

# Join us at our December Luncheon

**Saturday, December 3rd**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**The Glen Sanders Mansion**



Our luncheon speaker will be Phyllis Budka, a member of our Branch and a recipient of an AAUW Scholarship targeting women who are changing careers. She won her scholarship based on her essay "Is Anybody Here, which is based on her experiences with sexual discrimination as a small business owner. She will also speak on her AAUW trip to Poland.

## Menu

**Salad:** Spinach & Mushroom Salad  
**Entrée:** Sautéed Chicken with Sage Apple Stuffing and Sauce Supreme  
Rice Pilaf, Roasted fresh vegetables and Rolls  
Vegetarian: Pasta Primavera  
**Dessert:** Warm Apple Crisp with Whipped Cream  
**Cost:** \$25 includes tax and gratuity.

Checks should be made out **AAUW Schenectady Branch**

**Mail to:** *Bobbi Richardson, 1417 Fox Hollow Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309*  
**Reservation Due:** *Tuesday, November 22*

## January's General Meeting

**Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 pm**  
**In the Edison Room at The Glen Eddy**

**Directions:** Balltown Rd. towards Mohawk Commons  
Turn **left** onto Consaul Rd. at Stewart's and go 1 mile  
Turn **left** onto Glen Eddy Rd. (0.2 mi.)  
Take **2<sup>nd</sup> right** to the building at the top of the hill



## **Program: Find Your Roots**

Richard Terry, who has many years of genealogy experience will present a program on how to begin to discover family history. He will include tips on ways to begin your search and suggest useful resources. The program will be highlighted by the personal experiences of sisters Patricia and Arlene Walsh and Pat's search for her birth family using common genealogy resources.

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

Recently a local newspaper featured an article about the ERA - entitled *One More Time for the ERA?* The Equal Rights Amendment was crafted in 1923 on the 75th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention. It was based on the proposition that women's rights were broader than just voting rights - which the 19th amendment had guaranteed. In 1972 it was adopted by the Senate, endorsed by President Nixon, and then moved on to the states for ratification. It needed 38 states to ratify it within a seven year period - and it fell short by three!

Almost a century after its proposal, women still don't have a comprehensive and all-inclusive guarantee of equality. What is so problematic about these words? *Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.* Certainly in today's world, women merit the inclusion of this statement in our Constitution. The issue of true equality is addressed on a state-by-state basis and in a piecemeal manner at the federal level. Surely the time has come, if not for us then for our daughters and granddaughters. Take the time to let your elected officials in Washington know that you want ERA passed.

Why does the ERA matter? At this point, women need the validity and high profile validation that only ratification will bring. Passage of this amendment would guarantee constitutional equality between the sexes. This is a concept that a majority of Americans support. Women have made great strides in achieving equity but only passage of the ERA will cement that for all time. ~ *Eleanor Aronstein*

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## ***MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!***

Sometimes it's hard to ask a friend to sign up to be an AAUW member or invite them to attend one of our events. You might feel as if you are putting someone on the spot. One of our best recruitment tools is making the person aware of what our branch has to offer.

Develop your **elevator speech** so you are prepared when the opportunity occurs.

### **Some of the points to include:**

1. Belief in the mission – equity for women and girls involving fair pay, gender gap in STEM, education, philanthropy and research
2. A desire to give back to the community through scholarships, Schenectady Kids Arts Festival, Candidates Forums, Voter Information to Schools, Election Results for the media, Niska-Day and our garage sale participation, volunteering, and involvement with other women's groups.
3. Social Interaction – a place to make new friends and connect with others

### **Welcome to AAUW**

Christine Zinzow  
865 Harris Drive  
Niskayuna, NY 12309  
(518) 641-8626  
[c.zinzow@ymail.com](mailto:c.zinzow@ymail.com)

