

## VOICES, CHOICES, AND ICE

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS president,  
[Eshartmann5@gmail.com](mailto:Eshartmann5@gmail.com) ~ 585.924.4876

First, some local news from my part of the state: we are pleased to have two outstanding women running for Monroe County Executive in this fall's election and eight women who serve on the Rochester City Council. Do you know the women who are running for public office in your area? What can you do now and in the future to learn more about local women candidates?

AAUW branch members and their ideas are sacred. Never think that your ideas for mission-based programming, membership recruitment and retention, or fundraising are not worth mentioning. You never know how many other people are thinking of similar ideas and can make your voice stronger, thereby benefitting all of us.

Because of a national bylaws change voted upon by our membership, you should now have a member taking notes at each branch meeting and ensure that you keep the records of the branch activities by that method. The voices of your branch members should be documented.

Your branch treasurer and membership vice president should communicate often about documenting dues and members. Forms and funds that need to be submitted as you build your branch are a critical part of communication about branches. Dates for submitting names and contact information about members of branches need your attention. Let's continue to grow AAUW NYS! What can you do to make that happen? Choose to be involved!

The AAUW NYS Summer Leadership Conference was well-received by those branch members who attended and heard the voices of a variety of speakers on the campus of Cazenovia College in July. Two AAUW national staff members also joined us, along with a young woman who had attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and was provided funds for registration thanks to the donations of committed New York State branch members.

We heard from several college professors and administrators, from a member of Shaleshock who spoke about hydrofracking as a serious community concern, and from the executive director of the Susan B. Anthony House who assisted us in learning the basics of the Women's History Trail in New York State.



Each of these speakers, as well as awesome presentations by your AAUW NYS board members, educated us on an amazing array of subjects.

It was a full weekend of information provided to assist our branch members in understanding community and women's issues. To see all of the conference presentations made available to you (they are ready for your review and are there for you to use) go to this link:

[www.aauw-nys.org/Cazenovia\\_2011.htm](http://www.aauw-nys.org/Cazenovia_2011.htm)

At the bottom of that same page on the state website you will find the presentations from the 2010 and 2009 summer leadership conferences. Feel free to use them to your advantage!

I hope that you were able to attend your District Fall Conference (although District III had to cancel due to flooding in the Binghamton area and

*(Continued on page 2)*

### In This Issue:

President's Column .....	1
Membership .....	2
Public Policy .....	3
Historians .....	3
Campus Connections.....	4
Program .....	4
International Affairs.....	5
Cultural Interests.....	5
Communications .....	6
Legal Advocacy Fund .....	6
District Council .....	7
Diversity.....	7
"Women, War & Peace" .....	8

## AAUW MEMBERSHIP: FOCUSING ON RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

by Maria Ellis, AAUW NYS membership vice president, mellis@citi-habitats.com ~ 973.216.4181

As your new AAUW NYS membership vice president, I would like to work with every member here in New York State by encouraging us all to introduce a friend to AAUW. If she/he became a member, we would double our membership by the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2012. How amazing would that be?!

In this effort, you will have the full support of, and membership incentives from, our AAUW NYS board.

Starting this fall, I've been inviting branch presidents, membership vice presidents, and treasurers to share their membership ideas and challenges with **Claudia Richards** (Field Relations Manager in AAUW's Membership Department) and me about increasing and maintaining branch membership. I've begun a series of teleconferences covering a variety of AAUW information and also reviewing the new recruitment materials found in the Starter Kit. Our first two teleconference were September 14 and October 12 and the next is scheduled for November 9. I hope that participants are finding them to be both informative and fun!

As we start the year, we want to empower you and encourage you to be proactive. Learn about and utilize our membership campaigns to recruit, retain, and reward members. We also want to help each branch complete the necessary membership paperwork and meet the deadlines.

Speaking of which, I trust that you have had the opportunity to submit the following information to AAUW, including:

(1) Branch officer lists and branch dues reports (These were due July 31. Printable copies were e-mailed on May 2. Those who preferred to work online could use the Member Services Database or the Membership Payment Program to submit dues.)

