



The Empire State Virtual (NY) Branch

Empire State (NY)
Virtual Branch

Founded 2012



Empire Virtual Times

Summer 2018

Quarterly Volume 6 No. 3



*Happy Memorial
Day!*



AAUW Chief Executive Officer

Kim Churches
our AAUW Chief Executive Officer
was the Keynote Speaker at our
AAUW NYS 2018 Convention
in Corning, NY.

Watch this video to hear special announcements directly from
Chief Executive Officer
Kimberly Churches.

Get the latest news and insight about
AAUW's reorganization, new leadership, budgeting, and more. Click on
the link below for details:

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/2018-state-convention-presentation/>



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AAUW NYS Summer Conference

Save the Date!

**AAUW-NYS
Summer Conference**

July 20-22, 2018

Cazenovia College Campus

"Real Tools for Action in Your Hometown"



"Using Social Media as
an Organizing tool"

"Building Effective
Coalitions"

"Lobbying Made Easy"

"Tools to Gather
Your
Community"



**Mark your calendars
for July 20-22, 2018
on the delightful
Cazenovia campus!**

**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,

Congratulations to our Empire State Virtual NY Branch members who participated in our AAUW NYS Conference held on April 20-22 at the Radisson Hotel in Corning. I am pleased to report that the Empire State Virtual NY Branch was given the following awards: **Platinum 21st Century Program Award for Start Smart at New York Institute of Technology; Newsletter of Excellent Award; Visibility of Excellence Award; Website of Distinction Award and the Top Ten Branch Legal Advocacy Fund per Capital Giving.**

We were honored to have **Kim Churches**, our AAUW Chief Executive Officer talked to us about AAUW's Strategic Plan and Goals Moving Forward! Those of you who couldn't make it to the state convention can watch this video to hear special announcements directly from Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Churches. Get the latest news and insight about AAUW's reorganization, new leadership, budgeting, and more. Click on the link below for details:

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/2018-state-convention-presentation/>

I would like to extend our special Thank You to all the AAUW Fellows and AAUW friends who have participated in the Empire State Virtual NY Branch teleconferences held the last Tuesday of every month. Some of the Fellow speakers have included: **Ayesha Shakaya and Natalia Ortiz.**

Ayesha Shakya, International Fellow, is an Emmy-winning digital media native working in the intersection of technology and media. She is currently a Coordinator with PRO Unlimited at the News Partnerships team at Facebook. Her career began in Singapore, where she studied Information Engineering & Media at Nanyang Technological University. She moved back to her hometown in Kathmandu, Nepal and joined Nepali Times as the Online Producer. She combined her technical expertise and reporting skills to produce multimedia packages for their digital platforms. She has reported during the 2015 Nepal earthquake, documented the impact of water scarcity in the Tibetan plateau and reported on domestic violence against women in rural Nepal. She was also a International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) Digital Media Fellow at the Center for Investigative Reporting, during which time she investigated the illegal smuggling of migrants from Nepal to the United States through Central America. Her work has been published in Nepali Times, The New York Times and PBS Newshour. She completed her Master's degree from New York University's Studio 20 program.

Natalia Ortiz, American Fellow, CUNY Graduate School and University, Teacher Education. Natalia is a mother, scholar, educator, and activist. In her research, she explores how teachers engage in critical dialogues around race and racism using applied theater and theater of the oppressed techniques. Through this study, Ortiz hopes to offer an alternative reflective practice in teacher education, one that engages the body and mind. Previously, she taught U.S. history to overaged, under-credited youth in New York City.

In closing, I would like to invite you to join us every Friday from 6-8 pm at the Harvard Club in NYC for drinks and conversation to continue to

move our AAUW mission forward to promote education and pay equity for women and girls.

Having fun while moving our AAUW mission forward!

Maria Ellis, MBA

Empire State Virtual NY Branch President

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

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

To become a member or to renew your membership click on the link below:

https://svc.aauw.org/RECore/Membership/NewJoinBranch_Enter.asp?branchid=NY2091

Empire State Virtual NY Branch Awards!

Congratulations
to the Empire State Virtual NY Branch members
for being a recipient
of the following awards at our
AAUW NYS Convention
held on April 20-22 at
the Radisson Hotel in Corning, NY.

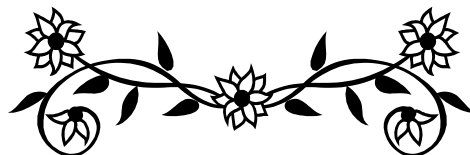
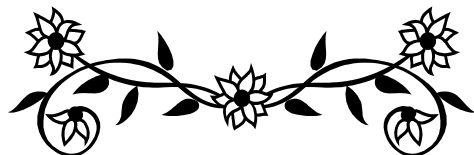
Platinum 21st Century Program Award for Start
Smart at New York Institute of Technology

Newsletter of Excellent Award

Visibility of Excellence Award

Website of Distinction Award and

The Top Ten Branch Legal Advocacy Fund
per Capital Giving.



