

AAUW NYS CONVENTION TO HONOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS TRAILBLAZERS

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW-NYS president, Eshartmann5@gmail.com ~ 585.704.4876

Have you seen the line-up? The 2012 AAUW New York State convention presents you with outstanding opportunities to honor the women who have blazed a trail of equity for you and who did so in New York State!



The speakers and workshop presenters are inspiring and knowledgeable about dynamic women, a play focused on mothers is planned for Sunday morning, time is built in for fun and networking with AAUW members, it's a lovely location with good food and a relaxing lounge, and the price includes six meals and beautiful rooms. Who could ask for more?

All of the details are in the registration packet sent to you electronically in January and via your branch president in the U.S. postal service mail. This convention calls forward every AAUW NYS member. Go to www.aauw-nys.org and click on the convention tab to see the fabulous program offerings planned.

Among other activities, you can support our AAUW initiatives by participating in drawings for purses and by swimming for a cause.

As you travel to the Rochester area with your AAUW friends think of the women who crossed the pathways before you and made a difference as trailblazers for women's rights! Remember, too, the impact you can make by building enthusiasm for our common cause. Do continue the movement towards equity for all women and girls through your spirited attendance at our annual convention.

COME TO THE STATE CONVENTION AND SEE WHERE THE TRAIL LEADS YOU!

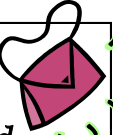
by Marilyn Tedeschi, AAUW NYS 2012 convention director, marilyntee@aol.com ~ 585.244.8890, x102

New York State AAUW's 2012 convention will meet **April 20-22**, at the **Woodcliff Hotel and Spa** in Rochester. It is going to be one of the most exciting and inspiring of our NYS conventions ever!

We have invited AAUW national directors, Legal Advocacy Fund litigants, politicians, college students, History Trail site directors and visionaries of the Trail's future. This is your chance to speak, question and walk among great women of today.

The workshop programs are dedicated to the powerful women of yesterday who fought for change and understood the pathways to equity. Each woman you meet and listen to will elevate and inspire you to break through barriers of your own.

Woman must have a purse of her own, & how can this be, so long as the wife is denied the right to her individual and joint earnings. Reflections like these, caused me to see and really feel that there was no true freedom for woman without the possession of all her property rights. . . This demand must be made by Petitions to the Legislature. . .



Entry in Susan B. Anthony's diary, November 1853

Aside from dialoguing about the future of the Women's History Trail, you'll hear the founders of **2020 Votes for Women** describe their vision for the year 2020 — the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Hear what will be happening in preparation for full equality for today's 10-year-olds who will vote for the first time in the year 2020.

I guarantee you; you will take home a new outlook on the women's movement, the Women's History Trail, a renewed hope for equality and a smile on your face. It's going to be a sell out!

PROPOSED BYLAWS POSTED MARCH 19

Proposed AAUW NYS bylaws changes will be mailed to each branch president and will be online on the www.aauw-nys.org site for all members to review on **March 19**.

Accordingly, these proposed bylaws changes will be voted upon at the business session of the 2012 state convention on Saturday, April 21, having been provided to the membership for review 30 days prior to the session.

In This Issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| President's Column..... | 1 |
| AAUW NYS 2012 Convention..... | 1 |
| Proposed Bylaws Posted..... | 1 |
| Educational Opportunities Fund..... | 2 |
| Diversity..... | 3 |
| Electronic FOCUS..... | 3 |
| My Sister's Keeper..... | 4 |
| AAUW-NYS To Receive Award..... | 4 |
| AAUW-NYS Whistleblower Policy..... | 4 |
| Carol Stull Award Established..... | 4 |
| Nominees for AAUW-NYS Board Offices..... | 5 |
| District Council..... | 6 |
| Branch Programming..... | 7 |
| Resolutions..... | 7 |
| State Historians..... | 8 |
| Call for 2013-15 Nominations..... | 8 |

NEW YORK STATE AAUW RANKS FOURTH IN OVERALL DONATIONS AS MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDE FUNDING FOR GRADUATE STUDY

by Doris McLallen, AAUW-NYS Educational Opportunities Fund vice president, dmclallen22@twcny.rr.com ~ 315.773.5013

In some ways, it feels like my appointment as Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) vice president, to fill out a term, brings my AAUW experience full circle as, in my very first year as a member (1978-79), I was Educational Foundation Program chair for the Jefferson County Branch. MUCH has changed and there is a pretty steep learning curve, but one thing that hasn't changed is that AAUW continues its long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe.

