

**PUBLIC POLICY: IT'S YOUR VOTE — MAKE IT COUNT!**

by Nancy Mion, AAUW NYS public policy director, [myown220@aol.com](mailto:myown220@aol.com) ~ 631.472.9377

*Citizens have a vote and cast it whether they go to the polls or not.*

Those who do not exercise their franchise automatically give their vote to the winning candidate. We need to reach all who can vote and get them to the polls.

Fifty-four percent of the electorate is women. Young women tend to vote for candidates who support issues significant to women.

Rally support for candidates who believe in AAUW issues. Convincing an elected person who does not believe in the significance of AAUW issues and who, further, assumes the support of constituents, is difficult.



**CONTACT THOSE ELECTED**

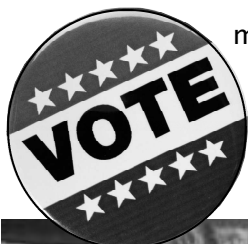
**CALL/VISIT**

Personally contacting elected officials and legislators makes a difference:

1. Choose an AAUW issue with a few AAUW members.
2. How-to-do-it and all the background material you'll need is available at: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org); [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org); and from Nancy Mion.
3. Make an appointment.
4. Gather your information, AAUW brochure(s), and your AAUW friends.
5. Decide what each will say.
6. Talk with the legislator. (They are actually regular people.)
7. Then have fun, maybe lunch, with your AAUW friends as your reward for making a difference.

**E-MAIL — AAUW ACTION NETWORK**

The Association electronically covers national AAUW issues excellently e-mailing members the *Washington Update* and providing a tool, the *Two Minute Activist*, for taking immediate action. You are already a member? Great! Want to join the 2400 New Yorkers who are members? E-mail [VoterEd@aauw.org](mailto:VoterEd@aauw.org) and join.



**JOIN the AAUW NYS PUBLIC POLICY E-GROUP**  
For NYS legislative updates — see the contacts above



THESE WOMEN went to prison so that we could vote! Make their efforts worthwhile — cast your ballot on November 4.

**In This Issue:**

Public Policy: Vote!.....	1
President's Perspective.....	2
District News.....	2
Program Highlights.....	3
Communications: Visibility.....	3
Regional Director's Report.....	4
Diversity.....	4
Membership.....	5
Cultural Interests.....	5
AAUW and ECOSOC.....	5
International Affairs.....	6
College/University Director.....	6
Campus Action Grant Information.....	6
Legal Advocacy Fund.....	7
Historians Seek Biographies.....	7
Dates to Remember.....	8
Volunteering in America.....	8

**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS president,  
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Change. The word may refer to the weather, to a family situation, to a health concern, or to any number of issues in life. It happens when we are moving through life making other plans. It sometimes brings a smile and often causes us to balk before we adjust.

Change is certainly in the future for AAUW as an organization. We voted in Phoenix at the 2007 Association convention to combine AAUW and the Educational Foundation. That vote will now result in proposed bylaws which may bring further shifts in how we must proceed as an organization of women committed to our mission.

Leadership at the national and state levels and in NYS branches recently had the opportunity to review potential bylaws changes and to respond to the Association about those changes. Be sure to go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and into the Member Center to be involved in the strategic process and read the reports provided by our national leaders about the rationale for change in AAUW. The next *Outlook* will also provide us with significant suggestions which will be voted upon by the members in attendance at the June 26-28, 2009 national convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Plan now to attend.

Stay involved, informed, and connected to AAUW. Know that AAUW will continue to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

**Moving the Mission Forward** continues to be the theme which keeps us focused in New York State AAUW! Visit the [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org) site to view

videos about our issues, connect to forms which will bring funds to your NYS branches, find out *Where the Girls Are*, and learn how to be an advocate for change.



**DISTRICT NEWS**

by Maria Ellis, AAUW NYS district director, [melis@fsacap.com](mailto:melis@fsacap.com) ~ 973.216.4181

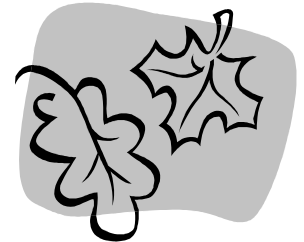
Congratulations to our NYS districts for such outstanding Fall Conferences!

Some of the conference topics include: International Relations: Trafficking Women and Girls; Women as Patriots: Our History; Women's Rights,

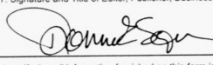
Equal Rights, Equal Pay; Health Care for All; Celebrating Title IX: What's Ahead?; Overview of AAUW Research Projects, Going Forward With the Mission; and Pay Equity.

