

# What is Leadership?

### Roberta 'Bobbe' Fortunato, NYS AAUW President

631-665-4689 • bobbef@juno.com

"Leadership [is]...about accomplishing tasks and reaching goals through the efforts of other people. Effective leaders make things happen. They don't sit around watching other people and waiting to react to whatever situations occur. They know what ought to happen, plan a way to make it happen, and take steps to see that it does!"



**Change** it seems is everywhere and we in New York are going to stay in the front of the line as it takes place. As a nation we have a new president; as a state we have a new senator; and as an Association, a new Executive Director, Jacqueline Woods. Each of these people has their work laid out for them just as you and I do for us. (See the Association News article, page 7.)

#### Change is in the Future

The board and I are reaching out to help **branch leaders**, as well as **our members**, right now. We will offer a leadership-training weekend at the Summer Board meeting. No matter where we find ourselves, the only way that **our** organization can continue to move forward in its work is for all of us to work together for **what ought to happen**—CHANGE!

In the Winter *FOCUS* I spoke about the changes the board wanted to make, especially those that would address our branch and state leaders' work with **delegation, conflict resolution, motivation and recruiting volunteers.** 

I have already sent letters to each branch president (both/all if there are more than one), inviting them or another elected branch board member to join us at our July Board meeting, July 13-15, at Delta Lake Conference Center, Rome, N.Y.

**I** NEED YOU as a member of your branch to encourage this participation and to give them something to bring to the table. We will offer time for everyone's ideas, concerns and bottom line issues. Most important, we need each and every branch because our future work involves us all. The road that lies ahead for New York, for the Association and even the nation is long; it will have ruts both big and small. Let's not make it more difficult for ourselves. The road traveled together can be not only one of learning and success, but working together can help make it fun.





Marjorie B. Smith, NYS Program Vice President

606/347-4965

2001, the new millennium, has officially begun. Through technical advancements we know more about each other faster than ever before. Magazines, newspapers and TV programs all report global events as if they were next door. We can no longer sit back and ignore our global communities. **Peace Building can begin with us**.

The NYS Convention will have programs, workshops and panels exploring the opportunities for Peace Building in our communities, our state, our country and worldwide. The program begins Friday afternoon with a **Peace Building Workshop - Tools You Can Use** conducted by Carol Stull, Educational Foundation Board Director, or tours of the Susan B. Anthony House and the Rochester AAUW House.

### **Guest Speakers**

Linda Souter, President of the International Federation of University Women, will give our keynote address, **Connections for Peace** Friday evening. Sema M Faigen, President of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, will present recent worldwide projects focusing on women and children in nutrition and health, education and leadership, income generation and self sufficiency Saturday afternoon. Nora Bredes, Director of Susan B Anthony Center for Women Leadership, Rochester University, will present Women in **Politics** Sunday morning. The new NYS litigant, Barbara Lavin-McEleney, will speak at the LAF Luncheon Saturday. The first recipient of the new **Educational Foundation Scholar in Residence** program, Sari Knopp Biklen, chair of Department of Cultural Foundation of Education, Syracuse University, will be the speaker Saturday evening.

### **Saturday Workshops**

- How can we make a difference in our global community?, Linda Souter, IFUW President
- LAF Questions and Answers, Barbara Lavin-McEleney, litigant, and Sylvia Newman, President of AAUW LAF
- Current Public Policy Issues
- Sister-to-Sister, Inc., Buffalo Branch's 4th year of participation
- Strategic Planning
- Secrets of NY's Fastest Growing Branches

#### Saturday CHAT ROOMS

- Branch Troubleshooting
- Successful Fundraising
- Emerging Leaders Network/Younger Member Caucus

Branches will also have the opportunity to communicate their most successful programs via posters in the resource room.

#### Sunday workshops

- Who will take care of Mom?, Rose Marie Fagin, an Educational Foundation Research and Projects grantee
- Could Florida happen in New York, 2002?, Betsy Relin, Monroe County Election Commissioner
- Can I be my daughter's coach?, Diana Cutaia, Women's Sports Foundation
- The Iroquois: The Peacemakers, Jeanette Miller of the Ganondagas State Historic Site
- Nothing As Contagious As An Example, Germaine Knapp, President and Executive of Sojourner House
- How to be in Business and have a Life, an opportunity for women business owners to communicate.