AAUW remains one of the largest sources of funding for graduate women, providing more than \$3.7 million for more than 240 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and non-profit organizations during the 2011-12 academic year alone. Thirty AAUW fellows and grantees are studying at colleges and universities here in New York from around the country and the world! Since awarding its first fellowship in 1888, AAUW has provided more than \$80 million to 11,000 fellows and grantees. Here in New York State, for example, the **Buffalo Branch** has initiated a new American Fellowship at the national level. It is called the "Buffalo, NY Branch of AAUW Fellowship in Honor of Hillary Rodham Clinton."

We are looking forward to celebrating the generosity of AAUW NYS branches and members at our 2012 NYS Convention at Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in Rochester, April 20-22.

What inspires members of AAUW to contribute so generously?

- *With AAUW, we advocate for change.*
- *With AAUW, we help girls and women reach their educational goals.*
- *With AAUW, we seek justice.*
- *With AAUW, we work for pay equity.*
- *With AAUW, we light the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) spark.*

If you are your branch's current or incoming EOF chair, please visit the EOF page on the aauw-nys.org website. The job of branch EOF chair can be broken down into three main components:

1. Leading branch fundraising efforts,
2. Spreading the word about the fund,
3. Forwarding, in a timely manner, all funds for the foundation.

Work closely with your branch treasurer. When checks are received for EOF, **send them as soon as possible** to the national office along with the correct submission form. **Please send a copy of the form to me (the [NYS EOF VP](#)).** The Foundation staff will acknowledge each gift on a form acceptable to the IRS. **BE SURE TO INDICATE THE FUND NUMBERS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Keep a list of every contributor and the fund selected by the donor.

The **deadline** for all contributions is **December 1**. There is a "contribution report form" to complete. It is available on the AAUW website and you will receive a paper copy in the fall.

Educational Opportunities Fund chair is a position of awesome responsibility in your branch. It is not an overstatement to say that success of the mission of AAUW depends on this important work! I will help in any way I can and we also receive outstanding support from **Tremayne Parquet** at the national AAUW office.

AAUW NYS can be proud of its track record. In the 2010 AAUW Annual Report, New York ranks 4th in "Combined Support," through all the funds. I encourage every branch to set fundraising goals for the coming year and challenge us to move up in the rankings for 2012!

I look forward to meeting you at the EOF Counterpart Breakfast at the Woodcliff in Rochester!!



A DIVERSITY CHALLENGE

by Lillis C. McLean, AAUW-NYS diversity director,
lmclean366@yahoo.com ~ 716.873.7467

My home is in Kenmore, just north of Buffalo. Recently a Kenmore High School girls' team admitted to having used, for some time, the "N" word as a pregame chant. Although there were African-American girls on the team who objected, the practice continued until it was made public. "It's just a word," some children were told.

Aside from the astonishing insensitivity, it appears that these young athletes lack any context for a word with a painful, murderous history.

American society is normatively white; white privilege is engrained. It is this subconscious privilege, with its assumptions about competence, that allows for the racial divide that continues to exist despite evidence to the contrary. We are all created with talents and limitation, none of which has anything to do with race. (Simon Campbell, *SSS Network Connections*, 2011).

We American have little historical understanding of our current racial divide. Isobel Wilkerson's "The Warmth of Other Suns" is the story of the "great migration" from 1920-1970 of Negroes



from the South. It is the story of sharecroppers living in virtual servitude leaving secretly with little to take with them.

This is a context whites fail to grasp. Not blacks, however. In a discussion with a group of 12-year olds (having just returned from Africa myself), I asked where they were from. They told me "Alabama." These rural, agrarian people struggled in the North to obtain jobs, education and property. Their efforts continue today with ongoing civil rights issues such as underfunded schools, attempts to limit voting rights and racial profiling. The President of the United States is himself demonized by innuendo and slander which dishonors him as well as the office.

For all of us who love the work AAUW does, it is time to stretch ourselves mightily, to actively seek out a diverse membership of all minorities in our branches and on our boards. We can educate the young and do so by sharing our stories, our awareness and commitment. We can bring this to their attention in many ways.

Why not ask someone you know in your community to join us? Explain since the country is no longer simply white and middle-class, why should we be?

