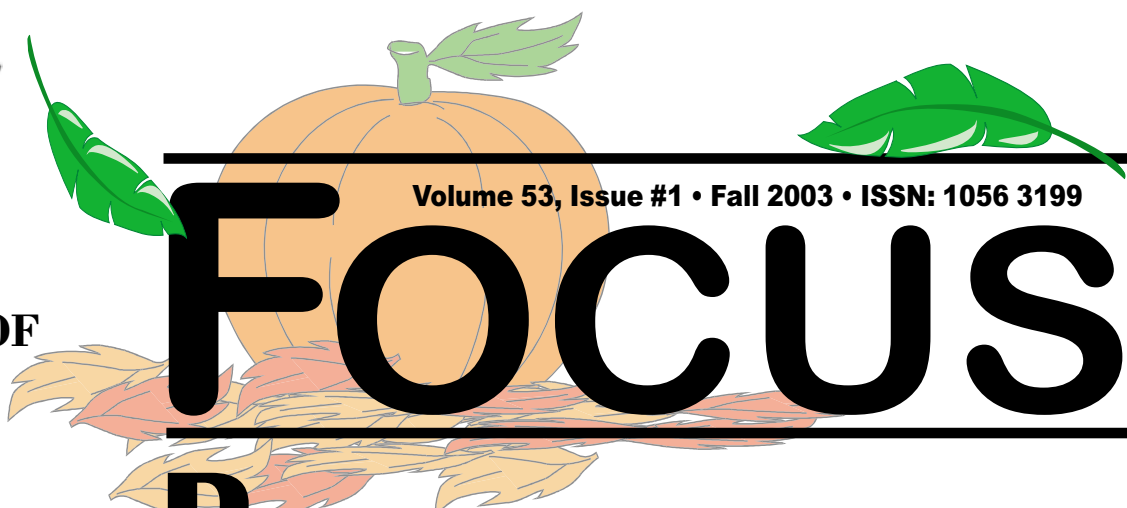




AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN
NEW YORK STATE



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FOCUS

Public Policy Action in NYS!

Betsy Forkas, *Public Policy Director*
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What an exciting, activity-filled Public Policy year for all of us in AAUW-NYS! This spring we applied for and received a Public Policy Impact Grant. One of 12 states to receive the award, we have a cash grant and a great deal of support from Association staff and committee members. AAUW-NYS hopes to involve as many branches, branch members, and members-at-large as possible, and educate them on the issues. In addition, we hope to increase Public Policy activism, AAUW visibility, membership retention and recruitment, and diversity efforts. Our guiding principle will be our *Living the Mission* theme as we emphasize Public Policy priorities during the year.

We are going to need *your* support, *your* input, and *your* action to make the impact. Here's what we plan to do this year:



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Step 1: We will build a stronger *Get the Facts* distribution system. Through e-mail, branch members will hear about legislative issues and receive the tools and information to take action. Branch newsletter editors will receive educational material and news articles for use in local newsletters. (Sign up today!)

Step 2: We will build and/or join coalitions that focus on our Public Policy issues. All districts and branches will receive the names and addresses of potential coalition partners: LWV, BPW, NOW, PTA, Pay Equity Coalition, and YWCA. (Make a connection in your community!)

Step 3: We will organize Issue Forums; at least one will focus on judicial nominees or Title IX. All districts and branches will receive a Title IX Forum Toolkit and a *Women at Work* Toolkit this fall. The kits will include an outline, facts, media resources, and suggestions for leaders and participants. AAUW-NYS will work with Congressional Representative Carolyn Maloney and local branches to promote passage of the ERA Amendment. (Volunteer to organize a forum!)

Step 4: We will organize several issue-oriented media events. AAUW-NYS Board members will create a "letters to the editor" campaign around AAUW Public Policy priority issues. Letters will be sent to appropriate newspapers in the state. *Title IX on the Ninth:* Before the 9th of each month, all branches will receive a message for members to send to federal officials in support of Title IX and its enforcement. (Write your own letter!)

Step 5: We will mobilize voters in 2003 and educate members throughout the year. AAUW-NYS has designated a week (Sept. 28–Oct. 4) in 2003 to conduct statewide voter registration drive by AAUW branches and will work with other state organizations (LWV, BPW, PTAs, etc.) to identify and target populations. AAUW-NYS Board members will use board meetings, fall district meetings,

(cont'd on page 5)

Living 
the Mission

What an Inspiring Weekend It Was!

Evelyn M. Currie,
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I arrived for the Delta Lake Summer Board meeting Friday afternoon in a crestfallen mood over the lack of full branch participation in AAUW-NYS and Association activities. I confessed my discouragement to the Board. They assured me the weekend activities would re-inspire me to continue "Living the Mission" with my usual enthusiasm.

THEN THE MIRACLE HAPPENED!

Representatives from 30 of our 46 AAUW-NYS Branches arrived Friday for a picnic supper to kick-off "AAUW 101 (and fun!) 2003". Over 50 AAUW-NYS members participated in an interesting and fun weekend learning more about the AAUW Mission. As I listened to the exchange of ideas between the Board and the members, I found my lost excitement returning! Many members DO understand the connection between the Association, the State AAUW and the Branches. Many members DO understand the importance of mission-based programming in the District Meetings and in the Branch meetings. It hasn't been a lost cause after all!