The Public Policy forum on Sunday will address **How to** create a safe school environment for learning.

The NYS Educational Foundation committee will be conducting a 5K Walk/Run as a fundraiser. The Legal Advocacy Fund Director will be raising funds with the sales of LAF baskets created by the NYS branches. Bring your checkbooks!

The convention program committee has planned events for every age group, branch leaders, personal growth, or ideas that you can take back to your community.

### New York State 3rd Annual Walk/Run

It's not too late! Join in the Third Annual Walk/Run on Sunday morning. Raise money for the Foundation and get branch credit. A registration form is available in the convention packet sent to your branch president, or can be downloaded from the AAUW New York State website. Don't miss out on the fun. Remember, the Third Walk/Run T-shirt is waiting for all that register for this great event.

Not attending the convention? Members of branches throughout the state will be collecting pledges from sponsors to participate in the Walk/Run.

### Registration **AAUW NYS Convention 2001** April 27-29 **Rochester Thruway Marriott**

All members are encouraged to attend the AAUW NYS 2001 Convention in Rochester, a high-tech city with notable cultural and historical sites to explore. The convention promises to be an exhilarating and informative event with numerous opportunities for expanding our knowledge and perspective on AAUW activities and initiatives and gathering useful resources. It is also a time for networking and sharing ideas with other dedicated and articulate women from other branches. There will be opportunities to talk with elected leaders from the Association, IFUW and several other active organizations addressing many of the same issues as AAUW.

NYS Convention materials have been sent to all branch presidents, NYS board members and to members who have requested the convention packet (announcement appeared in Winter FOCUS). Information and registration materials are also available on the NYS website.

If you do not have access to the Internet or to someone in your branch with the materials, you may request a convention packet by contacting Betty Preble (bettyp6935@aol.com) or Ann Hicks at 716/741-3964.

There is a \$40.00 registration fee for the convention which covers the Friday afternoon through Sunday mid-day program and all printed convention materials. The convention registration deadline is April 6, 2001. If you register after April 6, there is an additional late registration fee of \$15.00. Each person attending the convention must complete a registration form and submit payment for the total amount due. Payment and your completed registration form must be sent to AAUW NYS Convention Registration, 494 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Rochester Thruway Marriott on a first come, first served basis. Hotel reservations must be made by April 6, 2001. All rooms must be guaranteed by a major credit card or by one night's deposit. Reservations made without a credit card or advanced deposit will not be accepted. The hotel package of \$335/for single occupancy, \$233/per person double occupancy, \$199/per person triple occupancy, and \$182 per person quadruple occupancy includes two nights' lodging, six meals and gratuities. Parking is available. Special rates are available for single night stays. Send your hotel reservation form to Rochester Thruway Marriott, 5257 W. Henrietta Road, PO Box 20551, Rochester, NY 14602-0551. Questions? Call the Rochester Thruway Marriott at 800/228-9290.

For more information about the Greater Rochester area, go to www.visitrochester.com or call 800/617-7282.



ecurrie@gateway.net

In 1996, Dr. Barbara Lavin-McEleny, a tenured associate professor of criminal justice at Marist College, sued Marist for pay inequity under Title VII (the law prohibiting discrimination in employment based on sex). In 1998, she amended her complaint to include a cause of action under the Equal Pay Act. The case was tried before a jury in October 1998. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff on her Equal Pay Act claim. The jury

Listening to her story will help us all to understand why LAF is so important in today's world. 98 academic years,

did not find, however, that Marist's violation of the Equal Pay Act was willful so it could not find a violation of Title VII. Lavin-McEleney was awarded \$11.300 in back pay for the 1996- $\blacksquare$  attorney fees of \$86,500,

and legal expenses of \$7,500. Marist appealed the decision, arguing that that the jury's verdict could not be reconciled with the factual evidence because it was not based on a comparison of plaintiff's salary with that of an actual male professor whose job was substantially equivalent to Lavin-McEleney's. Marist argues that Lavin-McEleney compared her salary to a hypothetical average male professor and claimed that salaries of less experienced, lower paid male professors were "too close" to her salary.