FROM THE ELECTRONIC OFFICES OF YOUR *FOCUS* CREW

~ Jean Havens, *FOCUS* editor; Donna Seymour, communications director; Betty Preble, administrative director

In the interests of both more efficient communication and better use of our precious AAUW NYS dollars, most issues of *FOCUS* have been announced electronically for the past couple of years. This process (a message with a link to the most recent issue housed on the state website) has resulted in a savings of over \$5,000 per year in printing and postage costs.

A paper copy of the convention issue (incorporating information on officer candidates, bylaws proposals and convention logistics) is still sent via US Postal mail to all AAUW-NYS branch members. Of course, those who have "opted out" of the electronic system or who do not have valid email addresses still get every issue on paper.

Reports from the email service show how the messages are handled. Here are some of the results:

- Most messages are opened, and most of those readers then click on the link to the *FOCUS*.
- There is an "opt-out" option, and people who choose that are added to the ongoing list for paper copies.
- Some addresses "bounce" (no longer in use, mailboxes full, typing errors, etc). Those people are added to the "paper copy" list for that issue, and messages are sent to the appropriate branch presidents requesting corrections. (Note - the email addresses are obtained for each issue from the national database, so the corrections need to be handled there.)
- Many messages are not opened. These messages are a concern. We have no way of knowing if people did not receive them or just chose not to open them. This particular issue of *FOCUS* is being mailed to all AAUW-NYS branch members, but the emailed message is also being sent. When you receive this, please check to see if you received an email announcing the issue and providing a link. If you didn't see it, please check your "spam" folder to see if it perhaps arrived there - if so, retrieve the message and tell your spam filter that messages of that type are OK. **If it is not in your mailbox at all and you have not asked to be left off the list**, please send a message to Administrative Director Betty Preble (betty.preble@gmail.com) so that she can check into the situation - include your name, email address and branch name. Questions? Send Betty a message.



MY SISTER'S KEEPER WILL CONCLUDE AT AAUW NYS CONVENTION

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

The AAUW NYS convention in April, 2012 will mark the end of the My Sister's Keeper (MSK) two-year state project. The project, which seeks to foster understanding of the plight of women worldwide and domestically, began at the Summer Leadership Conference in 2010 and was successfully embraced by branches across the state.

Most branches read and discussed Nicholas Kristof's "Half the Sky," the cornerstone of the MSK program. Branches then adapted the program in a myriad of ways to incorporate member talents and interests.

Please remember to submit your branch's accomplishments for the My Sister's Keeper awards. The form is on the state website under award submission. The form is easy and quick, so make sure your branch is a Keeper!

On Saturday afternoon during the convention, Jane Roberts will speak about key issues facing women worldwide. Jane, a Redwoods, CA, AAUW member and founder of 34 Million Friends of the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), is especially appropriate to be the concluding My Sister's Keeper speaker as she is mentioned in "Half the Sky" for her outstanding work and admirable personal motivation to make change in the world. Her work for the UNFPA improves the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities around the world. Jane, who is a big part of Chapter 8 in *Half the Sky*, is part of the solution.

Nicholas Kristof wrote: *I tend to think that the great injustices of the kind we write about in "Half the Sky" will involve not only leadership from the White House and the UN but also from citizens like Jane Roberts in places like Redlands.*

In keeping with the spirit of 34 Million Friends, and to help support Jane Roberts and UNFPA, we are holding a "34 Million Laps" swim fundraiser at convention. While you don't have to swim 34 million lengths, we are again competing for the Golden Purse award for the swimmer who raises the most money and the Golden Mermaid award to the swimmer who swims the most laps. Bring your bathing suit and sense of camaraderie and help your sisters around the world by raising money for 34 Million Friends. The swim pledge form can be found at <http://www.aauw-nys.org/msk.htm>.

TEXT OF AAUW NYS WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY, ADOPTED IN NOVEMBER 2011

Any member who reasonably believes that a policy, practice, action or inaction of the AAUW NYS is in violation of applicable law or governmental regulation is encouraged to submit a written statement of complaint to the AAUW NYS president or any board member. Any mem-

ber who submits such a complaint in good faith shall not be subjected to retaliation by AAUW NYS, its board or any of its members. Any such retaliation on the part of a member shall be the basis of a referral to National for consideration of that person's membership revocation.

