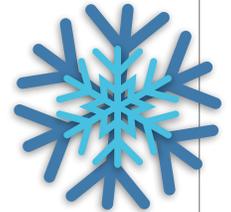




FOCUS



Volume 69 . Issue 2 . ISSN 1056 3199

American Association of University Women • New York State

AAUW is matching donations until December 31st

'Tis the "season of giving" and we all know what that means: time to pull out our wallets and spend big bucks on gifts for our loved ones and donating money or other items to those in need. While that is what the purpose of the holidays is to many people, it is time for us to stop losing our sense of what the real meaning of this season is.

As we approach the Holiday Season and look toward the New Year, it's important to remember that the need for charitable donations is constant, not seasonal. That said, AAUW relies heavily on the donations made during the holiday season and end of year. This season of giving will be different. The AAUW Board of Directors has agreed to match up to \$68,000 in donations made by December 31st. Click on the link below to donate now:

<https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>



Top 5 reasons to give to AAUW during this Season of Giving:

1. Giving will change the lives of women and girls
2. Giving is more impactful
3. Giving strengthens your personal values
4. Giving is a sense of purpose
5. Giving before December 31st can have a double impact.

Giving is one of the most beneficial things to do to serve others. Make your legacy one of giving to carry on to help improve the lives of women and girls now and in the future.

Happy Holidays

Janice Brown
AAUW-NYS President



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Membership VP, Karen Martin, on the importance of your information update.

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2020 State Convention is going to be memorable. Save the date.

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Around the state: We bring you some of our branches information.

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Public Policy message urges our membership to Advocate.

Updating your AAUW contact information is vital

by Karen Martin, Membership VP

AAUW is a community standing 170,000 strong for gender equity. Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.

Be sure your information is updated to be connected to the larger body. AAUW-NYS uses the AAUW National Database to email you our newsletter, FOCUS. If an email address is rejected, the newsletter is sent by regular mail.

When you become a member of AAUW, your street address, email address, and telephone number were entered into the AAUW National Database. Since that time, many of you have changed your email address, may have moved, or changed your telephone number. As a result, you may not be receiving the email editions of FOCUS, the state newsletter or OUTLOOK, the national newsletter.

The first week of November, I sent all President/VP Membership Chairpersons an email sharing member non-renewed as well as renewed. Several responses were

received. You can verify or change your contact information by going to the national website at www.aauw.org by creating a user account, all you need is your membership number. It is available from your branch VP Membership.

Once you have created a user account, you can access your information. At the bottom of the home page, click on the phrase "Member Services". Then on the next screen, choose "Enter Member Services Database". Your contact and membership information will be displayed there. You can change the information where you see "Click Here" near the very top of the page. There is also an option to print your Membership Card, which you can carry with you.

Don't miss out any longer!



2020 CONVENTION FUNDRAISER



Centennial Lapel Pin - \$75.00 each

Pre-sales only

December 15th to January 30th.



The convention fundraiser is a limited edition lapel pin designed especially for AAUW-NYS. The pin is designed in silver or gold with pearls. The cost of each pin is \$75. \$10 of each pin will go to the Greatest Need Fund. The pins can only be pre-ordered. The sale of pins ends January 30th. There is a limited number of pins. Don't Delay. Click on the link to order today.

<https://aauw-nys100.store/>

NOTE: If paying by check, your order is not guaranteed until the check is received by Administrative Director, Sonja Williams.

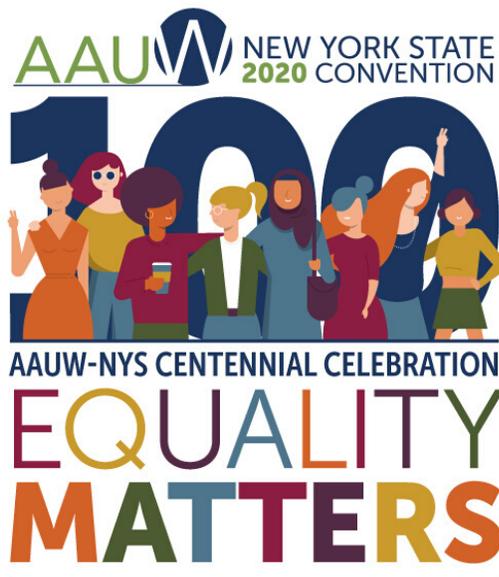
Send checks payable: AAUW-NYS // Sonja Williams
35457 Sayre Rd
Carthage, NY 13619

SAVE THE DATE

GO AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AAUW-NYS 2020 STATE CONVENTION

April 24-26, 2020
Woodcliff Hotel & Spa
Fairport, NY



Convention registration opens soon. www.aauw-nys.org

2020 AAUW New York State Convention Preview

by Jane Pendergast Program VP

The 2020 AAUW-NYS Convention will present AAUW members with a remarkable chance to celebrate both the centenaries of both AAUW New York State and the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. The NYS Board invites you to mark your calendars for centennial celebration on April 24-26, 2020 in Fairport, NY at Woodcliff Hotel & Spa.

This year’s theme **“AAUW Centennial Celebration – Equality Matters”** will give us the opportunity to put women’s equality upfront and center. We will gather in the suburbs of Rochester, the center of a unique area in the state where so many great fighters for suffrage and equal rights from the 19th and 20th centuries lived and worked - Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and many more.

To capture the importance of these centennials, we will dedicate time to network with community leaders from across the state who are all in the fight

for equality. We will honor 4 amazing women of NYS who have embodied the mission of AAUW.

