

WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSION?

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS president,
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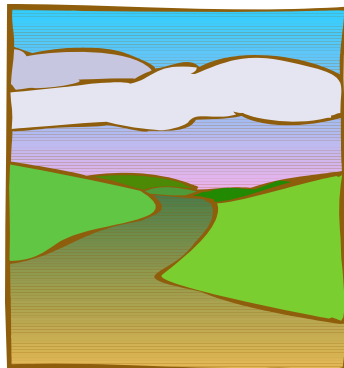
With each footstep, expression, or opinion we leave an impression. Whether in the woods, on a mountain, in our homes, or in conveying a thought to others, we move forward and hope to leave our mark as we accomplish goals.

As AAUW NYS members, we are aware of the history made by women who forged pathways in our state and left impressions that are revered because the advancements they made provided us with opportunity.

In April of 2012 at the AAUW New York State convention, we will honor those women whose actions made a difference for us. The theme of the convention will be **"The Women's History Trail: Walking in Their Footsteps."**

The goal is not only to convene for our own important AAUW business, but also to support the idea that women and their pathways deserve a Women's History Trail stretching across our state. Such an effort would require legislation backed by federal funding, but with our enthusiastic support, it can happen!

Plan now to journey to the Rochester area for the April 20-22 AAUW NYS convention events. Through your involvement in AAUW, you'll be strengthening the well-deserved impression you yourself are making on the trail established by those women who went before us.



IN THE COMPANY OF GREAT WOMEN

by Donna Seymour, AAUW NYS Director of Communications, onthego@northnet.org ~ 315.265.6985

I had the absolute privilege on October 1 of attending the induction ceremony of the Class of 2011 at the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls thanks to the invitation of my dear friend, **Evvie Currie**, a former AAUW-NYS president.

Evvie is just one of the Great Women I met at the event. Her lifetime of dedication to our organization, her talent for leadership and her vision has

helped shape our state organization, inspiring many of us at the branch and state level.

Listening to, and meeting, the inductees was a very special moment in my life. Shaking the hand of **Lilly Ledbetter**, a woman on whose shoulders we all stand in our quest for equity, made me realize again that ordinary people from every walk of life can and do make a difference every day by simply standing up to a system that is unfair and unjust.

A social worker named Barb decided to help her clients fight a City Hall that wanted to condemn their neighborhoods to put in a 16-lane highway. That activism launched a political career that allowed Maryland Senator **Barbara Mikulski** to shepherd the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act through Congress and become the law of the land.

I had the opportunity to personally thank **Helen Murray Free**, a woman whose career in chemistry was begun by a chance comment in college during the war years. "You know," someone said, "the men are all going to war and we'll need scientists to take their places back home. Aren't you taking chemistry?"



Thus was born a STEM career that led to the kind of glucose monitoring equipment that keeps my son healthy and able to manage his diabetes to live an active, normal life. In expressing to her my gratitude, she smiled and said it was "her job."

I responded that lots of folks go to work every day and do their job, but that they don't always bring their passion to it, making a difference to millions of people around the world. But we each have the potential to

(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue:

President's Column.....	1
Communications.....	1
Legal Advocacy Fund.....	2
Cultural Interests.....	3
College/University.....	4
Membership.....	4
District Meetings.....	5
Branch Programming.....	5
Visibility.....	6
State Historians.....	6
International.....	7

THIRTY YEARS OF THE LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

by Roli G. Wendorf, AAUW-NYS Legal Advocacy Fund vice president, WendorfR@aol.com ~ 914.736.9115

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) has a proud history in New York State. It started 30 years ago when the Cornell Eleven, women faculty members and coaches at Cornell University, brought charges of sex discrimination, pay inequity, retaliation and denial of tenure against their employer. The AAUW Ithaca branch wanted to help the women in their fight with fundraising, which led to the national organization creating the Legal Advocacy Fund on a two-year trial basis in 1981. Two years later, the LAF was made permanent.



In its 30-year history, the LAF has consistently helped fight the good fight for women who seek legal redress in a variety of workplace discrimination charges. Through LAF, AAUW helps level the playing field for women against powerful employers by providing funding, moral support, and press coverage. Many times, the employers settle the cases once AAUW starts supporting the women. The issues fought 30 years ago are still relevant today.

