

# V I S I O N S

## Have you ever wondered what's going on inside that very large glass facility at the corner of Washington Avenue and Fuller Road?

Join us as we discover  
The College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE)  
of the University at Albany,  
a global leader and pioneer in nanotechnology education,  
research, prototyping and economic outreach.

**Monday, November 14 - 10 a.m.**

Location: Meet at NanoFab East  
257 Fuller Road, Albany



Contact Ellen Auerbach at [auerbachem@gmail.com](mailto:auerbachem@gmail.com) or 381-4432 to let her know you will be attending by **November 10**.

The number of guides needed will be determined by the number of people attending.  
*Invite your friends and relatives to this very informative meeting. Men are welcome.*

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Tuesday, November 1

Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.  
Price Chopper Community Room

#### Tuesday, November 8

ELECTION DAY  
Remember to VOTE!  
AAUW volunteers will be helping with voter information collection  
If you volunteered to pick up information, arrive at the polling place at about 8:45 pm.

#### Thursday, November 10

Last day to purchase something from Mango Tree Imports, 12 Washington Street.  
Ballston Spa for our branch to get a 15% donation.

#### Monday, November 14

General Meeting  
Location: UA Nanotech College of Nanoscale  
257 Fuller Road, Albany

### Looking Ahead

#### December

No Board Meeting in December

#### Saturday, December 3

Luncheon at the Edison Club  
at 11:30





## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



Our wet and flooded summer has faded to a crisp and nostalgic fall. Weather provides a metaphor for most of life's activities, AAUW efforts included. Kim Andersen's insights reinforce our conviction of the fairness of "fair trade." Progress in this arena gives us inspiration to improve life for all of us, including women and girls. The November General Meeting provides opportunity to learn about advances in nanotechnology and how our lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century continue to be transformed by information technology. AAUW continues to assist with voter education. Thanks to all our members who helped with the candidates' forums. They were well-received. Our study and interest groups enjoy and benefit from a variety of activities. In this newsletter you will find opportunities to contribute to the community (Muse/Mentor initiative) and activities for fun together (Serendipity at the Ellms farm, Mahjong, book groups). Please continue your involvement with as many AAUW activities as you can.

We still need help with our fund raisers. Recognizing that a general invitation is unlikely to produce a volunteer chair for either the garage sale or the perennial sale, please let one of us know if you are willing to help and your time preference for the garage sale. Right now, the Board is aiming toward a garage sale in early or mid-April.

Our December holiday luncheon will include a silent auction. (See separate article.) Both individual members and study groups are encouraged to donate items for the auction. The value should be about \$15.00. Items should reach one of us or Ellen or Maxine by November 30. Melissa Guardaro, AAUW Director of International Affairs, will join us at the luncheon to talk about the "My Sister's Keeper" initiatives. As has been our holiday custom, if you are so inclined, please bring a toy, game, hat, or mittens for a child to improve his/her holiday. This year, these items will be donated to the Schoharie Community Action Program to assist students in Schoharie, Middleburgh, and Cobleskill whose families were harmed by the recent flooding.

Thank you for your encouragement and support as the Schenectady AAUW seeks ways to increase our membership and to support our present members. We sincerely believe that the value of AAUW membership is in both the quality of the work that we do for others and in the relevance of programs for our members. Please share your ideas concerning what we should do for the community and how we can be a positive influence on our own members. Your individual idea may become a study group or an initiative that our branch chooses. We look forward to enjoying upcoming AAUW activities with all of you.

Best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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

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## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Time's Up!

"No Child Left Behind" (NCLB), the federal legislation which requires that all students, in all states, be proficient in English language arts and math by 2014, is slated to be reauthorized. The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, which was renamed "No Child Left Behind" under George W. Bush) is a slow, legislative process. Many states have already realized that they will not be able to meet the stiff requirements by 2014. In order to avoid drastic sanctions for these schools, the U.S. Department of Education under Secretary Arne Duncan has agreed to grant waivers to states that will not meet these proficiency levels before the "Time's Up!"

AAUW is calling for transparency and accountability when these waivers are granted. The position statement the organization has issued calls for states seeking waivers to be held accountable for continuing efforts to close the achievement gap and also be held accountable for preparing all students to be college and career ready when they exit high school. By "all students" AAUW means all sub-groups whose data are required in NCLB reporting including data on gender, ethnicity, race, and disability.

