her mother's award ceremony having flown up from Duke University, where she is a third year law student.



Lisa Webber of Timeless Frames made the introduction and spoke about Cathy's many accomplishments. Certainly a well deserved compliment.

Not only did our branch have a corporate table but many members were scattered throughout the room.

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Branch members who attended the AAUW National Convention:

Janice Brown, Rowena Miller, Margaret Williams, Peggy Coe Ben Coe, Susan Quay, and out-of state members of our branch Doris McLallen (SC), Lynn Schwabenthal (OR), Mary Foran (NH), Betsy Summers (PA).



AAUW Public Policy Update

Public Policy Chair: Katie Fitzgerald

The NY 21st Congressional District race is an exciting opportunity for AAUW-Jefferson to advance its public policy efforts and improve the North Country while leaving an ongoing and lasting footprint in it.

Over the summer, as your Public Policy Chair, I attended several candidate events, introducing candidates and constituents to AAUW, sharing AAUW's public policy concerns and positions, soliciting support, encouraging voter registration and voting, and imagining potential collaborations between and among AAUW-Jefferson and the many impressive and talented people, groups, businesses, organizations, and institutions throughout the 21st District.

AAUW-Jefferson County (NY) and All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church (Watertown) plans to co-sponsor (as they co-sponsored the Sister March in Watertown last January) a nonpartisan candidate forum in Watertown in the early spring or prior to June primaries 2018.

An extraordinary public policy related event in the form of a human drama has been happening in our own backyard for some time now. Its intensity increased this summer and it remains ongoing.

In Champlain, NY, just north of Plattsburgh, refugees are fleeing the U.S., crossing into Quebec, Canada, via a

path in the woods, and seeking asylum. I witnessed the exodus on two occasions over the summer, in late July and mid-August. Both of my experiences were riveting, moving, and thought provoking. Still, today, I cannot mentally reconcile being a citizen in a land of immigrants and witnessing refugees fleeing it. In my opinion, it is an unusual, disturbing, and shameful oxymoron.

As I write this, AAUW has responded to the decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The program has provided nearly 800,000 recipients, including women and girls, the ability to attend school, go to work, and contribute to our economy without fear of deportation. Recipients, also known as Dreamers, need us to take action. Please urge members of Congress to support the Dream Act, a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would offer protection to DACA recipients, allowing them to continue accessing higher education, contributing to our economy, and participating in society.

Please contact me if I can assist you in any way with your public policy concerns. I welcome your input and ideas. Thank you for the opportunity to work and advocate on behalf of AAUW-Jefferson County (NY).

The Public Policy for Action 2017-2019 continues to support several important areas. These are:

- 1)** education is the foundation of our society;
 - 2)** all individuals need to have affordable housing, health care, and a clean environment;
 - 3)** all individuals have the right to privacy, freedom from violence, good health care;
 - 4)** affirmative action is essential to the well-being of people throughout the world;
 - 5)** more international policies to promote human rights and justice;
 - 6)** pay equity for women
 - 7)** the protection of social security from privatization;
 - 8)** the improvement of retirement benefits;
 - 9)** vigorous protection of our constitutional rights;
 - 10)** strong enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes.
- The biennial priorities will also focus on quality, affordable child care and elder care and social justice.

AAUW Welcomes JCC's New President: Dr. Ty Stone

Watertown, September 20th, 2017 - AAUW-Jefferson County branch held their first meeting of this new program year at NNY Philanthropy Center. The guest speaker was Dr Ty Stone, President of JCC - Jefferson Community College. She spoke about the "why" she is here and her purpose. She also asked our branch to support efforts on the college and looking forward to a great working/collaborations with the branch.



Community Super Sign Up

Fort Drum, September 2017. AAUW-Jefferson County branch supported the Volunteer Super- Sign-up day at Fort Drum held on September 7th. The event had over 75 vendors/non-profit organizations soliciting for volunteers for their programs. AAUW had about 35 attendees to stop and request information about the organization.



Membership Section

Membership VP: Tracie Gyoerkoe

This year's Membership recognition program will honor our AAUW members who are working or has worked in the education field in any capacity. These members exemplifies the important initiative of empowering girls (and all) through learning.

We need your help to identify them. Please click on the link below, answer the questions (2-3 minutes), then click the submit button.