**Please add to your directory**

**Take a chance  
Ask a friend to join you at our next meeting.**

**You never know.**

**They may want to become a member.**

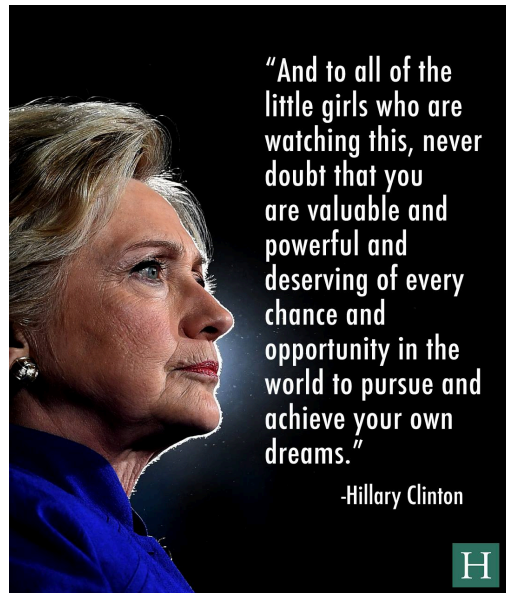
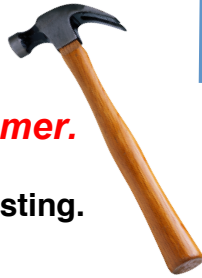
## Quote of the Month

*If this election has taught us anything  
it's that AAUW values and voices are  
needed now more than ever.*

**BREAKING GLASS CEILINGS  
IS OUR BUSINESS**

**Support AAUW  
to hand more women a hammer.**

This is from an AAUW Facebook posting.



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

On election night a group of wonderful volunteers from AAUW and LWV collected the polling results from most of the locations in Schenectady for the news media. For their efforts, the two organizations received a reimbursement from the Capital District Election Service.

Heartfelt thanks to all of you! (It should be noted that this is an example of our many "unsung" activities to promote democracy!) ~ **Maxine Borom**

## You are the "U" in AAUW !

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about our leadership for 2017-2018.

We all realize what a GREAT organization we belong to and realize our voices are louder when we work together for issues that affect women.

To continue our work we need to offer our talents to make our Branch vital and effective. If you would like to join our leadership team, please contact Bobbi Richardson at 346-6697 or [Roberta\\_Richardson@hotmail.com](mailto:Roberta_Richardson@hotmail.com) or Robin Eddy at 346-1683 or [rjedly321@gmail.com](mailto:rjedly321@gmail.com).

We need volunteers in order for our branch to continue to thrive. Please volunteer to be a part of our effort. We are a team and we support each other. ~ **The Nominating Committee**


# December is a time for GIVING

Please consider donating socks, mittens or scarves to the women's shelter. We will collect these items at our December Luncheon.

**As we approach the tax season, it is a good time to consider giving to the following AAUW Funds. AAUW is a top rated charity.**

You can choose from one of the worthwhile funds indicated on page 10 of your directory or to Tech Savvy or Tech Trek, two programs for girls. AAUW invests in women studying everything from aerospace engineering to astrophysics. These fellowships and grants increase women's participation in fields where they have traditionally been underrepresented. You can donate on line with a charge card by going to <https://www.aauw.org/donate-gift/>

**Support for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)** enables AAUW to support plaintiffs who fight gender discrimination and harassment in the workplace and in education. Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms: unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX. LAF addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system act justice and change. Through the Legal Advocacy Fund AAUW is able to make an impact.



## AAUW And STEM

AAUW promotes the advancement of women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) field of studies. It is one of their policy goals. Since its conception in 1881, this organization has shown a commitment to women achieving a higher education. According to AAUW, "the shortage of American scientists threatens our nation's ability to compete and innovate in the coming years". Statistics show that college educated women earn only eighteen percent of degrees in the areas of

STEM. Very few women earn a degree in computer technology. AAUW statistics point out that very few women earned degrees in the area of computer science.

