

# Upstate Update

agj-ny.aauw.net

November 2015



**Is:**

- ◆ Native American Heritage Month
- ◆ Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month
- ◆ Veterans Day, November 11
- ◆ International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, November 25

**In History:**

- **November 12, 1815 (1902)** – Elizabeth Cady Stanton, feminist, suffragist, organized first U.S. women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, first president of the National Woman Suffrage Association
- **November 16, 1903 (1996)** – Barbara McLean, film editor, helped cut Mary Pickford's first talkies, went on to Twentieth Century Fox with credits for "Jesse Jones" (1939), "The Black Swan" (1942), and "12 O'Clock High" (1949), when arguments arose her comment was, "If you're going to ask me, then listen to me," and they did
- **November 28, 1881** – The first organizational meeting is held for the predecessor group to the American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- **November 30, 1924 (2005)** – Shirley Chisholm, first African-American Congresswoman, (D-NY, 1969-83), first woman and first African-American Democratic presidential nominee, received 151 delegate votes at the Democratic Convention in 1972

## Co-Presidents Message

It certainly has been cold and frosty of late. But our Tuesday AAUW meeting was warm and vibrant and full of great info. Many thanks to Paula Lerner for arranging a great meeting in Amsterdam at La Cucina restaurant and to Bethany Schumann-McGhee, ESQ for an interesting and very educational presentation on estate planning, etc. We all learned a lot about the various pitfalls that can be easily brought about with lack of planning and knowledge.

Next month on Monday Nov 9<sup>th</sup> we'll be having a double feature arranged by Linda Hammond at the Johnstown Senior Center. Both Brain Games and

Stress & Relaxation will be the prescription for the evening and will prepare us to handle the upcoming holiday stress.

We're also having an Executive Board and planning meeting on Wednesday Nov 4<sup>th</sup> at the Johnstown Library at 5:30pm. I am hoping that all the officers and committee chairs and anyone planning or co-planning a meeting in 2016 will be there to confirm all the details. Happy Halloween and clock changing (Fall back) and hopefully we will all be at the library on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and the Senior Center on Nov 9<sup>th</sup>!

*Sandy Maceyka*



*Elizabeth!*



## Global Warming—How do you feel about it?

Having just returned from the Presbyterian Earth Care Conference in Montreat, NC, I have been energized to work toward mitigating global warming. Having handwritten all my congressmen, both State and Federal, plus the President and Governor, I now plan to write monthly articles for 4 newsletters, and copy them to 7 local newspapers, and to my congressmen. Here, then, is my first article:

Global warming is here. It's human-caused, and it's advancing more rapidly than had been forecast. Since 1970, earth's average temperature has risen about 2 degrees F. This doesn't sound like much, but consider that the last

ice age was, on average, only 5-6 degrees colder. Climate scientists predict that, if we continue the way we're going, earth's average temperature could rise as much as 10-12 degrees F. Can we survive this? I think not! Already, the polar ice caps are melting, ships can now pass through the Arctic Northwest Passage during summer. We're suffering droughts in many places, due not only to lack of rainfall, but the shrinking of glaciers that once provided water downstream. Permafrost in the tundra is melting, releasing methane, which is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

28% of our scientists are ada-

mant that we must do something now to keep the temperature rise at less than 2 degrees centigrade, which is about 3.4 degrees F, by the end of this century. As for the other 2%, they are most likely funded by big oil, coal and other multinationals.

I believe it is our moral obligation to our children and grandchildren to do all we can to keep the temperature rise below 2 degrees C.

*By Jahnn Swanker-Gibson*

## Pioneer Female Broadcaster Had An Interest In Historic Preservation

*Jane Barton was a member of our AAUW branch for a brief time. Wish I had gotten to know her - she would have made a great speaker re WAVES and Radio work.*

*Liz Russo*

By Bob Cudmore, Focus on History, *Daily Gazette*, 10-10-15

A pioneer woman broadcasting executive became town historian in Charleston, Montgomery County, and spearheaded restoration of an eighteenth century building there through the town historical society.

Edythe Meserand, born in Philadelphia in 1908, began her broadcast career in 1926 in the press office of the National Broadcasting Company in New York City. By 1931 she was in promotions and on the air at the Hearst radio station in that city. She became assistant news

director of New York's WOR in 1937 and during World War II headed the station's news department, producing some of the first radio documentaries. She later produced television programs at WOR.

In 1951 she was one of the founders of American Women in Radio and Television. She retired from broadcasting in the 1950s and moved with her companion, Jane Barton, to Windy Hill, a Christmas tree farm on Esperance Road in the town of Charleston, where Meserand started an advertising agency.

