

# APRIL'S GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Andi Nawab of Cardiologist Associates

Program: **Women and Heart Disease**



Dr. Nawab will talk about the Screening Test checklist which will help women determine what proactive measures they can take to promote better health. Staying healthy is a daily gift to yourself.

### Directions to the Graham Auditorium, Ellis Hospital

Park in the garage on Nott Street. Take the elevator near the Gift Shop to the Ground floor (G). You will exit by the cafeteria. The Graham Auditorium is down the hallway.

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

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## Mark your Calendar

**March 26** 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Watch the launch event for AAUW's new research: *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing* to find out why women aren't in these fields — and what we as employers, educators, and parents can do about it. <http://www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/>

**Wednesday, April 1**

Board Meeting: 6:45 p.m.  
Niskayuna Town Hall

**Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.**

**Fault Lines: The Layman's Guide to Understanding America's Role in the Ever-Changing Middle East** by Don Liebich  
McChesney Room, Schenectady Library (Pg. 5)

**Tuesday, April 8**

**Equal Pay Day** – The symbolic day when women's earnings finally catch up to men's earning from the previous year.

**Wednesday, April 15**

General Meeting 11:00 a.m.

**Thursday, April 16, 12:00 – LWV Event**

Planning the New Family Literacy Center  
Speaker: Karen Bradley Director, Schenectady County Public Library Schenectady County

**Friday – Sunday, April 17-19**

AAUW-NYS Convention, Bybios Niagara Resort and Spa Grand Island, NY

**Wednesday, May 6**

Board Meeting: 6:45 p.m.  
Niskayuna Town Hall



**Saturday and Sunday, May 2 & 3**

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library **Book Sale** at the main branch  
Saturday 9:00-4:00/ Sunday 1:00-3:00

**Saturday, May 17**

Niska-Day Plant Sale

**Wednesday May 20**

Annual Dinner and Auction - M Golf Club – Reservation info. o  
\* Last day for Dues incentive



**Saturday, May 30**

Garage Sale at Maxine's house

**Saturday, June 6**

Kids' Arts Festival, Jay St.



**Friday–Sunday, June 19-21**

AAUW National Convention San Diego, Calif. <http://convention.aauw.org>



## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***



With April comes showers and spring flowers! Are you as ready for some warmer weather as I am? When I moved to Schenectady almost two years ago, I didn't quite expect such arctic temperatures. However, I also didn't expect such warmth and support from all of you, my wonderful friends in AAUW. I am very grateful and humbled by your welcoming me and helping me to feel at home. And I am also very grateful for the support and guidance of all of our Board members. They are the heart and soul which enables our chapter to do all it does. Please consider becoming active at the Board level; we need YOU!

And I thought I would point out that we are also part of a much larger family of dedicated women, the National AAUW. Our national organization provides advocacy and research on issues of importance to women and girls, and offers grants and assistance for education and programming.

AAUW advocates for us on a national level. In recent years, AAUW was involved in the passage of legislation such as the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Shepard/Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. As a member you are provided with the weekly Washington Update on legislative issues. You can make your voice heard on these issues by joining the AAUW Action Network. AAUW conducts research on a number of gender related issues. Their work influences the national discussion on topics like the pay gap between women and men, sexual harassment in schools and on college campuses, and the underrepresentation of women in science and engineering.

In the last year AAUW awarded close to \$4 million in fellowships and grants to 245 scholars, researchers and community based programs for women and girls. Campus Outreach grants made it possible for AAUW to work with college campuses on issues of Title IX, workplace discrimination and sexual assault. Several STEM programs, supported by grants obtained from outside organizations, were held across the county and internationally. And there is more. The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Resources range from community outreach programs to backing of major cases. AAUW is a leader in advocating for women in STEM careers. As a member you receive AAUW's national publication, *Outlook*, covering pressing issues that women face today. Your membership and financial contributions to AAUW assures that women's issues will continue to receive the attention they merit.