Other aspects of the convention being planned include, in addition to our annual business meeting, a video showcasing AAUW NYS branches’ early years and continuing great work, an update from AAUW National, opportunities to visit historic Rochester and Seneca Falls sites, as well as the chance to talk with experts and advocates on current mission-related issues.

So, bring your AAUW cards to exchange and prepare to talk about the great work you are doing in your communities - and learn about the work of new friends and potential collaborators. By wearing white, we can create a glorious, light-filled scene of celebration. Be alert for more information on this unique centennial event to follow!



Spreading science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics

by Lorrin Johnson, Westchester Branch

For the fourth year, AAUW-Westchester has participated in the STEAM Career Day at the RJ Bailey School in Elmsford. Lorrin Johnson and Susan Appel presented an interactive demonstration for fourth, fifth and sixth grade students. The students had an opportunity to learn about what an Entomologist - a person who studies insects, would investigate when looking at Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches.

They also got to see the real things as Susan Appel picked up and showed the parts of live specimens. The study of insects serve as the basis for developments in biological and chemical pest control, food and fiber production and storage, pharmaceuticals epidemiology, biological diversity, and a variety of other fields of science.



Todd Mench, the Director of STEAM was surprised that girls were more curious about this field than boys!

WWW.AAUW-NYS.ORG

from BUFFALO NY BRANCH

Human Trafficking: how is it affecting us?

When: January 23, 2020

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Where: Grand Island Memorial Library,
1715 Bedell Rd. Grand Island 14072

Speaker: Julie Palmer, Executive Director of PATH -
People Against Trafficking Humans.

Overview: Human trafficking is affecting all ages, races,
demographics, and social status in our region.

Learn how it is affecting WNY and what we can do to

stop it. We will discuss how social media plays a part in recruiting victims, and the dangers of the internet. You will also learn to recognize red flag indicators which are signs of trafficking.

RSVP by Jan. 13 as space is limited!

Email lilyenm@gmail.com to reserve your seat.

Indicate your name,
as well as the names of those joining you.
Complementary refreshments will be provided.

Public Policy needs to hear from you

by Janet Forbes
AAUW-NYS Public Policy VP

We need your thoughts and input as the AAUW-NYS Public Policy Committee and BOD develops our Public Policy Priorities for 2019-21.

We had a discussion about this process and priorities at the AAUW-NYS Leadership Conference this summer at Cazenovia. Some of the consensus was that we focus on a few key issues and include passage of the NYS ERA.

We need a Public Policy Chair from each Branch to be part of the good work ahead. We will be focusing our efforts primarily on advocacy for legislation moving through the New York Legislature. We want our Priorities to be developed with input from the majority of our Branches.

Below the graphic is the link to AAUW National Public Policy Priorities for 2019-21. We will be keeping our NYS priorities in line with the AAUW National priorities, yet in a more targeted way which works best for NYS.

Please email me at policyvp@aauw-nys.org with

the name and contact information for your Branch Public Policy Chair and input about public policy priorities, or call 716-490-2616 to chat about your Branch input.

Together AAUW-NYS can be a powerful force for advocating for policies that advance equity for women and girls.



<https://www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities/>

AAUW-NYS 2019-2020 Board

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Janice Brown, Jefferson County Branch,
president@aauw-nys.org

Program Vice President

Jane Pendergast, Westchester County Branch,
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Public Policy Vice President

Janet Forbes, Jamestown Branch,
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Development Vice President

Carol Griffith, Buffalo Branch,
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Membership Vice President

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Treasurer

Barbara Van Itallie, Poughkeepsie Branch,
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Secretary/Bylaws

Lynne Rapin, Buffalo Branch,
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APPOINTED OFFICERS

Administrative Director

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College/University Director

Maria Ellis, Empire State Branch NYC,
mellis@kwnyc.com

Diversity/Cultural Director

Suzanne Young-Mercer, Rockland County Branch,
smymaaauw@gmail.com

Communications/Visibility Director

Jean Havens, Westchester County Branch,
jhavens@verizon.net

District Director

Gaynelle Wethers, Greater Rochester Area Branch,
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Student Advisor

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Communications/Webmaster Liaison

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Webmaster

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Laurie Ginnitti
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FOCUS Director

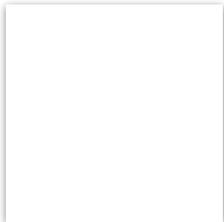
Gabi Hoover
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Nominating Chair

Jean Havens
jhavens@verizon.net

Public Policy Liaison

Edwina Martin
edwinamartin@hotmail.com



Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan.
Fact-based.
Integrity
Inclusion and
Intersectionality.

Attention postmaster: Dated material. Please do not delay.
POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to AAUW Record Office,
1310 L Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005

THE AAUW PROGRAM

The Five Star National Recognition Program rewards affiliates (states, branches, other organizations) for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and other initiatives that foster the organization’s mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls.

The program is designed to promote cohesion between AAUW National and affiliates and increase understanding and implementation of the strategic plan goals. National recognition allows AAUW National to acknowledge and celebrate affiliates that advance AAUW’s mission. The areas of focus includes

programs advancement, communications & external relations, public policy & research and governance & sustainability.

Do you want your branch recognized for the great work it's doing?? Visit the AAUW website at <https://www.aauw.org/resource/five-star-national-recognition-program> for more information about the program. The deadline to submit for recognition has been extended to June 30, 2021.

FOCUS is a quarterly newsletter published by the American Association of University Women - New York State.
FOCUS is a publication of the AAUW-NYS Board.

Questions and articles should be addressed to:
Focus Director Gabi Hoover, 40379 Hoover Rd, Theresa-NY, 13691.
Email: gabihoover@gmail.com
Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.