Barton, born Jane Greenberg in New York City in 1918, was a journalist and public relations professional. She changed her name in 1939 while working in media in New York. She became an officer in the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), the women's branch of the U.S. Navy in World War II. After the war she joined the Naval Reserves, training new recruits and doing public relations. She retired as a commander.

From 1948 to 1973 Barton worked for the Radio-Television-Motion Picture Bureau of the New York State Department of Commerce. She produced radio and television programs and did publicity for the department. After retirement from her state job in Albany, Barton wrote for area newspapers and was upstate New York correspondent for *Variety*, the show business newspaper.

Barton and Meserand became active in the community. Media people from the region, including radio legends Boom Boom Brannigan and Lloyd Smith, were sometimes guests at parties at Windy Hill Farm. Barton served on the Charleston planning board from 1968 to 1972.

In the 1970s Meserand was town historian and founding chairman of the Charleston Historical Society in 1978.

Thanks to everyone!



For Immediate Release: 10/21/2015

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

## GOVERNOR CUOMO SIGNS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AND FURTHER WOMEN'S EQUALITY IN NEW YORK STATE

**Governor Announces \$6.4 Million for Sexual Assault Prevention and Assistance Providers**

Audio of Governor's remarks available [here](#); Video available [here](#)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today signed multiple pieces of legislation designed to protect and further women's equality in New York State. The new laws will help achieve pay equity, strengthen human trafficking laws and protections for domestic violence victims and end pregnancy discrimination in all workplaces.

The Governor also announced that New York State has allocated a total of \$6.4 million for Sexual Assault Prevention and Assistance providers across the State. This includes \$4.5 million enacted as part of the Enough is Enough legislative package to support implementation of this new campus sexual assault legislation by providing prevention, as well as \$1 million to be administered by the Department of Health and \$900,000 to be administered by the Office of Victim Services.

"This State has a legacy of leading the way in advancing equal rights – and today, we are making New York a model of equality for women," **said Governor Cuomo**. "This comprehensive set of laws will help to ensure that women are supported, protected and given all of the opportunities they deserve in life. Today, New York stands once again as a monument for progress, and a sign of what can be achieved when we come together to do the right thing for women everywhere."

Audio of the Governor's remarks at today's event is available [here](#), and the event can be viewed on YouTube [here](#).

**Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul said:** "Today is a historic day for New York State as we finally fulfill our promise to millions of women seeking to shatter that invisible glass ceiling. As a woman, I am particularly proud that our Governor has made improving the status of women in our State one of his highest priorities. That's what the Women's Equality Act was all about: to ensure that women are no longer treated differently from their male counterparts. Whether it's protecting women from sexual assault, pregnancy discrimination or securing equal pay for equal work, Governor Cuomo deserves enormous credit for achieving his ambitious agenda and never looking back."

As part of Governor Cuomo's efforts to protect women's rights, he signed a number of bills designed end discrimination and inequality based on gender. The signed bills can be found [here](#). These new laws will help to:

- **Achieve Pay Equity:** This bill (S. 1 / A. 6075) would strengthen New York State law to truly prohibit employers from paying women less than men for performing the same work. The bill eliminates a loophole in the current law that allows employers to prohibit employees from discussing their salaries under threat of termination or suspension. Specifically, the bill would allow employees to discuss their wages with each other. Further, the bill increases the amount of damages available to an employee if an employer willfully violates the law.
- **Protect victims of sexual harassment:** This bill (S. 2 / A. 5360) protects all employees from sexual harassment in the workplace regardless of the size of the employer. Currently, the definition of "employer" excludes employers with fewer than four employees, thus prohibiting individuals from filing harassment complaints with the Division of Human Rights against those employers. This new law expands the definition of "employer" to cover all employers within New York in sexual harassment cases so that an employee of any business can file a workplace sexual harassment complaint.
- **Remove Barriers to Remedying Discrimination:** This bill (S. 3 / A.7189) allows successful plaintiffs to recover attorneys' fees in employment or credit discrimination cases based on sex. This law enables victims, most of whom are women, to have the opportunity to vindicate their rights and be made whole in cases where they prevail. Under existing New York State law, plaintiffs cannot recover attorney fees at trial for employment discrimination cases, making it costly to bring a case.
- **End Family Status Discrimination:** This bill (S. 4 / A. 7317) prohibits employment discrimination based on familial status. Currently, New York State law only prohibits discrimination based on familial status in the areas of housing and credit, however, employees often suffer from stereotypes relative to their status as parents or guardians of children under the age of eighteen. Women have been most affected by stereotyped views of parents in the work place and are less likely to be recommended for hire or promoted. This new law prohibits employment agencies, licensing agencies, or labor organizations from discriminating against workers based on their familial status.

