

# November's General Meeting



Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.  
Schenectady County Public Library  
McChesney Room



Program: General Grant, the Man and his Family



Speaker: Steve Trimm  
Reenactor from Grant Cottage,



Bring a friend or relative to this very informative program!

This program is brought to you by the Varied Interests Group.

**A SPECIAL BONUS:** If someone joins our branch at the general meeting, she will be entitled to 50% off her National dues.



## Our December Luncheon at the Glen Sanders Mansion

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$25



Send your check (ASAP) payable to **AAUW Schenectady Branch** to:  
Bobbi Richardson, 1417 Fox Hollow Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309

**Menu:** Salad, Sautéed Chicken with Sage Apple Stuffing & Sauce & Dessert

Vegetarian Selection: Pasta Primavera

Your reservation is due by **Tuesday, November 22**

See Page 2 for the program

### Mark your Calendar



**Wednesday, November 2, 6:45 p.m.**  
Board Meeting, Niskayuna Town Hall

**Tuesday, November 8**  
Election Day



AAUW volunteers who are collecting election results should arrive at the polling location at about 8:45 p.m.  
**Thanks for your help!**

**Wednesday, November 16 2:30**  
General Meeting  
McChesney Room  
Schenectady County Public Library

**Tuesday, November 22**  
**\* RESERVATIONS due for our  
December Luncheon**

**Thursday, November 24**



**No Board Meeting in December**

**Saturday, December 3**  
Luncheon at The Glen Sanders Mansion  
Scotia, 11:30 a.m.

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## President's Message

Just when it seemed that women were making progress, we're mired in a national discourse which includes a focus on physical attributes. How did this happen? We've reverted to a blatantly coarse and sexist period; looks shouldn't matter, content of mind and heart should! It is no accident that this is occurring at the time we have a woman as a presidential candidate of a major political party!

So our task is to continue working toward equity, working toward equal education and employment opportunities, to continue providing opportunities and leadership training for young women. And we need to be vocal in holding ourselves and our elected officials to a high standard in which we concentrate on what really matters.

We are a uniquely qualified group of women - well educated, articulate, focused. Most of us acquired our college degrees at a time when many women aspired to be wives and mothers. Most of us can remember sexist slights; remarks which made us uncomfortable, jokes which included sexual innuendo. Perhaps some of us can even remember more overt sexual harassment. I can, and I am so grateful those days are over - or are they? ~ **Eleanor Aronstein**

### **DECEMBER Luncheon (continued)**

Join us to hear

**Phyllis Budka**

"Is Anyone Here"

Phyllis, a member of our Branch, will speak of her experiences with sexual discrimination as a small business owner. She is a graduate of the University of Rochester with a major in Russian and Union College with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Phyllis was the recipient of an AAUW National Scholarship, targeted to women who were changing careers. She won her scholarship on the basis of her essay "Is Anybody Here".

## Membership

As the presidential debates continue, we are reminded of the importance of each person's vote in the upcoming national election. On the local level each of our voices counts as well as we remember AAUW's mission of advancing equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Remember that as a group our collective voice is strong and persuasive.

This month we welcome **Marsha Steiner**. We look forward to meeting her at one of our general meetings or at one of our interest groups.

All the students who attended AAUW's Elect Her Training at SUNY Albany last winter are now AAUW student affiliates. They will receive the quarterly *Campus Connections* newsletter to update them on leadership applications, AAUW research, and professional development opportunities. They also will receive access to *Outlook*, our award-winning magazine that explores issues related to women in education and the workplace, including Title IX, sexual harassment, and work-life balance.

Please note that anyone who becomes a member during one of our general meetings will receive 50% on their National dues as part of AAUW's Shape the Future Campaign.

Welcome all to another great AAUW year!  
~ **Jackie Mendini and Shellie van der Zee**

### **Welcome to AAUW Schenectady Branch!**

**Marsha Steiner**

4 Seneca Road,  
Niskayuna, 12309

819-8441

mmsteiner1@gmail.com

Please add Marsha's info. in your directory

# Remember to Vote!

Voting is one of our most important rights as citizens of this great country. Too many individuals take this right for granted and they do not vote. Since 2000, thirty four states have imposed voting restrictions limiting people's access to the voting polls. There are several ways to accomplish this such as limiting mail in ballots, setting registration deadlines, eliminating same day registration, stopping voter registration drives etc. Voter fraud is used as the main reason to implement these restrictions. Most reasonable individuals agree that only legal citizens should be allowed to vote. However, these restrictions are prohibiting legitimate voters from casting their ballot.