In June 2000, her case was adopted by LAF. She was awarded \$5000 to support her pay equity case on appeal in the Second Court of Appeals.

Dr. Lavin-McEleny will speak at the LAF Luncheon, April 28. Listening to her story will help us all to understand why LAF is so important in today's world. LAF cups will be on the tables for your contributions. Please make your check payable to AAUW LAF with your branch indicated. The contributions and the LAF Basket Silent Auction proceeds will be credited to your branch. Both are a great ways to help your branch reach the LAF Star in 2001!



# **Educational Foundation News**

#### Helen Engel Educational Foundation Vice-President

315/343-9678 • rengel@oswego.edu

The 2001 Foundation funding year is here. It is not too early (or too late) to plan the fundraisers your branch will undertake this year, or to think about your Foundation donation for 2001. New York State is still offering **Equity Futures** (\$25 each) and our **21st Century Club** (\$210). A New York State Contribution Form was in the *Leadership Portfolio*. At the Association level, the **Travel Connections 2** travel auction deadline has been extended to May 1; forms are available in the *Leader-ship Portfolio*.

Going to the NYS Convention? Check out the information available at the EF table and the state sale items. Don't forget to look at branch tables; some great items and ideas are available. Saturday afternoon come prepared to share your fundraising ideas (and gain some) by participating in the Fund Raising Chat Room. In the evening, hear the first University Scholar-in-Residence recipient speak at the EF Gala. Sunday morning is the Walk/Run followed by a workshop given by a current Community Action Grant recipient. If you can't attend the convention, ask branch members who did to share their information. Catch their enthusiasm.

Fliers for next year's grants and fellowships will be out soon. Let your community know about the available funds. Information about current New York grant recipients can be found on our state website. Invite these people to join you. All current recipients are listed in the 2000-01 Directory of *Fellowship, Grant and Award Recipients* sent to your Educational Foundation Chair late last fall.

Your financial assistance is needed now more than ever. We must continue our research, share our results and concerns with others, and increase the number of available grants and fellowships. Our combined efforts through the AAUW Educational Foundation can make a difference in the lives of women and girls and in the end, help everyone in all communities by changing society.

We need you!



# **Membership Matters**

#### Jeanette Knapp Membership Vice **President**

607/272-3367 • jdk4@cornell.edu

#### Seven Branches Gain Membership

The good news is that seven NYS AAUW branches have increased their membership this year despite the Association's dues increase. Branches with more members are **Bath, Greater Rochester, Islip, Ithaca, Jefferson County, Kingston,** and a new branch that was just formed this fall, **AAUW at SUNY Geneseo.** 

What's the secret to increasing membership? The **Kingston** Branch has taken advantage of their location to organize day trips to New York City. The chartered bus trips are popular and profitable. There's plenty of time on the bus ride to the city to tell guests the advantages of joining AAUW, and the branch earns money for community projects.

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The worrisome news is that as of November, forty-seven branches have fewer members than last year. Statewide, branch membership is down from 3,997 last year to some 3,673 this year, and three branches have disbanded. The East Aurora-Southtown Branch had trouble getting members to their meetings and thus decided to join the nearby Buffalo Branch. The Wellsville Branch disbanded last fall. President Kathleen Decker said, "We miss one another, but women are so busy these days with family and jobs." The Putnam County Branch disbanded this fall. "We were never a large branch," President Nancy Keller explained, "and we just kept getting smaller. It's important to keep recruiting new members."

