

Empire Virtual Times

Winter 2015

Quarterly Volume 3 No. 1



Happy Valentine's Day!



Congratulations and best wishes to the following members of the Empire State Virtual Branch who are candidates for election to the 2015-2017 AAUW Board of Directors:



Maria L. Ellis (New York)

I am a candidate for the 2015-2017 AAUW Board of Directors. I currently serve as AAUW NYS Membership VP and President and Founder of the Empire State Virtual Branch. Gender Equality, Diversity in Membership and Improved Communications and Transparency are very important to the growth of AAUW. Learn more about my work at www.facebook.com/EmpireStateVirtualNY.

Gender Equality: We can help achieve Gender Equality through Education. You and I can make a difference in many young women's lives by offering scholarships and professional development experiences like AAUW's conferences.

Diversity in Membership: I will work with your branch to reach out to our community colleges and local universities. This will be integral to our efforts to develop and recruit new members and ensure AAUW's future leadership.

Improved Communications and Transparency is vital to achieving AAUW's mission. Together we can empower women and girls through public policy advocacy, education, research and philanthropy.



Eileen S. Hartmann (New York)

It was the promise of an education and a bicycle that brought me to the United States as a child; it is education and service that keep me in motion today. I grew up in Indiana and earned a graduate degree at Nazareth College of Rochester, New York. While I taught English in Ohio and in the Rochester area, I also stayed connected to cultural immersion, working for an exchange program as a sales representative. I recently used those skills to recruit a College/ University AAUW partner abroad. As an employee of Nazareth, I worked in the Education Department to place students in classrooms prior to student teaching, making outreach to the community and constant use of effective communication.

Volunteering my skills and leadership in AAUW New York State as president and in California has provided me with many opportunities for involvement in program planning, project implementation, philanthropy, membership building, voter engagement, and in supporting the value of education to improve the lives of women, girls, and families. I have served as a detail-oriented and dependable representative with the organization through 40 years of membership.



**Dot McLane
Pennsylvania/New York**

I joined AAUW because of the mission, I am committed to advancing equity for women and girls with particular interest in ending the gender wage gap, getting more women into leadership roles both in corporations and government, and promoting STEM careers to women and girls. My experience spans all levels of AAUW leadership – branch president, state president, national committee chair/member, and a previous role as an elected Director on the national board. Currently I am the chair of the national STEM Task Force, a member of the national Public Policy committee, and state president. Previous roles include chair of the national Branch Program Resource Committee, liaison to the National Girl's Collaborative Project, and state Program Vice President.

My goal as Director-at-Large is to represent all AAUW members on the board to continue to build AAUW's efforts in advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

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**AAUW– Empire State
Virtual Branch**
973 216 4181

<http://empire-ny.aauw.net>

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmpireStateVirtualNY>



“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.”

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



Dear Friends,

We started 2015 joyfully and had the opportunity to hear and become inspired by the work of the following EOF Grant Recipients: EOF American Fellowship Grant recipient, Meredith A.B. Ellis, PhD Adjunct Instructor, Syracuse University. To learn more about Meredith's anthropology work, please click on the following link:

www.springstreetarchaeologyproject.com

EOF American Fellowship Grant recipient, Samantha Majic, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, John Jay College/City University of New York. To learn more about Samantha's Political Science work, click on the following link: http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/profiles/political_science.aspx?key=%5Bemail%5D='smajic@jjay.cuny.edu'

EOF International Fellowship Grant recipient, Lamia Bazir joined us from Morocco (her home country). Lamia's work is on Economics and Political Development. Click on the link below for more information from the UN website and Morocco World News: <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/01/youth-envoy-presents-arab-youth-volunteering-awards-mbc-hope-award-ceremony-dubai/#prettyPhoto>

AAUW EOF Career Development Grant recipient, Nnenna Agba raised in Niger, is an American-born women and girls advocate who currently works for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Click on the link below for more information:

<http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2014/7/oped-nnenna-agba>

