

EMERGING LEADERS 2013



Adirondack - Doris Stoll

Doris' hometown is McKeesport, Pa, once a booming steel town, now a part of the "rustbelt" of western Pennsylvania. She graduated from McKeesport High School and completed both nursing and nurse anesthesia education at McKeesport Hospital working there at clinical and educational positions. During this time she completed her baccalaureate degree at California University of Pa and a Masters degree at Duquesne University. She and her husband moved to Chicago in the 1980s where she completed a PhD in administration and policy studies at Northwestern University. After retiring to Saratoga Springs NY to be close to family, she happily found the Adirondack Branch of AAUW.



Alfred Hornell - Daneen Wassink

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Daneen (Dani) Wassink as the Alfred-Hornell Branch recipient of the Emerging Leader Award.

Dani joined the Alfred-Hornell Branch in December of 2010, under the "Shape the Future" program. She quickly showed her willingness to help by accepting the nomination as Branch Secretary and Communications Director for the 2012-2013 year.

Dani has enthusiastically filled this position in a myriad of ways. She has been writing thorough, interesting, and inspiring news articles about our events for the local

newspapers. We are delighted that she took on this job because her articles relate AAUW's events in such a detailed, well-written, and inspiring way. Her articles serve a dual purpose by being informative, but also by raising interest in our group for readers potentially joining us in the future! Several new members were inspired and did join our branch as a result of Dani's articles and photos. Her articles are published in local newspapers, [The Hornell Evening Tribune](#), as well as [The Alfred Sun](#).

Dani has served on our board this year, offering many constructive ideas related to membership, program and finances. Dani retired from teaching after 31 years, and has been involved in the Teachers' retirement group, as well as a member of AAUW. We are proud and thankful for her contributions to the Alfred-Hornell Branch.



Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown - Catherine Julius

Catherine Julius joined our branch in September 2011. She is serving as co-chair of our Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the second year. Last spring she audited our books.

She carried out both tasks efficiently and with great care to detail. She exhibited her interest in AAUW by attending the NYS AAUW Leadership Conference last summer in

Cazenovia. In addition, Catherine has become an avid AAUW recruiter and currently serves as co-Membership VP. She updated the branch membership brochure, writes the new member biographies for our branch newsletter and has single handedly recruited 4 new members to our branch. We are proud to recognize Catherine Julius as our Emerging Leader.



Bath - Elfriede Tompkins

Elfie is a recent member of our Bath Branch and has always been involved in community services. She has an infectious laugh and is always willing to be helpful. In our Branch's latest, creative fundraiser, Elfie will be portraying "Rose the Riveter" in our Hysterical/Historical Women on May 18th.



Buffalo - Taylor Page

Dr Taylor Page came to the Buffalo Branch of AAUW through our Tech Savvy program. She is a technical service representative at WTS, Inc, an environmental consulting company, and one of the company officers who read about the program urged Taylor to get involved. She jumped right in during 2009 and has been on the steering committee ever since, lending her technical expertise and organizational skills to that award-winning program. She was recruited into branch membership during that same year and accepted the position of secretary for 2010-12 and then again for 2012-14. Her dedication, attention to detail, and willingness to help in any way have been much appreciated by the branch. We applaud Taylor and are proud to name her our Emerging Leader for 2013.

Elmira Corning - Mary Beth Frederick

Mary Beth is a very active member. From being Secretary of our charter to help with fundraisers to accepting the role of doing a local web page, her interest and energy to work for the principles of AAUW is always there.



Fairport Area - Mairéad Hartmann

A 14-year member of the Fairport Area Branch, Mairéad is employed as a Program Officer at Rochester Area Community Foundation. Her responsibilities include grantmaking in support of high quality out-of-school-time programs. In previous roles at the Foundation, Mairéad handled grantmaking for Women & Girls and support for the Rochester Women's Giving Circle. Mairéad worked at nonprofits throughout the country and as grants coordinator for Mount St. Mary's College, a women's liberal arts college. Mairéad served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer.

Mairéad holds a Bachelor's Degree from Gettysburg College and is currently completing her Master's Degree in Public Administration at the State University of New York College at Brockport. Mairéad has served as Fairport branch AAUW newsletter editor since 2006.



Greater Rochester Area - Amanda Jackson-Jacobs

Amanda joined GRAB AAUW in 2009 and has become the chair and champion of our Women Helping Women Program. As the chair of a program, Amanda sat on our board of directors and has helped plan many programs and retreats.