According to AAUW, "excessive voter purging is just one example of how the most fundamental right of our democracy is under attack. These types of practices, combined with a slew of new state laws, threaten to make it harder, if not impossible, for million of Americans to exercise their basic right to cast a ballot in the November election".

Voting is important because too many of our men and women have fought and even died to protect the democratic principles of this country. Let us not forget the suffragettes who also fought to give women the right to vote. On election day, please remember to vote for the candidate of your choice. This is also a right for all us to vote for whom we want to get elected. ~ **Linda Rizzo**

*AAUW in the Statehouse* e-bulletin provides updates on state policy from across the country, tips and resources for more effective advocacy, and insider information from the AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Department about good and bad bills in the states. To sign up go to this [website](http://www.aauw.org/resource/aauw-in-the-statehouse/) - <http://www.aauw.org/resource/aauw-in-the-statehouse/>



# Did You Know..

Selected parts from some of the stories on the AAUW website: <http://www.aauw.org/2016/03/21/women-presidential-candidates>.

It's no secret that in the United States, women face barriers to leadership — especially in the political realm. Women represent only 19 percent of Congress, 24 percent of state legislatures, and 12 percent of governors.



## Run like a Girl: Women Presidential Candidates throughout History

In 1872, **Victoria Woodhull** became the first woman to run for president. She ran with the Equal Rights Party, and her running mate was Frederick Douglass. A controversial figure at the time, she supported issues we take for granted today like an eight-hour workday and many social welfare programs.

In 1940, comedian **Gracie Allen** (of the comedy duo Burns and Allen) ran for president on the "Surprise Party" ticket as a publicity stunt. She used her zany style of humor to make fun of the political process.



In 1964, **Margaret Chase Smith** became the first woman to be placed in nomination for the presidency at a major party's convention but was unsuccessful in getting the Republican nomination. She was the first woman elected to both the House and the Senate, However, she was not encouraged by the party establishment.... One of the reasons she was told not to run: "It is contended that as a woman, I would not have the physical stamina and strength to run. And that I should not take that much out of me for what might even conceivably be a good cause, even if a losing cause."

"Unbought and Unbossed" was the slogan for **Shirley Chisholm's** run for the presidency in 1972. Black women have long been an integral yet unsung part of the political process. Chisholm was a pioneer as the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first woman of color and first major-party black candidate to run for president.



## AAUW-DISTRICT IV CONFERENCE

On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, our Schenectady Branch put on a great district conference! AAUW members from the Albany, Adirondack and Poughkeepsie branches joined with 17 of our members to have a day to hear speakers, enjoy a good lunch, participate in making bracelets. which will be donated to the women's shelter, and did a lot of socializing and networking.

Our first speaker was Angelica (Ang) Morris, Executive Director of Schenectady County Human Commission. She gave us a new definition of AAUW – “Amazing Awesome United Women!” Ms Morris’s topic was “The Sound of a Woman with Dreams and Visions: Women in the Workplace, Looking Beyond Where They are Right Now.” She does her job with a small budget through networking and cooperation. Her mantra is “People who come together and work together can accomplish everything.” She left us with some thoughtful comments:



- Does no good to complain.
- We are what we are not what we do (our job)
- Do not compromise your principals.
- Leadership begins with maturity
- Be strong, be kind, be gentle
- Do the best with what you have – do the best of your ability
- Seize any opportunity you have
- The past is the past, let it go
- Open heart, open mind can change your life
- Take good advice when you get it



Our next speaker, Maxine Getty, a re-enactor who portrayed Mary A. R. Livermore, told us about her life as an abolitionist, teacher, nurse, suffragette and writer.



Julia Alvord and Anna Agens, our 2015 & 2016 respectively NCCWSL scholarship recipients from SUNY Albany, spoke about their experiences and impact of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Washington as well as “AAUW’s Elect Her Training” on the Albany Campus. They also expressed their appreciation to our branch for giving them the opportunity to take part in these very worthwhile experiences.

The conference ended with a community service project. Participants learned to make bracelets and made one for themselves and one for a woman at our local woman’s shelter.