As your new district director, I would like to personally congratulate the following branches and their 2008 Emerging Leaders: Adirondack - **Kathy Black**; Alfred-Hornell - **Rebecca Shick**; Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown - **Dianne Kierpiec**; Bath - **Virginia Murphy**; Buffalo - **Dr. Susan McClary**; Elmira-Corning - **JoAnne Krolak**; Fairport Area - **Dr. Mary Palamar**; Greater Rochester Area - **Heide S. Parreno**; Islip Area - **Rose Passannante**; Jamestown - **Brenda Johnson**; Kingston - **Ruth Wahtera**; Mid-Island - **Mildred Becker**; New York City - **Dr. Chigurupati Rani**; North Shore - **Jill Hackett**; Poughkeepsie - **Geeta Desai**; Rockland County - **Ann Brennan**; St. Lawrence County - **Innam Dajany** and **Maureen Sayles**; Skaneateles Area - **Mary Beth Bronk**; Smithtown Area - **Nancy Ellis**; Southern NY - **Catherine McGowan**; Staten Island - **Edwina F. Martin**; Syracuse - **Mary Buckley**; and Westchester - **Barbara Sarver**.

I am looking forward to getting to know you, discovering together new ways to energize your branch and to move forward our AAUW mission while having fun and developing great friendships!



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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)			

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

by Peggy Kelland, NYS program vice president,  
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### PROGRAM PLANNING MATERIALS

Airlines make fewer mistakes than hospitals. One reason is the use of checklists. Program planning suggestions and checklists, including participants' arrangements, room reservations, and internal and external publicity, are available on the AAUW-NYS web site. Feel free to duplicate, forward, and modify them for any programs you plan.

### BRANCH PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS FROM DELTA LAKE

At the AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference at Delta Lake, branches shared their successful programs.

Among the suggestions:

- **Cultural:** One Shared World, an historical fashion speaker, folklore, dance worldwide, a museum tour;
- **Community:** wind power in the Adirondacks, a What's New? Fair, yoga lesson, belly dancing, rock climbing, kayaking;
- **Education:** storyteller for young children and mothers, Windows 2008, professional women basketball players, student affiliate club, Exploring Your Opportunities;
- **International:** Great Decisions, exchange students, authors, foundations, cooking lessons, fashion shows;
- **Public Policy:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Forum, immigration reform, human trafficking;
- **Women's Issues:** Title IX Sports Day for girls in 4th-7<sup>th</sup> grades, a Celebration of Women luncheon, historic women portrayals, healthy vs. unhealthy foods, Dress for Success fashion show of donated clothes for battered women.



**BIDDING** on the LAF theme baskets was a popular activity at the state convention in Cooperstown in April.

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### TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AWARD

After seeking suggestions from branch presidents and attendees at the Summer Leadership Conference, we will be revising the application to make the directions simpler and the questions less repetitive. Awards will be given in specific areas as well as overall. We hope every branch will apply in at least one area.

### CONVENTION SURVEY RESULTS

Ninety-eight surveys were returned -- 65 at convention and 33 post-convention. The five top choices for speakers/workshops were:

- pay equity (81),
- health care funding (74),
- equity in education (62),
- educational funding (55), and
- international girls' education (51).

Members wanted board training, especially in communications and technology, and time with counterparts. Local history and culture were also strongly requested. There were 53 specific suggestions, giving us a good start on convention planning. Thank you to those who handed in a survey.

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## WELCOMING VISIBILITY — VISIBLY WELCOMING

by Donna Seymour, AAUW NYS director of communications, [onthego@northnet.org](mailto:onthego@northnet.org) ~ 315.265.6985



One of the keys to a successful branch is to be visible in your community. That must include not only good contacts and relationship with local media outlets, but also providing interesting, topical programs that reflect issues of interest in the broader community. AAUW's mission provides plenty of scope for this.

Programming that meets this goal should also be open to the general public. Inviting in the community not only opens the branch to potential members who can test-drive the organization, but it also puts a great face on AAUW. All membership organizations struggle with membership these days — people are busy, they have multiple commitments, and have

to choose carefully where to donate their precious free time outside of family, work and social commitments.

It is important that the branch leadership strategize to make certain visibility for the branch *and* AAUW issues are a priority. Be sure to include every branch member in this effort — every one of us can become an ambassador for our mission!

