

Amsterdam Gloversville Johnstown AAUW Individual Event Application 2012

Category: Women Title: Women in Farming

Other Community Groups involved: Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market

Micropolis Art Gallery ✓

Number of members involved in planning: 2 ✓

Number of non-members involved in the program: 5 ✓

Number of members who attended: 28 ✓

Number of non-members who attended: 2 ✓

Number of new members who joined: 1 ✓

Part II Description of event: Women in Farming

Crystal Stewart, Vegetable Specialist from Cornell Cooperative Extension and Certified Holistic Management Consultant, gave a power point presentation on the trends of women in farming.

This unique program addressed the need for education, research, and advocacy for women who are entering farming now as well as established women farmers. Women farmers face an uphill battle. Research has shown that the barriers women farmers face are a lack of "hands on education" and continuing education, a lack of land and capital, a lack of resources tailored to their needs, and a lack of visibility in the greater agricultural picture. Our branch along with the national AAUW believes that education is the key to economic security. Ms. Stewart highlighted a program she is involved with to give women farmers the education and work experience needed to insure a successful business.

Specific Action Steps: Carol Cownie, Women's Issues Chair is a founding member of the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market. She asked Crystal Stewart, a board member of the co-op, if she would do a presentation for our AAUW branch. After some brainstorming Crystal mentioned that she was helping to develop more resources for women farmers. She created a 45 minute presentation just for our meeting. We decided to hold it at the co-op where members could buy locally produced foods as well as have a delicious light dinner. It was very well received.

Community Visibility: In our monthly newsletter, a flyer made to promote the meeting, and it was announced in the local paper.

30

Impact on the Community: On the night of the meeting many members toured the co-op and purchased food. They learned about the mission of the co-op by seeing all the locally produced food and products. In addition, the Micropolis Art Gallery which currently shares space with the co-op had \$200.00 in sales.

Lessons Learned: Even though the winter weather was uncooperative we were surprised how many members made an effort to attend the meeting. There was a lively discussion at the end of the presentation and Ms. Stewart highlighted some local farms that were owned by women.

I believe that the future of food and its production is a very important and popular issue. There is much for us to learn about where and how our food is grown and to understand the local and international consequences of our food choices. I think the AAUW should explore this issue on the national level.

Submitted by

Carol M. Cownie, Women's Issues Chair. Amsterdam Gloversville Johnstown branch.

AAUW January Meeting

January 17, 2012

6pm.

**The Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market,
30 North Main St., Gloversville, NY**

**Crystal Stewart from Cornell Cooperative
Extension, speaker**

**and mini-tour of Micropolis Art Gallery
with Linda Hinkle**

**Light, homemade dinner of tomato
cheddar basil soup, sandwich, choice of
cookie and coffee or tea,**

\$12.50

.....
Sandwich Choice.....

Circle One

****Chicken & Cranberry on Croissant**

****Hummus Veggie on Wheat Bagel**

RSVP by January 12th

**to Carol Cownie, 232 N. Main St,
Broadalbin NY 12025 or call 883-8099.**

Dec/JAN "Update Update" news letter

collection to aid that organization. The Turning Point provides trained and certified host families who temporarily provide homes for children ages 5-18 who are experiencing behavioral an/or emotional issues due to a mental health diagnosis. The goal is to give the affected child and his/her birth family needed understanding, guidance, support, and education while working toward the reunification of the family. Host families devote precious time, energy, and money to strengthen and reunite troubled families.

To help, we have created a list of items which can help provide for the children they have welcomed temporarily into their homes and hearts. Suggested items for Turning Point Families:

Gift Cards for entertainment, such as movies & restaurant gift cards & gas cards

School supplies, children's books & Target or WalMart Gift Cards

Hats, mittens, scarves - as every family can use extras

If you have a question, please feel free to call Jaydene Scofield at (518) 673-8280.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. For more information, go to www.agiaauw.org

If you weren't at the November meeting to pick up your AAUW directory for 2011-2012, they are gorgeous again this year, thanks to Patsy Suydam! Hope you'll be there in December to get your copy.

--Sandy Maceyka

January Meeting

The January Meeting will be on the 17th at the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market at 30 North Main Street in Gloversville. If you come at 5:30 p.m. there will be volunteers there to give you a tour, and you may purchase items then as the store will still be open. At 6 p.m. Linda Hinkle will give us a mini-tour of the Micropolis Art Gallery housed in the co-op. By 6:30 p.m. we should be enjoying a "from scratch" light dinner and at 7 p.m. Crystal Stewart will give a presentation on women and farming. You will also receive a booklet from the American Farmland Trust regarding food, farming, and the Farm Bill 2012. Our food has lots of politics in it, so come and learn how it affects us locally and nationally. For more information, contact Carol Cownie at 883-8099 or cmcownie@msn.com. Hope to see you there. Thanks.

Many Thanks

Thanks to all who supported our recent EOF/LAF auction. Many pulled together to give people opportunities to education and legal support through their monetary donations. It was a fun evening with Paula Becker offering to make this event a success. A big thanks goes out to those who attended, those who donated items to be auctioned, those who helped set up, those who purchased items, and those who donated money. We were able to raise over \$500 for these causes. If you were not able to attend or

donate, it is not too late. Send your donations to our treasurer Michele Acquaro and put EOF/LAF in the subject line.