## Upcoming Meetings:

**November 9, 2015 at 5::30 pm**  
**Johnstown Senior Center**  
**Cost: FREE**

Our November meeting will be a fun night. We are approaching that hectic time of the year. Holiday shopping, cooking and spending time with family and friends. No matter how tired or stressed you are, you enjoy family traditions and sharing them with the younger generations. But it would be great to learn how to reduce this stress beforehand.

This will not be a dinner meeting. Throw out the diets, ladies. We're

having desserts!

Maura Fleming from the Alzheimer's Association will speak to us and share her Brain Games.

Sue Cridland, Nathan Littauer Health Link, will walk us through some stress and relaxation techniques.

We will receive information and techniques that can be used throughout the year. I don't know about you but there are times when I forget things. Do you wonder about Alz

heimers or is it because you are tired and/or stressed?

If you have not already signed up for this meeting, please let Linda Hammond know. She needs to know who many are attending for the food order.

Contact Info:

Linda Hammond

Cell: 229-2058 (leave message)

Email: lhammond@nycap.rr.com

## Holiday Fun



Please join us for our annual AAUW celebration on **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** at Union Hall. We would like to see you at **12:30pm**, dressed in your holiday attire! This year, our menu will consist of a deluxe hot buffet which includes: Baked Chicken Provençal, Hot Carved Roast Beef with Onions, Garlic Mushrooms, Rice Pilaf, Chantilly Potatoes, Garden Salad, Fresh Fruit Slices, Warm rolls, Coffee and Cupcakes. Cost is \$20pp.

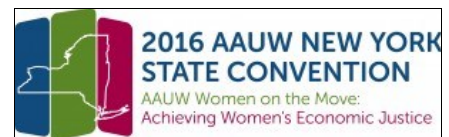
We would ask that you bring an item for the food pantry to help those in need during this season. Also, instead of music, we are going to provide our own entertainment! We are asking you to bring a new gift, wrapped, and valued no more than \$10 for our **"Fun Gift Exchange."** No need for names on the gifts. Please look for baskets when you arrive and you will know where to put these items.

We hope to see you there! Don't forget to send in the flyer included in this newsletter!



## SAVE THE DATE!

### AAUW New York State Annual Convention



**April 15-17, 2016**  
**Holiday Inn**  
**Saratoga Springs, NY**

## Lunch Bunch Book Club

### November Book Club

In celebration of the 200th birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, we are hoping to find enough copies of **80 Years and More**, Stanton's memoirs, to read and discuss for our November Lunch Bunch Book Club. This book was read by many a few years ago with a chapter a month discussion lead by members of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association. **Lunch will be on November 18th at 1 pm** at the Holiday Inn, Route 30A, Johnstown.



*Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

### October Book Club

The Branch Lunch Bunch Book Club met on Tuesday, October 27 at the Olde Brick House, Rt 30 Amsterdam. The group read **Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness**, by Susannah Cahalan. The book is the Adelante

choice for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Copies were reserved at the Johnstown Public Library for the AAUW Book Club.

All are welcome to attend our Lunch Bunch Book gatherings

whether or not they have had a chance to finish reading the book.

### Some Upcoming Books on the Adelante List:

#### December 2015

*Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* By Cheryl Strayed

#### January 2016 / National Mentoring Month

*The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance – What Women Should Know*

By Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

#### February 2016 / Black History Month

*Disgruntled: A Novel*

By Asali Solomon, 2001-02 AAUW American Fellow

## Interested in a Theatre Outing?

Catherine Julius wrote that one of the women, named Jessica that came with Bethany Schumann McGhee at our October 20th meeting, suggested we might want to go to plays performed at Russell Sage in Troy. Jessica's son is in theatre arts.

Jen Garren and Bonn Van Wie have offered to take members in their vans.

Website: [sage.edu/theatre](http://sage.edu/theatre)

Information:  
(518) 244-4505/4504

Tickets:  
(518) 244-2248

### 2015–2016 Season:

**The Wizard of Oz**  
December 3–17, 2015  
Schacht Fine Arts Center  
Theater  
Troy, NY

**Number the Stars**  
Feb. 24-March 6, 2016

**Romeo and Juliet**  
April 13-24, 2016

**Backbeard The Musical**  
June 1-12, 2016



## New Members:

WELCOME to our six new members: Chantel R. Batuk, Jennifer Gardella, Mary G. Insogna, Colleen Leo, Elizabeth Press and Louise Sira.

Here are four of their biographies. The rest will be in next month's newsletter.

