



S  
U  
C  
O  
F

SPRING 2006 • VOLUME #55 • ISSUE #3 • ISSN: 1056 3199



# Sharing the Vision



## The Spring Spirit of Mission

Nancy Mion, AAUW-NYS President  
631/472-9377 [myown220@aol.com](mailto:myown220@aol.com)



Spring lightens our spirits. We see the promise of growth everywhere. For 125 years we, the members of AAUW, have nurtured the women's movement. You and I and all who came before us have carried the spirit of our Mission onward. We continue to believe in lifelong education and positive societal change, including the betterment of women's lives. We reach out with words and actions bringing the impact of our Mission to our worlds.

Spending time with like-minded people, developing lasting friendships and participating in activities brings us closer together. **We are an organization with a Mission. We have a destiny to fulfill. We must always keep that in sight.**

Advocacy is a way of promoting the causes in which we believe. It takes various forms. Come to the NYS Convention and learn more about AAUW issues and advocacy. Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, will be there to give us knowledgeable insight. Looking on the AAUW website [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and subscribing to AAUW's online publications, *Washington Update* and the *AAUW Action Network* can also provide valuable information to use in Moving our Mission Forward.

With these tools you can make a difference. We can effect change through the elective and legislative process. Let your elected officials know how you feel about vital AAUW issues. Encourage and support branch programming that incorporates our Mission. Contribute to the Legal Advocacy Fund and the Educational Foundation who further our Goals. Involve yourself in the reality of AAUW. You will be glad you did.

The Association is continuing to ask members for their input in "Forecast for the Future of AAUW". Step one was the Every Member Poll you completed. Step two is engaging in a brief AAUW Values Discussion in your branch this spring. What you think and do are significant. You are AAUW.

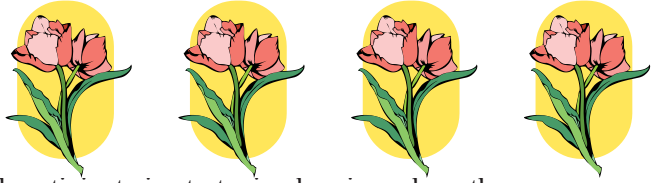
**\* Come to Convention!**

In This Programming Issue:	
Spring Into Planning .....	p. 2
* Register NOW! .....	p. 2
EF on the Calendar.....	p. 2
LAF & Basket Guidelines.....	p. 3
Designing An IA Agenda .....	p. 3
Nominating Team Report.....	p. 4
Convention Conversations .....	p. 5
Every Vote Counts on PP .....	p. 6
Historians' Developments.....	p. 6
Membership Sudoku .....	p. 6
Breaking Barriers .....	p. 7
Branch Action .....	p. 7
Harassment-Free Campus .....	p. 8

---

# Spring Into Planning

**Diane Haney**, *NYS Vice President Program*  
516/248-0476 [haneydhd@yahoo.com](mailto:haneydhd@yahoo.com)



Being on the state board has given me the chance to observe and participate in strategic planning where the group determines the goals and strategies that will best serve the state.

The experience has convinced me that the planning process must get beyond the board at all levels. Many new ideas come from outside the board. Smaller branches may lack the woman power to follow all of the demands for chairs, especially the program-membership-diversity-equity-public policy-college/university-cultural interests-communications-LAF-EF-Bina Roy-international relations-historic initiatives we at the state level suggest. Branches must focus and multi-task. Turning a fund-raising event into a simultaneous diversity event is more likely to occur in a general planning meeting than with a small group. That's how I found myself the Equity chair for North Shore Branch this year.

Branches must feel free to select their focus creatively, to choose the initiatives that fit them, to invent their own solutions and to go their own way under the AAUW umbrella, always honoring our AAUW mission.

In addition, we must get out into the community or die. It is hard to get members if people do not know who you are and what you stand for. That is the role of community outreach that clearly shows AAUW values (not just another organization that we volunteer for) and that frankly makes a splash.

