

# February's General Meeting

## Hiking the John Muir Trail

*Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>*

*7:00 p.m.*

*The Glen Eddy (Edison Room)  
Glen Eddy Road off of Consaul Road*

**Sally Dewes shares her 21 day experience  
of hiking the 220 mile John Muir Trail  
from Yosemite National Park to Mt. Whitney**

Sally (left) & hiking companions



The John Muir Trail, named for naturalist John Muir, passes through what many backpackers say is the finest mountain scenery in the U.S. This is a land of mountains, lakes, canyons and granite cliffs. The trail runs through the Sierra Nevada mountain range of California passing through some of the crown jewels of America's park system:

Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks.

Join Sally as she relives this incredible adventure.

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## Mark your Calendar



### February is **Black History Month**

**Monday, February 1**  
SCPL (McChesney Room)  
Books Sandwiched In  
12:00-1:00 pm  
(see page 4 for details)

**Wednesday, February 3**  
Board Meeting 6:45,  
Niskayuna Town Hall

**Wednesday, February 17**  
General Meeting 7:00  
Glen Eddy (Edison Room)  
Proceed to main entrance.

### March is **Women's History Month**

**Wednesday, March 2**  
Board Meeting 6:45  
Niskayuna Town Hall

**March 8**  
International Women's Day  
Theme: Pledge for Parity

**Friday-Sunday, April 15-17**  
Saratoga Springs Holiday Inn



**2016 AAUW NEW YORK  
STATE CONVENTION**

AAUW Women on the Move:  
Achieving Women's Economic Justice

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



Here we are at the start of another year - and while I'd like to say we can look forward to a year of peace and social justice, I'm not very optimistic right now. However, I do want to wish you all a Healthy and Stimulating 2016.

I took a peek at what my former Poughkeepsie AAUW colleague Barbara Van Italie had to say in her column - and she made some interesting comparisons between life in the US and life in Australia, where she has a son residing. Some interesting facts: minimum wage in Australia is \$17.29 while we are a long way from that. In terms of health care, Australia has universal Health Insurance - although there are supplemental private plans for those who want them. As for gun violence, Barbara states that if you lived in Australia instead of the US, you would be 71% less likely to be murdered! Australia has a ban on semi-automatic rifles and shot guns...and a tightly restrictive system of licensing for gun ownership. I'm not suggesting we all pack up and move - but it is interesting to see how other developed societies deal with issues....

We are facing enormous problems – both locally (in our schools and in some blighted neighborhoods), at the state level (corruption in Albany has been in the headlines and both parties have been found culpable), in our nation (think of the growing divide between the super wealthy and declining middle class, not to mention those living in poverty). Add to this, we live in an unstable world - with evil people intent on doing harm.

How can we make a difference? That is what gets me out of bed each morning....animates me to find a way to leave a mark of kindness, a trace of caring, an effort to make life better for everyone. And that is why I am so committed to AAUW - because we, as an organization - are committed to making this world a better place for all. We focus on issues which empower women to be able to contribute to their society. We support education for all. We partner with LVW to encourage political participation. We do good things - in an imperfect world. That is no small achievement. Carry on, Ladies!!!! ~ *Eleanor Aronstein*

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## **Membership Matters**

### ***Shape the Future***

As the New Year begins, a new member who joins at a public branch event will pay only \$12.25 in national dues through AAUW's Shape the Future program. This is a mighty reduction from the usual \$49 national dues. The state dues (\$13) and local dues (\$13) remain the same.

The discounted national dues will cover through June. In July the dues will return to the \$49 level. Our upcoming general meetings promise to be outstanding. Let's enthusiastically introduce friends and neighbors to AAUW so they may benefit from this discounted membership. ~ *Pat Gregory*

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## **Calling All AAUW Artists!**



Want to share your artwork with thousands of AAUW members and the head of the National Museum of Women in the Arts?

Enter the [2016 AAUW Art Contest](http://www.aauw.org/contests/) at <http://www.aauw.org/contests/>

Submissions close 1/28/16,  
Voting begins 2/3/16 and continues until 2/29/16



## **RECAP OF THE 2015 NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The 2015 legislative session passed many initiatives in several areas. Finally, the pay equity component of the Women's Equality Act was passed. In fact, most of the ten points were approved except for women's reproductive rights. The major stumbling block was the abortion component which the Senate defeated. It is becoming more apparent that this component will not pass the Senate without major modifications.

Another area that affects large numbers of young women is campus safety. New legislation was enacted so that campus safety is enhanced at public and private colleges. This new landmark law combats sexual assault, domestic violence and dating violence. New penalties were also enacted for crimes of human trafficking. Domestic violence victims will have easier access to obtain orders of protection. It will now be easier for law enforcement to access information to find missing children.

The CARE ACT was passed to help caregivers receive the necessary resources to deliver quality care to older adults and others with long term needs in their home setting. The property tax cap was renewed and extended to 2020. In the area of education, there was an increase of school aid of \$1.4 billion dollars. This was a significant increase over Governor Cuomo's proposal. In the area of higher education, there was an increase to support the Tuition Assistance Program and increased funding for community colleges. Also a new merit scholarship program was created so that 5,000 students will be eligible to receive \$500 annual scholarships.

Many positive changes were passed in this last session. We hope that the next session is as productive.  
~ **Linda Rizzo**

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## **SPRING GARAGE SALE**

We are planning a spring garage sale again at Maxine Borom's house. For this to be a success we need items to sell. In the past two years the sale has made \$800 – per sale. Perhaps you could designate a box or bag to collect items that you no longer need/want for the sale.

