



AAUW

Breaking through Barriers

Schenectady, NY
Branch

Founded in 1902



October's General Meeting

THURSDAY (day change), October 20th 7:00 p.m.
Niskayuna Library, 2400 Nott Street East, Niskayuna
Speaker: Kim Andersen
Topic: What is Fair Trade?

Did you know that Ballston Spa was the first Fair Trade town in NYS and is only 1 of 17 Fair towns in the United States?

In celebration of *National Fair Trade Month* this month, Kim Andersen, owner of Mango Tree Ballston Spa, will talk about what Fair Trade is and its impact on world artisans and

As a global movement working toward poverty alleviation through fair living wages, Fair Trade focuses on the following:

- gender equity
- education for all
- environmental sustainability
- respecting cultural identity
- economic transparency
- safe, healthy and democratic workplaces
- abolishing slave and child labor
- abolishing trafficking



Invite your friends and relatives to this very informative meeting

Mango Tree Imports will donate 15% of in-store or on-line sales to AAUW when AAUW is mentioned as a fundraising partner from September 21st – November 10th. The shop has gifts and art from more than 55 developing-world countries. It is located at 12 Washington Street in Ballston Spa, just off Route 50. If you would like to find out more about the store and do some on-line shopping, their website is <http://www.mangotreeimports.com>.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support a Fair Trade business and start your holiday shopping while benefiting AAUW!

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, October 5 (Day Change)

Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
Glenville Public Library

Thursday, October 20

General Meeting: Topic: Fair Trade

Candidates Forum-volunteers needed

October 6 Rotterdam
October 12 Niskayuna
October 17 Glenville
October 19 Schenectady

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, November 2

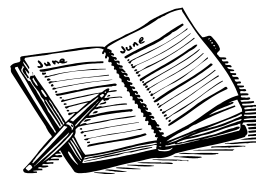
Board Meeting 6:45 pm

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day

Monday, November 14, 10 am (Day Change)

November General Meeting
Lecture and Tour of the College
Of Nanoscale Science and
Engineering, University of Albany
257 Fuller Road, Albany
Lunch (optional) at Treviso located at
the Italian American Community Center



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Co-Presidents' Message



It has been an unusual Fall to be sure. Water, water... and water and mud. And trying to help our friends dig out of the muck. These are not Fall attributes. We need a crisp and invigorating atmosphere. Can it really have been ten years since our country was attacked? Thank you to Schenectady Fire Chief Michael DellaRocco for helping us remember and helping us take stock of how our lives have changed in the past ten years. Somehow, without seeming smug, we are more grateful for our country even with all its faults.

Our AAUW year is well underway. Thank you to those members who are launching new study groups. We have an additional book group. The on-line bloggers have just begun. Ideas for new groups and interest in joining a group should be expressed to Marguerite Pileggi (Margo32650@aol.com).

A focus on fair trade will be the theme of the October General Meeting. As some of you know, fair trade is a recent AAUW initiative as part of "My Sister's Keeper" program. The September Serendipity outing visited the Mango Tree fair trade shop in Ballston Spa. Those who attended are eager to hear more about the initiative, as we hope you will be. Thank you to Kim Andersen, owner of the Mango Tree, who will donate to AAUW 15% of her sales either online or at her store (if you mention AAUW) from now until November 10th.

Some changes in our pattern of operation this year should be noted. Not all of our meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays. Construction at the main library has caused a shortage of available venues in the region. Since our spring survey indicated interest in a variety of meeting times and interest in visiting area locations, some meetings have been scheduled for various times during the day or on days more convenient for our speakers. Please pay careful attention to the calendar of events on the front page of *VISIONS* each month. We hope the schedule of programs and activities will inspire you to become even more involved in AAUW.

Our fund-raisers continue to be an important part of filling the AAUW mission. We need your help in making these successful. Chairpersons are needed for the garage sale (Spring) and for the plant sale (Niska-Day). We are also looking for a location for the garage sale. If you can help with either of these, please contact us. You will have a lot of help.

There are several opportunities to be involved in our community in the very near future. We need AAUW volunteers for the Glenville, Niskayuna, Rotterdam, and Schenectady Candidates Forums in October as well as poll information collecting for the Capital Region Election Service on election night, November 8th. As you know, we sponsor the Candidates Forums jointly with the League of Women Voters, and AAUW members are needed to serve as question collectors, set-up, etc. If you can volunteer for either the Candidates Forums or the poll information collecting or to get more information before you volunteer, please contact Robin Eddy (redy5@nycap.rr.com), 346-1683.

