

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Diane Haney, AAUW-NYS president
president@aauw-nys.org ~ 516/248-0476

We had a deluge of good ideas and growth at the summer leadership conference. We have new issues to work on at both the state and national levels. We're looking forward to grand success in the coming membership year. All I can say is, best wishes for more success for us all!

At the Association convention, serious changes were made to the way AAUW will operate in the future. With a decline in membership from 200,000 to less than 100,000; impending loss of membership in the International Federation of University Women; and questions about the future role of the Leadership and Training Institute and national conventions, AAUW has shown that it is ready to accept major changes in how we do business in order to assure that we do have a future.

We voted unanimously to create a single 501(c)(3) organization, with a vestigial 501(c)(4) to produce voter's guides and for lobbying. (The numbers refer to provisions in the IRS code.) We created an interim board of directors, passed a resolution to have new by-laws presented at the next convention, and passed "one member, one vote" which will allow decisions to be made between conventions.

Delegates to the convention were told: "If we do not make these changes, AAUW will die now. If we vote these changes and do not follow through, we will die slowly. If we make changes throughout the organization, we have a future." That means change at the state and branch levels as well. A challenge for us all is to continue to ask of each of our activities: Does this support the mission? Is it a reason to join AAUW? Is it a reason to continue my AAUW membership?

Congratulations to the **Greater Rochester Area Branch** which received a grant from the Harry Chapin Foundation for its Women Helping Girls (WHG) program. Working with girls at risk, WHG has had a 100% high school graduation rate for the last three years and 75% of the girls have gone on to college.

Michele Wetherald, the Association's executive director, will be leaving her post by the end of the year when a new executive director will be appointed. If you have questions, email me.

Remember to please support your branch president (or another branch member) in expanding the scope of awareness beyond your branch! Many members are given pause by the expense of attending a state or national convention, yet it is of the utmost importance that all branches be represented, so that all views are heard, decisions truly represent the majority opinion, and all branches are kept informed.

While planning your next year's branch budget, please consider supporting convention attendance in some way. Some branches have an account large enough to support all of their president's expenses and then share any money left over among all members attending. Some branches may be able to offer only partial support to a single member or two. Perhaps attendees could cut costs by carpooling or otherwise traveling together. Whatever your branch does, please find some way to support convention attendance. The programs are superb, and the decisions made will have profound effects on our future. It does no good to complain later if you haven't spoken up right from the start.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR CONVENTION 2008

by Jann Mirchandani, AAUW NYS program vice president and Cathy O'Leary, convention director

Make sure to mark your calendars now for the AAUW New York State Convention in Coopers-

town on **April 28-30, 2008.**

Workshop topics we are working on include: public policy, website development for the non-tech member, leadership development, Educational Foundation, "A League Of Their Own", visibility, and storytelling as a means to action.

We hope that the wonderful location with its rich history, including the Baseball Hall of Fame, will encourage members to bring the family for a won

(Continued on page 2.)

2008 CONVENTION (Continued from page 1.)

derful weekend. We are hoping to locate an area nanny service for members with children so that a lack of childcare does not prohibit anyone from attending.

We hope to see you there.

MAKING WAVES WITH MEMBERSHIP

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS membership vice president, TELCali@aol.com, 585/924-4876



Ripples. Imagine being part of a ripple effect. You are the center of the circle and can create significant movement. You make the wave.

This is the vision you should have of being part of an effort to grow the membership of AAUW, an

organization that can change the world for women and girls. Your excitement about being a member of AAUW can make a difference in the future through building membership numbers.

How can you, as a single member, create the ripples? Simply ask the question: **Will you join AAUW?**

You may ask that question of women and men who qualify for membership by holding at least an associates degree and you may ask that question of student affiliates and of those who support our mission and choose to be Members-at-Large. However and wherever you ask that question, you will gain recognition for bringing in new members.

You may participate in the second year of our **Keys to the Future: Every Member Get A Member** campaign which began June 16, 2007, and runs through June 15, 2008. The details are available through your branch membership vice president or through me or by accessing the www.aauw.org website. There are incentives for participating. Awards are available for each of you as individuals, as branches, and as a member of a thriving New York State AAUW.

Our state AAUW made waves of membership growth in our 125th year and we can do even better this year.

Honor our legacy. Embrace our future. Make a wave. Be the center of growth. Ask the question: **Will you join AAUW?** Imagine the possibilities of the ripple effect.

Let's grow!



FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCES 2007

by Mary Lou Davis, NYS district director,
davehdavis@aol.com ~ 845/223-5544

The AAUW districts throughout New York State are currently planning their Fall Conferences. The following information is what is available at this time. Please contact your district coordinator for further information for your branch members and encourage your members to attend.

- **DISTRICT 1** — Saturday, October 13

Topics: **Vote 18 , Navigating the AAUW website**

Contact: Elaine Damsteegt, 716/483-0858,

gordnlane@madbbs.com

or district coordinator Pamela Westman,

(716) 366-5154, pmwestman@yahoo.com

- **DISTRICT 2** — Saturday, October 27

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Topic: **Continuing the International Connection**

Contact: Mary Palamar, 585/671-6868,

mpalamar@rochester.rr.com

- **DISTRICT 3**

Contact: Suzanne Conmy, 607/ 785-1540,

bookworm119@stny.rr.com

- **DISTRICT 4** — Saturday, October 20

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Topics: **Women in Iraq, Women and Others as Peacemakers, Equity for Women, Vote 18**

Contact: Clare Decker, 518/668-3327,

cdecker39@gmail.com

- **DISTRICT 5** — Saturday, October 13

Topic: **Equity in Action**

Contact: Maria Ellis, 973/216-418,

mellis@opm32.hbs.edu

- **DISTRICT 6** — Saturday, October 20

Location: St. Joseph's College, Patchogue

Topics: **What Every Woman Wants— Equity, Beyond the Pay Gap**

Cost: \$25

Contact: Catherine Moore, 516/466-0975,

mooremce@aol.com

Reservations: Norma Plett, 80 Strathmore Road,

Manhasset, NY 11030

- **DISTRICT 7**

Contact: Lynn Schwabenthal, 315/773-4993,

lschwabenthal@msn.com

PROGRAMMING IS EVERYONE'S GAME

by Jann Mirchandani, AAUW NYS program vice president, jannmirch@optonline.net ~ 914/245-8568

You know what drives me crazy? The mess in my kids' rooms. There are games strewn about and I'm still not sure there aren't trolls under my daughter's bed.

Now, I could clean both rooms myself in less than 30 minutes, but then I would be consigned to being the cleaning lady for all time.

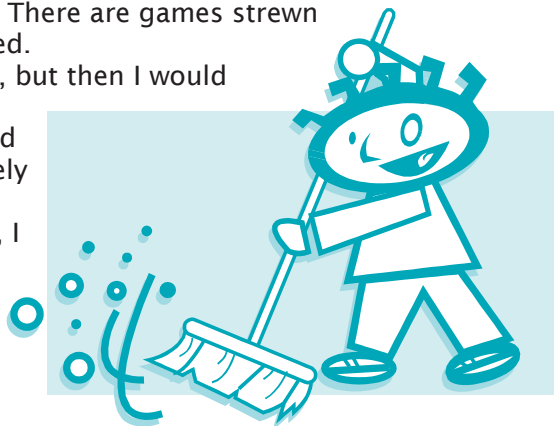
So while it takes longer to get the kids to do it themselves, and the frequent chorus of "That's not mine!" can deaden nerves, ultimately we are all better off for it. The kids learn how to take care of their things and organize themselves. And with any luck, in 10 years or so, I won't have to keep after them anymore.

What does this have to do with programming? It's all in the approach. Many of us can make a few phone calls and line up a great speaker for a meeting and feel confident that we're going to have a good program. However, we — current leaders and new members alike — need to think long-term.

If you are already involved in programming, what are you doing to include others? It takes a bit of extra effort to reach out and it won't work all the time. If done consistently, however, you will have a deeper talent pool from which to draw, which benefits, well, everyone.

Newer members — think about how you might like to lend your skills to programming efforts. As you read your branch newsletter, what programs interest you? As you read your local newspaper, what action are you moved to take? You may need to attend several programming or planning meetings to find your niche, but the end result is worth it.

When all members join the game, AAUW becomes a stronger, more vibrant and powerful force for change.



LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

by Mildred DeWitt, AAUW-NYS LAF vice president, laf@aauw-nys.org, 570/465-2866

Berkeley Labor Law Journal

AAUW was mentioned in the most recent issue of the *Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law*, a publication from the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley.

"Standing in the Gap: A Profile of Employment Discrimination Plaintiffs," follows the stories of discrimination plaintiffs, including that of Vickie Dugan, a former AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund-supported plaintiff.