Amanda began WHW with setting up a series of 6 week workshops at the Sojourner House with women in need of help with personal finances. Amanda helped develop the Progressive Way to Better Credit Program at a local Community Development Credit Union and brought that program to GRAB AAUW.

Women Helping Women has also taken on developing a path and a tuition scholarship program to grant high seniors, who qualify and choose to go to Monroe Community College, tuition scholarships for the 2 years. This scholarship project was done in collaboration with staff at MCC. Amanda was also chair of our 2013 ROC the Day scholarship fund raising event with the United Way of Rochester.

Amanda has served on our Educational Loan Fund Committee for 4 years and has brought many new members, outside events and guests to the AAUW House.

There is no doubt that Amanda Jackson-Jacobs is a great Emerging Leader and deserves the title at our Branch in 2013.



Jamestown - Barbara Russell

Barbara Russell joined our branch at the end of our 2009-2010 year. She immediately became Raffle Co-Chair. The raffle is one of the important elements in our annual major fund raising event, the What's New Fair. Barb did that for two years.

She also volunteered that first year to work on the newly formed Membership Committee and helped with our renewal campaign, the membership table at different programs throughout the year, and our annual Membership Social. After two years on the Committee, she stepped up to become Membership Vice-President this year. Barbara is reliable, organized and contributes good ideas in our board meetings.



Jefferson County - Janice Brown

Janice Brown is a counselor for soldiers and family members at Fort Drum, NY and became a member of the Jefferson County Branch of AAUW in July 2011. She is currently the branches' Educational Opportunities Fund Chair. She conceived, compiled and published the Jefferson County AAUW recipe book, "Empowering Women at the Table", as a branch fund raiser for 2012. Janice is always one of the first to volunteer for anything that needs to be done. She is on the planning committee for the 2013 Lake Placid NYS AAUW Convention and is the lead in planning/organizing the EOF fund raiser for the convention. Janice is committed to the mission and goals of AAUW and a wonderful member of our organization.



Kingston - Jennifer Mayfield

AAUW Kingston Branch is proud to nominate Jennifer Mayfield for our 2013 Emerging Leader Award. Jennifer transferred to our branch from Boston and immediately took on the International Chair position and has done an outstanding job with this task. Jenn's first project was organizing and hosting a well attended screening of *Miss Representation* at a local theatre. She continues to work on reaching out to get the theme of this documentary to other venues in our area. Jenn recently attended the CTAUN conference at the UN in NYC and reported back to our branch about the importance of educators to teach about advancing social justices. Jenn's enthusiasm and commitment to AAUW's mission is most commendable. Jenn accomplishes all this while working full time and commuting back and forth from Kingston to NYC (80 miles each way). We are very fortunate to have Jenn on our Board.



Massapequa Area - Doris Reynolds

BS Elementary Education from James Madison University
MS Elementary Education from Queens College
Taught 5th and 6th grades at Notre Dame School New Hyde Park, Long Island
Currently Recording Secretary Hidden lake Estates Co-op Amityville NY
Corresponding Secretary Amityville Historical Society and Co-chair of the Historical Society's 44th Annual Heritage Fair
St Martin of Tours R. C. Church Lector and Eucharistic Minister, member of the Consolation Ministry and brings Communion to the Homebound
Doris is to become President of the branch after only a few years as member of the branch. Previously she was a Member at Large.

North Shore - Cynthia Katz

Cynthia Gusowsky Katz has won the fond admiration of the members of North Shore Branch for her steadfast support, her amiability and her gracious willingness to jump in wherever she is needed. Formally she serves as our recording secretary, but in addition she has piloted the refreshments for our NCCWSL Victorian Tea last summer which earned \$1,000 to support students attending NCCWSL. She planned the summer board picnic while the president was unavailable and the recent March Scholar's Luncheon. Whenever she is needed, she is there.

Cynthia was born on Staten Island, moved to the Bronx for high school and college before moving to Long Island. She earned her bachelor's degree from Lehman and her master's and CSW from NYU. She has worked as an elementary teacher, as a social worker in foster care and as a therapist. She has a step son and three grandchildren.

