

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown AAUW

Book Discussion on "Half the Sky", January 19th 2011 meeting at the Johnstown Public Library.

Part II of application:

We were inspired by NYS "My Sister's Keeper" program and felt our membership would benefit by collectively read "Half the Sky". The Johnstown Library reserved many copies for us and some members bought the book through the AAUW Amazon portal and our local book store. Maryanne Abad (Diversity Chair) and Carol Cownie (Women's Issues Chair) lead a discussion that began with the CARE video "I am Powerful". We contacted Equal Exchange (Fair Trade organization) for information and coffee which was made available at the meeting. After a 50 minute lively and deep discussion a past president, Michelle Aquaro volunteered to organize a local AAUW/ Equal Exchange fundraiser for the month of February to raise money for a program or organization highlighted in "Half the Sky". Our February meeting introduced us to Equal Exchange and their mission. The fundraiser was explained to the membership and is now in progress and will end at our March meeting.

We felt our program was a reflection of AAUW's commitment to gender equality and education for all women and girls. It enabled our members to explore the lives of women and girls around the globe.

Our goals were met because we expanded our understanding of poverty, injustice and hope for women and girls in the developing world. We were empowered not to just understand but to do something positive that may have an effect on our "sisters" in poorer countries.

We received encouragement from our president to explore this idea.

We researched online NYS's "My Sister's Keeper" initiative, Half the Sky's website and read the book, "Half the Sky".

We contacted the Johnstown Library to reserve many books for us.

We contacted CARE for the "I am Powerful" video.

We promoted Sheryl WuDunn's TED/CNN presentation (20 minutes) on her book for people who did not have the time to read the book. The website was listed in our monthly newsletter.

We contacted Equal Exchange for information on Fair Trade and received free coffee that we served at the meeting. Follow up was done to begin an Equal Exchange Fundraiser.

We advertised in 4 local papers the time and date of the event as well as our newsletter, (see enclosed).

Carol and Maryanne met on 1/11/11 to review book discussion questions and meeting specifics.

Impact:

Three non- members attended because of their interest in the topic. One woman is considering joining. We are partnering with Equal Exchange for a fundraiser to raise money for an organization. Our members also learned the impact of farmers and their families who participate in Fair Trade. A member suggested hosting a similar event to partner with area women's organizations, especially around the problem of human trafficking. We are exploring this idea for later this year.

Respectfully submitted by Carol M. Cownie

AAUW invites all to book discussion

JOHNSTOWN — The next meeting of the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of the American Association of University Women will focus on the New York State AAUW International Affairs global theme, "My Sister's Keeper."

"Though this two-year program, AAUW hopes to provide members with a greater understanding of the challenges faced by women, both domestically and worldwide, and to inspire action, small or large, to improve the situation for women," organizers said in a news release.

The local AAUW branch will meet at the Johnstown Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 19 to undertake the first part of the program, a discussion of the book "Half the Sky" by Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. All are invited to participate.

"Half the Sky" relates the stories of women in Africa and Asia who are struggling against oppression and brutal treatment as well as how some were able to improve their lives with the help of education and small business loans from social entrepreneurs, according to the news release.

Copies of the book can be borrowed from the library or purchased at Mysteries on Main Street or through the AAUW website.

Dessert will be served at the meeting. To attend, send a check for \$5 made out to AAUW in care of Carol Cownie, 232 N. Main St., Broadalbin, NY 12025.

The deadline for reservations will be Sunday.

JAN 10, 2011
Lead - Herald



AAUW

Amsterdam * Gloversville * Johnstown
January Meeting

At the Johnstown Public Library

January 19, 5:30 p.m.

Dessert Meeting Bring a Friend

Book Discussion: *Half the Sky*

By Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

RSVP to Carol Cownie by January 16; send form below,
Check payable to AAUW to

Carol Cownie
232 N Main Street
Broadalbin, NY 12025

Bring a dessert or pay \$5.



Name:

Payment:

Dessert: