

AAUWNYSFOCUS

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AT CONVENTION, FUNDRAISING — AND FUN

By MARY LOU DAVIS
AAUW-NYS President

Karen Carr, Jean Havens and the Convention Team should be congratulated on a wonderful convention at High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid.

The keynote speakers and workshop presenters inspired the AAUW members who attended.

The following women were elected to office during the business meeting: Donna Seymour, Public Policy VP, Maria Ellis, Membership VP, Edwina Martin, Secretary/Bylaws, and Mildred



DeWitt, Treasurer.

The title of AAUW Funds VP was changed to Development VP by a vote at the business meeting on April 27.

The board will miss Doris McLallen, our current Development VP, who will be moving out of New York State. Cynthia Averill has been appointed to replace her next year.

After listening to member concerns about the amount of work created by combining all of the funds, the board

voted to add an LAF Director and EOF Director for the coming year.

Nancy Mion will be the new LAF Director and Janice Brown will be the new EOF Director for the next year. Heide Parreño will be joining the board as Diversity Director.

The Summer Leadership Conference will be held at Cazenovia on July 19 to 21. The focus will be Violence Against Women and Girls, which is the theme for the 2013 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

We are currently planning the confer-

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ence and have already arranged for a few speakers.

Dr. David Crenshaw, clinical director at the Children's Home, will speak to us at Cazenovia about how he uses facility dogs to work with children who have been hurt by violence and abuse, helping them to feel safe, become trusting, and deal with intense emotions. Dr. Crenshaw has developed special play therapy techniques for working with the children.

State Senator Terry Gipson has introduced legislation that would allow facility dogs in New York courts to provide comfort to victims or witnesses during testimony.

The proposed Rosie's Law is named after a golden retriever who was the first assistance dog allowed in a state court. Rosie comforted a 15-year-old girl from the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie who was a victim of sexual abuse by her father. The dog gave her the courage to testify against her father.

Judy Lombardi, executive director of the Grace Smith House Battered Women's Shelter, will also talk with us about her work. Judy has devoted the bulk of her professional work to the issue of domestic violence with a focus on community work and public policy. Judy is also on the Board of Directors of the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Judy helped to develop the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW Court Watch Monitors Program and provided much of the training.

Emma Condori-Mamani from La Paz, Bolivia, will talk about growing up in the poorest nation in South America and the challenges she faced in order to get an education.

Jeanette Cantwell, Margaret Nijhuis, and Betty Preble will offer a workshop on using and updating the Membership Database. Donna Seymour will kick-off a Know Your IX Campaign to educate every college student in New York about his or her rights under Title IX.

Please plan to join us at Cazenovia for a fun and informative weekend!



MORE CONVENTION MOMENTS



SAVE THE DATE
CONVENTION 2014
APRIL 25-27
HONOR'S HAVEN RESORT & SPA
ELLENVILLE, N.Y.



ATTENTION BUCKET FILLERS

The bucket book is now a play

By JOAN MONK
AAUW-NYS District Council Director

The new play *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Ann Marie Gardinier Halstead is a modern take on the golden rule with humor, heart, and larger-than-life characters.

Based on Carol McCloud's award-winning books, the play tells the story of Trey, a 4th grade student who learns about bucket filling from his camp counselor Mimi, Professor Smarty Pants III, and Bucket Filling Fairy (BFF), a magical creature who speaks in rhyme.

This theatrical adaptation is a fun and effective way for schools, theatre companies and community organizations to address bullying. Convention attendees had the pleasure of meeting Ann Marie and learning more about the play at her workshop in Lake Placid. Learn more about the play at www.bucketfillingplay.com.*

Ann Marie first heard about Carol McCloud's book *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* at a meeting at her son's school. She read it, loved it, and thought it would make great theatre.

She was confident that a play would be a fun and effective way for schools and theatre companies to address bullying. Ann Marie was thrilled when Ms. McCloud gave her permission to adapt the book for the stage.

This book is popular in elementary schools across the U.S. and abroad. Many schools have adopted the bucket filling concept as their school theme.

Therefore, the play is popular among teachers and children alike. Parents appreciate its positive message as well. It is also popular with some AAUW branches in NYS. Couldn't your branch support a production or just spread the word about this wonderful concept.

