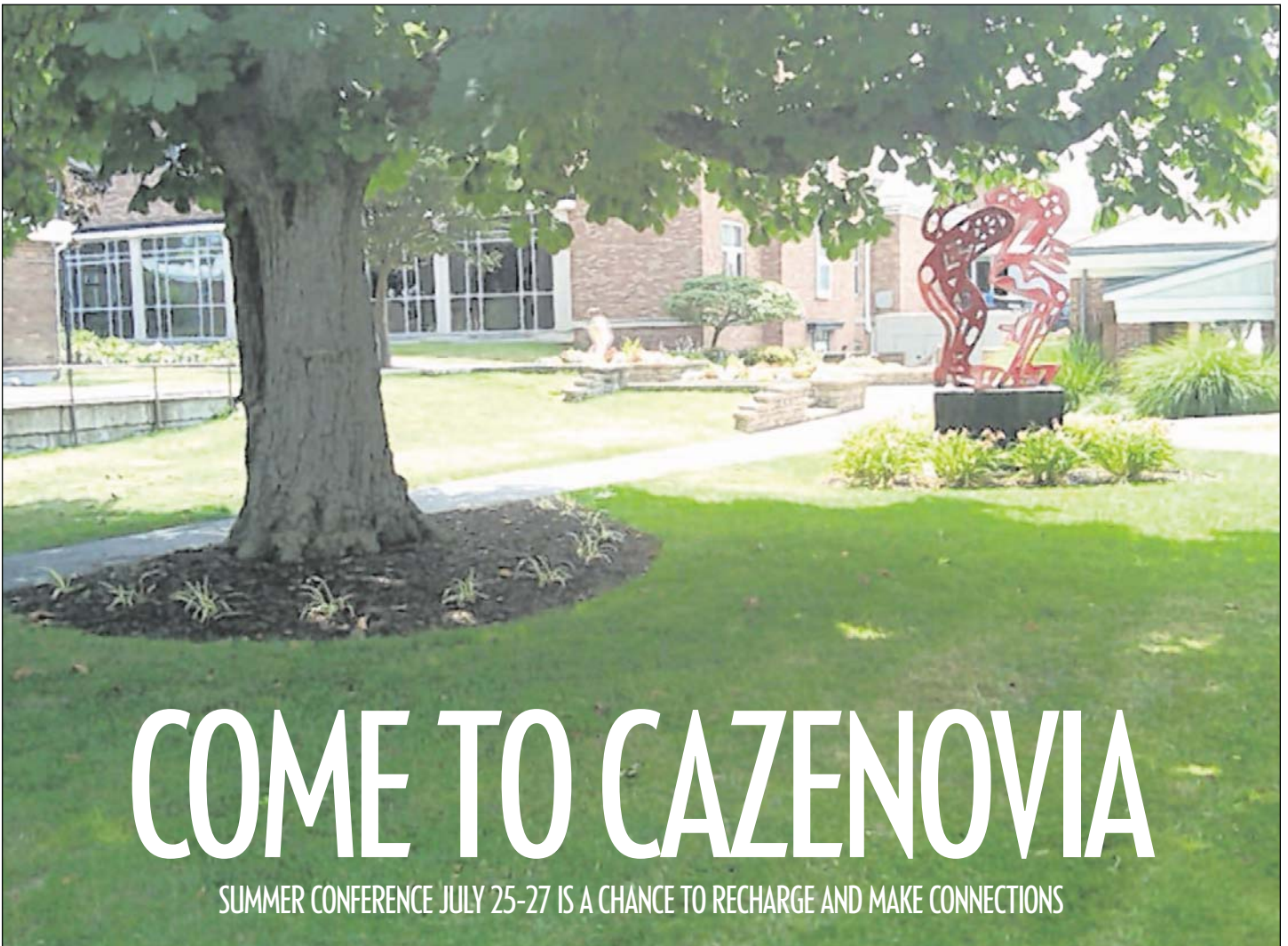


AAUWNYSFOCUS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ■ NEW YORK STATE ■ SUMMER 2014 ■ VOLUME 63, ISSUE 3 ■ ISSN 1056 3199