Currently accountability standards within NCLB are high. AAUW is clear in their position that the waiver process should not be an end run around achieving the high standards to which schools are held. By insisting on "transparency", AAUW wants to ensure states and schools are required to provide sufficient detail on the ways they will improve their practices to make sure all students can achieve.

Over the past two years, 15 states have been winners of "Race to the Top" money from the federal government. Race to the Top applications required states to elaborate on the processes and practices they would use to ensure effective instructional practices and higher student achievement. Education watchers are predicting that states which are recipients of Race to the Top money will be the ones most likely to apply for and receive waivers from NCLB requirements. New York State was a recipient of \$500 million in Race to the Top funding last year. At their October 2011 meeting, the Board of Regents discussed whether or not New York will apply for a waiver from No Child Left Behind requirements. As a local chapter we will join with national AAUW to monitor a New York waiver application, should one be submitted, to make sure the "flexibility" that comes with waivers will continue to result in improved student outcomes. Elise Russo

## A LOOK BACK

Usually the words we hear in AAUW are ones like “Look to the Future” and “Spring Forward.” But I’d like us to take a minute and —Look Back. AAUW is 130 years old this year, and our past is an inspiration. Our history made us what we are today.

We all know the story of how AAUW’s first research in the 1880’s refuted the prevailing opinion that women’s health was too delicate to withstand the rigors of four years of college. That was only the beginning of AAUW’s groundbreaking studies and projects that were often ahead of the times. Consider a few:

- Almost 100 years ago AAUW issued its first pay equity study in 1913.
- In 1921 we lobbied for independent citizenship for married women (!).
- 1932 saw us lobbying for access to contraceptives for married women and in 1935 to legalize dispensing of contraceptive information by physicians.
- Long before museums did it, AAUW promoted public education on the arts by organizing exhibits in the late 1930’s that traveled throughout the U.S. to towns and small cities that didn’t have an art museum.
- AAUW set up a Refugee Aid Fund in 1940 to assist university women fleeing European dictatorships, for which AAUW had a letter of thanks from Albert Einstein.
- AAUW leader Virginia Gildersleeve was the sole female member of the group that wrote the United Nations Charter after WWII, and she led in creating the UN Commission on Human Rights. AAUW’s early and ardent support for the UN was awarded with Permanent UN Observer status.
- In 1949, 16 years before the Civil Rights Act, convention delegates amended the AAUW Bylaws to clearly state that all college women graduates were eligible for membership, regardless of race.
- AAUW began lobbying in 1969 for a woman appointee to the Supreme Court (took 12 years to get Sandra Day O’Connor).
- In 1972 AAUW was instrumental in the passage of Title IX with AAUW member Patsy Mink (HI) co-authoring the bill.
- In 1983 we began seven years of lobbying for the Family & Medical Leave Act.
- 1991 saw the release of —*Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America*, which generated enormous publicity. AAUW’s Initiative for Educational Equity was the national catalyst for major changes in the education of girls in our schools.

We should be very proud of AAUW’s past achievements, but honoring our past doesn’t mean resting on our laurels. AAUW’s history must motivate us to keep moving forward. This organization was founded by women who knew you have to educate and lobby and act to move women along. That is still our mission: keep pushing and breaking the barriers to women’s education and equity. So Look Back at what our AAUW foremothers accomplished and keep building on that foundation.

*Caroline Pickens, AAUW-VA President*

### WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE—NOW MORE THAN EVER



There were many women who suffered greatly by advocating the right of women to vote. One of these women was Alice Paul (picture at right). She was the “architect of some of the most out-standing political achievements on behalf of women”. Alice was raised in an upper class family. “Despite their relative wealth and in accordance with Quaker practice, the Pauls lived very simply. Alice’s parents raised her with a belief in gender equality, and the need to work for the betterment of society” (Alice Paul Institute, 2011).



Emmeline Pankwist (picture at left) who led the British woman suffragists inspired her (Women’s History, 2011).

Alice was imprisoned for demonstrating in front the White House. Woodrow Wilson was President of the United States. Alice, while in prison, was tied to a chair and forced fed until she vomited (Jones, 2010). Ms. Jones recounts a story regarding Woodrow Wilson and his colleagues trying to persuade a psychiatrist to declare Alice Paul insane. Paul’s only crime was her belief that every woman should have the right to vote.



Another woman, Dora Lewis (picture at right), was starved for weeks because she, also, demonstrated in front of the White House. These atrocities took place at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia. There were many affidavits that described guards kicking, choking, beating, and hitting these women.

