

## LOOK INTO THE "GLIMMERGLASS" AT THE 2010 NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION

by Mary Lou Davis, convention chair,  
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**Be Sure to Save These Dates:**  
**Friday, April 23 — Sunday, April 25, 2010**

In January, look on the website <http://www.aauw-nys.org> for the registration forms for the **2010 New York State Convention** at The Otesaga in Cooperstown. The forms will also be mailed to each branch president. The hotel's guaranteed reservation deadline is Monday, **March 8**.

**The Otesaga** convention package includes two nights at the hotel and six meals.

- Single occupancy: \$495 per person
- Double occupancy: \$330 per person
- Guaranteed Lakeview accommodations are an additional \$25.00 per night, plus tax (based on availability).



A magnificent, Federal-style structure with an imposing front portico supported by massive 30-foot columns, The Otesaga occupies 700 feet of lakefront on the southern shore of Lake Otsego, the famed "Glimmerglass" of James Fenimore Cooper's novels.

**Linda D. Hallman**, AAUW executive director, will be the convention's keynote speaker. Saturday will feature workshops related to AAUW's mission, and don't miss the convention's EF Gala, LAF Luncheon and International Relations Luncheon.

In addition, enjoy these activities during your Otesaga stay:

- Enjoy tennis on all-weather courts.
- Paddle a canoe on tranquil Lake Otsego.
- Swim in a heated outdoor pool.
- Jog or hike throughout the historic village of Cooperstown or along the natural wooded landscape of the Otsego's eastern shore.
- Listen or dance to live music nightly in the hotel's Templeton Lounge
- Visit the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum, the Fenimore Art Museum or the Farmers' Museum.

Questions? Send an email or call me.

## AAUW NYS BOARD CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2010-2012

by Mary Lou Davis, nominating team chair,  
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The AAUW NYS nominating team is proud to present the following members as qualified to stand for election to office for AAUW NYS, 2010-2012.

### President – Eileen S. Hartmann

Eileen has been a member of AAUW for 34 years. She was elected to a two-year term as NYS AAUW president in 2008. She also served as NYS AAUW membership vice president from 2005-08, college/university director for 2002-05, and was on the marketing committee. Eileen has held various offices in the Fairport Area Branch including president, Educational Foundation co-vice president and membership co-vice president.

Eileen has a B.A. from Edgecliff College and an M.S.Ed. from Nazareth College of Rochester. Her work experience includes positions as 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.

**Quotes** – "Having and applying the knowledge accumulated over the years I have spent as a committed AAUW member has served as the essential foundation for the presidency." / "I like to listen to people, place concerns into perspective, show

*(Continued on page 2)*



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The historic Otesaga's cupola, a Cooperstown landmark ↓



## NYS BOARD CANDIDATES (Continued from page 1)

respect for our membership and our history of activism, value learning, and understand the need for continuous improvement.”

**Helen Engel**, AAUW NYS historian, said: “Eileen has shown that she is well-qualified to hold the position of president and I feel that her expertise and experience will serve her well, and is a great benefit to the branches and membership of New York.” / **Mary Jane Lloyd**, membership vice president of the Alfred-Hornell Branch, wrote: “She has been an inspiration to me and to my fellow District Two members who have had the honor to share experiences with her.” / **Carol Richardson**, RIT professor, added: “I have observed her presentations at state conventions and district meetings and she always connects well with her audiences and conveys a clear vision of the AAUW mission.”

### Program Vice President – Peggy Kelland

Peggy served as vice president for program for two women’s organizations, Poughkeepsie AAUW and the Junior League of Poughkeepsie, before being elected as NYS AAUW program vice president in 2008. At the state level, she also served as international affairs director for two years and as a member of the nominating team.

Peggy is a 37-year member of the Poughkeepsie Branch where she served as president, program vice president, communications vice president, and recording secretary, along with various other chairmanships.

Peggy has a B.A. from Smith College and an M.A. from Columbia University Teachers College. She has experience teaching elementary subjects, high school social studies, ESL and reading. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, she trained and supervised student teachers. Her community activities include the Dutchess Interfaith Council, Girl Scouts, League of Women Voters, Junior League, and several community boards and commissions.

**Quotes** – “My commitment and enthusiasm for AAUW’s mission – education and equity – shows in the career I have chosen and in the volunteer organizations to which I have devoted my time.” / “I would like to build on my experience as NYS AAUW vice president for program by further assisting branches in programming and by working to increase attendance at the state convention.”