COME TO CAZENOVIA

SUMMER CONFERENCE JULY 25-27 IS A CHANCE TO RECHARGE AND MAKE CONNECTIONS

PHOTO BY CLAIRE REGAN

By Jane Russell
AAUW-NYS Program VP

I'm pleased to return to the state board after a 10-year hiatus. One of my first projects is planning the Cazenovia Summer Conference, to be held the weekend of July 25-27.

Our goal for the event is to expand knowledge of AAUW, energize branches and develop leadership abilities. Most of all, we want to get to know each other

better — and have a wonderful time doing it.

We gather at bucolic Cazenovia College, where the modern residence halls are air-conditioned and the buffet meals are nearly gourmet — complete with a make-your-own sundae bar.

Just 20 miles outside of Syracuse in Central New York, the town of “Caz” is quaint and peaceful, dotted with boutiques, restaurants and a tea shop.

A pleasant walk down to Cazenovia

Lake is not to be missed.

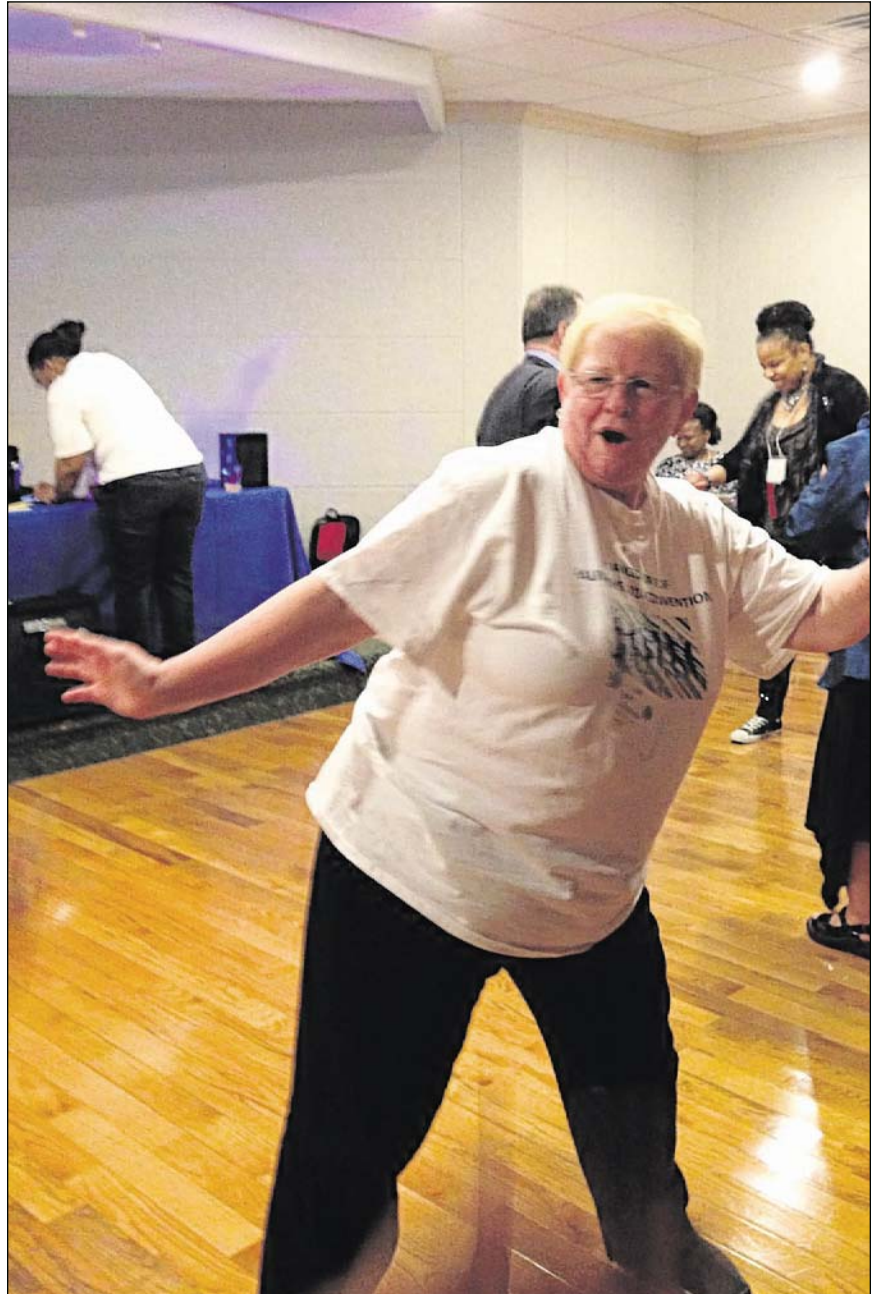
The cost to branch members is \$105 for the entire weekend; take advantage of the online registration of \$100 at www.aauw-nys.org. The Summer Conference is open to all AAUW members.

