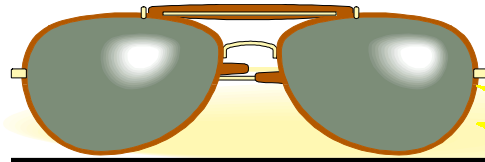




**AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN  
NEW YORK STATE**



Volume 52, Issue #4 • Summer 2003 • ISSN: 1056 3199

# FOCUS

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## “WHERE WERE YOU?”

**Evelyn M. Currie, President**  
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*President Evvie Currie (left) and Convention Director Nancy Mion.*

The AAUW NYS Convention 2003 was a wonderful event! Many thanks to the branches that sent representatives. **Fourteen branches** did not even send one representative. **Five branches** were represented only by NYS Board members. An AAUW branch is part of a larger organization called the state AAUW that is part of the national organization called the Association. The branch receives its direction from the state AAUW and the Association and is not able to act independently from those directions. Do we have branches in NYS which wish to “do their own thing” while ignoring AAUW priorities?

At the Convention, the NYS Biennial Action Priorities 2003-2005 were adopted. A resolution concerning retired NYS schoolteachers was presented and passed. District meetings were held where Nominating Team members were elected and plans for District conferences were made. Which brings me back to my original question, “**WHERE WERE YOU?**” Was it not important for your branch to participate in the decision making process?

During the 10 months I have been NYS President, I have listened to positive and negative comments from branch officers and members about dues and membership changes. When Jackie Woods, the AAUW Executive Director, was at the Convention the whole weekend to speak individually to anyone, “**WHERE WERE YOU?**” She was the person with the answers.

Jackie Woods complemented New York for being strongly supportive of the AAUW mission. She recognized us as being leaders in EF and LAF giving. She recognized that we received the 2003 Platinum Award in the 21st Century Recognition Program. She recognized the quality of our constantly updated website. Were you active in “Living the Mission” projects as part of this support, which she recognized? If not, “**WHERE WERE YOU?**”

Jackie Woods had an extremely important message for all of us: “We need to be involved and participate in the construction of the future. If we ignore each opportunity that arises to be active, the hands of those against our vision for the future may be the ones that mold it.”

**“WHERE WERE YOU?”**



**Living  
the Mission**



# Jackie Woods Shares Vision for AAUW

Jane Smith, Program V.P.  
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I know now that I will never make it as a newspaper reporter. Before the convention, the *Focus* editor asked me to write this article about the keynote speech to be given by Jackie Woods, Executive Director of AAUW. In preparation I set aside a notebook and pen, but in the excitement of the opening night of Convention, I forgot my tools. The speech started and I remembered my assignment. Fortunately, Jackie kindly gave me a copy of her speech.

Jackie Woods has a daunting job in AAUW. She oversees all three branches of AAUW—the Association, a network of over 100,000 members from more than 1300 branches, the Educational Foundation, which funds pioneering research on girls and education, community action projects and fellowships and grants for outstanding women, and the Legal Advocacy Fund that provides money and support for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education. The staff to support these activities is approximately eighty-five and the AAUW office building in Washington also holds other tenants whose welfare is Jackie's responsibility. This has been stressful in itself in post-September 11, 2001 Washington.

For me, the highlight of Jackie's speech was the ideas surrounding the cultural development that our organization has undergone and the fact that our organization is constantly growing and maturing. Present day AAUW is far different than the original and will be again different from future AAUW. All of this is because of constantly changing needs in our society and the way we opt to meet them. Jackie spoke of many of the ways that AAUW is currently meeting the needs of women and girls across the country.

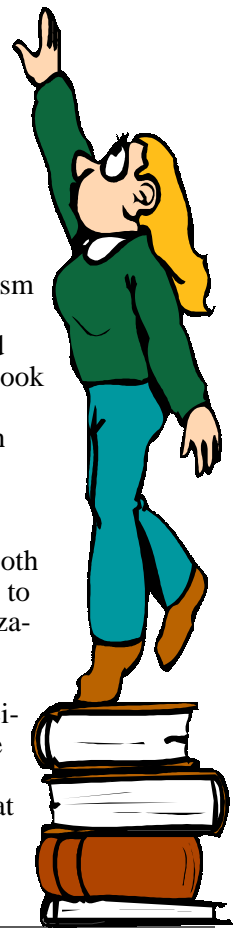
The Public Policy and Government Relations Department is often the highest priority our organization has since it is the arm we use to lobby effectively in Washington. Currently the issue of Title IX and Judicial Appointments are the focus. A Leadership and Training Institute has been formed to expand leadership development in our organization. The Educational Foundation has just completed a new report entitled "Women at Work," sharing research on how women are faring in today's economy and what their future prospects are. It is to be paired with a "Community Action Guide" that will provide strategies to address the concerns arising from the research. A Community Action Grant was given to a member from Virginia, Laura Reasoner Jones, to produce a video called "Tech Savvy Girls." It is now an award winner in the non-broadcast cable system and grants are being applied for to distribute it across the country. The Legal Advocacy Fund is adopting two new cases—one involving a medical doctor and another representing a successful college athletic coach. LAF is also funding community outreach projects such as an April 2003 program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh

called "A Balancing Act: the Future of Fairness."