Our Start Smart Spring Workshop has been scheduled for April 9th, 2015 from 4 pm - 6 pm. If you would like to participate in this workshop, email Roli Wendorf at wendorf@aol.com. We continue to have meetings with our new Mentees at the College of Mount Saint Vincent and we are looking forward to working with them in 2015. The Empire State Virtual Branch will continue to provide two scholarships for NCCWSL to be held on May 28-30, 2015. The scholarships applications essays are due by March 10, 2015. If you would like to become a mentor, email Maria Ellis at mellis@fsacap.com. Also, Explore Your Opportunities - The Sky's the Limit, EYO Conference will be held at the College of Mount Saint Vincent on Saturday, March 21, 2015.

The students at the College of Mount Saint Vincent started an AAUW student organization in fall 2014. Student organizations offer a community for students who are ready to take on the fight for gender equity. After graduation, students may join a local AAUW branch or Younger Women's Task Force chapter. For more information contact Joan Monk at ftmaven@gmail.com.

Miki Noguchi, our International Director working together with our United Nations Representative, Melissa Guardaro talked to us about the virtual national conference on Cities for CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) which took place in many cities throughout the US on January 20, 2015. Speakers include Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General (UN Women), UN ambassadors, and civil society leaders.

If you want to have fun while moving our AAUW mission forward, please join us at our Great Decisions meeting at the Harvard Club on Feb. 26th at 5:30 pm to engage in lively conversation "Sectarianism & the Middle East." Please RSVP to reserve your seat. Thank you!

Eternally grateful,

Maria Ellis, MBA
Empire State Virtual NY Branch AAUW
Mobile: 973-216-4181; E-mail: mellis@fsacap.com
<http://empire-ny.aauw.net>

<https://www.facebook.com/EmpireStateVirtualNY>

To renew your primary or dual membership please visit:

https://svc.aauw.org/RECore/wMembership/NewJoinBranch_Enter.asp
<http://youtu.be/o-EY266CtzQ>

2015 AAUW Conventions

The 2015 AAUW-NYS Convention
Byblos Niagara Resort,
Grand Island, NY
April 17-19, 2015
www.aauw-nys.org

2015 AAUW National Convention



June 18 - 21
2015
the Sheraton
San Diego Hotel
and Marina

www.aauw.org

Join the wave in sunny San Diego!

2015 Explore Your Opportunities - the Sky's the Limit™



**Explore Your
Opportunities:
The Sky's the Limit™
12th Year Conference
March 21, 2015
College of Mount Saint Vincent
Riverdale (Bronx), New York**

The meetings will be held in
Founder's Hall at CMSV in Mastronardi Room B

Saturday, 2/14/15, 9:30-11:30 am
Friday, 3/6/15, 1:30-3:30 pm (Mastronardi A)

Join us for the next planning meeting if you would like to get involved or know someone who you think could be part of our team. There are several interesting opportunities for Volunteers: Development (fund raising), PR (public relations) Contact Co-Directors:

Lorrian Johnson, 212 854 2437; eddlorrian@yahoo.com
Wilma Gitchel, 914 332 1064; wilmagitchel@optonline.net
Marilee Scheuneman, 914 965 0197;
Marilee@scheuneman.com

SAVE THIS DATE: March 21, 2015 for our twelfth Annual Explore Your Opportunities™ Conference at the College of Mount Saint Vincent to excite 7th grade girls about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

You can help our conference for 7th grade girls, "Explore Your Opportunities-The Sky's the Limit!" when you order from Amazon .com by going through our website: www.aauw-eyoconference.org and clicking on the Amazon button at the bottom of the page. Doesn't cost you anything and we get a tiny percentage. Thank you!