Topics will include STEM, team building, program planning and common core. Plan to bring several members from your branch; we promise you'll be brainstorming all the way home.

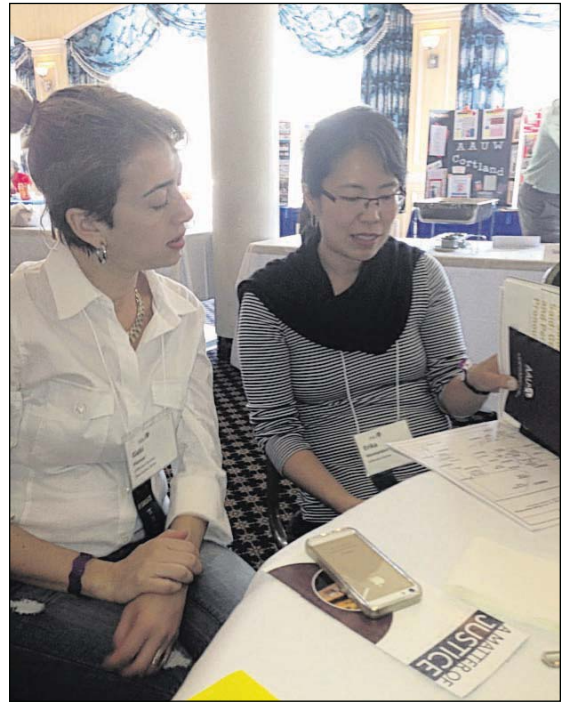
Hope to see you at Cazenovia.

APRIL 25-27 AT HONOR'S HAVEN, ELLENVILLE, N.Y.

We kicked up our heels at convention ...



What do 130 AAUW members from across the state do when they get together? They dance! Especially when a group of line dancers is staying in the same hotel. The 2014 State Convention was three days of collaboration, collation, solidarity and creativity. A highlight was the keynote address by AAUW National President Patricia Fae Ho. Other speakers included Sullivan County Historian John Conway; Dr. Savi Bisnath, associate director of the Center for Women's Global Health, and Lauren Mancuso, litigant in the UC Davis women's wrestling suit. PHOTOS BY CLAIRE REGAN



... Renewed friendships, swapped ideas





AAUW-NYS BOARD 2014-2016

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Edwina Frances Martin, Esq.
edwinamartin@hotmail.com

Program Vice President

Jane Russell ■ homechick@empacc.net

Policy Vice President

Donna Seymour ■ seymour6985@verizon.net

Development Vice President / Acting Administrative Director

Janice Brown ■ j2brown1012@aol.com

Treasurer

Mildred DeWitt ■ TFDMPD@aol.com

Secretary/Bylaws Chair

Loreen Ginnitti ■ loreen@fairport.net
(appointed to fill out
Secretary Edwina Martin's term)