**Jean Havens**, NYS AAUW *FOCUS* director, said: “As a state board member myself, I have seen Peggy in action, working collaboratively with other board members to move the AAUW mission forward.” / **Mildred Dewitt**, Legal Advocacy Fund vice president, says of Peggy: “Her encouragement to



the branches to set and achieve their goals, her dedication to detail and her commitment to the AAUW NYS Convention program have become evident during the past two years.” / **Maria Ellis**, district director, added: “Peggy is a natural leader who inspires AAUW members to excel and to compete for the many program awards.”

### Educational Fund Vice President – Lisa Davis Clark

Lisa has been a member of the Rockland County Branch for three years, serving as Educational Foundation chair and co-president.

Lisa’s educational background includes a B.S. from New York University, an M.A. from Teachers College, and a P.D. from Long Island University. She completed her Ph.D. at Walden University in May of 2009.

Her work experience includes positions as a math teacher, local instructional superintendent, co-director of the NYC Department of Education/Adult and Continuing Education and director of the NYC Board of Education Cooperative Work-Based Education Program. She is currently a substitute assistant professor at Medgar Evers College and adjunct instructor at Nyack College.

Lisa is also a board member and chair of the government relations and community affairs subcommittee of the New York University Alumni Association. She has reviewed proposals for conference presentations for the American Educational Research Association.

**Quote** – “I have served in leadership positions as principal, program director, and local instructional superintendent. I know how to work with diverse populations because I understand that the need for communication is the key. My experience with AAUW led me to develop a clear understanding of the challenges faced by a well-established organization, with an aging population and a need to regenerate, during a time of great economic strife.”

**Ann Brennan** says: “In the two-and-a-half years that I’ve had the pleasure of getting to know Lisa, I’ve been very impressed with her quiet yet determined composure. Lisa is a delightful, warm, enthusiastic and empathetic member of our local Rockland County Branch/AAUW.” / **Inez Brisfjord** stated: “Lisa Davis Clark has shown commitment to AAUW mission and goals, sensitivity to its values and an ability to discharge the requirements of office with quiet, pleasant competence.” / **Dr. Nkechi Madonna Agwu**, New York City Branch president, wrote: “Dr. Clark’s leadership experience within AAUW makes her an ideal candidate for this position. An experienced educator, widow, and single parent of a son in college, she can empathize with the importance and significance of the Educational Fund of AAUW.”



**LAF CORNER: AS CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE NEARS, YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT IS VITAL**  
by Mildred DeWitt, AAUW-NYS LAF vice president,  
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As we approach the close of the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) contribution year (January 1 to December 31), I urge all members and branches to send in their contributions in a timely manner. We will no longer have a grace period beyond December 31. Make every effort to mail these donations by the end of November 2009.

**Title IX Settlement Reached in Florida**

According to the Associated Press, a settlement agreement was reached in late October in the Title IX discrimination suit against the Florida High School Athletic Association. Under the settlement, the athletic association will pay \$41,200 in legal fees, agree to notify the parents in writing two weeks before any proposed changes to an amendment that involves sports scheduling cuts, and provide Title IX training.



A group of parents, headed by former Olympic swimmer and AAUW member **Nancy Hogshead-Makar**, filed the suit in June after schedule changes cut the number of varsity games by 20% and all other play by 40%, with the exception of football and competitive cheerleading. Parents claimed that this unfairly hurt female student athletes in violation of Title IX. For information on how to be involved in your area go to the Program in a Box information at [http://aauw.org/member\\_center/programs/TitleIXCompliance.cfm](http://aauw.org/member_center/programs/TitleIXCompliance.cfm).

**Steepest Price Increases for Higher Education Institutions**

Despite the economic downturn, tuition and fees at four-year universities and colleges have increased at steeper rates than in prior years, after adjusting for inflation.

**ACTION:** Since women are more likely to borrow than men and will make less on average after graduation, female graduates are more likely to struggle with their loan debt. AAUW actively supported the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which became law in September 2007, as an impor-

tant step toward making college more affordable and accessible.

**LAF Support Makes a Difference**

Your support of LAF helps in the fight for pay equity. Only court precedent and legislation will make this difference. The cases that LAF supports through *amicus curiae* and direct support, such as that involving LAF plaintiff **Claire Schuster** (you can read her entire case at [www.aauw.org/advocacy](http://www.aauw.org/advocacy)), are the significant changes that will move us forward in our fight for pay equity. Claire recently won her appeal and is scheduled to receive a new trial date.