But the second part of visibility is to be visibly welcoming. Just as the branch plans programming and sets giving goals for the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund and local scholarship, so too should you have a plan for welcoming in new and potential members.

New members provide a real boost to any organization and AAUW should reflect the broad diversity of each community that is home to a branch.

## USING THE VALUE PROMISE TO CREATE CHANGE

by Linda Haigh Tozier, AAUW Middle Atlantic Region director, [toz31@yahoo.com](mailto:toz31@yahoo.com) ~ 412.369.5770

**“By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.”**

On June 22, the joint AAUW and Educational Foundation Boards unanimously supported “Breaking through Barriers” as the unifying focus for AAUW. This focus identifies what AAUW does: uniting membership with program and thereby integrating all AAUW programs to better serve our goals. We are urged to break through (not down) those barriers that are holding back women as we strive to be the best that we can be. Look for further definition of this value promise in the next issue of *Outlook*.

It’s going to be an exciting year for AAUW as we develop our leadership and prepare for significant structural change. At the 2007 Convention in Phoenix, the bylaws committee was given three goals: streamline the bylaws, add flexibility to all levels, and provide members with multiple ways to participate in AAUW. The overarching goal is to synchronize the two corporations (the Association and the Educational Foundation [EF]) within the restructured AAUW and to bring the goals of the Strategic Process that started in 2005 into the governance structure of AAUW.

# Breaking through Barriers

Over the past few months, AAUW leaders in all states have been providing online feedback to the bylaws committee which presented their final bylaws proposals at the joint AAUW/EF Board meeting October 4 - 5.

Proposed bylaws are posted on AAUW’s website, will be presented in *Outlook* and discussed at the 2009 AAUW National Convention in St. Louis (June 26 - 28) prior to a vote by delegates. I encourage all branch leaders to review the draft of

the proposed bylaws in the spirit of the Strategic Process and enthusiasm for what AAUW can become. Two companion documents (“Explanatory Notes” and “Draft Bylaws”) are available for review and download at [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/strategicprocess](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/strategicprocess). The proposed structural changes will indeed streamline AAUW, thereby enabling us to continue to provide a fair chance to all women.

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## RED, GREEN, OR YELLOW, PEOPLE ARE ALL THE SAME

by Linda Fitzpatrick, AAUW NYS diversity director, [Linda.fitzpatrick@disabilityetiquettetraining.com](mailto:Linda.fitzpatrick@disabilityetiquettetraining.com) ~ 845.353.4470

My dear friend and colleague heads up a local not-for-profit with devotion and effectiveness. She’s British-born. She also believes there’s no such thing as racism. I believe she’s wrong.

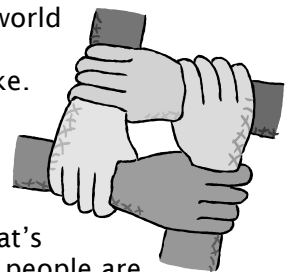
James Baldwin has said: “It is a great shock at the age of five or six to find that in a world of Gary Coopers you are the Indian.”

My feeling is that unless you have been the Indian, you can’t know what that feels like. Racism is alive and well, and if you don’t think it is then ask a Black 18-year-old man to go alone for a walk at night in my neighborhood, which is pretty much all White. Then ask him what happened. Because someone will call the police and you can count on that because he’s a stranger and he’s recognized as a stranger because he’s Black.

I’m not saying this because I have a chip on my shoulder. I’m saying this because that’s how it is. As a middle-aged White lady, I’ve heard so many people say “red, green or yellow, people are all the same.” Those people are neither red, green, yellow nor Black nor Asian nor in a wheelchair nor are they blind. Chances are, the folks who say that haven’t had the experience of wrong expectations tagged to them because of race or physical disability or some other difference. Some people expect that a group of Black teenagers are up to trouble. That someone in a wheelchair will get his feelings hurt too easily. That an East Asian Indian woman will like hot and spicy food. That a new retiree who is Black will be comfortable coming into our White neighborhood for an AAUW meeting.

Dr. Phil, host of the popular TV show, says “You can’t change what you don’t acknowledge.” We — all of us — assign expectations to other people based on how they are different from us. And chances are, those expectations are not correct. Let’s challenge ourselves to surface our expectations — without making ourselves wrong— so that we can have the conversation about what we’re thinking and assuming in order to make those critical adjustments in our thinking.

And let’s remember that “red, green or yellow” people are not all the same.



## EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER

by Bergie Lebovich, AAUW NYS membership vice president, [Bergie3rd@optonline.net](mailto:Bergie3rd@optonline.net) ~ 845.298.4045

The Association has expanded the Member get a Member (MGM) campaign for a third year. Once again, awards will be issued in two phases: July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, and January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

A wee bit of history:

- Last year, there were 23 branches of the 42 branches in NYS who participated in MGM. (That's just about half, ladies!)
- Those 23 branches brought in 271 new members
- California, who at the end of Phase 1 had brought in 284 new members, won first place and was designated top recruiting state (that's only 13 members behind for us).

If every member went out and found just one new member, we would place the Empire State back on the map. Tell all your friends who have an associate's degree or higher the reasons why you are a member. Bring them to a program, introduce them to your board members and when they sign up, please, make sure your branch membership vice president knows that it was you who brought in the new member. Ask your membership vice president to inform the branch treasurer of your recruiting efforts.

Please don't feel that you can only recruit for your own branch and get credit. How about that sister in another part of the state, or your former college roommate, or your daughter/granddaughter, and so on? The possibilities are endless! Just make sure that the vice president of membership in whichever branch they join, knows about you and your membership number because that's how you will obtain credit for recruiting and then NYS will get credit as well.

So, ladies, it's time to get going in moving our mission forward!

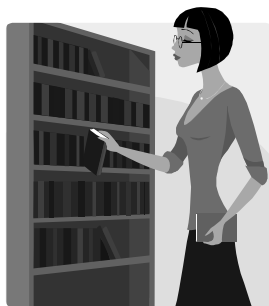
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## THE PERFECT READ

By Joan Monk, AAUW NYS cultural interests director, [ftmaven@bestweb.net](mailto:ftmaven@bestweb.net) ~ 914.245.7704

NYS AAUW has long been an advocate for reading, book groups, literacy programs and projects. "The Big Read" is in vogue thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Check out the website and learn what is going on in your community at [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org). There you will find participating communities, calendars



of events, featured books, and the newsroom. Why not become a coalition partner and join the fun?

Some branches are involved in a community project called "one community/one book." A book is embraced by the entire community and is read in schools, at the library and by local book groups as well. Community events are coordinated, too. You might consider collaborating with your local library to promote a special book — a book that would inspire your community — and Greg Mortenson's *Three Cups of Tea* may be just that book

This extraordinary odyssey of one of our own members seems to me to be "the perfect read" for both AAUW book groups and community projects. Greg is the keynote speaker at this year's CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations) Conference at the United Nations on January 30, 2009.

According to Tom Brokaw, "*Three Cups of Tea* is one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time. Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world."

Finding the perfect read could thus be the perfect way to embrace our new mantra: **Learn More/Connect More/Do More.**

## AAUW GAINS SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH U.N. COUNCIL

In September, AAUW gained special consultative status at the United Nations with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which initiates reports, makes recommendations, and promotes respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

For many years, AAUW has had a U.N. representative attending select meetings and monitoring issues affecting women and girls. The new designation allows AAUW to participate in international conferences, sign on to NGO (non-governmental organization) statements, and share AAUW's expertise.

"We closely follow a variety of international issues ranging from girls' education to women's economic security to human rights to women in peacekeeping," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "This new status will strengthen AAUW's presence globally and provide us with greater opportunities to engage in U.N.-related activities and initiatives that break through barriers for women and girls."

AAUW has a proud history in global affairs that includes awarding more than 2,200 international fellowships to women from more than 130 countries and partnering with leading international humanitarian organizations on initiatives to empower women.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CORNER

by Cheryl Papa, AAUW NYS director of international affairs, [cbpapa528@yahoo.com](mailto:cbpapa528@yahoo.com) ~ 607.748.6075

Education has been and always will be the mainstay of AAUW. Education is what enlightens us to that which requires our attention. When Carolyn Donovan, our representative to the U.N., spoke at our 2008 state convention, I was shocked to learn that the US has not ratified the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* nor signed the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Enlightenment leads to action. You can participate in the campaign to ratify CEDAW. There is a CEDAW Information and Resource Kit available at the International Corner of the AAUW website. You will find all of the resources needed to assist your branch in the education and advocacy effort required to ratify this women's rights treaty.

December 10 is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Eleanor Roosevelt was Chairperson of the U.N.'s Commission on Human Rights. This was the greatest achievement of her life. Let's all celebrate her work! How about combining a program with a fundraiser for the Educational Foundation's Eleanor Roosevelt Fund?

