

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR CONVENTION 2008

by Jann Mirchandani, AAUW NYS program vice president, program@aauw-nys.org ~ 914/245-8568 and Cathy O'Leary, convention director, convention@aauw-nys.org ~ 516/223-9720

The convention packets are completed and filled to the brim with information about workshops and speakers and such. Be sure to get your registration forms in early!

This year, we will be inviting the public to join us for our President's Dinner on Friday night. A keynoter like Lilly Ledbetter is just too good to keep to ourselves. After the registration deadline of **March 28**, dinner reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

We have wonderful workshops lined up, a beautiful location, and outstanding speakers. It's a terrific opportunity to learn, network and celebrate AAUW! Please join us.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions provide a way to have AAUW NYS support actions that you believe are important to furthering our mission. If you submit your 2008 NYS convention resolutions to Public Policy Director Nancy Mion by **March 28**, they can be adopted by a majority vote. If you wait and bring your resolutions from the floor, it requires a 2/3 vote to be heard and a 3/4 vote to be adopted. Further information at www.aauw-nys.org/pp_resolution.htm.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS: SO MUCH TO ENTICE YOU, SO LITTLE SPACE!

As they do with other lovely destinations, folks say, "all roads lead to Cooperstown." So hop on a plane, train, bus, or into your car and find your way to the historic Otesaga Hotel on April 25.

Friday afternoon and early evening you can take a trolley tour, view branch exhibits, attend the resolutions caucus, and check out the wonderful variety of Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) baskets on display (and place your first bids) before attending the President's Dinner and listening to Lilly Ledbetter. All this, plus after-dinner entertainment. *Wow!*

HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Early birds will hit the trail for the Educational Foundation (EF) Walk before Saturday's Awards Breakfast where branches will be recognized for their good work. A Public Policy panel will lead into the LAF luncheon which, in turn, will precede your choice of two workshop sessions on topics such as health care, leadership styles, grassroots organizing, and visibility. Don't forget to see how you're doing in the bidding for the LAF baskets and get ready for the EF gala and installation of officers. Enjoy the after-dinner entertainment. *Well done!*

Sunday morning — it's time to find out if you won that LAF basket you've been bidding on!!

Celebrate AAUW branches of merit. Attend the panel discussion on the role of college/university members and professional women in the branches. Settle in for the International Affairs brunch, hear about upcoming opportunities. Learn the location of the 2009 state convention. Finally, tired but happy, head home, basking in the warm glow of inspirational speakers, non-stop activity, new friends, and a renewed dedication to AAUW's mission. *Wonderful!*

The AAUW NYS Convention: better than a double-header; it's a triple threat — *Wow! Well done! Wonderful!*



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See you in Cooperstown!



AAUW-NYS CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

The state nominating team is proud to present the following members as qualified to stand for election to office in AAUW-NYS for 2008-2010:

President - **EILEEN HARTMANN**

Eileen is a 32-year member of AAUW. She has held various offices in the Fairport Area Branch including five years as their president. She is presently co-chairing both membership and EF for that branch, as well as maintaining a secondary branch membership in Rochester. At the state level, she served as NYS college/university director 2002-2005 and is currently in her second term as membership vice president. She also served on the NYS marketing committee in 2005-06.



Eileen has a bachelor's degree from Edgecliff College and a master's degree in education from Nazareth College of Rochester. Her work experience includes positions as an English teacher, sales representative, program coordinator for the Rochester Area Career Educational Collaborative, and field experience coordinator for the Education Department at Nazareth College. She is also active with the Fairport-Perinton Chapter of Dollars for Scholars, having been on the board for nine years including terms as president and vice president of fundraising.

Quote - "Being a 'can do' person is important to me. I understand the need to listen to people and also understand the value of rules and regulations so that I can attempt to convey reasonable decisions".

Cheryl Papa, immediate past NYS LAF vice president, says: "Her leadership will bring pride to our state and she will inspire and motivate the membership to attain new heights." **Eileen Argenziano**, Eileen's branch EF co-chair, adds: "Eileen is a very articulate individual and one who can summarize information quickly." **Evvie Currie**, past NYS president, follows with the comment: "She is the perfect person to lead us through the necessary changes that AAUW will make in the coming years."

Program Vice President - **PEGGY KELLAND**

Peggy, a member of the Poughkeepsie Branch for 35 years, has served in many elected and appointed positions including program vice president, communications vice president, and president. She has been active at the state level as NYS nominating team member 2005-06 and international relations director 2006-08. She has also volunteered in other Poughkeepsie community activities including the Dutchess Interfaith Council, the Junior League, League of Women Voters, Girl Scouts, and several town community boards and commissions.



