

American Association of University Women

NEW YORK STATE

Volume 51, Issue #1 Fall/Winter 2001

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In This Issue

A Future to Shape - Join Us!

Roberta 'Bobbe' Fortunato, NYS AAUW President bobbef@juno.com 631/665-4689

Welcome back to an exciting new season for those of us in AAUW NYS. I am encouraging everyone to join your State Officers and Directors as we start this fall season. We'll meet first in our own branches and next at Fall Conferences. Let us do what the members who came to the summer board chose for a conference title.

Let us all emerge from OUR COCOONS and join our own members and our COALITION partners as we PROMOTE EQUITY for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

Your state board is working to follow up on the Summer Board Meeting, which for all reports was productive for the state people as well as all of the branch presidents and members who attended.

Our choice of a different type and style summer meeting follows the appointment of a NYS Task Force to help us change ourselves and address the new century with its demands on everyone. The Task Force has been asked to help us find ways of streamlining our jobs and the number of people who are needed to carry out the work. They have been asked to observe how other states are addressing similar problems and to help New York look at ways for us to do our business less expensively. This hopefully will lead to us saving your money.

With all of this in mind we gathered at a camp at Delta Lake just north of Rome, NY to share who, what, where and how. We came away with questions for your state people to answer and a feeling that we have a better handle on what can be done to help branches and members.

We will be sharing with the branch officers what those at the summer meeting felt needed to happen as we go about trying to help make a better AAUW NY for all of us, especially for those we all hope will join us as we make AAUW NYS THE BEST.

November 9 – AAUW NYS Day at the United Nations

Peggy Coe, International Relations Director bpcoe@imcnet.net 315/788-8702

Program:

- Three briefings
- Lunch in the Delegates Dining Room
- Tour of the U. N.

Cost: Approximately \$45 plus price of U. N. tour.

Limited to 50 AAUW members and high school students.

For more information ask your Branch President (registration forms were sent to her) or visit your NYS Website, <u>www.northnet.org/nysaauw</u>

Members of AAUW branches nearby are offering home hospitality (a bed for the night). There will be a few travelships available. Travelship information is included with the registration forms.

From Cocoon to Coalitions Eleanor Filburn, Branch Council Director eleanorr62@earthlink.net 315/343-1953

FALL 2001 DISTRICT CONFERENCES					
DIST. DATE		HOST BRANCH, LOCATION			
1 V	Oct. 13 Oct. 27 Oct. 20 Oct. 27	Buffalo, Hamburg Holiday Inn, Hamburg Fairport Area, Rochester AAUW House Skaneateles, First Presbyterian Church Kingston, Logsider, Leeds, NY,			
V VI	Sept. 29 Oct. 20	Thruway Exit 21 (Catskill) New York City, NYC AAUW House Interbranch, St. Joseph's College, Patchogue			

The Fall District Conferences will be based on the theme *From Cocoon to Coalitions.* Your local branch president will have more details and reservation forms for your District Conference. Do attend and learn how *you* can help AAUW NYS grow and prosper!

To Branch President or Team Leader,

Remember to share the material in the Leadership Portfolio with your branch members.

NY State Team

NOW HEAR THIS!

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Legal Advocacy Fund, President Sylvia Newman has issued a challenge to all 50 states: RAISE AT LEAST 5% OR MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S STATE LAF TOTAL AND HELP MORE PLAINTIFFS WIN!

For NYS to meet Sylvia's challenge, we need to do these things:

- 1. Every member give 5% or more than last year and try to become a major donor
- 2. Every branch give 5% or more than last year and find at least 5 major donors
- 3. Every Branch President and LAF Chair try to become at least a member of the LAF Circle (41 cents a day from Sept.1-Dec.31=\$50)
- 4. Every NYS AAUW Board member join the NYS LAF Circle or above level
- 5. The AAUW NYS LAF Director give 10% or more to lead the way

TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT! WE ARE WOMEN HELPING WOMEN!