To maintain the high level of professionalism and activity, AAUW has to move forward with membership projects, fundraising and physical support. The organization has to look outside its current membership to do this. Most importantly, money needs to come in from outside our members to assist in the activities our members demand.

Jackie stated: "Our vision for AAUW is both clear and comprehensive; we are on a path to be the leading equity and advocacy organization for women in the world."

It will be truly exciting to watch and participate in AAUW of the future as seen by the eyes of Director Jackie Woods. It was a privilege for me to be able to meet and chat with her later during the weekend. I hope this brief article shares some of her ideas with you. She was an inspiration.



## Living the Mission

### 21st-Century Program Awards

*Congratulations  
to the following NY branches recognized  
as 21st-Century Program achievers!*



#### **Platinum:**

**Islip Area, Ithaca, St. Lawrence County,  
Westchester County**

#### **Gold:**

**Amsterdam/Gloversville/Johnstown, Mid-Island**

#### **Bronze:**

**Greater Rochester Area**

# Action for Equity Award Winners

Janet Forbes, Initiative for Educational Equity Director  
jlforbes@hotmail.com • 716/483-3525  
78 Beech Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

Many AAUW-NYS branches submitted applications for the Action for Equity Award 2003. It is fascinating to see the wide variety of community action projects that are being implemented across the state. Our branches are truly **Living the Mission** as we collaborate within our communities to bring about positive societal change through educational equity. For more information, contact me or the branch president regarding a particular project.

## Amsterdam/Gloversville/Johnstown:

1. 4th Annual Sister-to-Sister Summit
2. Ground Hog Day Celebration
3. Scholarship Program

**Buffalo:** Transitions Conference, "Women Count: Conversations About Equity"

**Cortland:** Sister-to-Sister Summit

**Greater Rochester Area:** Women Helping Girls With Choices

**Huntington:** 6th Annual Excellence in Science Award

**Ithaca:** Transitions Conference, "Words Can Hurt Forever..."

**Jamestown:** 4th Annual Get In the Game, a celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day

**Kingston:** AAUW Ulster County Girl Scouts Community Project

**Nassau County:** The Inn Project

**North Shore:** Women in Cyberspace Conference

**Oswego:** Girls Excelling in Math and Science

**Schenectady:** First Annual Educational Equity Award

**Skaneateles:** Celebrating Women in Art

**Southern New York:** AAUW Non-Traditional Student Award

## St. Lawrence County:

1. Succeed in Sports—Lead in Life: A Discussion of Title IX
2. Four College Forum: "Improving the Campus Climate For Women Faculty and Professionals in the North Country"
3. Professional Clothing Fair

**Syracuse:** Living the Mission with the Boys and Girls Club

## Westchester County:

1. Equity in Education Hispanic Outreach Project
2. Women's History Month Essay Contest
3. Tech Savvy Girls Action Group

# LAF News

## Legal Advocacy Fund News

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

I wish everyone could have been at the NYS AAUW convention to hear Dr. Graciela Chichilnisky and her attorney, Joseph Rosenthal, at the LAF luncheon. Mr. Rosenthal discussed the legal issues of Dr. Chichilnisky's case followed by Dr. Chichilnisky herself discussing it in more personal terms. It is a horrific story. And we must remember, that unfortunately, it is not a unique story. That is why we must continue to increase our support of the Legal Advocacy Fund and its valuable work.

During Convention, we raised over \$4200 from the auction of LAF baskets and other donations. Over \$1000 was placed in the LAF cups on the luncheon tables. Thanks to all, but we still have a long way to go.

We placed fourth in the nation this year as opposed to second for 2001. We contributed \$24,457.05. Number 2, Pennsylvania, contributed \$28,682.39. Our figure for 2001 was a little over \$31,000. I also have to share with you how disappointed I am with some of our branch per capita figures. Do you know that some branches give under \$1.00 a member for LAF? This is not good news. Dr. Chichilnisky was initially awarded \$15,000 and has just been granted another \$15,000. Our 2002 contribution does not even cover her figures. Think about it!

Let's work together to exceed what we have done in the past and ensure that LAF continues to be a vital part of living the mission.