<https://goo.gl/forms/VU3gTXUFCmxBJqhG3>

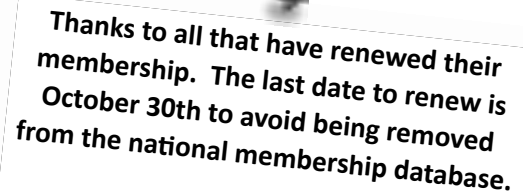
If you are unable to complete the brief survey, but have information to share e-mail tgyoerkoe@gmail.com.

The event will be Thursday, **November 16**, at 5:30 pm at Trinity. We are planning a panel discussion about initiatives and innovations in education. Mark your calendars so you will be sure not to miss the fun. More information to follow, but please complete the survey now.

Thanks

The Membership Committee

We mourn with member Pam Thomas and her daughter Whitney, last year's AAUW Scholarship recipient, on the passing of their husband and father.



Thanks to all that have renewed their membership. The last date to renew is October 30th to avoid being removed from the national membership database.

NOTE: Just a reminder, your AAUW ID # is on the address label of your Outlook Magazine.

AAUW Avid Readers

The "Avid Readers" study group is open to AAUW branch members. The study group usually meets on the first Monday of the month, at 2:30 PM, in the parlor at Ives Hill Retirement Community. One or two books are chosen for each month's discussion, and range from classics to modern fiction and non-fiction. The conversation is friendly and lively. For more information about the group and upcoming books contact Janet George at (315) 788 8099.

Programming Section

Programming VP: Jordan Walker

How the opioid crisis fuels sex trafficking:

Confronting Tragedies in Our Own Backyard

Friday, October 20th - 6:00 pm

**@ Jefferson Community
College Amphitheater**

The opioid epidemic has hit critical levels in the last few years with more opioid related deaths in the last year than ever before. Along with the rise in overdose deaths, the North Country has also seen an increase in other drug related crimes such as homicides, robberies, burglaries, thefts, white collar crime and sex trafficking.

Join us for a discussion of this important topic as well as learn how to identify drug use by family

members and friends and what steps to take to help individuals battling addiction.

The Jefferson County District Attorney's Office along with members of the Metro-Jefferson Drug Task Force will provide a presentation identifying different types of substance abuse and the problems that ravage our community as a result. The presentation will culminate in a question/answer session.

Kristyna Mills,
Jefferson County District Attorney

Red, White and Teal

We kicked off our programming season on September 13th, with our Red, White and Teal happening at the new craft beer and tapas restaurant SPOKES, 81 Public Square, Watertown, NY.

Spokes opened its doors this summer to an extremely successful first night during one of the Watertown Block Parties on June 30th. They have continued to experience great success so far throughout the summer, bringing in many customers interested in trying out their "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall" - a list of 99 different locally brewed and specialty beers.

Spokes is owned by Libby Wheeler, Beth A. Bodah, and Eva Pierce. Co-Owner Eva Pierce thinks that

Watertown Public Square is really an "up and coming" locale for female entrepreneurs to thrive: "Along with Spokes, there's April's Cake Shop, Vigilante Yoga, Marcy's Spa...it's really empowering to see women manage and run their own businesses. You wait and see, it will be women that bring downtown Watertown back to life."



National Women's Hall of Fame Induction 2017

In celebration of the 100th year anniversary of Women's Right to Vote in NY, The National Women's Hall of Fame hosted a weekend celebrating the achievements of American Women in the birthplace of the Women's Rights movement in the U.S. The 2017 Inductees included The Honorable Matilda Raffa Cuomo, Dr Temple Grandin, Lorraine Hansberry, Victoria Jackson, Sherry Lansing, Clare Boothe

Luce, Aimee Mullins, Carol A. Mutter, Dr Janet Rowley and Alice Waters.



Members from AAUW-

Jefferson County in attendance were:

Janice Brown, Jordan Walker and Peggy Coe. Representatives from AAUW National included CEO, Kim Churches and Cordy Gordigan, Marketing Director.

Upcoming events

October 2017

2nd - Avid Readers, at 2:30 pm. Ives Hill Retirement Center.	3rd - Program Committee Meeting, at 5 pm - Historical Society	10th - Board Meeting, at 5 pm, Historical Society	20th - Opioid Addiction Event, at 5:30 pm, Jefferson Community College. SAVE THE DATE
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November 2017

6th - Avid Readers, at 2:30 pm. Ives Hill Retirement Center.	7th - Program Committee Meeting, at 5 pm - Historical Society	14th - Board Meeting, at 5 pm - Historical Society	16th - Membership Appreciation Program, at 5:30 pm, Trinity Church. SAVE THE DATE
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