Winter 2015 News

Candidates for Election to the 2015-17 AAUW Board of Directors

2015 AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION

one member, one vote

The slate of candidates for election to the AAUW Board of Directors is now available. For details about each candidate, click on the following link: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/candidates-for-election-to-the-aauw-board-of-directors/>

AAUW President

(vote for 1)

Patricia Fae Ho

AAUW Vice President

(vote for 1)

Alicia Hetman

AAUW Directors

(vote for 10 candidates of your choice)

Susan Barley
Maria Ellis
Malinda Gaul
Sally Anne Gooson
Eileen S. Hartmann
Ellie Hill
Traci Jensen
Melissa Johsen
Dot McLane
Eileen Shelley Menton
Rebecca Norlander
Judith Pfeil
Gleda D. Price
Martha Joh Reeder
Pam Thiel

Ask the President

Q. What is a Campus Action Project Grant?

A. AAUW provides funding and support to college students who care about women's issues and want to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. Every year, AAUW gives \$50,000 to 10–12 student teams working to create change on campuses and in communities across the country. Students build a team and work with AAUW research to create an action plan. AAUW also pays for a student from each team to present on the project at our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

Q. Who Can Apply?

To apply, you have to be affiliated with an accredited, degree-granting institution in the United States. Priority consideration is given to teams from AAUW college/university partner member institutions. Former CAP grantees can apply.

Q. When Can I Apply?

A. The 2015–16 application period will officially open in August.

Q. How are the Grantees selected?

A. The Campus Action Project proposals will be evaluated according to various criteria including: **Relevance**. The project goals are aligned with the topic and recommendations outlined in the instructions (details on the topic and instructions will be posted with the application in August). **Project description**. The goals, project activities, and anticipated outcomes of the project are stated clearly. The target audience is identified, and the project provides opportunities for student leadership development.

Feasibility. The project time line is realistic, and the team has the capacity to complete the project within the specified time frame (the project must be completed by the end of May 2016). The desired outcomes and goals are reasonable, given the scope of the project.

Recruit people for your Campus Action Project team. Teams must consist of a project adviser (a campus professional), at least two undergraduate students, and an AAUW member liaison. If you don't already have a member liaison in mind, try asking around at a local or state AAUW branch or ask us for help. For additional information, email connect@aauw.org

2015 Great Decisions

Great Decision Topics	Dates	Reviewers
1. Russia and the Near Abroad	4 th Thurs, Jan. 29	Julie Kleszczewski
2. Privacy in the Digital Age	2 nd Thurs, Feb. 12	Dr. Elaine Fenton
3. Sectarianism in the Middle East	4 th Thurs, Feb. 26	TBA
4. India Changes Course	2 nd Thurs, March 12	Dr. C.S. Rani
5. The U.S. and Africa: The rise and fall of ...	4 th Thurs, March 26	Nnenna Agba
6. Syria's Refugee Crisis	2 nd Thurs, April 9	Jayne Herrick
7. Human Trafficking: A serious challenge	4 th Thurs, April 23	Maria Ellis
8. Brazil's Metamorphosis	2 nd Thurs, May 14	TBA

Charles Room, The Harvard Club, 27 W 44th St., 5:30–7:30 p.m.

For more information, email Julie K: juliek@msn.com



Winter 2015 News

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium / District IV Conference



**Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium /
District IV Conference**
Saturday, March 21 from 8:30am-3:30pm
Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery County BOCES Center,
Rt 67 Johnstown, NY
Deadline to register- March 6
Registration fee - \$35 and \$15 for students

The Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown AAUW branch invites all to attend the 5th Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium at the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery County BOCES Center, Rt 67 Johnstown (next to the Fulton Montgomery Community College) on Saturday, March 21 from 8:30am-3:30pm. The event will also serve as the AAUW NYS District IV Conference. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in Johnstown, NY in 1815. A year of events have been planned by the ECSWomen's Consortium member organizations in celebration of the women's suffrage leader's birth 200 years ago. The ECSWomen's Symposium is the main event of the year.