In 2002 the top ten branches in New York State for total LAF contributions were: **Islip Area, Schenectady, Ithaca, Buffalo, Westchester County, North Shore, Kingston, Mid-Island, Smithtown and Queens.**

The top ten branches in New York in per capita contributions were: **Ithaca, Islip Area, Fairport, Schenectady, Kingston, Albany, Bath, Mid-Island, Oswego and Greece.**

Living  
the Mission

# Educational Foundation News

Phyllis Anderson, *EF Vice President*

EFVPforNYSAAUW@aol.com • 631/234-2451

## Walking for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund

Early Sunday morning of the Convention in Islandia, twenty dedicated walkers trudged along the LI Greenbelt Trail. The path was steep and winding in places, with tree roots as obstacles, but all the hikers persevered. Some even went a few extra miles! They raised a total of \$1650 from their sponsors! The winners for top dollars solicited were Susan Sontup from **Mid Island** with \$365, Carolyn Lippmann from **North Shore** with \$243, and Laurie Ginnitti from **Chautauqua-Westfield** with \$185. Thanks also to everyone who registered or purchased a tote bag; you all helped support a good effort.

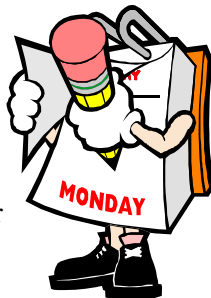


## Listening to Former Fellows

Hearing from two former fellowship recipients was a pleasure! Kristen Boon, who lives now in Ottawa and clerks for a Justice of the Canadian Supreme Court, told of her interest in international law pertaining to issues of rape and forced pregnancy. She received her law degree at NYU as an international fellow and passed the NY Bar Exam on her first attempt. Lisa Pierce, who lives in NYC, used her career development grant to obtain her masters degree in speech language pathology at Columbia. She works with preschoolers who are speech delayed and with teenagers. Because Patricia Kennedy from Islip asked her to sing for us, Lisa displayed her beautiful operatic talents with a European folk song. It was a delightful evening to celebrate the Educational Foundation's continuing impact on the lives of women and girls.

## Reporting for Calendar Year 2003

Several branches have already sent funds for 2003. The reporting year will end December 1. If your branch holds its major fund raising event in the spring, please forward original checks to me as soon as you have completed your records. Try some new method for collecting money; you might be very pleasantly surprised with your results. At Delta Lake in July we can share successful ideas with each other.



At the convention the total 2002 contributions from each branch were published. If you are interested in seeing the complete report, contact me for a copy. The top ten branches were: **Buffalo, Ithaca, Islip Area, North Shore, Smithtown Area, Westchester County, Schenectady, Queens, New York City, and Mid-Island.** The branches that met the Educational Foundation's goal for \$25 per capita were: **Ithaca, Smithtown Area, Islip Area, Oswego, Buffalo, Albany, Chautauqua-Westfield, Bath, North Shore, Queens, North Fork, Mid-Island, Ontario County, and Rockland County.** Congratulations to everyone who supported the Educational Foundation. We are Living the Mission and Making a Difference!

## Local Elections Count Too!

Jann Mirchandani, *Voter Ed Director*

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718/671-1649

While many of us are gearing up for our summer vacations, hopefully we are also thinking about November's elections. State and national races are not high on our priority list right now. But many county-wide seats are up this fall, and these elections, too, are critical. Think about your school board issues, local funding, your town library, etc.



Our Voter Education efforts go a long way toward AAUW's missions by educating the public on pivotal issues, involving women in the political process, heightening our visibility within our communities and drawing in new members. Further, it is an opportunity to develop new leaders and new leadership skills. Your branch should be thinking about what you can do to effect 'positive societal change' in your communities. There are many ways to achieve success:

- Hold public candidate forums.
- Organize phone banks to contact women and encourage them to vote.
- Use partnerships with diverse organizations to inform a broad cross-section of women on the issues at stake.

This is a great opportunity to plan a simple program with real meaning and impact. For more information on AAUW's Voter Education Campaign, including how-to materials, you can contact AAUW's Public Policy Department, 1-800-608-5286, votered@aauw.org or me.

**Vote**

# Communications Award Winners

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

Many branches took home communications awards from the AAUW-NYS Convention. The branches of New York State are promoting AAUW through their creative use of technology, the media, and through the pages of branch newsletters. New York has a dedicated and talented group of people who volunteer their time and talents to keep the rest of us informed about local, state and national issues. Thank the people who do so much to make your branch visible to the world.

