

ELECTIONS 2010: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD / GET OUT THE VOTE!

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS president,
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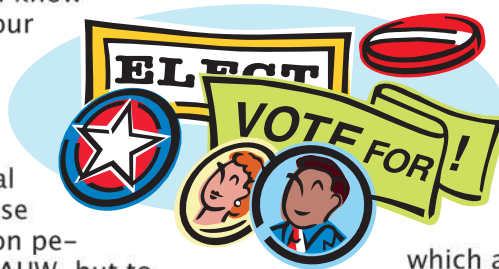
Your voice is your personal vehicle of expression. If you are in AAUW, you know how to use it effectively to pursue our goals, to promote our mission of equity for all, to enrich conversations with your ideas through dialogue, and to express your opinion on a variety of topics critical to our organization. I urge you to use your voice this fall during an election period so important to not only our AAUW, but to our country and the world.

Each branch and each member should be involved in some aspect of getting out the vote this fall. It would be perfect if each branch of AAUW New York State had a member to spearhead Public Policy actions within our communities.

Familiarize yourself with the AAUW national and state Public Policy priorities which are available on our websites: www.aauw-nys.org and www.aauw.org and which will assist you in adding credence to your public face and help you in appropriate conversations within your cities, towns, and villages.

Attend any town hall or other public election meetings in your area and go with questions you can vocalize for the candidates for national, state, and local offices. Make sure your presence is known. Use the posters provided for you by AAUW New York State to encourage people to be informed and to vote. Mount those posters on a piece of wood or plastic and write your questions on the posters themselves, front and back, so people view your issues and concerns backed by AAUW Public Policy priorities. Hold them high! If you don't have the chance to use your voice at a public election forum you will have made your point through the printed word on the posters or other placards. Go with a group of members for an even more powerful presence!

Since we won a



national AAUW Public Policy Impact Grant, thanks to the work of National AAUW Public Policy Committee Chair **Nancy Mion**, we benefited at the Summer Leadership Conference from her voice and advice, as well as that of **Lecia Imbery**, who traveled from the national AAUW office in Washington, DC, to lend her expertise. Visit the front page of our state

website to see and use the many ideas (available to you from the Summer Leadership Conference) for being informed, getting out the vote, registering voters, using the reference documents such as the Woman to Woman Voter Turn-out Guide, reading the e-mails

which arrive in your mailbox, referring to the nationally produced voting record of our national legislators so you know how they voted on issues pertinent to AAUW issues, and using the Two Minute Activist system to state your opinions. Do something — one action is better than none! You, the member, are the mode of messaging.

In addition to all of these options to voice your opinions, a segment of our Public Policy Impact Grant award will allow you to apply for and receive funds and certificates of achievement for your voter-related actions at the branch level.

The AAUW NYS Voter Education Campaign is composed of Voter Registration, Voter Education, and Get Out the Vote programs. Applications will need to be submitted by **March 1, 2011**. Watch for more details, but don't wait to use the resources provided for you to voice your choices through AAUW. Act now to make a difference. Use your right to express yourself and to inform and motivate others to vote! The rewards for all and awards for your branch will follow.



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WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE: SCRAPBOOKING FOR THE FUTURE!

by Helen Engel, rengel@oswego.edu ~ 315.343.9678 and Marilynn Smiley, marilynn.smiley@oswego.edu ~ 315.343.4803, AAUW NYS historians

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 31, 2010

New York State probably has had, and still has, more prominent women than any other state. After all, there were those visionary women at the Seneca Falls Conference in 1848, and New York continues to be a leader with many firsts.

Please identify those prominent women (nationally or locally famous) from your geographic area and send us their biographies. There are hundreds of women whose biographies deserve to be included in this project.

Thank you for the biographies already submitted (names can be checked on the state website - www.aauw-nys.org under the History tab or contact us). The lives of these women are truly inspiring. Reading about them has been not only very exciting, but also enjoyable and fun. KEEP THOSE BIOGRAPHIES COMING!