We hope to have many AAUW members present to increase our visibility. (AAUW members will be given AAUW badges to wear at the event) The conference is open to the public. The registration fee is \$35 and \$15 for students and includes a light breakfast and lunch. Registration forms with 3 workshops choices and checks payable to ECSWC should be mailed by March 6. Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown is the host branch and they are collaborating with other women's organizations who are also members of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium to present the Symposium. **A registration form with more details is attached.**

Here is a preview of the days offerings:

Session A Workshop Choices

- 1 Women on the Page (Greta Nettleton, Heidi Sprouse, Ruth Holland Scott)
- 2 Midwifery: the Second Oldest Profession (Julie Testi)
- 3 From Corsets to Spanx™ ("Victorian Lady" Sue McLane)

Luncheon Program: A Conversation with Coline Jenkins, the Great-Great Granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Conducted by Stanton biographer Penny Coleman

Session B Workshop Choices

- 1 Johnstown's Radical Daughter (ECStanton interpreter Melinda Grube)
- 2 RX for Better Health - Get Outdoors (Kelly Stang)
- 3 You Won't Feel a Thing (Acupuncture-Jennifer Voohees)

Session C Workshop Choices

- 1 A Glorious Woman - Getting to Know Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Penny Coleman)
- 2 Color: Then and Now (makeup of the past and present-Sherry Wieszchowski)
- 3 For the Dancer Within You (Learn a new step- Carol Mattioni)

OUR HISTORY IS OUR STRENGTH

Our symposium's theme is "Our History is Our Strength." Longer morning sessions take a then and now approach to topics that we believe were important to women of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's day and remain relevant to women of the 21st century.

SESSION A

Women on the Page. An excerpt from a documentary on the life of the author Louisa May Alcott will set the stage with a picture of the 19th century woman writer. Then three 21st century authors will share their experiences with researching, writing, and getting published today.

Greta Nettleton on her work *The Quack's Daughter: A True Story About the Private Life of a Victorian College Girl* published in May 2014. What Right did a woman have to a career in the 19th century? How many rights of any kind did she have? Greta will use the case of women physicians in the west as a jumping off point for a discussion of her research and writing.

Heidi Sprouse on writing romances about ordinary men who become extraordinary through their actions and the women who love them. Hers are small town love stories that could happen anywhere.

Ruth Holland Scott on her memoir *The Circles God Draws* which describes her remarkable journey from a segregated school to leadership of the Rochester NY City Council.

From Corsets to Spanx™. Sue McLane, the Victorian Lady, will demonstrate the ways late 19th century clothing constrained women and dictated a certain body ideal. Video excerpts from the documentary *Killing Me Softly* will set the stage for a discussion of how modern marketing still promotes unreasonable body images.

Midwifery: The Second Oldest Profession. Through discussion & film excerpts from *A Midwife's Tale* participants will learn about the history of midwifery as one of the oldest female professions in the U.S. Julie Testi, a currently practicing midwife in Fulton Co, will discuss the profession today and answer questions.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:30—9:00	Registration / Continental Breakfast
9:00—9:25	Opening / Welcome
9:25—11:30	SESSION A
11:15-12:40	Lunch/Vendor displays Program with Coline Jenkins & Penny Coleman
12:45—1:45	SESSION B
2:00—3:00	SESSION C
3:00—3:30	Closing / Collect evaluations

ELIZABETH CADY

WOMEN'S
SYMPOSIUM

REGISTRATION

To register, fill out the following form and mail it with payment to:

Laurie Kozakiewicz
PO Box 760
Caroga Lake, NY 12032

Cost: **\$35 per person**
\$15 student rate
\$40 late registration

REGISTRATION DUE:
March 6, 2015



For EACH session, indicate your first, second and third choice by writing 1, 2 and 3 in each column's box.

SESSION A	SESSION B	SESSION C
9:30 — 11:00 AM	12:45 — 1:45 PM	2:00 — 3:00 PM
Women on the Page with Greta Nettleton, Heidi Sprouse, & Ruth Holland Scott	"Johnstown's Radical Daughter" an interview w/ Elizabeth Cady Stanton	A Glorious Woman on getting to know Elizabeth Cady Stanton
From Corsets to Spanx™	Rx for Better Health—Get Outdoors	For the Dancer Within You
Midwifery: the Second Oldest Profession	You Won't Feel a Thing: Acupuncture	Color: Then & Now

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Please make checks payable to: ECSWC

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR
ALL
SYMPOSIUM EVENTS

SPACE IS LIMITED.

Start Smart Workshop

Learning to Negotiate the Wage Start Smart Workshop

Sponsored by

AAUW's Westchester and
Empire State Virtual Branch!

Place: College of Mount Saint Vincent

Date/Time: Thursday, April 9, 4:00 - 6:00 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>

Welcome New Members!

The Empire State Virtual Branch would like to welcome the following new members who have recently joined our virtual branch:

Mom & Daughter Team



Ewvie & Meg

My participation in AAUW is due solely to my Mom, Ewvie Currie. I started attending conventions when she was the NYS President and needed assistance. I've tended the basket room, attended great workshops, heard courageous litigants, and met AAUW "sisters" who

have adopted my Mom. It's a great experience and a lot of fun, as well as an opportunity for growth.

My background, in brief: dual BS in Magazine Journalism (Newhouse School)/ Environmental Design from Syracuse University; MSW in clinical practice from Columbia University; currently licensed clinical social worker in a group practice (Family Study Center, Danbury, CT) and adjunct faculty in the social work department at Western CT State University, Danbury, CT. I'm married to my high school sweetheart, and in the process of training my new dog Norbert as a therapy dog.

We are also welcoming new member Susan Condelli is Vice President, Head of Sales for AST Personal Wealth Solutions. Prior to joining AST in 2011, Susan was Senior Product Manager for National Financial Services, a Fidelity Investments company. Susan was responsible for National Financial's trading and order management capabilities used by over 300 correspondent clients. Prior to that Susan worked in Client Training to onboard clients to the National Financial Clearing platform. Susan has a BA from Ithaca College, over 12 years of experience in the financial services sector, and holds FINRA's series 7 and 63 licenses. Susan is a new member of the ESVB and she will be joining us at our EYO planning meetings! We are very excited about doing joint programs with Susan's employer www.astinvestor.com and the Empire State Virtual Branch.

College of Mount Saint Vincent Mentorship Program



Dr. C.S. Rani & her mentee
Hala Innabi
Visiting 9/11 Memorial

A conversation with Dr. C.S. Rani, ESVB Treasurer and her mentee, Hala Innabi.

According to Hala, the Mentorship Program at the College of Mount Saint Vincent has been a great experience. Her men-

tor, Dr. C.S. Rani, Computer-Science Professor, teaches at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) / CUNY. Some of their recent activities included "job shadow" at BMCC where Hala attended Dr. Rani's Telecommunications Networks class.



Also, they had fun outside the classroom, talked about Hala's goals for the year, visited 9/11 Memorial and Brookfield Place. In summary, they enjoyed each other's company and started a beautiful Mentor-Mentee relationship.

Congratulations to Jan Lisa Huttner, our Emerging Leader

Public Policy



Jan Lisa Huttner

After 35 years in Chicago, Jan Lisa Huttner and her husband Rich moved to Brooklyn in late 2012. And as soon as she had unpacked most of her boxes, Jan reached out to us and became a member of ESVB. An active member of AAUW Chicago Branch since 1983, Jan served as Membership VP, Program VP, and Historian. She also served on the AAUW-Illinois Board as Director of Leadership Development, Director of College/University Relations, and Director of International Relations.

During her tenure as Director of College/University Relations, Jan organized the WITASWAN Project (Women in the Audience Supporting Women Artists Now), which was originally created as an opportunity for joint programming between Illinois branches and their local campuses. The project was such a success that AAUW-Illinois soon found itself collaborating with WomenArts—the Fund for Women Artists—to go global. Since 2008, International SWAN Day has been celebrated at over 1,200 separate events in 20 countries (plus the USA). The next International SWAN Day is March 28, 2015, so plans for an ESVB celebration will be announced soon.

