

F O C U S

WINTER 2005 • VOLUME #54 • ISSUE #2 • ISSN: 1056 3199



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

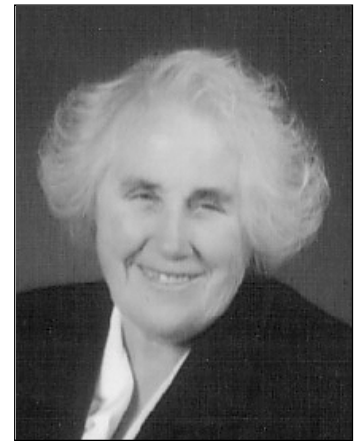
*Happy
New
Year!*

In This Issue:

- Let Education Shine..... p. 2
- Funds, Fellows and Fun!.. p. 2
- Membership Matters..... p. 2
- LAF: Campus Outreach.... p. 3
- Convention to Celebrate.. p. 3
- Spring Keynote, N. Rustad.. p. 4
- Spring Convention Info.... p. 4
- Why Come to Convention?.. p. 5
- Convention Gala EF Fellow.. p. 5
- Branch Action Notes..... p. 6
- Did You Know?..... p. 7
- UN Briefings..... p. 7
- Emerging Leader Award... p. 8

Moving into the Future

Nancy Mion, AAUW-NYS President
myown220@aol.com
631/472-9377



Thinking about being a member of AAUW is enough to brighten a dreary winter day. We are the leading spokespersons for women in America. We care about issues that affect women, children and families. We are concerned with our communities. We work for equity. We fund our Educational Foundation that gives American and International Fellowships to women for advanced study. We contribute to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund that is involved in Gender Equity Projects. We give to the Legal Advocacy Fund that provides support for women in higher education who have been the victims of sex discrimination. All this and so much more constitute this wonderful AAUW of which we are all proud.

“Sharing the Vision” of AAUW with likeminded people can help our numbers grow. You are AAUW NYS’s best proponent. You believe in our Mission. Working together we can continue to move AAUW NYS into the future. Useful AAUW NYS information can be found on our excellent new website aauw-nys.org.

AAUW President Nancy Rustad, a central location, an exciting Resort Golf and Casino Complex, informative workshops, awards, enlightening speakers and panelists make the 2005 “Sharing the Vision” NYS Convention a must on your AAUW list of things to do.

As you know, AAUW Executive Director Jackie Woods has resigned for medical reasons. Pat Nichols has been chosen to assume the responsibilities of interim executive director and to complete an organizational assessment. A permanent officer should be hired before the June 2005 Convention.

We belong to a national organization that makes a difference in women’s lives. Let us keep AAUW strong.

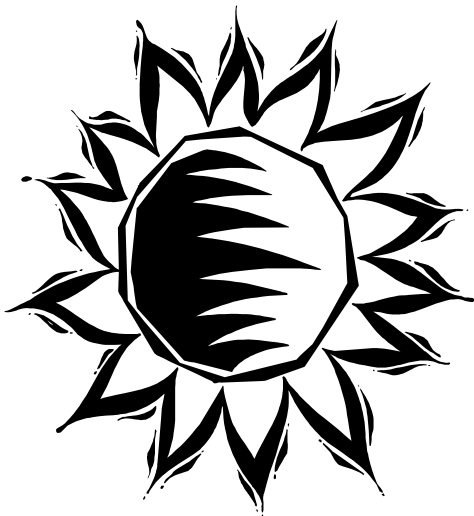
**Sharing
the Vision**



LET EDUCATION SHINE

Erna Cunningham,
AAUW-NYS Diversity Director
631/585-088
rcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us

Promoting education is the cornerstone of AAUW. When working with specific cultures, be sure to understand their individual problems. Two years ago, *USA TODAY* in "Hispanic Dropout Numbers Soar in the Last Decade" reported that approximately 34% of Hispanic residents aged 16-19 were not high school graduates. This high dropout rate was partly due to the overall increase in the immigrant Hispanic population of the 1990s when few were college-bound. But college-bound seniors of Hispanic descent scored promising gains around the nation, as reported in "Hispanic Scores Climb" in the September 1, 2004 issue of *NEWSDAY*. Nevertheless, an achievement gap still exists between white and Asian students in contrast with black and Hispanic students. Reach out to minority students in particular by mentoring, working in partnership with youth groups, and hosting essay contests.



FUNDS, FELLOWS, AND FUN!