--Ginni Mazur, LAF Chair

Women Making Strides

Although the total number of women CEO's of Fortune 500 companies fell from 15 to 12 this year due to 3 women leaving their positions and being replaced by male counterparts, there was a noteworthy occurrence. Beth E. Mooney of KeyCorp became the first ever woman chief of a top 20 U.S. bank.

AAUW's persistent efforts to draw attention to the inequities in awarding top positions to primarily males even when a woman or women in the same organization may be equally, if not more, qualified and with an equal amount of time on the job is rewarded by an occurrence such as Ms. Mooney's rise to the top with KeyCorp.

But, it is not just in positions such as Ms. Mooney's that women are continuing to make strides. In the recent election in New York State, Ann Crowell won election as the first female judge on the New York State Supreme Court.

Women will continue to surge forward with the support of organizations such as AAUW and its members. It is more important than ever that we volunteer our support in whatever areas we feel best suited to further the advancement of those women who aspire to positions of leadership.

--Helen Martin

College Student Organization Recruitment Continues

The women in the documentary are walking to get to the Addis Ababa hospital built by Doctors Catherine and Reg Hamlin who dedicated their lives to women suffering the catastrophic injuries, called fistulae, of obstructed labor. Until the Hamlins began their work in Ethiopia, fistula sufferers were neglected and forgotten--a vast group of women facing a lifetime of incapacity and degradation. Catherine and Reg, with their team of dedicated fistula surgeons, have successfully operated on over 25,000 women, and the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital has become a major teaching institution for gynecologists from all over Ethiopia and the developing world. --Patsy Suydam

Sister to Sister Summit

All the donor request letters have gone out and I'm waiting for the checks to come in. We have 15 presenters agreeing to do three workshops each with a lot of hands-on activities on Tech Savy topics. Maryann Abad has agreed to get the food donor requests together and pick up the donations; letters will probably be mailed in April. Apple dip-pers from McDonalds will be requested by Ann Campos. --Linda Bumpus

Our January meeting held at the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market was a wonderful success. Twenty-eight members and two guests enjoyed a tour of the Mircropolis Gallery, delicious food, and an enlightening presentation by Crystal Stewart. We ended the evening with a better understand-

ing of the challenges and barriers women farmers share and what we can do to support them. I would like to thank everyone who weathered the cold to attend the meeting. It was a success because of your support.
THANK YOU!
Carol Cownie
Women's Issues Chair

Heart Health Month and Public Policy

Ok – so let's talk about women's heart health and how it relates to public policy. First a few facts:

- 1) Heart disease is the number one killer of women
- 2) It is estimated that one out of every two women will die from heart disease
- 3) Heart disease kills ten times more women than breast cancer each year, and more than all other cancers combined
- 4) One in ten women aged 45 to 64 already suffers from some form of heart disease
- 5) Nearly one fourth of women who died of heart disease were between the ages of 35 and 44 (Source: <http://www.fathersforlife.org/health/heartdths.htm>)

Now – how do we relate that to public policy? For starters, in addition to making changes in our personal lives we advocate for changes to our community – the kind of changes that will improve our way of life and encourage a healthier way of life for all of our relatives, friends, and coworkers. To do that we

must not be shy about calling on our elected officials to use our tax dollars effectively by funding the types of programs that will be the most effective in the fight against heart disease. We must remember this:

“Congress determines if and how much of our federal tax dollars go to fund the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for medical research on heart disease, and if any of these funds get earmarked for research on women with heart disease.”

(Source: <http://www.womenheart.org>)

We must make sure that funding continues for heart disease research and prevention programs. We must make sure that our State legislatures take necessary actions to affect our access to healthcare including providing assistance to women with no health insurance, influencing Medicaid eligibility and establishing mandated benefits for routine cholesterol and blood pressure screenings.

I would like to suggest that to promote these efforts the members of our branch do two things during February:

- 1) Write or email your local and State legislators reminding them of the importance of supporting ALL heart health related legislation (contact information can be found in your local newspapers and phone book)
- 2) At our February meeting we all wear red in some form to

AAUW meeting at market Jan. 17

GLOVERSVILLE — The Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of the American Association of University Women will hold a meeting Jan. 17 at the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market, 30 N. Main St.

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a tour of the market. At 6 p.m., a mini-tour will be given of the Micropolis Art Gallery. At 6:30 p.m. a light dinner will be provided. Crystal Stewart will give a presentation on women and farming at 7 p.m.

The light dinner menu includes tomato cheddar basil soup, choice of a chicken and cranberry sandwich on a croissant or a hummus veggie sandwich on a wheat bagel, cookies, coffee or tea.

Those interested in attending should send a check for \$12.50 made payable to AAUW with their choice of sandwich to Carol Cownie, 232 N. Main St., Broadalbin 12025.

For more information, contact Cownie at 883-8099 or cm-cownie@msn.com. The deadline for reservations is Thursday.

Anyone with an associate's, bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university is eligible to join AAUW.

For more information, go online and visit www.agjauw.org.

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