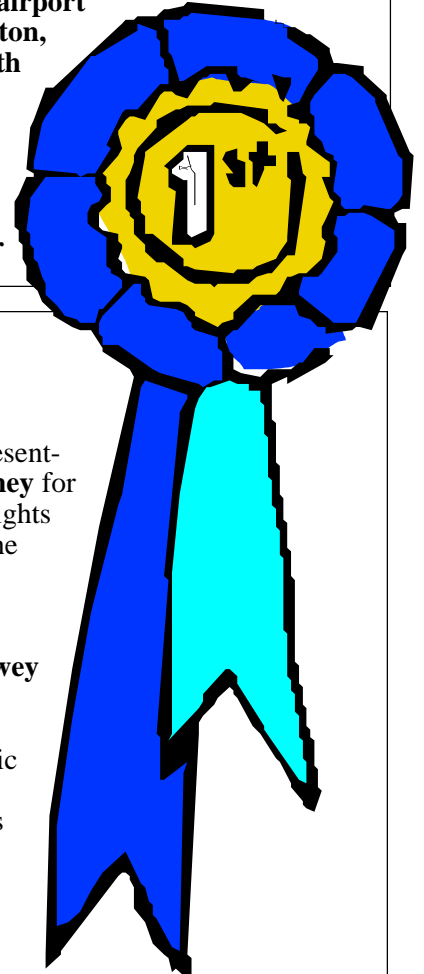
The **2003 Newsletter Awards** were awarded to branches that put the Communications Director on the regular mailing list. Awards were based on the number of points earned.

- Noteworthy Newsletters: **Alfred-Hornell, Cortland, Massapequa, Yates County**
- Newsletters of Distinction: **Chautauqua-Westfield, East Hampton, Elmira-Corning, Greater Rochester Area, Greece, Garden City, Ithaca, Jamestown, North Fork, Oswego, Saratoga Springs, Southern New York, Smithtown, Staten Island, Syracuse**

- Newsletters of Excellence: **Adirondack, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Bath, Buffalo, Jefferson County, Huntington, Islip Area, Mid-Island, Mohawk Valley, New York City, Poughkeepsie, St. Lawrence County, Schenectady, Westchester**

## 2003 Technology Awards

- 2003 Technology Recognition Awards for creating a branch webpage in 2002-03: **Alfred-Hornell, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Fairport Area, Queens, and Ithaca** for going to an independent webpage during 2002-03
- 21st Century Communications Technology Awards for sending newsletters electronically in 2002-03: **Adirondack, Alfred-Hornell, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Chautauqua-Westfield, Cortland, Fairport Area, Greece, Huntington, Jefferson County, North Shore, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, St. Lawrence County, Saratoga Springs, Southern New York, Westchester**



# Public Policy Awards

**Betsy Forkas**, *Public Policy Director*  
bforkas@earthlink.net • 518/377-6919

Awards were given to the following branches based on information in their newsletters showing interest in the area of Public Policy.

Awareness Award For Branch Education of AAUW Public Policy Issues:

**Buffalo, Chautauqua-Westfield, Bath, Corning-Elmira, Cortland, Ithaca, Skaneateles, Syracuse, Saratoga Springs, Staten Island, Massapequa Area, Mohawk Valley and Oswego**

Excellence Award For Consistent Branch Education of AAUW Public Policy Issues:

**Jamestown, Adirondack, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Poughkeepsie, Schenectady, New York City, Westchester, East Hampton, Garden City, Huntington, Islip Area, North Fork, Jefferson County, St. Lawrence County**

AAUW-NYS Legislative Certificates of Appreciation:

- New York State Assembly member **Deborah J. Glick** for providing steadfast leadership in the passage of the Women's Health & Wellness Act

- US Congressional Representative **Carolyn B. Maloney** for introducing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the 108th Congress.
- US Congressional Representative **Nita Lowey** for her commitment to educational opportunity, health care reform, public safety, environmental protection, and women's issues.
- US Congressional Representative **Carolyn McCarthy** for her commitment to education, public safety, and quality health care.
- US Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** for her work for the people of New York State, for her leadership in the US Senate, and her lifelong commitment to equality and opportunity for all.

# Membership Matters



**Jeanette Knapp**, *Membership Vice President*  
jdk4@cornell.edu 607/272-3367

## 12 Branches Share Secrets of Growing Membership

Twelve dynamic branches have more members than last year. They have successfully reversed the nationwide membership trend, which has been slowly declining for many years. Statewide branch membership is down from 4008 in 2000 to 3,526 in 2003. Many other NY branches are close to last year's total. Congratulations to the following branches for increasing their membership this year:

- Adirondack**, up 21 %
- Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown**, up 5.6 % this year, and up 33 % over the past 3 years
- Buffalo**, up 8.6 %
- Elmira-Corning**, up 19 %
- Fairport**, up 24 % (from 21 to 25; in a small branch, a few new members=big percentage jump)
- Huntington**, up 13 %
- Islip Area**, up 8 %
- Kingston**, up 13 % and up 39 % over the past 3 years
- New York City**, up 10 %
- Poughkeepsie**, up 17 % (21 additional members this year)
- St. Lawrence County**, up 12 %
- Skaneateles Area**, up 18 % (77% over the past 3 years; from 22 in 2000 to 39 this year, almost double)

Congratulations also to the **Smithtown Area** Branch, which has 88 members, the same as last year and 3 years ago. If your branch membership is stable, you are working hard to keep current members happy and to add new ones each year to replace those who have moved or no longer able to participate.