(2) Reporting of the phase two winners in the AAUW Keys to the Future: A Member-Get-a-Member Campaign was due on August 12, the extended deadline to redeem free Shape the Future memberships earned during Fiscal Year 2011.

I hope you've had a chance to review the AAUW Annual Starter Kit I mentioned above. They were mailed to all branches and state MVPs in August. The deadline for branch finance officers to complete the AAUW group exemption form was October 15. Please keep in mind the following due dates:

- November 30 - All branch members who did not renew will be removed from AAUW's active records.
- December 31 - Conclusion of phase one of the AAUW Keys to the Future: A Member-Get-A-Member Campaign.

Thank you for your strong commitment to moving our AAUW mission forward and promoting equity for women and girls. Please feel free to e-mail me to learn about membership incentives.



## VOICES, CHOICES, AND ICE

*(Continued from page 1)*

District VII will conduct one next March). These (generally) fall meetings are for all members of the branches throughout the state and are organized to appeal to your AAUW interests.

The AAUW NYS convention 2012 promises to be exciting with the theme of "The Women's History Trail: Walking in Her Footsteps." Plan to be at the convention, **April 20-22**, at Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in Fairport, on the east side of Rochester.

At the 2012 convention there will again be a drawing for two \$500 scholarships for winners to take back to their own communities to be awarded. Both scholarships are available to branches in attendance at the convention (AAUW NYS board members are exempt.) and are made possible through the generosity of the former Queens Branch members. More information will be in the convention packet which will be sent electronically to all AAUW NYS members in January. Why not help other

women make history by providing funds for their educational pursuits?

**Lilly Ledbetter** was one of eleven 2011 honorees inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls during the weekend of September 30-October 2. Go to [www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org) for information about all of the other women who were inducted this fall. They certainly represent strong voices and choices.

There is an AAUW NYS Facebook page waiting for you to check out and make a comment. Link to it and your friends through the left sidebar on the [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org) site.

Remember that the use of ICE (Integrity, Customer Service, and Efficiency) can lead to the success of your branch and its many activities!

The application of AAUW's brand of ICE can provide you with a clear voice and help you make beneficial choices. How cool is that?



## THE NEW ECONOMIC AGENDA: NO RICH PERSON LEFT BEHIND

by Kathleen H. Gorr, AAUW NYS public policy director — [gorrllaw@yahoo.com](mailto:gorrllaw@yahoo.com) ~ 315.685.6545

As of this writing, in late summer, the U.S. Congress and the President are working on a deficit reduction plan. The emphasis is on spending cuts, as raising taxes on the rich is considered undoable right now.

The original theory was that everything should be on the table. However, what is actually on the table is: Medicare, Medicaid, Planned Parenthood, food stamps, education funding (the Pell Grants), literacy programs, and the like.

Women are going to be disproportionately affected, said *Washington Post* columnist Michelle Singletary in her July 13 column on finances. She cited a study by the Institute for Women's Policy Research which found that 58% of women and 48% of men 75 and older would be living below the poverty line without Social Security. Although the recession officially ended two years ago (according to the National Bureau of Economic Research), women are still losing jobs. During the beginning of the recession, men lost jobs at a greater rate than women. Around October 2009, the number of employed men and women was about equal. Since the end of the recession (July 2009), women have lost an additional 13% of jobs; men have regained 15% of lost jobs (National Women's Law Center and Institute for Women's Policy Research).

This bad news is compounded by the fact that the Medicare Office of the Actuary has just reported that health spending is projected to increase by 5.8% a year through 2020. Congress should be looking for ways to control health care costs -- not services.

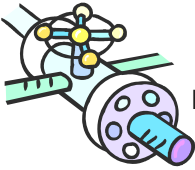
An analysis of new census data also shows a widening wealth gap between whites and minorities. Minority women can look forward to a double dose of the conservative agenda.

Nicholas Kristof has offered his usual thoughtful perspective on these events. In an opinion piece in the *New York Times*, he asked what would happen if China or Iran threatened our credit rating and sought to cripple our educational system. We would marshal our forces against any other country which tried to do these things. Then why should we stand by when our own elected legislators are doing it?

