

September's General Meeting

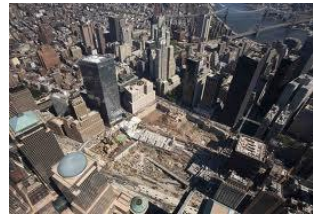
Tuesday, September 13 - 7 p.m.

Location: The Price Chopper Community Room
1639 Eastern Parkway, Schenectady



Speaker: **Michael DellaRocco**

Program: **9/11--Ten Years Later**



Invite your friends and relatives to this very informative meeting. Men are welcome.

Photo courtesy of the Times Union: Staff Photographer Paul Buckowski

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, September 6 (Day Change)

Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
Niskayuna Public Library

Tuesday, September 13 (Day Change)

General Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
9/11- Ten Years Later
Price Chopper Community Room

Candidates Forum (Volunteers Needed)

October 6 Rotterdam
October 12 Niskayuna
October 17 Glenville
October 19 Schenectady

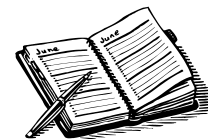
Looking Ahead

Wednesday, October 5

Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
Glenville Library

Thursday, October 20

(Day Change)
General Meeting
Fair Trade - Local Stores Making
A Global Impact
Niskayuna Library





Co-Presidents' Message



Welcome to another AAUW year of breaking through barriers for women and girls in the Schenectady area. We have both enjoyed and been challenged in our first year as your co-presidents. At the AAUW leadership conference last month, we learned that we do many things well as compared to other AAUW branches in the state and were inspired by many ideas from other branches concerning how we can do things better. We continue to realize that our members are the reason this branch is successful and are also the reason most of the things we do are so much fun. Thank you for making that happen.

A few words acknowledging our success are in order. The Schenectady Branch was honored again this year with the 21st Century Platinum Award for program planning. We also received individual program awards for our programs on Healthy Living, Energy Sources, Voices of Women in Afghanistan, and Women Leaders in Medicine. We received recognition for voter education and public policy efforts. Our newsletter was recognized as a "newsletter of excellence." We were among the top ten branches in total contributions, in per capita contributions, and in New York State Legal Advocacy Fund contributions honoring our own Evelyn Currie. Schenectady AAUW continues to make a difference for women and girls in our local area, our state, and our nation.

Initiatives for 2011-2012 aim to build on this success. Program planning continues emphasis on making local

connections to state and national issues. We begin with "9/11: Ten Years Later," a talk by Michael DellaRocco, the recently appointed Chief of the Schenectady Fire Department. Chief DellaRocco was part of the Schenectady team that provided assistance at Ground Zero following the collapse of the twin towers. He will speak about that experience and the changes 9/11 precipitated in security measures nationally and locally. Many of us may have questions concerning safety in Schenectady.

Thank you for your responses to the survey and the extensive programming suggestions. Ellen Auerbach and Maxine Borom, our program planners will make good use of your suggestions. Meeting times will be varied; this was the most frequently mentioned request in the survey. As you can see from the study and interest group information, we continue to expand our smaller group offerings and encourage involvement in more than one group. Marguerite Peleggi will be glad to hear your ideas for additional groups.

Membership continues to be a major concern. Please attend more than one general meeting, and bring a friend. We must encourage our friends to share what we have found meaningful about AAUW. Only with all of our efforts will we be able to continue the AAUW tradition of service and excellence. With your help, we look forward to another good year.

Jennie Pennington (pennington2276@cs.com)
Robin Eddy (reddy5@nycap.rr.com)

Membership

A new and exciting AAUW year is about to begin. With carefully thought out programs to whet everyone's appetite and new interest groups to meet everyone's personal interests, we encourage all members to become involved. Come to a general meeting and bring a friend. Support our fund raisers so we can continue to contribute to community projects and the National AAUW towards its goals of providing for better futures in education and equal rights for women and girls.