**Roderick Jackson**, guest speaker at the New York State LAF luncheon in 2009, recently had his case closed. The court ruled that the Birmingham Alabama Schools were upholding the agreement reached with Coach Jackson.

As of November 2009, there are six cases still open from the original plaintiff-supported cases. The Education Fund's board has voted to award an additional \$4,000 to each of these cases in their continued fight for equity.

The LAF's newly designed pin for 2009 is available for a donation of \$100. Please forward all donations to AAUW LAF, Planetarium Station, PO Box 390, New York City 10024-0390. These donations must reach me by December 15 in order to be properly credited for the 2009 contribution year.

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**BRANCH BYLAWS: ARE YOURS UPDATED?**

by Mimi Korb, AAUW-NYS secretary/bylaws,  
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A warm and gracious thank you to all of the New York State branches who completed their bylaws changes by the October 31 deadline.

The bylaws changes at the AAUW national convention precipitated a number of changes to the bylaws at the branch level. The update process was not an easy one. But for all of you who made the effort, your bylaws now conform to the model branch bylaws posted on the [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) website.

For those branches that were not able to meet the deadline, it is still necessary for you to update your bylaws to comply with the greater organization. One of the key changes that must be reflected is "one member, one vote", which eliminates the need for branches to be electing convention delegates.

Also, the Educational Foundation has become the **Educational Fund**. All references to the Association and the AAUW charter have been eliminated. The branch name format has been standardized.

In order to assist with your update, AAUW has posted a set of model branch bylaws on their website which contain mandated sections: <http://aauw.org/About/bylaws/index.cfm>. Your branch-specific information can easily be merged into this document. Once you have made the appropriate updates, please forward a copy of your bylaws for the New York State files. Let me know if you have any questions.

## ■■ BITS AND PIECES ■■

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS president,  
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There are so many experiences I have the privilege of embracing while serving as a state leader of AAUW. I can envision these bits and pieces of experiences forming a rich "life quilt." I wanted to share with you some of my recent AAUW equity-related experiences:

■■ Two trips to Seneca Falls have enriched my life. One trip in October was for the ceremony inducting ten women into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Open the site [www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org) to see background information about all of the inductees. You will be impressed by the accomplishments of these honored women.

My second Seneca Falls adventure involved traveling to the Women's Rights National Historical Park where the presentations and tours reminded me of the outstanding women from this upstate region who believed in working together to ensure women obtained equal rights. They took brave steps to make sure that voting was one of those rights.

Also, what a thrill it was to be in the home of **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, where you could not only sense her commitment to women's rights, but also



value the house where great people gathered to plan for justice! Reviewing the Declaration of Sentiments provided both a snapshot of women's history and a reminder that women's rights are still not fully in focus. I came away believing those were my sentiments exactly!

■■ Participating in a webinar about Title IX for the first time through AAUW was a dynamic experience. Viewing a Power Point presentation on my computer while listening to the voices of women from across the country was a new and impressive experience. The webinar is for all to view now on the [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) site so you too can go to the material at any time. An extensive Title IX Program In A Box is also available on the national website so you can gather ideas for action in your branches and make sure your community schools are measuring up to this federal law.

■■ Conversational connections with members and guests at district fall conferences generated sparks of fun interspersed with common concerns

*(Continued on page 8.)*

## HELP!! KEEP THOSE BIOGRAPHIES COMING

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

Help! It's not too late! Honor those prominent women in your area by including them in the NYS AAUW "Women Making a Difference" project. Biographies are needed. We know that NYS has produced a multitude of outstanding women in all fields from its earliest history until now. To remember them, NYS AAUW has instituted this project which will ensure that their contributions will not be forgotten.

For biographies you might consider the following:

- 1) Look around your community and think of prominent women who have made a difference in the past, as well as women who are still living and who are still making contributions.
- 2) Check your branch members, past and present, for appropriate candidates.
- 3) Think of your geographic area's history and write about prominent women — those who were famous or not so famous in the past — but who still made contributions.
- 4) Consider women in a variety of fields — government, politics, business, science, medicine, law, journalism, media, literature, religion, health, social services, education, art, music, theater, dance, sports, leadership, community service, or any others.

Thanks to all of you who have already submitted biographies; please continue this project and send us many more.

For those branches which have not responded, look at the four items above and find significant women in your area to include. The participation of every branch is necessary to make this truly a state project. Women in all geographic areas deserve to be honored.