AAUW is mentioned as one of the few organizations that provide aid and support to victims of employment discrimination. For more information, visit the "newsroom" section of the AAUW national website.

Case Highlight

Case:

Chichilnisky v. Columbia University (NY) (adopted in November of 2002)

Key Case Issues:

Pay inequity, retaliation for complaining about pay inequity, and breach of settlement agreement in violation of New York State laws.

Many of you will remember Professor Chichilnisky who spoke to us at an AAUW NYS Convention several years ago. The litigation has been ongoing since 2002. A full report of this case can be viewed at www.aauw.org/laf. Our continued support of these litigants is vital as they carry on for all of us at much personal, emotional and financial cost.

Donate to LAF today

Send your fully tax-deductible donation to AAUW, Planetarium Station, PO Box 390, New York, NY, 10024-0390. Make your check payable to "AAUW LAF". Any contribution of \$100 or more entitles you to a 2007 LAF Donor Pin. You may designate your contribution for the Professor Chichilnisky litigation by indicating this in the memo line.

YOUR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: EDUCATION AND EQUITY AT EVERY LIFE STAGE

by Tamara Brown, AAUW NYS EF vice president, TBforAAUWNYS@cs.com ~ 716 / 649-9871

A Healthy Start (Part 1 of 4)

Destination: Equity. It is the mirage-like ideal that we all envision, an embodiment of the Educational Foundation (EF). However, along the way to that destination, the road can be arduous, and one of the most compelling facets of EF is its breadth. EF touches every stage of life -- from girlhood to retirement. Over this year, join me on a journey as we explore the role our Foundation plays at critically important milestones of life.

We all know that reaching the desired destination is largely a function of how we get started. Together, we begin our journey in autumn, a season, quite appropriately, identified with change.

Take a look at your local paper, national newscast, or web blog. Did you see national AAUW President Ruth Sweetser's letter to the editor of *The New York Times* last year in response to a previous letter "Let the Guys Win One"? Just last month in *The Buffalo News*, the headline proclaimed: "As students and leaders, females are increasingly pulling ahead of males."

All the buzz is *girls versus boys*. Have strides for equitable education for girls happened at the expense of boys? Will the pendulum swing to the detriment of girls? Moreover, does the discussion itself create tension in the learning environment? Are classrooms becoming increasingly hostile places where no one wins?

The 2001 EF report, *Beyond the "Gender Wars": A Conversation about Girls, Boys, and Education*, provides insight. Drawing on input from scholars and the experiences of both girls and boys, this report explores how we define equitable education in the 21st century. It challenges us to consider whether our metrics -- and strategies -- need to change. It's one example of our Foundation's efforts put to work in order to promote a healthy start for girls' socialization and education.

How can I promote a healthy start?

Research such as *Gender Wars* is only made possible through your financial support. This fall, your branch EF chair will be continuing her appeal for branch and individual contributions. Find your way to answer her call. Last year, because of your commitment, New York State ranked ninth in the nation for total EF giving. Your support this year is helping to continue our state's strong tradition of giving and puts our mission into action!

What else can I do?

Start a dialogue on what equitable education means in your community. Host a community forum and invite teachers and other stakeholders -- men and women -- to join the conversation. Help your local schools perform the *AAUW Tech Check*, or find another gap in your community and build alliances to bridge that gap.

Best wishes as you begin this year. May you find ways to embrace the change needed within your branch and local area in order to create a healthy, equitable start for students in your community, our state, and -- ultimately -- the nation!

Next stop: College



CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR NYS AAUW OFFICES

The NYS nominating committee is seeking candidates for the 2008-10 biennium. The offices to be filled are: president, program vice president, and Educational Foundation vice president.

Position qualifications, as well as application forms and instructions, can be found on the state website, www.aauw-nys.org. The **deadline is October 15**.

If you are interested in any of the positions or have suggestions for candidates, please contact one of the committee's NYS board representatives: **Betty Preble**, **Mary Lou Davis**, or **Joan Monk**. You can also email nominating@aauw-nys.org.



BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

The **Oswego Branch** provided assistance for two students from SUNY Oswego to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders this summer.

The two who attended are co-directors of the Women's Center on campus, so they have already demonstrated leadership skills which can be further honed. The college paid their registration fees and the branch provided \$100 each for incidental expenses.

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders is a partnership of the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute as well as the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA).