If you haven't renewed your membership, do so by submitting your dues renewal to Dottie Potochnik, 105 Woodhaven Drive, Scotia, 12302. You don't want to miss an issue of VISIONS and read about what our AAUW branch is doing in our community.

Keeping up our membership is vital to our success in funding and staffing new community outreach programs. Think of someone who might be interested in joining a group of women with varied interests and lots to offer and bring her with you. We hope to see you at our September meeting!

Ar;eme Maranville and Sondra Grady

AAUW POLICY FOCUS FOR 2012-2013

AAUW is committed to promoting women's issues through its public policy program. "The public policy program underscores AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research" (AAUW, 2011). The organization informs its members of important policy issues so that they are able to support these issues on the local, state, and national levels. "Issue advocacy isn't just about AAUW lending its name to an issue, or speaking on Capitol Hill. Issue advocacy is about AAUW members and all citizens concerned with equity being knowledgeable and aware of the current status of important issues" (AAUW's FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA, 2011).

During 2012-13, the public policy principles for action will cover several important areas. These areas are: 1) the belief that quality education is the foundation of our society; 2) the belief that all individuals need to have affordable housing, health care, and a clean environment; 3) the belief that all individuals have a right to privacy, freedom from violence, and reproductive rights; 4) the belief that affirmative action is essential to the well-being of people throughout the world; 5) the belief that we need international policies to promote human rights, and justice.

The biennial action priorities will include the support of a strong public school system, the economic self-sufficiency of all women, and the guarantee of equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

Social security, Medicare, and Medicaid will need our support over the next two years. These entitlement programs are essential for a large segment of our population. AAUW will be a major player in supporting these important programs since it advocates for economic self-sufficiency of women.

Linda Rizzo

The New 2011-2012 Board

Co-Presidents - **Robin Eddy and Jennie Pennington**
AAUW Funds VPs - **Ellen Strauss and Linda Ward**
Membership VPs - **Sondra Grady and Arlene Maranville**
Program VPs - **Ellen Auerbach and Maxine Borom**
Study and Interest Group VP - **Margaret Pileggi**
Receiver of Dues - **Dottie Potochnik**
Secretary - **Gail Karl**
Treasurer - **Carol Reynolds**
By-Laws Chair - **Andrea Versaci**
Directory Chair - **Jennie Pennington**
Children's Plays - **Shellie Van der Zee and Lois Rowe**
Circulation - **Nancy Phillips and Joan Welsh**
Educational Equity - **Andrea Russo**
Newsletter - **Linda Zuckerman**
Public Policy - **Linda Rizzo**
Publicity - **Karen Huggins**
Nominating Committee - **Pam Haller, Gerri Pinkerton,
Dottie Potochnik, and Jean Wildgrube**

Welcome to AAUW

Jacklyn Mendini

5 Durham Court,
Niskayuna New York

**Congratulations to
Jessica Tyree**

Jessica was the recipient of our AAUW Schenectady Branch Scholarship. She graduated from Schenectady High School in June and will be attending St. Lawrence Univ. Besides doing well academically, Jessica was active both at school and in the community.

**Serendipity Lunch and
Visit to the Mango Tree**

**Wednesday, September 21,
in Ballston Spa**

RSVP by September 10th to Jennie Pennington, pennington2276@cs.com, 372-7503. All are welcome



THE LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) support has been instrumental in the success of many gender discrimination cases during its almost 30-year history. Other LAF initiatives include community and campus outreach programs, an online resource library with downloadable advocacy tools, a Legal Referral Network, and various related research reports.

AAUW's strategic case support program provides financial and organizational backing for a select number of cases that have the potential to provide significant protection for all women. The funds come directly from the generous contributions of AAUW members who support the Legal Advocacy Fund.

As always, personal donations to LAF are greatly appreciated. Your check should be made out to **AAUW Funds** and on the memo line you must indicate LAF. National has given this fund a number designation that I must indicate on the form accompanying the donation. If there is no specific designation from you, all money goes into the general operation expenses of the national office. It is also important that all personal donations from you must come to me first so that our Schenectady Branch gets the appropriate credit for the donation.