How do you go up in a down market? Many of the growing branches planned creative membership projects,

completed them, and applied for and received state membership funding. Congratulations to these membership fund recipients: **Smithtown, Poughkeepsie, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, North Shore, Albany, Huntington, Elmira-Corning, and Skaneateles**. If your branch is not one of these, it should be. AAUW New York State will reimburse your branch up to \$75 per year for any membership project including community events, branch brochures, or inviting nearby members-at-large to join your branch.

Here's what **Skaneateles** did: "Our branch set as our goal to grow to 50 members. We are almost there! We created a branch brochure and had copies available at all our programs. We started a referral program much like the one that Westchester uses. Members identified prospective members and we sent them a packet of information with a cover letter and followed up with the next month's newsletter. Finally we looked for opportunities to partner with other community organizations throughout the year including Skaneateles Central Schools, Skaneateles Community Center, and TriCounty Skaneateles Lake Association. Partnering made for stronger programs and increased our visibility in the community."

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be AAUW New York State Membership Vice President for the past four years. I wish I could say that membership has increased during my tenure, but it has not despite the best efforts of many dedicated women. All branches go up and down in membership. The energy and imagination of a branch's leaders, the number and quality of branch programs, the local economy, and AAUW's national visibility all affect membership. We may not be able to reverse the national membership trend, but in our own community each of us can do something about membership. I thank you for joining me in this endeavor.



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Send all address changes to Buffalo Postmaster, Buffalo, NY, 14240, and AAUW Records Office, 1111 16<sup>th</sup> 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  
Summer Issue deadline: August 1, 2003

**AAUW-NYS is looking for a new editor for FOCUS. If interested, please contact Donna Seymour or Evelyn Currie to find out more about the job.**

# Public Relations - Looking Outside the Box

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

As we celebrate the Association and state awards that branches took home from state convention, we need to remember that often the sweetest reward and most meaningful recognition comes from our home communities. Living the Mission means putting AAUW's ideas into practice at home, changing for the better the lives of real people in our own communities.

Two cases in point illustrate this principle. Jackie Bowman, a member of the Corning-Elmira Branch, was recognized as a "Woman of Achievement" at the Chemung County Council of Women dinner on March 17th. Jackie has served as the branch bulletin editor for over 12 years and chaired the Legal Advocacy Fund. In addition to recognition by her branch and AAUW-NYS for her dedication and work, now she has the recognition of the whole county! And this reflects well on the branch, as well.

The St. Lawrence County Branch was recognized on April 27 as a New York State local honoree in the USA WEEK-END Magazine's 12th annual *Make A Difference Day 2003*. The branch's Professional Clothing Fair represents the only AAUW-sponsored project listed among all the national projects. With 19 local honorees in the state (one for each major newspaper that includes the USA WEEK-END magazine in its Sunday edition), there's plenty of room for projects from all over AAUW-NYS.

The branch registered the project last fall through the efforts of Clothing Fair organizer and member Faye White. AAUW sponsors the professional clothing fair so county residents looking for an outfit for a job interview or for appropriate workplace clothing can garb themselves free of charge. AAUW works with 20 other local agencies and service groups to collect, sort, and distribute the clothes.

Faye says, "The national award is a thrill. It's nice to have someone from the outside recognize that it's a good project." Not only will this recognition help next fall's Clothing Fair, but it also puts AAUW on the local radar screen as a vital partner in improving the lives of North Country folks.

What local, regional, statewide or national recognition programs exist that your branch Living the Mission project might qualify for? Take advantage of non-AAUW ways to get recognition, inspire others, and meet critical needs in your area. FYI, next year's MADD is being held on (or about) Sat., October 25. Call 800-416-3824 for advice on planning your MADD event. You may not win \$10,000 in prize money, but you will Make a Difference and help live AAUW's mission!

## Big Splash for Bina Roy



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

The 2nd Annual Lapswim for Bina Roy was a huge success at the NYS AAUW Convention in Islandia. Between promises, pledges and cold hard cash, we raised more than \$2000! Jane Smith, Program Vice President, continues to dominate the pool retaining her title as "Mermaid of the Convention." Joan Monk, International Affairs Director, won the coveted "golden purse" for raising the most money.

These funds will support five new projects in the Bina Roy Partners in Development Program. Here are the names and titles of the projects:

- Nepal - "Library and Reading Room for Women & Girls"
- Russia- "Gender Projects Institute"
- Samoa- "Dictionaries Project"
- Guinea- "Improving the Working Conditions of Women Street Cleaners"
- Philippines- "NEEDS (Nutrition, Education, Entrepreneurship And Development of Skills)"

Thanks to all who participated and contributed to this event. We look forward to an even bigger splash next year for Bina Roy!