AAUW is also involved this year with the "Take Me to Vote" elementary school program. Please contact Linda Ward (wward2@nycap.rr.com) to help deliver program supplies to one or more elementary school. "Women as Muses" is a program that encourages an on-going relationship with Schenectady City middle school girls. Sponsored by the Schenectady County Working Group on Girls, this initiative provides training and extends for nine sessions during the school year. Contact the Schenectady County Working Group on Girls for more information or to volunteer.

Although we have faced some rather unusual challenges thus far this fall, we look forward to an interesting and fulfilling year of AAUW success.

Robin Eddy and Jennie Pennington

NEW INFORMATION FROM LAF EXPRESS



AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Accepts Two New Cases

In May, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to accept two new, important, and exciting cases, *Cioca v. Rumsfeld and Gates* and *Parker v. Franklin County School Corporation*. AAUW will also award the \$3,000 and \$4,200 respectively.

Cioca v Rumsfeld and Gates: Sixteen veterans and current members of the US military who were allegedly raped, sexually assaulted, and harassed while on active duty filed a lawsuit in February 2011 against the Department of Defense. The plaintiffs charge that the agency violated their constitutional rights by allowing a culture of assault and by failing to act on complaints.

Parker v. Franklin County Community School Corporation: The primary issue in this case is whether the scheduling of girls' basketball games on less desirable days violates Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This case could set significant precedent on whether school districts are arms of the state and therefore immune from suit in federal court.

Members can read more about both these cases on the AAUW website.

Linda Ward



HOW TO SUPPORT AAUW PROGRAMS

Thank you for promoting equity for women and girls by supporting the crucial work of AAUW, a 501[c][3] charitable organization! Contributions to AAUW Funds are fully tax deductible and can be restricted to any specific fund or program by writing the fund or program name or number on your check. In order for Schenectady AAUW to be credited with your donation, please send contribution to Treasurer Carol Reynolds. Some of the most commonly designated funds and programs appear here.

#3999

Legal Advocacy Fund

- Legal Case Support
- Campus Outreach Programs

#4336

Educational Opportunities Fund

- Fellowships & Grants
- Undergraduate Scholarships
- Fellows Alumnae Initiative

#4337

Public Policy Fund

- Government Relations
- Civic Engagement

#3086

Evvie Currie Giving Circle

- Legal Case Support
- Honors LAF Founder

#4339

Leadership Programs Fund

- National Leadership Conference for College Women
- Campus Action Projects

#9170

Eleanor Roosevelt Fund

- Why So Few?
- How Schools Shortchange Girls
- Hostile Hallways

#9110

AAUW Funds

- Unrestricted
- Not Credited to Branches

Busting the Shackles of Low Expectations

“*Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*” Not only a very good question, but also the title of the latest research report conducted by AAUW. The report surfaces many compelling issues surrounding STEM education, especially some reasons for the underrepresentation of girls and women in science and engineering classes and careers. (The full report can be found at www.aauw.org/learn/research/whysofew.cfm)

One of the root causes of this underrepresentation and, more broadly, the achievement gap plaguing so many underrepresented minorities in our schools is the spectre of low expectations. Teachers, school administrators, parents, and community members all too often telegraph their preconceived notions about students’ abilities to challenge difficult material and win. The stereotype of boys being better than girls in math and science persists and still affects girls today. This negative stereotyping can lower girls’ aspirations for science and engineering careers over time. Alternatively, when students are told that girls and boys are equally capable in math, for example, the performance differences essentially disappear.

A critical finding of “*Why So Few*” is the importance of a “growth mindset.” This idea, put forward by Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D., a renowned psychologist at Stanford University, explains that when individuals believe they have the potential for intellectual growth they achieve at much higher levels. In our dealings with students, we must spend less time on encouraging them by rather meaningless statements like “You’re so smart, you can do this” and more time on encouragement such as “I know that this may seem hard but with some effort I also know you will get it.”

This attitude supports the idea of achievement and success within the realm of the student’s control. It counters the idea of a “fixed mindset” in which students believe that they are either smart or they are not. They think there is no more they can do about their intellect than they can do about their eye color. “I’m not good at math” “I can’t be a scientist.”

Holding high expectations for the achievement of girls and young women, particularly in math and science, is important for them. Sharing a “growth mindset” provides the scaffolding needed for them to sustain their efforts and nurture their interest and success in what may seem to them, at first, like challenging and unattainable content and practices.