*Catherine Julius*

### JENNIFER GARDELLA

Jennifer lives in Amsterdam with her spouse Lynn Trudeau and a crazy cat named Mocha. Lynn is a Licensed Master Social worker for HFM BOCES incarcerated Youth Program working in both the Fulton and Montgomery County Correctional Facilities.

Jennifer received her BA and MA in Social Studies Education as well as a CAS (Certificate of Advanced Study) from SUNY Albany. She completed an Educational Administration certificate program at St. Rose.

Having worked as a high school social studies teacher at Fonda-Fultonville school district, she

retired early and went on to work as the Director of Member Services for the NYS Retired Teachers Association, a not-for-profit organization until 2008.

Jennifer is on the Board of Trustees at FMCC and is the current Chair of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association. Back in March, she was approached again by Elizabeth Russo to join our organization at the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Symposium.

She has always been interested in Gender Equity Issues and Education of Girls in Leadership, but also wants to further the leadership opportunities for both genders in our area. So we welcome Jennifer and her experience. We are looking forward to having her work with us to further our missions.

### MARY G. INSOGNA

Mary Insogna lives in Amsterdam with her 2 cats (rescued by her one daughter who is a cat rescuer). She is the widow of Richard Insogna and raised 6 children, 3 of each gender. Mary has a degree in Business and Psychology from Keuka College. She later took courses at Russell Sage, Union College and Skidmore.

Mary worked from 1952 until 1992 at Gabby's Youth Center on Main Street in Amsterdam. She now works part-time assisting her daughter the chiropractor, Dr. Nancy Radigan. She enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren, especially during the holidays.

From 1989 to 2009 Mary was very active with a local art group and also worked with art teachers in the area. She especially enjoyed oil and water color paintings.

Mary was a member of the AAUW years ago. She saw the article for our Shape the Future recruitment meeting in September and attended our dinner which featured Mary Farley, ESQ. as our speaker. Liz Russo gave her an application and she joined on the spot.

She is looking forward to networking with other women in our group. She no longer drives at night, so if any of our other members from Amsterdam would be available to take her to

our meetings, she would greatly appreciate it. Welcome back Mary!

### Louise Sira

Louise lives in Mayfield with her husband of 17 years and their two sons Johnny (14) and Wyatt. (12).

She received her BA in Political Science from Syracuse University in 1990 and her Juris Doctor from Albany College of Law in 1993. A year later she was working in the DA's office and became the First Assistant DA in 1996. In 2002 she ran for District Attorney and was elected for 4 four-year terms. She is presently running for Fulton County Court Judge and Surrogate.

She is the president of the Northville PTO for the 4th year and is very active in boy scouts and little league. She loves to gardening and participates in many community clean ups. She also loves to read.

She learned about AAUW when she attended the ECSW Symposium at HFM BOCES this past spring. In speaking to several of our members while she volunteered at the event, she was impressed with the caliber of our membership and our support for women's issues. She found these members enthusiastic, energetic and caring in the betterment of the community. These are traits she tries to emulate and support in herself and well as others.

### Elizabeth Press

We are pleased that our AAUW display in the classroom building at F M on Constitution Day attracted the attention of Elizabeth Price as she headed to teach a class in communications. She is replacing Jim Hinkel in that position. We look forward to getting to know Elizabeth and hope she will be able to attend some of our branch meetings. We are also hoping that she might be able to bring back a communications workshop for our Tech Savvy Summit for Girls in May. Elizabeth's biography will be in next month's newsletter.

**Are you interested in joining AAUW ?**

**Do you have a friend/relative who would like to join AAUW?**

We would love to have you become a member of our branch! There is a couple of ways to join.

1) Visit our Membership page of our website. You will find our Membership requirements and the amount of dues. The **Registration Form** is also available on this site.

<https://agi-ny.aauw.net/membership/>

2) A membership brochure can be mailed to you by contacting either Catherine Julius (762-8883) or Sandy Maceyka (736-5130).

## Marietta Raneri—Showcases Artwork



Among the few local artists who showcased their art on October 15th at the Shirley Luck Senior Center, our very own AAUW Branch member poses with some of her art work.



## Century Club Festival of Trees-December 2

### Holiday Cheer Luncheon 11am-2pm

130 Guy Park Ave, Amsterdam

\$15—Light Lunch; money to Liz Russo (Liz will pay with one check)

Reservations by November 13

All are invited to join the Lunch Bunch and friends for music, festive decor, holiday shopping, food and friendship. This outing has become a tradition of enjoying the beautifully decorated theme trees, table

decorations and wreaths and holiday music. Do some of your holiday shopping in the gift shop or buy a friend a holiday wreath or decoration.

A great way to start off the holiday season.

All are welcome - bring a friend. Contact Liz Russo [erusso03@nycap.rr.com](mailto:erusso03@nycap.rr.com) or call 762-9702. We can carpool.

## October Raffle Winner!



Bonnie Van Wie was the winner of the basket donated by Jennifer Garren.

A total of \$103 was raised for the AAUW Funds which include our donations to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and the Education Opportunities Fund (EOF).

Congratulations, Bonnie!!! Many of the ladies were willing to take this off your hands! Thank you, Jennifer, for your donation!

## Remembering Nancy Reynolds

Nancy joined our Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch in 1976. Over the years, she served as branch secretary, as well as on the committee for the high school literary award. She volunteered to answer calls for the YMCA fundraiser as an AAUW volunteer and was always willing to bake for our various fundraisers and dessert meetings. She was an active member and an enthusiastic contributor for our Johnstown Public Library basket donation



and our Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Basket and Purse offerings for the NYS AAUW State Convention. Nancy was honored at last June's meeting for serving as AAUW Funds chair. She will be remembered for passing the bucket for donations at each meeting. She also served on the committee for this year's High School Literary award, reading essays to help determine the scholarship winner. The last AAUW branch meeting Nancy attended was the summer planning meeting at the Greek Church in July. Nancy always filled out the member survey at the end of each year. Her membership in



Nancy at Bunco Night

AAUW was very important to her. Nancy Reynolds passed on October 1, 2015 at Nathan Littauer Hospital, following a brief illness. Our branch will miss her dedication.

## “Suffragette”

The movie Suffragette starring Carey Mulligan, Anne-Marie Duff, Helena Bonham Carter and with Meryl Streep playing Emmeline Pankhurst has just been released. The story covers the early feminist movement when women were forced underground to pursue the right for equality. Working class women who had seen peaceful protests produce nothing turned to violence as their only route to change.

AAUW members and friends interested in seeing the movie Suffragette together in November and gathering afterward to discuss the film should contact Co-President Catherine Julius.







Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown (NY) Branch

**Co-Presidents: Catherine Julius  
Sandra Maceyka**

**Co-Vice Presidents—Membership:  
Mary Jablonski**

**Treasurer: Ella Ryder**

**Recording Secretary: Paula Lerner**

**Newsletter Editor: Linda Hammond**

**Phone: 518-229-2058**

**E-mail: agjaauw@yahoo.com**

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

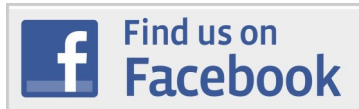
AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

In principle and practice, 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.

agj-ny.aauw.net

AAUW-NYS.org

AAUW.org



## Calendar of Events

### 2015:

- Nov 4 Board Meeting,, 5:30 pm, Johnstown Public Library
- Nov 9 November Meeting—Stress/Relaxation & Brain Games, Johnstown Sr Center
- Nov 18 Lunch Bunch Book Club Holiday Inn, Johnstown 1 pm
- Dec 5 Holiday Lunch, Union Hall, Johnstown, 1 pm

### 2016:

- April 15-17 AAUW-NYS Convention, Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs
- May 24 Tech Savvy Summit for Girls, FMCC
- June 2-4 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), Univ. of Maryland, College Park

# AMSTERDAM-GLOVERSVILLE- JOHNSTOWN AAUW MEETING

Monday, November 9, 2015

5:30 pm

at

Johnstown Senior Center  
105 E Main St Johnstown



## Program Speakers:

6:30 pm

Maura Fleming, Alzheimer's Association:  
**Brain Games**

7:15 pm

Sue Cridland, Nathan Littauer Health  
Link: **S** and *Relaxation*



Desserts and Refreshments will  
be served

Cost: **Free**

**RSVP by 11/4:**

To: Linda Hammond  
229-2058, leave message





**Hop on, we're celebrating  
Elizabeth's Birthday on November 12  
(Elizabeth Cady Stanton that is)**

- 10 AM – Leave Johnstown on Brown's Coach Bus  
★ Union Hall boxed lunch  
★ Ken Burns' film "Not for Ourselves Alone"
- 2 PM – Birthday cake Woodlawn Cemetery the Bronx
- 4 PM – Visit Elizabeth's statue site in Central Park
- 5 PM – Downtown for dinner
- 7:30 PM – Begin Birthday Party Cooper Union Great Hall
- 9:45 PM – Relax, unwind, and return home

**Saving you a seat... Use link for details**

**<http://www.ecstantonhometown.org/events.html>**



## December Meeting

**Come and join us for a Holiday Celebration!**

**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2015

**Where:** Union Hall

**Time:** 12:30pm

**Menu:** Deluxe Hot Buffet including:

Baked Chicken Provencal

Hot Carved Roast Beef with Onions

Garlic Mushrooms

Rice Pilaf

Chantilly Potatoes

Garden Salad

Fresh Fruit Slices

Warm Rolls

Coffee and Cupcakes

**Price:** \$20pp

**What to bring:**

A food donation for the food pantry

A small gift (new item) \$10 or under, wrapped for our entertaining gift exchange

**Deadline:** November 26<sup>th</sup>

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will remember to bring a food pantry donation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will remember my wrapped gift for our gift exchange.

Send with a check made out to AAUW for \$20, to:

Ginni Mazur

176 W. Bush Rd

Gloversville, NY 12078

773-7180



**Deadline:** November 26th

• **Protect Victims of Domestic Violence from Housing Discrimination:** This bill (S. 5 / A. 6354-B) prohibits landlords from discriminating against victims of domestic violence. Currently, under New York State law an individual could be denied housing on the basis of his or her status as a victim of domestic violence. This new bill protects victims of domestic violence from discrimination when they attempt to rent or lease housing, and provide them with an affirmative defense in eviction proceedings and a private right of action. Additionally, this bill would create a Task Force to study the impact that source of income has on access to housing.

• **Protect Victims of Domestic Violence by Strengthening Order-of-Protection Laws:** This bill (S. 6 / A. 6262) creates a pilot program to allow domestic violence victims to seek temporary orders of protection through electronic means rather than having to appear in person. Currently domestic violence victims face significant obstacles in securing protection from their abusers. For example, some victims require immediate temporary orders of protection, but have no means to travel to the appropriate family court. To remove these obstacles and ensure these victims are able to secure much-needed orders of protection, this bill would allow the Office of Court Administration to develop a pilot program to allow victims to petition for temporary orders of protection remotely. In addition, this bill ensures that orders of protection are translated, when needed, and makes clear that a victim of domestic violence who has an order of protection against her abuser cannot be accused of violating her own order of protection.

• **Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws:** This bill (S. 7 / A. 506) strengthens existing law in New York State to combat human trafficking. It eliminates the requirement that coercion be proven in a sex trafficking prosecution when the victims are minors, increases penalties for the crime, and creates an affirmative defense in prostitution prosecutions if the defendant was a trafficking victim. In addition, the new law makes it easier for victims of human trafficking to receive support services, and requires training for law enforcement to adequately address human trafficking crimes.

• **Protect Women from Pregnancy Discrimination:** This bill (S. 8 / A. 4272) requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees. Some pregnancies can result in medical conditions requiring certain accommodations within the workplace and current protections for pregnant women are confusing and have been misinterpreted. This new law clarifies that employers must perform a reasonable accommodation analysis for pregnant employees.

**Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus, said:** "Today, New York is taking many bold steps in the fight against discrimination and continuing to lead the way in ensuring equality for all. With these new laws, New York is guaranteeing unprecedented protections for women and their families on a range of issues. I want to thank Governor Cuomo and my colleagues in legislature for their leadership on these issues and taking a powerful stance against discrimination and sexual harassment."

**Senator Catherine Young said:** "The Women's Equality Agenda that was signed today will establish sweeping protections for New York's women, and marks a historic step forward in the fight for equality. New York State has always been the 'State of Opportunity,' and with these new laws will ensure that opportunities are protected for women just as much as they are for men. We are also taking fundamental steps forward to protect women from a number of terrible crimes, including sexual harassment and human trafficking. Today is proof that we can come together – Republicans and Democrats – to get the job done. I look forward to continuing that level of partnership, with Governor Cuomo and the members of the Senate and Assembly, to deliver for the women of New York."

**Senator Betty Little said:** "I am very pleased to see the signing of these bills which will help break down barriers and ensure a brighter future for women all across New York State. In a couple of years, we will be celebrating the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage in New York State. It will be a time to remember and honor the incredible, dedicated women who would not take 'no' for an answer and prevailed in 1917. Their legacy is honored with the continued progress seen in today's bill signing. I thank Governor Cuomo and all of my colleagues for making it possible."

**Senator Diane Savino said:** "Today New York takes a big step toward recognizing women's rights in the workforce. These measures strengthen protections and prevent discrimination in pay for New York women. Pay equity is long overdue and this common sense bill ensures that the hardworking women of New York have the chance to earn the same wages as their male counterparts. I thank Governor Cuomo for recognizing the importance of this issue and ensuring that the women of New York are given full protection under the law."