Cynthia joined North Shore branch after a music group program. In addition to AAUW she is active in her synagogue as Kiddush chair, chair of the sisterhood book group, and assistant editor of the weekly bulletin. She is treasurer of the Heart chapter of the Devorah Hospital foundation, a life member of Hadassah and a member of the Meadowbrook Women's Initiative, Audit Committee and Student Loan Fund Committee



Poughkeepsie - Linda Roberts

Linda Olsen Roberts was an elementary school teacher for 30 years at The Noxon Road School in Dutchess County, New York. She has been very active in retirement, volunteering with many different organizations. She has been a volunteer at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City for many years, working in programs for Alzheimer's patients and blind and partially-blind adults. She has been a very active member of AAUW. Poughkeepsie Branch; serving in many capacities. She is on the Board and is the Vice President of the Educational Fund. She also is the co-chair of the annual Author's Tea and the chair of the Silent Auction, an event that has raised a considerable

amount of money, enabling the Poughkeepsie Branch to continue to carry out many of its programs. Presently, she is the Treasurer of the State Convention.



St. Lawrence County - Betty Connolly

Betty Connolly has been a member of the St. Lawrence County Branch since 2012. She joined the Branch Board in 2012 upon election as Program Vice President. She has very ably chaired our Professional Clothing Fair Committee for several years. Professionally, Betty is the Assistant Vice President for Administration and the Affirmative Action Officer for SUNY Canton, an AAUW C/U member college.

Betty is our go-to person for all things programming: she organizes meetings, hosts Board events, collaborates with other institutions in our county, and brings to her AAUW work boundless energy, professionalism, good cheer, and a can-do attitude that is infectious (not to mention, the best Trifle in the world!).

Betty has raised the profile, the appeal and the impact of AAUW on the SUNY Canton campus. She brings new people – faculty, staff and dynamic students - to every meeting and event. Her outreach is legendary and the branch is benefitting from new ideas, new people and new enthusiasm, all thanks to Betty. The St. Lawrence County Branch is proud to honor Betty Connolly as our AAUW Emerging Leader for 2013!



Schenectady - Linda Rizzo

Linda holds an ED.D from SUNY Albany. She was a Spanish and English teacher, middle school administrator and deputy associate Superintendent of Schools. She is currently an Educational Consultant for parents who have children with special needs. The Schenectady Branch is honored to select Linda as our emerging leader for 2013. Linda serves as public policy chair for our Branch. She regularly attends County Board and Town Board meetings, keeping the Branch up-to-date on current issues before them. Linda is a strong advocate for the Paycheck Fairness Act and made a spirited presentation at both Boards. As the result of her efforts, the Niskayuna Town Board adopted a resolution in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act which they submitted to the New York

State Legislature. She also writes letters to the editor in support of AAUW policy. Linda is active in our community, by co-chairing the Niskayuna Parade Committee for the town celebration in May and is active in the political arena. Her enthusiasm and creativity have added much to our Branch and has made the community more aware of our Branch and the issues that AAUW supports. She is a strong advocate for women's rights and has brought these issues to the attention of our local government and branch members.



Westchester - Mary Logan

Mary Logan joined AAUW-Westchester in 2012 soon after she retired from her career of 25 years in banking. Mary came to our branch at the enthusiastic encouragement of her mother, a longtime AAUW member on Long Island. Mary earned BA and MBA degrees from San Diego State University. Mary is married and has two sons. At AAUW-Westchester she has taken on responsibility for the Funds Chair overseeing donations for the annual funds drive. Mary has been an enthusiastic worker in the Pay Equity Group,

promoting and facilitating Start Smart Workshops. This spring she organized outreach to schools for the joint venture project with the League of Women Voters, "Running and Winning" to be held in April.



Yates County - Ruth Benedict

Yates County Branch of New York State AAUW is proud to announce Ruth Carolyn Benedict as our 2013 Emerging Leader. From the time she joined, Ruth has energized our Branch with her ideas, her enthusiasm and her willingness to step in wherever needed. Ruth is a gifted public relations person whose press releases have informed the community of the many good works of AAUW. For the past three years she has co-chaired our annual book sale, working tirelessly to organize and publicize it, resulting in a successful fundraiser for our interrupted studies grant. This spring, Ruth has stepped in as interim co-president, with the goal of growing our membership. To this end, Ruth has helped plan programs, bringing in notable speakers from the community to speak on a variety of timely topics. Ruth has become a valued and esteemed member of our Branch, and it is a joy to put forth her name as our Emerging Leader for 2013.