“My Dad was ‘a joiner,’ so I was raised to be ‘a joiner’ too,” says Jan. “But as an adult, especially in my work with AAUW, I have organized my own life around one single principle: Invisible Women. Too many women—not only in the past but also in the present—are ‘invisible,’ that is, not given their due either by their own cultures or by the world community at large. I want to give voice to these women not only for their sake, but on behalf of the women of the future. Women need to believe in themselves more than they do now, and one way to help them do that is to give voice to all the wonderful women who have paved the way.”

To learn more about WITASWAN and International SWAN Day, read Jan’s Book: *Penny’s Picks: Fifty Movies by Women Filmmakers* available from Amazon on Kindle and POD.

Caption: Jan gave us her introduction to the WITASWAN Project on October 18, 2014 at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. (Photo Credit: Laura Fieber-Minogue)

“Women, whether subtly or vociferously, have always been a tremendous power in the destiny of the world...” ER



TAKE ACTION FOR EDUCATION

Education is essential to promoting equity for girls and the women they will become. It is a vital part of our AAUW Mission. The national Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) passed 12 years ago is to be reauthorized this year. Hearings in Congress have already begun. You as a constituent can urge your US Representative and US Senators to support an education bill that will strengthen public schools nationwide, promote civil rights and accountability, and help close the achievement gap.

These are 10 Educational Priorities from the AAUW Public Policy Program:

1. **Use public funds for public education.**— not private school vouchers that benefit only a few.
2. **Improve school climate.** AAUW supports legislation to improve school and campus safety
3. **Strengthen STEM education.** AAUW supports promoting and strengthening (STEM) education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations.
4. **Invest in after-school programs** should be expanded to enrich the school experience and improve educational outcomes.
5. **Support early childhood education.** Early childhood education will help improve and sustain achievement in later years and save taxpayer dollars down the road.
6. **Expand training in gender-fair teaching.** Topics covered should relate to all forms of gender and racial bias in the educational community.
7. **Annual testing requirements** AAUW believes are essential to assessing an individual student's progress and will result in closing achievement gaps, especially for girls in (STEM).
8. **Improve school accountability measures** by holding schools accountable for demonstrating that they are meeting educational goals.
9. **Enhance Title IX compliance** by passing the High School Data Transparency Act which would require high schools to publicly report data relating to numbers of female and male participants and dollars spent on athletic teams.
10. **Save the Women’s Educational Equity Act.** It was designed to give educators tools to eliminate barriers that keep students from full participation and success in all areas of education.

You can read the complete priorities with more extensive explanations at <http://www.aauw.org/files/2015/01/quick-facts-Elementary-Secondary-Education-Act-ESEA-nsa.pdf> or go to www.aauw.org, or go to www.aauw.org and type Quick Facts ESEA in the search bar.

TAKE ACTION- You now have the talking points you need. Contact your Congressperson by phone, email or www.aauw.org type Two Minute Activist Education in the search bar and take it from there. You can help create a new ESEA that will reflect AAUW Educational Priorities by telling your federal legislator what you want.

Nancy Mion,
Public Policy Director
Empire State Virtual NY Branch
Myown220@aol.com

“Work is easier to Carry if your heart is involved.”... ER

Diversity Director, ESVB

AAUW Fellows



Diversity: Story of a Culture (My Story)

Heidi Parreno
Diversity Director,
Empire State Virtual NY Branch AAUW &
Member of National Diversity and
Inclusion Task Force

In our conversation on diversity, often times I heard the need to tell our story in order to make diversity real and personal. I hope this article will encourage our members in our AAUW branches and State to share their story. This will help us harness the social capital of AAUW as an organization. The central premise of social capital is that social networks have value. Social capital refers to the collective value of all "social networks" (who people know) and the inclinations that arise from these networks to do things for each other (norms of reciprocity) . <http://www.bettertogether.org/socialcapital.htm>

For me, diversity is integral to social capital.