All branches lose some members each year. Recruiting new members may take time and persistence, but it's a rewarding challenge that is essential to branch health. Fortunately, everyone can do something about membership. Inviting a friend to an event, posting a meeting notice, or giving out branch brochures or business cards to any likely acquaintance is a good beginning. Send a branch delegation to the membership workshop at the AAUW NYS Convention to hear more details. To encourage branches to increase visibility by actively recruiting new members, funds are available-up to \$75 per branch—for membership initiatives. The form is on our website: www.northnet.org/nysaauw

# Nominating Committee Report

Donna Seymour • Nominating Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee is proud, pleased and excited to present the following members to serve New York State for the 2001-03 term:



### Jeanette Knapp for Membership Vice President

Jeanette has been an AAUW member since 1981. She joined the Ithaca Branch to show her admiration for the branch support of the Cornell 11 litigants, which led to the formation of the Legal Advocacy Fund. She has served as branch president, secretary, membership VP, treasurer, EF chair, and historian. On the state level, she has served as the Director of College/University Membership (1994-98) and is completing her first 2-year term as Membership vice president for AAUW NYS. She is currently acting Director of Communications for Alumni Affairs and Development at Cornell University. She has published both fiction and non-fiction and has

authored numerous grants and proposals. "While serving with Jeanette, I have enjoyed her clear vision, clarity of thought and ability to communicate with her fellow Board members." (Jane Sheeran)

### Barbara Luther for Secretary/Bylaws

Barbara is as a 42-year member of AAUW and a member of the Elmira Branch. She has served as branch president twice and is currently a co-president, as well as having served as program VP four times. On the state level, she currently serves as the District II committee co-representative to Diversity. Barbara recently retired after more than 38 years as a claims and field representative with the Social Security Administration. Her other volunteer work includes being a Girl Scout trainer, board member for the Chemung Co. League of Women Voters, the Elmira-Corning Jewish Community Center, and the Chemung Co. Federal Employees Federal Credit Union, among other things. "Barbara is an energetic and creative leader in her branch in Elmira, where she has been active for many years." (Jane Smith)





### **Cindy Smith** for Treasurer

Cindy is a 10-year member of AAUW, having served her home branch of Poughkeepsie as an assistant treasurer, a co-membership VP, an EF vice president, and branch president. At the state level, Cindy was a member of the NYS Audit Committee in 2000, as well as the chair of the credentials committee for the Tarrytown Convention. She also served as the District IV Branch Council representative (1999-2000). She has experience as a Human Resources Coordinator and a degree in Business Administration from SUNY Buffalo. Her volunteer work includes PTA at the local and district levels, where she currently serves as treasurer.

"Cindy is a wonderful person to work with. ... Because she gets along with people so well, she has often attracted people into leadership positions once they realize they will be working with her." (Laura Graceffa)

# **Equity and Education**

### Ann Walker, Director

#### 631/563-2678 walkerab@aol.com

Schenectady Branch members participated in a Womento-Women dialogue on Women's Independence featuring inequities in health care, living alone, financial planning and retirement, and safety on the streets. Members were encouraged to extend an invitation to guests who would participate in the dialogue and experience AAUW at work.

Terry McGroggan, a high school guidance counselor and **Albany** Branch member, is working on **SignPosts** with the South Colonie School District. This is the first step

toward the long range goal—a comprehensive Title IX evaluation of the school district. Terry is to be commended for daring to make a difference.

The **Jefferson County** Branch sponsored two girls in a "Critters, Chemistry and Computers" summer workshop with a \$50 scholarship for each. The workshop focused on the use of biology, chemistry and computers to investigate changes in the water chemistry, critters and fish at different locations in a stream.

The **North Shore** Branch has supported K-1 and 2-3 Science Clubs for girls held at the Science Museum of Long Island. The impetus for these clubs came from the **eGRLS!** (Empire Girls Really Learn Science) program.

### A Simple but Emphatic Plea... to ADVOCATE

### Ann Bish, NYS Public Policy Director

716/741-3964 ashicks@juno.com

 $\underline{A}$  dvance the issues important to women and families.

 $\underline{D}$  etermine to act!

 $\underline{V}$ oice your concerns by calling

 $\underline{O}$ r writing or meeting with your legislators.

 $\underline{C}$ ontinue, often in collaboration, to influence your Federal and State legislators,

 $\underline{A}$ nd don't give up!

 $\underline{T}$  ime, commitment, and persistence will eventually reward your  $\underline{E}$  fforts!

