

## **EMERGING LEADERS 2009**

Below are the wonderful women who were nominated by their branches as emerging leaders in 2009.

### **Adirondack – Kathleen Redpath**

Kathleen Redpath is a second year member of the Adirondack Branch. She is currently the Membership Co-VP and has been very active in the recruitment of new members. Kathy helped in updating our branch directory for 2008-2009. She also assisted in updating our branch brochure for 2008-2009. An additional duty that Kathy has taken on is caller for our branch calling tree. Kathy is quick to volunteer wherever needed and follows the project through to completion. She is a valuable asset to our branch.

### **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown – Helen Martin**



Helen Martin has been an integral part of our Amsterdam Gloversville Johnstown Branch for the last couple of years. In her first few years Helen has served as Chairwoman for the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium. She is also currently serving as VP of Program and was one of the organizers for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Show and Sale sponsored by AAUW to raise funds that will be given to our local scholarship recipients during the upcoming year. She volunteers within our branch and our community and proves to be an asset to both. Congratulations, Helen!

### **Bath - Janet Mishook**

Janet Mishook (Jan) is currently a Co-Vice President for EF. She was a member of the Nominating Committee in 2007. In her job as VP – EF she has been a chairperson for the annual Garage Sale Fundraiser; she sells gift cards which benefit the Educational Fund; she is working with her co-VP to design and distribute applications for the 2009 H.S. student and Mature Woman Scholarships awarded by our Branch; she does consciousness-raising among our members with regards to the EF; and, most of all, she has maintained her interest in, and support of, our Branch activities during the three ears of her membership. I know we can look forward to Jan's continued participation in the affairs of the Branch.

### **Buffalo - Ruth Fierro-King**

Ruth is new to AAUW, but not to community service in Western New York. She is the President of the board of the Risk Management Association, is a member of the loan committee of the Community Preservation Corporation – Buffalo Region, and she is a board member of the AAUW Buffalo Branch, taking the finance committee under her wing - and running for state office this year. In the past she served on the board of HOME Front Inc., was a committee member of the United Way of Erie County in the funding allocation team, served on the Buffalo Sacred Heart Academy advisory committee, served on the board of Canisius College Women's Business Center, and recently left the Girls Scouts of Buffalo and Erie County board. We are lucky to have her!



### **Dunkirk-Fredonia – Brenda Hayes**



The Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch is proud to nominate Brenda Hayes for the Emerging Leader Award. As a new member of AAUW, she spearheaded our Advocacy Project. Brenda organized and chaired a committee of AAUW members who worked with the staff of the Dunkirk Boys and Girls Club to design a program that targeted middle schools girls and the barriers they face that hinder their academic success. The culminating activity was a field trip to Jamestown Community College. This successful program really highlighted Brenda's leadership qualities.

### **Elmira-Corning – Dorothy (Dotti) Wenzel**

Dotti joined right after retiring from teaching. She was quite proficient with computers, thus, I asked her if she would work on our local branch directory. She happily took on the job and completed the directory for that year and now has taught another new member to collect the information and print the directory. Dotti has chaired the last three fashion shows, our major fundraiser. She attends most of the board meetings and contributes good ideas for activities.



### **Jamestown – Donna Carroll**



After retiring, Donna Carroll found that she admired the goals of AAUW and joined the Jamestown branch looking for like-minded people. Donna is in her first year as a member, and has ambitiously jumped straight into leadership roles. We applaud her responsible participation, her abilities, organizational skills, and creative ideas. She was a very effective volunteer in our Voter Registration campaign, initiating signage and being very encouraging to potential registrants. She took charge enthusiastically and efficiently as the Admissions Chair for our annual What's New Fair which is our 2-day major fundraising event for

scholarships.

### **Jefferson County - Kerry Young**

Kerry Young became a member of AAUW and Jefferson County Branch AAUW in 2006. Upon joining, she immediately accepted nomination and election to the post of Branch Secretary. She has since been reelected to that position in 2007 and 2008.

In addition to contributing at every board meeting and carrying out the duties of her office, she frequently volunteers to help at programs. Kerry Young is an emerging leader who was attracted by the mission and is making it her own mission to share her efforts with Jefferson County Branch AAUW and its members.





### **Kingston - Janine Fallon-Mower**

Janine Fallon-Mower, R.N. works in the Fern Feldman Anolick Breast Center, Benedictine Hospital, Kingston, Mowers Flea Market, Woodstock Farm Festival. She ran for political office (lost by only 150 votes). This fall she co-produced/hosted a ten-part public TV show, also streaming, on "WOMEN-TO-WOMEN, Get Out the Vote" and operated the TV studio after learning how. Now the same duo (Garnette Arledge, President) presents GET FRESH, buying locally and seasonally to support local jobs, save fuel consumption and feed the family for less with fresher nutrition. Further, Janine gave a monthly program on Running for Local Office and writes for our newsletter. Plant a project with a busy, talented woman like Janine so AAUW branch grows!

### **New York City –Dayra Bernal-Lederer**

Dayra Bernal-Lederer is a licensed counselor in the State of New York and is nationally certified in the counseling profession. She is also a certified holistic stress management instructor. Dayra received a double Master of Science degree in both Rehabilitation Administration & Services and in Counseling from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Biology from the College of St. Benedict in Minnesota. Dayra is an active member of numerous, professional and women’s organizations, including the American Association of University Women-NYC. Dayra is a Director at-Large for the AAUW NYC and she is very involved with Explore Your Opportunities Conference for 7th grade girls held every year at Barnard College. Congratulations, Dayra!



