

## Category Community/Women and Girls

**Title:** 100th Birthday Celebration of Founding of Girl Scouts- Honoring Juliet Low  
(Women's History Month) March 12, 2012

### **Part I:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Other community groups involved,</b>                                 | 5 Girl Scout Troops<br>Fulmont Community Action Agency  |
| <b>Number of members involved in planning or putting on the program</b> | 2   |
| <b>Number of nonmembers involved in the program</b>                     | 5   |
| <b>Number of members who attended or benefitted</b>                     | 15  |
| <b>Number of non members who attended or benefitted</b>                 | 85  |
| <b>Number of new members who joined</b>                                 | Two Girl Scout leaders expressed interest in joining our branch and were invited to attend our April meeting. |

**Part II:** To promote life long education, support equal opportunities for girls and participate in positive societal change through philanthropy, our branch celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting and partnered with the Girls in a community service project. This gave our branch the opportunity to meet our goals of connecting with other the community organizations and underrepresented groups of women.

Inspired by the presentation at Cazenovia , we contacted the Northeast NY Girl Scout regional director who in turn contacted the Leader Coordinator for Fulton County who met with the Troop Leaders. They created a program for the March meeting as well as a project AAUW and Girl Scouts could work on together. Our branch sent press releases to area newspapers.

Girl Scouts presented the history of Scouting, the cookie, the uniform and SWAPS at the meeting. AAUW members donated ingredients for cakes for the "Birthday in Bag" community service project. The Girls decorated the bags and presented them to the Fulmont Community Action Agency who will deliver them to local foster children to brighten their birthdays. Girl Scouts and their leaders learned about AAUW, our Sister to Sister Summits and scholarship awards to 8th grade and high school girls. The Girl Scout leaders plan to join with AAUW on a project again next year. Our AAUW meeting announcement lead the local newspaper to do a front page article on the Girl Scouts which included AAUW.

Improved communications between AAUW and Girl Scouts are needed as changed dates and locations led to confusion and lower AAUW attendance. More time and room were needed for the program. However , it was an excellent way to bring AAUW to a new generation rather than waiting for them to come to us!

AAUW  
MARCH DESSERT MEETING



INVITE

AAUW

TO

A

BIRTHDAY PARTY

to celebrate the

Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary

and

Founder, Juliet Lowe's Birthday

**MONDAY, MARCH 12**

**6 pm**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

corner of S. Perry and W. Montgomery Streets in Johnstown  
(across from the old Johnstown jail)

\*Birthday Cake will be served.

\*Girl Scouts will present ceremonies from the past.

\*Speaker on History of Girl Scouting: Cindy Rivera, Regional Manager -  
Strategic Partnership Western Region Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York

\*\*Bring your Girl Scout Memorabilia to display and stories to share!

\*\*Donations requested:

Please bring boxes of cake mix, frosting mix and candles  
to fill the Birthday Bags the Girls Scouts will be donating to foster children  
as part of their community service project.

\*\*Please wear PINK in honor of breast cancer awareness.  
(Juliet Lowe died of breast cancer.)

RSVP by March 6 to Liz Russo 762-9702 [erusso03@nycap.rr.com](mailto:erusso03@nycap.rr.com)

# The Leader-Herald

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## Girl Scouts celebrate 100 years of helping communities

By RICHARD NILSEN  
The Leader-Herald

The Girl Scouts turned 100 years old this month.

However, despite its age, the organization's focus isn't exactly the same as it was 100 years ago.

Johnstown Troop 2087 leader Jennifer Dennett said the focus of today's Girl Scouts organization is more on technology, computers and girl empowerment than home-based skills like cooking and sewing.

"Our 100th year celebration is 'The Year of the Girl,'" Dennett said Tuesday. Dennett wasn't a Girl Scout as a youth because there were no troops in her area, but when her daughter, Cecilia, was old enough for Daisy scouting at age 5, she became a leader.

Dennett said she has seen her daughter go through Brownies and is now in Juniors for the 16-member troop who are all in the 9 to 10-year age group. She has seen the girls grow over time and develop life skills while having fun and

serving the community.

Priscilla Persons serves as community chairwoman of the eight troops in Johnstown, Gloversville and Oppenheim-Ephratah and said her 15 years helping lead Girl Scout troops has been great fun.

With daughters involved from first- to 12th-grades, Persons has seen a lot of community projects go forward due to scouts.

"Girl Scouts can work towards a Gold Award, similar to Boy Scouts Eagle Scout award," she said.

Persons said her daughters, for community service with the group, worked on the New York Trail System on Wildlife Road and with Mountain Valley Hospice.

Despite the emphasis on technology and empowerment, she said, there are still traditional activities and ceremonies such as the candle light ceremony held recently at Grace Lutheran Church, where the Johnstown troops meet.

The ceremony marked the day in 1912

when Girl Scouts began.

According to the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York website - [gsny.org](http://gsny.org) - a woman named Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Ga., for a local Girl Scout meeting. Low believed all girls should be given the chance to develop physically, mentally and spiritually, the website said.

"With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid," the website said.

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of the American Association of University Women Co-Chairwoman Elizabeth Russo was at the 100th-year celebration of Girl Scouts at Grace Lutheran Church in Johnstown on March 12.

GIRL - On Page 7A

JOHNSTOWN

Continued

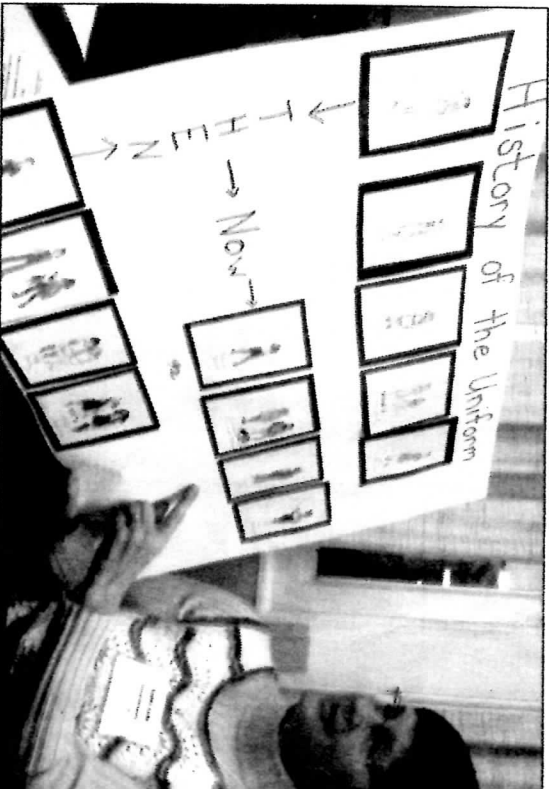


Photo submitted  
American Association of University Women member Sandy Lane looks at a poster showing the history of the Girl Scout uniform, part of the presentation at the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts on March 12 at Grace Lutheran Church in Johnstown.

## AAUW to celebrate Scouts' anniversary

JOHNSTOWN - The Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of the American Association of University Women's dessert meeting with Girl Scouts will take place at 6 p.m. March 12 at the Grace Lutheran Church, at the corner of South Perry and West Montgomery streets. The AAUW and local Girl Scout troops will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting.

The Girls Scouts have asked the AAUW members to help them with their local community service project, which is providing "Birthday Bags" for area foster children. AAUW members can donate boxes of cake mix, birthday candles and cans of frosting to put into the bags.

To attend the meeting, call AAUW co-president Liz Russo at 762-9702 by Tuesday.

March 4, 2012  
Liz Russo

# Girl Scouts celebrate 100th anniversary

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The Girl Scouts asked the AAUW members to help them with their local community service project, which is providing "Birthday Bags" for area foster children. AAUW members donated boxes of cake mix, birthday candles and cans of frosting to put into the bags. Russo said she enjoyed Girl Scouts so much in her youth that she wanted to be a Girl Scout leader as an adult.

Of course, she gave birth to boys and wound up a Cub Scout den mother instead. However, Russo has many fond memories of her years in scouting.

"I was a member of Troop 38 in Hagerman," Russo said. "I had wonderful leaders. My Brownie Scout leader, Mrs. Campbell, was very motherly."

Russo said Girl Scouts widened her horizons.

"At Woodhaven Girl Scout Camp, I met other leaders - outgoing, fun loving, who

taught us to sing songs, build campfires and rough it," Russo said. "Another Troop leader, Mrs. Schaus, was very fashionable with perfectly coiffed blonde hair, cashmere sweaters and wool skirts. She taught us to make mari-onettes and put on a puppet show and introduced us to classical musical."

Russo also said the mentoring that took place in Girl Scouts contributed greatly to her maturing.

"Each leader provided a different type of role model and I would like to think I tried to copy a little from each," she said.

According to the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York website, almost one of every eight girls between 5 and 17 years old is a Girl Scout. Girl Scouts has a nationwide membership of more than 3.4 million girls and adults. More than 50 million women in the U.S. today are Girl Scout alumnae.

Dave Wallin-Eddy of Broadalbin is the community chair for Girl Scouts of Northeast

New York, Service Unit 204.

"If someone had asked me as a child if I would be a member of Girl Scouts and a leader I most likely would have said no," he said.

However, he said, looking back on it, his involvement with the group is not so strange. He had two aunts who were involved in Girl Scouts, one for more than 60 years. His parents also were both Boy Scout leaders.

Wallin-Eddy said this will be his sixth year as a Girl Scout Troop leader, and his first as an independent (Juliette) Scout and as the community chair of 204, which includes the Troops in Mayfield, Edinburgh, Northville and Broadalbin-Perth.

"Community service is a huge part of Girl Scouting, and the concept of what my aunts and parents did makes more sense now than ever before," he said. "Today's Girl Scouts is about working hard to make the world a better place."



