



AAUW

Breaking through Barriers

Schenectady, NY

Branch

Founded in 1902

# V I S I O N S

December 2011-  
January 2012  
Vol. XXXII No. 4

## *Upcoming 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 nationally and internationally



**Time:** 11:30 am

**Location:** The Edison Club  
891 Riverview Road, Rexford

*Silent Auction to Benefit LAF and EOF*

**Donations:** Toys, games, hats, or mittens, etc., will be collected and donated the Schoharie Community Action Program to improve the holidays for the children in Schoharie, Middleburgh, and Cobleskill whose families were impacted by the recent flooding.

### **Wednesday, January 11, 2012 General Meeting**

**Speaker:** Philip Morris

CEO of Proctors Theater

**Program:** The Future of Proctor's Theater

**Time:** 7 pm

**Location:** Proctor's Theater  
432 State Street, Schenectady



### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **November**

Monday, November 28  
Reservations due for December 3  
luncheon

#### **December**

Saturday, December 3  
Luncheon at the Edison Club at 11:30  
Silent Auction

No Board Meeting in December

#### **January**

Tuesday, January 3  
Board Meeting, Price Chopper Community  
Room at 6:45 pm

#### **January 1-7**

Please submit articles for Visions to  
Linda Zuckerman [lsz2@hotmail.com](mailto:lsz2@hotmail.com)



## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



If Fall seems to be the AAUW busy season, it is a busy-ness filled with community service and citizenship involvement. There are many members to thank for involvement in candidate forums, promoting voting for elementary students, putting up the AAUW signs and stickers “The Power of One Vote – Your Vote Makes A Difference”, and serving as poll information collection volunteers for the Capital District Election Service. Our member volunteers included Ellen Auerbach, Maxine Borom, Julie Burgess, Robin Eddy, Jeannette Gerlaugh, Ann Hicks, Helen MacDonald, Jennie Pennington, Dottie Potochnik, Mary Pritchard, Carol Reynolds, Ellie Rowland, Elise Russo, Shellie van derZee, Toni Walsh, Linda Ward, and Linda Zuckerman. Our thanks to each of you.

The approach of the holiday season brings more opportunities for community service to organizations that serve those in need, especially children. In addition to the Diversity’s Group’s donation of pajamas and coats to “Things of My Very Own”, an organization that provides necessities to children who are removed from unsafe homes, some of our AAUW members volunteered at their Schenectady County Literacy Event for inner city children. The organization truly appreciated the help and wanted to thank Betsy Forkas, Robin Eddy, Arlene Maranville, Jennie Pennington, Mary Pritchard, Lois Rowe, Shellie van der Zee, Toni Walsh and Linda Zuckerman.

Our organization will be assisting Girls, Inc., in December with presents and gift wrapping. (See page 3) and will offer donations of children’s holiday items for flood relief in the Schoharie Valley and Rotterdam. If you would like to donate items, please bring them to the December luncheon. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

At the December luncheon, our AAUW Schenectady Branch will hold a silent auction to raise money for the Legal Advocacy Fund and the Educational Opportunities Fund. If you or your study group has an item to be auctioned, please let Jennie or Robin know. As you may remember from the last *Visions*, each item or a collection of items should have a value of at least \$15. Of course, remember to make your reservation for the luncheon by sending in your check for \$22 to Ellen Auerbach, 848 Beech Drive Niskayuna, NY 12309

Those of us who participated in the tour of the UAlbany Nanotech College of Nanoscale have a much better understanding of why our area is a leader in the development and manufacture of technology. We are grateful to the facility for their hospitality. And it was fun to have lunch as a group. Since *Visions* will not be published again before the January program, we remind you that the January program will be held at Proctor’s Theatre on Wednesday evening, January 18, 2012, at 7 PM. The program will include a tour of the facility and discussion of the future of Proctor’s by Philip Morris, CEO of Proctor’s Theatre.

As most of you recognize, membership continues to be important for our Schenectady Branch of AAUW. If you have friends who believe in our mission and enjoy the friendship that comes with our shared activities, please remember to invite them to our events. We will be glad to discuss the value of AAUW participation with any prospective member.