Do you have a book club? Include one or more books about human rights on your reading group's list. You can find a fabulous list by going to [http://www.aauw.org/About/international\\_corner/upload/IAREADING-LIST.pdf](http://www.aauw.org/About/international_corner/upload/IAREADING-LIST.pdf). We can't affect change if we don't know what needs changing. Let's get on with our education!

Mark your calendars: the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) conference is **January 30, 2009**. The keynote speaker will be Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*. This year's topic is "Protecting Human Rights — The United Nations — Our Schools (Education, Respect, Safety, and Protection)". More information will be available at [www.teachun.org](http://www.teachun.org).

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## CAMPUS ACTION PROJECT GRANTS TO FOCUS ON DISPARITIES IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE BASED ON INCOME, RACE AND ETHNICITY

AAUW's 2008-09 **Campus Action Project (CAP)**, *Where the Girls Are: Promoting Equity for All Women and Girls*, focuses on the issues raised by the Association's 2008 research report, *Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education*. The report presented a comprehensive look at girls' and women's educational performance over the past 35 years, highlighting significant disparities in student performance based on family income, race and ethnicity. The objective of this year's CAP program is to provide a platform for campus programming that is informed by this research.

AAUW invites proposals for CAP grants from U.S. colleges and universities for campus-based student teams working with a campus professional who will serve as project adviser. Each team will also be required to work with an AAUW state or branch member serving as the community adviser/liaison. Eligibility for funding is limited to projects that address some of the educational barriers faced by low-income and minority women and girls. Grants typically range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. AAUW expects to disburse approximately \$50,000 in CAP grants in 2008.

CAP grant application forms can be downloaded from the national AAUW website — [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) — with applications due **November 7, 2008**.

## AAUW WANTS YOUR COLLEGE!

by Diane Haney, AAUW NYS college/university director, [haneydhd@gmail.com](mailto:haneydhd@gmail.com) ~ 516.248.0476

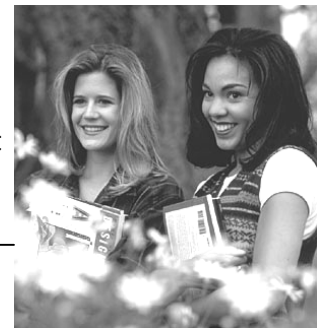
College members strengthen AAUW and we strengthen colleges, universities and community colleges. More than 500 leading institutions are already members and many have supported us for years.

Colleges need strong community relations which we can assist in significant ways. We have much to offer — leadership for events such as Transitions Conferences and non-traditional career days which bring prospective students to campus; some branches award scholarships or have student loan funds, we can bring the community on campus for meetings.

There are a bundle of new advantages for colleges, in addition: a link to the college's website from the AAUW website would provide priority access and consideration for awards and Campus Action Grants, plus, all female students could automatically receive electronic information on AAUW events and women's issues. These are in addition to traditional benefits such as representation in Washington promoting issues of importance to educators at every level.

Don't forget that colleges are the mother lode for future members for us. Many branches already have strong ties to their local institutions which may have already joined. Some branches have the ties but not the memberships. This is the best time of year to make an approach, but an approach to whom? I need your help in finding the person or persons on campus who can facilitate their joining.

Don't confuse institutional memberships with student affiliates, which are also good but different. Don't forget to make the "ask." Questions? Call or email me.



## LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

by Mildred DeWitt, AAUW-NYS LAF vice president,  
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Welcome back everyone to a new year of AAUW. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and now rested are ready for action in 2008-09.

As you know, we have changes in the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) that will expand our involvement with women in the business world. AAUW advances equity for all women and girls and we have now added to our support of cases in academia cases affecting all women in the work force. It is time, after 25 years of LAF, to put our resources to use on cases that will make landmark decisions in the fight for pay equity and against discrimination and sexual harassment of women employees in every walk of life as well as academia.

Recently, the *Chichilnisky vs. Columbia* case was settled in court in New York City. Many of you may remember Professor Chichilnisky. She spoke at the LAF Luncheon during an AAUW NYS Convention several years ago. This is the second time Professor Chichilnisky took Columbia to court for pay discrimination. She won her first suit, but the University did not honor the terms of agreement and she was forced to litigate again.