It is important for us to remember that what we take for granted today was denied to all women prior to August 26, 1920. In memory of these courageous women, we should encourage everyone to use this right. Their fight had a great impact on our grandmothers and great grandmothers. We honor these woman suffragists every time we vote. Linda Rizzo

## Join your AAUW friends at our December Luncheon

Saturday December 3, 2011, at The Edison Club at 11:30 a.m.

Lunch will include a salad, entrée, vegetable medley, roasted potatoes, and dessert.

Send your entrée choice of either

CHICKEN MARSALA

PECAN ENCRUSTED SALMON

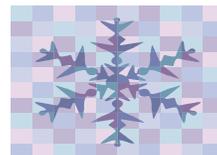
or

SLICED STEAK

VEGETARIAN OPTION

with a check for \$22.00 by Monday November 28, 2011 to:

Ellen Auerbach  
848 Beech Drive  
Niskayuna, NY 12309



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### ARE YOU READY FOR AN AUCTION?

Do you remember what fun we had at our December, 2010 luncheon bidding on those wonderful purses which our study groups contributed? For this year's luncheon, we are planning a silent auction. Individual members and study groups are asked to donate items. These items should be very special, a treasure you might be willing to donate for a wonderful cause. Each donated item should have a value of at least \$15.00. Each bid sheet can be added to during the luncheon. The winning bid will be announced at the end of the luncheon.

Some suggestions:

- Walk around your home, and find a special item you are willing to donate: art work, china, fabric art, silver, books, or wine.
- Several smaller items in a gift basket or box.
- A service
- A gift certificate.
- A week-end at your vacation home.
- Chip in with a friend to donate something.
- Ask a store to donate something.

Thank you for your assistance. Please donate items by November 30. Deliver to: Maxine Borom, Jennie Pennington, or Robin Eddy. Contact Jennie if you have questions.

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As we have done in the past, our branch has donated items to a local charity. This year we will be donating to the Schoharie Community Action Program to assist students who's families were impacted by the recent flooding. Consider donating a toy, game, hat or mittens to make a child's holiday happier.

### CORRECTIONS TO 2011-2012 AAUW DIRECTORY

**Add:** Helen A. Macdonald  
224 Robinson Street  
Schenectady, NY 12304  
3467006

Gail Puckett should read Puckette; however, there is no "e" in the e-mail address.

Linda Rizzo's phone number is 393-3047.

Ellen Auerbach's phone number is 381-4432.

Betty Forka's phone number is 377-6919.



## *Study and Interest Group Meetings for September 2011*



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)  
November 11, 7 pm  
Theme: French  
Hostesses: Kay Stanczk and Faith Weldon

### **Diversity in Schenectady**

Leader: Suzanne Taylor (393-9035)  
November 21, 7 pm.  
Presenter: Hon. Christine Clark  
Judge of the Family Court  
Hostess: Ellie Rowland  
Location: 1249 Sandra Lane, Niskayuna

### **Modern Literature**

Co-Leaders: Joan Amell (399-4709) and  
Mary Delory (393-6811)  
November 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Book: Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay  
Reviewer: Bobbie Richardson  
Hostess: Joan Amell  
Location: Marilyn Drive, Scotia  
Co-Hostess: Grace Walsh

### **Mah Jongg**

Leader: Robin Eddy (346-1683)  
**November 17, 1:30 pm**  
Hostess: Bobbie Richardson  
Location: 1417 Fox Hollow Road, Niskayuna  
**November 21, 1:30 pm**  
Hostess: Marguerite Pileggi  
Location: 3 Robins Nest, Niskayuna  
New members welcomed.



### **Quilting**

Leader: Pat Buczkowski (372-3893)  
November 29, 7 p.m.  
Program: Vacation Inspiration  
Presenter: Marguerite Pileggi  
Hostess: Gerri Pinkerton  
Location: 803 Dongan Avenue, Scotia



### **Science Topics**

Leader: Winnie Balz (372-3663)  
November 7, 7:30 pm  
Presenter: Winnie Balz

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

Leader: Arlene Gollmer (399-2479)  
November 10, 12:30 pm  
Program: The Kayaderosas Patent  
Location: County Clerk's Office, Ballston Spa  
Hostess: Arlene Gollmer (399-4709)



### **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)



Directions and Parking Information to the The College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering





## 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**