For further information, check the state website [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org), contact your branch president, or feel free to call or email us. Finished biographies, including documentation, may also be e-mailed to us. Don't forget to include your branch name and the names of the author and researcher. (These may be the same or different.)



Helen Engel, 32 Brown Drive, Oswego, New York 13126  
Marilynn Smiley, 77 West Fifth Street, Oswego, New York 13126

## THE DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (S1987-A) NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

by Nancy Mion, AAUW NYS public policy director, myown220@aol.com ~ 631.472.9377

### What is it?

The Dignity For All Students Act (S1987-A) is a NYS anti-bullying bill that would safeguard students from hate crimes based on race, ethnicity, sex, disability, religion, appearance, or perceived or actual sexual orientation, or gender expression.

### Facts

Recent Bureau of Justice statistics and National Criminal Victimization surveys show that in NYS:

- Children under the age of 17 are found to have committed 30% of violent hate offenses and 40% of property related hate offenses.
- 55% of teens have been subjected to bias-motivated harassment or assault during the past year.

**Not feeling safe in school has devastating effects on the lives and educational achievement of many of our young people.**

The Dignity for All Students Act would provide:

- Training for faculty and staff to address issues of harassment and discrimination,
- Classes for students to discourage harassment, and
- Reporting of incidents to the NYS Department of Education.

**Call, visit, write or email your NYS senator to support this bill.** Find their phone numbers and addresses at [www.nysenate.gov/senators](http://www.nysenate.gov/senators) or in your telephone book. The bill passed the Assembly last session.

Find background material and a sample letter at [http://aauw-nys.org/pp\\_curr-nys-issues.htm](http://aauw-nys.org/pp_curr-nys-issues.htm)

### AAUW's Involvement in Harassment Issues

- AAUW NYS supported the Dignity for All Students Act in the early 2000's.
- AAUW has supported hate crimes legislation.
- AAUW Biennial Action Priorities include: "Freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities."
- AAUW reports about harassment and its effect upon students, especially girls, include:  
*Hostile Hallways: The AAUW Survey on Sexual Harassment in American Schools* (1993).  
*Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing and Sexual Harassment in School* (2001)  
*Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus* (2006)



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR COLLEGE WOMEN — BRANCHES CAN HELP!

by Diane Haney, AAUW NYS college/university director, haneydhd@gmail.com ~ 516.248.0476

Once upon a time, many of our members were college student leaders. Let me ask a question. If you had been singled out and identified as a leader and sent to a conference to meet others, trained and sent back to campus to contribute further, would it have made a difference in your life?

A woman business leader writing in the New York Times recently noted that no woman had ever asked her for a promotion although many men had. Some part of the glass ceiling exists because women do not see themselves and their capabilities as the powerful forces they are.

Are the undergraduate women in your area getting the leadership development they

deserve? Our most important leadership training opportunity is the National College Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) where 500 women gather to hear women leaders in business and academia. The student feedback is overwhelmingly positive.

What can we do about it? Some branches have shown the way by sponsoring a local student to NCCWSL. Thank you and congratulations! Others lack the resources. We cannot do everything, but that is no excuse to do nothing. The NYS board has set aside over \$800 to match funds raised by branches which would like to offer some support but cannot commit to fully fund a student.

NCCWSL can help us find a worthy New York woman who needs funding if your local amount raised is less than half a student's costs. Don't let this money go to waste! If your branch is willing to contribute something to a NCCWSL scholarship, let me know and the state will match it.



## FALL BRANCH PROGRAMS

by Peggy Kelland, NYS program vice president,  
program@aauw-nys.org ~ 845.297.0507

Our branches often independently respond to our common mission with similar programs. In recent years these themes have included domestic violence, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs for girls, and human trafficking. Last fall, many branches featured public policy awareness, and this year a number of branches, including **Alfred-Hornell**, **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown**, **Ithaca**, **New York City**, and **Westchester**, have already celebrated Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday.

Other cultural programs on noteworthy people have included both Olivia and Mark Twain and Catherine the Great in **Elmira-Corning**, Sojourner Truth in **Ithaca**, and Teddy Roosevelt in **Nassau**. **Poughkeepsie** learned about Dutch colonial women; **Elmira-Corning** heard "Never Done: Women's Work in Chemung County from 1880-1920"; while the **North Fork** explored the immigrant experience; and **Bath** will see "Iron-Jawed Angels" about the suffrage movement. **Buffalo** examined quilting, and **Oneonta** experienced readers' theaters. **Rochester** heard about travel opportunities.