Our Senators (Gillibrand and Schumer) need to know your position. It is even more important to contact your Congressperson. Give them an earful. E-mails and faxes are OK but phone calls and letters sent via postal service mail get the most attention. Tell them they should increase taxes on the wealthy by the small percent now proposed and close tax loopholes for wealthy individuals and corporations. Any deficit reduction plan which makes the kinds of changes cited above without revenue increases should be called the "No Rich Person Left Behind Act".



### Say No to Hydrofracking



At the 2011 AAUW Summer Leadership Conference in Cazenovia, Michael Gorr spoke on hydraulic fracturing (also known as "hydrofracking") and the disastrous consequences it will have on the environment (especially air and drinking water), health, property values and quality of life for our citizens. The so-called "Cheney Amendment" exempted the hydrofracking industry from EPA regulations. It is now up to the states.

New York is a targeted state for hydrofracking. Please call or write your state senator, assemblyperson and the Governor and tell them hydrofracking should be banned in New York. To learn more about this issue go to either [www.shaleshockCNY.org](http://www.shaleshockCNY.org) or <http://nyrad.org>.

### CONTRIBUTORS: AAUW HISTORIANS APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS!

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

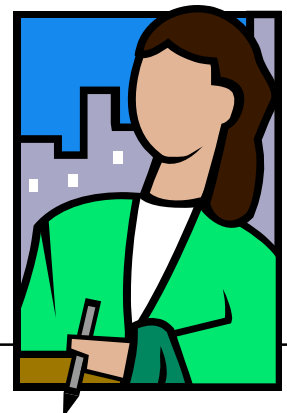
Thanks to all who wrote biographies for the state project "Women Making a Difference". We have been working very hard rereading the articles and checking for consistent information and format. All authors will be contacted by us sometime this fall.

We deeply appreciate all the time and effort the writers have put into this important project.

"Scrapbookers," you are not too late! Use your talents to help create the scrapbook pages for your branch in 2011-12. Highlight your branch activities and share them with others at the NYS AAUW Convention in 2012.

For necessary information and advice on "how to," check the NYS AAUW website under the History tab (go to the scrapbook sidebar).

Scrapbook pages may be obtained from Helen.



## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

by Doris McLallen, AAUW NYS college/university director, [dmclallen22@twcnr.com](mailto:dmclallen22@twcnr.com) ~ 315.773.5013



“Spring forward – Fall back” might work for Daylight Savings Time but not for our AAUW branches! This fall we’ll be moving the mission of AAUW **FORWARD** in new and exciting ways. As these crisp fall days get busier and busier, please consider the following facts and possible follow-up actions for you, your branch and/or your college/university partner(s):

**Fact:** There are now 47 college/university affiliates in New York State (NYS) and each is entitled to two free national memberships.

**Fall Forward:** Keep in touch and nurture relationships with campus reps near you. Invite the college/university reps to join your branch, or even to serve on your board.

**Fact:** There are only 1,000 e-students at colleges around the country and 78 in NYS.

**Fall Forward:** One branch set up a table in the college student union and thanked students who signed up as e-student members with ice cream. They followed up by inviting the new e-students to a meeting. (With snacks there, too!) When e-students graduate, they get a one-year free membership in AAUW.

**Fact:** Our colleges and universities are valuable assets in our communities and important AAUW partners.

**Fall Forward:** Offer to help local colleges/universities with AAUW Leadership Programs like the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), the Student Advisory Council (SAC), Campus Action Grants, \$tart \$mart, or Elect Her.

I was surprised to learn that, of 88 New York State applications to attend NCCWSL in Washington, DC, in June, none had requested scholarship help. To those colleges, branches and individuals who did support a student or students, thank you so much!

AAUW-NYS was able to provide two scholarships and one of the recipients, PhD. candidate **Josa Hanzlik**, gave an inspiring and entertaining presentation at Cazenovia! Think about inviting a NCCWSL attendee near you to an AAUW branch meeting.

We were delighted to have **Bridgette Behling** with us at the Summer Leadership Conference in Cazenovia. Bridgette is the newly appointed Manager of College and University Partnerships on the AAUW national staff.

She told us that New York is “FAR above average in the number of colleges/universities you

currently have as partner members — one of the top states! Keep up the great work! Contact me with questions. I’m here to help!” (Ditto! Keep up the great work NYS!!)

