



Empire Virtual Times Summer 2017

Bnyphre State (NY) Vartual Branch

Founded 2012

Have a Severand Happy Labor Day!

Empire State Virtual NY Branch Members at the AAUW NYS

Happy Labor Day!



Quarterly Volume 5 No. 3

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AAUW– Empire State Virtual Branch 973 216 4181 http://empire-ny.aauw.net

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."

A LETTER FROM THE EMPIRE STATE VIRTUAL BRANCH PRESIDENT, MARIA ELLIS



Dear Friends,

I am writing to you shortly after attending our AAUW NYS Summer Leadership Conference in Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, New York. The Empire State Virtual NY Branch (ESVB) members always actively participate in this Summer Leadership Conference but this year was very special to us because we celebrated our 5th Anniversary! Our two newest members, Raegan Sealy, from

England and a recent graduate of the New School and Ali Comerford, from Ireland and a recent graduate of the Manhattan School of Music entertained us, sang and played the guitar and inspired great moments of joy as we continue to live our AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

It was fun seeing many AAUW NYS members come together to plan our Fall 2017 Districts Conferences and our 2018 AAUW NYS Convention. Congrats to all those AAUW members who participated in these meetings and special thanks to the Convention Planning Committee including Stephanie Lemnios, AAUW NYS Program VP, Mary Lou Davis, Co-Convention Director, Roli Wendorf, etc. Our District V Fall Conference will be held on Saturday, October 21st in NYC. Our AAUW NYS 2018 Convention will be on April 20-22 at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, New York. More details on both events will follow shortly!

I would like to extend my special "Thank You" to all the AAUW Fellows who have participated in our Empire State Virtual NY Branch monthly teleconferences over the 2017 Spring & Summer. Some of the speakers included **Dena Al-Adeeb**, an AAUW American Fellow. As a scholar-activist, Dena plays a crucial role in bringing an Iraqi feminist lens to institutions, organizations and movements. She is also an artist dedicated to a socially engaged arts practice; Tara Prakash, an AAUW American Fellow, is a PhD candidate at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; Ronna Popkin, an AAUW American Fellow, has taught about and conducted research on Women's Health and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in the United States.

Crystal Chen received her doctorate in Education from Teachers College, Columbia University in May 2017, where her research examined the intersections of literacy, teacher education, and urban and multicultural education. Her dissertation is entitled Critical Literacy as Common Ground: The Possibilities of African Immigrant Girls in New York City Public Schools and Community-Based Organizations.

Katherine Waldock received her Ph.D. from the Department of Finance at the NYU Stern School of Business in 2017. She will be joining the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University as an Assistant Professor of Finance in August of 2017; Sierra Clouse is a wife, mother, Anti-Human Trafficking Activist, and IT Project Manager. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Science in Information and Knowledge Strategy at Columbia University. Click on the link below for the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report recently released by the State Department. https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2017/271105.htm The Mentoring Program Opening Dinner at the College of Mount Saint Vincent will be held at the Mount on Thursday, September 14 at 6 pm. Special thanks to Lynne A. Bongiovanni, Ph.D. Associate Professor of English Department for coordinating this special Mentoring Program.

Also, Roli Wendorf and Maria Ellis will continue to teach the "Start Smart Workshop" at the New York Institute of Technology in NYC. The next workshop has been scheduled for Thursday, November 16th from 4-6 pm. The Spring and Fall Start Smart Workshops are great examples of the synergy between our branches and how AAUW branches can successful identify College & University partners and implement AAUW mission based joint programs.

In closing, please email to me your ideas about interesting mission based programs that you would like to implement in our fiscal starting ending June 30, 2018. Also, see attached our Empire Virtual Times, Summer issue for your reading pleasure.

Kindest Regards,

Maria Ellis, MBA http://empire-ny.aauw.net https://www.facebook.com/EmpireStateVirtualNY Twitter: AAUWVirtualNY To join or renew your membership, click on the link below: https://svc.aauw.org/RECore/wMembership/NewJoinBra nch_Enter.asp

The ESVB Newest Members!



Raegan Sealy and Ali Comerford Singing songs at Cazenovia College to celebrate the ESVB 5th Anniversary

www.Sound Board.nyc

Summer 2017 NEWS

Meet AAUW NYC Fellows!

