

EMERGING LEADERS 2011

Adirondack - Amelita Phelps

Amelita Phelps is the 2011 AAUW-NYS Emerging Leader selection of the Adirondack Branch. Lita joined AAUW in April of 2008. In 2009 she agreed to fill out the last year of a 2 year term for Recording Secretary and then accepted the nomination and was elected to a full term position of Recording Secretary. Lita volunteers and helps with many projects, including our 1st Annual Golf Tournament this past year, the major fundraiser for our branch. We are proud and fortunate to have Lita as a member.



Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown - Linda Bumpus and Patsy Suydam



At our membership meeting last September both Linda Bumpus (left) and Patsy Suydam (right) approached me about taking on the responsibility for our Sister to Sister Summit. Linda was a prior member who was returning to us and Patsy was a brand new member. What a fantastic team they have become! They complement each other perfectly and have brought many new ideas and boundless energy and enthusiasm to their duties.



I must tell you that both of these ladies are actively involved in many other things in our community as you will see from their bios. Yet, any time you even mention the possibility of trying something new or needing something done they are both the first ones to say "Of course we can do that – when do you need it!"

Needless to say, our branch is very fortunate that both of these ladies decided to join us (in Linda's case rejoin us). It is always exciting when you have members who are as enthusiastic and positive as Linda and Patsy. We are thrilled they are part of our group and, personally, I am delighted to name them as our Emerging Leaders! Congratulations Patsy and Linda!

Bath - Debbi Deats

Debbi has lived in Bath, NY for virtually all of her life, and is one of the local "movers and shakers" in town and in the surrounding community. She taught English for 20 years, and then became a High School Guidance Counselor for the next 12 1/2 years before her retirement in 2005. Her husband, Jim, is also retired from his work at the Bath VA. Daughter Megan will graduate in May, 2011, from Nazareth College and hopes to work as an Elementary Inclusion Teacher. Debbi obviously loves people; she is active as one of the "Bath Bubbles" Red Hatters, the Corning Area Retired Teachers' Association, and Pro-Action of Steuben-Yates Counties. Currently she is working with some friends on a "Revitalizing Bath". project. Bath Branch is especially pleased to have Debbi Deats as our Emerging leader, not-to-mention our MEMBERSHIP VP!

Buffalo - Maria Coppola

Maria Coppola joined our branch in 2009. She has been an active member since joining. She is chair of Public Relations, editor of the *Advocate*, our Branch newsletter, and a member of the Board of Directors. Maria is a creative, proactive member of AAUW. She works with the chair of our scholarship committee, which is strategizing our scholarships for the future, to develop the best ways to reach out to the community members who can facilitate spreading the knowledge of our scholarships, grants and loans to those who can most benefit by receiving them. Maria chaired our Holiday event in December, and sought out the venue which would be most accessible to our members, in cost and physical accessibility. She chose a program which brought music and camaraderie to our members. What a winning way to show the benefits of joining AAUW. She has shown versatility in the skills that she brings to our Branch. We are pleased to be able to nominate Maria as our Emerging Leader for 2011.



Dunkirk-Fredonia - Carmen Rivera



Dr. Carmen S. Rivera, Chair of Modern Languages and Literature at SUNY Fredonia, joined the Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch of AAUW two years ago. Initially, she assisted the liaison between the branch and the university. She now serves as liaison and is part of the branch board.

Carmen has established a strong relationship with the faculty and students of the Women's Studies Program on campus. Thanks to her, the branch hosted a successful September event on the campus, presenting a wonderful local actor in a one-woman show as Eleanor Roosevelt. Carmen made all the arrangements with the university and assured that the event was advertised on campus.

Carmen's input, her insight and connection to the students and the various resources of the university, is invaluable in board and branch meetings. We are glad that Dr. Rivera is part of AAUW, and she is certainly a role model for young Latina women!

Elmira-Corning - Rosemary Kolynich

Rosemary joined our branch in the Spring of 2010. Shortly after that, we found ourselves in need of someone to chair our Hospitality Committee, which provides refreshments for all of our meetings and arranges the meal for our Annual Meeting. The woman who was slated to chair this committee had abruptly resigned and, when asked to step up and take on this responsibility, Rosemary never hesitated. Even though she had only been a member for a couple of months, she jumped right in, met with her new committee, and began to work together with our Program Committee to plan our 2010-2011 year of events. Needless to say, our branch is very thankful for her willingness to serve and take on this role at a time when we were not sure if we would be able to find someone. I'm sure this is just the beginning of Rosemary's involvement with our branch, and if her work on this committee is any indication, she will shine.