So as the planning season commences, I urge you to devote one spring event to the state of your branch with everyone not only invited but urged to attend, and to plan at least one event next year that reaches into the community. If you are uneasy about how to accomplish it, call Nancy, or me, or any other state officer. That's what we are for.

---

## EF On The Calendar

**Phyllis Anderson**, *AAUW-NYS Educational Foundation Vice President*  
631/234-2451 [EFVFPforNYSAAUW@aol.com](mailto:EFVFPforNYSAAUW@aol.com)

The CALENDAR has an important position in my kitchen, and in my life. If anything needs to be done, it has to be placed into one of those boxes! The word itself used to be a noun, but now it can also be a verb, as in, "I'll calendar it for next Tuesday."

We need to think of the Educational Foundation as a part of the calendar. Since 1998, the fiscal AAUW year and the calendar year are the same. I suggest that each Branch look seriously at its planning calendar.

Between January and June many events are sponsored. Surely you can figure out how to have an EF fundraiser in six months. The proceeds of even a small effort should be forwarded to the Foundation, putting your branch on a solid footing for the fiscal year. In 2005, only Adirondack, East Hampton, and Massapequa, (7% of the NYS branches) achieved that admirable distinction. Another 44 % forwarded individual donations, many from participants in the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Walk at Convention. By June, 51% of our Branches had registered some support for the Foundation. That meant that 49% of our branches started their fall programs without a commitment to the Foundation, and some of them even missed the Dec. 1 deadline.

Each of us is a volunteer, and we must pool our talents and resources. If you have a good idea for a fundraiser (remember that FUN is essential), talk it up with some friends and get it started. Come to the convention and get ideas for this year's initiative. Saratoga Springs will be great! Put it on your calendar for April 28-30. The Automobile Club of NY featured the town in its January *Car & Travel* magazine. The Victorian charm, mineral springs, and racetrack sound enticing. Our EF Walk will be held on Saturday, late afternoon, giving you an opportunity to see the center of town while you get exercise and raise funds for a worthy cause. Start now to collect checks from family and friends who will be happy to help you. Fill out the registration form in the Convention Packet. Put your branch on the EF Calendar for 2006.

**AAUW-NYS CONVENTION 2006**  
April 28-30, 2006 [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)  
Gideon Putnam Spa/Resort, Saratoga Springs  
**Registrations by March 28, 2006**  
Margaret Nijhuis 845/635-8612 or  
[RNijhuis@hvc.rr.com](mailto:RNijhuis@hvc.rr.com)

---

# Legal Advocacy Fund Update

**Cheryl Papa, AAUW-NYS LAF Vice President**  
607/748-6075 [cbpapa528@yahoo.com](mailto:cbpapa528@yahoo.com)

Our LAF contribution total is \$29,308.98. That is an increase of 9%. I happily wish to thank each and every one of you that made this possible!

I hope to see all of you at the convention this year. I am always inspired by listening to the litigant speak at the LAF luncheon. We will continue that tradition, and also the awarding of 2006 LAF pins to those contributing \$100.00 or more at the convention. The highest number was 22. Let's see if we can beat that!

The Basket Silent Auction is an enjoyable way to raise the much-needed money for LAF. Please plan to bring 1 to 3 baskets, wrapped in clear plastic (not colored or figured). In adherence to the 2006 Guidelines, **DO NOT WRITE AN APPROXIMATE VALUE OR A MINIMUM BID ON THE 4 x 6 CARD**, but only the title, contents, and name of the contributing branch. **Monday, April 24**, is the deadline to notify me of the number of baskets to be contributed by the branch. All baskets must be in the display area by 5 p.m. Friday, April 28. Bidding begins 5 p.m. Friday and ends 10 p.m. Saturday. Winners will be announced at 8:15 a.m. at Sunday Breakfast. Please bring a check, written to **AAUW LAF**, if you plan to bid. Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**WONDERFUL NEWS:** The **Evvie Currie Giving Circle** raised \$10,000. The Campus Outreach program, which this money funds, shows colleges and universities ways to address and prevent sex discrimination, providing action steps toward creating a more equitable campus climate. The first recipient(s) awarded from this money will be announced at convention. Because this mission so important, I am proud to announce its reinstatement for 2006. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