STATE SCRAPBOOK PROJECT

Scrapbooks are valuable tools for preserving branch activities and memories. If your branch has not given us scrapbook pages in the past, start now. For branches that have given us copies of your scrapbook pages, please continue to do so. These pages will be displayed at the state convention. All pages will be put into the AAUW NYS archives and should be on archival-safe paper.

Use your best "scrapbooking" techniques, but make sure to provide your viewers a good representation of your branch's activities for the year. Newspaper articles (copied on archival-safe paper), pictures, programs, or whatever, can be used. If possible, make sure that all people are identified.

Due to cost considerations, scrapbook pages will not be sent out this year. Contact Helen for scrapbook pages if you need them. Copies of your pages can be sent to Helen via email.

Questions? Contact either of us.
Have fun with both projects!



LAF CORNER — NEW YORK STATE 4th IN THE NATION!

by Mildred DeWitt, AAUW-NYS LAF vice president, aauwmanhattan@aol.com ~ 516.318.1313

Welcome back for the 2010-11 AAUW year. Congratulations are again in order as New York State has moved from 7th place in per capita donations to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) to 4th place in the nation. This information was a long time coming, but since we did so well, it was worth the wait. Again I thank you all for your efforts on behalf of LAF.

Please visit the website at www.aauw.org and look into the area of legal referrals. As AAUW NYS LAF vice president, I do receive calls from people who are looking for information and help regarding discriminatory practices in the workplace. The national website has been updated and there is information to guide a prospective litigant through the process, including a page about "What to Ask an Attorney." It is an excellent site and helpful to all who think they have a situation that needs legal advice.

A new Program In A Box about women in the court system is also available on-line. Your branch could consider a program based on this topic, perhaps inviting a local female judge to speak. More women in the system — that's the ideal for which we are working. The new program promotes this goal.

I must remind you that our deadline for contributions is **December 1, 2010**. We no longer have the extension into January. It is most important that you forward your Contribution Report Form to me as soon as possible so that your branch will receive full credit for the 2010 year. Contact me with any questions.



Women in the Court System



**STOP! CAUTION!
GO NO FURTHER....CONTAGIOUS
-- NO KNOWN CURE...**

Oh -- all right -- so you want to "catch" the fever, but be prepared for some really fun times ahead!

Join the hundreds of New York State members who have brought in at least one new member to their branch, or other branches across the country. Do you know who the members are that are participating in the Member Get A Member Campaign? Go ahead and find out by going to the AAUW national website at www.AAUW.org, click on Member Get A Member Campaign and then on to the Hall of Fame.

For us in NYS it's a "long scroll" down to New York State — but worth the trip! Check out your branch and hopefully find your name. Pretty impressive, huh?

Now, you might also notice that there are

some members with **five** or more new members to their credit. Those members are "**Bergie's Angels**" and they get special recognition at the NYS Convention, as well as a specially designed pin -- **TAKE CARE IF YOU SPOT ONE OF THESE PINS AT YOUR BRANCH MEETINGS: "they" are infected!** You might just want to ask for some recruiting tips from those wearing them, to help **YOU** on your way to earning your "**wings.**"

Why not combine your recruitment successes with any Shape the Future event(s)? Your branch may offer half-price national dues only, along with state dues and local dues to any new member*. (Your membership officer will have the appropriate sign-in sheets that must accompany the form with the new member's information.)

For every two new members brought "in" in this manner, your branch will get one free national membership — up to three free memberships per year. And that's not all....Let your officers tell you about the additional free memberships which are obtainable in celebration of the 130th Year Anniversary of AAUW! Go get them!

*This is for members new to AAUW or who have not been a member in the past two years, including being members-at-large.

"Nicely Infected"
Bergie Lebovitch

AAUW NYS membership vice president,
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"MY SISTER'S KEEPER" IS UP AND RUNNING!

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

During the Summer Leadership Conference, **Joan Monk**, past New York State board member, and I presented the program "My Sister's Keeper." Through this program, we hope to provide our members with a greater understanding of the challenges faced by women, both domestically and worldwide, and to inspire action — small or large — to improve the situation for women.