Peaceful Schools is mounting a traveling production for central and northern NYS during the 2013-2014 school year. Visit their website www.peacefulschools.com to find out more.

There are many classroom applications for the play. For instance, the summer camp skits with bucket filling and dipping scenarios make great role-play exercises for elementary school students.

Schools can produce the play with either student or staff actors. A middle or high school drama club could present the play to the elementary school(s) in their district. The running time of 45-50 minutes is perfect for a school assembly.

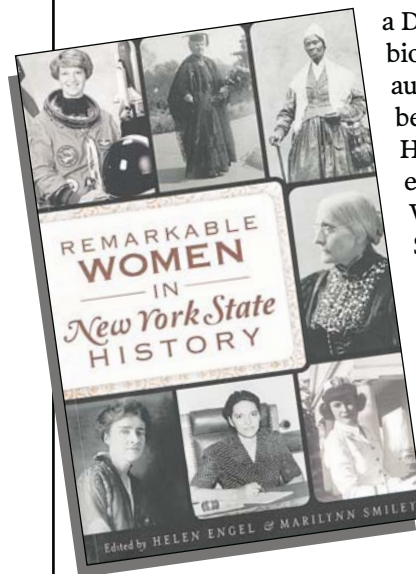
"The Bucket Books" by Carol McCloud and Ann Marie's play contain lots of possibilities for both programs/projects for your branch and local community. Be sure to contact AAUW-NYS's very own BFF (a.k.a. Joan Monk) for more information at ftmaven@gmail.com.

Let's get serious about bucket filling!

New book salutes historic NYS women

By HELEN ENGEL
AAUW-NYS Historian

Thanks to everyone throughout the state for all the work that was involved in producing a book from the Women Making a Difference project. The biographies and autobiographies have been published by The History Press in a book entitled "Remarkable Women in New York State History." The book was available for \$24.99 at the AAUW-NYS Convention in Lake Placid and will also be available at the Summer Conference in Cazenovia College.



If you have questions about how to obtain the book, please contact me.

Now is the time to go through your records and decide what should be kept for your branch archives, what should be saved for your use or given to your successor, and what can be discarded. Make sure to update your branch history and keep your archives current.

The AAUW website (www.aauw.org) has added some very helpful information on archives and record management. Go to Resources at the top of the page, then Guides (on the site) and then Archives (under Filter by Tags). Both of the guides, Guidelines of Preserving State and Branch Archives and Record Management Guidelines for State and Branches, can be downloaded. Both the guides are very helpful, giving useful information in an easy to read format.

For more information on this subject you can also check the AAUW-NYS website, use the History tab at the top of the page, and then go to the sidebar (Preserving Historical Records) on the history page.

If you know where your branch archives are being stored, please let me know so a list of locations for branch archives can be made available for those who may want to utilize the information now and in the future.

A warm welcome to state's new EOF leader

By JANICE BROWN
AAUW-NYS EOF Director

Hello to all. I'm a member of Jefferson County branch where I currently serve as Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) VP.

I've been a member of AAUW since 2011. I was a military spouse and we retired in the area. I have a BS in Healthcare Management and an MBA with Healthcare Management certification. I have been a nurse for 21 years.

Now, on to EOF ... the EOF fundraiser at the state convention was a BIG hit. We raised \$1,110.00! The event was a walk into the main town where all the shops are located. Local businesses participated by distributing tickets to the participants if they browsed their business or purchased an item.

The participants were identified by wearing a teal colored ribbon that had "AAUW-NYS CONVENTION 2013." Some of the businesses donated items to be raffled off. The value of the raffled items varied from \$25 to over \$200. I'm expecting to have a *great year*.

As we move forward to the summer months, the Leadership Conference in Cazenovia will be a great time. More fundraising ideas to be released. The class of 2013-2014 name lists has been released. There are potentially 16 Fellows from New York State.

My contact information is (by email) j2brown1012@aol.com or (by cell) 254-247-9549.



MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD



AAUW-NYS was well represented at the Women's Equality Agenda rally in Albany on June 4, organized by the Women's Equality Coalition. AAUW-NYS is a supporting organization in the coalition.