---

# Designing An International Affairs Agenda

**Joan Monk, AAUW-NYS International Affairs Director**  
914/245-7704 [ftmaven@bestweb.net](mailto:ftmaven@bestweb.net)

There are multitudes of issues that affect women in local communities and all over the world. Keep international affairs on the agenda. Be creative in planning events. Look for successful ideas at the convention. Try these simple suggestions:

- Volunteer to be the International Affairs Chair in your branch. Visit the NYS and Association websites to get informed.
- Find a coalition partner in your community common thread that you can weave into in thought, word and deed.
- Focus on one of the United Nation's branch outreach. Form a committee and branch and your community. Visit [www.information.org](http://www.information.org).
- Design an annual fundraising campaign for Bina Roy. Consider UNICEF or International Women's Day as part of your calendar.
- Start a "Great Decisions" Study Group in your branch. Get excited about big ideas and then take action. For more information contact Foreign Policy Association, 470 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016-6819 or visit [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org).



and develop a relationship. Begin a dialog to find a program/project. Be sure to support each other

Millennium Development Goals as part of your investigate how to bring this forward in your [www.org/millenniumgoals.index.asp](http://www.org/millenniumgoals.index.asp) for more

---

# Nominating Team Report

**Erna Cunningham, AAUW-NYS Nominating Team Chair**

631/585-0868 [rcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:rcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us)

The Nominating Team is proud to present the following members as qualified to stand for election to office in AAUW-NYS for 2006-2008.

## **Diane Haney, President**



Diane, a North Shore Branch member, earned a BA at Albion College and an MA at Northwestern University. She spent most of her youth in Ohio and Michigan but lived her married life in Colorado, Illinois, and New York. As a junior high school teacher for 20 plus years she also supervised student teachers. Her major volunteer commitments included Planned Parenthood and as an Ombudsman in a nursing home.

Diane has been an active AAUW member originating in Colorado. Offices held in AAUW during the last five years are: NYS Program Vice President 2004-2006, District VI Coordinator 2002-2004, and North Shore Branch President 2000-2002. Pat Hogeboom, AAUW-NYS past president states, "Diane believes in thinking creatively to develop ways to make our organization more visible and to sharpen our focus to achieve the mission of the state level while meeting the needs of the local branches."

## **Jane Pfeiffer Smith, President**



Jane, a Bath Branch member, earned a BS at Seton Hill College and an MS at SUNY Buffalo. She has been a leader in the Bath Branch for 30 years. Holding many offices in Rotary has been another of her commitments. After a few years of teaching and raising a family, Jane turned to business ventures. She just started her own luncheon catering business in Bath. AAUW offices held in the past five years are: 2005-2006 NYS District II Coordinator, 2002-2004 Program Vice President, 2001-2002 Public Policy Director, and 2000-2001 Voter Education Director. In 2004 Jane presented the New York State "Living the Mission" workshop to the AAUW Nevada Convention. Jane was one of the drafters of the AAUW-NYS Women's Economic Equity resolution that passed at the AAUW-NYS 2005 Convention. Susan

Hearty, AAUW-NYS LAF past director, states, "Her breadth of experience in AAUW means she knows all of the jobs that need to be done."

## **Susan Hearty, Program Vice President**



Susan, a Mid-Island member, earned a BA from Johns Hopkins University where she was considered a "pioneer" since she was a member of one of the first co-ed classes.

She joined AAUW as a MAL but later held a variety of positions in the New York City Branch. There she created programs to attract members under 40.