For many years, LAF was aimed solely at sex discrimination cases in the academic world. In 2009, it broadened its scope beyond academia to include all workplaces. The cases selected for support were chosen more strategically to provide greater impact against discrimination in the workplace. Since the beginning of 2011, for example, the *Dukes v. Wal-Mart* case was supported by LAF. Funding was provided to six of the plaintiffs, an amicus brief was written in their support, and AAUW women came to the Supreme Court to show support for the plaintiffs.

A new case being supported by LAF is *Cioca et al v. Rumsfeld et al*. Sixteen veteran and active duty servicemen and servicewomen have filed a lawsuit against the Department of Defense. While serving in the US military, they have been raped, sexually assaulted, and harassed by other active duty members. The plaintiffs allege that the defendants failed to prevent the rapes and sexual assaults. They also failed to investigate rapes and sexual assaults, prosecute perpetrators, provide an adequate judicial system as required by the Uniform Military Justice Act, and abide by Congressional deadlines to implement Congressionally-ordered institutional reforms to stop rapes and other sexual assaults.

They are seeking monetary damages but are more interested in achieving change within the military. The lawyers anticipate that the government will file to dismiss the case. The big legal hurdle is if they can keep the case in court.



IN THE COMPANY OF GREAT WOMEN

(Continued from page 1)

do just that, in ways that are both large and small, if we apply the best of who and what we are to every opportunity we are given.

We did not hear a woman's story from that stage that was not a testament to the power of an ordinary person to make an extraordinary difference

by taking the opportunities life presents and applying energy, commitment, passion and the desire to right a wrong, solve a problem, or make the world a better place. It is within each of us to become that force for positive change.

Being in AAUW allows me the opportunity to be in the company of great women every day. Among them is each of you!

What exactly is the National Women's Hall of Fame?

The National Women's Hall of Fame is the nation's oldest membership organization dedicated to honoring and celebrating the achievements of distinguished American women.

The Hall uses the stories of its Inductees as tools for inspiration, innovation and imagination.

A not-for-profit educational institution, its programs include Induction Weekend, educational programs, and special exhibits and events.

~ National Women's Hall of Fame,
Seneca Falls, NY 2011



In attendance at the National Women's Hall of Fame 2011 induction ceremony were (front) Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski; (second row) Evvie Currie, AAUW NYS president 2002-04; Cordy Galligan, director of business development in the national AAUW office; Donna Seymour, AAUW NYS communications director; and Eileen Hartmann, current AAUW NYS president.

EXPLORING THE MANY MUSEUM RESOURCES OF NEW YORK STATE

by Julia Previto, AAUW NYS cultural interests director, jprevito@aol.com ~ 516.621.1593



How can we learn about our culture and explore the past and the present? Museums are built to answer these questions. Your branch can visit any of the listed museums, arrange for a tour and even invite a speaker to your meeting. The museums I have selected are in different areas of New York State. For a more complete list visit New York History Net and click on "museums." Your branch will benefit from a museum trip which can be exciting and informative.

- **Albany Institute of History and Art** — dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting and promoting interest in the history, art and culture of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley region.
- **Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum** — collects, preserves, and exhibits objects and documents pertinent to whaling, especially the regional whaling history of Long Island, whale conservation, and the history of Cold Spring Harbor as a maritime port.
- **Erie Canal Museum** (Syracuse) — founded in 1962, it is housed in the 1850 Weighlock Building, where canal boats were weighed during the days when they traveled through the center of Syracuse on the Erie Canal.
- **Federal Hall National Memorial** (New York City) — located at the corner of Wall and Broad streets, site of New York City's 18th century City Hall. It was the seat of New York's colonial government and the meeting place of the Stamp Act Congress which assembled in October, 1765, to protest "taxation without representation." The Continental Congress also met at City Hall.
- **Fort Ticonderoga** — museum and research center housed in 1755 French fort.
- **Genesee Country Village and Museum** (Mumford) — a recreated village of 68 historic New York state structures dating from 1797 to 1884. It is the largest living history museum in the state and has the largest collection of historic structures in the Northeast.
- **Gomez Mill House** (Marlboro) — this is the oldest house on the National Register of Historic Places in Orange County and the earliest surviving Jewish residence in North America. It has been continuously inhabited for more than 280 years.
- **Henry F. Johnson Museum of Art** (Ithaca) — located on the Cornell campus, it is one of the most important university museums in the country.
- **Iroquois Indian Museum** (Howes Cave) — educates the public about the Iroquois by collecting, exhibiting and interpreting their arts and culture.
- **Schuyler Mansion** (Albany) — completed in 1763, Philip Schuyler (1733-1804), a descendant of Albany's earliest settlers, chose an 80-acre parcel of farmland just south of the city of Albany as the site for his home.