Peggy's educational background includes a bachelor's degree from Smith College and a master's degree from the Columbia University Teachers College. A professional teacher, she has experience at the elementary and high school levels and as a home teacher. She served in the Peace Corps in Honduras where she trained and supervised student teachers. Summer school enrichment programs and remedial reading and ESL in a state prison add to her impressive professional resume.

Quotes - "I am fully committed to AAUW's mission." and "As chair of many committees and organizations, I believe in collaboration and in delegating to develop leadership."

Cyd Averill, a past Poughkeepsie Branch president states: "She is a true advocate for AAUW ideals and a committed volunteer." Immediate past NYS treasurer **Mary King** adds: "Peggy has a broad understanding of AAUW and its mission." Current NYS program vice president **Jann Mirchandani** concludes her endorsement with: "She will make an excellent program vice president and AAUW NYS is lucky to have her."

Educational Foundation Vice President - **TAMARA BROWN**

Tamara has been a member of the Buffalo Branch for six years and in that time has held the position of president for two separate terms. In addition, she was the inspiration for, and has chaired, the branch's three Tech Savvy conferences, starting in 2006. She is also on the national AAUW committee for college/university relations. Tamara is running for re-election to the state EF office she has held since mid-2006.



Her education includes a bachelor's degree in engineering from Vanderbilt University and a master's degree in engineering from SUNY Buffalo as well as small business certification from Canisius College. She has over 15 years' professional experience in project management and is currently employed as an associate project manager at Praxair, Inc. She is also involved in other community activities including mentoring in elementary schools and as a member of a group of "visiting scientists".

Quote - "In my first two years, I worked to maintain the communications among counterparts and to put a face to EF around the state. If elected, I hope to continue those practices."

Pam Westman, district #1 coordinator, says: "I have found her to be knowledgeable, efficient, and an all-around team participant." **Barbara Carier**, currently on the Buffalo Branch board and a past NYS board member, adds: "She is consistently thorough, thoughtful and gracious in all that she does." **Judy Malamas**, former Buffalo Branch president, concludes with: "Any level of AAUW would be lucky to have Tamara as one of their officers."

WE'RE HERE. WE'RE STILL NEEDED. WE DO GOOD WORK!

by Diane Haney, AAUW NYS president, haneydhd@gmail.com ~ 516/248-0476



There are so many reasons why I am glad to be an AAUW member. Recently, as I browsed the branch newsletters, they have been leaping out at me.

Why We Are Still Needed: Every so often I read a fact that reminds me of how important our mission is. Here are some recent ones: In 1900, civilians represented 5% of casualties; today, civilians represent 75%, most of them women and children. The number of female coaches has reached an all-time low. The U.S. has slipped five places in rankings for gender fairness, placing us currently at 31. Equity is still an issue!

Ongoing Programs Which Deserve to Be Praised: We have a tendency to pay attention to the novel without always remembering to praise good solid programs which continue from year to year and represent the epitome of the AAUW mission such as the **Huntington Branch's** Excellence in Science Awards and the **Queens Branch's** awards in all of the county's high schools. **Ithaca** is having its eighth annual Sister to Sister summit. **Jamestown** continues with the "What's New? Fair" to raise money for AAUW. **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** continues its Elizabeth Cady Stanton symposium. **Buffalo** does both a Tech Savvy program and a Transitions conference as well as Sister to Sister for its eleventh year. **NYC** and **Westchester** continue their Expand Your Opportunities (new name) with **Manhattan** now joining in. **Rochester** continues both its program for Russian visitors and its Women Helping Girls. I know I have missed other excellent ones. Good work!

Planning Ahead: Visibility Director **Claire Regan** reminds us below that programs that are newsworthy attract more visibility. As you begin to think about next year's programming, it would be good to plan one or two events that would be newsworthy in your area. National and local elections come and go, but community needs and issues are constant. Find an issue that is important, ongoing, and has good local resources for speakers. Then plan how you will make this program visible in your community.

More Celebrations: Many know, but it is worth reiterating, that our Educational Foundation (EF) has been recognized with the Best in America seal of approval by the Independent Charities of America through their Seal of Excellence program. Out of a million American charities, only 2,000 meet the high standards of accounting and programming required for this award. We now have further evidence that a contribution to EF (including those to the Legal Advocacy Fund) is money well-spent. But we knew that.