Susan has been a technical training specialist in the financial services industry. Currently she is a consultant, developing online learning and writing marketing brochures. She is a volunteer with New York Women's agenda. Offices held in AAUW during the last five years are: NYC Branch President 1999-2002, NYS Nominating Committee 2002, National Nominating Committee 2004-2005, NYS LAF Director 2002-2003, NYS Vice President 2003-2005, and Mid Island Branch LAF Director 2005-2006. Wanda Lancaster, AAUW-NYS College/University Director, describes Susan: "I was impressed by her enthusiasm, professionalism, and passion for LAF work."

## **Jann Mirchandani, Program Vice President**



Jann earned a BA at SUNY Buffalo. She has been with Westchester Branch for two years, after being a New York City Branch member for ten years. She started her career in marketing at several large asset management companies. Seven years ago she



launched her own Mirchandani Graphic and Web Design firm. Her volunteerism in the community has largely been with the Big Sister/Big Brother program. Offices held in AAUW during the last five years include: NYS Task Force for the Future 2002, NYS Nominating Chair 2003, NYS Voter Education Director 2002-2006, NYC/Westchester Branches' Expanding Your Horizon Co-Chair 2005, and NYS Website Designer 2004-2005. Betty Preble, NYS Communications Director endorses Jann in these terms, "Working with Jann has been an absolute joy - she is creative, organized and efficient. She has always been able to find the time to help when it is needed."

**Tamara Brown,  
Education Foundation  
Vice President**



Tamara, a Buffalo Branch member, earned a BS at Vanderbilt University and an MS at SUNY at Buffalo. She also earned Small Business Management Certification from the Wehle School of Business.

She has had strong community volunteering commitments, holding offices with the Girl Scout Council, the Explore and More Children's Museum and the Praxair Visiting Scientist Program (industry/school partnership).

As a scientist/business manager she has taken fiscal responsibility skills to her AAUW EF Buffalo office. She has obtained grants for programs with college-bound students. Offices held in AAUW during the last five years are Buffalo Branch President 2005-present, District I Coordinator 2004-2006, and Buffalo EF Vice President 2002-2004. Janet Forbes, AAUW-NYS past Initiative for Educational Equity Director describes Tamara in these terms: "She spearheaded our 2005 District I Fall Conference and did an impressive job of coordinating the planning and implementation."



---

## **A Conversation with Women in Higher Education**

**Eileen S. Hartmann, NYS VP Membership**  
585/924-4876 [telcali@aol.com](mailto:telcali@aol.com)

On Saturday at the AAUW-NYS convention, just prior to the LAF luncheon, join us to observe a discussion among women higher education administrators to learn about provocative issues in their careers.

Conversationalists will discuss changes they have noted in higher education administration as their careers progressed, issues which they see as needing resolution, benefits of their positions, challenges at each promotion, mentors who were critical, and advice they would pass along to others wishing to climb the academic administration ladder. They will also reveal inherent abilities they possess which have benefited them in their career goals and propose how others may find value in their own abilities.

Listen and learn from these guest conversationalists: **Patrice Jenkins**, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, Columbia Greene Community College in Hudson, **Mary Palamar**, newly Retired Chairperson of the Education Department and Professor Emeritus, Nazareth College of Rochester, **Gail Rogers Rice**, President, North Country Community College, Saranac Lake, and **Carol Richardson**, Miller Professor and Vice Dean, College of Applied Science and Technology, Rochester Institute of Technology.

At the NYS convention in 2005 we heard recommendations for partnerships with college students. As we continue to form alliances with colleges the conversations for 2006 will assist us in understanding current campus environments. Expand your knowledge of college life as you observe these outstanding women administrators in mutual exchange. (See more at [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org).)