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

For the school year 2004-05, there will be at least 13 Fellows or Grant Recipients studying at universities in New York State. Each winner has been chosen for her academic excellence. The list of current fellows will be available on the aauw.org website where every member can access it. If a fellow were located at your alma mater or near your present location, she would appreciate a personal contact of congratulations. A paper directory will no longer be available. One copy was sent to each branch in past years, but now the information can be shared by any interested reader.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund has provided resources for teachers who promote gender equity. In July, every branch received copies of three books: *Hostile Hallways*, *Harassment-Free Hallways*, and *Tech Savvy*. Ask your EF chair to borrow them. The packet included a video on *Tech-Savvy Girls* and a resource guide. Each of us can do a little to promote equity in our local schools by asking at a school board meeting about policies and procedures. Just offering the books to a library or board member is better than letting them sit in your file cabinet!

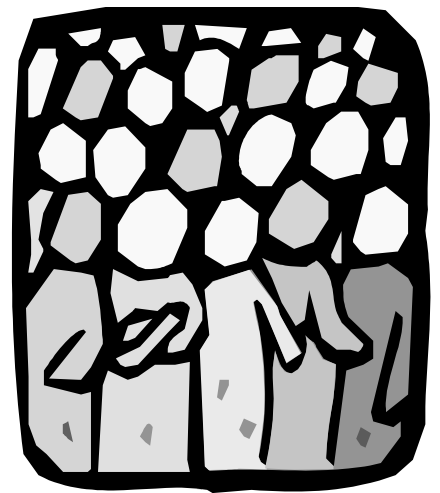
In order for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund to continue publishing such materials, we need to bolster the fund. At Convention we sponsor a walk, an opportunity for you to stretch your muscles for a good cause. We welcome walkers, but you can help by writing a check to support a walker. Or, just write a check for the pleasure of not getting up at 6 a.m. Sunday morning to walk! If every branch had one "walker" who invited donations, our success would be remarkable! Get involved in a way that makes you part of Living the Mission and Sharing the Vision!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Diane Silvestro,
AAUW-NYS Membership Vice President
716/631-3349
belvoir6@hotmail.com

Previously I wrote of the need for working members to publicize AAUW programs/events in the workplace. I sincerely hope this has been done and adopted as an ongoing outreach. More than 100 years ago, Marion Talbot founded this organization because college graduates were being denied employment on the basis of gender. Today, women only earn about 63% of what men earn for doing the same job. So is it in your best interests to bring in more working women? You bet!

Every member of AAUW has an obligation to ensure the future of his/her branch and to keep it healthy for future generations as those before us did for us. We've seen how easy it is to wipe out years of progress for women. All of us have children, grandchildren, nieces, and friends who will need AAUW to advocate for them. Equity for women and girls has been progressing, but how fast? You have an obligation to bring in fresh minds and hands to continue the work of AAUW.



Evvie Currie



LAF Giving Circle

Proactive Campus Outreach in New York State

Susan Sontup, AAUW-NYS Legal Advocacy Fund Vice President
516/679-6274 tresswann@yahoo.com

Greetings! I hope this finds you and all you hold dear well, happy, and anticipating good things in the year ahead. We are nearing the close of our Evvie Currie Campus Outreach Giving Circle. All funds for this circle must be received by **March 30, 2005**. We will announce the total at convention. The monies we raise through this circle will be spent proactively in New York State for campus outreach to address issues of sexual harassment and discrimination. To participate, simply indicate that your contribution is for this circle. Let us lead the nation in showing how New York supports equity and positive societal change.

I'll look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Convention. Once again, we will be awarding LAF pins to anyone who contributes \$100 or more at the Convention. This year I will bring more pins based on the overwhelming response we had last year – 22!

Remember LAF pins can also be awarded to anyone, including members of your community who make a contribution to AAUW.

The Association has released a new report – *Tenure Denied*. Read about it on the AAUW website. We have to share our vision of equity, positive societal change and lifelong education.

Convention to Celebrate the Creative Spirit

Deborah Poplasky, AAUW-NYS Cultural Interests Director
585/394-6244 puppetpop@aol.com

At the 2005 state convention, we would like to showcase the creativity of our membership. I need your help to develop and design an exhibit which gives a view of the breadth of our interests as creative women.

I envision an exhibit of artwork and craft, “flatwork” and sculpture, hanging and sitting, all conceivable media. But we are writers, designers, musicians, and more. Let's display books, articles, poetry, and other creative writing. We also have the option to plug in a performance time. So who might be interested in performing live or contributing CDs to

play during the exhibit hours?

Since nothing is yet written in stone, I long for suggestions, input, and questions that can help put form to this idea. I have already started to plan the displays and logistics themselves.

So e-mail me. A sense of participation (numbers and volume) and a bank of ideas are our first needs. Be sure to write something in the subject line that will encourage me to open mail from unknown senders!