STICK TO THE BASICS TO GET GOOD MEDIA COVERAGE OF BRANCH ACTIVITIES

by Claire Regan, AAUW NYS visibility director, regan@siadvance.com ~

718/981-1234, x-2215

Every branch can get the visibility it deserves with a little outreach, planning and follow-up.

Reaching out to local media outlets to build relationships with assigning editors is an important first step. Does your area have a local newspaper, cable station or radio station? Give a call or pay a visit to the newsroom, and find out which editors handle community news.

Leave your business card and follow up with an e-mail offering a brief explanation of the AAUW mission and a list of your branch's special projects. Go a step further and ask the assigning editor to meet for lunch to learn more about the media outlet's assigning process and deadlines. This gives you a chance to suggest AAUW story ideas.

Be familiar with the columns, sections, listings and structure of your local newspaper. Is there an education page? Business section? Are reports of civic meetings published?

A press release is the best way to alert a news organization of an upcoming speaker, work-

shop or branch event. It must be prepared and distributed well in advance of the event — a week at minimum — to give editors ample time for consideration. This is where planning ahead is key.

The best press release is a simple summary with the five W's (who, what, when, where and why) answered quickly and prominently. Keep the writing style simple and direct. Avoid big words. Avoid extra words. Avoid clichés. Be specific. Be active. Be simple. Be short. Be organized. Be convincing. Be understandable. Include contact information.

Some newspapers will announce events ahead of time, either as short stories called "previews," or as calendar listings.

A phone call should be made to the city desk the day before the event to make sure the press release has been reviewed and coverage is planned. This is a good way to make sure a request doesn't fall through the cracks.

It's best not to catch editors off-guard with last-minute requests for coverage. Planning pays off when it comes to good publicity. And after successful coverage of an event, a thank-you e-mail to the assigning editor is another good outreach effort that will pay off with the next request.

Note: Aside from her AAUW NYS position, Claire is president of the Staten Island Branch and associate managing editor of the Staten Island Advance.

YOUR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: EDUCATION AND EQUITY AT EVERY LIFE STAGE

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

Navigating the Working World (Part 3 of 4)



So, where are we on our journey down the road to equity? Ah, yes, The Working World.

I talked last quarter about my trip back to my alma mater. Like all young women, after graduating from college, I found myself full of excitement about endless possibilities -- new opportunities, a chance to change the world (or at least my corner of it), the freedom to create new realities.

Women and men leaving college today are certainly faced with many realities -- including this one: Starting just *one* year out of college, men are paid more than women. The gap is statistically significant. Taking out factors of experience and career progression, the pay gap exists at the start of one's career.

There is good news: The gap is lessening, and more and more women are making strides. In part, this is due to awareness and education about the pay gap. Enter the AAUW Educational Foundation and our latest research report: *Behind the Pay Gap*. Available online, this report provides a snapshot of pay issues at the start of, and throughout, a woman's career.

How can I promote awareness of pay equity issues?

Be energetic for equity. If starting a wage club seems too daunting, simply have a meeting focused on pay equity issues. Remember to include everyone. After all, pay issues are family issues, so bring men into the discussion. Like you, I like to receive fair compensation for the work that I do. Remember, equity discussions can be a great way to bring in new members of the X and Y generations.

What else can I do?

Each dollar that you give to the Educational Foundation can help to promote an equitable society. The funds you have given continue to seed research, awareness efforts, and opportunity. So, know that when you give, you are adding valuable muscle to crush the gap!

Keep crushing!

Next Stop: *Oasis (Retirement)*

HELP, WE NEED YOU!!!

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



to see! Let others know what your branch has done.

To make these projects a success, we need everyone's help! Questions? Feel free to contact us or check the history tab at www.aauw-nys.org for further information and examples. Guidelines have been sent to your branch president.

Make sure your branch is participating in the Women Making a Difference and the branch scrapbook projects. Both are due in April and will be on display at the state convention.

- **Women Making a Difference** will result in a book highlighting significant women in your geographic area. Consider women in the professions and/or community service who have made an impact on your community or beyond, either past or present. Fields that can be included are: government, politics, media, business, science, medicine, law, journalism, literature, religion, health and social services, education, art, music, theater, sports, leadership, and community service.
- The **scrapbook** should focus on your branch activities for the year. Share the excitement of your accomplishments for all

NYS UNIVERSITIES RECEIVE AAUW GRANTS

Teams from **Alfred University** (Alfred) and **Clarkson University** (Potsdam) were two of the seven grant awardees selected nationwide as the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute's Campus Action Projects (CAP) for 2007-08.