Send your check (AAUW LAF) today to: Evvie Currie, AAUW NYS LAF Director, PO Box 16, Burnt Hills, NY 12027-0016

51 AAUW Branches in New York State

District 1: Amherst, Buffalo, Chautauqua-Westfield, Dunkirk-Fredonia, Fairport Area, Jamestown, Lyndonville-Medina-Middleport, Greater Rochester Area

District II: Alfred-Hornell, Bath, Corning, Elmira, Greece Area, Ontario County, Oswego, Southern New York, SUNY Geneseo, Yates County

District III: Cortland, Ithaca, Jefferson County, Mohawk Valley, Oneonta, St. Lawrence County, Skaneateles Area, Syracuse, Waverly

District IV: Adirondack, Albany, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Staten Island

District V: Islip Area, Nassau County, New York City, Peekskill, Queens, Rockland County, Westchester

District VI: East Hampton, Garden City, Huntington, Massapequa Area, Mid-Island, North Fork, North Shore, Smithtown

!Nydist.gif			

Branch Profiles

Branch profiles describe either a favorite project or a range of activities. All branches offer many activities! If you need help in finding a branch near you, contact Jeanette Knapp, NYS Membership VP at 607/272-3367 or email: jdk4@cornell.edu

We in the **Adirondack Branch** are proud of our programs for this year. September began with a Readers Theater, presented by members, along with a potluck supper. A fundraiser will be a Dessert Theater, when a local talent will present a fascinating portrayal of Abraham Lincoln. Our May meeting will be a service auction, where talents and services of our members will be offered. Please join us! Call Joyce Peters, 518/793-6177, or Marjorie McCormack, 518/761-9974.

In addition to general and book club meetings **Albany Branch** members volunteer for Vanguard Albany Symphony, Albany Institute of History and Art and St. Anne's Institute for Girls. As Capital District residents members are active in Legislative Forum and in contacting legislators regarding proposed laws benefiting women. Our festive Fall Tea raises money for the national AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund for women seeking equity through the courts. For information please contact Nancy Kaye, 518/273-0292.

The **Alfred-Hornell Branch** encourages girls to enter non-traditional fields of study and careers by honoring senior girls from seven local high schools for their outstanding proficiency in math and science at an annual awards dinner. In addition, in recognition of Women in History Month, the branch sponsors an essay contest for fourth-, fifth-, and sixth graders on the subject, "The Woman I Most Admire." For more information contact Heather Meacham, 607/587-8313 or meachahm@alfredstate.edu

Amherst Branch is a haven for the like-minded who believe in gender equity, choice, diversity, and tolerance to rejuvenate and to deepen their commitment to progressive societal change. Members are the vehicles for this progress, each at their own level of participation. The emphasis is on recognizing individual opportunities for making change while nourishing the needs and skills of members. Join us in November for an international dinner at Osaka's (Japanese). All meetings are public. Website: www.wings.buffalo.edu/misc/aauw E-mail: vbozarth@yahoo.com

In AAUW's tradition of individuals and groups working together to shape the future for women and girls, the **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** **Branch** organized April 28, 2001 as a fun-filled and thought-provoking day for the middle school age girls. Ninety-seven registered for this program in which girls from three counties and several ethnic backgrounds shared experiences and discussed issues that are pressing today's adolescents trapped in a fast-moving society. Yet, they did not forget to enjoy karate, kickboxing, belly dancing, finger drumming, and other entertainment. Contact Elizabeth Russo, 518/762-9702 or erusso03@nycap.rr.com

Bath Branch

Heart of the Finger Lakes Serving Wayland, Cohocton, Avoca, Prattsburgh, Pulteney, Hammondsport, Wayne, Bath, Savona and Campbell

Awards for

EF Giving Community Action LAF Giving Diversity in Programming

Meets 1st Tuesday of month in various locations

For more information contact: Joan Woolston, 607/776-9200 or Georgia Gehret, gugehret@aol.com or visit our website at http://humber.northnet.org/nysaauw/bath.htm

Educational Foundation Helen Engel, NYS VP – EF rengel@oswego.edu 315/343-9678

The AAUW Educational Foundation has been supporting women through education for over a century. More than 7,800 women from over 120 nations have been helped in pursuing their goals. This year 287 women were awarded over \$3.5 million in grants (including Community Action grants), fellowships and awards. Foundation research has affected schools nationwide. It has helped every community by fostering change. The Foundation needs your donations to remain strong and your help in disseminating information about available grants and fellowships. For information check the NY State AAUW website or contact me.