# SAVE THE DATE!

## U.N. Day

Co-sponsored by  
**AAUW-NYS & LW-NYS**

**New York City  
October 1, 2003**

# Help Wanted by the Nominating Team

Talented, energetic, enthusiastic women to head major state organization 2004-06. Requirement: AAUW membership. Openings for President, Program VP, Educational Foundation VP and Appointed Directors. To apply, for more information and/or to recommend a member for a position contact The Nominating Team listed below and/or the NYS website: [www.northnet.org/nysaauw/nominate.htm](http://www.northnet.org/nysaauw/nominate.htm)

Chair	Nancy Mion	Islip Area	631/472-9377	myown@mycidco.com
Board	Jann Mirchandani	New York City	718/671-1649	mirchman@ix.netcom.com
Board	Eleanor Filburn	Oswego	315/343-1953	eleanorr62@earthlink.net
D1	Jayne Harnisch	Buffalo	716/565-2076	jayneharn@adelphia.net
D2	Pauline Leveen	Elmira-Corning	607/733-6721	sleveen@stny.rr.com
	Janet Ulinski	Greece Area	585/227-0632	wulinski@aol.com
D3	Edwina Norton	Syracuse	315/682-7704	daddynort@aol.com
	Joyce Jowaisas	Skaneateles	315/685-3789	jowaisas@adelphia.net
D4	Mary Lou Davis	Poughkeepsie	845/223-5544	davehdavis@aol.com
D5	Maria Ellis	New York City	646/366-6617	maria.ellis@nmfn.com
D6	Patricia Haddock	North Shore	516/742-3430	grannypappa@msn.com
	Eileen Skaggs	Islip Area	631/472-2291	ejskaggs11750@hotmail.com
D7	Trudy Stacy	St. Lawrence County	315/265-8370	stacyfam@northnet.org
	Marilynn Smiley	Oswego	315/343-4803	smiley@oswego.edu

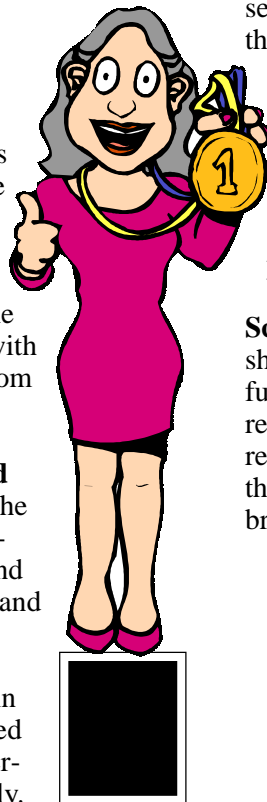
## AAUW-NYS Emerging Leader Awards

**Eleanor Filburn**, Branch Council Director  
eleanorr62@earthlink.net • 315/343-1953

This new award recognizes neophyte leaders in branches across the state. Each NYS branch may nominate one branch member, who is a first term board member/officer and who exhibits the following: enthusiasm, demonstrated potential for leadership and AAUW knowledge. Seven branches responded to the call. The descriptions of the nominees and their involvement with AAUW are outstanding. Below are a few excerpts from their nominations:

**Huntington:** As an AAUW MAL **Barbara Torstad** was already a supporter of our AAUW mission and she became a branch member and the chair of The Excellence in Science Awards program. She “took hold” and provided the necessary leadership for her committee and the branch to raise a record amount of funds.

**Islip Area:** As a new member, **Fran Close** jumped in to become recording secretary when the branch needed one. Her work is very professional. She is vitally interested in AAUW and offers help and suggestions freely.



**Mid-Island: Carol Morawski.** Carol is a retired teacher who was an MAL during her teaching years. Upon retiring, she became a branch member, has served on a committee of hostesses for two years and then became Vice-President of membership.

**Oswego: Jennifer Windsor** is a new member who has become an active member. Initially she was our recording secretary and then became our newsletter editor. She has served on several committees, and was one of three members who prepared a black history book review program.

**Schenectady: Joan Welch & Nancy Philips** have shown great enthusiasm in co-chairing the branch EF fund-raising responsibilities. Both joined fairly recently and have been meticulous, methodical and reliable in overseeing the garage sale, the garden tour, the sale of Entertainment Books and the sale of our branch calendars.

*Continued on page 10*





# Branch Action Notes

**Mohawk Valley Branch** celebrated its 90th anniversary this spring with these events: On St. Patrick's Day, member Doris Miga presented "Women in Utopian Societies" for a Women's History Month meeting in conjunction with sisters of Alpha Delta Kappa. Syracuse Branch invited us for a joint April luncheon, "International Connections Through AAUW" presented by Carol Stull, Ithaca Branch. Our installation and scholarship awards dinner on May 21 included a commemorative celebration complete with cake, honorable mention to 50-year members and past presidents, historical mementos, and anecdotal remembrances from our past

The **St. Lawrence County Branch** held a Title IX Discussion Panel titled: "Succeed in Sports - Lead in Life." They invited college athletic directors, a student athlete, a girls' hockey coach (and sports business owner), and a radio sports director to discuss how Title IX had impacted sports, opened opportunities for women, and the impact of the federal Title IX Commission's recommendations.