AAUW NYS shall investigate all such complaints in a timely manner, document its investigation and take appropriate action; or, in the alternative, may refer the matter to National or to an appropriate governmental entity for investigation.

All members of AAUW NYS shall cooperate fully with such an investigation and no member shall suffer retaliation for cooperating with an investigation.

All members shall abide by AAUW-NYS Board of Directors Working Rules regarding retention of documents subject to archival guidelines, including Working Rule IX D, which sets forth examples of documents subject to archival guidelines. No document or tangible item (whether or not electronically stored) relating to a complaint under this Rule may be destroyed, defaced, altered, hidden or withheld from the investigating entity. All such documents or tangible items must be preserved, intact and unaltered, and turned over to the Board or investigating entity.



AAUW NYS SELECTED AS "CHAMPION OF CHARACTER"

The Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges has selected New York State's American Association of University Women as the recipient of the 2012 "Champions of Character" Education Organization Leadership Award.

This award recognizes AAUW-NYS President Eileen Hartmann and the organization as a whole for the extraordinary efforts AAUW-NYS puts forth to promote equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, philanthropy and research.

The recognition will be presented at the 9th annual "Champions of Character" Award Banquet on Tuesday, April 3, at the Franklin Plaza in Troy. Eileen will be on hand to accept the award.

Contact Joan Monk at ftmaven@bestweb.net if you would like to attend this April 3 event in the Albany area.

CAROL G. STULL AWARD ANNOUNCED AT WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Carol Stull was president of the Ithaca Branch in 1995-96 and 2001-03. Before that she was New York State AAUW president (1976-78) and president of the Buffalo Branch (1972-74). She died in 2003.

The Carol G. Stull Award has been established in her memory to benefit graduate students in economics at Western Michigan University. The citation reads in part:

Carol G. Stull worked incessantly to improve the lives of others whether they were women scientists or poor Hispanic immigrants. She worked to provide college scholarships... [and] worked towards environmental awareness and women's rights.

NOMINEES NAMED FOR AAUW NYS BOARD OFFICERS

by Jean Havens, AAUW NYS 2011-12 nominating team chair, jhavens@verizon.net ~ 914.241.4518

The Nominating Team is proud to present the following members as qualified to stand for election to office in AAUW NYS for 2012-2014.

President – Mary Lou Davis

A 16-year member of the Poughkeepsie Branch, Mary Lou Davis has been active on the AAUW New York State board in recent years, serving as secretary/bylaws chair (2010-11), nominating committee chair (2008-10), assistant nominating chair (2007-08), district director (2005-08), coordinator for District IV (2004-05), and state convention director (2008-11). The president of the Poughkeepsie Branch in 2004-05, Mary Lou has also chaired the branch's membership, nominating, and Woman of the Year luncheon committees.



Professionally, Mary Lou taught mathematics on the middle school, high school, and college levels, along with serving as a private tutor, math coach and consultant. She has helped create math lessons for the McGraw-Hill publishing company.

After retiring in 2000, Mary Lou became active (often serving as an officer) with professional organizations such as the Dutchess County Teachers Association, the Spackenkill Retired Teachers (president, 2000-04 and 2008-12), and the South-eastern Division of NYSRTA (New York State Retired Teachers Association).

Mary Lou is on the board of the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, presently serving as treasurer, and is involved in a variety of community organizations including the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, Habitat for Humanity, the Junior League of Poughkeepsie, and Mid-Hudson Alumnae Panhellenic (past president 2007-11). She volunteers at the thrift store Second Hand Rose and also at Vassar College's art museum.

A graduate of Susquehanna University with a BA in mathematics, Mary Lou also holds a MEd in mathematics from West Chester State College in Pennsylvania.

Eileen Hartmann, current president of AAUW NYS, has written about Mary Lou: "Among [the] qualities she possesses are communication skills, knowledge of the organization, dedication, necessary risk-taking, and efficiency . . . when Mary Lou Davis takes on a job she completes it in a responsible, thoughtful, and thorough manner."

Geeta Desai of the Poughkeepsie Branch says: "I have known Mary Lou to be the ultimate team player who works hard to support and grow our branch . . . she has initiative, she is a good

communicator, she inspires people to do their best, [and] she has highly developed management skills."