BRANCH PROFILES

The **Buffalo Branch** of AAUW thrives because of our leadership development plan. We have a written plan that was developed by the board over several months. Our emphasis is on community involvement through the Pan Am 2001 celebration, Sister-to-Sister Summit, our book sale to provide scholarships to our local community and our study groups dealing with issues such as globalization and book reviews. If you are interested in developing your leadership potential, please join us by contacting Marguerite Collesano at 716/853-6480 or Rita Clement, rita_clement@hotmail.com

Chautauqua-Westfield Branch encourages middle school girls to continue their excellent achievements in math and science by honoring them with certificates and the presentations to their schools of a book highlighting the achievements of women. Also, our branch co-sponsors a program or activity each year with the local Westfield YWCA for teenage girls. The most recent of these brought together 12 area professional women who shared with the students the highlights of their careers – educational requirements, daily responsibilities, enjoyable aspects as well as disappointments. For information about our branch, contact Lana Potter at 716/736-2750 or e-mail: 9501@cecomet.net

The **Elmira Branch** of the AAUW roots go back to 1916 and the "Elmira College Club," which eventually became part of the national AAUW. Women in politics, voter registration, mentoring of young high school women, cultural and ethnic diversity programs, women's health issues, personal development, book group get-togethers are just some of the activities our members are involved with. Join us and share your interests with us! Call June Ford, Membership VP, 607/737-0063.

The **Fairport Area Branch** (FAB, as in FABulous) stands proudly behind 32 years of representing AAUW. In 2001-02 we will organize a District II conference, combine a book group selection with a speaker on Vietnam, and see "A Christmas Carol" while we learn not to be Scrooge-like in our generosity to the Educational Foundation. A local college professor will share her research on Internet chatroom sexuality discussions. Local initiatives for school peace will be explored as will personal safety Our year-long project will introduce mothers and daughters to engineering as a career. Contact Eileen Hartmann, 716/924-4876 or TELCali@aol.com

The **Greece Area Branch** in suburban Rochester has instituted a local college scholarship for a female high school senior who best exemplifies the goals of AAUW. An essay and other criteria are required. We currently fund this project through supplying volunteers on election night to the Voter News Service. This consortium of media outlets such as AP, Fox, CNN, NBC etc. want a vote count for specific races quickly. Volunteers go to the polls at closing time, record the count and phone in the results. This very simple fundraiser raises hundreds of dollars for the branch. For more information contact Janet Ulinski, wulinski@aol.com

Huntington's Excellence In Science Awards recognize young women in high school whose participation in the sciences is outstanding. Our program epitomizes our branch commitment to promoting equity in education and opening up options for women and girls in our community. This common focus creates lasting friendships and offers members opportunities to develop leadership and organizational skills. Join us to network and discover local resources to expand your professional or personal interests. Contact Jeanne Gillon, 631/423-5223 or memhunaw@yahoo.com

Islip Area Branch - Meeting WOMEN OF INFLUENCE in our community has taught us what we can do to help young people in our society. In November 1999 we hosted six women leaders of agencies such as NAACP, Latina Women's Society for Social Change and the Long Island Voices Foundation. In October 2000 we again invited six women who, this time, enact change through political action. Organizations such as the NOW, LWV and the National Association of Social Workers were represented. The vitality of WOMEN TO WOMEN speaking has invigorated the branch. Contact Erna Cunningham, 631/585-0868 or rcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us

We need you! Take a chance!

Win the Grand Prize

New York State AAUW 2002 Convention Package at Lake Placid (May 4-6) Includes hotel package-single and Convention registration (approximate \$375 value)

Benefits the Educational Foundation Contact your local Branch for more information.