Crystal Chen received her doctorate in Education from Teachers College, Columbia University in May 2017, where her research examined the intersections of literacy, teacher education, and urban and multicultural education. Her dissertation is entitled Critical Literacy as Common Ground: The Possibilities of African Immigrant Girls in New York City Public Schools and Community-Based Organizations. Crystal began her teaching career as a high school English teacher in New Jersey. In August

2017, she will be an assistant professor of English Education at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC.

Sierra Clouse is a wife, mother, Anti-Human Trafficking Activist, and IT Project Manager. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Science in Information and Knowledge Strategy at Columbia University. She's passionate about bringing together the power of people and technology to shift the way we pursue success, community transformation, and social justice in the 21st century.





Gemma Mangione is a Lecturer in the at Columbia University and a Consulting Analyst with Randi Korn & Associates. She hold undergraduate degrees in journalism and art history and a M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University.. Her work connects practic-

es illuminated through organizational ethnography with mechanisms of broader institutional and policy change. She principally interested in the cultural, moral, and political dynamics of legitimacy. To date, Gemma has explored this general theme by examining knowledge politics across humanities and health fields. Her current research com-

pares programs for visitors with disabilities across art museums and botanical gardens and provides an ethnographic perspective on museums' "health turn" as it gains traction in cultural policy. She has a sustained commitment to exploring how social scientific theory and evaluation practice can together help people make informed choices about the operations of cultural institutions and the values they contain. Congrats to the ESVB newest members, **Raegan Sealy and Ali Comerford** for creating the **Sound Board**, <u>https://</u> <u>www.soundboard.nyc/</u> <u>board.html</u>, an innovative nonprofit based in NYC that uses poetry, music and performance to educate young people as artists, self-advocates, and emerging professionals.



Raegan Seally, Director

Ali Comerford Program Coordinator

Through creative programming, training, performance opportunities and mentoring Raegan and Ali provide young people with the skills they need to overcome roadblocks to education, engage in constructive political discourse and foster inclusion in their communities. They connect our demographic through relevant art forms that they identify with; **Sound Board** is committed to the social capacity of rap, hip hop, jazz and songwriting to fight stigmas that are too often attached to terms like 'poetry' or 'music,' or the very idea of creative dialogue and social change.

Their target demographic has a powerful vocality and perspective that they seek to amplify. Their services are geared for young people who come from low-income families, ethnic minorities, have had contact with social services or are otherwise disadvantaged, disenfranchised or disengaged. They create platforms from which their voices can be heard. They partner with communities that are historically and culturally rich but face a daily reality of income, ethnic and other forms of discrimination, where they often find the young people with the most to say to give to their society. Raegan and Ali coach their participants in reclaiming their narratives, taking the aspects of their stories often perceived as deficits, and turning them into assets for self-actualization, educational progress, and vocational capacity-building. **If you would like to learn more about their work, email Raegan at raegansealy@gmail.com**.

Start Smart Workshop

Learning to Negotiate the Wage Start Smart Workshop Sponsored by AAUW's Westchester and Empire State Virtual Branch! Place: New York Institute of Technology Date: Thursday, November 16', 2017 Time: 4 - 6 p.m.



Suzanne DeChillo/photographer, The New York Times Annie Houle of the WAGE Project uses \$1 bills and play money to show men's pay advantage over different groups of women. Her program teaches women how to negotiate for better salaries.

Did you see the article on the wage gap on the front page of the business section of the New York Times? If you haven't read the article, click on the link below for details: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/16/business/to-solve-the-gender-wage-gap-learn-to-speak-up.html?ref=business& r=1

AAUW Start Smart Salary Negotiation - NYIT



My **Start Smart AHA moment** was when I realized that I could have gotten a much higher salary during the role playing exercise. I feel that instead of taking the employer's word, I should have negotiated more; now I know better! I realy enjoyed the workshop and I earned quite a bit. I want to thank you and everyone involved for taking the time to share this very valuable information with us.

Maryam Khan, NYIT Student



Ask the President

What is AAUW's most recent research report?

AAUS's most recent research report is "Deeper in Debt"



Women now earn 57 percent of bachelor's degrees from American colleges and universities and take on more debt on average than men at almost every degree level and type. As a result, women hold nearly two-thirds of the outstanding student debt in the United

States — more than \$800 billion. Factor in the gender pay gap and this debt influences many major life decisions for women. AAUW's research report *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student*

Loans provides data, analysis, and recommendations to help bolster women's economic security in the face of the student debt crisis.