~ *Margaret Nijhuis*, Poughkeepsie Branch and *Robin Eddy*

## Supporting Girls and STEM

For many years, over 900 elementary school students filed into the Schenectady High School auditorium to see professional actors from a NYC production company putting on quality musical productions based on children’s literature. However, since the high school redid their stage and sound system, we were unable to use the H.S. auditorium for our children’s plays. We still had grant money from the Schenectady Foundation and Stewarts and we finally found two top-notch educational programs to put that money towards. We will be donating some of the money into the Challenger Learning Center fund at miSci that that will enable 192 females from all three Schenectady Middle Schools to participate in a **\*Rendezvous with a Comet\*** simulation sometime in the 2016-2017 school year. To accommodate so many girls, there will be 5-6 missions. The money from our branch will go toward one of these missions. MiSci got another grant to cover the other missions.



## Congratulations Julia Alvord!

Our Schenectady Branch 2015 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarship recipient, Julia Alvord, was chosen to be one of 10 female members from applicants around the country to be on **AAUW’s National Student Advisor Council** (SAC). As a member of this council, Julia will serve as an AAUW ambassador on campus, advise AAUW staff, and lead gender equality projects on her SUNY Albany campus. SAC members also play a critical role in planning AAUW’s annual NCCWS.



## **Study and Interest Group Meetings for November, 2016**

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



### **Book Chat**

Leader: Ellie Rowland (250-4302)  
Tuesday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Book: Tracy Kidder books  
Hostess: Shellie van der Zee  
Location: 35 Warwick Way  
All Are Welcome

### **Book Exchange 1**

Leader: Marguerite Pileggi (280-5623)  
No regular meetings

### **Book Exchange 2**

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

### **Couples Gourmet**

Leaders: Faith Weldon (393-0048)  
Pat Terry (372-8431)  
**November 11, 2016, 7 p.m.**  
Theme: Hostess Favorites  
Co-Hostesses: Blanche Payne  
Betty Rose

### **Diverse Topics**

Leaders: Barbara Aldi (372-4802)  
Gerri Pinkerton (346-4560)  
**November 17, 2016, 1:30 p.m.**  
Program: Four Weeks in Costa Rica  
Presenter: Jean Wildgrube  
Location: Phyllis Bornt Branch Library  
948 State Street, Schenectady

### **Modern Literature**

Leaders: Joan Bergin (399-1861)  
Mary DeLory(393-6811)  
**November 14, 2016 7:00 p.m.**  
Book: The Immortal Irishman  
By Tim Egan  
Reviewer: Carol Reynolds  
Hostess: Dottie Potochnik  
Location: 5000 Philomena Blvd. #229, Schdy  
Co-hostess: Susie Leon



### **Mah Jongg**

Leader: Dottie Potchnik  
**November 14, 2016, 1:30 p.m.**  
Hostess: Gail Puckette  
Location: 28 Via Maria Drive  
**November 28, 2016, 1:30 p.m.**  
Hostess: Ellen Auerbach  
Location: 848 Beech Drive

### **Quilting**

Leader: Marguerite Pileggi (280-5623)  
**November 15, 2016,**  
Program: Field Trip  
TBA

### **Science Topics**

Leader: Nancy Walden (280-8065)  
**November 7, 2016**  
Hostess: Emily Hart  
Location: 2159 Rankin Road  
Program: Zika Virus  
Presenter: Sue Wright

### **Varied Interests**

Leaders: Reba Mehan (374-7886)  
Carol Reynolds (377-3856)  
**November 16, 2016, 2:30**

### **General Meeting**

Presenter: Steve Trimm  
Program: Ulysses S. Grant and his Family  
Location: Schenectady County Library  
Mc Chesney Room

### **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

**Pat Buczkowski**  
451 Rudy Chase Drive  
Apt. 207  
Glenville, NY 12302

**Faith Weldon**  
27 Brittany Oaks  
Clifton Park 12065  
Home: 518-930-2843  
Cell: 518-256-9701

**Gail Karl**  
Cell: 518-227-5799

**Jeannette Gerlaugh**  
has moved to Maine.



### 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.

**AAUW  
Schenectady Branch  
C/O Robin Eddy  
1222 Hempstead Road  
Niskayuna, NY 12309**