Alfred's "Dreams to Reality" project focuses on raising student awareness of the gender pay gap. The team will also organize and sponsor economic equity-oriented skill-building workshops.

Clarkson's "Negotiations U" project is designed to empower women students to learn and use evidence-based negotiations strategies and techniques in professional and work situations and to provide a safe space for women to learn to participate actively in negotiations.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

by Mildred DeWitt, AAUW-NYS LAF vice president,
laf@aauw-nys.org, 516/318-1313



2008 NYS AAUW CONVENTION SPEAKER – LAF LUNCHEON

I am delighted to announce that **Claire Schuster** will be our keynote speaker at the LAF Luncheon at the state convention on Saturday, April 26. Claire, a tenured associate professor of nursing at Berea College, sued the institution for sex discrimination in pay in violation of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, as well as intentional infliction of emotional distress and breach of contract.

LAF-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

Progress In Equity (PIE) — Each year, through the Progress In Equity Award program, LAF honors a campus program or initiative that has resulted in significant progress for campus women. The winner receives a monetary award of up to \$10,000 and public recognition by their community, campus, and AAUW. The PIE Award has recognized efforts in areas such as: women's athletics; tenure and promotion for women faculty; child care for faculty, staff, and/or students; family leave for employees; programs and policies to combat sexual harassment; strategies to mentor women students or junior faculty; recruitment of women into nontraditional fields; integration of women's history or other women's issues into the curriculum; and special initiatives for women. The annual deadline for application submissions is **March 15**.

Campus Outreach — LAF believes that the more men and women know about sex discrimination and the prevention policies in place at their institutions, the less sex discrimination will occur.

Virginia Tech hosted the first campus outreach program in 1997. Since then, LAF has presented programs on more than 20 campuses, among them: UCLA, Boston College, Stanford University, Michigan State University, the University of Southern Florida, Harvard University, North Carolina State University, Wayne State College, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Rochester, Columbia University, the University of Redlands, Eastern Washington University, and the University of Virginia.

If you are interested in hosting a campus outreach program at your university or would like to learn more, e-mail laf@aauw.org or call 202/785-7750.

For more information about PIE or Campus Outreach, visit www.aauw.org/advocacy.

RECENT VICTORY FOR THE LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND — DONATE TODAY!

Simpson, et al. v. University of Colorado / LAF-supported plaintiff Lisa Simpson has settled her case against the University of Colorado. Simpson, a former student at the Boulder campus, and another former student sued the university after they were allegedly raped by football recruits at an off-campus party in 2001. Under the settlement, Simpson will receive \$2.5 million and the other woman will receive \$350,000.

The AAUW Educational Foundation board has awarded a total of \$32,500 in support of ongoing and new lawsuits for FY 2008.

Your donation of \$100 to LAF is fully tax-deductible and, in 2008, entitles you to a special pin commemorating the fund's 25th anniversary. A \$250 donation entitles the donor to both the anniversary pin and an LAF donor pin. Send donations to: AAUW, Planetarium Station, PO Box 390, New York 10024-0390

KEEP PITCHING — YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF HONORED IN COOPERSTOWN!

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

The Hall of Fame in Cooperstown is a national treasure, honoring men and women who have excelled in the sport of baseball.

There is also an **AAUW Hall of Fame** which honors those who have recruited new members during the "Keys to the Future" campaign. Our Hall of Fame promotes and recognizes those who have excelled at recruiting women and men who share our vision for equity. During the 2008 New York State convention in Cooperstown, those outstanding recruiters will be named and applauded.

Also to be recognized are the branches which have achieved superior membership building

during the 2007-08 year: those branches with the highest overall increases and those with the highest percentage of increase.

On Saturday, April 27, a special reception will be held to recognize the branch which has the highest overall increase in membership for 2007-08 of all the branches in the state. You, a star player in branch membership-building, could be one of the honorees at that reception!

Cooperstown is the perfect location for winners and accolades! Pitch our programs, projects, and branch activities to potential members and come to convention as a Hall of Famer, a committed member of a team, and an outstanding recruiter for our AAUW future.

Now is the time to come out of the stands. Keep AAUW in the game. See you in Cooperstown! Let's grow!





FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DVD SERIES

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

AAUW is pleased to announce a new series of leadership-focused DVDs created for distribution to all states in 2008. In the past, only two members per state participated in national level leadership training. These new DVDs will provide leadership skills and strategies for all members.

AAUW New York State will present the DVDs at the Delta Lake meeting in July. Additionally, all AAUW members from the Middle Atlantic Region (MAR) are invited to my regional leadership meeting on June 21 at the Holiday Inn Select in Timonium, MD. The MAR meeting will include study and discussion of the four DVDs, a presentation on the National Girls Collaborative Project and an opportunity to network with members from five states. I will provide complete registration details about the MAR meeting at your state convention.

The DVDs are divided into modules which focus on leadership development as it relates to these particular aspects of AAUW's mission: membership, development and marketing; mission-based programs; organizational structure and governance; public policy and advocacy; and effective leadership skills and tools. Each module will include a discussion guide to better prepare participants for focusing on mission-based efforts, recruiting new members, and further developing our leadership potential.

INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS

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

United Nations Briefing

On November 28, 2007, approximately 40 AAUW members joined with the League of Women Voters in a briefing at United Nations Headquarters in New York City about "The Effects of War on Women around the World".

In 1900, 5% of war casualties were civilians; by 2000 this had increased to 75%. Increased violence against women often precedes armed conflict. Sexual violence is used as a deliberate tactic of war, and also happens when there is a complete breakdown of order as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Sudan.

The UN Initiative against Sexual Violence in Conflict, involving 12 UN agencies, is working to stop the spread of sexual violence from one conflict to another by raising awareness, coordinating action, and accumulating data. A change in attitude occurs when top civilian and military leaders publicly state that perpetrators will be punished. Enforcement requires a legislative framework complying with human rights, an effective police force, and a modern judicial system.

State International Awards

At the state convention in April, awards will be given for **outstanding branch programming** that promotes international understanding and cooperation. Awards will also be given for **branch and individual donations** to either the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund or Bina Roy Partners in Development. Please send contributions and branch program descriptions to me **by April 20**. (Peggy Kelland, 13 Susan Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603)



Branch International Programming

Adirondack presented "The Refugee Children of Tibet" in January and "The Anti-Trafficking

Program" in February. **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** had two speakers on "Women and War" in November. **Bath** raised money for CROP Walk and participated in the World Leadership Forum.

Buffalo co-sponsored an update on the UN Commission on the Status of Women. **Cortland** had a speaker in September on the new trafficking legislation. **Elmira-Corning** presented "The Face of Islam" in January and "Bhutan" in February.

Greece held meetings on "Crossing Boundaries - Beirut and Beyond" in September and "Education in Japan" in November.

Huntington, which has adopted a year-long theme of "international education and women," learned about The Ribbon International in September and "Progressive Women's Education in the Middle East" in October.

In November, **Ithaca** held its 48th annual international fellowship reception. **Jamestown** both addressed climate change in January. **Mohawk Valley** had programs on Vietnam and Thailand in September; "A Safer, More Compassionate World" in October; and China, Kenya, and India in January.

New York City explored Creole Heritage in September and held a Madeleine Albright Award dinner. **North Shore** has a non-western women writers book group and presented "Understanding Our Neighbors' Faiths" in September.

Rockland's October program was "The Changing Nature of Latino Immigration".

Schenectady has interest groups on international relations and world travel.

In November, **Staten Island** heard from the Global Relief Fund on children maimed by land mines. Three members of the **Syracuse Branch** were invited to speak to visiting Iraqis on AAUW. **Westchester's** current issues group discussed "Political Women Leaders Worldwide". In October, **Yates** heard an "AIDS Report from India".

Fairport, Manhattan, Massapequa, Mid-Island, New York City, and Rockland all have Great Decisions groups.



HEALTH CARE — IN NEED OF A CHECK-UP

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

Health care coverage will be a major issue in the 2008 elections. The results of two 2007 AAUW NYS surveys indicate that health care is a high-priority item.

Candidates and concerned groups propose solutions for providing adequate affordable health care. Support the plan that offers coverage for women's special needs such as frequent testing related to our reproductive organs, pregnancy, and an extended life span requiring longer care than men

Forty-seven million Americans are without health coverage. That's 1 out of every 6 people! Yet, the U.S. spends twice as much as other industrialized nations on health care. We spend \$7,139 per capita — 44% more than Switzerland, the second highest.