Elizabeth Harrel, former AAUW New York president, and a member of the Poughkeepsie Branch, writes: "[Mary Lou] has fostered an effective team in many different situations and has provided positive leadership. She has served as an excellent spokesperson for the organization and has a clear understanding of our mission. She is able to analyze tasks and give clear directions for completing them."



Program Vice President – Melissa Guardaro

Melissa Guardaro is a four-year member of the Rockland County Branch. In that time, she has been the branch co-president (2009-11) as well as international chair (2011-12). She was recognized as an Emerging Leader by AAUW-NYS in 2009 and has continued her interest in international affairs by serving on the state board as international chair (2009-12). She was a member of AAUW's national delegation to Cuba in 2010.

Melissa helped to develop, implement and improve the successful statewide AAUW NYS project "My Sister's Keeper" (2010-12) and has developed the NYS United Nations Day conferences. On the branch level, she led the team that provided a mentoring program for USAID (United States Agency for International Development) students from Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Currently a small business owner, Melissa has had extensive marketing experience in consumer products companies where she developed new products, marketing plans, and advertising campaigns. A woman of many talents, she has also been an instructor of Yang-style black belt level t'ai chi chuan.

Melissa is involved with a variety of local organizations, serving in board positions for the Arts Council of Rockland and the Valley Cottage Library, as well as being a volunteer recruiter for the Nyack Public Schools' Project Graduation.

A graduate of Fordham University in the Bronx with a BA in communications, Melissa also has an MBA in marketing and real estate finance from Columbia University's Business School.

Mimi Korb, former AAUW NYS secretary/bylaws chair, a member of the Rockland County Branch, has said of Melissa: "She is very responsible and completes her tasks in a competent and timely manner . . . her strengths [include] collaborating with others."

Joan Monk, district director for AAUW NYS and a member of the Westchester Branch, says: "Melissa is definitely the right person for the job . . . she has demonstrated her passion and commitment to both AAUW and women around the world . . . she

(Continued on page 6.)

NOMINEES (Continued from page 5.)

is a creative thinker and problem solver, effectively communicating on paper and in person, with an added plus – a great sense of humor!”

Ruth Fierro-King, AAUW NYS treasurer and Buffalo Branch member, writes: “[Melissa] is committed to excellence and innovation . . . I am confident that Melissa can develop innovative programs that will assist the branches and her organization as a whole [in retaining and attracting members] . . . Melissa constantly contributes to the organization in a thoughtful manner and pushes the bar of excellence to a higher level.”

Educational Opportunities Fund Vice President – Doris A. McLallen

Doris A. McLallen has been a member of the Jefferson County Branch for 34 years. She has been the branch president, Educational Foundation chair, public policy chair, and served on the program and nominating committees. She was the District II Branch Council Representative and is the annual moderator for Candidates’ Forums co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters. She most recently served the AAUW NYS board as college/university director, increasing the number of member institutions from 31 to 46 in her short tenure. She was a participant in AAUW’s national study tour to Israel in 2010.

Currently the director of community relations for the district office of NYS Assemblymember Addie J. Russell (118th District), Doris has had a variety of interesting careers. She has been a speech therapist, an elementary principal (twice), the mayor of the Village of Black River, the director of the United Way’s Volunteer Center of Jefferson County, and a teacher of high school French.

On the community level, Doris was appoint-



ed by the Governor to serve as a trustee of Jefferson Community College where she chairs the academic and education committee. She has been active with, among others, the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, the School Administrators Association of New York State, the Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library, St. John’s Episcopal Church, and the National Women’s Hall of Fame. Doris is a former member of the New York Conference of Mayors and in 2006 was named the Village of Black River’s Citizen of the Year.

Doris has a BS in French and secondary education from the State University of New York, College at Potsdam, and an MS in communication disorders from The College of Saint Rose in Albany. She has a *Diplome D’Honneur* from L’Université de Poitiers in Tours, France, and is a graduate of St. Lawrence University’s school administration program.

Donna Seymour, AAUW-NYS communications director and a member of the St. Lawrence County Branch, writes: “[Doris’s] branch leadership experiences have been varied, and she has worked on district events with good will and good cheer . . . as a member of one of our more rural branches, her perspective on the challenges that smaller branches have in economically distressed parts of the state will make her particularly sensitive to contribution issues.”

Margaret Coe, a member of the Jefferson County Branch, says: “Doris [continues] to share her leadership skills and insight, always being willing to help with any aspect of the branch, while showing her dedication to the overall mission of AAUW. She is a leader and a team player.”