As 2011 comes to a close, consider donating to one of the AAUW funds (see pg. 9 in the directory). Your support does make a difference in promoting equity for women and girls!

And as we approach the holiday season, we remain grateful for your wonderful ideas and your support as we work to make the AAUW mission relevant for our own community. It is a pleasure to be part of this organization. Best wishes to each of you for a meaningful and relaxing holiday.

**Robin Eddy** ([reddy5@nycap.rr.com](mailto:reddy5@nycap.rr.com)) and **Jennie Pennington** ([pennington2276@cs.com](mailto:pennington2276@cs.com))

---

### GIRLS, INC AND HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING

Girls, Inc., is a national organization that helps girls become healthy, educated, and independent – *strong, smart, and bold*. This organization helps girls overcome economic, social, and gender barriers by providing life-changing programs and experiences. Their award-winning, research-based programs cover a broad range of topics including, STEM, education, health, nutrition, pregnancy, and drug use prevention, media, economic literacy, career explorations, and many more.

Girls, Inc., of the Greater Capital Region is comprised of two centers: Albany and Schenectady. This group has been in operation over 75 years working to meet the developmental and emotional needs of girls ages 5-18. Over 200 girls each day are served in free after-school programs, including *Operation SMART (Science, Math, And Relevant Technology)*, at both centers.

Many local corporate, academic, and community organizations partner with Girls, Inc., to support the work they do. Wouldn’t it be wonderful for members of the Schenectady Branch of AAUW to also volunteer their talents and expertise to these girls?

AAUW’s mission: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research* is directly in line with the work of Girls, Inc. To explore renewing and strengthening Schenectady AAUW’s partnership with Girls, Inc., we can begin by volunteering to help the girls this holiday season.--**Elise Russo**

## SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS TO WOMEN

The AAUW is asking its members to call Congress regarding their opposition to slashing social security benefits. "Social security matters for women and girls. The program, which has over 70 years of successes, is one of our nation's best anti-poverty programs and provides critical benefits to millions of children, disabled workers, surviving spouses, and retirees"(AAUW/issues/alerts). Can you imagine a society without these benefits? Half of elderly women would be living in poverty because many of them did not have an opportunity to have retirement accounts. One such woman did live in a society without social security, and she became an advocate for women and children living in poverty. Her name was Jane Addams. She was a pioneer for social reform; and because of her efforts, we enjoy programs such as social security.



Jane was born in Cedarville, Illinois, on September 6, 1860. She was an ardent feminist who believed that women should search out opportunities for their advancement. She graduated from the Rockford Female Seminary in 1881 and traveled extensively through Europe. She attended medical school, but she had to leave her studies because of poor health (women's history.com). Jane is well known for her founding of Hull House, a place for poor women and children. Her work at Hull House was the basis for social work reform (women's history.com). In 1905, Ms. Addams was appointed to the Chicago Board of Education. She was instrumental in organizing the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy. Jane became the first woman president of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections. She received the first honorary degree ever awarded to a woman by Yale University in 1910 ( Nobel prize.org).

Jane Addams opposed the United States entrance into WWI, and she was expelled from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Despite this, she organized relief supplies of food for women and children in Europe who were suffering the effects of the war. On December 10, 1931, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her humanitarian efforts (Nobel prize.org).

If it were not for the efforts of Jane Addams and other courageous women, social reform issues such as social security would not exist today. So take a moment and call your congressmen and senators telling them that Social Security is a "national commitment through which we care for one another across generations, and it is one of the most successful anti-poverty programs in our nation's history" (AAUW/issues/alerts).--*Linda Rizzo*

---

### **GIRLS, INC., HOLIDAY SHOP – *Volunteers Needed! RSVP by December 3.***

Two upcoming volunteer opportunities are the following: You can help in these ways:

**2011 Holiday Shop**  
**Tuesday, December 6, 3 pm-6 pm.**  
**962 Albany Street, Schenectady**

**Donate items** (there will be a collection box at the AAUW December Luncheon, December 3 at the Edison Club). Some examples include the following:

knick knacks	craft items	jewelry
kitchen items (dish towels, pot holders, mugs)	flashlights	candles
accessories	toys	stuffed animals
nail polish	cosmetic/bath items	Wrapping supplies

**1. Personal shopper**

Girls shop for 4-5 gifts for family members (parents, siblings, etc.) for 25 cents per gift. Assist girls in selecting appropriate gifts for their family members

**2. Gift Wrapping**

After selecting their items, girls go to the gym and wrap them. Adults are always needed to assist in the process.

