

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/PROGRAM/ EVENT:

Note: Any program since last year's deadline is eligible.

Category: (Please circle or highlight the category for which this program is being submitted.)

Women Education Community - International - Cultural - Diversity - Public Policy

Title: Fifth Grade Women's History Essay Contest

Part I:

- Teachers + administrators in 7 area schools
- Other community groups involved, if any (list):(5 points) FolkLife Center at Crandall Library
- Number of members involved in planning or putting on the program (5 points) 22
- Number of nonmembers involved in the program (5 points) 40
- Number of members who attended or benefitted (5 points) 20
- Number of nonmembers who attended or benefitted (5 points) 80
- Number of new members who joined (if any)(5 points) —

Part II:

Describe your project/ program/ event in 75-150 words. Be sure to include:

- how the project addressed AAUW's mission (15 points)
- branch goals in doing this program (10 points)
- specific action steps in planning this program (15 points)
- steps taken for community visibility (Attach newsletter and newspaper articles.)(10 points)
- measurable impact on the community (10 points)
- lessons learned for future programs/ projects/ events (10 points)

Attach copies of newsletter and newspaper articles about this project/ program/ event.

(No more than 4 pages maximum)

Mail or email the original of your entire application with supporting materials to:

- Peggy Kelland, AAUW-NYS Program Vice President

- 13 Susan Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

[smkell45@aol.com](mailto:smkell45@aol.com)

Questions? (845)297-0507

## 21st Century Award

Category: Education

Title: Fifth Grade Women's History Essay Contest

Part I:

Other Community Groups involved: Folklife Center at Crandall Library

Number of members involved in planning the program: 22

Number of nonmembers involved: 40

Number of members who attended: 20

Number of nonmembers who attended: 80

Part II:

Our Project is the "Fifth Grade Women's History Essay Contest" which is for all fifth graders in our local seven school districts. In October our two co-chairs, who do the initial visits to the Superintendants and Principals of each district, present a packet explaining the contest, the rules of the contest, contact information and deadlines. Follow up phone calls are made in Jan. In Feb. a photographer from NYSUT visited two of our schools taking pictures of students and teachers as they prepare to write their essays. Publication will occur in March for Women's History Month.

Essays are received by March 31st and then each essay is read in early April by member volunteers, who choose the winners. We work with our local Folklife Center at Crandall Library to have the presentation event at the end of April. Students, their families, friends, teachers, principals and superintendants are invited to attend the ceremony where the winners read their winning essays and receive certificates and prizes. This event is also an opportunity for local musicians to be introduced to the community by the Folklife Center.

Our branch has become much more visible to the community with this activity and we are encouraging education and lifelong learning. Many of our local schools have incorporated our essay contest into their curricula for the month of March highlighting Women's History. Boys comment that they have learned a lot about a particular woman while doing their research. We feel that we are making a difference in the classrooms where the contest is being addressed. We have also discovered that we need to have just ten winners but this is difficult because we have received as many as 349 essays.

# AAUW

## Adirondack Branch

### Timeline for Women's History Essay Contest

- Establish committee and decide on school districts to be involved
- Fall - Visit superintendents and explain project with letters to the teachers and rules of contest, leaving contest contact information
- Establish meeting place for award night, number of winners, and type of awards (Certificate of Excellence, book about famous women, appropriate prizes for children)
- Early February – telephone call to schools to remind teachers of contest deadline
- March - decide on ceremony program format; contest deadline – March 31
- Early April – AAUW judges read essays submitted – notify teachers of winning students with a personal visit – distribute invitation letter to parents, teachers and district personnel for award reading ceremony
- Ceremony night – Welcome AAUW informational speech, brief entertainment ( such storyteller, folk singers, etc.), refreshments, children read own essays and receive awards

### Mechanics of Contest

- Have co-chairs (Educators preferably)
- Keep ALL written correspondence on discs
- Publicity – involve newspapers and audio and visual media
- Central location for meeting (library or community room)
- Advertise meeting open to the public – this is a regular branch meeting – community networking
- Follow-up letter to teachers with non-winners – Thanks for participation
- Solicit branch members as judges
- Branch publicity throughout year
- Thank you notes to award providers
- Have a refreshment chair
- Make storyboard with examples of contest highlights with photos
- Establish resources of women's biographies in partnership with library

# **The American Association of University Women**

## **Adirondack Branch**

Essay Contest in honor of Women's History Month

Students Eligible: Fifth Grade Girls and Boys

Topics: Choose **ONE** from the following categories:

- I A woman who made important contributions to life during her lifetime
  - II A woman who most influenced my life
  - III A woman who most possesses the characteristics which I would like to emulate
- 

**The essay MUST contain the following and should be no longer than 2 pages**

- 1. The background of the woman**
  - 2. The reasons for having chosen the woman -- her accomplishments**
  - 3. The student's thoughts about the woman -- her influences on the student**
  - 4. The student's name, teacher, and school on the back of the essay**
  - 5. The category (see above) as title of the student's essay**
- 

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2010 and should be mailed to:

Mrs. Linda Campopiano, 25 Sugar Pine Road, Queensbury, N.Y. 12804

Prizes will be awarded at the April 28, 2010 meeting of the AAUW, Adirondack Branch, at the Crandall Public Library. Prizes will be awarded in each category. Prizes to include a framed certificate testifying to the excellence of the essay.