BRANCH PROGRAMS + STATE PROJECT = UNITED NATIONS RECOGNITION!

On Friday, February 3, 2012, a Best Practices Award will be presented to **Joan Monk** and **Cecilia Dinio-Durkin** of the **Poughkeepsie Branch** for their project based on *My Sister's Keeper*. The award will be presented at the UN by the planning committee of CTAUN (the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations).



My Sister's Keeper is a NYS AAUW state project, initially developed by Joan Monk and **Melissa Guardaro**, international affairs director.

The Poughkeepsie Branch presented programs based on the five critical issues targeted in *My Sister's Keeper*: violence against women; women's rights and

gender equity; education for women and girls; maternal health care; and economic empowerment.

The programs generated area-wide publicity, opening doors for the branch to develop affiliations with like-minded organizations and enhancing AAUW's visibility.

Events included mission-based meetings, a fair-trade marketplace and a celebration of International Women's Day. Members sought out and contributed to causes, such as Heifer International, the Fistula Foundation, and Kiva, that mitigate problems faced by women in the five issue areas.

The project also highlighted three Poughkeepsie Branch members who fostered their own causes to improve the situation of women and girls in countries such as Madagascar and Liberia.

As part of *My Sister's Keeper*, the branch is also fostering a relationship with the Oakwood Friends School to promote advocacy and philanthropy with the next generation of young women.

Congratulations, Cecilia and Joan!

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

by Doris McLallen, AAUW NYS college/university director, dmclallen22@twcnny.rr.com ~ 315.778.1329

2012: New Year Celebrations & New Year Challenges

Celebration #1: Welcome aboard to our four new college/university (C/U) partners since June, 2011:

**Genesee Community College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Ithaca College
Vassar College**

Congratulations New York State! We have reached a new milestone of **50 C/U partners** of the 487 across the U.S.!

Challenge #1: Nearby branches will want to make contact with the C/U reps on these campuses as soon as possible – and let the collaboration begin!

Celebration #2: More and more college students are benefiting from membership in AAUW as EMSFs (National e-Student Affiliate) or ESAFs (Branch e-Student Affiliate). **Clarkson University** in Potsdam leads New York with 22!

Challenge#2: **Utica College** has 10 e-Student members but after that no NYS college or university has more than seven – and most have only one or two. Be the first to surpass Clarkson and win a half gallon of NYS maple syrup from me! (It is almost that glorious time of year in the North Country!)



Celebration #3: National has no record of an official AAUW student group on a New York State campus. What's to celebrate? That, as of this writing, **TWO** new campus groups are in the application process! These are **Jefferson Community College** in Watertown and **Clarkson University**! Such groups will no longer be called "AAUW Student Affiliate Satellites," but from now on are "AAUW Student Organizations." The establishment of a "Student Organization" will be processed through the national office. There is a form, of course. Contact **Bridgette Behling** at behlingb@aauw.org.

Challenge #3: Which college or university will be #3, #4, #5...?

Celebration #4: AAUW's quarterly on-line newsletter, "Campus Connections," is proving to be a very valuable resource! It is being sent to state and branch college/university chairs, and makes our job so much easier!

Challenge #4: But your branch doesn't have a college/university chair on your board? As this new year progresses, please think about establishing this important position in your branch. Give her my address! And if she likes maple syrup....

AAUW NYS MEMBERSHIP AWARDS!

by Maria Ellis, AAUW NYS membership vice president, mellis@citihabitats.com ~ 973.216.4181

Our membership goal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 is to maintain and/or increase membership by at least 5%. Our total membership was 2549 as of October 31, 2011, with renewal reports continuing to arrive after that.