An eavesdropper at that exciting weekend would have seen our Diversity Statement enacted in real life. ***"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."***

As I looked around the room, I realized the reason for the weekend's excitement was the diversity in the group of women who were sharing ideas and valuing each other's opinions. The Association wants diversity to become a part of everything we do in AAUW, rather than only a study of ethnic cultures and food. Our weekend proved how exciting AAUW can be if we live the AAUW Diversity statement!

Many thanks to the women who devoted a summer weekend to helping AAUW NYS become stronger in "Living the Mission". Your inspiration will remain with me as I lead AAUW-NYS in 2003-2004.

Association Convention Highlights

AAUW NYS presented three workshops at the Convention in Rhode Island in June. Sue Oliver took over the Peace Workshop of Carol Stull in her illness. She was assisted by Jeanette Knapp. There were about 35 people in attendance. Joan Monk presented a workshop attended by about 50 people. Susan Sontup, assisted by Evvie Currie, Laurie Ginnitti, Jeanette Knapp, Nancy Mion, Jane Smith, and Phyllis Anderson, presented "Live the Mission, Transform the Organization" which attracted about 90 attendees. They spilled out into the hall and stayed for the 3-hour session and bought "Living the Mission" t-shirts to wear during the rest of the Convention. Congratulations to everyone who helped to make the Association Convention a success!

All of the Membership Change proposals were defeated. The Convention voted to have a study of necessary membership changes, in order to save the organization, to be reported to the Association Convention 2005.

The dues increase proposal passed 1220 to 192. Beginning in 2004-2005, the Association dues will increase \$2.00 per year each year until the 2009 Association Convention when it will be reconsidered.

Phyllis Anderson, EF VP, and Susan Sontup, LAF VP, were both honored for the AAUW-NYS contributions to the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund.



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AAUW READS – Programming for Every Branch

Jane Pfeiffer Smith, AAUW-NYS Program VP

Autumn in New York State - one of the reasons that all of us live here. We enjoy the brilliance of the leaves and the true beauty of nature. Fall signals to us that the earth's growing season is over and it is getting ready for the sleep of winter, getting ready to recharge itself for another growing season to start in the spring.

Unlike the earth, AAUW's growing season is just beginning, the start of another year of programming, seeing our AAUW friends regularly at book group or at monthly meetings, and another year of exciting fundraising activities.

This year, over the winter, every branch in NY has an opportunity to get the seeds growing for an exciting program project that will blossom in March: AAUW READS! Your branch leaders have received all of the details of this exciting "Living the Mission" program that the program planning committee developed for every branch. It is being presented to you along with the "31 Women of Distinction for 2004" brochure to be completed in March as part of a Women's History Month celebration. Many ideas are given as examples of what each branch could do. There is something for every area of the state and every level of commitment.

Maybe your branch is located in the area that was or is home to one of the Women of Distinction. Your branch could sponsor 4th graders studying NYS History by providing them with stories about this woman's life and have a trip for the students to the woman's home. Or, your branch could sponsor an essay contest in a Middle School using the Women of Distinction. Have the winning essays read at the local school auditorium and present certificates with

AAUW logo on them, and publicize winners in the newspaper. Or, you could host a presentation that is open to the public by a living Woman of Distinction. Focus on inviting

9th grade girls that you have previously provided with a written biography of that woman. All of these ideas touch your community, making a difference in the lives of local folks. We are creating a visible presence in our branch areas for AAUW. Membership in your branch could grow. We are becoming active in our mission.

If your branch leaders have not yet brought the project to you, the membership, you can ask them or give them ideas of what you think would work in your community.

Oh, and I nearly forgot the best part, your reward. Of course you will have the satisfaction of making a difference but I am offering a prize to the branch that has the most wonderful project.

The best of the best will be determined by the Project Evaluation, which needs to be submitted no later than April 1, 2004. (Send to Jane Pfeiffer Smith, Box 37, Pulteney, NY 14874.) I will be coming to your branch to cater a party to celebrate being the best in the state. I am hearing now that competition is beginning. (In my real life I own and operate a full-service catering business located in the Finger Lakes.)

As a follow-up, several branches will be asked to share their projects with AAUW-NYS at the convention in Albany next April.

As the leaves are dropping, get your ideas together, so that during the winter your branch can prepare a way to show us all what beautiful harvest you have created for your community in the spring. I can't wait to see what you are going to be doing.

For further information go the AAUW-NYS website at www.northnet.org/nysaaaw - all of the information is there ready and waiting for you. Or contact me, Jane Smith, at 607/868-3243 or e-mail blufview@empacc.net.

AAUW-NYS • 2004 • Living the Mission II

Convention

ALBANY MARRIOTT • APRIL 23 - 25, 2004
IT'S A "CAPITAL" IDEA

Convention information, Hotel & Convention Registration Forms available

Contact: wyszcarmen@msn.com • Telephone: 631/472-9377 • www.northnet.org/nysaaaw/albany04.htm

AAUW-NYS Fall District Meetings

Ever wonder exactly what the Fall District meetings were designed to do? Well here's a list of just some of what you and your branch can get from attending:



- To provide opportunities for branch members to meet the NYS Board members, receive information from them, and communicate ideas and concerns to them.
- To bring together the members in a particular geographic area in the fall.
- To provide the branches with program suggestions that are AAUW mission-based.
- To encourage branches and members to take personal action on legislative issues.
- To provide the branches information on the up-to-date AAUW policies, including controversial issues.
- To provide the opportunity for branch counterparts to share experiences.
- To provide the opportunity for branch members to broaden AAUW friendships.

**Plan to attend your
District meeting
this fall!**


Living 
the Mission

Educational Foundation

Honoring and Supporting Go Hand in Hand

Phyllis Anderson,
Educational Foundation Vice President
631/234-2451 • EFVPforNYSAAUW@aol.com



Every woman has fond memories of someone who helped her to develop her talents and cope with life's events. It might be a relative, friend, boss, or counterpart, or even a famous person that she didn't personally meet. It is never too late to show appreciation! Write a note, make a phone call, or donate some money to a cause she would appreciate!

The Educational Foundation is a perfect vehicle to honor or memorialize and support. The funds are used to promote women as they pursue their goals, whether in higher education or their communities. Grants totaling more than two million dollars are awarded each year to deserving applicants. There are always too many requests for too little money!

It is an honor for me to serve AAUW-NYS in helping branches to support the Foundation. I have worked with many people to support the Foundation, to encourage increased giving, and to publicize the good results. When I attended the Association Convention in Providence, I was delighted to accept an award for AAUW-NYS ranking fifth in the United States for our total contribution of \$81,815. That was a proud moment, but we can't rest on our laurels. Three months remain to raise our totals for 2003! The deadline for contributions is December 1.

The Foundation's goal is to achieve per capita contributions of \$25 in every single branch. For some, that is a "stretch" and for others it could be attainable. You, as one individual, can make a big difference. Here's a suggestion: hold a Petite Party, invite eight friends for dessert or lunch, show a video or play scrabble, discuss a book or current event, demonstrate a craft, or trade recipes. Ask each guest to write a \$10 check to the Foundation, have fun being together, and you will have raised \$80 to help your branch meet its goal. It is even better if you invite people who are not AAUW members to share our goals.

Fund raising starts with FUN. Be creative. Perhaps your friends will be honored to be included and glad to have supported the Foundation. Fall is a season of renewed energy, a good time to try something new. Please contact me if you want any literature to distribute at your event or if I can help in some way. I look forward to honoring every branch in NYS for achieving the \$25 per capita objective of support!

Coalition Building:

In celebration of the Business and Professional Women's 75th Anniversary on October 20, 2003, BPW/USA will kick off a national discussion with working women and business leaders on **WOMENomics**, distribute a survey nationwide on workplace equity and work-life balance issues, and generate a list of the Great Companies for working women. Branches might consider working with their local BPW group to explore the issues raised in the AAUW Educational Foundation report, Women at Work, as well.



(Continued from page 1)

Public Policy Action in NYS!

and state convention to educate members and distribute resources. We will create Public Policy handouts for member use and distribute them at all state meetings and to branches visited by any Leader on Loan. (Work on a local *Get Out The Vote* project!)

Step 6: Increase the use of technology in advancing Public Policy priorities. AAUW-NYS will highlight Public Policy issues through its website and through the expanded use of e-Groups, the website, and publications, and those web-based organizations that provide high quality Public Policy and Voter Education resources. (Visit the state and Association websites today to learn more!)

Grassroots advocacy by *each* AAUW member is key to making this work. The Association's announcement about the victory on **Title IX** makes this clear:

"Through a letter expressing support for maintaining current law, the Department of Education announced July 11 they will NOT make any changes to Title IX. Title IX is the landmark 1972 law providing women and girls equal opportunity in education and athletics. After hearing from thousands of women and men, girls and boys, the Department of Education and the Bush administration backed down from their original goals/intentions of changing Title IX and instead announced their support of Title IX and acknowledged that, "nothing in Title IX requires the cutting or reduction of teams in order to demonstrate compliance with Title IX." The Department of Education also offered technical assistance to schools regarding enforcement of Title IX policies. This announcement puts to rest all of the uncertainty that has come up this past year since a Commission was established to study Title IX.

"AAUW members played a significant role in this victory, from participating in events around the country to sending comments to the commission to calling and writing the president. It CANNOT be stressed enough that this good news about Title IX would not have happened without the thousands of phone calls, e-mails, and letters that YOU have sent to President Bush, Secretary of Education Rod Paige, and members of Congress, expressing support for Title IX. Because of YOUR efforts to protect Title IX, the administration could not ignore the strong sentiment from the American people."

Let's translate this momentum to other key areas of AAUW's Public Policy program that supports our mission!



Living the Mission

➤ In Memoriam ❖ Carol Stull

AAUW-NYS lost a dedicated member in July, with the death of Carol Stull, following a courageous battle with cancer. Carol was a 38-year member of the American Association of University Women. During that time, she was a tireless coalition builder and advocate for women's education, women's and minority's rights, and equity in the workplace. Carol was a past President of the Buffalo and Ithaca Branches. She was involved in the Sister-2-Sister and Transitions Conferences in Ithaca and presented the Peace Curriculum at NYS Conventions, the Middle Atlantic Region Conference, and at the Connecticut State Convention in March 2003.



On the State level, Carol was a past State President, International Relations Director, and NYS Chair for AAUW Environmental Initiative. On the Association level, she served on the Board of the AAUW Educational Foundation. She was a representative of AAUW at the Women's Conference in Beijing, China and the follow-up Conference Beijing +5 at the United Nations in NYC.

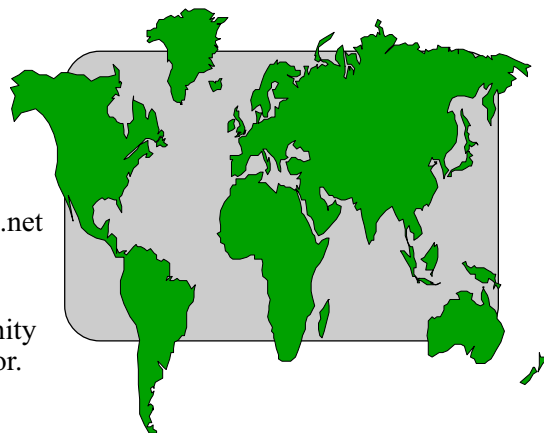
Carol was a role model for "Living the Mission" in her personal and AAUW life. Those of us who looked on her as our mentor will miss her very much. "Well done, good and faithful servant" makes me think of all Carol gave to her family, her friends and AAUW.

Contributions in her name can be made to: AAUW Educational Foundation Research and Projects Endowment in memory of Carol Gansz Stull and her mother Ruth Waddell Gansz. Please send them to Phyllis Anderson, AAUW-NYS EF VP.

Evelyn Currie

International Affairs Update

Bina Roy - A Huge Success



Joan Monk, *International Affairs Director* • 914/245-7704 • ftmaven@bestweb.net

Fundraising for Bina Roy Projects in Development Fund was at an all time high in New York State this year. To date, we have collected \$2,600.82 and we are supporting six projects in various parts of the world. I want to take this opportunity to thank every single member who supported us in this very worthwhile endeavor. It is my honor to represent you on the New York State Board this year and my pleasure to select these wonderful projects.

In Panama, the **Handicraft Production & Marketing Project** was selected. It provides training to women between the ages of 18 and 50 in the production and design of jewelry and handicrafts. In addition, the women are given training in finance, business management, computer skills and marketing.

Civic Responsibility & Leadership Project was chosen in Romania to assist high school girls in the development of personal responsibility for their own lives and a sense of identification with their native country. Monthly conferences for parents and teenagers will be organized, along with follow-up debates and workshops.

In Conakry, Guinea, **Improving Working Conditions for Street Cleaners Project** provides a group of 25 women street cleaners with better protective clothing for their hazardous work. It is hoped that this project will benefit the people of this town by making them more environmentally aware and responsible.

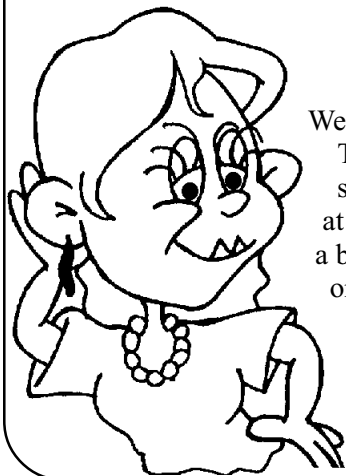
The final project selected was in the Philippines entitled **NEEDS (Nutrition, Education, Entrepreneurship & Development of Skills)**. This outreach program in a depressed area of Manila provides practical assistance and training to improve the quality of life of young people, women and the unemployed and help them cope with the demands of modern day life. Members of the Philippines Association of University Women give courses on reading, writing, mathematics, livelihood and skills training. It is hoped that many women will acquire the skills to start small businesses.

The **Kingston Branch** deserves honorable mention here because of its sole support of two Bina Roy projects. Their special projects are the **Handiwork and Traditional Skills Training Program** in Croatia and the **Adana Project** in Turkey. In Croatia, this well-established income-generating and work-therapy project helps women overcome the trauma resulting from displacement as a result of war. The **Adana Project** is a new project focusing of education and literacy in this region of Turkey. Congratulations, Kingston on your continuing support of Bina Roy Projects.

Let's keep Bina Roy Projects in mind as we continue to "Live the Mission" in New York State. Remember it is through these projects that so little can do so much!



Living the Mission T-Shirts



We still have plenty of Living the Mission T's in Teal and White for your branch needs. These shirts make a great way to identify members at a Sister-2-Sister event or a fundraiser like a book sale. They can be purchased individually or in bulk for savings on shipping. See our "ad" on the website or contact Donna Seymour at onthego@northnet.org for more details. Shirts are just \$7 each and come in three sizes: medium, large and X-large!

FOCUS (USPS-390-570), a quarterly newsletter, is published for the New York State Division of the American Association of University Women by Printking, Inc., Cheektowaga, NY 14225-0701. The subscription rate of \$2.15 is included in the NYS dues. Periodicals postage is paid at Buffalo, NY, 14240.

Send all address changes to Buffalo Postmaster, Buffalo, NY, 14240, and AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Questions and articles should be addressed to the Communications Director, Donna Seymour, 8 Cedar Street, Potsdam, NY, 315/265-6985, e-mail onthego@northnet.org
Fall Issue deadline: October 30, 2003
Winter Issue deadline: January 15, 2004



Legal Advocacy Fund

Susan Sontup,
LAF Vice President
tresswann@yahoo.com
516/679-6274

I wish I could have met more of you at Delta Lake. I always look forward to our Delta Lake meeting to recharge my AAUW batteries. I hope I will be able to meet many of you

either at your Fall District meetings or at your branch. With the year more than half over we have a lot yet to accomplish. Contributions must be processed and sent to the Association by December 31. Please send me your contributions or information on who from your branch may have sent donations in. This will ensure that your branch receives full credit.

Your branch LAF representative should have received a template for an In Honor of LAF brochure at Delta. That's right, you can make an in honor of or in memory of donation to LAF. Use this to solicit contributions from

outside your branch or for people looking for a special gift.

At the District Conferences, all LAF representatives will be receiving information on our Change for Change campaign. We will also be instituting a PIN Campaign at the Fall Meetings. LAF Pins will be presented at these meetings to anyone making or reaching a \$100 contribution for the year. The branch and district that gives out the most pins will receive special recognition. Additionally, the branch that receives the most outside of AAUW LAF Pin contributions will receive special recognition. Special awards will be given for "Change for Change" too. Plan on attending a District Meeting to learn more.

I am pleased to inform you that as of the date this is being written, we have been credited with over \$11,000 of LAF contributions. This is a good beginning. Remember we want to regain our number two position in the nation. We need to strengthen our support for LAF and the excellent work it does on behalf of all of us. I'm looking forward to working with all of you.

Membership News

Diane Silvestro, *AAUW-NYS Membership VP*
belvoir6@hotmail.com • 716/631-3349

At the mini-conference at Delta Lake this summer, attendees were able to do some serious networking, attend workshops, learn about AAUW-NYS's new initiatives, and have fun. In the membership workshop, **Minding Our P's** (Proper Prior Planning Prevents Pitiful Poor Performance) and **Q's** (Who, What, When Why, Where, & How) were emphasized as tools for stabilizing and/or increasing membership.

Diversity is also an important issue. For me, defining diversity is like hugging an amoeba. You think you've got it, but there's always something that doesn't fit. People basically tend to group with others like themselves, but the only criteria for us should be whether people support and are willing to work for the mission of AAUW whether or not they're like us in other ways.

The final figures for the 46 branches in our state are 3642 members for a net loss of 150 members or minus 2.17% for the year. This is actually not too bad considering other organizations. But we can't keep losing members if we wish to continue the great work of AAUW. Those of us involved sometimes forget AAUW

has been active since 1881 promoting issues of women and girls. New blood keeps an organization growing - the torch has to be passed just as we took it up in our turn. Entering the New Millennium, maintain tradition but value innovation.

Grants are available from the State to help branches in their efforts to recruit members.

Up to \$75.00 for projects increasing branch visibility for membership initiatives can be applied for from me. This can be creating & distributing a branch brochure, inviting members-at-large to join, or whatever works in your community. There is also information developed by Jeanette Knapp, the Association, and me compiled from a broad range of sources on recruiting younger members, branch renaissance guidelines, answers to prospective members' questions, etc.

But the greatest source of members is other members. We all need to remember that membership is the responsibility of ALL members. Bring a friend or colleague to the next meeting, talk up AAUW wherever you go, everyone is on the membership team!



Voter Education Week Campaign

Jann Mirchandani, *Voter Education Director*
718/671-1649 • mirchman@ix.netcom.com

AAUW-NYS declared Sept. 28 - Oct. 4, 2003 as "Voter Education Week." This STATE-WIDE voter education campaign was designed to raise awareness of AAUW's action priorities throughout the state, increase voter participation, and build coalitions between branches and their communities. Each branch was asked at Delta Lake to choose a suggested program, or develop one of its own choosing. By getting the ball rolling this year, we will be in better shape to GOTV for next year's presidential elections!

Legislative Forums: Many branches already hold a legislative forum in some form. Some are the principle organizer, others offer assistance to another organization that already hosts a forum. (Speakers from both parties MUST be invited. AAUW is non-partisan.)

GOTV Voter Registration Events: These are great high-impact, low effort programs! Members could put up posters with a stack of voter registration forms at area malls, banks, local libraries, college dorms, etc. They could leave forms with their local Board of Education to register families new to the area or distribute forms in apartment complexes or trailer parks where other voter registration efforts may not be focused. They could work with local high schools to register seniors eligible to vote in the fall.

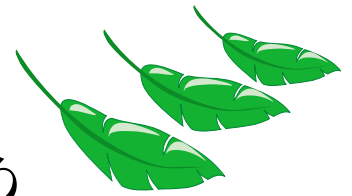
Create a Media Blitz: Remember, you can contact local media anytime to get information out regarding AAUW public policy issues. Issue media releases (samples are available from the Association). Have members write letters to the editor or call in to local radio talk shows. Contact student papers at local colleges and universities.

**Make a
Difference
VOTE!!!
AAUW-
New York State**

Bath Branch:

Onalee Nixon,
Bath Branch President
607/569-2619
keukalake@adelphia.net

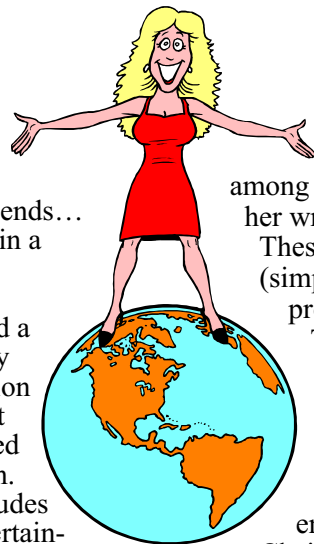
A Celebration of Women



Mothers, sisters, teachers, the neighbor lady who helped you learn to manage money, daughters, friends... We all know women who have touched our lives in a very special way.

Over three years ago the **Bath Branch** challenged a committee of our members to come up with a way to raise funds to benefit the Educational Foundation Fund and replace our International Dinner project that was labor intensive. Thanks to ideas generated by members, a "*Celebration of Women*" was born. Held on an afternoon in May, this formal tea includes wonderful food, musical and/or inspirational entertainment, and a time to honor significant women in our lives.

During the event, members have the option of verbally presenting their tributes to the women they have chosen to honor or memorialize. A special grandmother, a friend, a mentor – as each is named and described, the audience feels a closer connection to the speaker, who sharing a part of her past. This is perhaps the richest dividend of our



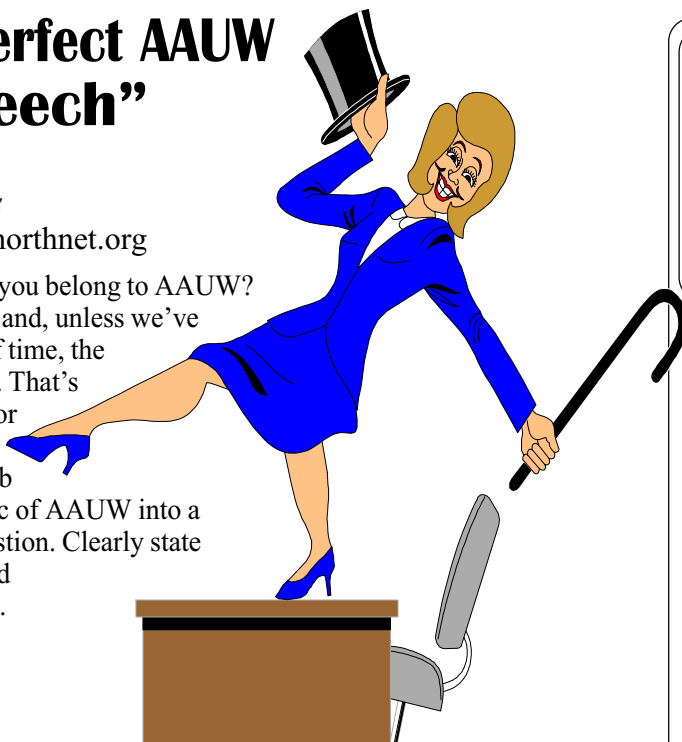
annual *Celebration*. Deeper bonds are formed among us, as a group. As members arrive, each brings her written tribute honoring the woman of her choice. These may include a photo, a letter, a poem, a drawing (simple or detailed), on special paper. These are protected by plastic sleeves and placed in our Tributes/Memories Book. Along with the tribute, her commemorative donation is presented in an envelope placed in a basket. If acknowledgement is wished, the name and address of the person who should receive the acknowledgement is included. Members unable to attend the party are encouraged to send their donation directly to our EF Chair.

Our *Celebration* has proved to be a very pleasant way for our branch to raise money for the Educational Foundation. Each year we have between \$1200 and \$1600 given as donations in an afternoon. In addition, we have strengthened the ties of our membership by sharing good fellowship, refreshment, and entertainment.

Creating the Perfect AAUW “Elevator Speech”

Donna Seymour,
Director of Communications
315/265-6985 • onthego@northnet.org

Has anyone ever asked you why you belong to AAUW? Often our reasons are not simple and, unless we’ve given this some thought ahead of time, the explanations are not short, either. That’s why creating an AAUW “Elevator Speech” is a good idea. An “Elevator Speech” is a short blurb you can use to introduce the topic of AAUW into a conversation or respond to a question. Clearly state AAUW’s name, membership, and mission as you open your speech.



Sample Talking Points

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a network of women and men who are committed to advancing gender equity in education and the workplace. Founded in 1881, AAUW’s network of 100,000 members and 1,300 branches has made us one of the leading women’s organizations in the country for more than a century.

AAUW’s members are women of diverse cultures, backgrounds, perspectives, and professions. Our organization’s power stems from our members, who are active in a wide range of activities. For example:

- The AAUW Voter Education Campaign informs women of the issues at stake in Congress and in local, state, and federal elections.
- AAUW’s Programs for Women and Girls bring generations together to talk about issues, such as those young women face at school, or the challenges women face when making transitions through work and pursuit of higher education.
- Through AAUW’s research concerning the progress of women and girls, we are able to shed light on the challenges faced in achieving gender equity in education and the workplace.
- AAUW’s case support and campus outreach enables us to help women speak out for justice and challenge gender discrimination in higher education.
- On the local/state level, AAUW is conducting a number of activities to advance our mission for achieving gender equity ... [Insert a plug for your local program here. Determine what you want your audience to learn about locally – an event? a meeting? available materials? Make it known that you have a local presence by providing personal and local information.]