The first part of the program, a discussion of the book "Half the Sky" has been adopted by many branches (including my own) for the fall. A discussion guide can be found at <http://www.aauw-nys.org/attached%20files/MSK%20project/Half%20the%20Sky%20Discussion%20and%20Action%20Guide.pdf>.

Branches are conducting this discussion in many different ways: as part of an existing book group, during branch meetings, and also using this as an opportunity to partner with other organizations.

At the Summer Leadership Conference in Cazenovia, we were treated to two fabulous presenters who are definitely "Keepers." **Debbie Rooney** from Beads for Education, www.beadsforeducation.org, spoke about how, after a trip to Africa, she wanted to help the people of Kenya and ended up organizing a women's fair trade cooperative and providing scholarships for close to 2,000 girls. **Deb Naybor**, an AAUW member and Buffalo Branch scholarship winner, founded Both Your Hands, www.bothyourhands.org, an organization that connects communities in need in Zambia, India, Sri Lanka and India with communities in the United States in an effort to alleviate crushing poverty and foster self-sufficiency.

Further presentations and discussions of "My Sister's Keeper" will occur at district meetings in October. This is only the beginning of the two-year program and the enthusiasm is contagious. Please provide me with updates as we will be posting programming ideas and projects on the AAUW NYS website.

*Save the date: **October 8, 2010** for the **United Nations Day** that will include presentations by UN agencies about the new gender architecture at the UN, the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goal of economic development reform for women and a special presentation by CARE, AAUW's partner in philanthropy and advancement for women worldwide. See Melissa's contact info above to register.*



2010 AAUW NYS DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCES

by Maria Ellis, AAUW NYS district council director, mellis@citi-habitats.com ~ 973.216.4181

I would like to thank all the district coordinators and/or their branch representatives who joined us at the 2010 AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference, July 9-11, on the campus of Cazenovia College in Cazenovia, NY

At the conference we started the planning process for our AAUW NYS District Fall Conferences. As I am writing this article, our district coordinators and branch presidents are continuing to plan their respective district conferences.

The preliminary schedule of conferences is below. Please contact your district coordinator to offer your time, talents and treasures in order to help with the success of your district conference.

District 1: Saturday, October 16
Theme: *Standing on the Shoulders of Giants*
Conference host: Jamestown Branch

District 2: October 30
Theme: *Leaders Building Leaders*
Conference host: Greater Rochester Area Branch

District 3: October 3
Theme: *Policies, Politics and Prostitution*
Conference host: Oswego Branch

District 4: Saturday, October 23
Theme: *Span of Life Opportunities for Improving the Lives of Women and Girls*
Conference host: Amsterdam-Cloversville-Johnstown Branch

District 5: October 30
Theme: *She Touched Me: Building Bridges and Reflecting Diversity*
Conference host: New York City Branch

District 6: October 23
Theme: *How Women Are Breaking Barriers*
Conference hosts: Long Island Inter-Branch

District 7 - October 1
Theme: *Do You Like What You See? How to Engage the Social Impact of Media on Girls and Women*
Conference hosts: Jefferson County Branch and St. Lawrence County Branch

For more details about your 2010 District Fall Conference, please log in to our website at <http://www.aauw-nys.org/districtcouncil.htm>.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the district conferences throughout our beautiful state.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

by Helen Martin, AAUW NYS cultural interests director, Helenmartin74@yahoo.com ~ 518.762.7638

Hi Everyone,

I have agreed to take over the role of AAUW NYS cultural interests director from **Joan Monk**, a very daunting task considering how terrific Joan was in the position!

I am looking forward to hearing from each and every one of you with your ideas for what you would like to discuss, what your branches have done or plan on doing or any ideas you may have for topics of cultural interest we can all pursue.

In the materials that Joan sent me (Thank you, Joan!) was an interesting booklet on "AAUW Historic Principles 1881-1989." One quote really made me stop and think - "*Two questions we must ask ourselves. What are we doing in the AAUW to make freedom a reality? What more can we as individuals and as an Association do in the future?*" - AAUW President Althea Hottel, in her address to the Association Convention in 1951.