IT HAPPENED IN PHOENIX

By Linda Haigh Tozier, Middle Atlantic Region (MAR) director, toz31@yahoo.com, 412/369-5770



In June, delegates to the AAUW 2007 Convention in Phoenix unanimously approved by-laws changes that restructure the organization from two corporations into one. This restructuring will be effective July 1, 2009. Transitional boards for the Association and the Educational Foundation (EF) were elected for 2007 - 2009. The 2009-2011 AAUW board of directors will total 17. The elected officers will be: a president, a vice president, and seven directors-at-large. The appointed officers will be: six more directors (three must be members and three may be external to AAUW), plus a finance vice president (who must be an AAUW member), and a secretary.

The convention voting body also approved electronic voting by all members between Association conventions. The procedure for selecting members of the Association nominating committee was also changed. It will match the procedure used by other Association and Foundation committees. Beginning in 2009, members interested in serving on the national level can submit their *vitae* to the newly restructured AAUW.

The 2008 Conference of State Leaders will not be held in Washington, DC, due to cost constraints. In its place, regional conferences held during June 2008 will offer leadership training to ALL branch members in many regional locations. Some of this training will be provided via teleconferencing. These regional leadership conferences will replace our traditional biannual spring MAR Conference. Details will be developed by an Association task force headed by **Patricia Ho** of the program development committee. Please continue to check the AAUW website and the bi-monthly electronic *EdEqChange* for updates on the conferences and other reorganization news.

Congratulations to New York State AAUW for attaining the Platinum 21st Century recognition for 2006-2007. Additionally, NYS garnered awards for both Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and EF contributions. NYS was second in total LAF contributions and seventh in per capita contributions. **Islip Area Branch** was sixth nationally in total LAF contributions. NYS was ninth in total contributions to the Foundation, with the **Buffalo, Inc. Branch** ninth in total EF contributions. **New York State is to be commended for its outstanding fundraising contributions for 2006!**

AAUW New Jersey has extended an invitation to join its virtual branch, <http://www.NJonline.org>. Any MAR member can join for free in this first year. Details are available from AAUW NJ President **Virginia Lyttle** (lyttlevirginia@yahoo.com).

And finally, thanks for electing me to serve as your MAR director until 2009. I look forward to another wonderful two years.

INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS

by Peggy Kelland, NYS international affairs director, smkell45@aol.com ~ 845/297-0507

Ninety-eight survey forms were returned at the state convention and by mail. Our members were interested in: first, education for women and girls; second, women's health and human trafficking; and third, political and reproductive rights for women. They would like NYS/AAUW to inform them on the issues and to share ideas for programming among the branches.

AAUW is one of only four national women's organizations selected as a "Connecting Working Women to International Development" grantee of **One Shared World**, a new national campaign funded by the United States Agency for International Development to help raise awareness of America's global development assistance efforts.



One Shared World seeks to engage American working women in thinking about and supporting the many public and private efforts that help people in developing countries live better, healthier, and more productive lives.

Although AAUW is withdrawing from formal membership in the International Federation of University Women at the end of 2007 due to inability to come to an agreement on financial support, our members are still encouraged to support the **Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme** or the **Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund** through fundraising projects and/or individual contributions. The **Kingston Branch** has already donated \$1,000 to Bina Roy for 2007-2008.

We also have long supported the United Nations through the Committee for Teaching about the United Nations and branch projects for UNICEF.

SAVE THE DATE and plan to attend:
"Briefings on the Effects of War on Women Around the World" at the United Nations in New York City on **November 28**, organized by the League of Women Voters and co-sponsored by NYS/AAUW.

DIVERSITY

by Joyce Brown, AAUW NYS diversity director,
passamyport@yahoo.com ~ 845/352-3275

Attendees at the 2007 AAUW national convention had the pleasure of meeting Greg Mortenson, author of the book *Three Cups of Tea*. It is the story of Mortenson's experiences while building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Reading the book is a mind-boggling experience.

In essence, Mortenson's school-building efforts are among the most effective humanitarian projects for making connections with, and gaining the acceptance of, the people of these countries. Without being preachy or pointing fingers, he states his observations. You draw the conclusions.

On August 9, 2007, *The New York Times* addressed the issue of high civilian casualties. In the article, the British are said to have complained about the numbers of women and children killed by aerial bombing, making it difficult for the British to achieve credibility. One of Mortenson's cooperatives was caught up in the dragnet that became Guantanamo Bay.

The Rotary Clubs of America echo Mortenson's belief that education for the masses, sensitively approached, is the best weapon of all. From October 30 to November 18, 2007, I, along with three other Rockland County AAUW members, will accompany Spring Valley (Rockland County, NY) Rotary Club members to Vietnam for the dedication of two schools they are funding through Project STEP (Schools To End Poverty).

