



AAUW

FOCUS

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KEEPING PROMISES

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS president,
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AAUW New York State has pledged to provide you with value for your membership. We have completed a successful programmatic year; provided communications, conferences and conventions; and effectively served as a link between branches and national leadership. At the state level, we have done our best to connect you to the goals and mission of AAUW and to keep you involved.

We have fulfilled our promises to serve you face-to-face and electronically and to support you through incentives and ideas, by bolstering equity and education, and by advocating for women and girls in all that we strive to accomplish. We know you have kept your promises to keep the branches vibrant.

As we complete the year and begin plans for the 2011-12 programs and projects, we are looking forward to the national convention in Washington, DC, as well as the summer leadership conference at Cazenovia College in July. All AAUW members are invited and enthusiastically encouraged to participate in both events. We promise you will be involved and inspired!

While you are completing your branch program planning, be sure to celebrate not just AAUW as we mark 130 years of action, but also the Girl Scouts of the USA, who will happily commemorate

100 years of advocacy for girls on March 12, 2012.

Both organizations have thrived through the years by standing firm on the commitments they've made, and continue to make, to women and girls.

Common AAUW and Girl Scout organizational factors include the consistency in their vision of empowerment for ALL women and girls, community engagement, honoring the value of continuous learning, and a willingness to make a difference in the lives of their members and society as a whole.

This commitment echoes through the Girl Scouts' mission statement which is to "build girls of

courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place."

The history of collaborative efforts between the Girl Scouts and AAUW to foster the healthy development of girls extends back for decades and will hopefully reach far into the future.

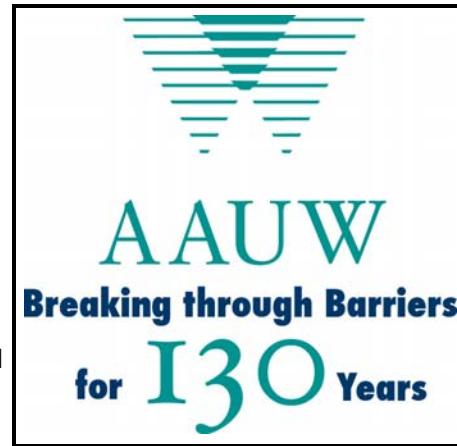
You may have room in your programmatic year to invite a Girl Scout, an adult volunteer, or a staff member to speak to your branch about the promises they must keep. Go to <http://www.girlscouts.org/who we are/> to refresh your memory about our common goals and work.

Recently I saw a United Way poster that proclaimed the following powerful message:

*"Those who can, do.
Those who can
do more, volunteer."*

Commit to AAUW membership by participating as a volunteer who's not afraid to use her voice, her vote, and her actions to make the promise of progress for women and girls come true. Together let's grow AAUW New York State

so we can do all it takes to achieve equity!



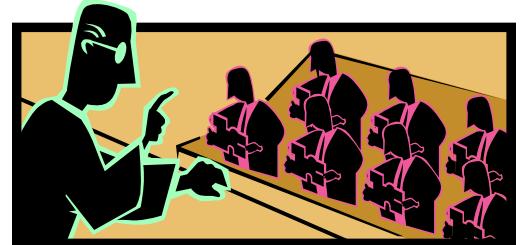
*AAUW & the Girl Scouts:
Partners in Helping
Today's Girls Become
Tomorrow's Leaders*

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LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND — LAF CORNER

by Mildred DeWitt, AAUW NYS LAF vice president,
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Are you looking ahead to summer fun, relaxing and renewing your energies for the upcoming 2011-12 AAUW year? This is certainly a time for congratulations to all the branches and members of New York State as we were second in the nation for Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) donations the fourth year running!

The basket room at the state convention was, as always, a big hit. However, we did have fewer baskets this year because of the travel distance for many members. I am proud to report that we totaled \$3,300 in sales and donations at convention. This does not include monies received before convention, as many branches made a direct donation in lieu of bringing baskets.

Your new LAF VP will be **Roli Wendorf** of the Westchester Branch. Roli has worked for LAF the past four years and the Westchester Branch has maintained second place in New York State during that time. Come to the Summer Conference at Cazenovia to meet Roli and let's continue our dedication to LAF as we support Roli in her new position.

As you all know, we are involved in the Walmart class action suit and AAUW LAF continues to remain in the forefront in the fight for equity in the work place. Follow all the action by visiting the AAUW website at www.aauw.org and clicking on Public Policy. There is a wealth of information at this site.