Use the resources here to share this information with your local campuses and the community at large so we can work to change this chilling reality. If you would like share this information with college students, counselors, legislators, email Maria Ellis at mellis@fsacap.com

Get Inspired by Women's History in the Nation's Capital



Photo credit: Vietnam Women's Memorial by Cliff (cliff1066), via Wikimedia Commons

Washington D.C remains a hub for cultural enrichment and many sites recognize the hardships and achievements of women throughout history. As you plan to attend the AAUW National Convention in D.C. in

in June 2017, consider allotting time to visit and be inspired by the extraordinary efforts of the women immortalized in these sites.

Read More: <u>http://convention.aauw.org/2016/09/22/get-inspired-by-</u>womens-history/

Image: <u>https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4a/</u> Vietnam Women%27s Memorial.jpg/512px-Vietnam Women% 27s Memorial.jpg

Heartfelt Thanks to Friends!

Thank you for your generous and thoughtful donations to the Empire State Virtual Branch! Maria Ellis Dr. C.S. Rani Dot McLane Joan Monk

Marilyn Tedeschi



Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and Inclusion: What is the Meaning?

Heide Parreño, Diversity Director, ESVB , Fairport Area Branch and former member of National Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, AAUW



Millennials believe that diversity and inclusion are essential to business success. Diversity and inclusion are more than just buzzwords or boxes to check. In a new study, Deloitte and the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative (BJKLI) analyzed responses from 62 questions of 3,726 individuals. These individuals are from a variety of backgrounds with representation across gender, race/ ethnicity, generation, sexual orientation, national status, veteran status, disabilities, level within an organization, and tenure with an organization.

Millennials view diversity as the blending of different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives within a team. This is known as cognitive diversity, a necessary element for innovation that is 71% more likely to focus on teamwork.

To read the full article follow the link-<u>http:/</u> www.fastcompany.com/3046358/the-newrules-of-work/millenials-have-adifferent definition-of-diversity-and-inclusion.

What does diversity and inclusion mean to the tech industry ?

Two groups come to mind: one is a tech industry with people with disability and another is Google.

Melissa "Echo" Greenlee, founder and CEO of deaffriendly.com, a website dedicated to bringing awareness to deaf-friendly businesses and corrective feedback to deaf-challenged businesses through consumer reviews, has this to offer:

" I own and operate the consumer review website deaffriendly, which allows deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing consumers throughout the United States to rate and review businesses on how accessible and deaf friendly they are. We employ an all-deaf team of designers, writers, trainers with a variety of experiences and communication modalities. "

The biggest story around diversity and inclusion in 2017 is the headline: "Products for people with disabilities created by people with disabilities".

The implied meaning of diversity and inclusion for Melissa is to make the world more accessible to 70 million deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing people around the globe.

Google:

Google leaders know that diversity on their teams, specifically inclusion from underrepresented groups – is key to having individuals from underrepresented backgrounds apply for its job openings and feel welcome at the company. "We fully acknowledge we have work to do and are committed to this work for the long haul," says Thygesen, whose own division features a program designed to help grow women and minority-led businesses that are interested in working with Google.

"What diversity and inclusion meant to Google" was put to the test when one of the male engineers wrote a manifesto questioning Google's diversity training and women's aptitude for coding. Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai, cut short his vacation to respond to the issue– which resulted in the firing of the engineer.

What does Diversity and Inclusion mean to AAUW? Having the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion is not enough. What actions can Branches, State and National have? What can we learn from the Millennials, Google and the Deaffriendly Group?

Thank You for Your Donation to the AAUW Funds!

Evvie Currie Giving Circle \$100.00, Margaret Currie Unrestricted LAF Support \$100.00, Maria Ellis

> LAF Fund \$100, Dr. C.S. Rani Tech Trek Fund \$20.00, Heidi Parreño AAUW Fund \$20.00, Elaine Fenton





Lobbying Legislators by Cell Phone

We live in a democracy. The dictionary defines the word thusly-DEMOCRACY – *noun*- A system of government in which power is vested in the people, who rule either directly or through freely elected representativess. Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address ... government of the people, by the people and for the people... It is as true now as it was 154 years ago.