You can reach Bridgette at 202.728.3308 or [behlingb@aauw.org](mailto:behlingb@aauw.org)

---

## CREATIVE BRANCH PROGRAMMING

by Peggy Kelland, NYS program vice president, [program@aauw-nys.org](mailto:program@aauw-nys.org) ~ 845.297.0507

Our NYS branches presented a wide variety of stimulating programs this past spring. In March **Westchester**, **New York City**, and **Manhattan** again held their “Explore Your Opportunities” conference for seventh-grade girls. **Adirondack** presented “Too Much, Too Soon”, and **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** offered “Too Sexy, Too Soon.” **Fairport Area** held a picture book “Story Walk,” while **North Shore** heard from the Girl Scouts. **Schenectady** discussed “Waiting for Superman,” **Greater Rochester** learned about “Proactive School Culture and Systems Change,” and **Oneonta** listened to the president of SUNY Oneonta.

Women’s issues were tackled by **Rockland** with “Gender Bias in Education,” **Cortland** with “Academic Women and Work-Family Balance,” **Oswego** with Title IX, **Westchester** with “Women in Male-Dominated Professions” and “The Sandwich Generation,” and **Jamestown** with “Women and Problem Gambling.” Pay Equity was addressed by **Rochester**, **Islip**, and **Ithaca**, while domestic violence was covered by the play “Telling Our Story” in **Buffalo**, a discussion of “Precious” in **Jefferson County**, and a speaker in **Mohawk Valley**. On a positive note, women’s achievements were highlighted by **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown**: “Successful Women with Disabilities;” **Rochester**: Susan B. Anthony; **Ithaca** and **Rockland**: Eleanor Roosevelt; **New York City**: “Legacy Ambassadors” and “Women of Achievement;” **North Shore**: “Mothers of Presidents;” **Schenectady**: “Women in Science and Engineering” and “Women Leaders in Academic Medicine;” and **Skaneateles**: Matilda Joslyn Gage.

Nine branches sponsored candidates’ forums this year, including the not-previously-mentioned **Rockland** and **Schenectady**. **Garden City** had a program on “Religion and the Constitution” and **Oswego** heard about all AAUW’s public policy issues. Programs on health issues included long term care in **Cortland**; “Fit for Life” in **Elmira-Corning**; compassionate care in **Fairport**; “Health Insecurity” in **Islip**; “Transitioning to a More Healthful Diet,” “Nurturing the Body,” and “Spiritual Care at the End of Life” in **Kingston**; drug safety in **Mid-Island**; “Understanding Medical Directives” in **Rockland**; “Are You on the Road to Healthy Living?” in **Schenectady**; “Patient Rights” and skin care/make-up in **Staten Island**.

*(To be continued in the Winter issue.)*

## *My Sister's Keeper 2.0 Basics:*

*Utilize past learning, encourage new alliances within AAUW and in your community, then ask the tough questions when embarking on a project:*

*1) Who really benefits from this project/work?*

*2) Is it sustainable, will it endure beyond the initial step?*

*3) What other organizations/NGOs are doing this work?*

*4) What can I/we do? How can "fair trade" become part of my lifestyle?*

## **MY SISTER'S KEEPER 2.0**

by Melissa Guardaro, AAUW NYS international affairs director,  
[mmg4@netzero.net](mailto:mmg4@netzero.net) ~ 845.268.0152

The **My Sister's Keeper** project was launched in July, 2010 and is an AAUW-NYS statewide project. First year participation at the branch level was incredible with over 68% of the branches across the state discussing the book "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide," by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, and embarking on a project.

The goal of My Sister's Keeper is to foster a greater understanding of the plight of women worldwide as well as within our domestic borders. Individuals, interest groups and branches are encouraged to develop programming, volunteering, advocacy and education outlets for women suffering from the issues of gendercide, violence, lack of educational opportunities, and lack of maternal health care. They are urged to support the rights of women and gender equality.

The focus of the efforts in the second year of My Sister's Keeper, will center on **sustainability and providing enduring opportunities**. We need to know and understand the issues, consider the success or failure of solutions already tried, and ask the tough questions.