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

LAF Director

Nancy Mion ■ Myown220@aol.com

Cultural / International Director

Jennifer Mayfield ■
jennifer.a.mayfield@gmail.com

Communications Director /

Nominations Chair

Cynthia "Cyd" Averill
■ averillc@optonline.net

District Director

Mary Lou Davis ■
maryloudavis125@gmail.com

Focus Director

Claire Regan ■ regan@siadvance.com

Diversity Director

Valora Blackson ■ blacksov@stjohns.edu

Sharing voices at NCCWSL

By Danielle Scott

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (often referred to as NCCWSL) was held at the University of Maryland in June.

This conference hosted well over 1,000 student leaders from all over the U.S. and many from around the world. The agenda included a variety of pre-conference sessions, keynote speakers, networking sessions, workshops, as well as career and graduate fairs. It was a great experience to get out and meet similar minded women and discuss the issues that we face as women today.

We learned the importance of sharing our voices through the keynote presentation followed by a networking session that allowed us to explore what we value most as individuals.

The values that we had to choose from to rate included Social Justice, Financial Success, Personal Happiness, Quality of Life, Family, Morals/-Ethics, Love, Spirituality/Faith, Career, and Friends. We were separated into groups based on what we had chosen as our No. 1 value. It was a good ice breaker and networking opportunity that surrounded us with people of a similar mind-set.

Then it was time for a conversation with Chelsea Clinton, an amazing speaker. She touched on issues that affect college women, urged us to speak up at our own campuses, to get involved and to help others. "Make a ruckus ... We have to be loud," she told us. I take will take that to heart.

As women, we have to be loud, and speak up for what we want to change or make aware. If we can't speak up now, how will we ever make a difference for the generations to come?

It tied in well with the keynote before Chelsea Clinton, where we were asked if we expect to see a female president in our lifetime. Many believed that it won't happen. Even if it doesn't happen in our lifetime, we should still fight to make it happen



Alyssa McKenzie-Chery and Danielle Scott, students at Jefferson Community College in Watertown, N.Y., attended the NCCWSL conference.

for our daughters and granddaughters. Susan B. Anthony fought for the woman's right to vote her whole life.

Even in the end of her lifetime, she wasn't able to vote. She never gave up. What she did for the women of today is priceless. She may have not been able to vote and probably knew she wouldn't, but still supported the cause for future generations.

NCCWSL 2014 was an amazing, awesome, enlightening, life-changing experience that will last me a lifetime. I will never forget the many intelligent and inspiring women I met during these few days. I have more confidence as a student leader and will continue to keep my fellow students aware and engaged in the issues that women face all over the world. I have been inspired to make a difference, to be loud and speak up for what I feel is right and I hope to inspire others along the way.

Historic paintings saved from NYC house

By Helen Engel
AAUW-NYS Historian

Original oil paintings of Lillian Crum and Margaret Bryant from the New York City Branch house will be kept at the Greater Rochester Area Branch house. The New York City Branch was 125 years old on June 1, 2011 and the house was celebrating 62 years on that date. As of June 1, 2011 the branch and the house are no longer a part of AAUW.

Lillian Crum was a first vice president of AAUW-New York State from 1938 to 1940. In 1937, she was representative to the Women's Committee for the World's Fair.

During World War II, the Government asked AAUW NYC Inc. to form a committee to help get qualified women into the war effort. Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, Chair of the Red Cross Board asked AAUW NYC Inc. to help by putting on parties for soldiers.

Lillian Crum, as the hospitality chair, was involved in the entertainment for our soldiers. As president of AAUW NYC Inc., she worked on the Million Dollar Fellowship Fund, establishing branches in several states.

For the 60th anniversary of the New York City Branch, she hosted "The University Woman Meets the New World" at the Biltmore Hotel.