AAUW NYS CONVENTION 2005 Oneida Indian Nation Tour

Arriving earlier on Friday? Take this optional tour.

See the Cultural Center and Community
Buildings built by the Nation.

Speak with Oneida Indian Nation members.

For details see your branch Convention packet or webpage: www.aauw-nys.org

CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER: AAUW PRESIDENT AND MEMBER ISSUES INNOVATOR



Nancy Rustad, president of the American Association of University Women will present the keynote address, "Thinking Forward, Envisioning the AAUW of the Future" at the 2005 NYS Convention on April 15. Rustad previously served as AAUW membership vice president and has worked on a variety of Association and cross-corporate committees. Nancy served as president of Minnesota AAUW after holding numerous state and branch positions. She belongs to two AAUW Minnesota branches: the St. Croix Valley Branch in her

community and the AAUW at 3M Center Branch in her workplace, a branch she started ten years ago.

A longtime activist for women and girls, Rustad enjoys bringing people together and making things happen. She initiated and led a variety of collaborative efforts in Minnesota and served on a number of community and professional boards. She currently chairs the Biomedical Engineering Department Advisory Committee at the University of Iowa.

Professionally, Rustad manages the Advanced Wound Care Lab in the Medical Division at 3M. She holds a master's degree in pharmacology and a bachelor's degree in zoology/chemistry.

Betty Harrel, AAUW-NYS
Convention Director
845/462-2141
bharrel128@juno.com

If you're going to the convention, be prepared to:

- ☺ participate in a Convention for ALL AAUW members
- ☺ have the opportunity to find out what is happening in AAUW, talk with the NYS leaders, and gain a broader understanding of AAUW
- ☺ join with like-minded people exchanging ideas at a beautiful resort with 3 golf courses, 2 indoor pools, and spectacular views of Central New York
- ☺ become informed, stimulated, energized, and ready to be part of "Sharing the Vision"
- ☺ learn what branches across the state are doing to "Share the Vision" and "promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change"
- ☺ take part in workshops related both to AAUW issues and personal development.

AAUW NYS CONVENTION 2005 "Sharing the Vision"

April 15-17, 2005 • Turning Stone Resort • Verona, New York

Information, Hotel & Convention Registration Forms available: Online at www.aauw-nys.org.

Questions or to order mailed copies contact: Diane Haney 516/248-0476 or haneydhd@yahoo.com

Convention Registration forms will **not** appear in the spring 2005 FOCUS. You may obtain them online or order them from Diane Haney as listed above.

The hotel package includes two nights' lodging, six meals, welcome reception, and breaks. The cost per person is \$295 Double, \$243 Triple, and \$452 Single.



4th Annual IFUW Bina Roy Lap Swim at the 2005 AAUW-NYS Convention April 15-17, 2005

Support the Bina Roy Swim with a suggested donation of \$1.00 per lap. Chart your own laps in the pool. All proceeds go to the IFUW Bina Roy Fund. "Mermaid of the Convention Award" goes to winner of the most laps and "Golden Purse Award" to the most dollars raised.

To register, contact Joan Monk at 914/245-7704 or ftmaven@bestweb.net
Remember, you've got to be in it to win it, so get in the swim and lap it up!

Why Come to the 2005 Convention?

Diane Haney. AAUW-NYS Program Director
516/248-0475 haneydhd@yahoo.com

"This [Convention 2004] was perfect! Excellent workshops, speeches, friends, food, ambience."

We will be

learning more about the crucial issues for ALL AAUW members from our national President Nancy Rustad with a chance for YOU to ask her questions;

promoting better relationships across generations with former state president Pat Hogeboom as she shows us practical ideas that can be used at once in our homes and communities;

considering the challenges facing all organizations through a discussion led by Poughkeepsie Branch President Peggy Kelland who will discuss the work of Robert Putnam (author of *Bowling Alone*);

increasing diverse understandings with a member of the Oneida Indian Nation who will discuss life, culture and current issues;

exploring issues beyond our shores with IFUW UN representative, Catherine Moore, AAUW UN representative, Carolyn Donovan,

and our moderator, State International Affairs Director Joan Monk;

making history with our brand new NYS State Historians Marilyn Smiley and Helen Engel, in "Remember When? Preserving Branch Records" as they tell about our last ten years and the secrets of gathering your branch history;

enjoying new chances for members to meet one another as requested by branch members, including the Friday night "Meet the Candidates" social hour with the Strolling Strings, the Saturday evening cultural event, and a Sunday morning "Topical Breakfast" with others whom share your interests;

meeting and chatting with the LAF litigant and the EF fellow;

questioning the candidates at the social hour before the installation dinner on Saturday;

celebrating women artists of all kinds, especially AAUW artists, at a Saturday evening social event where strolling, looking, and mingling will be among the options;

gathering successful ideas from other branches at the Sunday morning session, "Celebrate AAUW!";

walking, swimming, talking, eating and generally **sharing** a wonderful time!

