

October's General Meeting

Wednesday, October 18

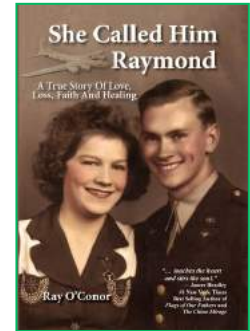
2:30 p.m.

**McChesney Room
Schenectady County Public Library**

MEET & GREET

**Author: Ray O'Connor
will discuss his book:**

She Called Him Raymond



A WWII true story of love, loss, faith and healing.

Ray O'Connor abandoned his career to search for his namesake, a heroic B-17 pilot who died in WWII.

What he found "touches the heart and stirs the soul".

James Bradley, author *Flags of our Fathers*

It is a story of the struggles and romance of two ordinary people who led extraordinary lives during the most tumultuous period in history. Helen Gregg, the daughter of Irish immigrant parents, grew up in Hell's kitchen during the Great Depression and Clarence Raymond Stephenson grew up in Ironton, Ohio. They met in New York's Central Park and their lives changed forever.

**All Branch Meetings are open to the Public
Bring a friend or relative to this program!
As a special incentive, they will be entitled to 50% off the National Dues,
if they join our Branch.**

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, October 4, 6:45 pm
Board Meeting, Niskayuna Town Hall

Wednesday, October 18, 2:30 p.m
General Meeting
Author Ray O'Connor
McChesney Room, SCPL

Saturday, October 21, 8:45-2
District IV Conference
Moving Forward:
Influencing the Future
Poughkeepsie,
Details on page 2

Candidate Forums
Niskayuna, October 19, 7 pm
Niskayuna Town Hall

Glenville, October 25, 7 pm
Glenville Town Hall

Rotterdam, October 28, 7 pm
Rotterdam Senior Citizen Center

Coming Up

**November 6, NYS Centennial of
Women's Right to Vote**

Tuesday, November 7, Election Day

Saturday, December 2, 11:30 a.m.
Winter Luncheon, Glen Sanders Mansion



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Presidents' Message



Our Branch started out the year with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm. Two of our newest members, Geri Mulligan and Chris Zinzow organized a **garage sale** at the home of Maxine Borom in September. Their efforts and the contributions of so many of our members made it a great event! Those members who contributed their time to make this sale so successful were Eleanor Aronstein, Erica Berger, Maxine Borom, Robin Eddy, Ann Hicks, Gail Karl, Jackie Mendini, Marguerite Pileggi, Carol Reynolds, Ellie Rowland, Bobbi Richardson and Jean Wildgrube who always came to work with a treat to share. Our efforts were supplemented by the help of Jason Zinzow, Chet Lonergan, Jay Borom and Jessie Aronstein. Evvie Currie, unable to participate, sent a generous donation. We are fortunate to have so many great members who work together to support our mission.

We thank Carol Reynolds and Faith Weldon for putting together some important informative programs for our **General Meetings**. These programs are not to be missed. We are trying to vary the times of day so that all members will be able to attend most of these programs. Rides are available for any who no longer drive at night or anytime, just contact Bobbi or Robin to arrange transportation.

AAUW is responsible for staffing **the Niskayuna Candidates' Forum**. Linda Rizzo will be the moderator. Please contact Maxine Borom if you would like to volunteer in ushering, timing or screening questions. Members who live in Glenville, Rotterdam or Schenectady who would rather volunteer at these sites, should contact Maxine. Attend a Candidates' Form --it is important to be informed before we cast a vote, so this is a your opportunity to learn about the issues and how the candidates will address them.

Another great opportunity in October is the **District IV Conference** being held in Poughkeepsie this year. The theme is Moving Forward: Influencing the Future. Presentations will be on Health, Education and Governance. Details below.

We are off to a terrific start. Let us keep the momentum going. There are so many issues that need our attention: protecting Title IX, the student loan debt that burdens graduates, and the gender pay gap which will not close until 2119 at the rate it is going. We look forward to the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote in New York State which was passed on November 6, 1817, three years before the 19th amendment to the Constitution.

Bobbi Richardson and Robin Eddy

Moving Forward: Influencing the Future **How can AAUW members make our voices heard?**

This is the theme of the **District IV Conference** sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Branch. The event takes place in the Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory, an urban renewal project in the city of Poughkeepsie, on Saturday, October 21 beginning at 8:45 am and concluding at 2 pm. Topics discussed will be Women's Health, Women and Education and Women in Politics. The fee for the day is \$22 which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. After the conference you could visit Hyde Park historical sites or take a stroll across the Walkway over the Hudson. If you are interested in attending, contact Bobbi Richardson.

REPAYMENT OF STUDENT LOANS ADVERSELY AFFECT WOMEN

AAUW did another research report on the pay gap between men and women. The expectation was that there would be a minimum improvement. Surprisingly, the report demonstrated that just one year after college, women are still paid less than their male peers.



In order to close the pay gap, women need to have a higher college degree. In order to achieve this, many women must have student loans. After finishing their education, many women are facing loans from \$40,000 plus. In addition, they must obtain employment to pay the debt. The problem for these women is finding a position that pays a good salary. In addition, a pay gap makes it harder for them to pay off their loans, and to begin their postgraduate work. In today's society, it has become essential to have a master's degree or doctorate. The United States Department of Labor points out that more than 10% of borrowers default within two years and 20% default within three years. Many of these individuals are women. There are serious consequences involved when an individual defaults on his or her loans. Some of these consequences are: garnish wages, seize any tax refund, and garnish money from federal benefits.