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### ***Schenectady AAUW Proposed Officers for 2015-2016***

Robin Eddy and Bobbie Richardson, Chairs of the Nominating Committee are pleased to present and nominate the following slate of officers for 2015-2016. They were endorsed at the AAUW Board meeting in March.

President	<b>Eleanor Aronstein</b>
Program Vice-President	<b>Ellen Auerbach</b>
Secretary	<b>Jennie Pennington</b>
Treasurer	<b>Ann Hicks</b>
Membership Vice-President	<b>Pat Gregory</b>
AAUW Funds Vice-Presidents	<b>Miriam Cajuste and Maxine Borom</b>
Public Policy Vice-President	<b>Linda Rizzo</b>
Nominating Committee (elected)	<b>Jennie Pennington and Faith Weldon</b>
Past Presidents	<b>Robin Eddy and Bobbi Richardson</b>

Nominees for these elected offices will be voted on during the business section of the May 21, 2014 meeting. Current members of our nominating committee include: Ann Hicks, Faith Weldon, Maxine Borom and Pat Terry.

## ***MEMBERSHIP***

The Renewal Membership Form is included in this month's "VISIONS". A special incentive will be applied if you pay your dues by **May 20<sup>st</sup>**.

**Our statistics** as of March 1, 2015, are 71 active dues paying members and 24 Honorary Life members with free membership. These 24 women have been AAUW member for 50+ years each.

Obviously, we would like to add to our membership ranks. Towards that end, you might want to surprise a relative, friend, or neighbor, with membership. If you know a young woman who is graduating, you might consider a "Give a Grad A Gift" membership. For information, go to <http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift> or contact one of us. A membership bestowal will be appreciated by all parties. Thanks for considering this investment in our branch future. ~ **Pat Gregory and Arlene Maranville**

***Just a reminder - \$46.00 of your \$49.00 national dues is tax deductible!***

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## **PUBLIC POLICY**

## ***PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE***

There has been a great deal in the news media regarding the need for charter schools especially in New York State. These schools are viewed as a panacea for improving the public school system, but in reality, they actually hurt the public school system. AAUW has always been at the forefront of educational change and innovation. However, the organization has a concern about the promotion of charter schools and private school voucher programs as a way to improve public education.

Charter schools are public operated schools that are exempt from many state regulations. Once a charter school is given permission to operate by the school board, the state education department, or a special charter school board, it receives taxpayer money. AAUW believes that the flexibility granted to charter schools should come with clear responsibilities. Publicly funded schools must be accountable to the public for academic achievement, health, and safety standards. Civil rights of all students and staff must also be protected. Regulations for these schools differ from state to state. Decisions regarding these regulations are made at the state and local levels. In addition, these schools also receive the same funding as the public schools in the same district.

The National Education Association (NEA) supports the position of AAUW on this issue. The NEA also opposes charter schools because it diverts resources from public schools that are already in need of funds. If more charter schools are approved, the burden to support public schools will fall even more on the "backs" of the taxpayers.

Competition has its benefits. However, school competition should not be implemented at the expense of the taxpayer and the public schools. The success of innovative educational alternatives depends largely on how they are designed and implemented. Oversight of these innovations is crucial to their success. AAUW has maintained that innovation and flexibility should not come at the expense of our public schools.

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## ***Annual Dinner Meeting and Auction - Wednesday, May 20, Mohawk Golf Club, 6:00 p.m.***

A different type of auction is envisioned for this year's annual dinner meeting. One year the Branch auctioned purses filled with items and other years it was wine. This year the request is that each study/interest group donate a bottle of wine and one or more items, preferably something, if not unique, at least unusual. For example: an item or gift certificate solicited from a favorite merchant, craft items, something you might consider contributing to the garage sale, but which might be a little too elegant or expensive for such a mundane fate. In your quest to declutter or downsize, you want it out of your house and going to a good cause. Donations can also be collected from your study group for the purchase of something special.