---

# Every Vote Counts On Public Policy Programming

Jann Mirchandani, AAUW-NYS Voter Education/Assistant Public Policy Director

914/245-8568 [jannmirch@optonline.net](mailto:jannmirch@optonline.net)

Regardless of the weather as I write and you read this, my intention is to draw your attention to the late spring and early summer when most branches begin preparing their calendars for next year.

I encourage you to plan something for Voter Education in the fall and build on the tremendous work done this year. Every vote counts as is evidenced by several elections recently. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Westchester County Legislator, lost her bid to become a NYS senator by only 18 votes. The Irvington mayoral race ended in a tie with subsequent legal wrangling reminiscent of recent presidential elections. Our efforts to Get Out The Vote really do make a difference. To paraphrase a local retailer, "An educated voter is our best democratic asset."

But let's not give up on Voter Education after November. Incorporate Public Policy programming into your calendar throughout the year. One simple idea is to invite your elected officials to your branch meetings to give a brief status report on current issues important to your community. This will keep your members informed as well as increase AAUW's visibility within the larger community. Don't forget to send out a news release to the local media and invite the public!

We must continue our work to Get Out the Vote and educate our communities and ourselves on issues of importance to us. We must remain "ever vigilant."

---

## Membership Sudoku

Eileen S. Hartmann,

AAUW-NYS VP Membership

585/924-4876 [telcali@aol.com](mailto:telcali@aol.com)

Sudoku! It's the puzzle rage. To do the game you have to fill in the numbers.

AAUW membership growth is about each of you filling in the numbers, too. We have 43 active branches with 2994 branch members and 2400 Members-at-Large in NYS. AAUW is preparing to celebrate 125 years of seeking equity for women and girls while incorporating a rich, action-filled agenda. Those are important numbers.

Our goal is to grow and glow! Find the piece of the puzzle that brings in members to your branch. Perhaps focus on younger members who can benefit from your expertise. You can all learn about more tools for campus recruitment at the upcoming state convention.

The most important numbers you can fill in: the ones that grow the branches, the mission of AAUW, and the future of the organization.

It's math. It's logic.

Everyone can fill in the numbers.

AAUW! It's the rage.



---

## Latest Developments

Helen Engel and Marilyn Smiley,

AAUW-NYS Historians

315/343-9678 & 315/342-4803

[rengel@oswego.edu](mailto:rengel@oswego.edu) & [smiley@oswego.edu](mailto:smiley@oswego.edu)

Share branch ideas with scrapbook pages from 2005-2006. Participate in the state scrapbook project display at the Convention. Highlight your branch activities and accomplishments for all to enjoy. Support and help the members who are creating these pages. Make sure your branch is represented. Check with your president for guidelines.

In addition to visual history through scrapbooks and the written word, another means of preservation is through oral histories. AAUW-NYS is initiating an oral history project. Your branch president and historian have already received information and guidelines. They need your help and cooperation.

**FOCUS (USPS-390-570)**, a quarterly newsletter, is published for the New York State Division of the American Association of University Women by Printing, 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, DC 20036.

Questions and articles should be addressed to the Communications Director, Betty Preble, 6935 East Quaker Street, Orchard Park, NY, 716/662-0608, e-mail [betty6935@adelphia.net](mailto:betty6935@adelphia.net)

Summer Issue Deadline: May 1, 2006

Fall Issue Deadline: August 1, 2006



## Branch Action Notes



### Sharing the Vision In Programming

When AAUW-NYS President Mion asked branches to help out devastated libraries in Louisiana following the wake of hurricane Katrina, **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch** designated a library to receive our contributions. Branch member Cathy Jennings organized collections of new and nearly new books. The local Fort Plain public library helped out and many members donated. For our annual Christmas Brunch we requested new children's books and a raffle was held that netted \$165. In November, a \$150 check was presented by one of our members. Marie Wojeski's Gloversville Middle School Environmental Club had held a bake sale and placed canisters around the school to collect funds. What a marvelous example she set by involving local students to help with our project. Our branch was able to send several cartons of books and a significant monetary donation to our adopted library in Louisiana. We also built a community network of caring people.

