

FOCUS

2020- IS IT REALLY CLEAR VISION?



As we enter the last few months of 2020, we are still living in unprecedented times. Welcome to a new and interesting year. We continue to see COVID-19 running rampant throughout the country. We have gone from commuting to work to teleworking, from classroom to online learning. The way we live has changed. Is our vision clear? Having a vision means we have a clear sense of purpose. It means we can see the “big picture”. Can you see the “big picture” for your branch and our organization. The world around us has changed and we must change with it to stay relevant in the coming years.

Our vision can come clear if we unify together, inspire each other and work together for the common good of the organization. We all believe in the mission and vision of the organization.

It takes all of us working together to help end economic insecurity for women, **all women**. It takes all of working together to equip women for leadership roles, **all women**. It takes all of us working together to end racial injustices, **all injustices**. Together, our vision can be clear. It will take all of us working together to have a clear vision.

The viability of our branches is dependent of us working together from the smallest to the largest branches. Does your branch have a clear vision for this year? Are your members supporting the branch’s vision? Do your branch need support from the State Board to help manifest your branch’s vision?



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Development Vice-President -Carol Griffith

As we enjoy the beautiful fall leaves, the contemplation of the approaching winter temperatures, and the closing of the difficult 2020 year, please take time to review your AAUW funds diagram, to prepare for your end of the year donations to AAUW.

Centennial Pins For Sale

Get your pin before the year is over.

\$35 per pin

\$100/3 pins

\$100 donation to AAUW Greatest Need Fund-free pin—Order online on website:

[Www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)



College/ University Updates– Maria Ellis

I am writing to let you know that if you are a Start Smart/Work Smart Workshop Volunteer Facilitator, AAUW has decided to waive the annual training requirements for those of you that would have expired in 2020 and we have automatically extended your volunteer facilitator eligibility to March 31, 2021. An AAUW National team member will be in touch prior to March 31, 2021 with training requirements to maintain your eligibility as an AAUW volunteer. While there are no training requirements in 2020 due to Covid, we encourage you to stay current by participating on upcoming workshops. Please email me if you would like to join us and I will provide access to our zoom meeting. If you have any additional questions about Smart Smart/Work Smart and/or C/U activities in your area, please email me at mellis@fsacap.com. Finally, I am pleased to share with you that AAUW has successfully trained over 175,000 women nation-wide to close the gender pay gap and increase economic security for women and families. We encourage you to participate in our free online Equity Network events. The schedule of upcoming events and recordings from previous events can be found at :

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/equity-network/events/>

Membership Vice President– Karen Martin

Membership in AAUW means belonging, individually and collectively, to a group of likeminded women. We are curious and creative. We see needs and want to get things done! We show loyalty and dedication to our Mission of equity for women and girls, our future.

Often, October makes us think of all the autumn scenes:

Red, yellow, tan leaves hugging on for dear life, orange pumpkins with candles in their eyes, apples and cinnamon hot and spicy made into cider. It is also time to be indoors, close our windows and prepare for the cold. Let's be sure to stay connected as we go into the next season of winter.

We hope all of our members are staying safe and healthy. Normally autumn is the start of interest groups and community initiatives programs. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 restrictions, many of these meetings have been changed from in person to Zoom meetings. Your branch Program Chair and their committee have worked diligently to organize programs of interest to you. Let's see, what date is your next happening? Check it out and stay in tune. I like to call a new member and invite her to join me, even if it is on candid camera!

Usually, the branch's first meeting is an Open House. At this event, prospective members would come to find out about AAUW. Before your next Zoom meeting, perhaps the Board can brainstorm who would like to share a "Favorite from the Past Blast." What's that? Invite a member to share (with oak tag pictures or virtual photos if possible) a past event they especially enjoyed. At the end, the member would invite folks (especially new members) to work on that committee to reshape the event into present and future requirements. Just an idea! Please feel free to share your out of the box ideas in this new arena.