Remember that including an LAF article in every branch newsletter during the year helps keep our members informed.

Many thanks to all of you for making my two terms as your LAF VP rewarding and worthwhile, I come away from this experience with the feeling of a job well done made possible by the members of AAUW New York State.

PUBLIC POLICY AWARDS PRESENTED; POTENTIAL CANDIDATES ENCOURAGED

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

21st Century Awards -- Public Policy

Congratulations to the 21st Century Award winners announced at the New York State AAUW Convention in Glen Cove. The following branches received the "Taking Action" public policy award which included a \$25 stipend: **Bath, Islip, Poughkeepsie, Rockland County, Schenectady, St. Lawrence County, and Westchester**. The following branches received a Voter Education Campaign Award, which included a \$40 stipend: **Adirondack, Bath, Cortland, Islip Area, Schenectady, Skaneateles, and Westchester**. Both monetary awards came to us by way of a grant from national, obtained through the efforts of **Nancy Mion**.

Cortland received a Branch Showcase Award for Public Policy Outreach and **Rockland County** received a Public Policy Individual Program Award for its program, "Great Decisions."

Women in Elected Positions

AAUW has long urged women to run for office at every level of government. The 2012 elections are not far off, but it is not too late to begin a campaign.

Emily's List is an organization which gives practical and substantive assistance to Democratic pro-choice women running for office. It is holding day-long workshops, free of charge, on the mechanics of running for office. The workshops scheduled for upstate New York will have concluded by the time you receive this *FOCUS*, but there is one scheduled for Long Island on July 28. You need not reside in that area, or even in New York State, to attend.

I recently attended a workshop given in Syracuse. It was very well-organized and packed with information on how to run for office (including the dreaded fundraising). It also discussed the different roles volunteers can play. To register for training go to http://emilyslist.org/programs/pop/form/pop/new_york_training/ or contact Ellen Sun at 202-326-1400 or ESun@emilyslist.org.

Prospective Republican candidates can go to the WISH List website, www.thewishlist.org, or email to WISH@thewishlist.org. WISH list is the largest fundraiser for pro-choice Republicans in the country.

Becoming a candidate is achievable. **Whether you run or volunteer, get active!**



A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER . . . AAUW-NYS 2011 CONVENTION IN GLEN COVE

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

A number of early arrivals at the Glen Cove Mansion on Friday, April 15, enjoyed a trip to Teddy Roosevelt's house at Oyster Bay, while others went on the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) Walk. After the president's reception and dinner, we were inspired by a keynote address by Association President **Carolyn Garfein**. Many participated in a social mixer involving military bridge.

On Saturday, the Awards Breakfast recognized the outstanding work of branches statewide in the areas of programming, public policy, membership, newsletters, communications, visibility, and emerging leadership. At the business meeting, we elected new officers and amended the state bylaws.

The public policy panel on Saturday featured two bankruptcy judges, **Dorothy D.T. Eisenberg** and **Melanie Cyganowski**, who shared their nontraditional career paths with us. Legal Advocacy Fund luncheon speaker, **Holly Kearn**, inspired us with her research on, and work against, street harassment. After lunch, a choice of workshops was followed by a roundtable discussion with Carolyn Garfein. Before dinner, some tried Zumba or swam for Heifer International while others heard how to lose their addiction to sugar, followed with songs by **Helen Yalof**. At dinner, **Amrita Bahl**, EOF recipient, spoke about her work in prisons in India on HIV-AIDS prevention.

Sunday morning's counterpart breakfast was followed by a branch showcase with presentations by:

- Westchester's **Selena Barron** and **Marilee Scheuneman** on community visibility,
- Poughkeepsie's **Geeta Desai** on membership recruitment and retention,
- Cortland's **Ellen Wright** on public policy outreach,
- Islip's **Marion Mahoney** on summer socials and participation points, and
- Rockland County's **Inez Brisfjord** on women who have made a difference.

Melissa Guardaro and **Doris McLallen** then shared their experiences as members of the AAUW Women in Society delegations to Cuba and Israel, respectively, and **Barbara Gaston**, an exchange student from Haiti currently living in Rockland County, spoke of the struggle for education in her country.

Swimmers at the 2011 NYS AAUW Convention enabled Heifer International to purchase:



Four flocks of chicks



Two llamas



Two flocks of ducks



One pig

THINGS WENT SWIMMINGLY AT CONVENTION

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

New York State AAUW Convention attendees donned their bathing suits and hit the pool during the weekend of April 15-17 to raise funds for **Heifer International** as part of the **My Sister's Keeper** program in support of women and girls throughout the world.