The more items we have the more money we can raise. ~ **Maxine Borom and Miriam Cajuste**

***\* DINNER BUFFET RESERVATION - Send your \$30 check made out to AAUW, Schenectady Branch to Bobbi Richardson, 1417 Fox Hallow Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309***



## Think Spring! Niska-Day is May 17th!



Niska-Day will once again be held at Craig Elementary School. The theme this year is **Niska-Day, Under The Big Top**. I know it is hard to imagine but we need to think about digging perennials (when the ground thaws and they start sprouting) and potting them up for our sale.

**The plants do much better if they are potted in clumps and given a little fertilizer two or three weeks before the sale so they are well established and look healthy.** Plants that are not potted will wilt and do not sell. We also will be selling houseplants! Now is a good time to take cuttings and start fertilizing them!

Niska-Day is a great community event! Our plant sale is one of our major fundraisers for EF, LAF and community projects. This is a fun event to volunteer at. Opportunities for volunteering will be listed in the May Visions. If you have any questions or need help with digging out your perennials, contact Jean Wildgrube (982-5837) or Bobbi Richardson (346-6697), co-chairs.



**Our AAUW Garage Sale**  
Maxine Borom's House  
2171 Fox Hill Drive, Niskayuna  
**Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**



We will once again hold our popular garage sale. A time to rid your home of items that someone else will treasure. Your donated treasures could include household items, books, toys, games, jewelry and individually wrapped baked goods. We do not accept clothing. Please price your items before you bring them to the sale. It is always difficult to determine the value of an item, so pricing an item ahead would be appreciated.

Volunteer times and merchandise drop-off will be listed in the May newsletter.

This is a fun AAUW activity and we hope that many of you will donate items and volunteer to staff the event.

Needed: Someone with a pick-up truck to transport tables sometime prior to the sale.

*\* If you have an unusual, valuable or a collection of items that might draw collectors or dealers, please let Pat Terry (372-8431) know so that we can add the information to our newspaper article.*

## More Volunteer Opportunities

### Community Events

#### Saturday and Sunday, May 2 & 3

Friends of Schenectady County  
Public Library **Book Sale**

Contact Robin Eddy at 346-1693 or  
rjeddy321@gmail.com if you would like  
to volunteer at this event.

#### Saturday June 6

The Annual Schenectady Kids Art Festival  
Contact Bobbi Richardson at 346-6697 or  
[Roberta\\_Richardson@hotmail.com](mailto:Roberta_Richardson@hotmail.com)  
At our AAUW table, children decorate bags  
to put all their artwork and free goodies in.

### Quote of the Month

*"If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more.  
If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." ~ Oprah Winfrey*





## Study and Interest Group Meetings for April 2015

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



### Book Exchange 1

Leader: Dottie Potochnik 399-3854  
No regular meetings

### Book Exchange 2

Leader: Ellie Rowland (250-4302)  
No regular meetings

### Couples Gourmet

Co-Leaders: Jennie Pennington 372-7503  
Jackie Mendini 869-3816

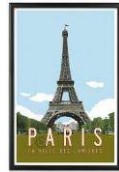
### Friday April 10, 7:00pm

Theme: "April in Paris"

Hostess: Pat Terry

Location: 1059 Garner Ave.