We know this is a hard time to recruit new members, but please invite and give them the opportunity to say "Yes!" The window for 2020-2021 dues is about to close, October 31, 2020. Members looking to renew can go directly to the AAUW.org website (or ask your treasurer who will assist you directly). This includes National, State, and local branch dues. Thank you to everyone who renewed their dues in May and June, the beginning of the renewal time. Money also supports this direct communication newsletter. With paid dues, you will be receiving the 2020-2021 Membership Booklet available to all members in most branches. Unpaid members are usually not included in the new directory/booklet. If you have questions, please contact your branch treasurer, president, or myself, Karen Martin (AAUW.kmartin@gmail.com).

I'd like to leave you with 2 thoughts:

1-We each are responsible for bringing in new members!

2-Ask a neighbor or friend if they have mailed in their vote or need a ride to GO vote. Your question demonstrates that YOU care.



[Wwww.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

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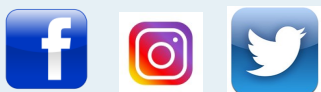
Questions and articles should be delivered to the State President,

Janice Brown, 27708 Rogers Rd, Evans Mills, NY 13637

Email: president@aauw-nys.org

Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor

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Programming During Pandemic

Branch Members

The way we do programming has changed tremendously. COVID has not stopped us from providing great programs for our local communities. Instead, it has changed the way we actually do the programs. We are currently not meeting in person to provide programs but there are many programs that can be held virtually.

We have to be creative and think outside the box of what can be done. AAUW provided a webinar on programming during the pandemic. If your branch hasn't done any programs yet, this might be a great webinar to get your wheels turning to do virtual programs.



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REMEMBERING RUTH BADER GINSBURG, 1933-2020

With the exception of Thurgood Marshall, no Supreme Court justice did more to realize the Constitution's promise of "equal protection of the law" than Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Friday, September 18, 2020. Where Marshall, as director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, succeeded in dismantling Jim Crow segregation, Ginsburg, as the first director of the ACLU Women's Rights Project, persuaded the Supreme Court that women and men, long treated differently under the law, must be accepted as equals.

Neither acted alone; they carried the torches of the civil rights and women's rights movements, respectively. Their courtroom arguments were buoyed by broader political currents. But both achieved far-reaching, historic changes in constitutional law. And both did it incrementally, through careful, painstaking work, aimed at appealing to those not already with them. As Ginsburg said, "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

In the last years of her life, Ginsburg became an unlikely celebrity. RBG T-shirts, mugs, earrings, bobblehead dolls, workout gear, and books all became best-sellers. In 2018, both a documentary, RBG, and a Hollywood feature film, On the Basis of Sex, appeared, to popular and critical acclaim. Chief Justice John Roberts quipped, at the unveiling of a portrait of Ginsburg, that his children asked him why he, too, didn't have a rapper's moniker. She deserved every bit of the praise. One of only nine women in a class of about five hundred at Harvard Law School, she broke many barriers, and her work made it possible for young women today to take for granted that they cannot be denied admission, jobs, or other benefits simply because of their sex. That's radical.

Reprinted from ACLU 100



"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."-RBG

VOTING INFORMATION –VOTE NOVEMBER 3rd

NEW YORK STATE HAS THREE WAYS TO VOTE!

- By Absentee Ballot**
Apply at elections.ny.gov
Return ballot by Nov. 3rd
- Vote Early**
October 24th - November 1st
- Vote On Election Day**
November 3rd



Important COVID-19 Reminder

COVID-19 is still all around us, and the safety of our members and staff remains AAUW's top priority. We strongly advise states and branches to avoid holding any in-person meetings or events at least through the end of the year, and in compliance with local and state guidance. We are proud of the affiliates holding creative and successful virtual meetings, elections and programs. Keep up the great work!

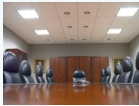
Mission
To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision
Equity for All

Values
Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality

Public Policy Priorities

AAUW is supporting many different issues. Together, we can reach gender equality in education, economic security, and leadership. What issues are your branch focusing on?



EDUCATION

- Gender Bias in School
- The STEM Gap
- Title IX
- Women & Student Debt
- Higher Education & Other Career Pathways

WORKPLACE & ECONOMIC EQUITY

- The Gender Pay Gap
- The Gendered Workforce
- Workplace Sexual Harassment
- Women and Retirement
- The Motherhood Penalty
- The Future of Work

LEADERSHIP

- Barriers & Bias
- Broken Ladders
- Implicit Bias Test
- Global Connection

American Association of University Women-New York State

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

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