During her term as president she had the officers of the branch purchase the property at 111 East 37th St. On opening day, June 1, 1949, 400 attended, including Eleanor Roosevelt who was a major donor toward the purchase of the AAUW New York City house.

Dr. Margaret Bryant was president of AAUW NYC Inc. from 1955 to 1959. She was an authority on grammar, taught at Brooklyn College for 40 years and was chair of the English Department. She served on the advisory boards of World Book Encyclopedia, Thorndike-Barnhart and Funk & Wagnall dictionaries.



Historic oil paintings of Lillian Crum and Margaret Bryant have been moved from Manhattan to Rochester.

Her books included "A Functional English Grammar," "Current American Usage," "Proverbs and How to Collect Them" "Modern English and Its Heritage," "A Dictionary of American Proverbs" and "Psychology of English."

KUDOS TO NORTH SHORE

Congratulations to the North Shore Branch, founded in 1939, on celebrating their 75th anniversary, and to the Mid-Island Branch, founded in 1949, celebrating 65 years.

It's that time of year again. The time to go through your branch records and decide what should go into your branch archive, what should be given to your successor, and what can be discarded. Be sure to update your branch history and keep your archives current. If in doubt, check with other branch members.

Board member materials for the archives should include information from years before your term if you have it, or a copy of this information if it is still pertinent and copies of materials from your term.

Some of the following may not apply to all board positions in your branch. The items archived should include everything that you feel is important — correspondence, programs, awards (criteria, samples, recipients, date), presentations, publications (such as brochures), committee meeting reports,

clippings (with source, date, and page), legal documents, photographs (with the identity of the persons, date and event on the back — if possible), financial statements, audit reports, copies of important speeches given, bylaws and revisions, press releases, minutes, audio visual recordings and scrapbook pages.

Materials for board member files to be given to your successor should include all the information necessary for you successor to do the job. This should go back at least several years (it may include copies of information that you have placed in the archives).

Information that can be tossed might include drafts, working copies, routine correspondence, duplicates, externally created publications, old forms, receipts, notes, and telephone message.

For further information on archives, go to the AAUW-NYS and National websites.

BOOK UPDATE

To update information on the book, "Remarkable Women in New York State History," the outcome of the Women Making a Difference project, the book can still be obtained from local bookstores and online.

It is available as an e-book. All hard copies for AAUW-NYS have been sold.

At the November 2013 State Board meeting, it was voted that the profits-over \$2,000 from the books sold by the state, would be donated by AAUW-NYS to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (\$1,500) and the \$500 donated by the Syracuse Branch for this project would be replaced to be used toward expenses incurred in future AAUW-NYS histories.

Both have to do with research and writing and it was felt that they helped to further AAUW's mission in a way intended in the original project. Any further profits from sales and royalties would go to AAUW-NYS.

HELP YOUR BRANCH BROADEN ITS HORIZONS

By Jenn Mayfield

AAUW-NYS Cultural/International Director

Are you looking to spice up your branch's programming with international and cultural themed programs? There are two new International Affairs and Cultural Interests "Programs in a Box" (PIAB) listed on the AAUW-NYS program website in the International Affairs section. Both are relatively simple programs that would perhaps be more accurately labeled "Programs in an Envelope."

The programs, "Letters to the Future and Reflections on the Past" and "Connecting with Afghan Women and Girls Through Their Writing and Poetry," were written in honor of International Women's Day 2014, but they're all-purpose, appropriate for any time of the year, and adaptable to a branch's needs.

International Women's Day is a chance to celebrate achievements, reflect on progress and advocate for more change. It's also an occasion to foster intergenerational dialogue.

In a tradition that began in Portugal, some people invite women and girls from their circle of family and friends to "women only" parties and potlaches. And in many countries, it is tradition to give women cards, flowers or small gifts in honor of International Women's Day.

The first new PIAB, "Letters to the Future and Reflections on the Past," blends those International Women's Day traditions and adds an AAUW twist.