Membership awards were given to the following branches in Districts 1, 5 and 6 for having the highest membership increase from October 31 2010 to October 31, 2011 (Each \$25 incentive award will be used to recruit, maintain and increase our AAUW NYS membership.):

- District I: **Buffalo Branch**, 31 additional members, including renewals; and **Jamestown Branch**, 19 additional members, including renewals.
- District V: **Rockland County Branch**, 17 additional members, including renewals.
- District VI: **Islip Branch**, 14 additional members, including renewals.

Many thanks to those who participate in our monthly membership teleconference calls on the second Wednesday of every month from 7 pm to 7:45pm. The calls give us a chance to share ideas for increasing our AAUW NYS membership. Please continue to email me your membership queries.

Thank you as well for your strong commitment to moving our AAUW mission forward and promoting equity for women and girls.

FORMER BUFFALO BRANCH PRESIDENT HONORED AT THE WHITE HOUSE

On Friday, December 2, 2011, **Tamara Brown**, former president of the **Buffalo Branch**, shared a stage with 11 other volunteer innovators from around the country whom the White House chose to highlight for their work in bringing more young women into the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math.



A project controller at Praxair, Inc., Tamara was recognized as a "Champion of Change" for her work in establishing Tech Savvy, the Buffalo Branch's annual daylong conference at the University at Buffalo. Now in its seventh year, Tech Savvy has as its goal inspiring middle-school girls to think about careers in the sciences.

2011 ANNUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCES HAD TO WEATHER THE WEATHER!

by Joan Monk, AAUW-NYS district council director, ftmaven@bestweb.net ~ 914.245.7704

Mother Nature threw a few curve balls this past fall that directly affected our District Conferences. Some conferences went off without a hitch, while others postponed until spring.

In **District 1**, the film "Iron-Jawed Angels" was the focus and a spirited discussion was led by **Rose Sebouhian**, president of the local League of Women Voters.

District 2 focused on "Wishes, Wisdom, Ethics and Integrity." This timely topic was hosted by the **Greater Rochester Area Branch** at the Perkins Mansion. Members commented on the excellent speakers and especially enjoyed sharing information about branch activities.

In **District 4**, many branches are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Irene. With a terrific program in place on "The Role of Women's Studies in Today's Universities," **District 3** plans to host their event on March 31.

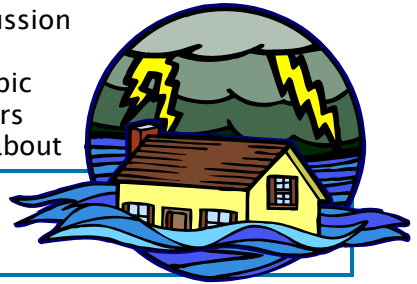
Neither rain, nor snow nor "dark of day" kept AAUW members in **District V** from their conference on October 29. The last time we experienced snow of this magnitude and intensity in October was 1952. The **Westchester Branch** hosted this conference with "Communication" as its theme. **Mary Lou Walker** was the keynote speaker, discussing her book "Speak Easy" and the lost art of conversation.

On Long Island, **District 6's** theme was "Women in Law - Has Anything Really Changed?". **Justice Mary Werner** was a stimulating speaker, sharing personal stories and legal insights from her long and distinguished career. Celebrating AAUW's 130th birthday and highlights from the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders delighted members in attendance.

From the beginning, **District 7** chose to host a spring conference with an in-depth look at "Bully Culture." Please mark your calendars — March 3, 2012 — for this special event with **Holly Kearl**, co-author of AAUW's report "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School" making the keynote presentation at Jefferson Community College.

District Conferences continue to offer our members the opportunity to learn more, connect more and do more. Please contact me with ideas and suggestion to help us grow AAUW.

Districts 3 and 4 were most directly affected by Hurricane Irene.



CREATIVE BRANCH PROGRAMMING —

PART II (Continued from the Fall FOCUS)

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

Involved in all aspects of their communities, our AAUW NYS branches explored a wide variety of topics throughout their 2010-11 membership year programming.

Jamestown again held "Get in the Game" while **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** did a project with the Golden Agers. **Bath** heard about the Institute for Human Services, Catholic Charities, and the Department of Social Services. **Cortland** learned about local agriculture, and **Elmira-Corning** about "Water: Life Runs Through It."