**Thank You**

A generous personal contribution was made in September to #3086 Evvie Currie Giving Circle

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to our new members and members who have renewed your membership in AAUW. We have a varied and interesting group, all of whom are committed to the continued support of women's issues.

As we enter this season of thanksgiving, we are thankful for the friends and neighbors we have met through our organization. What a wonderful, caring group! As our program year gets into full swing, we hope you will take advantage of our monthly meetings, to get to know one another and share in the opportunities that are available to us. In addition to the monthly meetings, we have many study and interest groups that meet on a monthly basis. In these groups we can explore topics of special interest to us and share with those who have similar interests.

Enjoy this beautiful month!--*Sondra Grady* and *Arlene Maranville*

---

### THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

The Educational Opportunities Fund sponsored by the women of AAUW provides graduate women monetary support "to advance education, research, and self-development." These endowed funds provide grants in career development and community action, as well as professional awards. AAUW fellowships and grants are awarded in five categories: [American Fellowships](#), [Career Development Grants](#), [Community Action Grants](#), [International Fellowships](#), and [Selected Professions Fellowships](#). Listed below are examples of awards granted in each of these five categories:

A 2011-12 *American Fellowship* award was made to Rebecca MacDonald at RPI to study degenerative disc disease that has been correlated to occupations that are mechanical in nature. Her research examines the impact of muscle fatigue on increasing loading in the spine, which can ultimately lead to disc degeneration. She hopes to continue her career in orthopedics and implant design in the future.

A one-year *Career Development Grant* award was made to Stephanie Love, Grand Prairie, Texas, for a Summer STEM Academy, a project-based after-school and summer program geared toward exposing low-income, minority, or reluctant students — especially girls — to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

A *Community Action Grant* was given to Jen Stockton, Nevada Outdoor School for a New Horizons Girls Camp. New Horizons presents fifth- and sixth-grade girls with new opportunities for success as confident female leaders through activities which empower girls to consider their future with optimism and enthusiasm, grow as individuals, and develop leadership and communication skills needed to succeed.

An *International Fellowship* was given to Anju Devkota at Brandeis University. After earning degrees in public health and women's studies, Anju Devkota worked as a fellow at the East-West Center's Asia Pacific Leadership Program, which fueled her desire to work in public health. After earning her master's in international health policy and management from Brandeis University, she plans to contribute to women's health and development by working as a policy and decision maker in the Asia-Pacific region.

*Selected Professions Fellowships* included one for Christina Gamba, Stanford University. A graduate of Princeton University, Christina Gamba is currently pursuing her M.D. at Stanford School of Medicine. The intersection of arts and medicine, as well as women's health, inspired her passion for medicine. She hopes to expand her clinical and evidence-based medical skills during her fellowship year, better preparing her to provide excellent health care to her future patients.

During the 2011-12 academic year, more than 240 grants and fellowships provided women and nonprofit organizations with \$3.7 million in funding. All of this support was made possible through the generous donations of AAUW members.

AAUW has just released a new research report which has gained national attention entitled "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School." This research on sexual harassment in middle school and high schools finds that many students have experienced some form of sexual harassment during the 2010-11 academic year. presentation by Go to the [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) site to see the PowerPoint presentation; members can also obtain a hard copy from Shop AAUW, or print the PDF version. ***This important research is made possible by contributions to the Educational Opportunities Fund by AAUW members.***

Donations to the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund support research that will continue to assist women and girls to pursue their goals of obtaining graduate degrees and make an impact in their communities.--*Ellen Strauss*



## *Study and Interest Group Meetings for December 2011 and January 2012*

If you're interested in attending a meeting, contact the leader.