Cyber security has become extremely important to all of us. It seems that there are constant data breaches in major corporations on a weekly basis. According to AAUW, strengthening our security is paramount. However, this effort is hindered by a shortage our workforce. Statistics reveal that women make up only 26 percent of the workforce in this area. ISC, one of the largest organizations certifying cyber professionals, indicated "women account for just one out of every 10 cyber security professionals. This is down from 11 percent two years ago". Symantec, a cyber security company, donated a \$100,000 grant to AAUW for the purpose of developing a cyber security course for middle school girls who are interested in STEM.

It is important to reach girls in middle school in order to close the gender gap in STEM. If female students become interested in technology in middle school, they will pursue through high school and college. There is a large untapped pool of talent in the United States. Women make up a large portion of this talent pool. AAUW will continue to fight to increase the number of women in these career areas. As women, we need to Encourage young female students to consider these career opportunities so that they will break through the barriers of gender bias in the areas of STEM. ~ *Linda Rizzo*



## ***Study and Interest Group Meetings December 2016 & January 2017***

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

### **Book Chat**

Leader: Ellie Rowland (250-4302)  
**Tuesday, December 13, 7 pm**  
The Language of Flowers  
By Vanessa Diffenbaugh  
Hostess: Bobbi Richardson  
1417 Fox Hollow Rd. Niskayuna  
**January: TBA**

### **Couples Gourmet**

Co-Leaders: Pat Terry (372-8431)  
Faith Weldon (399-0048)  
**Friday, December 9, 6:30 pm**  
Theme: An Old Fashioned Yule  
Hostess: Gail Puckette  
28 Via Maria Dr., Scotia  
Co-hostess: Bobbi Richardson  
**Sunday January 15**  
Brunch  
Restaurant TBA

### **Diverse Topics**

Leaders: Barbara Aldi (372-4802)  
Gerri Pinkerton (346-4560)

**December and January**  
**No meeting**

### **Modern Literature**

Co-Leaders: Joan Bergin  
(399-1861)  
Mary Delory (393-6811)  
**December: No Meeting**

### **Monday, January 9, 7:00 pm**

Book: Cloud Mountain  
By Aimee E. Liu  
Reviewer: Susie Leon  
Hostess: Carol Reynolds  
609 Engleman Ave., Scotia  
Co-Hostess: Pat Gregory

### **Mah Jongg**

Leader: Dottie Potochnik  
(399-3854)  
**Monday, Dec. 5, 1:30 pm**  
Hostess: Gail Puckette  
28 Via Maria Drive, Scotia  
**Monday, Dec. 19, 1:30 pm**  
Dottie Potochnik  
5000 Queen Philomena Blvd.

**Monday, January 9, 1:30 pm**  
Hostess: Harriet Severenko  
23 Olde Coach Rd., Schdy

**Monday, January 23, 1:30 pm**  
Hostess: Jackie Mendini  
5 Durham Court, Niskayuna

### **Quilting**

Leader: Margueritte Pileggi  
(280-5623)  
**December & January**  
**No meetings**

### **Science Topics**

Leader: Nancy Walden  
**Monday December 5, 1:30pm**  
Program: Cochlear Implant  
Sue Wright  
Hostess: Margie Schadler  
5 Wellington Way, Niskayuna

### **January TBA**

### **Varied Interests**

Co-Leaders: Reba Mehan  
Carol Reynolds (377-38560)  
**Saturday, December 3, 11:30**  
Branch Luncheon  
The Glen Sanders Mansion  
**January: No Meeting**

## **Mark Your Calendar**



### **Reservations Due for December Luncheon**

**Dec: No Board Meeting**

**Sat. Dec. 3: Luncheon**  
**Glen Sanders Mansion**  
**11:30**

**2017**

**Jan 4: Board Meeting**  
**Niskayuna Town Hall 6:45**

**Jan 18: General Meeting**  
Glen Eddy, Edison Room 6:30  
Program: *Find Your Roots*



## VISIONS

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

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

**President:** Eleanor Aronstein  
**Co-Editors:** Bobbi Richardson and Robin Eddy  
**Circulation:** Carol Reynolds

Website: <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.

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