We elect those who create and pass the laws that determine how we must act. They need to know what we, AAUW members, believe to be the best course of action for the people of our great nation. We, the members of ESVB AAUW, believe in gender equity. We can work to achieve this by being informed and by taking action to be certain that those who represent us know how we feel about pending legislation and governmental actions related to those issues.

Public Policy is one of the areas, where being a Virtual Branch is most effective. Often action to support our Mission of equity for women and girls needs to be taken immediately. The weekly *Washington Update*, to which I hope you subscribe, gives you the latest Public Policy news and updates from AAUW.

AAUW Public Policy has developed a new way to stay informed and active. It is the Two-Minute Activists mobile. This exciting new tool delivers timely, targeted communication straight to your cell phone via text message and offers other important advocacy features such as the ability to connect with your legislators' offices by phone. That means AAUW can provide you with strategic opportunities to take action right when your advocacy can make the biggest impact. Your text message from AAUW will make it easy for you to call your US Legislators' office by phone. After you dial the number given you'll hear a brief introduction before being automatically routed to the appropriate office. Remember to identify yourself as a constituent, and then **ask your legislator to take the desired action**.

Ready to take your advocacy to the next level?

Go to <u>http://www.aauw.org/resource/two-minute-activist-mobile/</u> Complete the form there and opt in to the Two Minute Activists mobile. — or simply text the word "AAUW" to phone number 21333

Once you sign up for the Two Minute Activist mobile you can advocate for gender equity wherever you go. You provide the voice — AAUW provides the megaphone.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Nancy Mion AAUW Empire State Virtual Branch Public Policy Co-VP



Monthly Events

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According to our AAUW archives, many women have contributed to our knowledge of Astronomy and the universe. For instance, Astronomer and AAUW member and professor at Vassar College in 1861, **Mary Watson Whitney** (1847-1921) built the school's Astronomy program into one of the nation's finest. Under her direction, the Vassar Observatory issue 102 articles. Her classmates called Mary "Pallas Ahene", our Goddess of Wisdom. She fought against the popular notion that women could not carry on sustained scientific research. She was a passionate mentor, specially committed to securing jobs for women trained in Astronomy and Mathematics.

Blizzard in a Bottle!

Lifting the Chemical Fingerprint



Happy Fally

Empire State Virtual Branch Membership

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST - DECEMBER 2017

Day	Date	Time	Event		
	08/21/17		Great Total Solar Eclipse of 2017	*	
Tues	08/29/17	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Empire State Virtual Branch Teleconference, Call 515 739 1032 (This is a new #) ; code 223128#	Members interested in scheduling an event/meeting for the branch please contact the Program VP to reserve dates and confirm before publicizing the event/meeting. Maria Ellis, mellis@fsacap.com Dr. C.S. Rani, csrani.rani.@gmail.com	
Mon	09/04/17		Laborl Day	the event/meeting.	
Tues	09/12/17	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Welcome to ESVB new members. Talk & Screening of "Girl Unbound" Trailer at the Harvard Club in NYC.	* * Maria Ellis, mellis@fsacap.com	
(As a young girl growing up in Waziristan, Pakistan, Maria Toorpakai burned her dresses, disguised herself as a boy, and defied the Taliban for several years to pursue her love of sports).					
Tues	09/26/17	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Empire State Virtual Branch Teleconference, Call 515 739 1032 (This is a new #) ; code 223128#	***************************************	
Mon	10/09/17		Columbus Day (Observed)	\bigcirc	
Sat	10/21/17	10:a.m2:p.m.	District V Conference. More details to follow.	Save the Dates:	
Tues	10/31/17	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Empire State Virtual Branch Teleconference, Call 515 739 1032 (This is a new #); code 223128#	Sat, October 21, 2017 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.	
Tues	11/07/17		Election Day	District V Conference	
Thurs	11/16/17	4:00-6:00 p.m.	Start Smpart Workshop at New York Institute of Technology, Manhattan Campus	More details to follow Fri-Sun, April 20-22, 2018	
Thurs	11/23/17		Thanksgiving Day	2018 AAUW NYS Convention Radisson Hotel	
Tues	11/28/17	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Empire State Virtual Branch Teleconference, Call 515 739 1032 (This is a new #); code 223128#	Corning, NY	
Tues	12/12/17	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Empire State Virtual Branch Teleconference, Call 515 739 1032 (This is a new #); code 223128#	July 2018 2018 NYS Summer Leadership Conference Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY	
240		rolled i grams	AAUW Student Organizations Student Organizations are composed of students en- n college who are interested in AAUW issues and pro- To start your own Student Organization at your col- mail Maria at mellis@fsacap.com	June 14 - 17, 2019 2019 AAUW National Convention Washington, D.C.	