Employers provide health benefits to 60% of the population. The high cost of this coverage is placing U.S. corporations at a competitive disadvantage internationally. This could increase off-shoring of jobs. A public-private partnership would be good for business.

Health care reform is needed to: (1) Broaden the population covered by private or public health insurance, (2) Improve the quality of both health care and access to health care specialists, and (3) Decrease the cost of health care and health insurance.

Here are a few basic health care terms:

Socialized medicine: All health personnel and health facilities work for the government and draw salaries from the government

Social Insurance: Administered by a public agency. Everyone is in one risk pool, not 1,500 pools each trying to avoid risk. More of collected funds go to care (97% vs. 60-75%).

Universal Health Care: All residents, regardless of medical condition, are part of a vast pool that guarantees affordable cost.

Single Payer Health Care: A system in which a single public, or quasi-public, agency organizes health financing but delivery of care remains largely private. It eliminates the insurance companies and is similar to the health services provided by Medicare.

Be a part of reforming our expensive, inadequate health care system. Investigate the plans. Be informed. Conduct a forum. Come to the Health Care workshop at the AAUW NYS Convention where Physicians for a National Health Plan (PNHP) and Citizens Action of NY will discuss their respective proposals. Vote for those who reflect your thoughts. Good health to you!

VIETNAM VENTURE

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

AAUW members from the Rockland County Branch — Joyce Brown, Sherry Jackson, Rosalind Maxwell and Vencil Oliver — accompanied the Spring Valley Rotary and the Vietnam Veterans of Rockland County on a three-week humanitarian trip to Vietnam. We traveled from Hanoi to Saigon and many places in between. The party of 30 people included Vietnam vets, doctors, dentists, nurses, retired police personnel, educators, and two teenagers.

We visited the touristy sites but, more importantly, we traveled in the bush to places where veterans had been stationed, shot down or rescued. We visited schools, hospitals, orphanages, and survival sites for abandoned people. We left school supplies, medical supplies, toys, swing sets, a water-filtration system, bicycles and a thousand friendships and fond memories. We were welcomed into homes and hearts without reservation.

We visited an ethnic minority tribe, the Montagnards, in the hillsides of central Vietnam and along the Vietnam-Cambodia border. Unique to the south Mekong Delta area, they are the descendants

of Cambodians who ran from the Khmer Rouge many years ago but have no place or opportunity in present-day Vietnam.



It was so rewarding to share the joy of the recipients of the wheelchairs and bicycles. We saw how the money was distributed — no offices, no telephones, no mailing lists. It is the same kind of response that one gets after reading Greg Mortensen's *Three Cups of Tea*.

Would we go again? In a heartbeat!

NEW INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE ALUMNAE ORGANIZATION CREATED

A new organization, Women Graduates USA, has been formed to affiliate with the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). AAUW members, as well as other college graduates, are welcome to join.

It will be strictly national, with no state or local organization. Annual dues will be \$50 per individual, with \$14 to IFUW and \$36 for the national organization's headquarters, staff, and so on. The affiliate hopes to have an annual meeting, online discussion groups, and projects. More information can be found at www.wg-usa.org.



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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, 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.

FOCUS (USPS-390-570), a quarterly newsletter, is published for the New York State Division of the American Association of University Women by Print King, Inc., Williamsville, NY 14221-0701. The subscription rate of \$4 is included in the New York State dues. Periodicals postage is paid at Buffalo, NY, 14240.

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.**

POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.



TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AWARD: YOU GOTTA BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

by Jann Mirchandani, AAUW NYS program vice president,
program@aauw-nys.org ~ 914/245-8568

Last year, there was some confusion about the Twenty-First Century Award (TCA) application process. Some members thought they needed to complete each and every section of the application if they wanted to be considered for program recognition. *Au contraire!*

The application was designed to be as streamlined as possible so you could complete each and every section without quitting your job and leaving your partner. But, if you had a terrific program that for whatever reason did not include a visibility component, you can leave that section blank.

Or, maybe you had a great membership program, but you did it the old-fashioned way and didn't incorporate a lot of technology. That's fine, too. Just skip right over the technology piece.

I'll tell you a secret. The form itself was meant to be a "cheat sheet" as much as anything else. It's a tool to help you make the most of your programming. But it's a guide, not a rule.

So, if you put together a terrific program — and I know you did — make sure that your branch is sending in something for the TCA.



Log onto www.aauw-nys.org
for your convention materials.
We'll see you in Cooperstown!