### Be an Advocate on These Important Issues:

### **New York State Legislation**

- Check our website for NYS bills to watch: www.northnet.org/nysaauw
- Call the NYS Senate and Assembly for the status of bills at 800/342-9860.

### **Congressional Legislation**

- ✓ Reproductive Rights
- ✓ Social Security
- ✓ Managed Care Reform
- $\checkmark$  Education Legislation

**Fact sheets** and **position papers** are available free of charge from the Association on issues concerning Civil Rights, Education, Family and Medical leave, Managed Care, Reproductive Rights, Social Security and Medicare Reform. These position papers and fact sheets will help you

- inform AAUW members and nonmembers about issues affecting women and their families
- communicate with your legislators
- provide talking points for public forums and meetings with your legislators
- write letters to the editor

To request copies call the AAUW Helpline at 800/326-AAUW or visit the AAUW Home Page: *www.aauw.org* 

To keep informed by e-mail about what is happening and how you can help, join the **NYS Public Policy Listserv** by sending your name and your branch to Betsy Forkas: *betsy\_forkas@compuserve.com* 

### **Dignity For All Students Act**

### Jane Sheeran, NYS Diversity Director

Sheeran176@aol.com • 518/587-4895

Bias harassment is the seed and fertilizer for misunderstanding, mistrust, hate and hate crimes. Diversity can not survive in an environment that allows bias harassment. While federal Title IX protects against sexual harassment/discrimination, there is no New York State law that protects students against bias harassment. Many school districts have excellent policies against harassment but without the law, a uniform statewide understanding of what is and is not acceptable behavior is not clear. Individual school districts can opt out or opt to minimize their position on bias harassment.

The **Dignity For All Students Act** (A2634/S1628) is a comprehensive bill that will provide legal protection for all students against bias harassment. AAUW NYS participates in the Dignity for All Students Coalition, and as a member, asks that you, individually and as a branch, let your state representatives know that you support the passage of this bill. Your branch will receive more detailed information in the mail. I'll include a flyer (digital form also available) that you can localize, duplicate and distribute.

As a statewide organization, AAUW NYS can have a huge impact on moving this legislation through committees and onto the floor for a vote. We are a well-respected organization and when we speak we are heard. Our silence is also heard. Be loud!

Your branch does not have to have a Diversity chair to become involved. What is at hand is a way to insure dignity for all students in New York State. Our AAUW mission and diversity statements are in concert with this bill.

New York's **Project SAVE** law (Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act) requires every school district to develop, publicly present and Board approve, a Code of Conduct. Here too, you can have an impact. Be sure that your local school district's code includes a clear and inclusive policy on bias harassment. Remember, diversity cannot survive in a hostile environment. Our children's behaviors will reflect our expectations. Make those expectations bias free.

The **Queens Branch**, conducted an aggressive year 2000 campaign to increase membership, visibility and fundraising. The details are documented in *Queens on the Move*. Contact Hortensia Stoyan, President, PO Box 610-488, Bayside, NY 11361, phone 718/229-0371.



### **Association News**

#### Bobbe Fortunato NYS AAUW President

631-665-4689 • bobbef@juno.com

The Association Board meetings have been productive and are working towards a possible new Governance Structure for AAUW. Using input from the state presidents and from branch members, the board proposed the reduction in size of the Association Board. The reconfiguration of board positions will be reviewed by the Bylaws Committee, and if passed, will go to the 2001 Convention to be voted on by delegates.

The proposed positions are an elected President, Executive Vice President/Secretary, Finance VP, EF and LAF Presidents, three at-large elected Directors, two at-large appointed Directors and two Regional Directors elected by the continuing 10 Regional Directors. This would cut the size from the 22 current members to 12 members.

Member dialogue on moving to a system in which all members could vote in AAUW elections an/or on other business will be provided at convention. The Board also approved a new schedule for 2001-2003 which will have fewer and shorter board meetings.

The Finance Committee and board continue discussion of national dues collection. The staff is looking at software changes to make national dues collection cost effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of states and branches. The board voted to bring a proposal to the 2001 Convention in Austin for an automatic annual dues increase of 4% above previous years dues, rounded to the nearest dollar.