Lynn Schwabenthal, former president of the Jefferson County Branch, offers: “[Doris] has proven experience in AAUW leadership and in other areas of her life . . . she is an enthusiastic supporter of the AAUW vision and believes the Educational [Opportunities Fund] is one of the major bedrocks of AAUW.”

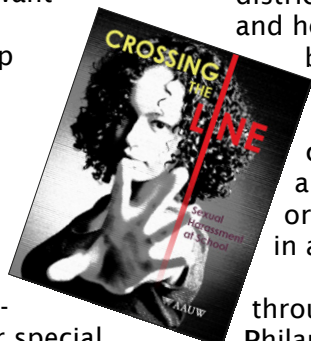
JOIN US & JOIN IN!

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

Exciting things are happening with AAUW NYS, so please join us and join in! We want you to be part of the action.

Convention, Summer Leadership and District Conferences are all taking shape, each of which offers special opportunities. For example, you could learn more about AAUW’s latest research, “Crossing the Line.”

With “The Women’s History Trail” as our 2012 state convention theme, this is going to be an enlightening and inspiring gathering. Share your special



talents and expertise with us. Help make a difference for women and girls, both local and global, through advocacy and action.

This year at the AAUW NYS convention, on Saturday, April 21, there will be caucuses for each district. Come and meet your district coordinator and her assistant. Create a cohort group with other branches in your district to work together on a focus that is unique to your own district.

What ideas could you offer for your district conference: a luncheon and book talk, a movie and panel discussion, a research symposium, or how to celebrate International Women’s Day in a new and exciting way?

Let’s all REAP the benefits of AAUW through Research, Education, Advocacy and Philanthropy.



AAUW branches are a vital part of their communities -- becoming informed and taking action. **Fairport Area, Kingston, Rockland County, St. Lawrence,** and **Skaneateles** learned about hydrofracking. **Adirondack** looked "Beyond Waste" and **Oswego** considered nuclear energy issues. **Albany** had a speaker from Newschannel 13. **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** collected for the Turning Point and learned about the Mohawk Harvest Cooperative Market. **Bath** heard about the work of Catholic Charities, "Health Ministries," and the Red Cross, while **Fairport Area** had CPR and AED training. They also heard an update on "Road Rage, Scams, and Burglaries".

Ithaca learned about "The Emperor of All Maladies" from the Cancer Research Center. **Yates County** addressed "Finger Lakes Health" and **Kingston** considered "The Future of the Golden Hill Health Care Center." **Mohawk Valley** volunteered for the Red Kettle Drive, and **Oneonta** participated in "Dining for Women." **Oswego** heard about the Port Authority and Canal System.

Schenectady remembered "9-11: Ten Years Later". **Skaneateles** and **Westchester** both were updated on the work of the Girl Scouts, and **Westchester** also had a holiday gift collection for inmates' children. Both **Poughkeepsie** and **Southern New York** explored social media. Candidate forums were held by seven branches: **Adirondack, Islip, Jamestown, Jefferson County, Mohawk Valley, Schenectady,** and **Staten Island**.

Branches looked at the position of women in politics in **Alfred-Hornell, Elmira-Corning, Mohawk Valley,** and **Westchester**; and in the workplace in **Alfred-Hornell, Ithaca, Rockland,** and **Skaneateles**. Women's health issues were raised in **Adirondack, Bath, Buffalo, Elmira-Corning,** and **Rockland**.

Ongoing problems were revisited: domestic violence in **North Shore** and **Staten Island**, and human trafficking in **Mohawk Valley** and **Staten Island**. Women's perspectives were explored in **Cortland, Westchester,** and **Yates County**; while their achievements were celebrated in **Adirondack, Bath, Buffalo, Nassau County, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, Rockland, Skaneateles, Southern New York,** and **Westchester**.

AAUW branches are always interested in education. **Albany** assessed "The Role of the Federal Government," **Mohawk Valley** considered "The Impact of the Bullying-Prevention Program," and **Jefferson County** held a "Sister to Sister Summit." **Islip** devoted one meeting to AAUW's research "Why So Few?" and a second to "What Is STEM?" **Albany** and **Schenectady** toured the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering.