And more — watch your local newsletters as we confirm sessions in the works. We pledge to make Convention 2005 "Sharing the Vision" even better than the last one!

EF Fellow Rebecca Jo Safran to Address April 16 Convention Gala

This year's EF dinner will feature Rebecca Jo Safran of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University, where she recently completed her Ph.D with the help of an EF Fellowship she was awarded for Academic Excellence.

Passionate about conservation and learning about the natural world, Safran enjoys teaching in a variety of educational settings, from working with undergraduate students interested in independent research to coaching high school girls handling wild birds for the first time. As a biologist, she has studied bird conservation and behavior for 14 years, including avian populations in the central valley of California, northwestern Nevada, and throughout New York and Connecticut.

Safran's dissertation research offered a new perspective for examining a fundamental question in the study of animal social behavior: why is there so much variation in the sizes of groups in which social animals live? She will discuss her research on barn swallows and its implication for understanding patterns of group living in other species.

Plan to attend this stimulating and informative event. See how our contributions are encouraging women to share the vision.

AAUW NYS CONVENTION 2005 LAF BASKET SILENT AUCTION

Each branch may bring 3 baskets
Branches receive credit for bids.
Winners receive credit for donations.

Shop, bid and support LAF



CONVENTION EF WALK

Sunday, April 17
at 6:30 a.m.

Tote Bags for participants/Awards

For details see Convention packet
or webpage: www.aauw-nys.org

ELEANOR
ROOSEVELT
FUND



Sharing the Vision

IN BRANCH ACTION

The diversity theme connected the Fall Programs of **Islip Area Branch**. Catherine Moore, President of North Shore Branch, presented a lively report of the IFUW Conference in Berth, Australia at our September meeting. Joining forces with NAACP for October's "Get Out The Vote Campaign" was a satisfying venture. The active participation of members in the workshop "Recruiting the Branch Members of Tomorrow" sparked new energy in November.

The **Greater Rochester Area Branch**'s focus this year is on collaboration with other groups that share a similar mission. We sponsored a "Night of One Thousand Dinners" in conjunction with the Rochester Area United Nations. The proceeds from this dinner will be used to eradicate land mines. With the League of Women Voters we supported a voter registration campaign and hosted a salon about legalized gambling in Rochester. Also, we are working with the "Women United" component of the United Way of Rochester. We held a Women's Networking Breakfast in September for the area women's organizations to discuss collaboration, deciding that this would be an annual event coordinated by GRAB/AAUW.

The **Schenectady Branch** kicked off its programming year in September with an informative presen-

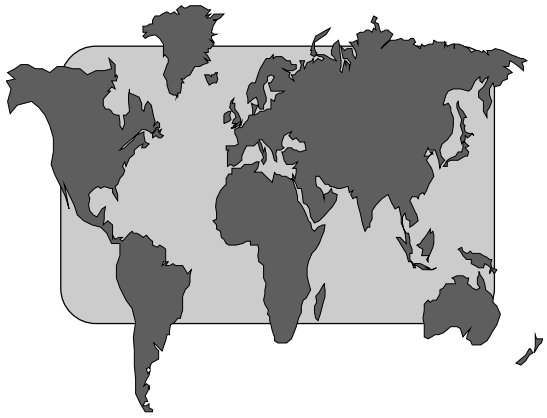
tation on Botswana. Speaker Anita Paul recounted her yearlong experience working there as a community liaison for the American Embassy. Her outreach included teaching quilting and sewing to village women in this country with a stable, democratic government making education a priority. Our Children's Plays committee received grants from the Stewart Foundation and The Schenectady County Initiative Program to assist in keeping student ticket prices affordable. This year, at least 1000 school children will have the opportunity to see "Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping" in live professional theater. The efforts of Toni Walsh and Helen MacDonald help make this program successful. Teachers in our area bring their students every year to watch performances guaranteed to be positive experiences for all.

Syracuse Branch celebrated a 115th Anniversary Party June 19 in Edwina Norton's garage due to the windy weather. Guests included Past President Evvie Currie, two scholarship recipients, including one who brought her latest artifact finds from a local archeological dig, and members from nearby branches. All seemed to enjoy Dinosaur Barbecue foods, cake and ice cream, a champagne toast, memories, and fellowship. Nancy Clausen "flagged" a women's history of their active and growing branch with a mission and vision.