**Senator Andrew Lanza said:** "Human trafficking is a modern version of the slave trade and a devastating human rights violation that is occurring in our own backyards. Here in New York, thousands of innocent people are bought and sold like property each year. I'm proud to have authored and passed the long-awaited Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act (TVPJA) to enhance protections for trafficking victims and hold those who exploit them accountable. I thank Governor Cuomo, Assemblywoman Paulin and the many advocates who helped make this possible."

**Senator Joe Robach, said:** "When it comes to combating domestic violence, it is critically important that victims are able to find housing for themselves and their families to escape the eminent danger they have endured. This law will end discrimination in the housing marketplace and give domestic violence victims the protections they need from their abuser. I would like to thank the Governor for signing this bill into law, and what better time to do it than during Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

**Senator Kemp Hannon said:** "This has been a historic year for the State in our ongoing campaign to protect, strengthen and further advance rights of women, and I'm pleased to have worked with the Governor and Assembly to finally enact these much needed protections. I'm proud to have sponsored the measure requiring employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with pregnancy-related medical conditions. The Senate has passed this measure for several years and I am pleased we have been able to come together in a bi-partisan manner to enact this common sense law to ensure women are guaranteed adequate protections from discrimination in New York."

**Senator David J. Valesky said:** "These are extremely important pieces of legislation that are needed to better protect women in the workplace and from human trafficking. Many women's lives and financial livelihoods depend on the passage of these bills, and I thank Governor Cuomo for signing them into law today."

**Assemblywoman Amy Paulin said:** "We now have the legal power to stop this heinous crime and put evil predators out of business. We can finally bring young victims of human trafficking out of the shadows and give them back a life filled with dignity and promise. I want to thank the Governor for signing this bill. This new law is another milestone for the great state of New York. The Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act is perhaps the most important bill of my career."

**Assembly member Linda B. Rosenthal said:** "Today is an historic day for the women of New York State. Today, the Governor is signing eight critically important pieces of legislation that will move all women one step closer to true gender equality. Having worked closely with the Administration to ensure that funding for rape crisis centers statewide matches the scope of the challenges we face, I am thrilled that the Governor prioritized funding for prevention, education and crisis counseling. Governor Cuomo's commitment to the survivors of rape and sexual assault is unquestionable, and I look forward to working closely with him and advocates in the upcoming session to continue New York's leadership on this issue."

**Assemblywoman Michele Titus said:** "I am proud to have played a role in passing this portion of the Women's Equality Agenda. Today our state is taking a fundamental step forward in the fight for equal rights – this is a day that will improve the lives of millions. Governor Cuomo has been a steadfast supporter and advocate for women's rights so far, and I look forward to working closely with him in the days, weeks and months to come as we continue to push the envelope on behalf of women everywhere."

**Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples Stokes said:** "Victims of domestic violence should not be subject to discrimination by landlords. Currently an individual could be denied housing due to their status as a victim of domestic violence. This legislation provides much-needed support in securing housing and defense in eviction proceedings. Haven House is one local facility that provides emergency housing for victims of domestic violence, which highlights the need for additional pathways to housing as opposed to roadblocks. I applaud Governor Cuomo for his commitment in the Enough is Enough Initiative and providing resources to aid these key programs."

**Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell said:** "In New York we know families are the foundation of our communities. If someone is discriminated against because they have children, it hurts us all. With my bill being signed into law by Governor Cuomo to prevent workers from being discriminated against due to their family status, we've taken a meaningful step towards ensuring our friends and family are judged by their qualifications alone."

**Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther said:** "Healthy moms and healthy babies are critical to a healthy New York. We've heard too many stories of women forced out of their jobs because their employer was unwilling to provide reasonable accommodations during their pregnancy. This new law is a big step forward in fighting pregnancy discrimination, but it also addresses the economic impact of needlessly lost employment on those families and the state. Governor Cuomo should be lauded for his support of New York's women."

**Assemblywoman Sandy Galef said:** "I am so pleased that the Governor has signed this bill. This legislation affords employees in all companies, no matter how small, the right to file a sexual harassment complaint. In 2011, women filed 75 percent of all sexual harassment complaints filed at the New York State Division of Human Rights, and 83 percent of all sexual harassment complaints filed at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. This legislation grants new protections to those who have not had the same rights as those who are employed by larger businesses. This new law will have an immediate and substantial impact since small businesses with fewer than four employees comprise more than 60 percent of the State's private employers. I was gratified by the strong and broad support from women's rights organizations for this legislation."

**Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner said:** "Those suffering from domestic violence will no longer have to travel to a courthouse in order to feel safe from their abuser. The signing of Assembly Bill A.6262 is a win for victims of domestic violence, their families and our community because it allows the power of technology to make them feel safer. I commend the work and support of my colleagues and Governor Cuomo for this essential package of bills to improve the safety for those experiencing domestic violence because it is an issue in our society. Now, with the signing of Assembly Bill A.6262, a new pilot program will be created to allow individuals to electronically file protection orders."

**Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz said:** "I am pleased to have Governor Cuomo sign this important piece of legislation into law today. This new law creates reasonable attorney's fees in housing, employment, and credit discrimination cases where sex is the basis of discrimination. It's just not right that those who need it most are put in a position where they are either discouraged from seeking legal help, or end up in even greater financial trouble because they did. When people face discrimination they shouldn't be forced to stand down simply because they cannot afford an attorney. Awarding attorneys fees for the cases of discrimination that this bill addresses will provide people who need it the most, the representation needed to fight back. I am proud to be the sponsor of this legislation in the Assembly and I'm proud to stand with the Governor today as he signs it into law."

### **Enough is Enough - \$4.5 million**

This funding was included in the Enough is Enough legislation passed in June in order to support Sexual Assault Prevention and Assistance providers, including prevention, education, and direct victim services, on college campuses across the State.

These grants will be administered by DOH, in consultation with OVS, and will be provided to 60 Sexual Assault Prevention and Assistance providers across the state. The funding allocated to each provider is based on the total number of college students enrolled in colleges/universities located in each county in New York State. Funding is also provided to providers in counties without colleges to support the anticipated increased demand for services as a result of the Enough is Enough initiatives.

DOH will issue a closed, non-competitive award to providers to perform the work associated with the legislation, in accordance with a required work plan and demonstrated partnerships between providers and local colleges and universities.

### **Department of Health - \$1 million**

This funding, included in the SFY 2015-16 budget, will be evenly distributed among the 55 DOH-approved Sexual Assault Prevention and Assistance providers. Each provider will receive approximately \$18,180 to support program operations and community-focused awareness and education activities. Providers may use this funding to support a broad scope of activities, including prevention and training, and may use this funding to enhance their efforts under the Enough is Enough legislation.

### **Office of Victim Services - \$900,000**

This funding, included in the SFY 2015-16 budget, will be awarded to 34 providers that received funding from OVS in 2015 under the sexual assault priority category, in proportion to the size of existing program services. These funds may be used to support direct services for sexual assault victims, including but not limited to:

- Assisting victims with completing compensation applications;
- Accompanying victims to hospitals for Forensic Rape Exams (FRE);
- Accompanying victims to police stations when they make statements;
- Maintaining a crisis hotline so victims can call for support 24 hours per day;
- Individual counseling and therapy; and
- Both criminal justice and personal advocacy to assist victims in securing all their rights.

A complete list of the organizations and agencies that will receive allocations in each of these categories can be found [here](#).

**On behalf of the Women's Equality Coalition, Suzy Ballantyne, co-chair of WEA said:** "We applaud Governor Cuomo for initiating these reforms that advance equality for New York women and to future generations. By working together with the 850 organizations that comprise the Women's Equality Coalition, our State Legislators, and the Governor we were able to pass legislation that will improve the lives of women and their families. We look forward to working with our allies to keep the momentum going. We will not stop until there is full equality in all aspects of women's lives"

**Beverly Neufeld, President of PowHer New York said:** "PowHer New York and the many advocates who have pushed for equal pay legislation for decades applaud Governor Cuomo for championing - and now signing into law - strong protections which will aid workers in attaining equal pay for equal work. Coupled with new laws addressing pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, domestic violence, trafficking, housing fairness and more, New York women have new tools needed to fight discrimination and combat obstacles to personal and economic security. This historic accomplishment also spotlights that what is good for women is good for New York."

**Donna Lieberman, New York Civil Liberties Union Executive Director, said:** "By closing loopholes in many existing protections for women and demonstrating a commitment to equality, the bills signed today set the stage for further, future reforms, such as protecting women's fundamental right to choose, ensuring access to reproductive health care and allowing new mothers paid family leave to care for their children without facing debt or bankruptcy."

**Dina Bakst, Co-founder of A Better Balance, said:** "Thank you, Governor Cuomo, for having the courage and vision to tackle barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequality in the workplace – in the process creating a better New York for my daughters, and every single mother, daughter, sister – and making a real difference for all New York families. We still have our work cut out for us to ensure full women's equality across the state, but this huge step, years in the making, will make an enormous difference for women and families in New York."

**Lauren Tobias, President and CEO of Family Planning Advocates of New York State and Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York, said:** "This is a moment to celebrate, but it is a first step, not a final destination. There were important aspects of the package left undone including New York State protections for a woman's ability to access abortion services which is becoming increasingly fragile across the country. We look forward to working with our trusted colleagues in the Legislature to finish the job."

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