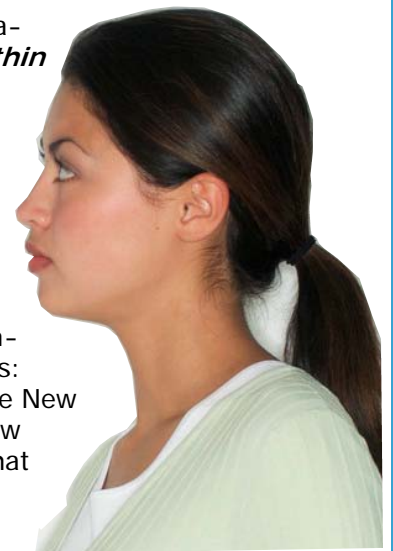
Whether it is a donation, a purchase, volunteering or organizing a school or clinic, the first question for year-two initiatives should be: "Will this be sustainable?"

It is important to evolve from donor-dependent, philanthropic initiatives to self-sustaining programs. It is also important to have the person or group being assisted make their own decisions and reach their own conclusions rather than have a solution "dictated." We embrace the philosophy that a self-determined, locally controlled group of men and women understand their situation best and are the real agents of lasting change.

Second, it is vital to the American Association of University Women to **foster alliances within our branch, state and national structure**.

Third, given the widely-held view of a dwindling supply of resources and time, it is important to **work with other organizations - local, regional and national** - to encourage greater AAUW participation and membership and forge new alliances.

As mentioned at the Summer Leadership conference, the next year will start with a branch-wide viewing and discussion of one of three films: "Favela Rising," "The Shape of Water" and/or "The New Recruits." Branches are encouraged to initiate new projects and continue successful past projects that "make the difference, that change the world."



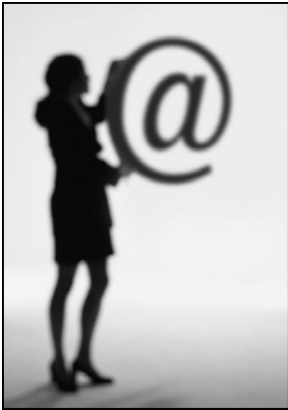
## **EXPANDING YOUR CULTURAL HORIZONS**

by Julia Previto, AAUW NYS cultural interests director,  
[jprevito@aol.com](mailto:jprevito@aol.com) ~ 516.621.1593

As part of our AAUW Mission, we are dedicated to the pursuit of education for all members. Through our cultural interests, we can expand our horizons. If we immerse ourselves in the arts, we can stimulate an awareness of the world around us, appreciate other cultures, and find deeper meaning within our own lives. Art, music and literature can bind us together in a myriad of ways.

We have the resources to achieve these goals within our branches. Each branch has talented and knowledgeable women who can present programs. Local libraries, colleges, and newspapers can, and will often, provide space and/or speakers. Trips to area places of interest, such as concert halls and museums, are stimulating. Book and film discussions expand the mind and encourage critical thinking.

Keeping your branch active and engaging in multiple experiences will encourage attendance and increase membership. Not only will all members grow intellectually, AAUW will grow as well.



## ON BECOMING A NET-CITIZEN

by Donna Seymour, Director of Communications, [onthego@northnet.org](mailto:onthego@northnet.org) ~ 315.265.6985

Remember just 10 years ago when the preferred method of contacting your elected official was a letter or a phone call? In the aftermath of 9/11, the anthrax letter scare sequestered tons of unread US mail inside the Capitol. That is when e-mailing our representatives took off like a rocket and we've never looked back.

Now we've entered the social media age and the power and reach of our communications have multiplied exponentially. Here are a few examples from the news:

Julie Bass faced the prospect of 93 days in jail for growing vegetables in her front yard, violating an Oak Park, MI zoning ordinance. A Facebook page

supporting her went viral with thousands of strangers signing a petition in her support. Town officials dropped all charges.

When the scandal over hacking a dead kidnapped girl's cell phone records hit the Murdock Media Empire, a group of outraged mothers linked to the British parenting website Mumsnet posted the names and contact information of every advertiser in the News of the World through Facebook and Twitter. Within hours, ad money dried up and the News of the World was out of business. British politicians went in fear of the News of the World; Net-Citizens did not.