As mentioned in the book *Half the Sky*, Heifer International works with communities to end hunger and poverty by giving gifts of livestock and training. The animals are "living loans" because in exchange for their livestock and training, families agree to give one of its animal's offspring to another family in need.

Swimmers, both real and virtual, raised enough money for Heifer International to purchase the animals pictured with this article. We would like to thank all who participated by raising awareness of the awesome work of Heifer, by swimming, and by contributing. The winner of the **Golden Purse Award**, the member who raised the most money, was **Joan Monk**, co-chair of the My Sister's Keeper project. The **Mermaid of the Convention** was **Pat Faber** of the Bath branch, who swam the most laps.

The first year of the My Sister's Keeper project is nearly over and plans for the next year will be presented as a workshop during the Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College. Please plan on attending the conference to learn about exciting programming ideas involving branch members and your local communities.



Three hives of honeybees



Two trios of rabbits



One goat

And, last but not least, one sheep!

WHAT SHOULD WE KEEP?

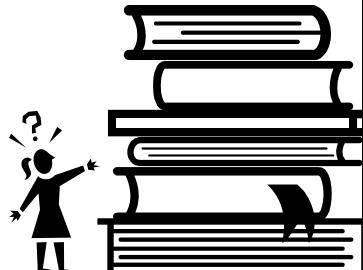
by Helen Engel, rengel@oswego.edu ~

315.343.9678 and Marilynn Smiley,

marilynn.smiley@oswego.edu ~ 315.343.4803,

AAUW NYS historians

As some of us change or leave positions in our branch, we should be thinking about what materials should be kept. Originals should be preserved for the branch archives and copies given to our successor.



Examples of materials to be saved:

- Minutes of meetings, committees, projects, etc.
- Financial records
- Branch programs
- District and convention programs
- Materials describing programs, projects, etc. and their implementation
- Correspondence
- Branch scrapbook
- Other

The decision to retain a record for the branch archives must be judged according to its current, temporary or permanent value to the organization.

If possible, more than one person — hopefully, a committee — should make the decisions about what to keep and what not to keep before the information is archived. Everyone has a slightly different perspective.

For further information, go to www.aauw-nys.org then to the History tab (at the top of the page) and then to the sidebar (Preserving Historical Records) on the history page.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

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

315.773.5013

After 33 years, if there is one thing I know, it is that AAUW members **thrive** on a challenge. Therefore I should not be surprised by the incredible growth in the number of new college/university (C/U) partnerships since last fall.

In April 2010, then-NYS-AAUW C/U Director, **Diane Haney**, reported that there were 32 college/university partnerships, "a recent high." Last fall I set a goal for us to increase that number by five.... and then crossed my fingers and toes that we (You!) could do it. Me of little faith!

As of this writing, the following New York

State colleges and universities have either become new or renewed members of AAUW:

- Clarkson University
- CUNY Brooklyn College
- Fulton-Montgomery Community College
- Hudson Valley Community College
- Jamestown Community College
- Long Island University – Brooklyn Campus
- Monroe Community College
- North Country Community College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- SUNY College of Agri/Tech – Cobleskill
- SUNY College at Geneseo
- SUNY College at Old Westbury
- University at Albany
- Utica College

This brings our new total to 46! 46? Yes, that's 18.4% of the approximately 250 colleges and universities in New York State. You say 18.4% is respectable but certainly not satisfactory? I totally agree!!

There is more work to be done and no better time to do it. AAUW is in the news. Issues that AAUW members care about are in the news. The upcoming National Convention in Washington, DC provides great visibility and a wonderful opportunity to share the benefits of membership. Oh, and don't forget: Everyone loves a bargain, even college presidents, and dues, regardless of the size of the institution, are only \$130 until this November in honor of AAUW's 130th anniversary!

Of course, one of the best advantages of college/university membership is the opportunity to collaborate with local branches of AAUW. For the next issue of *FOCUS*, I would like to share some of the ways branches throughout the state are working to advance equity and educational opportunity for women and girls with YOUR local college/university. Please send me your news.

What could be more important and exciting than keeping a strong and vibrant "U" in AAUW?!



**TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AWARDS
PRESENTED AT 2011 NYS CONVENTION**
by Peggy Kelland, NYS program vice president,
program@aauw-nys.org ~ 845.297.0507

OVERALL PROGRAMMING AWARDS

Platinum: Adirondack
Jamestown
Jefferson County
Islip
New York City
Poughkeepsie
Schenectady
Westchester

Gold: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown
Bath
North Shore

Silver: Rockland

Bronze: Elmira-Corning

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/PROGRAM AWARDS

Community:

- 1st: Adirondack - "Understanding Our Environmental Legacy"
- 2nd: Schenectady - "Are You on the Road to Healthy Living?"
- 3rd: Schenectady - "Energy Sources for the Future"

Cultural:

- 1st: Bath - "Momoirs"
- 2nd: Poughkeepsie - "The Other Side of Slavery"
- 3rd: Southern New York - "A Place Called Home"

Diversity:

- 1st: Islip - Learning to Live Together
- 2nd: Elmira-Corning - "The Spiritual Lives of Women"
- 3rd: Westchester - "Forty-One Years on Sesame Street"

Fundraising:

- 1st: Buffalo - "Legal Advocacy Luncheon"

International:

- 1st: Buffalo - "Haiti: Past, Present, and Future"
- 2nd: Jefferson County - "Empowering Women Through Global Dialogues"
- 3rd: Schenectady - "Voices of the Women of Afghanistan"

Membership:

- 1st: Jamestown - "Open House"

My Sister's Keeper:

- 1st: Poughkeepsie
- 2nd: Islip
- 2nd: Skaneateles
- (Tie) 3rd: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown
- 3rd: Westchester

Public Policy:

- 1st: Rockland County - "Great Decisions"

\$tart \$mart:

- 1st: St. Lawrence County
- 2nd: Westchester

STEM Education:

- 1st: Rockland County - "AAUW High School STEM Engineers' Conference"
- 2nd: Westchester - "Exploring Your Opportunities"

Voter Education:

- 1st: St. Lawrence County - "Redistricting Video Series"
- 2nd: St. Lawrence County - "Conversations with Candidates"
- 3rd: Islip - "Voting 2010 Get In"forum"ed"

Women's Issues:

- 1st: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown - "Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium"
- 2nd: Rockland County - "Gender Bias in Education"
- 3rd: Schenectady - "Women Leaders in Academic Medicine"

Women Who Made a Difference:

- 1st: Rockland County - "Women Who Have Made a Difference"
- 2nd: New York City - "48th Annual American Woman of Achievement"
- 3rd: New York City - "Legacy Ambassadors"



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

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

During the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) Gala at the 2011 AAUW NYS convention in Glen Cove, we had a phenomenal celebration of the generosity of contributors statewide.

I would especially like to thank **Joan Smalto, Erna Cunningham, and Marie Owens** of the **Islip Branch; Doris Kelly** of the **Poughkeepsie Branch**, and **Doris McLallen** of the **Jefferson County Branch**. With the generous sponsorship of their respective branches, their participation in the convention's EOF Walk raised a total of \$635. A lesson learned: *Modest contributions from many individuals can have a powerful impact.*

We are thankful to members of the **Adirondack, Bath, Buffalo, Fairport Area, Greater Rochester, Huntington, Islip Area, Jamestown, Jefferson County, Kingston, Mid-Island, Mohawk Valley, Nassau County, North Shore, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, Rockland County, St. Lawrence County, Schenectady, Skaneateles, Southern New York, and Staten Island** branches for their generosity to the Educational Opportunities Fund, thereby earning recognition for their named gift honorees during the convention. We are appreciative of all contributions from branches statewide.

The **Buffalo Branch** led the way in the top ten branch EOF contributions by virtue of their Buffalo American Fellowship in honor of **Hillary Rodham Clinton**.

The **North Shore, Poughkeepsie, Westchester County, Rockland County, Jefferson County, Bath, Huntington, St. Lawrence County, and Schenectady** branches, respectively, rounded out the top ten in overall EOF contributions. These branches were honored at the convention.

(Continued on page 8.)



It's Harder to Catch Up When You Start From Behind.



Just one year out of college, women working full time already earn less than their male colleagues earn, even when they work in the same field. Ten years after graduation, the pay gap widens.

Help promote pay equity for women!

www.aauw.org

 **AAUW** **Breaking through Barriers**



YOU ARE THE VOICE OF AAUW

by Donna Seymour, Director of Communications, ontheego@northnet.org ~ 315.265.6985

The AAUW Voices Project is designed to be a country-wide community of media first-responders, armed with training, resources, and support and ready to pen opinion editorials (op-eds), letters to the editor, blog posts, and more. The goal is to have AAUW voices published throughout the nation to educate the public, spark discussion, and influence the debate.