The Association focus will continue to be **Choices for a Changing World**.

The **Five Star Program** will continue to be reviewed and streamlined as indicated by the more than 400 branch and state leaders who were surveyed.

Watch for the next *Outlook*. Read it and talk to your state leaders about your concerns.

Condolences to former NYS President Vickie Marshall on the loss of her 32-year-old daughter, Tracy, who died on February 23, 2001.

### Carol Stull Seeks Second Term as a Director-at-Large on the Educational Foundation Board

"Our work of connecting our three corporations is going well. We have established a Cross Corporate Committee that will improve communications and a Cross Corporate Personnel Committee that gives representation to all three corporations. Financial responsibilities of the Foundation are



separate from the Association with separate staff. This should provide more accurate and timely reports of donations." said Carol Stull (Ithaca Branch) reflecting on the past year and half.

Carol has served as NYS President, Buffalo and Ithaca Branch presidents and most recently on the NYS Board as International Relations Director. She has represented AAUW in Beijing and as one of the Association's three official observers to the UN Conference "Beijing+5" last June. She currently serves on the development and bylaws committees of the Foundation. In August 2001 she will be part of the nine-member delegation to the International Federation of University Women's Triennial Conference in Ottawa, Canada.

There are eleven candidates for eight positions as directors. Carol is the only New York candidate. The New York State Board has endorsed her candidacy. She needs your support. Contact AAUW friends in other states. Write Carol at 2622 N. Triphammer Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 or carolstull@aol.com or check her web site at: www.lightlink.com/crsbarn/carolstull.html

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Send all address changes to AAUW Records Office, 1111 16<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Questions and articles should be addressed to the NYS FOCUS Editor, Mary J. King, 77 King George Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, 845/462-0567, e-mail: mary@kings-online.net

> Summer Issue deadline: May 1, 2001 Fall Issue deadline: August 1, 2001 Websites: www.northnet.org/nysaaauw www.aauw.org



New York State *FOCUS* (USPS-390-570) Spring 2001

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The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

The **AAUW Educational Foundation** provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

The **AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

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.

Important! All mailing labels are prepared at AAUW headquarters. Attention postmaster: Dated Material. Please do not delay.

# <u>eGRLS!</u>

### Empire Girls Really Learn Science

The Steering Committee for eGRLS! met at the National Hall of Science in September. A web page on the New York State AAUW website has been established. Information regarding the project has been distributed to the branches and the museums.

In the first year of funding (July 2000 to June 2001) the project will focus on partnership development and planning. In the second year of funding, new and improved science learning opportunities for girls will be sponsored at science-technology museums throughout the state. Learning opportunities may include, for example, mother-daughter exhibit building, summer science camp for girls, career exploration days, and mentoring programs.

Within each AAUW District, one or more Local eGRLS! Partnerships may be formed in order to promote science learning opportunities for girls at local and regional science-technology museums. Partnership planning committees will include representatives of local AAUW branches and science-technology museums, as well as representatives of schools and community groups. There are four (4) steps to follow before submission of the project.

Step 1. Form a local partnership.

Step 2. Form a local planning committee.

Step 3. Research the problem.Step 4. Develop a project plan.

Then. . .

Step 5. Submit your plan.

In July of 2001, funding will be awarded to all local partnerships that submit an application by the stated deadline. You must implement your plan between July 2001 and June 2002. For further information contact Margaret Conover, Sciencenterprise, PO Box 632, Wading River, NY 11792 (*mcon@optonline.net*, 631/929-0929) or Kay Kraatz, PO Box 458, Skaneateles, NY 13152 (*kraatz@dreamscape.com*, 315/685-6256)

### Speak Out! Speak Out! WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?



I'm asking members, especially 3 to 4 year members, write to me and tell me their answers to the following questions:

- 1. What made you want to join AAUW?
- 2. What will keep you as an interested member?
- 3. What do we need to do to help this happen?

The membership has a chance to have their voice heard will you speak out?

Reply to Bobbe Fortunato, 551 Potter Blvd., Brightwaters, NY 11718 or e-mail *bobbef@juno.com*