At four locations in New York City and Long Island in early August, senior citizens took their knitting circles outside in front of America's biggest banks to protest the looming \$2.4 trillion cut to Medicare as part of the debt ceiling crisis compromise. Creating blankets that said "Save Medicare," these Net-Citizen seniors drew attention to taking money away from seniors' healthcare while ignoring soaring bank profits and low tax rates on big banks.

During the Debt Crisis debate, Americans of every stripe registered their disgust and dismay with the nation's political parties and leaderships via the Facebook pages belonging to members of Congress. (Note: unlike e-mail, you don't have to be a constituent to be a "fan" of a Congressperson.)

A report by the non-partisan Congressional Management Foundation found that most lawmakers have fully integrated social media into their communications operations. That makes registering your opinions, comments and ideas via social media a key part of becoming a Net-Citizen.

If social media represents a new lever in moving public policy, we need to get busy using this new tool in our Net-Citizen box.



## CONTRIBUTING TO THE LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

by Roli G. Wendorf, AAUW-NYS Legal Advocacy Fund vice president, [WendorfR@aol.com](mailto:WendorfR@aol.com) ~ 914.736.9115

Hello all! As of July, 2011, I took over as the NYS Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) vice president from **Mildred DeWitt**. Let's

extend a big "thank you" to Mildred for her hard work for LAF during her four-year tenure!

Last year, NYS was the **second-highest contributor** to LAF in the country. I look forward to working with you in continuing this tradition of strong support to LAF. As is evident from the recent *Dukes vs. Walmart* case, we still have a long way to go in addressing workplace discrimination for women.

As we get further into the fall, it is a good time to revisit our ideas for fund raising for LAF. At July's AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference in Cazenovia, we had a good brainstorming session

on a variety of ideas being used by various branches.

They included: Arrange a fashion show and charge tickets. Do a purse auction with the purses assembled by the different interest groups in the branch. Have a garage sale, make jams and jellies with BOCES, make and sell cookbooks. Organize mah jongg sessions open to the public and sell raffle tickets.

You are probably aware that the AAUW Funds structure changed in July 2009. Fortunately, we can continue to report our LAF contributions in a fairly similar way to before. The contribution checks for LAF should be made out to **AAUW Funds LAF** or **AAUW LAF**. This year's official 2011 year-end deadline for LAF is December 31, which requires all checks to reach the AAUW national office by then. The deadline to send contribution checks to me is **December 15**. Please keep this in mind!

There are a variety of major donor levels for contributions of \$50 and above. All contributions of \$100 or more are eligible for the 2011 LAF Pin.

I look forward to working with you in successfully raising funds for LAF this fall. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail with questions or comments or just to say hello.

## TIPS & TRICKS FOR PUTTING MORE FUN IN AAUW

by Joan Monk, AAUW-NYS district council director, [ftmaven@bestweb.net](mailto:ftmaven@bestweb.net) ~ 914.245.7704



Branches all across NYS have collaborated this fall on the District Conferences and are hopefully putting more fun in AAUW. At the national convention in June, we heard **Cynthia D'Amour's** ideas in her seminar, "Lazy Leader's Guide to Outrageous Results." She suggests that we lead, laugh or get out of the way! By engaging more members in the process and making it fun, the work will seem more like play. Remember, both work and play are four-letter words!

I'm sure that Cynthia would approve of the following tips and tricks to spice up your district or branch meeting. Learn more about lazy leadership at <http://www.peoplepowerunlimited.com/about/index.html>.

