

# AAUW, WPBS Put On Special Programming

POTSDAM - The three North Country AAUW branches of District 7 of AAUW-NYS are partnering with WPBS-TV in Watertown to put on special programming this fall.

Branches in Jefferson County, St. Lawrence County and High Peaks-NCCC are the underwriters for the five-part series, "Women, War & Peace" that starts at 10 p.m. Tuesday.

The series will be introduced with a special live event at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, which is coincidentally, the birthday of Eleanor Roosevelt. The iconic first lady was perhaps best remembered for her work as a United Nations delegate who played a major role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The "Women at the Front" panel will hold a frank discussion on what it is like to be a woman in today's highly competitive professional

world.

Jefferson County AAUW member Andrea Pedrick hosts the live program, with panelists Dr. Carole A. McCoy, president, Jefferson Community College; Dr. Ana Y. Estevez, associate professor of biology and psychology, St. Lawrence University; Judy L. Getner, former deputy to the garrison commander at Fort Drum; and retired lieutenant colonel of the Canadian Forces, Karen McCrimmon. North Country AAUW members will be in the studio audience.

The Women, War & Peace series begins later in evening with the first segment airing at 10 p.m.

"I Came to Testify" is the moving story of how a group of 16 women who had been imprisoned and raped by Serb-led forces in the Bosnian town of Foca broke history's great silence and stepped forward to take the witness stand in an international

court of law. Their remarkable courage resulted in a triumphant verdict that led to new international laws about sexual violence in war.

Matt Damon, who narrates the film, has taped a behind-the-scenes-video talking about why the themes of this series matter to men, too.

One Oct. 18, watch "Pray the Devil Back to Hell," the astonishing story of the Liberian women who took on the warlords and regime of dictator Charles Taylor in the midst of a brutal civil war and won a once unimaginable peace for their shattered country in 2003. Among the women featured is Leymah Gbowee, the leader of the Liberian women's peace movement.

The third segment airs at 10 p.m. Oct. 25. When the U.S. troop surge was announced in late 2009, women in Afghanistan knew that the ground was being laid for peace talks with the

Taliban. "Peace Unveiled" follows three women in Afghanistan who are risking their lives to make sure that women have a seat at the negotiating table. Tilda Swinton narrates.

On Nov. 1, "The War We Are Living" travels to Cauca, a mountainous region in Colombia's Pacific southwest, where two extraordinary Afro-Colombian women are fighting to stay on their gold-rich lands. They are standing up for a generation of Colombians who have been terrorized and forcibly displaced as a deliberate strategy of war. Alfre Woodard narrates.

"War Redefined," the capstone of Women, War & Peace, challenges the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men's domain through incisive interviews with leading thinkers, secretaries of state and seasoned survivors of war and peacemaking.

Shown at 10 p.m. Nov. 8, the interviewees include Sec-

retary of State Hillary Clinton and both her female predecessors, Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice; Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee; Bosnian war crimes investigator Fadila Memisevic; and globalization expert Moises Naim. Geena Davis narrates.

In 2010, AAUW-NYS launched My Sister's Keeper, a statewide initiative to foster a greater understanding of the plight of women worldwide and within our domestic borders.

Among the areas of concern are gendercide, violence, lack of educational opportunities, the lack of maternal health care and efforts to support the rights of women, and gender equality.

Learn more at [www.aauw-nys.org/msk.htm](http://www.aauw-nys.org/msk.htm).

The North Country AAUW branches are underwriting the Women, War and Peace series locally to promote a greater understanding of

these issues and to showcase places where women have overcome tremendous obstacles to promote and find peace in the midst of war.

To learn more, go to [www.northcountryaauw.org](http://www.northcountryaauw.org) or contact AAUW-District 7 coordinator Jennifer Ball at [jbball@clarkson.edu](mailto:jbball@clarkson.edu).

AAUW, with its nationwide network of more than 100,000 members, more than 1,000 branches conducting programs in communities across the country, and 500 college and university partners, has been a leading advocate for equity and education for women and girls since 1881.

For more information about AAUW in St. Lawrence County, contact President Becky Gerber at 268-9957 or [gerberrl@potsdam.edu](mailto:gerberrl@potsdam.edu), or Public Policy Chair Kathleen Stein at 386-3812 or [kstein1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kstein1@twcny.rr.com), or visit the branch website, [www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw/index.html](http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw/index.html).