The ideal Elevator Speech can be accomplished in a minute or less. It takes more thought and discipline to communicate in one minute than it does to babble on and on. Focusing your efforts on a few key message points means you don’t have to know every single AAUW fact by heart when someone asks you about the organization.

Each one of us should always be on the lookout for the chance to share the good news about AAUW membership. Being prepared ahead of time means taking full advantage of every golden opportunity! (And get in the habit of carrying a membership and/or branch brochure with you wherever you go.)

*Living the Mission
Through
Programming!*

The **Mid-Island Branch** is inaugurating an annual arts and culture event to honor Alice Ann Leidel, a long time member of the Mid-Island Branch who served AAUW-NYS as president and the Educational Foundation as its first president.

The **Albany Branch** is working with the Legislative Form to host a series of monthly luncheons this fall on topics of local and national interest, including the Patriot Act and the future of the Capital Region.

The **Bath Branch** is planning a special program for Black History Month (February) on “John W. Jones, The History of an Escaped Slave in Elmira.”

The **Westchester Branch** is planning a program in January on the “Dilemma of Genetic Engineering.”

The **Syracuse Branch** passed out copies of AAUW’s Hostile Hallways to project partners OCM BOCES and Girls, Inc., to jump-start a local program, “Empowering All Kids to Rise Above Bullying,” in October. The principle speaker is author Rosalyn Weisman, whose presentation is interactive, appropriate for teens, parents, and school personnel.

Living 
the Mission

CELEBRATE

National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Janet L. Forbes,
Initiative for Educational Equity Director
716/483-3525 • jforbes@hotmail.com



What Can You Do?

Some of our AAUW-NYS branches (Jamestown, Ithaca and St. Lawrence County) have held successful celebrations of NGWSD. The Skaneateles Area Branch is planning a Title IX discussion for early 2004. Other project ideas include:

- Wear a T-shirt or jersey that identifies your sport or fitness activity on February 4, 2004.
- Take your friends and family to a women's sports event: youth, high school, college, or professional sports.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper editor either asking them for fairer coverage of women's sports or thanking them for their great coverage.
- Buy a basketball, glove, soccer ball or other sports gift for your favorite female athlete. Send her the message that you know she can play sports, and she has your support.
- Grade your local school on whether it is treating male and female athletes equally. Write a letter to the principal either asking for changes or applauding the school's commitment to girls' sports.
- Partner with your local public and school libraries to create special book displays that feature women athletes.
- Hold a women's sports poster contest.
- Ask young women athletes to read to younger students or come into elementary classrooms to talk about what participating in sports means to them.
- Sponsor an essay contest focusing on female athletes and their accomplishments.

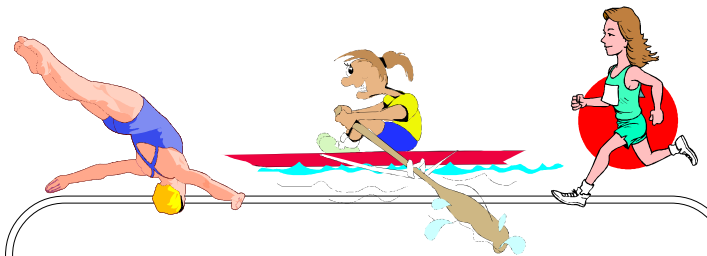
It is not too early to begin to plan for your local branch celebration of 18th annual National Girls and Women in Sport Day (NGWSD). On February 4, 2004, thousands of sports educators, coaches, athletic directors, sponsors, students, and parents across the country will show their support of NGWSD. The 2004 theme is "Play Fair."

NGWSD is celebrated in all 50 states with community-based events, award ceremonies, and activities honoring the achievements and encouraging participation of girls and women in sports. Whether your branch is a new participant or a veteran, your support of NGWSD will go a long way to increase visibility for female athletes and advance their struggle for equality in sports. This is an excellent way for your AAUW branch to continue **Living the Mission.**

The members of the National Girls and Women in Sport Coalition organize NGWSD. The Coalition combines the experience and resources of the five premiere girls- and women-serving organizations in the United States: Girl Scouts of the USA, Girls Incorporated, the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, the Women's Sports Foundation, and the YWCA of the U.S.A. with a combined membership of 5.5 million girls and women!

When Title IX was enacted in 1971, only 1 in 27 girls in high school participated in athletics. Today more than one in three high school girls participate in sports! Celebrating NGWSD is one way your AAUW branch can be a part of supporting the exciting and meaningful progress that girls and women are making in athletics and to encourage the expansion of these opportunities.

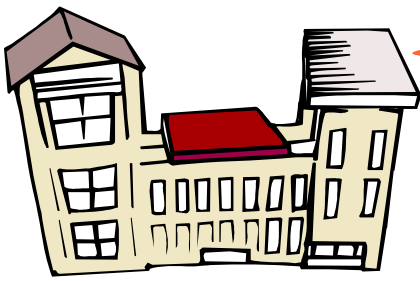
I would like to challenge each AAUW-NYS branch to sponsor an event around NGWSD 2004. Whether your local project is large or small, a first project or a continuing event, let's all join together as we continue **Living the Mission** and celebrate National Girls and Women in Sports Day 2004 across our AAUW New York State network.