Join or renew your membership with Empire State Virtual Branch!

AAUW national dues are \$49, AAUW NYS dues are \$13.00, and the Empire State Virtual Branch dues are \$5.00. The branch dues year is July 1 to June 30, and if you join now, your membership is good through June 30, 2018. See the various memberships below and to join, please visit our website at http://empireny.aauw.net/membership/ § Not currently a member of AAUW: \$67 (\$49 for national dues, \$13 for NYS; \$5 for Empire) § Current branch member: \$5 for a dual membership § Current member-at-large: \$18 (\$13 for NYS; \$5 for Empire) § Current student member : \$17* a year (Campus is not a college member)

- § Current student member on an AAUW NY member campus: Free
- § New Graduate: first year free
- § Graduate Student: member \$18.81 a year
- § Primary Member & Donor for \$100* a year including a generous contribution of \$33

Membership <u>dues can be paid by a credit card or check</u>. This feature is available on our website. Go to: http://empire-ny.aauw.net/PayPalMemForm.html or simply fill out and mail the coupon below:

Me	Name:	Please click on the link below to join us:
en bersh	Address:	http://www.aauw.org and follow the steps for online registration. If you prefer to write a check for your membership, please issue a check paya- ble to AAUW and mail it to Angela M. Cooper, AAUW Membership Dept, 1111 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. If you have any guestions, please call Angela at 202 785 7782 or
i p	Telephone:	
r F	Email:	
го гп	College Attended:	Maria Ellis at 973 216 4181.



VOLUME 5 NO3

AAUW Interim Executive Director: Mark Hopkins AAUW President: Patricia Fae Ho AAUW NYS President: Roli Wendorf AAUW Empire State Virtual Branch President: Maria Ellis Websites: National: www.aauw.org State · www.aauw-nys.org Empire State Virtual Branch: http://empire-ny.aauw.net/ Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/EmpireStateVirtualNY EYO. www.aauw-eyhconference.org Webmaster: Dr. Chigurupati Rani; csrani.rani@gmail.com Empire Virtual Times is published quarterly by AAUW Empire State Virtual Branch Editor-In-Chief: Dr. Chigurupati Rani, csrani.rani@gmail.com; Editorial and Writing Team: Maria Ellis; Dr. Chigurupati Rani; Nancy Mion, myown220@aol.com; & Dr. Anita Nahal & Heide Parreño Design: Maria Ellis & Dr. Chigurupati Rani

Members will kindly send in their articles for the Empire Virtual Times at the beginning of each quarter (January, April, July, October) to mellis@fsacap.com & csrani.rani@gmail.com. Send your ideas and letters to Maria Ellis and Dr. C.S. Rani.

AAUW EMPIRE STATE VIRTUAL BRANCH

Officers & Directors-at-Large

President: Maria Ellis, Empire State Virtual Branch (ESVB) Program VP: Open Membership VP: Open AAUW Funds VP: Open Recording Secretary: Eileen Hartmann, Fairport Area Branch, ESVB Treasurer: Dr. Chigurupati S. Rani, (ESVB)

Directors-at-Large:

Bylaws: Diane Haney, North Shore Branch, ESVB College & University Relations: Lorrin Johnson, Westchester Branch, ESVB Communications Director: Open Cultural Director & Young Women Task Force Liaison: Open Diversity Director, Heidi Parreño, ESVB International Director: Dr. Carol Huie, ESVB Parliamentarian: Laurie Ginnitti, Jamestown Branch Public Policy: Nancy Mion, Islip Area Branch, ESVB Edwina Martin, Rockland Branch, ESVB

> Special Projects Joan Monk & Anita Nahal, ESVB

Ellis & Friends Fund Any individual donations to the Empire State Virtual Branch will be matched by the fund.

American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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.

Moving the Mission Forward

The Empire State Virtual Branch is the first virtual branch in New York State.

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.



American Association of University Women

Empire State (NY) Virtual Branch http://empire-ny.aauw.net/ Because Equity Is Still an Issue



VIRTUAL (NY) BRANCH

THE EMPIRE STATE