We were awed by the dedication of former Vietnam veterans who are returning to the scene of conflict to rebuild what they had helped to destroy. The earnestness of their determination was magnetic.

The curricula in these new schools will be determined by the citizens themselves, not by the Americans. These American-sponsored schools have the potential to be the best weapon against extremism and for the alleviation of poverty in these countries. They positively address unfulfilled American promises.

This ameliorative approach to international relations is more reflective of an intelligent America that looks for a solution to the problem instead of reacting emotionally.

Mortensen says, "I see education as the thing least invested in that can bring the most change."

"There is a huge need for education [in the remote Afghanistan/Pakistan areas]," he continues, "but you have to overcome suspicion."

I urge you to read Mortenson's book and to find a path of action.

✓ MOBILIZE THE VOTE!

by Nancy Mion, AAUW NYS public policy director,
myown220@aol.com ~ 631/472-9377

✓ **FOURSCORE AND SEVEN** years ago, our fathers brought forth on this nation, a new amendment, the 19th, granting women the right to vote.

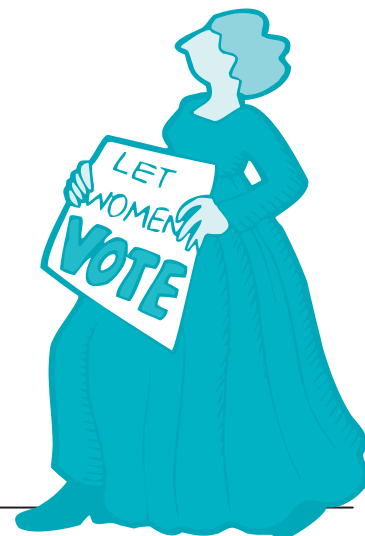
✓ **VOTING** is performed by 97% of AAUW members.

✓ **VOTING** is not part of millions of New Yorkers' lives. Nineteen million live in NYS. Five million are under 18. Approximately eleven million are registered. Only about five million voted in 2006. There are many potential voters to reach.

✓ **VOTING** is done by more women than men. More women than men are registered to vote. The common concerns of women have created a strong voting bloc that influences elections. Thus, politicians are paying more attention to issues important to women.

✓ **VOTING** is for local candidates/issues this year. It is an opportunity for us to inform voters and encourage voting. When women constitute 35% of the elected legislators, issues of significance to women can be successfully addressed

✓ **VOTING** is a habit. Those of us who vote need to bring others into our voting network. We must reach out to women and mobilize them to vote. Make personal connections. Volunteer to help your branch's voter education efforts; register voters, support forums, get out the vote. Become involved. Make a difference.



BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

As part of AAUW's ongoing "Education as the Gateway to Women's Financial Security" theme, members of the **Westchester Branch** visited the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday, August 29, for an overview of the exchange and an opportunity to watch trading from the gallery.

As a special surprise, the group was asked to ring the 4 p.m. closing bell. The closing is seen globally on more than 200 TV channels such as CNBC. What a wonderful visibility opportunity for AAUW!

HIGHLIGHT YOUR BRANCH

by Helen Engel, rengel@oswego.edu ~ 315/343-9678 and Marilynn Smiley, smiley@oswego.edu ~ 315/343-4803, AAUW NYS co-historians

Highlight your branch and the women in your area. This year, we are focusing on branch scrapbook pages and biographies of important women from your area to be published by NYS AAUW in a book. Now is the time to begin these projects.



Each branch has received scrapbook pages and directions to showcase the year's activities. Plan to display these pages at the NYS Convention. Later, they will be preserved in the NYS AAUW archives.

Biographies for the book, *Women Making a Difference*, will feature accomplishments of prominent women from throughout New York state. It is critical that each branch submit biographies of women from its area. Guidelines and examples have been given to all branches.

Check the History tab at aauw-nys.org for more complete directions and examples.

We look forward to your participation to make these important activities a success.

Questions? Please contact us.



BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

Nancy Mion, NYS public policy director and member of the **Islip Area Branch**, has been appointed to the six-member AAUW Public Policy Committee. NYS AAUW President **Diane Haney** of the **North Shore Branch** has been appointed to the Program Development Committee and **Carol Gryswinski** of the **North Fork Branch** has been appointed to the College/University Committee. Congratulations, all! It's good to know that our state is represented on the national level where policy is determined.