Fairport Area - Judy DuPre



Fairport Area Branch (FAB) is pleased to honor our new and enthusiastic member Judy DuPre as an emerging leader. Judy retired from the Fairport Central School District Social Studies Department in 2005 and has embraced the chance to involve herself in many activities locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. Extensive travel has expanded her view of the world and allowed her to incorporate her experiences in discussions in Great Decisions and book group, bringing a new fullness to conversations. She is currently serving as chair of the

FAB Great Decisions group and her contributions to the topic discussions have built the group to new levels. Her knowledge and informed opinions along with her educational history have resulted in her service as president of the Board of Directors of the Rochester Area Council for the Social Studies and she was also honored as recipient of their RACSS Outstanding Social Studies Teacher Award. She also serves on board of directors of the NYS Council of Social Studies and received their NYSCSS Distinguished Educator Award. Continuing her commitment to education Judy remains the Monroe County representative to ED #6 NYSUT Retirees Board. She is currently employed as an adjunct professor at St. John Fisher College where they benefit from her many years of travel (including her time in China and Japan as a Fulbright Scholar), her publications, pleasant manner, sense of humor, leadership, and educational attributes. What an tremendous addition to FAB AAUW!

Greater Rochester Area - Carleen Meers

Director of the Rochester City School District School-wide Positive Behavioral Supports scale up project, Carleen has over 22 years of successful teaching and administrative experience. She holds a PhD in Educational Leadership, Thought and Policy from the University of Rochester. Carleen has held a variety of leadership positions in the RCSD including her last position as the administrator of the Work Experience Program for students with special needs that was featured in an interview on the NewsHour. Carleen's vita specifically related to SWPBS is extensive, including accepted nominations for the AERA Special Education SIG Outstanding Student Researcher Award 2008 and the Carol S. Weinstein Outstanding Paper Award in Classroom Management 2010 for her doctoral research in positive and proactive behavioral support. Carleen studied under the intellectual advisement of Dr. Rob Horner receiving a courtesy faculty appointment at the University of Oregon while on sabbatical leave from the District in 2004 to fulfill her residency. (Her training related to SWPBS includes SWIS facilitation, SET and I-SSET evaluation tools, Therapeutic Crisis intervention, and Advanced Multivariate Statistical analysis.)



Jamestown - Mary Lee Talbot



Since joining branch in the Fall of 2008, Mary Lee has been actively involved in our branch activities. She served as Co-Chair for the "What's New" Fair, the annual two-day fundraiser for the scholarships we offer. She is always ready to help whenever called on. She worked the registration table at the District one conference and has attended all the program meetings helping out on a moments notice. I have no doubt that Mary Lee's involvement in AAUW will only increase over time. We appreciate her hard work and are looking forward to her continuing leadership. We are delighted to name her our Emerging Leader! Congratulations Mary Lee!

Jefferson County - Tiffany McLallen Fadel

Tiffany joined the leadership team of the Jefferson County Branch AAUW this past year as Membership Committee Chair. Increasing membership is an initiative of our Branch Strategic Plan and Tiffany has embraced the challenge wholeheartedly. She is enthusiastic in her follow-up with prospective members and has many new ideas to attract and retain membership. She recently started a campaign to personally invite high profile women in our community to join us. Tiffany is an active and engaged member of our Board and will be attending the AAUW national convention in June.



New York City - Lydia Williams



Lydia Williams is the Legal Advocacy Co-Vice President, Woman of Achievement Co-Chair, Nominating Committee member, a past Black History Committee Chair and office manager of New York City Branch. She coordinates the design and production of our branch face book, *She Touched Me* publications and *Courier* newsletter. She believes in the mission of AAUW, as well as, to improve and promote self-reliance, economic independence and leadership opportunities for all. Her motto is "Beyond Boundaries, Soaring Towards Higher Goals." As a breast cancer survivor, she never gives up hope and is a role model for women going through similar situations.

North Shore - Leslie Hammer

Leslie Hammer is an exceptional woman who has been a dynamic presence in the North Shore Branch since joining in 2009. She has used her musical talent to perform at our music meetings, has served on our L.A.F. fundraising committee, and assisted during our Holly Luncheon which benefits the Educational Foundation. She was elected recording secretary by our membership and is an active member of our Board of Directors. Her enthusiasm and her desire to work to achieve our mission make her an ideal candidate for Emerging Leader.