In addition to the many cultural interest group offerings, branch membership programs included: a writer's workshop, a holiday musical celebration, "The Help," and a dinner theater in **Alfred-Hornell**; "The Trail of the Wildflowers" in **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown**; poetry reading in **Bath**; historic local architecture and the musical "Oliver" in **Buffalo**; "Books and Bites" in **Elmira-Corning**; "The Warmth of Other Suns" in **Ithaca**; "Woman: The Artists' Muse" and "Songs for the Season of Light" in **Kingston**; "Judy Garland" in **Mid-Island**; "Erie Canal Cousins" in **Mohawk Valley**; a recorder concert in **Oswego**; the Northern Dutchess Symphony and a storyteller in **Poughkeepsie**; a dinner theater in **Rockland**; a talent show in **Staten Island**; "Women Painters" in **Westchester**; and "Women in Art" in **Yates County**.

Branches also took tours to cultural venues: **Elmira-Corning** to the Clemens Center, **Ithaca** to the Herbert E. Johnson Art Museum, **Oneonta** to the Roberson Museum, and **Skaneateles** to the Gage House. **Nassau County** made card crafts for overseas troops and **North Shore** had a sale by member artists with the proceeds going to C.A.R.E.

International issues were evident, with **Adirondack, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Schenectady,** and **Westchester** holding meetings about the AAUW-NYS project, "My Sister's Keeper." **Ithaca** heard about "Gender and Disciplinary Clusters in African Higher Education"; **Mid-Island** learned about "Islam and the Middle East"; **Schenectady** and **Staten Island** addressed "Fair Trade"; **Schenectady** also saw "War Through Women's Eyes".

Branches learned about Tanzania (**Adirondack**), Chinese Herbal Medicine (**Alfred-Hornell**), Pakistan (**Buffalo**), Poland (**Islip**), Mongolia (**Kingston**), Sudan (**Skaneateles**), and Haiti (**Southern New York**). **Yates County** took "Travels with Helen" and went "From Denmark to Penn Yan." **Ithaca** held its annual International Fellowship Luncheon, and **Rockland County** its Diversity Brunch, while **Skaneateles** celebrated International Women's Month.

RESOLUTIONS ENABLE MEMBERS' VOICES AND IDEAS TO BE HEARD

by Susan Hoover, AAUW NYS public policy director
— susnhoover@aol.com ~ 860.625.4448

Resolutions presented at the annual AAUW NYS convention are the vehicle available to branch members for bringing an idea for a new project to the state membership. A resolution can call for education and/or action about an issue. One happy outcome of such work can be additional outreach and visibility in your community as you work in coalition with other like-minded organizations.

For example, we already know that two reso-

lutions are being prepared for our 2012 convention that will both involve working collaboratively with other organizations. One will urge members to advocate for fair and adequate funding for public education, and the other will establish a task force to develop the NYS Women's History Trail.

If you have an idea for a resolution, please check out the guidelines. Go to the Public Policy tab on the AAUW NYS website. you'll see Guidelines for Preparing a Resolution and also Resolution History. Please note that if you'd like to consult with me or a member of the Public Policy committee, you will want to do that prior to the end of March.

Questions? Don't hesitate to call or email.



New York State

FOCUS

Spring 2012

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. 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.

SCRAPBOOKS AND ORAL HISTORIES PRESERVE THE HERITAGE OF AAUW NYS

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



Highlight your branch activities and accomplishments by displaying copies of your branch scrapbook pages at the AAUW NYS Convention in April. These copies will be put in the NYS archives. Support and help the members who are creating these pages. Make sure your branch is represented. It would be nice to have 100% participation.

Oral history has played an important role in the transmission of information from generation to generation. Much branch history is not written down – it exists only in the minds of past officers, project directors, long-time members and everyone associated with the organization. Utilize these recollections and reminiscences in an oral history project for your branch. Oral histories are also useful in preserving memories of people in your community and your family.

Check the History tab at aauw-nys.org for more complete directions for both branch scrapbooks and oral histories. We look forward to your participation to make these important activities a success.

We are working very hard on the “Women Making a Difference” project to bring it to completion. Thanks to all who have taken part in this project. Questions? Just contact us.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

If the proposed bylaw changes are approved at the state convention, the following four AAUW NYS offices will need to be filled for 2013-2015: membership vice president, public policy vice president, secretary/bylaws, and treasurer. If you are interested in any of these positions, or have questions, contact Helen Engel, 2012-13 nominating team chair, at (315) 343-9678 or rengel@oswego.edu.