Meet the 2018 AAUW NYC Fellows at the Harvard Club!

Ayesha Shakya, International Fellow!



Maria Ellis, Mary Lou Davis & AAUW NYC Fellows



Gloria Blackwell & Edwina Martin



Natalia Ortiz



Roli Wendorf & Maria Ellis



Julie K & AAUW NYC Fellows



Maria Ellis & AAUW NYC Fellows



Dr. Rani & AAUW NYC Fellows



AAUW NYC Fellows



Dr. Rani, Maria, Julie K & AAUW NYC Fellows

Ayesha Shakya is an Emmy-winning digital media native working in the intersection of technology and media. She is currently a Coordinator with PRO Unlimited at the News Partnerships team at Facebook.



Her career began in Singapore, where she studied Information Engineering & Media at Nanyang Technological University. She moved back to her hometown in Kathmandu, Nepal and joined Nepali Times as the Online Producer. She combined her technical expertise and reporting skills to produce multimedia packages for their digital platforms. She has reported during the 2015 Nepal earthquake, documented the impact of water scarcity in the Tibetan plateau and reported on domestic violence against women in rural Nepal.

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Paola Duran, Upcoming Speaker Tuesday, May 29, 7:00—8:00 p.m.



As urban planner and political scientist, Paola Duran is fully committed to the development of sustainable communities and to the empowerment of women. She has worked in Colombia and New York improving housing conditions, generating new housing units and creating jobs and social services for low-income communities. She is a proud AAUW International Fellow Recipient (2014-2015).

Paola has been involved in the development of more than 300 affordable housing units in New York with on-site social services for its residents and in the improvements of more than 15,000 housing units in Colombia through a micro-credit model for very low income communities. she has managed a job creation and social services program (including education and empowerment toolkits, and services to eradicate all forms of violence against women) for women head of household in Colombia, generating more than 300 jobs per year.

Paola, has had the opportunity to study abroad in Kenya, Brazil and Turkey to learn about grassroots organizations and urban planning strategies at the local level.



2018 AAUW NYS Convention, April 20-22, Corning, NY



Roli Wendorf, AAUW NYS President



William M. Boland, Jr., Mayor, City of Corning



Keynote Speaker, Kimberly Churches
AAUW Chief Executive Officer



Janice Brown, AAUW NYS President-Elect
Jane Pendergast, Program Vice President Elect
Carol A. Griffith, Development Vice President Elect



2019 AAUW NYS Convention, Cooperstown, NY!



AAUW Branches Poster Displays



Nancy Mion, Maria Ellis



Jean Havens, Maria Ellis, Dr. Rani & the LAF Baskets!



2018 AAUW NYS Convention, April 20-22, Corning, NY



Aileen Rizo, Legal Advocacy Fund Speaker



Maria Ellis Passing the Torch of Liberty onto Elmira Corning



Dr. Rani, Aileen Rizo, Maria Ellis



Roli Wendorf, Asha Shaik, Maria Ellis



Nancy Mion



Margaret Coe

Panel Discussion:
Advocacy in the Current
Media Landscape
Crystal Sarakas
Moderator
Panelists:
Kelli Owens,
Maureen Quigley,
Ayesha Shakyia,
Dr. Rachel Sommerstein



StartSmart & WorkSmart Workshop



AAUW Start Smart and WorkSmart Workshop
 Sponsored by
 Empire State NY Virtual Branch, AAUW!
 Place: New York Institute of Technology
 Date: Fall 2018 (TBD)
 Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

AAUW StartSmart Salary Negotiation - NYIT

AAUW STARTSMART
 salary negotiation for students



The Gender Pay Gap by Race

	Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings within racial/ethnicity	Women's earnings as a percentage of white men's earnings
Hispanic or Latina	89%	54%
American Indian and Alaska Native	85%	59%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	96%	62%
African American	90%	63%
White (non-Hispanic)	79%	78%
Asian American	79%	90%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2014

YOU ARE YOUR OWN BRAND

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 really enjoyed the workshop and I

learned 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

Is there an AAUW Voter Guide?

Yes, you can find an AAUW Voter's Guide in the Outlook, Spring issue.

Voting is open now, and closes on June 9. If you have requested paper ballots, they must be postmarked by May 21.