AAUW's analysis of federal data shows that "women are more likely to take on debt (44% of female undergraduates take on debt in a year compared to 39% of male undergraduates)". On average, women take on more debt than men at every level of education. For those that graduate, many are facing an enormous debt. Many women are taking advantage of the for-profit schools allowing an individual to earn an on-line degree. Many of these on-line colleges are not regulated and charge high tuition.

The issue of repayment of student loans and the wage gap are interrelated. It is for this reason that women are adversely affected despite their effort to receive a college or post graduate degree. It becomes a no win situation for them. Linda Rizzo, Public Policy VP

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS – Directory Updates

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On Page 9: Change Treasurer Ann Hicks to Treasurer Karen Huggins

We are sorry to report the deaths of long time members Cay Raecroft, Janet Langley and Edna VanDuzeeh. We honor these women who used their special talents to serve our Branch.

A Busy September



Early morning **Garage Sale** Team. Erica Berger, Chairs: Geri Mulligan & Christine Zinzow, Robin Eddy, Bobbi Richardson. The chairs and others spent hours sorting and pricing the donations from so many of our members in Maxine Borom's garage.



Barbara Aldi leads questioning of Stella Cockett Courtney, **General Meeting** speaker after sharing her personal story of being the first African American to integrate and then graduate from Texas Tech.

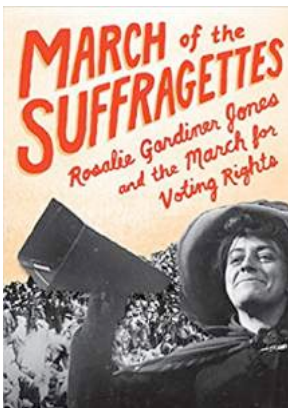


AAUW's **SCCC Club** sponsors Constitution Day on Campus. Students and representatives of our Branch. Arlene Maranville, AAUW liaison, Robin Eddy, Maxine Borom & Bobbi Richardson, discussed the American Dream with students and how they hope to achieve it.

October Opportunities

General Meeting
Candidate Forums
District IV Conference

Save the Date: Winter Luncheon, Glen Sanders Mansion, December 2, 11:30 am.



A Suffragette Tribute

Rosalie Gardiner Jones, a Long Island born Suffragist, was famous for doing the unusual and unexpected. Gardiner Jones used marches, parades and wagons to lure crowds and draw attention to the Suffrage Movement. Two notable marches took place in 1913 as supporters hiked with Jones leading them to Albany and Washington DC. They walked in skirts through bad weather and difficult roads. They hiked a distance of 150 miles to deliver a petition to the new governor of New York and 200 miles to Washington D.C. to participate in a protest parade before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. She persisted!

Monthly Board Meetings

Branch Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the Month at 6:45 pm. All meetings are open to any member of our Branch. We thank the Town of Niskayuna for allowing us to use their upstairs conference room, free of charge, to hold our meetings.

Study and Interest Group Meetings for October 2017

If you are interested in attending a meeting, call the leader.

Book Chat

Leader: Ellie Rowland (250-4302)
October 17, 2017, 2:30 p.m
Book: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*
By Muriel Barberry
Hostess: Maxine Borom
2171 Fox Hill Drive, Niskayuna

Book Exchange 1

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

Book Exchange 2

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

Couples Gourmet

Leaders: Faith Weldon (393-0048)
Pat Terry (372-8431)
October 13, 2017, 7 p.m.
Theme: Gran Cucina Latina
Co-Hostesses: Bobbi Richardson
Jackie Mendini

Diverse Topics

Leaders: Barbara Aldi (372-4802)
Gerri Pinkerton (346-4560)
October 16, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Gail Karl
2513 McGovern Drive
Co-Hostess: Geri Pinkerton
Program: Volunteering in Africa
Harry and Joan Thornhill

Modern Literature

Leaders: Joan Bergin (399-1861)
Mary DeLory(393-6811)
October 18, 2017, 2:30 pm
Book: *She Called Him Raymond*
Leader: Carol Reynolds
General Meeting
McChesney Room, SCPL

Mah Jongg

Leader Linda Ward (377-8764)
October 9, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Ellie Rowland
Location: 216 Lois Lane, Niskayuna

October 23, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Arlene Maranville
Location: 1 Maywood Drive, Scotia

Quilting

Leader: Marguerite Pileggi (280-5623)
October 24, 2017, 1 p.m.
Program: Log Cabin Ornaments, Pat Terry
Hostess: Erica Berger
91 Pheasant Ridge, Schenectady

Science Topics

Leader: Nancy Walden
October 2, 7:30 pm
Mini Topics led by Sally Dewes & Winne Balz
Hostess: Nancy Walden
Fireside Lounge, The Glen Eddy
1 Glen Eddy Drive, Niskayuna

Varied Interests

Monthly Leader: Carol Reynolds
October 11, 2017, 12:30 p.m.
Hostess: Pat Buczkowski (372- 3893)
451 Rudy Chase Drive. Apt. 207
Program: Richard Terry on ancestry
Note change of day.



**If you have ideas for new
Study or Interest groups,
contact Arlene Maranville.**



VISIONS

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

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

Editors: Robin Eddy & Bobbi Richardson
Circulation: Pat Terry

Co-Presidents: Robin Eddy & Bobbi Richardson

Website: 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
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