Resources For Your Celebration of NGWSD

Women's Sports Foundation:
www.womenssportsfoundation.org

Order your Community Action Kit for NGWSD which contains a planning time line, program ideas, and publicity samples by calling AAHPERD – American Alliance For Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance – at 1-800-321-0789 or visit www.AAHPERD.org/ngwsdcentral.



Making the College/University Connection



Eileen Hartmann, College/ University Director
585/924-4876 • telcali@aol.com

According to information presented by Donna Lilly at the 2003 AAUW Association Convention, the AAUW College/University Partnership Program asks us to realize that we must look beyond simply asking local colleges to use their facilities for branch programs. The word “Partnership” indicates that both AAUW and the college provide value to each other, utilizing the strengths from each partner. How can we proceed to make new pathways as partners?

Each branch president of NYS AAUW was given a list of our current NYS College/University members at Delta Lake or should have received that list recently in the mail. If there is a current member college in your area of the state, the branch president may involve branch members to contact the College/ University representative on that list and begin a discussion of ways to work together to build the coalition already established. Each branch president was also given a new brochure that lists the benefits of C/U membership in AAUW and may use that as a tool for conversation about partnership activities.

If you note that a local college is not on the list referenced above, then begin to build a partnership by discussing common interests with someone on the campus. If you are in an area of NYS which has multiple branches and a wealth of colleges, be sure you check with the other branches in your area to determine which branch is contacting each college!

Does your branch have a member who teaches or works on campus? Does a member know a program chair, department chair, dean, etc.? Is there a Women’s Studies Program at the college and if so, who is the program chair? Members must understand AAUW and represent succinctly our resources and organization strengths. Do your homework on AAUW and on the college. What are the specific needs of the College/University? Consider general needs as well, such as making community relations stronger.

In your discussions, consider these options:

- * Does the College/University need to provide service learning and intern experiences? Offer options from the Emerging Leader Internship Program such as bringing student affiliates into your branch, or asking students to advise you on website development or voter education initiatives (see the AAUW website).
- * Does the College/University need to meet the needs of women who wish to return to classes? Offer a Transitions Program to document those needs and provide solutions. You can also partner with other branches in your area to set up a conference.
- * Does a faculty member need recognition of accomplishments? Research information from the Association on Achievement Awards and Emerging Scholar awards on our AAUW website and discuss those with the faculty member.
- * Does the College/University administration need a grant partner? Partner at the branch level and assist in gaining that grant for the college. Consider the benefits you have to offer.
- * Does the College/University need to meet the needs of adult female students, especially women who work and have families or are physically handicapped? Review the “Third Shift Report” about the benefits of on-line courses and begin a discussion with the appropriate contact person.

Have you considered honoring a graduating senior at a local institution of higher education by providing a membership in AAUW? Could you offer branch and state dues payments to C/U representatives to involve her/him in local activities and interests?

Each branch member has ideas to contribute to this partnership effort. Begin brainstorming in your branch to make the connection this year!

AAUW 101 (and fun!) Attendee Branches:

Albany, Alfred-Hornell, Amsterdam/Gloversville/ Johnstown, Bath, Buffalo, Elmira-Corning, Greater Rochester, Greece Area, Islip Area, Ithaca, Jamestown, Jefferson County, Mohawk Valley, New York City, North Shore, Ontario County, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, St. Lawrence County, Schenectady, Skaneateles Area, Southern NY, Staten Island, Syracuse, Westchester



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN NEW YORK STATE

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. Send all address changes to AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

Branch Action Notes

As part of the International Visitors Program, co-president Sharon Martin and members of the **Syracuse Branch** met with Open World "Women as Leaders" delegates during the first week in July. The delegates were sent to the International Center of Syracuse under the auspices of the Center for Russian Leadership Development, which is sponsored by the U.S. Congress. The international visitors are eager to learn about life in the United States and meet Americans who are interested in international relations.

The **New York City Branch** held a Woman of Achievement Luncheon at the National Arts Club during Asian-American Heritage month in May to honor United States Magistrate Judge Marilyn D. Go as its 2003 Woman of Achievement. Judge Go described her experiences as the first Chinese, and the first Asian-American woman, to be appointed a judge in a federal court on the east coast. Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney also spoke about her re-introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment in the 109th Congress. In June members of the branch met with six women leaders from Azerbaijan and Armenia touring the United States, including a Supreme Court Judge from Azerbaijan and the Head of the Department for Family, Women and Children's issues in Armenia.

Chautauqua-Westfield Branch continues its REACH program, providing encouragement to middle school girls to continue their

superior achievements in math and science.

Certificates are presented during awards ceremonies at three area schools to eighth grade girls who have achieved at least 90% in their math and science subjects.

21 girls were honored among three local districts and each school library was presented with a copy of the book, *In Code: A Mathematical Journey*, by Sarah and David Flannery.

Gloria Ghendini, **Poughkeepsie Branch**, has taken Living the Mission to new heights both on the personal as well as international level. Working with the President of the Mexican Federation of University Women, Nadima Simon Dominguez, an exchange program was created to encourage AAUW members to personally participate on an international level. Gloria spent two weeks in Mexico teaching English at a local community college. Both women firmly believe in the creation of strong bonds between women and their organizations. They are initiating this project where any one of our members can sign up to host a Mexican member for cultural or linguistic exchanges. For more information, contact Gloria at gloriaghendini@cs.com.