Branch Profiles

A respected local voice for women and education: The **Ithaca Branch's** support of eleven women faculty members and coaches who sued Cornell University for discrimination in promotion and pay in 1980 led to the formation of the Legal Advocacy Fund. Highlights for this year include the Fellowship Dinner in November celebrating AAUW Fellows and international women graduate students and a follow-up to our highly successful Sister 2 Sister, An Event for Girls. Contact: Membership VP Pat Sims 607/539-7138 or psims@clarityconnect.com

The **Jamestown Branch** consists of eighty-five dynamic women working together to promote the AAUW mission locally. We are involved in many projects such as *Get In The Game*, Legislative Breakfast, Women's Expo, voter registration, and other community and diversity events. The What's New Fair proceeds enabled us to provide scholarships through JCC to women graduates and AAUW's Education Foundation. For more information, visit our website at <u>www.northnet.org/nysaauw/jamestwn.htm</u> or contact Janet Forbes, 716/483-3525 or jlforbes@hotmail.com

The **Jefferson County Branch** is a community of women sharing common interests, developing friendships, and acting on vital social issues. Meetings are held monthly on various days. Speakers explore issues affecting women, girls, and education. For example "Words from Fort Drum Women" featured a panel including a Sergeant Major, a Colonel who is a nurse, and an attorney in the JAG office. Other activities include: Voter Registration and Candidates Forum; EF fundraising events (Antiques Road Show); Avid Readers; Globetrotters. Branch Website: <u>www.northnet.org/nysaauw/jeffcty.htm</u> Contact Wanda Lancaster, Membership VP, 315/642-5717

Kingston is alive with discussions of books, films, and social and political concerns. Last year's theme of "Vulnerable Populations" brought talks on battered women, wolves, and NAFTA. We encourage individual letters to public officials. Topical lectures enrich our many museum and theater bus trips. We raise funds for Association programs and work to improve Association policies. To learn more about joining us, please contact Jan Grogan, 845/338-1766 or jaxfax@ulster.net The program the **Mohawk Valley Branch** is most proud of is our Barbara Fairina Sister-to-Sister Summit held in May 2000. The Summit, sponsored by over ten local coalitions, brought together girls ages 12-16 to discuss issues such as sexual harassment, substance abuse, body image, etc. We feel that by sponsoring this program we have made a positive impact on their lives. Contact Paulette Salamy, 315 Winchester Dr., New Hartford, NY 13413

AAUW-NY City is the 2nd oldest branch in the U.S. Many of our activities take place in our historic townhouse in midtown. Our branch is looking forward to the launch of its website which is among several of the efforts the Branch makes to reflect the rich diversity of its community. Our activities include a student outreach program, public policy programs, support of EF and LAF as well as many interest groups. Contact aauwnyc1@aol.com or 212/684-6068.

The **North Fork Branch** had a highly successful yard sale at the Trinity Church in Greenport to benefit Dollars for Scholars. Our members were very supportive. We set up on Thursday and Friday. A large crew participated on Friday and Saturday. The members had fun and got to know each other. The bonus was that we raised \$1500 for the Educational Foundation. It was hard work but worth it. Contact Gertrude Schloer, 631/734-6345 or Gschloer@systic.com

Thank You To My Fríends

AAUW members are the most wonderful group of people one could ever know and love. The positive vibrations, love, and support, plus the dozens of magnificent floral arrangements, hundreds of cards, notes, and telephone calls, have all combined to make my long and very trying battle with cancer and my subsequent hip replacement an experience in which I was never alone.

True friends come into our lives at special times and stay. I am thankful every day for my many AAUW friends who have done just that. Thank you.

Love, Alíce Ann Leídel Jacobs

BRANCH PROFILES

The **North Shore Branch** has twelve study groups (our newest is a virtual group). Our Gender Equity group sponsors a Women in Cyberspace conference at NYIT that informs young women and men about career opportunities in technology. Our annual Holly Trail, a tour of four outstanding homes with lunch and a boutique has helped us raise almost a quarter of a million dollars for the Educational Foundation. Contact Barbara Kaim, 516/883-2625 or Barbrakaim@aol.com