Reaping rewards for LAF

By ROLI G. WENDORF
AAUW-NYS LAF VP

The Legal Advocacy Fund was very busy at the AAUW-NYS Convention in scenic Lake Placid. The LAF fundraiser, "Baskets, Purses and More," was a popular place.

A mixed theme of auction and raffle items brought forth a creative variety of baskets, purses, tote bags, and even a "lucky tree."

We raised \$2,295 for LAF, a 50 percent increase over last year. Additional contributions were sent directly to national by some branches in lieu of sending items for this fundraiser.

We also had an excellent LAF speaker in Technical Sergeant Kimberly Davis, who has served in the United States Air Force, New York Air National Guard, for 23 years, and was a victim of military sexual assault.

She eventually became a plaintiff in the latest AAUW supported military sexual assault lawsuit, Hoffman et al v. Panetta et al, filed by lawyer Susan Burke in September 2012.

Her story was very moving. She brought attention to the large number of such assaults, 26,000 in 2012 alone, and the difficult path in getting justice.

Members attending the talk generously donated an additional \$1,537 for LAF at the luncheon, reaching a total of \$3,832 from both LAF fundraisers.



Strong programming is a hallmark of AAUW

By JEAN HAVENS
AAUW-NYS Program VP

Congratulations to every single branch throughout New York State on another year of outstanding programming! Looking at AAUW as a whole, it's easy to see why the programs we offer and support are what attract and retain our members. We are much more than just a social club, and living up to AAUW's Vision Statement of being "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" is what sets our organization apart.

This past year, as I've read each month's crop of branch newsletters, I've been impressed by the wide range of programs attracting and educating members by covering everything from the suffragists of yesterday to getting today's voters to the polls and from hydrofracking to developing Tech Savvy girls who will be able to prove that fracking's not a good idea. From the shores of the Niagara River to those of Long Island Sound, New York State AAUW branches consistently offer programming that attracts, involves, and retains members while generating external visibility and community involvement. Keep up the good work!

In looking forward to presenting the branch programming awards at the state convention, I gave a lot of thought to simplifying the nomination forms and evaluation process. I then re-christened the awards "Marketing the Mission" and "Powerful Programs" — two titles and major emphases that speak to the comprehensive goals of branch programming. It is my hope that the changes have been well-received and will result in more branches submitting applications in years to come, offering their best programs as examples of what AAUW is all about. Recognized at the convention for their outstanding efforts in "Marketing the Mission" of AAUW during the 2012-13 membership year were the following branches:



AMSTERDAM/GLOVERSVILLE/ JOHNSTOWN

Their goal of "filling the bucket" of all branch members resulted in programs of broad diversity that led to membership retention and overall teamwork. Aside from topics such as single payer health insurance and palliative care, members enjoyed a kosher meal, a Moroccan travelogue, and learned about Chinese traditional medicine.

BUFFALO

Focusing on "It's My Vote — I Will Be Heard", the branch's year of programming also ranged from yesterday (feminist pioneers) to today (violence against Muslim women) to tomorrow (their 16th annual Sister-to-Sister/Tech Savvy event for middle-school-aged girls). A local college presentation by fair pay activist Lilly Ledbetter was a highlight for members.

EMPIRE STATE VIRTUAL

Meeting exclusively through teleconferences and on-line, the branch emphasized the work of AAUW fellows as well as coordinating efforts with the Westchester Branch on the Explore Your Opportunities STEM-related conference

and start smart workshops. Membership has increased and the branch developed a business/marketing plan.

ISLIP AREA

With a major emphasis on the suffragist movement as it took root on Long Island, branch members did extensive research and shared their findings through successful community outreach. Other programs involved immigration reform, Native Americans, and a candidates' forum. Through the Heifer Project, the branch bought a woman a goat!

JAMESTOWN

Encouraging girls to "Get in the Game", the branch celebrated National Girls and Women in Sports Day with 110 area girls exploring various sports. Their annual AAUW Day at Chautauqua Institution was successful, as was their calendar of informative programs which, among others, helped members take the lead in directing their financial and legal futures.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

The branch garnered valuable community visibility as it helped sponsor "Half the Sky" and "The Makers" on the

area PBS station. A panel discussion on “Turning Oppression into Opportunity” was also aired. To better serve their members and attract new ones, they made a conscious effort to offer more activities, more often, and at different times and locations.