Lauren Fiorentino, a member of the **Garden City Branch** of AAUW, produced the television show, *A World Out of Balance*, about the CTAUN Conference in February 2005. It aired on Queens Public TV to a daily audience of 200,000 to 300,000 families. Lauren received an award at the United Nations on February 3, 2006.

The issues set forth in the CTAUN Conference were discussed on the television show. Jane Cox talked about the fear of physical mutilation as a means of control and child soldiers. Marilyn Kerr spoke about the effects of trafficking on women and children worldwide. Carolyn Donovan, AAUW's representative to the UN, stated that knowledge of these atrocities would put international pressure on governments to increase the protection of their citizens.

**Poughkeepsie Branch** is continuing to "Share the Vision" in programming and fundraising events. In October, a concert with dessert sales netted \$600 for our "Leading to Reading" program for Beacon Even Start school libraries. Manna Jo Greene spoke on local environmental issues in November, identified a framework for individual action, and led a lively discussion follow up. In December professional storyteller Jack Maquire brought to life both the famous American nature writer and friend of Teddy Roosevelt John Burroughs and his writings on the joy of birds and their role in the environmental scheme. Members and guests experienced his love of nature through an interactive theatrical evening capped with special Christmas desserts furnished by AAUW members. On January 28<sup>th</sup> at our Woman of the Year Luncheon, Clara Lou Gould, Mayor of Beacon, NY, was honored.

---

## African American Women Breaking Barriers

Erna Cunningham, AAUW-NYS Diversity Director

631/585-0868 [rcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:rcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us)



Stephanie Y. Evans, assistant professor of African American Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Florida, focused her research on black women's educational and intellectual history, 1850-1955. Although at least 250 American colleges were established before the Civil War, only a few were open to black or women students. By a stroke of luck, Professor Evans' research found the first black woman member to be inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society in 1899 at Middlebury College in Vermont. It makes sense that Mary Annette Anderson would have this opportunity since Vermont was the first state to prohibit slavery in its constitution. After graduation Anderson taught at Straight College in New Orleans and Howard University in Washington, DC. Finding heroes of this kind is a special treasure that might be a subject for the Peacock Award. The essay contest for fourth and fifth graders to find special women of prominence is always educational and enjoyable. It is an activity every branch can do. *-The Key Reporter, Winter 2005*



**FOCUS (USPS-390-570)**  
**Spring 2006**  
**ISSN: 1056 3199**  
 www.aauw.org  
 www.aauw-nys.org  
 "Shop AAUW" - <http://aauw.tranguard.com>

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

## Building A Harassment-Free Campus

**Wanda R. Lancaster, AAUW-NYS College/University Director**  
 315/642-5717 [wlancast@ywcny.rr.com](mailto:wlancast@ywcny.rr.com)

Exciting things are happening in AAUW-NYS. As part of the new theme, "Education is the Gateway to Women's Economic Security", the Association has started the "Building A Harassment-Free Campus" initiative, the first of Campus Action Projects. What a great College/University Connection!

Of the 44 college applicants nationwide, I am proud to report that two New York State Colleges were selected in this process. During Spring 2006, each campus team will receive a grant of up to \$5,000 and technical assistance from the national office to implement a campus-based program addressing sexual harassment in one of five areas of activity. The New York colleges are as follows:

**Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY: SBU Campus United Against Harassment.**

**Campus Dialog**-fostering dialogue on campus through a forum, panel discussion, workshop, or other initiative.

**Alfred University, Alfred, NY: Sexual Harassment Campus Action Project.**

**Examining Student Experiences**-implementing the survey instrument used for the national research on campus sexual harassment.

The "Building a Harassment-Free Campus" initiative supports a newly released AAUW Educational Foundation research study and expands upon AAUW's prior research and expertise in education and sexual harassment.

**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](http://www.nysmokefree.com)