### **North Shore Branch – Jean Stern**



Jean has served on the Board of Director of the North Shore Branch for two years. She has been the Co-Chair of our Art Study Group and has arranged for speakers and trips. Her interest, ideas and leadership qualities are evident in the thoughtful way she communicates with others. Jean has assisted the president in formulating plans for our Branch and has been selected to serve as a member of our Steering Committee. She is an asset to the North Shore Branch and deserving of this honor.

## **Poughkeepsie - Sherre Wesley & Wendy Maragh Taylor**

**Sherre**



**Wendy**



Sherre and Wendy are two dynamic, young professional women who joined our branch approximately two years ago when our Diversity Committee sponsored a "Global Gathering" reception to encourage greater diversity in our membership. They subsequently joined the committee and became very involved in planning a major conference on multiculturalism which included large segments of our community and which was attended by well over 200 people. Since that time, Sherre and Wendy have become co-chairmen of the committee and they have continued to plan monthly events to promote diversity in our community at large. For our branch, they envision facilitating the involvement of people with a wide range of differences in AAUW activities. Wendy has, in addition, contributed an historical biography to the NY State AAUW project on a woman of prominence from our area: Jane Matilda Bolin, the first African American woman to graduate from Yale University School of Law. The membership of Sherre and Wendy to our branch has added a richness and depth to all that we are doing in Poughkeepsie.

## **Rockland County – Melissa Guardaro**



Melissa Guardaro joined the Rockland County Branch in March 2007. Her initial interest was Great Decisions which she began to facilitate in its second year of existence. In September 2007, she agreed to chair the International Affairs Committee and immediately attended the United Nations November session. She has researched the new international connections and has written articles for the newsletter connecting members to these issues. Melissa has also assumed the position of Coordinator of Great Decisions program, moving it to a new location for better exposure. The group size has quadrupled and she has brought in three new members.

## Schenectady Branch – Robin Eddy

Robin Eddy has been a remarkable addition to the Schenectady, NY Branch this year! To say she has jumped right in, in her very first year, is an understatement! Some of her accomplishments include:



- She serves as our newsletter editor of *Visions*, and she has done an exceptional job with this very time-consuming job.
- She is a very active member of our Board, frequently offering creative and fresh insight to our planning.
- She was a very valuable member of our major fundraiser, our garage sale, at which she both volunteered to sell and established a link with Craigslist that generated a number of additional sales.
- She volunteers weekly in a new project for our Branch this year, mentoring in the Schenectady Schools.
- She collected books for our drive to supply a new school with library books.
- She has spoken about initiating a program to connect our Branch with local colleges (specifically Union College and Schenectady County Community College) to publicize AAUW's EF scholarships and LAF legal support of women.

The Schenectady Branch is thrilled to have such a dynamic, enthusiastic new member as Robin Eddy. We hope you will consider her a recipient of the Emerging Leader Award. She certainly deserves it!

## Skaneateles Area – Kathleen Gorr



Kathleen Gorr is a first year member of our branch, coming to us from Chicago where she was a practicing attorney, and despite being a newcomer she has enthusiastically taken on responsibilities normally assumed by more veteran members. For this we are extremely grateful.

Kathy became our board secretary last June and performs the job diligently. She has also volunteered to be the Chairperson for the upcoming District 3 meeting in October which our branch is hosting here in Skaneateles. Overseeing the planning of this day, recruiting committees for reservations, meals and speakers, and seeing to it that the day runs smoothly requires organizational skills and boundless energy, which Kathy certainly possesses.

Her cheerful enthusiasm and dedication to the goals of AAUW make her a wonderful person to work with and I'm certain she will continue to take an active part in the leadership of our branch.

## Smithtown Area - Jennifer J. Maertz

A demonstrated leader and grassroots organizer, Jennifer J. Maertz is a practicing trial attorney who is deeply involved in our community and neighborhoods. After graduating from St. John's University and Touro Law, Jennifer received an MBA with distinction from New York Institute of Technology.



A lifelong resident of Suffolk County, she serves as an active member of the Suffolk County Bar Association, AAUW, NOW, and the Brookhaven Democratic Committee. In furtherance of Jennifer's commitment to her community, she intends to run for a local political office in the near future. Her proven track record demonstrates consistent success as an attorney, community leader, and political change agent.

### **Westchester – Roli Wendorf**



The Westchester Branch of AAUW is nominating Roli Wendorf for the AAUW NYS Emerging Leader Award. Roli is a member of our Board of Directors. She is our Chair for EF and LAF. She oversees a mailing campaign, request contributions at each branch membership meeting, writes a monthly article for our newsletter updating status of the funds and asking for donations, helped run a 50/50 raffle for EF at our holiday luncheon, maintained a record of EF and LAF receipt and sent required materials to AAUW NYS. As a member of our Expanding Your Opportunities Conference Committee, Roli recruits Mystery Women, writes bios for each woman, manages the EYO website, volunteers the day of the conference.

### **Yates County - Jean MacAlpine**

Jean MacAlpine has shown enthusiasm and support of AAUW ideals and our local branch since week one of her membership. She immediately accepted the responsibilities of the Secretary position when we needed it filled on short-term basis and has since accepted the nomination for Secretary in our upcoming election. Her dedication is demonstrated through almost perfect attendance at meetings, hosting of meeting in her home, active participation in our book group and support of the program committee through suggestions of ideas and presenters. She volunteers to help with anything that needs doing and has already increased Branch membership by bringing in a new member. You couldn't ask for a better nomination for this 2009 AAUW NYS Emerging Leader Award.