The Leader-Herald/Richard Nilsen

Johnstown Girl Scout Troop 2087 led by Jennifer Dennett and Robyn Burdick sell cookies at the Spring Johnstown High School Craft Fair on March 10. From left, Alyssa Bevington, Robin Sear, Madison Hazzard, Mallory Dence and Cecilia Dennet sell cookies to customers Eve and Liith Woods, all of Johnstown.

# Community celebrated today at home show in Broadalbin

Women's History Trail and 2020 Project Women, as well as participating in two sessions of workshops on related topics. Friday arrivals will be able to take a tour of the Susan B. Anthony House.

There will be opportunities to hear about and influence AAUW's State, National, and District policies; to interact with other members and branch officers from around the state; and to enjoy military bridge, walking, swimming, yoga, and a theatrical presentation of "Memoirs" by the Bath Branch.

So far Linda Hammond, Liz Russo, Sandy Maceyka, Ginni Mazur, Patsy Suydam, Bonnie Van Wie, Ella Ryder, and Helen Martin will be attending. There's still time to join us for this wonderful weekend! **The registration deadline is March 30.** (See Liz or Linda if you are interested in attending and would like a printed registration form.)

### **Purses Needed for LAF Raffle at NYS Convention**

There is still time to donate a purse or "stuff to put in it" (perhaps a bottle of wine, a mirror, lottery tickets, a scarf, or jewelry) for the LAF fundraiser at the NYS Convention in April.

Branches are invited to raise funds for LAF while adding to the fun at the convention by submitting purses for a drawing. Purses (new ones, of course) will be raffled as a way to honor the suffragist Susan B. Anthony for whom a woman's purse was a symbol of her economic independence. Purses can include designer bags, small purses, shoulder bags, or evening bags. You may choose to include other items to enhance their value.

Contact Sandy Maceyka if you have donations.

### **March meeting Followup**

Our March meeting celebrated Women's History Month in a different way. We attended a Girl Scout meeting and were treated to ice cream and birthday cake. Seventy-

five girls and their leaders provided the program for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts from Johnstown and Gloversville educated us about founder Juliet Low, the history of Girl Scouting, the uniform, Girl Scout cookies, and SWAPS.

The five troops participating exchanged SWAPS (Special Thing-a-ma-gigs Affectionately Pinned Somewhere) they had made. They even gave each of our AAUW members in attendance SWAPS to take home! Our members donated enough cake mix, frosting, and candles to provide over 20 Birthday Bags which the Girl Scouts will give to foster children in the area as part of their community service project.

We brought our AAUW display and explained to the girls and leaders who we are and what we do and that we were at their meeting to learn about the Juliet Low and the history of Girl Scouting from them. We also told them about the programs we provide for girls such as Sister to Sister Summits and scholarship awards we give. We encouraged the girls to study hard in school so that one day they might also become members of AAUW.

We generated interest in AAUW from Girl Scout leaders and parents in attendance and hope to recruit some new younger members to our branch as a result. The leaders also expressed an interest in doing a project with our branch next year. We hope, therefore, that we can keep the AAUW-Girl Scout connection we have made. --Liz Russo

### **Pancake Breakfast Local Scholarship Fundraiser**

The February 26 Pancake Breakfast at the Moose Lodge was a wonderful and very successful joint venture with the Soroptimist International of Fulton County. We served 259 breakfasts with our sister Soroptimists. The Soroptimists split the proceeds with our AAUW branch and reimbursed the Moose for the cost of the food. In addition, to our share of the profit from the

actual breakfast (exact amount forthcoming) our branch also made \$170 on the Family Fun Raffle, \$6 on our Used Book Sale we held at the event, and the \$240 individual donations to the scholarship fund we received in lieu of ticket purchase.

Thanks to Patsy Suydam and Helen Martin for suggesting to the Soroptimists that AAUW might be interested in partnering on this fundraiser and for helping to serve at the breakfast. Thanks also to Pancake Breakfast Committee members: Jahn Gibson for mailing out the tickets and calling to remind volunteers of their work shift times, Catherine Julius for collecting, counting, and keeping track of all the money and tickets and working all morning at the breakfast, Trish Isabella for selling the most tickets, calling to remind those who had not yet turned in ticket money and being a wonderful "fun creator" providing us with colorful aprons and ribbons and butterflies for our hair at the breakfast. Attired in PJs, she worked all morning clearing tables, selling raffle tickets, and reminding us all to have FUN!

Thank you to all of you who worked shifts and brought your families to eat including Ella Ryder (who had the largest family group), Bonnie VanWie, Connie Chamberlain, Linda Bumpus, Helen Martin, Linda Hammond, Marsha Smith, Anne Campos, Traci DiMezza as well as our AAUW newest member, Danielle Schaff-Turchin!

In addition, thanks to those who obtained donations for our Family Fund Raffle including Anne Campos for the Perry Lanes Bowling games and ZenDoKai Karate lessons, Catherine Julius for the pizza from House of Pizza, Sarah Slingerland for Royal Mountain Ski area day pass and Sandy Maceyka for the Wendy's gift card. Thank you all so very much! Wonderful things happen when women work together! --Liz Russo

**Don't Miss This...**