The **Jamestown Branch** celebrated National Girls and Women in Sports Day with our fourth annual "Get In The Game" event on March 22, 2003. One hundred thirty-five girls in grades 4 through 6 spent the day at Jamestown Community College rotating through 8 interactive sports stations where they experienced a wide variety of sports including rugby, kayaking, wall climbing, basketball, track, golf, and self-defense. The branch celebrated Women's History Month by selecting its 22nd honoree to the Circle of Distinction. Rev. Dr. Ruby Elinor Hare, the second woman so honored during her lifetime, established the Women's Advocacy Ministry in New York City to assist women incarcerated on Riker's Island. She has now retired to her home community where she continues her prison advocacy work in Chautauqua County.

**Adirondack Branch** sponsored a Women's History Essay contest for 5th grade students in the school districts surrounding Glens Falls. Over 100 essays were submitted; six winners were selected to read their essays and receive a "Certificate of Excellence" at a branch meeting in April. Nan Scinta chaired the project, networking with the library Folklife Center and a local storyteller.

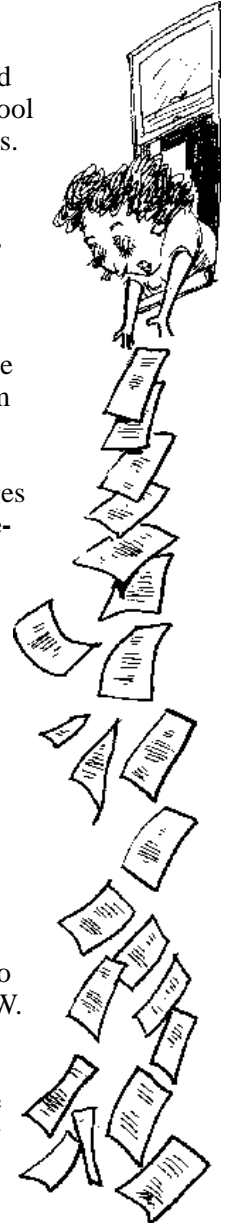
The **Kingston Branch** Book Club has been collecting used paperback books in good condition, which are then donated to women (22 so far) in the local Ulster County jail. A second load of books is being donated to the Prison for Women at Beacon in Dutchess County, a minimum-security prison that has a device for inspecting hard cover books for security. This enables us to donate both hard and soft cover books.

**Huntington Branch** participates in the Harborfields CSD Industry Advisory Board that includes members of business, the school staff, parents, and community organizations. As part of its mission to implement, refine and sustain a cohesive, meaningful career development process for all students K-12, the board held a "Just for Juniors Career Cafe" this spring. Students selected career areas and were given passports to move to different tables to meet with people in those career areas. The students gave the program rave reviews.

Keeping in mind that the AAUW encourages girls' education, **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch** launched its Fourth Annual Sister-to-Sister Summit on April 12, 2003. Approximately 100 middle school girls and adults from 11 area school districts attended this event with great pleasure. To encourage girls in science and math fields, the branch is instituting awards for the top math and science girls in the area 8th grades.

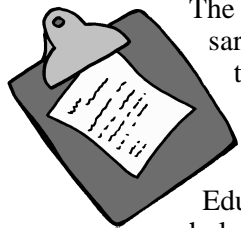
The Community Reading Partnership in Canandaigua, NY has unveiled a new little red bookshelf, stocked with gently used books people can borrow or keep, thanks to the **Ontario County Branch** of the AAUW. AAUW members Joan Geise and Dianne Eagle are keeping the shelves stocked with books to appeal to all ages. In addition, the Ontario Branch recently gave \$500 to their coalition partner to help them fund a paid director.

**Islip Area** members gained visibility as they networked with collaborators and presenters of the Blueprint for Gender Equity in Education: Building a World of Tolerance, Opportunity and Respect on March 26 at SUNY Stony Brook. Working with The Long Island Agenda for Women and Girls at registration and as room assistants offers the opportunity to hear respected professional women speak about creating a gender fair and multi-culturally equitable environment. We wore our AAUW pins and had a display of branch activities.



Living   
the Mission

## Branch Action Notes



The theme of **Bath Branch's** 50th anniversary event on May 10th was "A Celebration of Women." Members and friends were given an opportunity to honor a significant woman in their lives and make a donation in her name to the Educational Foundation Fund for college scholarships. Personal stories of the honored

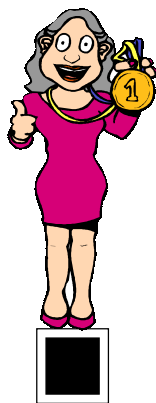
women as well as of remembrances from the history of the Branch were shared. NYS President, Evvie Currie, spoke about "Living the Mission," relating it to important women in her life. Charter members Helen Jane Bartron, Joyce Benesh, and Barbara Stewart were honored.