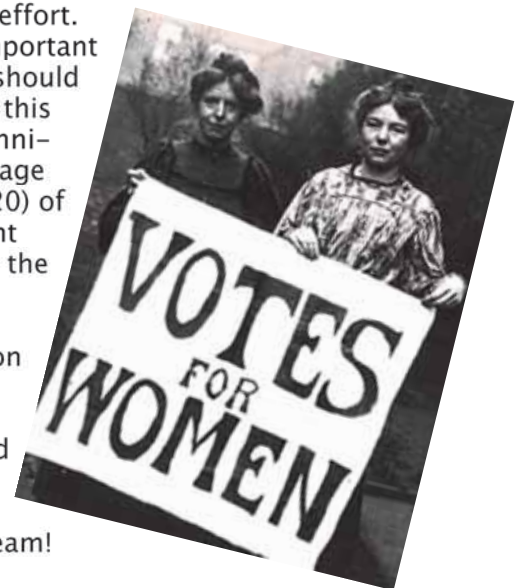
With the above quote in mind, and working cooperatively with **Melissa Guardaro**, AAUW NYS international affairs director, I am eager to learn how branches across the state are incorporating the theme of "My Sister's Keeper" into programming for 2010-2011. Working as a group to advance the freedom of women living under deplorable conditions is more than just a good idea - it is a necessity - and one that we can definitely have an impact on if we work together.

My branch, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, is planning on reading Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" as a group and also adopting one of the women-owned/women-operated businesses that donate part of their proceeds to women in Third World countries.

As Melissa says in her article on page 3 of this issue of *FOCUS*, she will be posting programming ideas and projects on the AAUW NYS website, so let her know what your branch is doing as part of this multi-cultural effort.

Another important milestone that we should all have celebrated this year was the 90th anniversary of the passage (on August 26, 1920) of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote.

Our branch marked the occasion with Women's Equality Day in the Park which featured a fun blend of music, history, politics, and ice cream!



IMPACT THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS: ASK! SPEAK UP!

by Nancy Mion, AAUW national public policy committee chair, myown220@aol.com ~ 631.472.9377

On November 2, the candidates elected will determine the fate of AAUW issues.

We will be voting for all the seats in the New York state legislature and all of New York State's congresspeople, as well as our New York State leadership.

AAUW NYS has an AAUW Public Policy Impact Grant to assist branches in their Voter Education Campaign efforts. Cash awards and certificates will be given to branches to recognize their outstanding efforts. Help your branch win this award, which can also help to defray costs.

It is essential that voters know how candidates respond to AAUW issues. Also, it is good for candidates to know what their intended constituents feel is important. You can achieve this goal by asking candidates questions at candidates' forums or town hall meetings, as well as at other creative places and/or through personal contacts. Bringing a placard stating your issue or question will call the candidates' and voters' attention to the issue, whether or not you speak.

These are AAUW New York State issue-related questions you might ask:



- How will you engage with the business community, as well as state and federal governments, to improve the economic status of NY women?
- What procedures, including potential policy and legal reforms, will you or have you put in place to identify and address wage inequity, which predominately affects women and people of color?
- How do you propose to ensure adequate and equitable financing for all public schools to close the achievement gap so that all children can reach their full potential?
- How do you propose supporting children's needs for affordable, comprehensive high quality health care, including medical care, preventive care, oral health care, and mental health services?

For more information, go to www.aauw-nys.org.

Visit your elected legislator/official in 2011 to speak about promises made in 2010.

YOU, working with your branch and having fun, can truly MAKE A DIFFERENCE this year!



CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

by Doris McLallen, AAUW NYS college/university director, dmclallen22@twcny.rr.com ~ 315.773.5013

As I write this, I'm looking back on a truly wonderful week!

My two sons, who live far away and in different directions, were home for their 15th and 10th high school reunions, respectively. They had a great time with old friends and new.

Seeing the fun they had made me sorry that I had passed on the opportunity to attend my 40th (Can it be?) college reunion this summer. However, having just joined the AAUW NYS board as college/university director, I am happy to see my alma mater as one of the 31 AAUW member colleges/universities in our state.