I am a Philippine woman in America, an immigrant, having lived here in America for fifty three years in the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Michigan and now, New York. At the very start I saw acculturation as a mutual enriching process as I reflected in the strengths and weaknesses of the Philippine culture and the American culture. I needed first to understand the roots of my heritage in the Philippines.

Myths/Legends in the Philippines

There is a legend or myth about the Philippines as a country. As quoted in the book of a Filipino-American teenager in the book: *The Philippines: Roots of My Heritage*, copyright, 1977 is this legend.

A lovely goddess was in a happy disposition and being in a playful mood she casts a handful of emeralds into the clear and blue waters. Then when the emeralds fell, there arose picturesque green islands on the Pacific, off the Asian mainland, which today we know as the Philippines, also known as the PEARL OF THE ORIENT SEAS.

A creation myth I heard about the people goes like this. A bird was pecking on a bamboo lying on the ground, when all of a sudden the bamboo opened and a man and a woman arose and walk hand on hand towards the sunset.

Realities about the Philippines

The Philippine Islands became a Spanish colony during the 16th century; they were ceded to the US in 1898 following the Spanish American War. It got its independence from the U.S. on July 4, 1946. According to the Commission on population (POPCOM) the est. total population of the Philippines as of January 1, 2015, is 100, 730, 309, the seventh most populated country in Asia and the 12th most populated country in the world and the 64th-largest country in the world. Philippines has 7,107 islands under the category of the three main geographical divisions: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Its capital is Manila. There are some 120 to 175 languages in the Philippines and English and Filipino (Tagalog) are co-official languages according to the Philippine constitution. Philippines is a multicultural nation- originating from Malayan, Black, Indo-Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese and American people. Within the family structure, the first born daughter is just as important as the son. Women can own property and there is no dowry required as a "bride price". The family system is bilateral and bi-lineal which means that the lines of descent can come from both the father and mother.

Literacy

As of August 23, 2014, the literacy rate in the Philippines from age 15 and over who can with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement on their everyday life. <http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/philippines/literacy-rate>



Lamia Bazir

Lamia Bazir is currently working for the cabinet of the head of the government of Morocco, on the development of the second compact of the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Lamia was a fellow of the American Association of University Women, and a representative at the United Nations. Her experience includes political analysis for the Arab League, consultancy with Transparency International, and field research in Niger.

Prior to this, she earned a master's in international affairs from Columbia University and a master's in international development from Sciences Po Paris. She was also student valedictorian at Al Akhawayn University where she completed her undergraduate studies.

Most recently, Lamia won the United Nations' Award for Volunteering attributed by the UN and MBC group for her social venture "Empowering Women in the Atlas". She is also known for her inspirational speeches delivered at Al Akhawayn university, Stanford University, and the UN Youth Assembly.

Samantha Majic



Samantha Majic's research lies in gender and American politics, with specific interests in sex work, civic engagement, institutionalism, and the nonprofit sector. She is the author of *Sex Work Politics: From Protest to Service Provision* (University of Pennsylvania Press, December 2013), and the co-editor (with Carisa Showden) of *Negotiating Sex Work: Unintended Consequences of Policy and Activism* (University of Minnesota Press, Spring 2014). Her research has also appeared/is forthcoming in *Perspectives on Politics*, *Polity*, *New Political Science*, *The Journal of Women, Politics and Policy*, and *Gender and Society*. A Fellow of the American Association of University Women, Dr. Majic is also a member of the *Perspectives on Politics* editorial board.



Thank you for your generous and thoughtful donations to the Empire State Virtual Branch!

Maria Ellis

Melissa Guardaro

Dr. C.S. Rani

Marilyn Tesdechi



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



CALENDAR FOR JANUARY - JUNE 2015

Happy 2015!