Several branches had a trip as one or more monthly branch meetings: **Kingston** went to Vassar College's Frances Loeb Art Gallery, **Oneonta** to the Albany Institute of Art and History, **Buffalo** to the National First Ladies' Library, and **Fairport** to the Women's Rights National Historical Park. Many branches also have interest groups, fundraisers, and socials that involve trips to the many places of interest in New York as well as neighboring states.

Ever ready to learn new things, **Rockland** pursued "No Woman Left Behind: Tech Savvy", **Kingston** heard "Why You Should Learn to Love the Internet," and **Poughkeepsie** explored "Photo Shop Elements," while **North Shore** confronted "The Aging Brain" and **Oswego** heard "Health Recommendations for Senior Women." **St. Lawrence** learned salary negotiating skills and **Oneonta** will tackle "Sorting Stuff: Downsizing and Simplifying".

Branches ranged all over the world, from "Women's Issues in Georgia" (**Adirondack**) to Cuba (**Islip**), the Amazon River (**Mohawk Valley**), Nigeria (**New York City**), and Cambodia (**Westchester**). Topics stretched from the past, with the Jüdische Kulturbund (**Westchester**), to the present in the Lost Boys (**Syracuse**) and Seeds for Peace (**Schenectady**).

Active in our communities, AAUW members had programs on homes for homeless youth and pregnant women (**Adirondack**), aging in place and on the women's shelter (**Bath**), the Children's Home (**Jefferson**), hospice and music therapy (**Kingston**),

Girl Scouts (**Rochester**), the domestic violence SOS Shelter (**Southern New York**), and Iraqi refugee re-settlement (**Schenectady**). **Jamestown** holds a What's New? Fair, and **Mohawk Valley** works with the Salvation Army.

**Rockland** and **Jamestown** held candidates forums, while **Elmira-Corning** combined the forum with a tea and **Staten Island** included a dinner. **St. Lawrence** had a booth promoting AAUW's positions on health care at a street fair. **Fairport** heard a local news anchor, **Mohawk Valley** learned about the local sewers and sewer systems, **North Shore** considered "Living the American Dream," and **Staten Island** had an update on "Developments in Domestic Violence Initiatives".

Fundraisers for the Educational Fund and Legal Advocacy Fund included a speaker from the Women's Bar Association in **Adirondack**; an antiques appraisal in **Staten Island**; an auction in **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown**; a card party in **Rochester**; a lunch, bridge, games, and Chinese auction in **North Shore**; "Chocolat" and chocolate in **Fairport**; and a chef's dinner demonstration in **Poughkeepsie**.

Book groups remain very popular, and several branches also have film discussion groups. Great Decisions and other issue discussion groups flourish in many branches. Cuisine and bridge groups endure, and other card and game groups, from mahjong to golf, are spreading. Most branches were also involved in planning and attending their district conferences and conducting interbranch programs, especially in the areas of Sister to Sister and public policy.

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## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by Bergie Lebovitch, AAUW NYS membership vice president, bergie.lebovitch@gmail.com ~ 845.298.4045

- R Reflect on what your AAUW does for you.
- E Evaluate what you do for your AAUW.
- S Summarize your thoughts and feelings.
- O Opportunities to recruit abound
- L Let them know who we are.
- U Unveil your reasons for belonging.
- T Talk-up your enthusiasm.
- I Invite them to your next event.
- O Occasion (Shape the Future event)
- N New member!!!!
- S Shape the Future = free memberships\*

(\*Up to three free memberships for fiscal year July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010. Talk to your membership vice president to find out how you can help.)

**Happy Holidays!**

## UNITED NATIONS BRIEFINGS: MIGRANT CONCERNS AND WOMEN AS PEACE-MAKERS

by Melissa Guardaro, AAUW-NYS international affairs director, mmg4@netzero.net ~ 845.268.0152

On a balmy day in early October, 26 New York State members of AAUW representing nine branches, visited United Nations headquarters in New York City. The October 9 program consisted of two briefings about topics relating to international women's issues: migration, and peace and security.

"Three percent of the world's population are migrants, enough to rank as the fifth largest country in the world", according to **Anke Strauss**, liaison officer for the International Organization for Migration.

The problems migrant workers face are different for each worker class. Less-educated workers tend to fill jobs in the informal sector such as domestic workers, sweatshop employees, and child/adult care helpers. They are often invisible and thus are subject to abuse and exploitation by employers. On the other end of the spectrum, educated workers often do not have recognition of their diplomas and cannot transfer pensions or their equivalent of Social Security investments across borders.