Which gets me to thinking what good opportunities are provided by **reunions** to either (1) make the AAUW connection even stronger during your visit, or (2) go to your next reunion with the intention of informing your college/university about the benefits of membership in AAUW and encouraging their affiliation! Why not use the influential and powerful voice of AAUW members as alumnae to grow our college/university membership in the next two years?!

I want to thank my predecessor, **Diane Haney**, for all her help to me in assuming this new position. Diane has done an outstanding job for AAUW NYS and our branches! From her accumulated experience and wisdom come such suggestions as:

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CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

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- It really helps to have a personal contact at the college;
- Help establish connections by planning branch events at your local college or university;
- Branches with good relationships with local colleges or universities who are not members have a good recruiting opportunity;
- And, let's all think how best to be involved and support the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) because "AAUW should be the go-to organization for women's leadership skills."

I may have missed my reunion, but I have not passed up the opportunity to be a part of the AAUW Women in Society delegation to Israel this October! In collaboration and partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout Israel, the delegation, numbering approximately 24, will "foster one-on-one dialogue with prominent women in politics, business, and education."

The delegation will be led by AAUW Executive Director **Linda Hallman** and **Dr. Rivka Carmi**, president of Ben Gurion University of Be'er Sheva.

As the first female university president in Israel, Dr. Carmi is an excellent example of the power of breaking through barriers for women! I look forward to reporting to you about THIS "college/university connection" in the next issue of *FOCUS!*



BRANCH PROGRAMS COVER A WORLD OF INTERESTS

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

During the past spring, our branches continued to advance the mission of AAUW through innovative programs addressing issues in their communities, as well as throughout New York State and the nation.

Alfred-Hornell addressed identity theft

and learned to "Stop Worrying and Take a Chance"; **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** learned how to "Maintain Your Brain"; **Garden City** explored "The Police and the Constitution"; and **Islip** learned about Probate Court and "Women in the House."

Jamestown heard about therapeutic foster care; **North Shore** considered "Should You Have a Will?"; **Rochester** assessed "Obama, One Year Later" and "Racism: Opening Doors"; while **St. Lawrence** heard **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW's public policy director.

Schenectady learned more about "Energy Sources for the Future" and "Navigating the Health Care System" while taking "The Road to Healthy Living"; **Southern New York** observed the Month of the Child by studying the court system; and **Staten Island** addressed stem cell research.

Community Concerns

Branches explored their communities with tours of the Davenport Home for Orphan Girls (**Bath**), The Center for Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences (**Buffalo**), the Susan B. Anthony House (**Fairport**), the Omega Center for Sustainable Living (**Kingston**), Saratoga Springs (**Mohawk Valley**), the Women's Resource Center (**Syracuse**), and Manhattan by Foot (**Westchester**).

They heard about the local past and present with the Miracle-Gro Man (**Garden City**), the Black Experience at Cornell (**Ithaca**), theater venues (**Oneonta**), Hispanics in the Hudson Valley (**Poughkeepsie**), the Monroe Medical Society (**Rochester**), a diversity brunch (**Rockland**), and Staten Island history (**Staten Island**).

Women and Equity

Our emphasis on women and equity both at home and abroad was reflected in "Extraordinary Women's Words" and "Camino Seguro in Guatemala" (**Adirondack**), "Betty, Bamie, and Eleanor: The Women Who Shaped Corning, TR, and FDR" (**Albany**), "Writing Women" (**Alfred-Hornell**), "Founding Women" (**Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown**), the "Hope is Life Foundation" and "Momoirs" Readers' Theater (**Bath**), and "Progress in Equity: North American Women" and "Fabulous First Ladies" (**Buffalo**).

Branches learned about "Remarkable Women" (**Fairport**), "One Woman at a Time" (**Garden City**), "Women's Impact on Philanthropy" and a "Women Making History" show (**Ithaca**), "Eleanor Roosevelt" (**Jamestown**), "Iron-Jawed Angels" and "A Global Perspective on the Oppression of Women" (**Jefferson County**), the Clothesline Project (**Manhattan**), "Pay Equity" (**Mohawk Valley and St. Lawrence**), and "Women's Issues at the UN" (**North Shore**).