Celebrating women's history and the arts, named grant recipients, and fun fundraising are membership highlights of the **Oswego Branch**. Our GEMS project recognized 39 girls in two school districts and we donated over \$1,000 to EF. We cosponsored "Women Marching On: Past, Present, Future" with SUNY Oswego. This program united several professional and student organizations in celebration of the Original Declaration of Sentiments, the induction of Mary Walker into the Women's Hall of Fame, and a discussion of future goals for women. Contact Millie Newshan, 315/947-6075 or mlnew@twcny.rr.com

Poughkeepsie Branch: 75 years of activities and activism on the local level! We educate voters, lead a literature group for incarcerated women, work with area schools and Girl Scouts to promote an interest in science and math, and raise money for the Educational Foundation. Personal development: yoga, a hands-on computer workshop, an authors' luncheon, touring local landmarks. Interest groups include: literature, cuisine and daytime adventures. Visit our website: <u>http://members.aol.com/PokAAUW</u> Contact Cynthia Averill, 845/485-2866 or cyd@attglobal.net

The AAUW **Queens New York Branch** participates in several activities to improve the position of women: Our project for this year will be Transitions from Home to School—in order to help women and girls return to school. We are using a network of colleges, advisors and companies around the area. On October 12 we will be participating in The World of Working Women Conference and Job Fair. This will afford us the opportunity to talk to women from all walks of life struggling to make a place for themselves in New York City. Contact Hortensia Stoyen, 718/229-0371 or GAT4886@aol.com

eGRLS! Grant Recipients

Funded by the AAUW Educational Foundation the Empire Girls Really Learn Science! (eGRLS) Community Action Grant-State Project promotes science-learning opportunities for girls. The winning partnership applicants are **Jefferson County Branch**/SciTech Center of NNY, **Islip Area Branch**/Northshore Science & Technology Center, North Shore Branch/The Science Museum of Long Island, **Massapequa Branch**/Long Island Museum of Science & Technology, and the **Bath Branch**/Glenn H. Curtiss Museum of Local History.

Eleanor Roosevelt Award Finalist

Greater Rochester Area Branch's *Women Helping Girls with Choices* program was selected as one of only three finalists for the AAUW Educational Foundation 2001 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award. Nancy Eynon Lark, Acting Director of AAUW EF wrote to Bettie Lindley, Rochester Branch President: "Your work has also inspired the Board to discuss new ways in addition to the Five-Star Recognition Program in which to formally recognize AAUW branches for outstanding community-based initiatives that benefit women and girls."

USPS Form 3526 Box

BRANCH PROFILES

Women Helping Girls With Choices is the flagship program of the **Greater Rochester Area Branch**. Branch and community volunteers are matched with girls as early as 6th grade (in the City School District). These relationships can continue through high school graduation, fostering strong partnerships. The pairs participate in group or individual activities. Mentors offer academic assistance, encouragement, and guidance; and in turn take pride in the accomplishments of the students. WHGWC benefits students and volunteers. Contact Debbie Babajtis, 716/244-8890 or rochaauw@frontiernet.net

The **Southern NY Branch** was founded for the purpose of educating women. We recently celebrated our 100th Anniversary by completing a \$35,000 Educational Foundation Research and Projects Grant. Funds raised from our successful book sale will now help finance college scholarships for local high school girls and the interrupted studies scholarship for women. We hope to develop, in coalition with local colleges, a workshop for women in transition. Contact Cheryl Papa, 607/748-6075 or cbpapa528@yahoo.com

The **Skaneateles Branch's** primary focus—the environment—reflects its location in the heart of the Finger Lakes. Our linkage with Baltimore Woods Nature Center provides the center with volunteers who lead walks and present talks. Members walk monthly, contributing a dollar for each mile walked to the Educational Foundation. An interest group is devoted to film. An annual event is the branch's "Issues at Breakfast" which features a timely talk. Proceeds go to the Educational Foundation. Contact Kay Kraatz, 315-685-6256 or kraatz@dreamscape.com