Linda Beyer, a member of the **Poughkeepsie Branch**, created a local International Friendship program to help foreign women meet people and practice the English language. AAUW members act as partners to help them obtain driver's licenses, find a doctor, find activities for their young children and make new friends. The women are often very lonely since they are left alone while their husbands work long hours. Some members have taken the families to the library in their community, invited them to bring their children to play with their own children or grandchildren, or asked them to attend a special function. The project has been very successful and will be continued next year.

## Emerging Leader Awards

(Continued from page 8)

**Smithtown:** Carolann Miller, while being only a two-year member, has proven to be an active and enthusiastic addition to AAUW. In addition to her position as co-editor of our newsletter, she coordinated ticket sales for our fashion show and was in charge of collecting the tour money for the NYS Convention.



**Westchester:** Still in her first year, Nancy Pura has taken on the Treasurer's duties with aplomb. She has improved the financial reporting dramatically and thus has improved the branch's ability to handle its finances responsibly. Nancy has enthusiastically embraced AAUW's mission.

Our congratulations to these exemplary new leaders. They are a wonderful addition to their branches and our state AAUW.

## AAUW 101 (and FUN!)



Have you had the desire to try camping again with friends? Do you want to learn more about the AAUW Mission and how you can help make it come alive in NYS? Are you ready for exchanging ideas you have with other AAUW members? Are you ready to get to know the AAUW NYS Board members better?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Delta Lake July 11-13 is the "in" place for you to be. We start with a picnic on the point of the lake, introduce ourselves and get acquainted Friday night. Saturday we learn about using the "Mission" in Program planning; finding and retaining members; incorporating diversity in everything we do; and the "how-to" of using technology in your Branch. We end the day with a hayride, and a sing-a-long as we sit around a great campfire and toast marshmallows to make S'mores. Sunday is a surprise!

We hope to have 1 or 2 members from each branch join the Board for this relaxing weekend. Your branch president has the details. Call her right now and get your reservation in today! If she can't help you, email or call Evvie, 518/399-3711 or [emcurrie@earthlink.net](mailto:emcurrie@earthlink.net) WE NEED YOU!

## Connect With Your Local College

**Eileen Hartmann**, College/University Director  
[telcali@aol.com](mailto:telcali@aol.com) 585/924-4876

In order to capture the attention of the president and faculty, July, August and September may be an advantageous times to revisit partnership options between colleges in your area with branches in NYS. You may be in the process of setting your 2003-04 branch program calendar and want to consider contacting the colleges to organize a program on campus, make plans to invite college personnel and students to become more involved in your branch, or begin a discourse about common concerns. If you need information immediately please contact me by phone or e-mail to obtain pertinent partnership materials and the names of the campus representatives you may wish to meet. In July I will provide updated lists of NYS college/university members to each 2003-04 branch president and include materials that may enhance branch and college communications.

# AAUW New York State Board: July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

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## UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

*July 11-13, 2003 - AAUW 101 (and FUN!)*

**District Conferences-** page 12

*Oct. 1, 2003 – U.N. Day, New York City*

*Oct. 4, 2003 - National Women's  
Hall of Fame Induction, Seneca Falls*

AAUW-NYS 2004  
*Convention*

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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 16<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

## Fall District Conferences Coming Your Way

Mark your calendar to reserve the date to meet with AAUW members from branches in your area. The theme will be "Sharing the Mission" with branches exchanging ideas and how-to's for their action projects.

	Date	Host Branch	Location
<b>D1</b>	Oct. 11	Chautauqua-Westfield	YWCA of Westfield
<b>D2</b>	Oct. 18	Yates County	TBA
<b>D3</b>	Nov. 1	Southern New York	Binghamton
<b>D4</b>	Oct. 25	Albany	Sage College
<b>D5</b>	Sept. 13	Rockland County	TBA
<b>D6</b>	Nov. 1	Long Island Interbranch	St. Joseph's College
<b>D7</b>	Sept. 20	All Branch Responsibility	TBA

Come to AAUW-NYS  
 Summer Camp!



**2003 Delta Lake AAUW 101 (and FUN!)**

**July 11-13, 2003**

**(Registration deadline - June 30)**

*No boating, no swimming, no fishing, no arts & crafts.*

But you will get S' mores, a campfire, and the opportunity to meet & work with the entire AAUW-NYS Board to plan our Living the Mission agenda for 2003-04.

Open to two members from every branch. Information & applications from Camp Director Evvie Currie:

518/399-3711

[emcurrie@earthlink.net](mailto:emcurrie@earthlink.net)