Linda Rey of the **Westchester Branch** writes that the branch sponsored its sixth "Bu\$iness 2 Bu\$ness Networking" event in May. This interest group was initiated in 2003 to provide a networking venue for women business owners and professionals. The event has grown from an average attendance of 12 to a record-breaking 26.

What does this mean for AAUW? Typically, at least one non-member has joined that evening and between one to three non-members join immediately following. The May event brought out five prospective members.

The evening's format includes a one-hour general networking/meet and greet session followed by a talk by the branch president or other AAUW representative about the mission of AAUW and the branch. Each attendee gives a 60-second "commercial" highlighting her business, recent accomplishments, good referral sources, and so on. The group then breaks into a general follow-up networking session.

THE SWEET SPOT: CULTURAL INTERESTS, DIVERSITY, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

by Joan Monk, AAUW NYS cultural interests director, fmaven@bestweb.net, 914 / 245-7704

I am happy to share with you this list of books that was distributed at the Association Convention in Phoenix by the International Affairs Committee. Entitled "Women in the World", it contains books which will introduce you to global women's issues.

The list is intended to serve as a resource for those seeking to learn more about the role of women in other societies. It offers suggestions for reading by individuals and branch book groups. It focuses on the lives of women who have made a difference in promoting peace and advancing the welfare of women, and on issues facing women in other cultures.

Some of the books and authors on this list may be controversial, but it is my hope that this will "sweeten" the conversation in your book groups or enrich your life by learning more about women around the world. The list was compiled by **Bonnie Lincoln** (bell3bird@aol.com) and suggestions for inclusion of other titles are welcome.

Ahmed, Leila: *Women and Gender in Islam*
Albright, Madeleine: *Madam Secretary*
Gildersleeve, Virginia: *Many a Good Crusade*
Glendon, Mary Ann: *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.
Hirsi Ali, Ayaan: *Infidel*.
Hunt, Swanee: *This Was Not Our War*
Ilibagiza, Imaculee: *Left to Tell*
Mortenson, Greg and David Oliver Relin: *Three Cups of Tea*
Sadat, Jehan: *A Woman of Egypt*
Twist Lynne: *The Soul of Money*
UNICEF: *Status of the World's Children 2007*
Walker, Alice: *Possessing the Secret of Joy*





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MISSION STATEMENT

*AAUW advances equity
for women and girls
through advocacy, education
and research.*

**The AAUW
LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND**
*provides funding and a
support system for women
seeking judicial redress
for sex discrimination.*

VISION STATEMENT

*AAUW will be
a powerful advocate
and visible leader
in equity and education
through research, philan-
thropy, and measurable change
in critical areas impacting
the lives of women and girls.*

*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.*

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Questions and articles should be addressed to the *FOCUS* Director, Jean Havens, 40 Kisco Park Drive, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Tel.: 914/241-4518. Email: FOCUS@aauw-nys.org.

**Attention postmaster: Dated Material.
Please do not delay.**

Important! All mailing labels are prepared at AAUW headquarters. Send all address changes to Buffalo Postmaster, Buffalo, NY 14240, and AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.



BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

Carlie Chilson of Penn Yan, the winner of this year's Interrupted Studies Grant awarded by the **Yates County Branch**, has helped to bring together two very different groups of students in a way that benefits them all.

One group consists of 12 Keuka College students who are part of the "Be a Fairy Godmother" program. The other, "The Friendship Club," includes Penn Yan elementary-age girls. Looking for an opportunity to mentor younger students, Ms. Chilson said, the Keuka students got together with the Friendship Club and their Penn Yan Elementary (PYE) staff leader.

"She allows our group to mentor the PYE girls every other Tuesday and Friday morning," says Carlie. "The group starts at 7:30 a.m., which is early for college life!"

In the meantime, the "Be a Fairy Godmother" group had met bi-weekly at the college to plan events for the PYE Friendship Club. Some activities focused on holidays, while others looked at issues that affect elementary students, such as bullying.

The highlight of their get-togethers was the closing program at Keuka College. The PYE girls, their families, and their teachers were invited for supper in the dining hall, followed by a campus scavenger hunt and a lakeside bonfire at which the "fairy godmother" Keuka students passed their "magic wands" to the Friendship Club members, urging them to set a goal of attending college someday.

Carlie was awarded the 2007 Interrupted Studies Grant at the branch's June meeting. In keeping with AAUW's mission, the grant is offered annually to a Yates County woman whose higher education has been interrupted at some point.