For questions, contact Mrs. Campopiano at 798-4637, [jcampo@roadrunner.com](mailto:jcampo@roadrunner.com)

## BRANCH CALENDAR

### 4/3 GOURMET GROUP

Dinner, TBA, 5:30 pm

### 4/8 MORNING LITERATURE

9:30 am, Hostess, Mary Rose  
Holzhauer; Program, TBA

### 4/21 EVENING LITERATURE

7:30 pm, Hostess, Joyce Smith

### 4/22 MORNING LITERATURE

9:30 am, Hostess, Paula Bossert;  
Program, author Anne Easter Smith

### 4/24-26 NYS AAUW CONVEN-

TION The Sagamore, Bolton  
Landing

### 4/29 BRANCH MEETING - WOMEN'S HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS 6:30 pm,

Crandall Public Library

### 5/13 MORNING LITERATURE

9:30 am, Hostess, Kathy Hoeltzel;  
Program, sharing poetry

### 5/14 ANNUAL BANQUET

AND AWARDS Dunhams Bay  
Lodge, 6:00 pm

### 5/19 EVENING LITERATURE

7:30 pm, Hostess, Marge French

### 6/16 EVENING LITERATURE

7:30 pm, Hostess, Emily O'Hare

### 6/26 - 28 NATIONAL AAUW CONVENTION St. Louis, MO

## BRANCH MEETING – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Come to the new **Crandall Library Meeting Room** to hear Nancy Walker, folk singer and songwriter, and hear the young authors read their winning essays for the **Women's History Essay Contest**. This celebration program is **Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 pm**. Please enter from Glen Street and go down the stairs or elevator and to the left. Nancy will entertain with songs of courage and inspiration about women as she accompanies herself on her guitar. After a refreshment intermission, the children will entertain with interesting facts and feelings about notable women who inspire them. Come join your fellow members in welcoming the community into our program.

*Nan Scinta, Project Co-Chair*

**Readers are needed to choose the winners in the Women's History Essay contest.** The reading date is **Wednesday, April 8 at 2:00 pm**, at the home of Linda Campopiano, 25 Sugar Pine Rd., Queensbury. Please call Linda at 798-4737 to volunteer for this one afternoon of fun and enrichment.

## BRANCH BANQUET - THURSDAY, MAY 14

Come one, come all (members, spouses, friends) to our annual May Banquet on **Thursday, May 14** at the beautiful **Dunhams Bay Lodge**, 2999 Rt. 9L (near the end of Bay Road), Lake George. **Social time is 6:00-6:30 pm**; our **buffet dinner will begin at 6:30 pm**. Chef Mark promises a great meal!!! \$25.00 per person includes tax and gratuity. Kindly mail your check to me at P.O. Box 33, Bolton Landing, N.Y. 12814 by **May 8**. We shall have awards presentations following dessert. Celebrate the end of another successful AAUW year with your friends at Dunhams Bay!!!!

*Cindy Farbaniec, Dinner Chair*

## NEED A RIDE TO BRANCH EVENTS?

Do you need a ride to any of our meetings for April or May? Please contact our Membership Co-VP's Linda and Kathy and **we will make arrangements for car pooling**. Linda's phone number is 798-4637 and Kathy's is 668-2652. Please do not hesitate to call us. This is a **WONDERFUL** way to meet new people and to get better acquainted with those whom you might have already met. Try this out, but remember we need a little time to make arrangements.

*Linda Campopiano and Kathy Redpath*

## TY EVENTS

### Nancy Walker to sing at kid writers' women's history awards

The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls hosts a live concert by singer-songwriter Nancy Walker on Wednesday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. The free concert is in conjunction with the seventh annual Women's History Awards Ceremony.

Info: 792-6508, ext. 237.

During the event, the American Association of University Women will honor the fifth-grade winners of its Women's History Month essay contest. The students will read their short essays aloud as part of the ceremony.

#### Essay contest winners

The following students will be honored.

• In Category I, essays on women who made important contributions to society, winners were **Madison Klick** of South Glens Falls, **Zane Agnew** of Glens Falls, **Dylan Chirgwin** of Queensbury, **Rylie Courville** of South Glens Falls and

**Dorsett Varnado** of Glens Falls.

• In Category II, essays on women who most influenced the students' lives, winners were **Kit Bruen** of Glens Falls, **Hayley Fowler** of Glens Falls, **Destiny Sheldon** of Hudson Falls and **Elizabeth Medve** of Glens Falls.