This problem can be tackled from two vantage points. The country of origin for these migrants needs to more closely supervise recruiting agencies so as not to have migrants fall victim to smuggling traps. Countries of origin can post a labor commissioner at each mission or embassy in foreign countries so that rules of the country can be followed. The country of destination can improve the situation for migrants by improving and enforcing labor inspections, preventing human rights abuses against migrants and compiling a registry of contracts for foreign workers.

"Immigrants need to become productive members of society. There are three ways to achieve this: learn the language, education and integration in the community," Strauss stressed. As AAUW members, we can reach out to the migrants in our community and not make it an "us versus them" situation.

**Gina Torry**, a consultant for UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, spoke of the latest news from the Security Council. UNIFEM provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategies that foster women's empowerment and gender equality. Resolution 1325, which came from women's organizations including UNIFEM, mandates that women must participate in the peace-making process. This resolution takes into consideration women in armed conflict, gender violence and also provides a framework for prevention through decision making.

A resolution is only as powerful as the funds that support it. Resolution 1889 addresses this lack of funding and its weak implementation. The Security Council has called for a set of indicators that monitor and implement Resolution 1325. Two others outlined by Torry, resolutions 1820 and 1888, protect women against sexual violence — often referred to as "gendercide" or "femicide" — such as that currently happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in the Sudan.

In order to improve the situation for women worldwide, women need to have a seat at the peace table, high level leadership positions at the United Nations need to be filled by women, and policies at the local level must involve women.

### SUCCESSFUL FALL CONFERENCES STATEWIDE

by Maria Ellis, AAUW NYS district council director, mellis@opm32.hbs.edu ~ 973.216.4181

I would like to congratulate the various district coordinators, branch members and friends for participating in the AAUW Annual Fall Conferences held throughout the state. Also, special thanks to all the state board members who traveled many miles to take part in and contribute to the success of these conferences!

**Eileen Hartmann**, AAUW NYS president; **Ber-gie Lebovitch**, membership vice president; and **Carolyn Donovan**, AAUW's representative at the United Nations were among the conference speakers. It was also very special to hear NYS board members **Mildred DeWitt**, LAF vice president; **Nancy Mion**, public policy director; **Diane Haney**, college/university director; and **Maria Ellis**, district council director, share their knowledge of and passion for the mission of AAUW.

There was such a variety of conference themes, including:

- "In and Out of this World" - an inspiring talk and DVD presentation by **Helen and Dave Melroy**, parents of astronaut and shuttle pilot, **Pam Melroy** (District 2);
- "Empowering Women in the 21st Century" (District 5, who also celebrated **Eleanor Roosevelt's** 125th birthday and her role in the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights);
- "Our Bridge to the Word" (District 3), featuring author **Anne Roth** who spoke about cultural differences in China;
- "Advocacy" (District 1); and
- "Breaking Through Barriers / Celebrating Eleanor Roosevelt" (District 6).

Such outstanding programs resulted in a successful series of conferences. Thank you again to the branches involved on the district level for making a difference and moving our mission forward!





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**MISSION STATEMENT**

*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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Questions and articles should be addressed to the *FOCUS* Director, Jean Havens, 40 Kisco Park Drive, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Telephone: 914.241.4518. Email: [FOCUS@aauw-nys.org](mailto:FOCUS@aauw-nys.org). Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.

**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.

■ ■ **BITS AND PIECES** ■ ■ *(Continued from page 4.)*

about our next steps as members of this great organization to which we belong. How will we evolve as an organization nationally and in New York State? Of course it all takes time to work our way through to find the answers, but rest assured there is passion about AAUW and much to learn from national alliances and state plans. We will continue the dialogue and meanwhile strengthen our branches while broadcasting our mission statement.

■ ■ And speaking of broadcasting, I recently had the exciting opportunity to reach audiences through the airwaves in western New York State and talk about the history and actions of AAUW. My host was a woman who was awarded AAUW funds to begin a radio program which is all about positive news. She was especially interested in the history of AAUW. I used the online museum on the national website as my guide and it was an experience I treasured.

Being a radio guest is an action you too can take in your own communities, so go for it! Prepare your notes about AAUW, choose a theme for your discussion along with the radio host, and talk about our organization with the goal of positive results. It's both nerve-racking and exhilarating...and a sure-fire method of adding bits and pieces to your own lifetime experience "quilt."

*Our lives are like quilts — bits and pieces, joy and sorrow, stitched with love.*