Fairport considered "Gentle Decluttering," **Garden City** explored the Hempstead Plains, **Islip** addressed "Learning to Live Together," and **Poughkeepsie** learned more about identity theft. **Oswego** was informed about "Overpopulation and the Water Supply," "Alien Invasives in Plants", and "DNA."

Rockland found out "How to Get What You Really Want." **Schenectady** considered alternate sources of energy, while **Skaneateles** learned about water and the lake. **Southern New York** heard about "A Place Called Home," container gardening, and family court.

Branches took field trips to learn firsthand: **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** to Fort Johnson, **Oneonta** to a senior housing development, **Skaneateles** to the Harriet Tubman House and to the Matilda Joslyn Gage Museum, and **Yates County** to the Women's Rights National Historic Park and to the Finger Lakes Cultural and Natural History Museum.

As women interested in the whole world, AAUW branch members enjoyed programs on Ireland (**Albany, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, and Garden City**), Haiti (**Buffalo**), Thailand (**Islip**), Costa Rica (**Mohawk Valley**), and India (**Westchester**).

They discussed "Half the Sky" (**Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Jefferson County, and Oswego**) and "A Walk to Beautiful" (**Islip**), and heard about human trafficking (**Buffalo, Jefferson County, and Staten Island**). **Rochester** learned about "Holidays Around the World" and "The Ethnographer as Gossip." **Jefferson County** heard about "Empowering Women Through Global Dialogues," while **Poughkeepsie** heard the experiences of branch members in discussing "American Women Diplomats" and "The Immigrant Experience."

Cultural programs featuring music included "Richard Rogers" in **Garden City**, "Psalmaty Quartet"

(Continued on page 8.)

KEEP IN MIND: HOW NEWSWORTHY IS YOUR “NEWS”?

by Claire Regan, AAUW-NYS visibility director, regan@siadvance.com ~ 718.816.2845



Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

Everyone recognizes the newsboy’s cry from vintage movies.

It was a cry well-known in the early days of newspapers – back when newspapers were the primary method of delivering the news. When something big happened, an Extra edition would hit the streets after the regular edition, and the newsboys would hit the streets, hawking their papers to passersby.

The newsboys are gone, and so are most Extra editions. Because of the weakened economy and the growing Internet, the survival of regular editions has also been threatened. Some newspapers have closed. Others are in danger of closing.

You’ve probably noticed your local newspaper has gotten smaller in size, and there are fewer pages. Those measures cut down on the cost of newsprint. To save even more money, newsroom staffs have been reduced – in some places by half.

It’s a tough time for newspapers.

But the worst may be over. As the economy slowly recovers, advertising revenue is starting to pick up. Newspapers are learning to co-exist with the Internet. That’s good news.

What does all this mean for AAUW? It’s become extra challenging in many communities to get press coverage of branch programming. With newsroom staffs stretched thin, many newspapers aren’t able to cover events like they did as recently as two or three years ago.

That’s why it’s essential to plan newsworthy programming at the branch level. Newsworthy topics are more likely to be covered, and more likely to increase a branch’s visibility.

What makes a story newsworthy? Assigning editors look for seven criteria:

- **Impact** – Does the story matter to readers? Will it have an effect on their lives or their pocketbooks?
- **Timeliness** – Has the story just happened? Is the news timely?
- **Proximity** – People are more concerned about what happens closer to home.
- **Prominence** – Does the story involve a well-known public figure or celebrity?
- **Novelty** – Is something new, odd or surprising going on? Readers enjoy news that surprises them.
- **Conflict** – Struggles between people, or factions, make fascinating reading.
- **Emotions** – Does this story make us sad? Happy? Angry?

Here are two examples of newsworthy programming for inspiration:

- Invite the local district attorney to speak about domestic violence. He/she may have new initiatives and statistics to announce or outline. This idea meets the criteria of impact, timeliness, prominence, conflict and emotions.
- Instead of a candidates’ forum, make it a candidates’ debate. Focus on one election and invite the incumbent and his/her challenger to debate the issues face to face. Conflict is the number-one newsworthy criterion here. But there is also impact, timeliness, proximity and prominence.

These two programs would give the newsboys something to shout about!

BIOGRAPHIES AND SCRAPBOOKS: KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

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

What interesting biographies we have received for the “Women Making a Difference” project! The authors of the biographies have been contacted. If you haven’t sent us your response yet, please make sure you do so as soon as possible. We need your help with this.

