



AAUW

Breaking through Barriers  
Schenectady, NY  
Branch  
Founded in 1902

# March's General Meeting

**Tuesday, March 20** (note day change)

**7 pm**



**Location:** Union Presbyterian Church  
1068 Park Avenue, Schenectady  
(The parking lot is on Wendell Avenue)

**Speaker:** Deborah L. Hughes  
President and CEO  
Susan B Anthony House

**Program:** Some of the freedoms enjoyed by American women today were built by determined NYS women wanting rights for themselves and those who followed.

Learn about their lives and how New York State honors them along the Women's Heritage Trail.

*Invite your friends and relatives to this informative meeting.*

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March 2012  
Vol. XXXII No. 6

## Mark Your Calendar



### Tuesday, March 6

Board Meeting: 6:45 pm  
Price Chopper Community Room

### Monday, April 2

"Charlotte's Web"  
Schenectady High School 10:00 am

### Thursday, March 8

*International Women's Day*  
Global celebration to mark economic, political, and social accomplishments of women-[www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)

### Tuesday, April 3

Board Meeting: 6:45 pm  
Price Chopper Community Room

### *NYS celebrates Women*

NYS Museum 12:00  
[NYcelebrateswomen.com](http://NYcelebrateswomen.com)

### Tuesday, April 17

AAUW-NYS Public Policy Day  
and Pay Equity Day - Albany  
(more information next month)

### Tuesday, March 20 (note date change)

General Meeting: 7 pm

### Friday - Sunday, April 20-22

NYS Convention  
Register on line at [AAUW-NYS.org](http://AAUW-NYS.org)

*March is  
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH*

### Saturday, April 28

AAUW Garage Sale

### Saturday, May 19

Niska-Day Plant Sale



## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

**What were they thinking?!!** As you may have noticed, the Susan B. Komen Foundation first announced a withdrawal of funding for Planned Parenthood and then reversed the withdrawal of funding a couple of days later. Kudos to our national AAUW for the quick response to the initial Komen Foundation announcement. Possibly (even probably) the pressure from AAUW and other organizations concerned about the negative implications for women's health influenced the decision to restore funding to Planned Parenthood. But it seems likely that the image of the Susan B. Komen Foundation may be tarnished. One may not look at the pink ribbon in the same way going forward. It has been frayed by the pressure of political influence. Schenectady AAUW has historically maintained a somewhat neutral stance concerning issues "political." The rub is that more and more issues try to be cast as "political." Women's health is not. And the Komen Foundation may have forgotten that. If you are interested in more information concerning the issue and the AAUW response, check the national AAUW website.

We continue to enjoy our year with no winter. And we continue to investigate opportunities for collaboration with other service groups. Elise Russo and Jennie Pennington attended a networking evening sponsored by the Business and Professional Women at which more than 30 service organizations were represented. All of the groups present indicated that membership is declining. The meeting may result in more sharing of service opportunities between and among groups. More information will be available in the subsequent issues of "Visions."

Our February program "Looking at war through women's eyes" inspired us to think about what we can accomplish in our focus on the plight of women everywhere. Peace is not a theoretical concept; it is a practical approach to improving life everywhere. This month we welcome Deborah Hughes, Director of the Susan B. Anthony House. Since March is Women's History Month, what better time to consider the progress in improving the lives of women and those who have been major contributors.

As we begin to focus on our spring initiatives, we hope you will plan time in your schedules to assist with the garage sale, the Niska-Day plant sale, and events of your own study group. See you soon.

**Robin Eddy** [reddy@ny.cap.rr.com](mailto:reddy@ny.cap.rr.com) and **Jennie Pennington** [pennington2276@cs.com](mailto:pennington2276@cs.com)



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As we move into the month of March, we are right in the midst of all the activities that the Schenectady branch has to offer. We hope you have been able to take advantage of the Study and Interest group programs, as well as the interesting and informative general meetings.

Becoming involved in these certainly helps to keep away the "Winter Blues", although we have been lucky to not have been housebound due to inclement weather this winter!

Looking forward to April and May, it will soon be time to renew your membership to AAUW. Look for the dues form in the April Visions. A nice thing to remember is that \$46 of the \$49 national dues is tax deductible! Hope to see you at the meetings.