NORTH SHORE

Outstanding publicity efforts and an expanded/redesigned website helped the branch garner 19 new members. Additionally, the branch developed a number of new action groups that focused on broader perspectives and contemporary issues such as Supreme Court rulings, the United States Mission to the United Nations, and women in the military.

SCHENECTADY

In carrying out their year’s theme of “Broadening Our Borders”, the branch emphasized preventing violence against women and girls, both locally and globally. They also helped sponsor the PBS airing of “Half the Sky” and continued to fund a scholarship for a community college student majoring in a STEM-related field.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

As they learned “How Public Policy Affects Women”, the branch encouraged young people to vote, discussed factory safety in the context of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire, and heard about topics such as hydrofracking, reproductive health, sexual abuse in the military, and immigration policy. Their Exploring Your Opportunities conference for 7th-grade girls promoted careers in STEM fields and their scholarship awards continued to support community college graduates.

POWERFUL PROGRAMS

Recognized for “Powerful Programs” that individually made an impact on their members and communities during the 2012-13 membership year were the following branches:

Adirondack: Hydrofracking for Natural Gas; **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown:** Sister-to-Sister/Tech Savvy Conference; **Buffalo:** It’s My Vote — I Will Be Heard; **Empire State Virtual:** Meeting and Interviewing AAUW NYS 2012 EOF Fellows.

Is girls’ education OK yet?

By ELISE RUSSO
AAUW-NYS International/
Cultural Affairs Chair

The short answer: No. The target year for the Millennium Development Goals, 2015, is nearly around the corner. Goal #2, achieve universal primary education, was in sight.

In 2000 when the goals were developed, 106 million children were out of school worldwide.

In 2013 the picture is much improved. However, 61 million children are still without classrooms, according to the United Nations. Tough economic times, especially in the poorest countries, and continuing war and/or political instability have seen momentum flag.

Fortunately, a fresh push towards achieving universal primary education was launched recently by Gordon Brown, U.N. special envoy for global education. He brought together the school and finance ministers from eight of the countries lagging farthest behind in school enrollment, and officials from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to review why progress has stalled and what measures can be taken towards the MDG.

Current research, especially by Plan International, shows that universal primary education, while vitally important, is not enough. One group that has been largely missed in the Millennium Development Goals is adolescent girls.

Girls between the ages of 10 and 19 face significant challenges including poverty, early pregnancy, violence in schools, domestic responsibilities, and the fact that their families and communities often do not recognize the value of educating girls.

An online survey of education and development experts working primarily in Africa, Europe/North America, and Asia revealed information that can help focus actions going forward:

■ The main barrier preventing adolescent girls from attending school is poverty

■ Two main issues affecting attendance and retention are cost of school and chores/responsibilities at home

■ The main barrier preventing girls from staying in school after primary school is traditional attitudes about the value of school for girls

■ The best intervention to help keep girls in school is granting scholarships

UNGEI (United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative) has prepared a “Call to Action” to ensure gender equality in education. UNGEI concludes that too many girls are prevented from making their own choices, determining their own futures, and are subjected to violence and exclusion.

Recognizing that education is a fundamental human right and can result in the empowerment of young women the “Call to Action” insists that girls’ education and gender equality in education remain a priority. The new standard proposes that girls are assured a safe and supportive learning environment for a minimum of ten years.

Additionally, the learning should foster girls’ aspirations in social, political, and economic life and should be provided by well trained and supportive female teachers who are role models.

To ensure girls are free to attend school, it is proposed that strategic efforts to combat gender-based violence, including child marriage and other forms of abuse be undertaken.

Broad community engagement is recommended to address the issue of traditional attitudes which undermine and undervalue girls’ education.

The bad news is that girls’ education is still not “OK.” The good news is that many individuals and organizations continue to address the complex challenges of policy and practice on the way to girls’ education and gender equality. We can help.

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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LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN A PICTURE-PERFECT SETTING



Come to beautiful Cazenovia for the Summer Leadership Conference July 19-21. Accommodations are at air-conditioned Cazenovia College, just blocks away from the quaint village's shops and restaurants. To register, go to www.aauw-nys.org.