It has been 35+ years since the Civil Rights Act and yet we continue to have to fight the battle for women's equality in the work force. Our work is not done. Your contributions are of major importance in this battle as we — AAUW — are one of very few organizations that support women who have become litigants in discrimination lawsuits with their employer.



## EVVIE CURRIE GIVING CIRCLE

At the 2008 AAUW NYS Convention in April, the AAUW NYS Board voted unanimously to continue the Evvie Currie Giving Circle (ECGC) until June 30, 2009. Our goal for 2008-09 is \$5,000 in contributions and, as of July 1, we have achieved 25% of that goal.

Since 2003, when the ECGC was established, \$25,000 has been raised. The Association wanted to know if we would like to end the fund at this time, but we have decided to continue it until the close of this current AAUW year. Please mark your contribution form with code 3086 to indicate that you would like to be part of the Evvie Currie Giving Circle. The branch with the most contributions to ECGC will be recognized at the 2009 AAUW NYS Convention at the Sagamore in Lake George.

Note: The 2008 pin is available for a contribution of \$100. Mail your check, made payable to AAUW LAF, to:  
AAUW Manhattan, Planetarium Station, P.O. Box 390, New York, New York 10024-0390. Mark the memo "Evvie

## ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIES NEEDED FOR AAUW-NYS PROJECT

by Helen Engel, [rengel@oswego.edu](mailto:rengel@oswego.edu) ~ 315.343.9678 and Marilyn Smiley, [smiley@oswego.edu](mailto:smiley@oswego.edu) ~ 315.343.4803, AAUW NYS co-historians

We need your help!

Earlier we requested a 1-3 page biography of one or more prominent women from your geographical area.

Now, we need additional biographies, as many as you can contribute.

The plan is to compile all the biographies into a book written by AAUW members from throughout New York State. We would like, at the very least, to equal the accomplishments of Pennsylvania in this regard. To do this we need at least five biographies from each branch. The support and participation of every member is needed to make this project truly representative of the entire state.

The biography could be an AAUW member or non-member, from the past or in the present — someone who made or is making a difference in your area. Fields to consider might include government, politics, business, science, medicine, law,

journalism/media, literature, religion, health, social services, education, art, music, theater, sports, leadership, community service, or others. It is important to preserve the accomplishments of these women, so their contributions are not forgotten. Don't forget the nationally prominent women from your area!

In addition to branch members, target audiences might include community members and organizations, scholars of women's history, women's study programs, local historians, college and high school students, women's organizations and state and local historical societies. What a great way to promote AAUW and to increase branch visibility!

Send us your biographies as soon as they are written. They can be mailed to Helen Engel, 32 Brown Drive or Marilyn Smiley, 77 West Fifth Street, both in Oswego, NY, 13126, or emailed to us. The deadline for this project is **March 2009**.

Information and examples have been sent to your branch president and branch historian. They may also be seen on line by going to [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org) and looking under the History tab. We are looking forward to receiving many more biographies. Thanks again for your participation in this important AAUW project.



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

**AAUW VALUE PROMISE**

*By joining AAUW, we belong  
to a community that breaks  
through educational and economic  
barriers so that all women  
have a fair chance.*

**VISION STATEMENT**

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

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

*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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**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Mark your calendars now and start anticipating the excitement to  
be found at next year's exciting AAUW conventions!

The 2009 New York State AAUW Convention is **April 24-26** at  
The Sagamore on Lake George and the national AAUW convention will be  
**June 26-28**, 2008, at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel  
in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Renaissance Grand Hotel holds a special place in St. Louis  
and women's history. Previously known as the Hotel Statler, the hotel  
was the backdrop for the historic convention of the National American  
Suffrage Association in March 1919. At that time, some states allowed  
women to vote only in presidential elections and some states did not  
allow women to vote at all. At this convention the  
League of Women Voters was created to secure the  
enfranchisement of women in every state.



**VOLUNTEERING IN AMERICA**

The USA Freedom Corps, along with the Corpo-  
ration for National and Community Service recently  
launched a new web site, <http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov>, with  
volunteering trends throughout the U.S. Users can access volunteering  
data and information for the entire nation, regions, states, and 162  
large and mid-sized cities. Users can also view how states and cities  
rank by volunteer rates and hours.

Nearly 61 million Americans volunteered in their communities  
last year, giving 8.1 billion hours of service worth more than \$158 bil-  
lion. Volunteers spend approximately 15 hours watching TV in a typical  
week, compared to 23 hours for non-volunteers. That eight-hour differ-  
ence adds up to over 400 hours over the course of a year.