You may have heard about the disappointing Supreme Court ruling in the *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* class action sex-discrimination case. This narrow, 5-4 decision makes it harder for women and other workers to systemically challenge unequal treatment in the workplace. AAUW will continue to be on the cutting edge of future legislation or efforts to remedy the new, problematic standards created by the Supreme Court.

What can you do to prevent this sort of sex discrimination in the first place? You can work to strengthen our nation's fair pay law **by donating to AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)**! LAF helped support the women of Wal-Mart in this important case and seeks out and supports other sex discrimination cases which have the potential to make a difference for all women.

I look forward to receiving your donations to LAF. In order to insure that our branch is recognized for contributions, all AAUW contributions, including LAF and EOF, should be made through our Schenectady Branch.

Linda Ward

Advancing Educational Opportunities for Women and Girls

If you or a woman you know is interested in pursuing a graduate degree, check out AAUW's opportunities for fellowships, grants, special projects funding as well as other related resources and information at <http://www.aauw.org/learn/>.



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 monthly meetings

Niskayuna Book Exchange

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

Couples Gourmet

Leader: Kay Stanczk (583-6904)
September 9, 7 p.m.
Theme: Shore Dinner
Organizer: Blanche Payne
Hostess: Betty Rose
Location: 19 Parkwood Drive, Burnt Hills

Diversity in Schenectady

Leader: Suzanne Taylor (393-9035)
September 19, 7 p.m.
Program: Our Journey to India
Presenter: Robin and Fred Eddy
Hostess: Robin Eddy
Location: 1222 Hempstead Road, Niskayuna
Co-Hostess: Suzanne Taylor

Modern Literature

Co-Leaders: Joan Amell (399-4709) and
Mary Delory (393-6811)
September 12, 7:30 p.m.
Book: Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese
Reviewer: Grace Mueller
Hostess: Pat Gregory
Location: 26 Central Ave., Saratoga Springs
Co-Hostess: Joan Bergin

Mah Jongg

Leader: Ellie Rowland (370-1958)
September 12, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Ellie Rowland
Location: 1249 Sandra Lane, Niskayuna
September 26, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Bobbi Richardson
Location: 1417 Fox Hollow, Niskayuna
New members welcomed.

Quilting

Leader: Pat Buczkowski
September 27, 7 p.m.
Program: Slice Quilting
Presenter: Barbara Quackenbush
Hostess: Pat Terry
Location: 1059 Garner Ave. Niskayuna

Science Topics

Leader: Winnie Balz (372-3663)
October 3, 7:30 p.m.
Program: Mini Topics
Presenters: Maxine Borom, Julie Burgess, and
Nancy Walden
Hostess: Winnie Balz
Location: 1121 Baker Avenue, Schenectady

Scotia-Glenville, Burnt Hills Varied Interests

Leader: Arlene Gollmer (399-2479)
September 8, 12:30 p.m.
Program: Umbrella-Home Services for Seniors
Presenter: Ron Byrne
Hostess: Arlene Gollmer
Location: 2 Pinewood Dr, Glenville

Serendipity

RSVP to Jennie Pennington (372-7503)
Date: Wednesday, September 21
Program: Fair Trade shops & lunch
Location: Ballston Spa

Current Issues E-Group

Members will be sent current information on health, education and pay equity issues via e-mail. No monthly meetings.
Leader: Mary Pritchard
(apritchard@nycap.rr.com)

Schenectady AAUW Bloggers

This is a new group which will give Branch members a chance to communicate in real time about topics that interest them.
Contact Jennie Pennington (372-7503).





VISIONS

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

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

Editor Linda Zuckerman
Circulation: Nancy Phillips and Joan Welch

Co-Presidents

Robin Eddy and Jennie Pennington

AAUW ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

THE AAUW EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION promotes funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

THE AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

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



