

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/ PROGRAM/ EVENT 2011-2012:

Note: Any program since last year's deadline is eligible.

Category: (Please circle or highlight the category for which this program is being submitted.)

- Women – Education – Community – International – Cultural – Diversity – Public Policy

Title: Empowering Women Around the World - Making Connections

Part I:

- 25
- Other community groups** involved, if any (list):(5 points) AAUW-NYS ✓
 - Number of members** involved in **planning or putting on** the program (5 points) 3 ✓
 - Number of nonmembers** involved in the program (5 points) 0 ✓
 - Number of members who attended or benefitted** (5 points) 40 ✓
 - Number of nonmembers** who attended or benefitted (5 points) 1 ✓
 - Number of new members** who joined (if any)(5 points) 0

Part II:

Describe your project/ program/ event in 75-150 **words**. Be sure to include:

- how the project addressed **AAUW's mission** (15 points)
- branch goals** in doing this program (10 points)
- specific action steps** in planning this program (15 points)
- steps taken for **community visibility** (Attach newsletter and newspaper articles.)(10 points)
- measurable **impact on the community** (10 points)
- lessons learned** for future programs/ projects/ events (10 points)

Attach copies of newsletter and newspaper articles about this project/ program/ event.

(No more than 4 pages maximum)

Mail or email the original of your entire application with supporting materials to:

- Peggy Kelland, AAUW-NYS Program Vice President
- 13 Susan Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

smkell45@aol.com

Questions? (845)297-0507

AAUW Schenectady Branch Project

Empowering Women Around the World - Making Connections

(with a NYS Board Member and the NYS My Sister's Keeper Project)

How this program addressed AAUW's mission:

Having Melissa Guardaro, the AAUW-NYS International Affairs Director, speak at our December luncheon provided our members with an insight into the plight of women both nationally and internationally. Melissa's presentation included the need for advocacy, education, and philanthropy as well as information about what other branches are doing to promote the My Sister's Keeper Project. As a result of her presentation, a number of our members became motivated to further explore the conditions of women internationally. Our Varied Interest Study Group immediately took action and focused their February and March meetings on international women's issues. Our Branch Programming VP also adjusted our general meeting programs to include a discussion of the effect of war on women.

The branch goals met in doing this project included

- *Focus on women and girls issues* – The My Sister's Keeper project directly addresses the need to support women's rights and gender equality. In a world where women can face "gendercide, violence, lack of educational opportunities, and the lack of maternal health care" it's important that our AAUW members know the conditions some woman are facing and what we, as a branch, can do.
- *Community Outreach* – Members and their friends and relatives were invited to our December luncheon. As a direct result of Melissa's presentation, one of our interest groups had 2 programs on international women's issues and our February General Meetings focused on the effect of war on women and children. This meeting was open to the public, flyers were displayed in libraries and stores and an article was in the newspaper and in our newsletter.

Action Steps in planning this program

- While listing to Melissa Guardaro and Joan Monk make their presentation at the 2011 Summer Leadership Conference, our co-presidents knew they had to invite them to speak at one of our general meetings. This invitation was made and Melissa was able to come. It has been MANY years since we had a state director or an elected board member from either NYS or National AAUW visit our branch.
- Information about the presentation was in our December newsletter.
- Members, their friends and relatives were invited to our December luncheon.
- A list of the books and videos that Melissa had on her website was printed and distributed at the luncheon.

Action Steps taken for community visibility

- Though the public was not invited to the December luncheon and presentation, the public was invited to our February General Meeting that was organized as a result of Melissa's presentation. The program for our February meeting to view and discuss the video, **War Revisited** from the PBS series **Women, War and Peace**. This meeting was publicized in newspapers, flyers, and in our newsletter.

Measureable impact on the community (including our AAUW community)

- As a result of our February General Meeting when we showed and discussed the video, **War Revisited**, we may have 3 gained new members. This meeting was open to the public.
- Melissa's presentation motivated our members. The Varied Interests Study Group has had 2 meetings to further explore the global issues of women.
- A new study group for next year has been proposed to explore international issues.
- A member has been appointed International Affairs chair, a new board position.

Lesson Learned

- It's important for our members to have a NYS board member speak at a branch meeting. It provided us with information on what other branches are doing to further the My Sister's Keeper project.
- AAUW not only focuses locally and nationally to further our mission but learning and acting globally is just as important.

**The paragraph about Melissa's presentation from our
February newsletter 2012**



CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Our December luncheon and program was a wonderful success. Many of you who attended, responded quite positively to the AAUW-NYS initiative, "My Sister's Keeper," described so effectively by Melissa Guardaro, AAUW-NYS Director of International Affairs. She sparked an interest in us to learn and do more concerning the plight of women worldwide and within our domestic borders. From the response of four Varied Interests Study Group and other members who heard Melissa's presentation, we will focus on expanding our efforts in support of AAUW-New York State as it moves forward with their "My Sister's Keeper" efforts. The February program is the result of Melissa's explanation of this initiative.



AAUW

Breaking through Barrier:

Schenectady, NY
Branch

Founded in 1902

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December 2011-
January 2012
XXXII No. 4

General Meetings
Saturday, December 3, 2011
General Meeting and Luncheon

Speaker: Melissa Guardaro

AAUW-NYS International Affairs Director



Program: Empowering Women Around the World
AAUW's Project - "My Sister's Keeper"
The plight of women internationally and nationally

Location: The Edison Club
Riverview Road, Rexford

Silent Auction

Donations of toys, games, hats, or mittens, etc., will be collected to improve the holidays for the children in Schoharie, Middleburgh, and Cobleskill whose families were harmed by the recent flooding.

Wednesday, January 11, 2012
General Meeting and Tour

Speaker: Philip Morris,

CEO of Proctor's Theater

Program: The Future of Proctor's Theater



432 State Street, Schenectady
Time: 7 pm

Mark Your Calendar

December

No Board Meeting in December

Saturday, December 3

Luncheon at the Edison Club
at 11:30

January

No Board Meeting in January

January 1-7

Please submit articles for Visions to
Linda Zuckerman lsz2@hotmail.com