Day	Date	Time	Event
Thurs	02/12/15		President Lincoln's Birthday
Sat	02/14/15	9:30-11:30 a.m.	EYO Planning meeting; Valentine's Day!
Mon	02/16/15		President's Day
Tues	02/24/15	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Empire State Virtual Branch Teleconference, Call 712-432-0926 ; code 223128#
Fri	03/06/15	1:30-03:30 p.m.	EYO Planning meeting
Mid-March 2015 Voter PIN mailed to members with the Spring/Summer AAUW Outlook; final slate of candidates, bylaws proposals, and resolutions published in the Spring/Summer AAUW Outlook			
Thurs	03/19/15	1:00-06:00 p.m.	EYO Planning meeting: Packet Assembly, 1:00 - 6:00 pm in the Hudson Heights Room near the cafeteria
Sat	03/21/15	8:30 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.	EYO Conference, College of Mount Saint Vincent, Hudson Heights
Tues	03/31/15	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Empire State Virtual Branch Teleconference, Call 712-432-0926 ; code 223128#
Wed	04/01/15		Opening date to request paper ballot; voter PIN e-mailed to members
Wed	04/15/15		Voting begins online
Fri	05/08/15		Deadline for AAUW to receive request for paper ballot
Tues	05/26/15		Deadline for mailing paper ballot; ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m. to be counted
Thurs-Sun	06/18-21/15		AAUW National Convention, San Diego
Fri	06/19/15		Online voting ends at 9 p.m. PDT

 ☆ 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 & Dr. C.S. Rani
 ☆ mellis@fsacap.com
 ☆
 ☆*****



Save the Dates:

2015 Great Decisions
 Thurs.: 2/26, 3/12, 3/26
 4/09, 4/23, & 5/14
 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., The Harvard Club

EYO Explore Your Opportunities
 Sat, March 21, 2015, 8 a.m.—2 p.m.
 The College of Mount Saint Vincent

AAUW-NYS Convention, April 17-19, 2015
 at the Byblos Niagara Resort on Grand
 Island, NY

NCCWSL 2015 & Graduate School Fair
 May 28-30, 2015, the University of Maryland
 College Park, MD

AAUW National Convention,
 June 18–21, 2015, San Diego, California

Empire State Virtual Branch Membership

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, 2015.
 See the various memberships below and to join, please visit our website at <http://empire-ny.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 to be used towards NCCWSL

Membership dues can be paid by a credit card or check. This feature is available on our website. Go to:
https://svc.aauw.org/RECore/wMembership/NewJoinBranch_Enter.asp or simply fill out and mail the coupon below:

Memberships	Name:	Please click on the link below to join us: 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 payable to AAUW and mail it to Angela M. Cooper, AAUW Membership Dept, 1111 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. If you have any questions, please call Angela at 202 785 7782 or Maria Ellis at 973 216 4181.
	Address:	
	Telephone:	
	Email:	
	College Attended:	

AAUW Executive Director: Linda Hallman
 AAUW President: Patricia Fae Ho
 AAUW NYS President: Edwina Frances Martin
 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
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 Nancy Mion, myown220@aol.com
 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@fsacp.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

Educational Opportunities Fund VP: Open

Recording Secretary: Eileen Hartmann, Fairport Area Branch, ESVB

Treasurer: Dr. Chigurupati S. Rani,
 Empire State Virtual Branch

Directors-at-Large:

Bylaws: Diane Haney, North Shore Branch, ESVB

College & University Relations: Lorrin Johnson, Westchester Branch,
 ESVB & Jan Huttner, (ESVB)

Communications Director: Open

Cultural Director & Young Women Task Force Liaison: Jenn Mayfield,
 ESVB

Diversity Director: Heidi Parreno, ESVB

UN Representative: Melissa Guardaro, Rockland County Branch, ESVB

International Director: Miki Noguchi, ESVB

Parliamentarian: Laurie Ginnitti, Jamestown Branch

Public Policy: Nancy Mion, Islip Area Branch, 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.

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.



Empire State (NY)
 Virtual Branch
<http://empire-ny.aauw.net/>

Because
 Equity Is Still
 an Issue



Moving the Mission Forward

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