First, it prompts members to reflect and talk with each other about their life experiences, the progress they've witnessed, and their hopes for the future. Then, members write cards or letters to younger women or girls using their discussion and the writing as a springboard for intergenerational communication.

I was inspired to write the program after reading a fantastic blog post by Ruth



Wahtera about spending a few summer weeks traveling from Boston to Greensboro, N.C., and then on to the 1963 March on Washington as an idealistic, teenage Civil Rights activist. It gave me goose bumps, and reminded me of one of the things I love most about AAUW, the chance to learn from a diverse group of wonderful and intelligent women of all backgrounds and ages.

Our members have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share; hopefully this PIAB will serve an outlet for some of it. The Kingston Branch was the first group to give the "Letters to the Future and Reflections on the Past" PIAB a go. As part of their March branch meeting, Kingston members wrote to girls ages 8 through 11 from a local Girl Scout Troop.

Some members reflected on their childhood experiences and discussed things like life as a first-generation American and being the oldest of five children.

Other women shared their brushes with history. It was a fun way for the branch to share some personal history and form new connections in the community.

You can check out Kingston cards on the AAUW Kingstonn blog. Branches that do this PIAB are encouraged to make copies of the cards for their archives and share scans or copies with the AAUW-NYS Historian.

The second new PIAB, "Connecting

with Afghan Women and Girls Through Their Writing and Poetry," gives branches a way to connect with the Afghan Women's Writing Project (AWWP), an organization founded in 2009 that teaches writing and communication skills to women and girls in Afghanistan.

There was a lot of enthusiasm for AWWP when Elise Russo, AAUW-NYS International Affairs Director, first wrote about the organization and its writing workshop and mentoring programs in the 2013 winter Focus.

AWWP's guiding principle is that "the right to tell one's story is a human right." It is devoted to amplifying Afghan women and girls' voices and helping them access effective communication platforms and tools.

In addition to teaching online classes to women and girls in 6 cities in Afghanistan, AWWP also provides opportunities for the students to share their essays and poems with the world.

The "Connecting with Afghan Women and Girls Through Their Writing and Poetry" PIAB guides branches through the process of hosting a reading or "friend-raising" event featuring work from the women and girls in AWWP's English-language programs. It offers branches the opportunity to hear directly from Afghan women and girls and learn from their perspectives.

AWWP is always looking for new mentors to oversee online workshops.

Raising expectations in the classroom

By Mary Lou Davis
AAUW-NYS President

Emily Pfefer, National Public Policy, prepared a Quick Facts sheet on the Common Core Standards specifically for New York State, which is available on our website.

Please look at the Quick Facts for further information and statistics about New York.

AAUW strongly supports high-quality public education for all students. AAUW urges states to adopt robust and comprehensive standards.

All students should graduate from high school ready to succeed in their next steps since nearly every high-paying job requires some postsecondary education or training.

New York State's high school graduation rate lags 12.5 percent behind the nation's highest performing state and New York State's college graduation rate among adults lags 15 percent behind America's highest performing state.

The Common Core State Standards raise expectations by promoting critical thinking and problem solving. American students score well below their peers in other countries, and are not expected to know critical math and reading skills as early as their global counterparts.

Common Core will use international benchmarks to help ensure our students are receiving the world-class education they deserve.

But standards alone will not cause student achievement to rise higher and higher.

The standards will only be as good as the instructional materials and teachers who implement the standards. The schools must cre-

ate a curriculum that is developmentally appropriate for each grade level.

States and schools should be given a few years to implement the standards. Teacher training and textbooks need to be in place and states and schools need a few years to do that. New York administered tests based on the standards that were supposed to be used in teacher evaluation.

Unfortunately, the state's teachers hadn't been trained properly, and they lacked instructional materials that reflected the new curriculum. Therefore, the resulting test scores were predictably abysmal. Parents and teachers rebelled.