• In Category III, essays on women who most possess characteristics the students would like to emulate, winners were **Jace Clapper** of Glens Falls, **Olivia Cefalu** of Glens Falls, **Melvin Jacobie** of Glens Falls, and **Jessi Baars** of Glens Falls.

The library said it offers "The Extraordinary Women Book Box," books and other materials teachers may borrow for their classrooms.

5 The Chronicle - April 23, 2009

## Essay contest



COURTESY PHOTO

The American Association of University Women held a women's history essay contest for fifth grade students in area schools. The winning essays were read April 29 in the Crandall library community room, where parents, grandparents, teachers and school administrators as well as AAUW members attended. The winners were, from bottom left: Melvin Jacobie, Hayley Fowler, Dorsett Varnado, Jace Clapper, Elizabeth Medve. Middle row, from left are Olivia Cefalu, Kit Bruen, Madison Klick. Top row, from left is Zane Agnew, Destiny Sheldon, Rylie Courville, Jessi Baars, Dylan Chirgwin.

◆ THE POST-STAR ◆

# HOMETOWN

[www.poststar.com/community/hometo](http://www.poststar.com/community/hometo)

The Folklife Center  
at Crandall Public Library presents

# Nancy Walker

Live! In Concert



“Buffy Saint-Marie once said that she sings from her toes.  
Nancy Walker sounds like that. Her original compositions present  
a fresh and spacious landscape.” – Andrew Calhoun, Waterbud Records

The 7th Annual  
American Association of University Women’s

## Women History Awards

Celebrating the Winners of the 5th Grade Essay Contest

Wednesday, **April 29, 2009**, 6:30 to 9 pm  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, New York  
(Community Room downstairs off the new Glen Street entrance)

This free concert is produced by the Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library, and made possible in part by support from the New York State Council on the Arts – Folk Arts Program, a state agency.

# Crandall Public Library

251 Glen Street, City Park

Glens Falls, NY 12801

518.792.6508 • fax 518.792.5251

[www.crandalllibrary.org](http://www.crandalllibrary.org)

## For Immediate Release

Date: April 1, 2009

Contact: Todd DeGarmo, Director  
Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs  
518.792.6508 x237, or [degarmo@crandalllibrary.org](mailto:degarmo@crandalllibrary.org)

## Songwriter Nancy Walker

Featured at AAUW's Women's History Awards

Hosted by the Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library

**On Wednesday evening, April 29, 2009 at 6:30 pm**, the Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library will host performing songwriter Nancy Walker, in a free live concert to celebrate the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Women's History Awards in the Library's Community Room in downtown Glens Falls, NY.

**Nancy Walker** is first and foremost a performing songwriter with a message that is compelling and inviting. "Buffy Saint-Marie once said that she sings from her toes. Nancy Walker sounds like that. Her original compositions present a fresh and spacious landscape" –Andrew Calhoun, Waterbud Records. She is a former member of the folk trio *Sons of the Never Wrong*, and a member of the collective of outstanding artistic women, *Female Songwriters You Wanna Hear*, who write, record and perform original acoustic music. Since arriving in Saratoga Springs in 2002, Nancy has released *Layers of Rust and Time*, a mix of original and traditional songs featuring some of the region's finest: Tony Markellis on bass, Sam Zucchini on percussion, Kevin Maul on dobro, John Kirk on fiddle, Jennifer Hartswick on trumpet.

**Women's History Month Essay Contest Winners** (5<sup>th</sup> graders) will read their essays and receive their awards. The American Association of University Women, Adirondack Branch, began this program 7 years ago. They work with several school districts and hundreds of fifth graders, their program becoming a model for the national organization. Among their awards, the winners will each receive from the Folklife Center a signed copy of Nancy Walker's CD, *Layers of Rust and Time*.

**The Extraordinary Women Book Box** inspires students in the writing of their essays. Book Boxes, available from Crandall Public Library, are just that: boxes of books and other materials organized by topic that teachers can borrow for classroom use grades K-7.

The AAUW funded two sets of this particular Book Box for the Folklife Center.

This free live music concert is produced by the Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs, and made possible by funds from the Folk Arts Program of the New York State Council on the Arts, a government agency.

- end -



**The American Association of University Women** promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women, and to foster equity and positive societal change.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education.

Join Us. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class. Membership is open to all graduates who hold at least an associate degree or its equivalent from a qualified educational institution.