### **Book Exchange I**

Leader: Dottie Potochnik (399-3854)  
No regular meetings

### **Niskayuna Book Exchange**

Leader: Ellie Rowland (370-1958)  
No regular meetings

### **Couples Gourmet**

Leader: Kay Stanczyk (583-6904)

#### **December 9, 7 pm**

Theme: Favorites

**Hostess:** Jennie Pennington and

Location: 2276 Sweetbrier Road, Niskayuna

**Co Hostess:** Joanne Chambers

#### **January 15, 2012 - Brunch**

The Glen Sanders Mansion--Pat Terry

### **Diversity in Schenectady**

Leader: Suzanne Taylor (393-9035)

#### **Tuesday, December 27, 12 noon**

Holiday Luncheon, The Van Dyke Restaurant

#### **January 16, 1012, 12:30 pm**

Potluck Luncheon

Hostesses: Linda Zuckerman

Location: 1137 Fernwood Drive, Niskayuna

### **Modern Literature**

Co-Leaders: Joan Amell (399-4709) and  
Mary Delory (393-6811)

#### **January 9, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

Book: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks  
by Rebecca Skloot

Reviewer: Andrea Versaci

Hostess: Toni Walsh

Location: 113 Alexander Avenue, Scotia

Co-Hostess: Mary Delory

### **Bridge**

If interested, contact Marguerite Pelleggi,  
(280-5623)



### **Quilting**

Leader: Pat Buczkowski (372-3893)

No December or January Meeting **Science Topics**

Leader: Winnie Balz (372-3663)

#### **December 5, 7:30 pm**

Program: Pine Bore Scourge

Presenter: Ellie Rowland

Hostess: Julie Burgess (393-9887)

Location: 2165 Appletree Lane, Niskayuna

#### **January 2, 2012, TBA**

### **Scotia-Glenville, Burnt Hills Varied Interests**

Leader: Arlene Gollmer (399-2479)

#### **January 12, 2012 12:30 pm**

Program: Post-Holiday Fun & Games

Hostess: Reba Mehan

Location: 6 Boyle Road, Scotia

Co-Hostess: Mildred Creasy

### **Serendipity**

Leader: Jennie Pennington (372-7503)

### **Schenectacy AAUW Bloggers**

The new group gives Branch members a chance to communicate in real time about topics that interest them.

Contact Jennie Pennington (372-7503)

### **Mah Jongg**

Leader: Robin Eddy (346-1683)

#### **December 5, 1:30 pm**

Hostess: Arlene Maranville

Location: 1 Maywood Drive, Scotia

#### **December 19, 1:30 pm**

Hostess: Ellie Rowland

Location: 1249 Sandra Lane, Niskayuna

#### **January 9, 2012, 1:30 pm**

Hostess: Robin Eddy

Location: 1222 Hempstead Road, Niskayuna

#### **January 23, 2012, 1:30 pm**

Hostess: Dottie Potochnik

Location: 105 Woodhaven Drive, Scotia.

**Make the following correction to your directory: Lois Rowe's e-mail should be hwintersrowe@gmail.com.**





**Breaking through Barriers**

**VISIONS**

**Schenectady Branch Newsletter AAUW  
(published monthly except  
Jan., July, August)**

The deadline for newsletter items is the  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month  
prior to publication.

**Editor** Linda Zuckerman

**Circulation:** Nancy Phillips and Joan Welch

**Co-Presidents**

Robin Eddy and Jennie Pennington

**AAUW'S MISSION**

AAUW Advances Equity for women through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

**AAUW'S VISION**

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.

**AAUW'S PROMISE**

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and educational barriers to so that all women have a fair chance.

**In Principle and in Practice AAUW Values and seeks 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.

*AAUW  
Schenectady Branch  
C/O Linda Zuckerman  
1137 Fernwood Drive  
Niskayuna, NY 12309*



**Breaking through Barriers**