CONVENTION 2005 IS COMING: INVITE A STUDENT OR MORE...

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

Students currently enrolled in New York State colleges and universities are the future spark which will keep AAUW glowing. I encourage you to contact colleges and universities close to your branches to invite young or not-so-young women to join your branch as student affiliates. Learn from each other and build upon the student connection. You can activate this plan now! If you need help, e-mail or phone me.



Briefings at the United Nations

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

In coalition with the League of Women Voters and other organizations, AAUW sponsored "Briefings on the Status of the Environment Around the World" at the United Nations on October 5, 2004. Attendees heard from President of the LWV Marcia Merrins, United Nations Environment Program Information Officer Jim Sniffin, June Zietlin from Women's Environment and Development Organization, and LWV Observer to the UN Patty Day.

Merrins, using Easter Island as a metaphor for what is happening to the planet, told how natural resources are sacrificed all over the globe. Sniffin spoke about six major crisis areas on the planet: food, water, energy, climate, biodiversity, and pollution. He added a seventh concern: human population size. Lawyer and women's advocate Zeilin contributed clear gender perspectives and expertise of international women issues. Day, co-chair of the subcommittee on Older Women, also shared her insights.

The discussion ended with ways to become involved in the UN and to create commitment to global issues. YOU can attend briefings and conferences! Visit www.lwvny.org for more information.

Did You Know?

Helen Engel and Marilyn Smiley, AAUW-NYS Historians
315/343-9678 & 315/342-4803
rengel@oswego.edu & smiley@oswego.edu

1920

The New York State Division was organized in 1920. Representatives were present from the following branches: Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Ithaca, and Oswego. Mrs. Frederick Bates, Ithaca, was elected the first president of the New York State Division of ACA (Association of College Alumnae). In 1921 ACA became part of the American Association of University Women and the NYS Division automatically became part of the new organization.

1924

President: Mrs. Frederick Bates, Ithaca Committee chairmen (sic); included: Educational Legislation, Women In Public Positions, Recognition of Colleges The annual two day meeting was held in Binghamton, October 28-29, 1924. Dr. Aurelia Reinhardt, President of Mills College and National President of AAUW spoke to an audience of 135 at the banquet.

Questions for You from Your NYS Historians

- Where are your branch records?
- Does your branch have a branch history?

Committee on Teaching about the United Nations Conference

"A World Out of Balance:
Searching for Answers through
Education and the United Nations"
Friday, February 4, 2005
UN Headquarters in NYC

Topics will include child trafficking, terrorism, migration, child labor, economic and social conflicts, and use/misuse of the media.

www.teachun.org/2005Conf.html

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., Williamsville, NY 14221. The subscription rate of \$4 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, Betty Preble, 6935 East Quaker Street, Orchard Park, NY, 14127, 716/662-0608, e-mail betty6935@adelphia.net.

Summer Issue Deadline: January 8, 2005
Fall Issue Deadline: August 1, 2005



FOCUS (USPS-390-570)
Winter 2005
ISSN: 1056 3199
 www.aauw-nys.org
 www.aauw.org

PERIODICALS
 POSTAGE PAID at
 Buffalo, NY 14240
 USPS-390-570

**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, DC 20036

**NYS Task Force for
 Tobacco-Free
 Women and Girls**

NYS Smoker's Quitline:
 1-866-NY-Quits (1-866-679-8487)
 or visit www.nysmokefree.com



**AAUW-NYS Emerging
 Leader Award
 Applications
 Due February 1, 2005**

Linda Suchocki,
AAUW-NYS District Director
 716/823-4154 suchocki207@cs.com

AAUW NYS would like to recognize one Emerging Leader from each AAUW branch at the NYS Convention in 2005. We are inviting each branch to nominate one member only. The nominee should have been an AAUW member for less than 3 years, and demonstrated leadership potential through her enthusiasm, creative ideas, and commitment to AAUW's mission.

Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2005, and mailed to me at 207 Fenton Street, Buffalo, NY 14206.

The application may be downloaded in Word or PDF format through the District Council page of the AAUW NYS website at: www.aauw-nys.org. For questions, please call or email me as above.

Save the dates!

**AAUW-NYS
 Summer
 Leadership
 Conference**

**2005 Delta Lake
 AAUW 101 (and FUN!)
 July 15-17, 2005***
 (Registration deadline - June 27)

This is your opportunity to meet and work with the entire AAUW-NYS Board to plan our Sharing the Vision agenda for 2005-06.

***All 2005 Fall District Conference dates should be chosen before this Camp convenes.**