Schools and teachers should not be held accountable for standardized test scores for the first few years.

Test scores should be used to guide future instruction as everyone adjusts. Federal education officials should worry less about rushing the new standards into schools and judging teachers and schools by early results, and more about giving schools time to build new teaching methods.

Dramatic shifts in learning will not happen for the first few years. Family influence, especially family income and education, have a major impact on the success of each school in meeting these standards. The federal and state levels need to listen to legitimate concerns and allow flexibility when the standards don't match reality.

CONVENTION REFLECTIONS

We were so happy to have Patricia Fae Ho, National AAUW President; Sandy Camillo, AAUW Board Secretary and our liaison; Eileen Hartmann, AAUW Director, and Dot McLane, former AAUW Director, at our 2014 State Convention at



PHOTO BY CLAIRE REGAN

Sandy Camillo and Mary Lou Davis at convention.

Honor's Haven.

AAUW members from around the state networked and enjoyed the speakers and workshops planned by Karen Carr, Jean Havens, Ann Pinna and the Convention Team.

Members generously donated money to LAF, EOF, NCCWSL and the other AAUW funds. Many members also enjoyed "Line Up for Educational Opportunities Fund" Dance the Night Away Fundraiser where we learned line dances from Tracey Gyoerkoe and Margaret Williams, as well as professional dancers, who were also having a conference at Honor's Haven.

WITH GRATITUDE

I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as AAUW-NYS president and I want to thank you for giving me that opportunity.

"Walk wise, walk good, walk proud, walk true. And may sun always smile on you." —a South African Blessing.



NEW YORK STATE FOCUS
SUMMER 2014
ISSN: 1056 3199
www.aauw.org
www.aauw-nys.org

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, a quarterly newsletter, is published by the American Association of University Women-New York State.

The distribution cost of \$4 is included in state dues.

Questions and articles should be addressed to:

FOCUS Director Claire Regan,
Associate Managing Editor,
Staten Island Advance,
950 Fingerboard Rd.,
Staten Island, N.Y. 10305.

Phone: 718-816-2845.

Email: focus@aaauw-nys.org.

Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.

FOCUS is a publication of the AAUW-NYS Board.

Attention postmaster: Dated material. Please do not delay.

POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to AAUW Records Office,
1111 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

A significant milestone for LAF

By Nancy Mion
AAUW-NYS LAF director

Congratulations, AAUW-NYS members! New York State ranked third in the nation in Legal Advocacy Fund Contributions in 2013. We contributed a total of \$24,228 to this meaningful cause that seeks to eliminate sex discrimination in the work place and in higher education.

Your dollars provide case support, campus outreach, travel grants, online resources and much more. Ninety-nine percent of state branches contributed to LAF this year. Did you know that 41 individual donors gave \$100 or more to LAF and that 28 branches received the LAF Star Award at convention for contributing \$5 or more per member?

At convention, the fun place to be was in the LAF baskets/purses room. There were 41 items brought by 22 branches that were either raffled or part of the silent auction. Two other branches brought money instead of items.

A convention highlight was keynoter Lauren Mancuso, an LAF-supported litigant. She had al-

ways wanted to wrestle, working hard and developing her skills. She chose to go to UC-Davis because it had a varsity women's wrestling team. In her first year, the university eliminated women's varsity wrestling.

The team and coach complained. The coach was dropped. He subsequently filed a Title IX case, which was backed by LAF. The university suggested that both sexes would compete to be included in the one wrestling team.

Obviously it was unfair for a small woman to compete against a larger man. Lauren and the other women did try out. They wrestled with the men and lost, putting the women in physical danger in the process. She and three other women sued the university for sex discrimination in violation of Title IX.

LAF's support continued for seven years. The case was won. AAUW LAF support made this happen.

"I cannot express enough gratitude toward the members of AAUW for their continuing support of this case over the year," Lauren said.

The total donated at convention to LAF was \$5,000.