It kicked off early in the year with about 100 AAUW members from around the nation receiving training and editorial support to write op-eds on the topic of pay equity for publication on or near Pay Equity Day in April. There are several Voices members here in NYS.

But it is time for the project to go global. We are all the VOICE of AAUW and we all must speak out about our issues. The social safety net programs — the ones that keep our seniors out of poverty, that provide day care and educate our children, that provide health care access no matter your financial condition, that help sustain our middle class — are all under threat.

These programs are threatened in every community across our nation, in every state house, and in the halls of Congress, where 535 Senators and Representatives -- who have the best *guaranteed* health care insurance and retirement system in the nation -- are deciding the fate of Medicare and Social Security for the 311-million rest of us.

As AAUW members, we are educated, we are articulate, and we had better get motivated to stand on the front lines of the debate going on in our country right now; a debate that may change the fundamental agreement we have held with each other for more than 70 years about who we are as a nation and how we take care of one another.

There is an old saying: *Those who along for the ride often get taken for one.* If we don't speak up and speak out, who will? And frankly, who better than AAUW to lead the charge to protect the hard-won advances women have made? It took 70 years to get the vote. We've been working nearly as long for equal pay - and we're not there yet! We don't give up, we don't quit, and we don't get discouraged just because it takes a while.

The next time you hear Congress talking about cutting Social Security, think about the women you know who will be plunged into poverty during their most vulnerable senior years as a result. The decks are stacked against many women in terms of the pay gap, the retirement gap, and the savings gap. Social Security is the one program many seniors rely on to keep them out of poverty, out of homeless shelters, and out of local food banks.

Since its founding in 1881, the American Association of University Women has been committed to promoting equity for all women. Do your part. Attend Town Hall meetings. Ask hard questions. Demand real answers. Write letters to the editor. Hold voter education programs. Stand up to the bullies in elected office who threaten the very fabric of our nation, who threaten the future for our children and our grandchildren.

We are AAUW. We have a Voice. We will Speak Up and Speak Out!

A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

by Lillis C. McLean, AAUW NYS diversity director,
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Gerda Klein, a Holocaust survivor awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom two months ago by President Obama, recently came to Buffalo to participate in the naturalization ceremony of two dozen new Americans. Most were from the eastern Mediterranean, but others hailed from India and Sierra Leone.

Mrs. Klein told of being rescued the day before her 21st birthday, weighing 68 pounds and with her hair turned white, by the American soldier who was to become her husband. She said that when he held the door for her that day to let her go first, he restored her humanity.

The Kleins went on to live in Buffalo for 40 years.

"Now in the late autumn of my life," she said to the new citizens, "I hearken back and ask the question, 'Why has all this been given to me?' and the answer is always, 'Because I came to America.' "

Mrs. Klein's many accomplishments include her speaking to many groups; two books, "All But My Life" and "The Blue Rose" (about a child who was developmentally delayed); and a program called Citizenship Counts that teaches young Americans that citizenship is a gift not to be taken for granted.

A few years ago, Mrs. Klein spoke to the Buffalo schools' faculty. Some of the young teachers, before she began, remarked, "What does this have to do with teaching poor kids in an urban setting?" Within a few minutes of her opening remarks, everyone present got the connection and became quietly attentive.



New York State

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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.

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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. Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.

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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

(Continued from page 6.)

Individuals within branches make a huge impact. Therefore, we would like to thank the members of the **Buffalo, Huntington, Oswego, Islip Area, St. Lawrence County, Smithtown Area, Bath, Yates County, Manhattan, and North Shore** branches for per capita EOF contributions ranging between \$76.18 to \$21.43 per member.

We would also like to thank the top five branches for their contributions to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund: **Islip, St. Lawrence County, Yates County, Smithtown Area, and Westchester County.**

During the first quarter of 2011, members of the **Rockland County Branch** honored the memory of the late **Louise Warger**, with EOF contributions totaling \$2,320.00.

For 2011, the **Garden City Branch** has already raised \$500.00 to support the Educational Opportunities Fund, followed by the **Jamestown, Syracuse, Oswego, Westchester County, and Massapequa Area** branches.

We thank you all for your continued generosity.



Established in 1989, the **Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award** honors an individual, project, organization, or institution for outstanding contributions to equity and education for women and girls. The award is given for a broad range of activities including classroom teaching, educational and research contributions, and legal and legislative work in equity for women and girls.

While the award focuses on education, the recipient need not be an educator.