Smithtown, a 7 Star Branch, is proud of its past programs and eager to present the new. Meeting the goal of individual growth for a lifetime, we are proud to have presented programs on Long Island's art, music, literature and environment. Our coup d'etat was the October Art Auction that raised over \$2000 for the Education Foundation. This coming year's program will continue to feature Long Island musical talent, topics interesting to a cross-section of women, and enough socializing to bring laughter to many a member. Interested? Contact Smithtown President, Marie Cannava, 631/979-6343 or casa12@optonline.net The **St. Lawrence County Branch** (est. 1927) embodies Action for Equity by serving the needs of girls and women across the lifespan in our rural area. Since 1989 Open Windows for Girls has sent dozens of county girls to various summer programs. Our award-winning Professional Clothing Fair helps people "dress for success" for a first or better job. For more information, contact Membership VP Mary Bucher, 315/386-4261 or bucher@canton.edu or visit http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw

> Invitation To Syracuse Area Members-at-Large From **Syracuse Branch**

Purpose: Acquaint yourself with our branch, to make friendships, to join and enrich the branch and yourselves

How: Attend a program. Call 437-9318 for information. Request a newsletter.

Programs: Beaver Lake; Hostile Hallways; District Meeting; Erie Canal Museum; Festive Celebration; Oswego Refugee Program; Diversity; World War II Aviatrix; Matilda Joselyn Gage, her home and her causes.

Lunch Brunch (fun, culture) Bridge

RSVP

The **Waverly Branch** holds a story hour/art project each year in February. Children in grades K-3 are invited to come for an hour of fun. Last year's theme of "Under the Sea" was carried through with the stories read, art project, and snack. The children really look forward to coming to our annual story hour, but they aren't the only ones who have fun. All the members who participate have a great time. This is but one of the many projects we take part in during the year. To learn more about joining us please contact Heather Sutter, 570/ 888-9351 or hbs@stny.rr.com

By joining the **Westchester Branch** you become part of an organization acting on critical issues affecting women: Equity in education and the workplace. Civil rights. Affirmative action. Reproductive choice. Social Security. Our Interest Groups are diverse: film, finances, literature, bridge, dining out, and the theater. Special events are also scheduled throughout the year. To learn more about joining, please contact Wilma Gitchel, 914/332-1064 or wilma-gitchel@worldnet.att.net



New York State *FOCUS* (USPS-390-570) Summer 2001 www.northnet.org/nysaauw

OF www.aauw.org

PERIODICALS POSTAGE **PAID** at Washington, D.C. 20036 And all Additional Entries USPS-390-570

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 principle and 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.

Important! All mailing labels are prepared at AAUW headquarters. Attention postmaster: Dated Material. Please do not delay.

Public Policy

Jane Smith, Public Policy Director blufview@ptd.net 607/868-3243

Have you called, written or e-mailed any of your representatives in the past two months for any reason?

Great!! Good for you! Many members of NYS AAUW joined our ranks because they wanted a base for activism on issues we care about. If you haven't contacted anyone, think about doing it soon. I would suggest selecting one issue that you are deeply concerned about and watching what is going on with that particular topic. When action is needed you may be notified by your branch Public Policy contact. At that point it does not matter if you call, write or e-mail a specific person in Albany or Washington. All methods of communication are equally weighted.

Here are some issues in NYS you might want to watch: Redistricting, Pay Equity, Women's Health and Wellness, Dignity for All Students, NYS Retirement System, Education, International Human Rights, Voting Procedures in NYS, Appointments to Federal Courts, Election Process Reform, Energy Issues, or the Environment.

To watch the issue you may want to select, you have several options: our website,

<u>www.northnet.org/nysaauw</u>, the national organization's website, <u>www.aauw.org</u>, newspapers or news from other media sources. The websites even tell you how to write letters.

Go to it women of NYS AAUW! Make sure your congressmen, assemblymen, and senators know how you stand on issues that affect you and those you love! Become an activist before it is too late.

The NYS FOCUS (USPS-390-570) is published for the American Association of University Women. The subscription rate of \$2.15 is included in the NYS dues. Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C., and additional offices.

Send all address changes to AAUW Records Office, 111 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Questions and articles should be addressed to the NYS FOCUS Editor, Mary J. King, 77 King George Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, 845/462-0567 or mary@kings-online.net

Spring Issue deadline: January 15, 2002