- **Name that Tune** / Begin or end with a song that reinforces the theme of your event. Encourage everyone to sing along!
- **Quotes, Quotes & More Quotes** / Quotes are another way to get your message across. They can be printed on business cards and put on tables. You can decorate the meeting room and hallways with them. (Don't forget to put them on stall doors in the bathroom.)
- **Add Tech Savvy** / There are amazing video clips on YouTube that can jazz up any presentation or help you make a point. These make powerful introductions and conclusions to your agenda.
- **Speed Programming** / By using the format of speed dating you can add some fun to your program. This is a great way to share ideas and also get to meet more people. Set a timer and keep the groups moving along!
- **Fashion Forward** / Take a few minutes to add some fashion or make-up tips to your agenda. There are many fashion tricks that require only a few minutes to share. Wouldn't you like to know the style secrets of scarf tying or dressing to look 10 pounds thinner?
- **Food, Glorious Food!** / Make sure that you pay attention to your menu. It can set the tone for interesting exchanges over lunch. Be creative and have some fun with your menu.
- **Fill Your Dance Card** / Give each member a "dance card" and encourage them to meet five new people at your event. Collect the cards at the end of the day and select one of them as the winner of a door prize. A prize or two adds some fun to the day. Prizes can be donated by one of the branches or members.
- **Stress Management or Relaxation Techniques** / Share some simple, easy-to-learn stress reduction techniques. 1<sup>st</sup> Stress Management has some helpful suggestions at <http://1ststressmanagement.weebly.com/relaxation-techniques.html>
- **Instant Recess** / Add some kind of physical activity to your day. Instant recess is physical activity that can be done at any time, any place, in any attire. It is part of Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign so let's get physical! Here is the place to start — <http://www.toniyanney.com/healthieramerica.html>

---

## AAUW EXPLORES GLOBAL DIVERSITY

by Lillis C. McLean, AAUW NYS diversity director, [lmclean366@yahoo.com](mailto:lmclean366@yahoo.com) ~ 716.873.7467

Congratulations to **Maggie Irwin** of the **Jamestown Branch** for creating AAUW Day at the Chautauqua Institute this past July. The featured speaker, Council on Foreign Affairs researcher **Isobel Coleman**, who has spoken with Muslim women throughout the world, told this story of the prophet Mohammed: A young man twice told the prophet that he wanted to go on a jihad and the reply to him was to instead seek out his mother for "*paradise beneath her feet.*"

This phrase became the title of Coleman's

book, in which she describes the progress achieved by Muslim women, particularly in the Middle East.

Courageous, educated women are using their knowledge of the Qur'an and their own cultures within Islam to educate women and girls, to challenge the male patriarchy, and to lift restrictions on themselves. They are also receiving support from like-minded men. However, Coleman notes that this is very gradual and uneven. Her AAUW Day presentation was so extraordinary that she elicited two standing ovations from the audience.

Anyone interested in an e-mail or phone discussion of this book, please contact me.

On September 11, **Buffalo Branch** members and others attended an inter-denominational



New York State

# FOCUS

Fall 2011

ISSN: 1056 3199

www.aauw.org

www.aauw-nys.org

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

# AAUW

### 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 distribution cost 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. E-mail: [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.**

### DIVERSITY (Continued from page 7)

conference titled "The Moral Empowerment of Women," chaired by AAUW member **Tehmina Rehmann** and sponsored by the women's auxiliary of her mosque. For more information, contact me.

Buffalo's historic Lafayette Hotel, a French Renaissance gem built in 1904, is being preserved and renovated within the guidelines established by its architect, Louise Blanchard Bethune, the first woman professional architect in the US. The National Trust for Historic Preservation will honor Bethune at its annual meeting in Buffalo in October.

Two ideas emerged from the AAUW Leadership Conference this summer: (1) an advisory group could be created that represents the diversity within our branches (anyone interested, contact me); and (2) diversity could be a district function, with branches seeking members as their communities allow. Let me know what you think of these ideas.

### "WOMEN, WAR & PEACE" ON PBS

*Women, War & Peace* is a bold new five-part PBS television series running from mid-October to mid-November (check local listings) that challenges the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men's domain and places women at the center of an urgent dialogue about conflict and security.

Featuring narrators Matt Damon, Tilda Swinton, Geena Davis and Alfre Woodard, the series reveals that the majority of today's conflicts are not fought by nations and their armies, but rather by gangs, insurgent groups, and warlords armed with small arms and improvised weapons. Women have become primary targets in these conflicts and though they are suffering unprecedented casualties they are simultaneously emerging as critical partners in brokering peace and as leaders in forging new international laws governing conflict.

The AAUW branches in District VII are the local underwriters for WPBS, which serves the North Country. This is their district project for My Sister's Keeper 2.0.