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BRANCH PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 6)

They discovered “Women Who Made a Difference” (**Oswego and Rockland**), “Judicial Issues Affecting Women” (**Staten Island**), “East Meets West: The Human Rights Issue” and “American Women in Space” (**Westchester**).

Jamestown sponsored “Get in the Game” to encourage girls in sports while **St. Lawrence County** held a professional clothing fair. The “Explore Your Opportunities” conference for 7th grade girls was a joint branch effort by **Manhattan, New York City, Rockland, and Westchester**.

Arts of All Sorts

Nor did branches neglect the arts, with “Ancient Nubia and Modern Sudan” (**Garden City**), an artist’s presentation (**Ithaca**), African drumming (**Jamestown**), “Writing Your Memoir” (**Kingston**), sampling Mexican cuisine (**Poughkeepsie**), enjoying a musical group (**Southern New York**), and exploring the intricacies of quilt making (**Syracuse**).

Putting the FUN in Fundraising

Branch fundraising ideas included a golf tournament (**Adirondack**), a Victorian Literary Tea (**Islip**) as well as a Writer’s Tea (**Poughkeepsie**), a Chinese auction (**Nassau**), an Arts Afternoon and a Psychic Lunch (**Staten Island**).

EDUCATIONAL FUND

by Lisa Davis Clark, Ph.D., AAUW NYS educational fund vice president, lisaclark_507@msn.com ~ 518.275.0237

It’s amazing to see how quickly time flies as we approach a new decade within a new millennium. Although the organizational structure of AAUW has shifted, the mission remains steadfast in support of equity for women and girls. I encourage everyone to revisit that mission as it applies to all women and

girls, particularly in New York State.

During the summer we were informed of the continued generous spirit exhibited by AAUW members across the Empire State. As of the end of May 2010, New York State had provided \$ **4072.25** of general support to AAUW. The lead branch in this endeavor was **New York City**, followed by **Massapequa**. Special appreciation goes to **Maria Ellis** of the **New York City Branch** for her generous support.

As of May 31, New York State contributed \$ **1,276.00** to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. This effort was led by the **Islip Area** and **Westchester County** branches, with total contributions of over \$200 each.

The **Educational Opportunities Fund** is a resource to support many of the scholars who conduct research and take on the societal roles necessary to advance our mission of equity for women and girls. As of the end of May, New York State AAUW members contributed \$ **1,340.00** to this fund. Congratulations to the **Staten Island Branch** whose total contributions have already earned them a named gift honoree for the 2011 New York State Convention.

Seven members of the **Jamestown Branch**, led by **Loreen Ginnitti**, have initiated a wave of support for the Educational Fund. Their generous spirit was followed by six members of the **Manhattan Branch**, led by **Mildred DeWitt** and **Stella Bruning**. The **Poughkeepsie** and **Schenectady** branches have demonstrated an earnest beginning towards this effort. Many thanks go to the **Alfred-Hornell** and **Rockland County** branches for their contributions to this fund. Fundraisers, such as the Rockland County Garage Sale will be reflected in future reports.

I am confident that after our Summer Leadership Conference we will see evidence of greater support for this extraordinarily important fund. I salute the branches that have found creative ways to engage support.

Reminder:

Branch recognitions for Educational Fund contributions must be postmarked by Friday, **December 17, 2010**. Contributions made by then will receive recognition during the April, 2011 New York State Convention.



Your donations to the Educational Fund help move the AAUW mission forward!



New York State
FOCUS
Fall 2010
ISSN: 1056 3199
www.aauw.org
www.aauw-nys.org

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID at
Pleasantville, NY
10570 and
additional offices
USPS-390-570

MISSION STATEMENT

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

FOCUS (USPS-390-570), a quarterly newsletter, is published for the American Association of University Women — New York State by Mount Kisco Printing, 175 Tompkins Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570-3144.

The subscription rate of \$4 is included in the New York State dues. Periodicals postage is paid at Pleasantville, NY, 10570, and additional offices.

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. Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.

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AAUW National Convention **Breaking through Barriers — Advocating for Change**

**Renaissance Hotel • Washington, D.C. • June 16–19,
2011**

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