**Sondra Grady and Arlene Maranville**

### ***Thank you to the following individuals for their contributions to the AAUW 2011 Funds***

Anonymous, Ann Bish, Maxine Borom, Julia Burgess, Doris Clark, Josephine Cristy, Evelyn Currie, Robin Eddy, Joan Ham, Marjorie Herzog, Ann Hicks, Karen Johnson, Irene Marsh, Austra McLane, Reba Mehan, Ellie Rowland, Elise Russo, Faith Weldon

## CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

During the February 3, 2012 CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations) conference in New York City, members of the Campaign to Ratify the Children's Rights Convention urged participants to get involved!

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948. Using that framework, and not unlike our own US Bill of Rights, the CRC set standards for the basic rights of all children including:

- The right to **survival**
- The right to **develop** to the fullest potential
- The right to **protection** from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and
- The right to **participate** in family, cultural, and social life.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1989, Universal Children's Day. Very quickly it gathered support and participation from all the world's governments - except the United States and Somalia. The United States has ratified two of the protocols, 1) outlawing child soldiers and 2) trafficking in children for sex or labor. The other 52 articles have not been approved or even reviewed.

Once every five years, for the last 21 years, the UN Committee on Children's Rights reviews participating government's progress in improving children's rights. While they have no power to force government action, the committee can make recommendations and shine the light of public attention on children's conditions everywhere.

By urging President Obama to send his recommendation for ratification to the Senate we can ensure that the CRC is truly universal, we can focus energies and resources where children need them most, we can help give the US government a voice in improving children's rights across the globe, and help restore US leadership in human rights and the condition of children everywhere.

Members of Schenectady AAUW can sign the petition individually or, as many non-governmental organizations have done, can gather our forces for children and sign as an organization. In preparation for continued discussions, I suggest you visit the Convention for the Rights of Children homepage at <http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/index.html> as well as the Campaign to Ratify the Children's Rights Convention website at [www.childrightscampaign.org](http://www.childrightscampaign.org).

*Elise Russo*



### SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, April 28 THE GARAGE SALE IS ON!

Start saving your donations for this big event!

Please put a suggested price on your items.

More information will be in next month's newsletter.

Thank you Gail Karl!

### HELP A SCHOOL GET ITS SHARE OF \$500,000 IN FREE EQUIPMENT FROM PRICE CHOPPER

Sign up with your *AdvantEdge* Card to support the school of your choice.

Purchases made through March 31, 2012, will earn points to help your school get needed equipment FREE.

Sign up at <http://www.pricechopper.com/toolsforschools> or visit the Customer Service Desk at any Price Chopper store.

If you know of a promotion to help a local organization, please contact Robin Eddy, 346-1683, [reddy5@nycap](mailto:reddy5@nycap).

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD-TO BE OR NOT TO BE

The beginning of February has been a very busy week for Planned Parenthood and the AAUW. On February 1, the Susan G. Komen Foundation announced its decision to strip funding for cancer screening from Planned Parenthood. The AAUW issued a press release on February 2 denouncing this decision stating "AAUW is disappointed that some are playing politics with women's health and jeopardizing care for the most vulnerable among us." AAUW's policy on health care for women has been consistent throughout the years. The organization believes that women need affordable health care and family planning services. On February 5, the AAUW, in a press release, stated "today, we learned that thanks to the immense pressure exerted by millions of Americans, AAUW and other organizations and certain Senators, Susan G. Komen for the Cure is backing down from its decision to cut grants to Planned Parenthood. This is a victory in the fight to take the politics out of women's health and a victory for the many American women who rely on Planned Parenthood for critical and lifesaving health care."

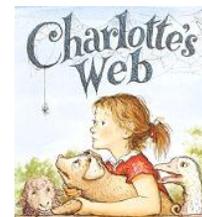
There are many misconceptions concerning Planned Parenthood. The organization has been the nation's leading health care provider for women. It provides vital health care services, sex education, and sexuality information. According to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the organization has "provided nearly five million people worldwide with the means to make responsible choices about their sexual and reproductive health."

In their annual 2010 report, they cite that 38% of their services are for STI/STD testing and treatment, 33.5% for contraception, 14.5 % for cancer screening and prevention, 10.4% for pregnancy tests and prenatal services, 3% for abortion services, and 0.6% for adoption referrals etc. The organization also is involved in international activities. According to the federation, "we provide health care and education through local partners and advocates for sound U.S. foreign policies that affect sexual and reproductive health and rights globally." It is obvious that this organization is vital for women, especially low income women. AAUW supports Planned Parenthood and also the efforts of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. It is AAUW's hope that both organizations will continue in their efforts to improve and to advance women's health care in the United States and internationally.