It is hoped that this project will not only

honor the “Women Making a Difference,” but also prove to be a valuable resource and provide NYS AAUW with the visibility it deserves.

Keep your branch scrapbook up to date – this is a great way to augment your branch history. Preserve images of your activities for future generations to enjoy.

Plan to share your 2011-2012 branch scrapbook pages with all at the New York State Convention in April.





GENDER EQUITY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT ON AAUW NYS UNITED NATIONS DAY

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

AAUW New York State sponsored a special United Nations Day on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 on "Gender Equity and Sustainable Development". Thirty members from eight branches and Connecticut attended briefings at the United Nations.



Carolyn Donovan, AAUW United Nations representative, provided an introduction and a brief history of AAUW's early participation in the United Nations. **Gloria Blackwell**, AAUW Director of Fellowships, Grants and International Programs, highlighted AAUW's involvement in the international arena.

The briefings began with **Beppe Lovoi** from the UN Commission on Sustainable Development who spoke about Agenda 21. This is a blueprint for actions to be taken globally, nationally, and locally and was developed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. Agenda 21 differs from other plans in that it empowers not only governments and United Nations agencies, but also stakeholders in the environmental area.

"Women" are one such group that now have intergovernmental access, along with Children, Indigenous Groups, Farmers, Business and Industry, and others. The steering groups for women are Women in Europe for a Common Future and Voices of African Mothers.

Jane Roberts, Redwoods, Calif., AAUW member and founder of 34 Million Friends of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), concluded the briefings at the United Nations by giving an impassioned speech regarding the need for population control, family planning and halting the poverty cycle. Jane spoke of the promise of educating women and girls to alleviate poverty, reduce family size and improve maternal health. We're looking forward to having Jane with us in April at the AAUW NYS convention at Rochester's Woodcliff Hotel and Spa.

All participants went on a tour of the United Nations, some for the first time since long-ago school trips. The afternoon session at the International Catholic Organizations Network's center on East 46th Street began with **Rebecca Tinsley**, author of "When the Stars Fall to Earth" and founder of Network4Africa, bearing witness to the atrocities of Darfur and the Sudan. She spoke of the great courage and strength of the women survivors and how genocide is still happening in the region.

Kimberly Campbell, director, Metropolitan New York Chapter of the US National Committee for UN Women, followed with an update on the actions of UN Women and outlined their five areas of focus: poverty/economic improvement, violence against women, HIV/AIDS, human rights, and conflict resolution. UN Women has allowed for more efficient "gender budgeting," giving women a voice in key issues and organizational structures.

The final speaker was **Eleanor Bloomstrom**, program coordinator for the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). Closely linked to the Rio +20 Summit set for June, 2012, this global women's organization, founded by **Bella Abzug**, promotes and protects human rights, gender equality and environmental integrity. Eleanor spoke of women's rights being human rights and of women being an important part of the environmental issue. Women are often in charge of fuel (firewood), and food production (small farms) and often are the holders of "best practices" for environmental management. She also spoke about the social aspect of sustainability gaining more attention.



Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.

~ Kofi Annan
UN Secretary-General
1997-2006



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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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CREATIVE BRANCH PROGRAMMING

(Continued from page 5.)

in **Jamestown**, “Music in Desperate Times” in **Kingston**, and an organist, a singer and an opera in **North Shore**.

Writing was explored in “The Life and Letters of Kate Gleason” in **Fairport**, “Writing: Notable Women’s Timeline” and “Storytelling” in **Jamestown**, “Memoir Writing” in **Kingston**, and “Creativity” and “The Art of Storytelling” in **Yates County**.

Book discussions were of an historical novel in **Albany**, “Barney’s Version” in **Mohawk Valley**, and Edgar Allan Poe in **New York City**. **Garden City** hosted a book and author luncheon and **Poughkeepsie** held a writers’ tea.

Drama was represented with a play about Buddha in **North Shore** and a reenactment of the life of Samuel Meredith in **Schenectady**. **Westchester** heard about “Forty-One Years on Sesame Street,” while **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** tried line dancing.

The visual arts included tours of the Cooper-Hewitt School of Design by **New York City**, a craft museum by **North Shore**, and an art exhibit by **Staten Island**. **Elmira-Corning** touched all bases with “Daughters of the Muses.”