Co-hostess: Katherine Stanczyk



### Diverse Topics

Leader: Gail Karl (393-7590)

### Monday, April 20, 1:30

Program: Guided tour of Heritage House  
Union Street, Niskayuna

### Mah Jongg

Leader: Robin Eddy (346-1683)

### Monday, April 13, 1:30 p.m.

Hostess: Dottie Potochnik 399-3854

Location: 5000 Philomena Blvd. Apt 229  
Schenectady

### Monday, April 27, 1:30 p.m.

Hostess: Ellie Rowland

Location: 216 Lois Lane, Niskayuna



### Modern Literature

Co-Leaders:

Joan Amell (399-4709)

Mary Delory (393-6811)

### Monday, April 13 7:30

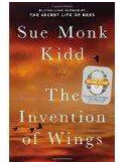
Book: *The Invention of Wings*  
by Susan Monk Kidd

Reviewer: Arlene Maranville

Hostess: Mildred Creasey 370-0410

Location: 4 Boyle Road, Scotia

Co-hostess: Mary Delory



### Quilting

Leader: Pat Terry (372-8431)

### Monday April 28, 7:00 p.m.

Program: Tie-in

Hostess: Pat Buczkowski 372-3893

Location: 24 Haviland Drive, Scotia

### Science Topics

Leader: Emily Hart (374-3229)

### Monday, April 6, 7:30

Program: Presentation on partial corneal transplants

Hostess: Nancy Walden (374-9026)

Location: 204 Glen Eddy Drive, Niskayuna

### Varied Interests

Leader: Arlene Maranville (384-1639)

### Thursday, April 9, 12:30

Program: Books We've Read

Hostesses: Arlene Maranville (384-1639)

Location: 1 Maywood Drive, Scotia

Co-hostess: Pat Buczkowski

### Serendipity

Co-Leaders: Jennie Pennington (372- 7503)

Reba Mehan (374-7886)

If you have a program or trip you would like to suggest, contact one of the co-leaders.

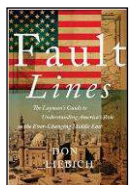
*Look for this year's  
SPECIAL INCENTIVE  
on the Membership Renewal form!*

## An Event at the Library

Many of you may remember Marcia Liebich, president of our branch in 1978-79 and then a member of the AAUW-NYS leadership development team. Her husband, Don, has recently published a book, *Fault Lines: The Layman's Guide to Understanding America's Role in the Ever-Changing Middle East*.

He will be speaking at the Schenectady Library on **Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 P.M.**

Consider joining us at this event. Refreshments will be served.



**American Association of University Women**  
**AAUW Schenectady Branch Membership Renewal**  
*July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016*



*(Please Print)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Check appropriate category:**

*If you renew before  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>***

___ AAUW (\$49) + NYS (\$13) + Branch Member (\$16)	\$78.00	\$75.00
___ Paid Life Member Renewal (NYS + Branch)	\$29.00	\$26.00
___ Dual Branch Member in NYS	\$16.00	\$13.00
___ Dual Branch Member living out of NYS	\$29.00	\$26.00
___ * Honorary Life Member (50-year member)	\$ 0	\$ 0

***\* To keep our directory up-to-date, Honorary Life Members need to return this form.***

I prefer to receive VISIONS \_\_\_ in color via email attachment / \_\_\_ be mailed to me via USPS.

*If you spend part of the year out of town and wish to receive your mailed newsletters during that time,  
 Months you'll be away: \_\_\_\_\_*

**Alternate address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **I prefer VISIONS to be e-mailed while I'm away.**

Mail your dues check payable to **AAUW Schenectady Branch:**

**Pat Gregory**  
 AAUW Schenectady Branch  
 26 Central Ave.  
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Optional Donations:** In addition to my membership check, I am including another check(s) with my donation(s) to further AAUW's work. See page 10 in your directory for descriptions of funds.

- |                                    |                                |   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| ___ AAUW Funds                     | ___ Evvie Currie Giving Circle | ___ Public Policy Fund  |
| ___ Educational Opportunities Fund | ___ Legal Action Fund          | ___ Schenectady Branch  |
| ___ Eleanor Roosevelt Fund         | ___ Leadership Programs Fund   | Scholarships to help support<br>high school and college females |

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Suggestions for program topics or speakers that would be good for a general meeting:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions for fundraising projects/events: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like a ride to meetings: \_\_\_\_\_