**Linda Rizzo**

## AAUW PRESENTS CHARLOTTE'S WEB

On Monday, April 2, AAUW is sponsoring "Charlotte's Web," the play produced by Theaterworks in New York City.. It's based on E. B. White's Newberry award winning novel portraying a loving story of the friendship between a pig named Wilbur and a little gray spider named Charlotte. This is an opportunity for many children to experience high quality live theater, many for the first time. With grants from Stewarts and Schenectady County, we are able to keep ticket prices for students at \$2.50.



This year the performance will be at 10 o'clock for grades 2-5 at Schenectady High School in the Sayles Performing Arts Center auditorium.

We are in need of volunteers to help usher these performances. This involves walking classes to their assigned seats. It's an easy one-time commitment, and you'll enjoy seeing the play for free! Please contact Lois or Shellie as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you on April 2; thank you for your help,

**Lois Rowe** 370-3095 ([lrowe@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lrowe@nycap.rr.com))

**Shellie van der Zee** 393-8177([rsvanderzee@yahoo.com](mailto:rsvanderzee@yahoo.com))

## LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

At the upcoming NYS convention in April, there will be a purse fundraiser to support the Legal Advocacy Fund instead of a basket auction. In lieu of a purse, the board decided that we ask for donations at our study and interest group meetings as we did last year. If you aren't attending a meeting in March and would like to support this important fund, you can send a check directly to Linda Ward at 4028 Windsor Drive, Niskayuna, N.Y. 12309.

Please make your checks out to AAUW LAF. Thanks for your support of this worthwhile activity.

**Linda Ward**



**Study and Interest Group Meetings for March 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 Stanczk (583-6904)  
**March 9, 2012, 7 pm**  
Theme: Indian  
Co-Hostesses: Faith Weldon and  
Bobbi Richardson

**Diversity in Schenectady**

Leader: Suzanne Taylor (393-9035)  
**March 19, 2012, 1:30 pm**  
Program: Celia Mack - Bagel Makers Daughter  
Hostess: Jean Wildgrube  
Location: 819 Northumberland Drive, Niskayuna  
Co Hostess: Pam Haller

**Modern Literature**

Co-Leaders: Joan Amell (399-4709) and  
Mary Delory (393-6811)  
**February 13, 2012, 7:30 pm**  
Book: Cleopatra by Stacy Schif  
Reviewer: Grace Riccobono  
Hostess: Carol Reynolds  
Location: 609 Engleman Avenue, Scotia  
Co-Hostess: Barb McAvoy

**Mah Jongg**

Leader: Robin Eddy (346-1683)  
**March 12, 2012, 1:30 pm**  
Hostess: Bobbi Richardson  
Location: 1417 Fox Hollow Road, Niskayuna  
**March 26, 2012, 1:30 pm**  
New members welcomed. Hostess: Robin Eddy  
Location: 1222 Hempstead Road, Niskayuna



**Quilting**

Leader: Pat Buczkowski (372-3893)  
**March 27, 2012, 7 p.m.**  
Program: Bobbi's Surprise  
Hostess: Bobbi Richardson  
Location: 1417 Fox Hollow Road, Niskayuna

**Science Topics**

Leader: Winnie Balz (372-3663)  
**March 5, 2012, 7:30 pm**  
Program: Spider Silk  
Presenter: Emily Hart  
Hostess: Jeanette Gerlaugh  
Location: 136 Glen Eddy Drive, Niskayuna

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

Leader: Arlene Gollmer (399-2479)  
**March 8, 2012, 1:00 pm**  
Program: Discussion of Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali  
Planner: Arlene Gollmer  
Location: 2 Pinewood Drive, Glenville

**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)

**PROPOSED NEW STUDY & INTEREST GROUPS**

A One-Book Book Group to read and discuss **Half the Sky** by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

**Singles Gourmet** for single members interested in cooking and gathering to share.

**Bridge** for experienced and novice players.

**Interested?** Contact Marguerite Pileggi  
[margo32650@aol.com](mailto:margo32650@aol.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**