For membership materials contact:

Linda Campopiano, 798-4637, or [ljcamp@adelphia.net](mailto:ljcamp@adelphia.net)  
Kathy Redpath, 668-2652, or [MEDBONE@aol.com](mailto:MEDBONE@aol.com)

**The Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs** is committed to original research and documentation, special collections, cultural programs, and scholarly discussion on the living and historical heritage of the region. The Folklife Center serves the upper Hudson valley and southern Adirondacks of upstate New York, and more particularly, Crandall Public Library's four-county service area as the Central Reference Library of the Southern Adirondack Library System, including Saratoga, Washington, Warren and Hamilton Counties.

For more information contact:

Todd DeGarmo, Founding Director  
Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs  
Crandall Public Library  
251 Glen Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801  
518.792.6508 x237 • [degarmo@crandalllibrary.org](mailto:degarmo@crandalllibrary.org)

The 7th Annual  
American Association of University Women's

# Women's History Awards

Celebrating the Winners  
of the 5th Grade Essay Contest

with

**Nancy Walker**  
Live! In Concert

Hosted by  
**Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library**  
and made possible in part by the Folk Arts Program  
of the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency

**Wednesday, April 29, 2009**  
6:30 to 9:00 pm

**Crandall Public Library**  
251 Glen Street, Glens Falls, NY  
[www.crandalllibrary.org](http://www.crandalllibrary.org)

The 7th Annual  
American Association of University Women's

## Women's History Awards Fifth Grade Essay Contest

Hosted by the Folklife Center  
Wednesday, April 29, 2009, 6:30 to 9 pm  
Crandall Public Library's Community Room

### Essay Contest Details

AAUW invited 8 school districts in the immediate area to participate in having 5th grade students write essays about women for Women's History Month, which is in March of each year. 342 essays were submitted from 24 teachers. Thirteen winners were chosen by a panel of judges (Linda Campopiano, Nancy Cathers, Marge French, Jeanne Gereau, Kathy Redpath, Jan Ritter, Nan Scintia).

Each of 13 winners will receive a Certificate of Excellence from AAUW, with gift certificates from Red Fox Books, Adventure Family Fun Center, Rick's Bike Shop, The Fun Spot; as well as a new book from the Folklife Center.

### Book Box of Extraordinary Women

Book Boxes are just that: boxes of books and other materials organized by topic that teachers can borrow for classroom use grades K-7. They are a service developed by the Folklife Center in consultation with the Children's Department at Crandall Public Library. To date, we have 12 different Book Boxes for loan. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for topics.

The Extraordinary Women Book Box was researched by Nancy Scheemaker in 2002, and 2 identical boxes were funded by the Adirondack Branch of the American Association of University Women, with additional support from the New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program, a state agency.

Nancy Walker, Live! In Concert

"Buffy Saint-Marie once said that she sings from her toes. Nancy Walker sounds like that. Her original compositions present a fresh and spacious landscape." - Andrew Calhoun, Waterbud Records. [www.nancywalker.net](http://www.nancywalker.net)

**Greetings:** Todd DeGarmo, Folklife Center, Crandall Public Library  
**Live! In Concert:** Nancy Walker

### Refreshments

**Introductions:** Nan Scintia & Linda Campopiano, AAUW

### Reading of the Winning Essays & Presentation of Awards

Category 1 – A Woman Who Made Important Contributions to Society during Her Lifetime

Madison Klick • *Ella Fitzgerald*  
Mr. Zatt, Harrison Ave. School, South Glens Falls

Zane Agnew • *Julia Hill*  
Mr. Donahue, Kensington Rd School, Glens Falls

Dylan Chirgwin • *Venus Williams*  
Mrs. Kitz, William H. Barton School, Queensbury

Rylie Courville • *Grandma Moses*  
Mrs. Cormie, Moreau Elem. School, South Glens Falls

Dorsett Varnado • *Rosa Parks*  
Mrs. Howe, Big Cross School, Glens Falls

Category 2 – A Woman Who Most Influenced My Life

Kit Bruen • *J.K. Rowling*  
Mrs. Shimkus, St. Mary's School, Glens Falls

Hayley Flower • *Clara Barton*  
Mrs. Howe, Big Cross School, Glens Falls

Destiny Sheldon • *My Grandmother*  
Mrs. Ostrander, Hudson Falls Intermed. School

Elizabeth Medve • *Jane Goodall*  
Mrs. Shimkus, St. Mary's School, Glens Falls

Category 3 – A Woman Who Most Possesses the Characteristics Which I Would Like to Emulate

Jace Clapper • *Rachel Carson*  
Mrs. Howe, Big Cross School, Glens Falls

Olivia CeFalu • *Ruth Wakefield*  
Miss Goddard, St. Mary's School, Glens Falls

Melvin Jacobie • *Annie Oakley*  
Mrs. Cormie, Moreau Elem. School, South Glens Falls

Jessi Baars • *Juliette Gordon Low*  
Mrs. Howe, Big Cross School, Glens Falls