Here is a link to the Voter Guide:

<http://aauwoutlook.advanced-pub.com/?issueID=6&pageID=1>



Since 1881, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has been the nation's leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund encourage women voters to get involved in the political process and to better understand the impact that legislative action—or lack thereof—can have on their lives and those of the people they love. From congressional inaction on the Paycheck Fairness Act to frequent attacks on our reproductive rights, the current political landscape—which increasingly focuses on social issues—seldom includes or responds to women's voices. To create real change, women must be part of the conversation,

ESVB March 27, 2018 AAUW Fellow Speaker & ESVB Communication & Visibility Director

Jessica Sims, American Fellow

Jessica Sims is the newly appointed Violence Against Women Committee Chair for WG-USA. She completed her doctorate in philosophy at Stony Brook University this past December and was the recipient of AAUW's American Dissertation Fellowship for the 2016-2017 school year. Her research focuses on psychological torture, aka non-state torture, and its long-term effects on human consciousness. The practical example that she uses in her work is a type of domestic violence known as "coercive control." She aims to explain why many women who suffer from this abuse often refuse to leave an abusive partner even when given the clear opportunity to do so. She concludes that the abuser's combined use of aggression and affection causes a form of anxiety in the victim that causes her to actually become addicted to him. This ultimately means that she will require rehabilitation to "get clean" just like any other recovering addict. Jessica is currently transitioning from academia to nonprofit outreach in order to use her research to aid those suffering from this affliction. She lives in Brooklyn and relishes exploring New York's hidden mysteries. As a native Montanan, she also enjoys walking in NYC's various parks and is skilled in the art of urban hiking. Thus far, she has successfully explored much of Brooklyn and Manhattan on foot.



"Life on the go from India to America"



Unconscious Bias can come out in so many ways, and sometimes folks are not even aware they are showing such bias. This short, short, flash fiction brings out, delicately, one such one bias...that of accent. This story is from the author's just completed collection of flash fiction, entitled, "Life on the go from India to America, Vol 1"

Try Your Best To Speak Without An Accent!

By
Anita Nahal

"Thank you, so much, Preeeaaa, for coming today!" The casting director had gone on to the next person on the list.

This was the fourth or fifth time Priya had come to audition for a speaking part in an advertisement. Each time her agent called, she crossed her fingers, wishing it was for a non-speaking part, and her face would soon grace print Ads of famous brands! Her agent described her as having an, "exotic, beautiful, captivating personality with a magnetic smile." "And you will fulfill a gap in the modelling world for older ethnic faces," she had enthused! Each time Priya hoped, no one would make her feel openly uncomfortable about her accent.

The audition today was for a Medicare related Ad, so the lobby area outside the studio in Philadelphia, was full of post-55 year olds of various races, ethnicities, and gender, though she did not see anyone, visibly apparent, from another religion, or with a disability. She was wondering about the lack of a wider diversity, when her name was called. "Preeeaaa, is that how you say your name?" the extremely handsome casting director asked, looking embarrassed at his accent on her name, or so she thought. "Hi, hi, well it's actually, Priya, so less emphasis on the middle and end syllables." "Oh, okay, Preeeaaa. Come on in."

"Can you give us a slate please, and then show us both hands, and your profile from both sides." Priya proceeded to do all. This casting director seemed friendlier than the last ones so she started to relax. She had a few seconds, and quickly ran her fingers through her hair, untangling any jagged ends, and pressed her lips inwards and sideways to make sure the lipstick was evenly spread.

"Ready? Great...just relax! We are all in this together, right?" She nodded gently, feeling reassured with his kind, un-commercialized words. "And, yes, Preeeaaa... try your best not to speak with an accent."



(From

the original picture by Bernadette Dare)
Anita Nahal, Ph.D., CDP, is a poet, flash fiction writer, children's books author, D&I consultant and professor

2018 Great Decisions

Topics for Great Decisions* 2018	Dates	Reviewers
4. Media and Foreign Policy <i>By Susan Moeller</i> State and non-state actors today must maneuver a complex and rapidly evolving media landscape. Conventional journalism now competes with user-generated content. Official channels of communication can be circumvented through social media. Foreign policy is tweeted from the White House and "fake news" has entered the zeitgeist. Cyberwarfare, hacking and misinformation pose complex security threats. How are actors using media to pursue and defend their interests in the international arena? What are the implications for U.S. policy?	4 th Thurs, May 24	Ruth Wong
6. U.S. Global Engagement and the Military <i>By Gordon Adams</i> The global power balance is rapidly evolving, leaving the United States at a turning point with respect to its level of engagement and the role of its military. Some argue for an "America First" paradigm, with a large military to ensure security, while others call for a more assertive posture overseas. Some advocate for a restoration of American multilateral leadership and a strengthened role for diplomacy. Still others envision a restrained U.S. role, involving a more limited military. How does the military function in today's international order, and how might it be balanced with diplomatic and foreign assistance capabilities?	4 th Thurs, June 28	Linda Smith
Charles Room, The Harvard Club, 27 W 44th St., 5:30–7:30 p.m. For more information, email Julie K: juliek@msn.com		

Happy Independence Day!