Poughkeepsie - Jacqueline Goffe-McNish and Kim Butwell

Jacqueline Goffe-McNish is a professor of English and Humanities at Dutchess Community College. She has been a teacher since 1980 and has worked in both private and public schools at the elementary, secondary, and tertiary level in Jamaica and United States. In her present job she is also the Chairperson of the Liberal Arts Humanities program and supervises the college's concurrent education program in the high schools. She graduated from St John Fisher College in Rochester, SUNY Brockport, and is ABD from New York University. Recently she was awarded the SUNY Chancellor Award for Excellence in Teacher and the DCC Orrcut Endowed Chair for Humanities. She served as the New York State representative on the National Education Association Women's Issues Committee for two three year terms and chaired the local branch of the American Association for Women in Community College. She serves on the Diversity Committee of the American Association of University Women and co-chairs the group for personal and professional development. She is the superintendent of Sunday school at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and teaches the Adult Sunday School class. She is married to Lynford McNish.



Kim Butwell joined Merrill Lynch in 2008. Before becoming a Financial Planner she was a consultant for the Office for the Aging, heading up the Long-Term care Education and Outreach program and counseling seniors on their Medicare insurance benefits. She is a long-term resident of the Hudson valley and is a member of the American Association of University Women. She is an avid tennis player and a member of the Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club as well as the United States Tennis Association. She is a patron of the Arts and is a member of the Salmagundi Club in NYC. Kim received a Master's Degree from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY and her Bachelor's Degree from The new School in NYC.

Rockland County - Ann Mulligan

Ann Mulligan is the 2011 Emerging Leader for the Rockland County Branch. Ann's enthusiasm, intelligence and willingness to help makes her an asset to the branch. Ann is also a thoughtful communicator. She currently serves as the Public Policy Chair and represented AAUW in the November candidate debate forum working with the League of Women Voters and the JCC. In addition, Ann has assisted the New York State Education Fund Vice President at the last state convention, actively participated in the Summer Leadership Conference in Cazenovia, and is a member of the branch's nominating committee. Ann is a rising star and an ideal New York State Emerging Leader.



Schenectady - Arlene Maranville



In her third year as a member of Schenectady AAUW, Arlene Maranville has emerged as an important leader of our branch. Arlene has offered inspiring and creative initiatives that encompass service and fundraising.

Among her contributions are:

- A successful education forum entitled "Brightening the Future of Students in our Community." This program connected education initiatives with community service and helped our branch win a "special project" award.
- Service as Educational Equity Chair
- Service as Co-Program Vice President with creative and innovative topics, approaches, time slots and venues. Careful planning and attention to detail assured appeal to members with different interests and needs.
- Pieced and stitched a quilt that was auctioned as a fund-raiser in honor of a deceased friend and former AAUW member.
- Volunteered to teach Mah Jong, a new interest group, to a group of beginners.

Arlene is a wonderful contributor to meetings of our Schenectady AAUW Board, and her ideas and contributions are well-respected. She is certainly an emerging leader in our AAUW Branch.

Skaneateles - Judy Lindsey



Judy joined our branch last year and has taken the role of Vice President for Public Policy. She is a busy working mom and wife. Not only is she an active community member, she works as a real estate sales person. We consider her a valuable board member who contributes to our understanding of Public Policy issues. She also has volunteered to assist many of our Branch programs. Her cheerful enthusiasm and dedication to the goals of AAUW make her a wonderful person to work with. We look forward to her continuing leadership of our Branch in the future.

St. Lawrence County Branch - Kathleen Stein

Kathy Stein joined AAUW in Oct. 2009. She joined the branch Board as Public Policy Chair thanks to her interest in our issues and her work with the local League of Women Voters. She was instrumental in getting the 2010 Conversations with Candidates project up and running for the Fall election cycle. In addition to helping coordinate a consortium of local organizations to sponsor the videotaped and broadcast Conversations with 11 candidates for office, she helped set up two candidate forums. The Spring Conversations are focusing on the issues around redistricting at local, state and federal levels.



Westchester - Jane Pendergast



Jane Pendergast has played a strong leadership role in getting \$start \$mart pay negotiation workshops started at colleges in the Westchester area in a very difficult economic climate. Due to her efforts, we will hold our first workshop at Westchester Community College on March 23. A second workshop at Purchase College is also under discussion. During her one year with our Pay Equity Outreach group, Jane created a set of slides which we use regularly for presentations and advertising. She also contacted a large number of colleges, and worked closely with several of them. Jane is very organized, a hard worker, and a strong supporter of gender pay equity. She does not give up even when the going is tough, and brings a great deal of strength to our group.

Yates County - Kristine Pearson

Kristine Pearson is our nomination for this year's Emerging Leader Award. She has been an enthusiastic participant in all of our activities, contributing her time and expertise in both our book sale and our community dinner. She is active in our book discussion group, offering insight and ideas as well as titles for discussion. Kris is also our Membership Vice President and has transferred our membership directory to an electronic format, saving the cost of printing. Kris has helped us plan our meetings for the coming year and has brought speakers for special programs. She even opened her home for a meeting.