One item that has been in very short supply is books. These are always a big seller and we have had very few in these past two sales. Remember that all unsold books are donated to the library. In April, arrangements can be made with Maxine to drop off items at her house for the sale. She is currently NOT home, so wait for further announcement regarding this. Thank you all for your support. ~**Pat Terry**

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## **Quotes of the Month**

**John Muir (1838-1914):** *A Scottish/American naturalist who was an early advocate of preservation of wilderness in the United States. He was the Founder of the Sierra Club*



*“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”*

*”Everybody needs beauty as well as bread,  
places to play in and pray in,  
where nature may heal and  
give strength to body and soul alike.”*

*“The mountains are calling and I must go.”*

***Books Sandwiched In***  
***Schenectady County Public Library in the McChesney Room, 12:00-1:00***

***Unfinished Business: Women, Men, Work, Family***

By Anne Marie Slaughter

Reviewed by Madelyn Thorne, Secretary to the Board of Friends of the Library and Executive Director of Schenectady County Habitat for Humanity

The book is based on the controversial Atlantic Monthly article “Why Women Still Can’t Have It All.” The author establishes a conceptual framework for understanding the problems of working women at all levels, and proposes policy solutions to these problems.



***AmazonSmile***

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization (AAUW, of course). You will find the exact same prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and register. You can use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart and wish list are all the same. On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com)), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.05% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to your selected charitable org.



***AAUW Brings the Elect Her Training to SUNY ALBANY***

SUNY Albany is one of 50 colleges from across the nation and Jamaica that will host Elect Her, a campus-based program that teaches women how to run for elective office. Elect Her, a collaboration of AAUW and Running Start, addresses the disparity between the high percentage of women in colleges and universities and their low representation in student government by encouraging women to run for campus leadership positions.

This day-long program on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-4:30 covers skills such as how to mobilize your constituency, how to craft your message, and how to speak and present yourself confidently as a candidate. By encouraging more women to run for student government during their college years, we are confident that we are preparing more women for local, state, and federal office candidacy.

Of the students who reported running for student office after the training, 78% WON! Plus, 100% of the participants reported that they would recommend Elect Her-Campus Women Win to a friend.

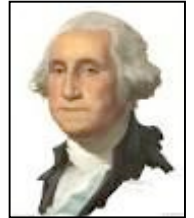
This is the second year SUNY Albany will be hosting the Elect Her Training after winning the nation-wide contest. To learn more about the elect Her training, please visit: [www.aauw.org/what-we-do/campus-programs/elect-her-campus-women-win](http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/campus-programs/elect-her-campus-women-win), [www.facebook.com/ElectHer](http://www.facebook.com/ElectHer) or #ElectHer on Twitter and Instagram.





## **Study and Interest Group Meetings for February 2016**

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



### **Book Exchange I**

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

### **Book Exchange 2**

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

### **Couples Gourmet**

Co-Leaders: Pat Terry (377-8431)  
Faith Weldon (393-0048)

### **Friday February 12, 7:00 p.m.**

Theme: Dear Abbey  
Host: Jackie Mendini  
Location: 5 Durham Court, Niskayuna

### **Diverse Topics**

Leader: Gail Karl (393-7590)  
**Monday, February 15, 1:30 p.m.**  
Program: Update: Pay Equity Legislation  
Speaker: Linda Rizzo  
Hostess: Gail Karl  
Location: 2513 McGovern Drive, Niskayuna  
Co-hostess: Suzanne Taylor

### **Modern Literature**

Leader: Joan Bergin (399-1861)  
**Monday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.**  
Book: **Henry and Clara**  
By Thomas Mallen  
Reviewer: Ellie Rowland  
Hostess: Toni Walsh (371-8764)  
Location: 113 Alexander Ave, Scotia  
Co-hostess: Dottie Potochnik

**Welcome to  
AAUW's Schenectady Branch!**

**Stacey W. Delancy**

P.O. Box 459  
Tribes Hill, NY 12177  
H (518) 829-5115  
C (518) 944-1542

### **Mah Jongg**

Leader: Dottie Potochnik  
**Monday, February 8, 1:30 p.m.**  
Hostess: Linda Ward  
Location: 4028 Windsor Dr., Niskayuna

### **Monday, February 22, 1:30 p.m.**

Hostess: Maxine Borom  
Location: 2171 Fox Hill Dr., Niskayuna

### **Quilting**

Leader: Marguerite Pileggi  
**Monday February 22, 1:00 p.m.**  
Program: Vacation Inspirations by Marguerite  
Hostess: Toni Walsh (372-8764)  
Location: 113 Alexander Ave, Scotia

### **Science Topics**

Leader: Emily Hart (374-3229)  
**Monday, February 1, 7:30 p.m.**  
Program: Nanotech and Your Body  
Speaker: Julie Burgess  
Hostess: Nancy Walden (374-9026)  
Location: 204 Glen Eddy, Niskayuna

### **Varied Interests**

Leader: Reba Mehan (374-7886)  
**Thursday, February 11, 1:30 p.m.**  
Program: Books We've Read  
Hostess: Arlene Maranville (384-1639)  
Location: 1 Maywood Dr., Scotia  
Co-Hostess: Toni Walsh

### **Serendipity**

Leader: Jennie Pennington (372- 7503)  
Any ideas for adventures?  
Contact Jennie

### **Word Games**

Leader: Eleanor Aronstein (265-2500)  
Stimulate your mind!  
If interested contact Eleanor





## VISIONS

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

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

**Editors:** Robin Eddy and Bobbi Richardson  
**Circulation:** Carol Reynolds

**President:** Eleanor Aronstein

Website: [schenectady-ny.aauw.net](http://schenectady-ny.aauw.net)

## 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.



**Schenectady Branch**  
*C/O Roberta Richardson*  
*1417 Fox Hollow Road*  
*Schenectady, NY 12309*