As the new school year just started, let us make this New Year’s Resolution: we will hold high expectations for our girls, we will support them in their continued efforts, and we will celebrate their successes. - *Elise Russo*

AAUW WASHINGTON UPDATE

On September 2, the AAUW issued legislative and regulatory updates affecting specific areas. One of the areas focused on was special education. Recently, the U. S. Department of Education allowed school districts to cut special education spending which has always been protected from budgetary concerns. The Department of Education has given districts, which may need to lower their spending expenditures, permission to do so. These districts will not have to resume spending at the previous higher rate. The AAUW believes that “this decision will allow states and school districts to move funds meant for disadvantaged students into other programs. Taking from those who need it most will result in dire consequences for the educational opportunities and access of students across America”. Parents of students with special needs will now have to “fight” even harder for proper educational placement and help for their children.

Another area of interest was an analysis of the presidential candidates’ views on education. The Hechinger Report outlined how each of the GOP candidates felt about this issue. All the candidates want to deregulate education and have the local level determine most of the educational programs and policies. Two candidates, Bachmann and Paul, would like to abolish the U. S. Department of Education and have the states take over all of the control. Others would like to see the Department of Education have a very small role reducing it just a reporting agency. Perry cites Texas as being in the forefront of educational advancement. However, opponents claim that the state has a low high school graduation rate, and school districts have endured large cuts in funding to education. All the candidates support charter schools despite the fact that charter school students do not perform at a higher level than public school students. The AAUW does not support either private school vouchers or charter schools. It believes that this will only hinder the public school system.

The AAUW “is committed to ensuring strong academic principles and closing the achievement gap for all children. AAUW believes that the federal government has a critical role to play in attaining these goals.” The organization supports an accountability system offered by the federal government so that children throughout the United States will have access to quality school districts. - *Linda Rizzo*

Study and Interest Group Meetings for September 2011

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



Book Exchange I

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

Niskayuna Book Exchange

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

Couples Gourmet

Leader: Kay Stanczk (583-6904)
October 14, 7 pm
Theme: Polish
Organizer: Magdalena Mowbray
Hostess: Dottie Potochnik
Location: 105 Woodhaven Drive, Glenville

Diversity in Schenectady

Leader: Suzanne Taylor (393-9035)
October 17, 7 pm.
Program: Things of My Very Own
Presenter: Rayne Boncie, Director
Hostess: Barb Aldi
Location: 15 Haviland Drive, Scotia
Co-Hostess: Gerri Pinkerton

Modern Literature

Co-Leaders: Joan Amell (399-4709) and
Mary Delory (393-6811)
October 10, 7:30 p.m.
Book: The Peabody Sisters by Megan Marshall
Reviewer: Pat Gregpru
Hostess: Bobbi Richardson
Location: 1417 Fox Hollow Road., Niskayuna
Co-Hostess: Toni Walsh

Mah Jongg

Leader: Robin Eddy (3461683)
October 10, 1:30 pm
Hostess: Robin Eddy
Location: 1222 Hemstead Rpad Niskayuna
October 26, 1:30 pm
Hostess: Dottie Potochnik
Location: 105 Woodhaven Drive, Glenville
New members welcomed.



Quilting

Leader: Pat Buczkowski (372-3893)
October 27, 7 p.m.
Program: Mug Rug
Presenter: Pat Buczkowski
Hostess: Pat Buczkowski
Location: 23 Haviland Drive, Glenville

Science Topics

Leader: Winnie Balz (372-3663)
October 3, 7:30 pm
Program: Mini Topics
Presenters: Maxine Borom, Julie Burgess, and
Nancy Walden
Hostess: Winnie Balz
Location: 1121 Baker Avenue, Schenectady

Scotia-Glenville, Burnt Hills Varied Interests

Leader: Arlene Gollmer (399-2479)
October 13, 12:30 pm
Program: Piano Program
Presenter: at the home of the pianist
Meet to carpool at Joan Amell's
Hostess: Joan Amell (399-4709)

Serendipity

Leader: Jennie Pennington (372-7503)
Date: October 18, 10:30 am
Program: Trolley tour of Ellms Farm, Charlton
(Christmas trees, corn maze, and pumpkin
patch), followed by lunch at the Charlton House.
Sally Ellms will talk about their family's interest
in heirloom pumpkins and how the farm has
developed over the years. Cost will be \$5 each
plus lunch.
Reservations to Jennie by October 10.

Schenectacy AAUW Bloggers

The new group gives Branch members a chance
to communicate in real time about topics that
interest them. Contact Jennie Pennington (372-
7503)



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VISIONS

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

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

Editor Linda Zuckerman
Circulation: Nancy Phillips and Joan Welch

Co-Presidents

Robin Eddy and Jennie Pennington

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.

THE AAUW EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION promotes funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

THE AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

*AAUW
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Niskayuna, NY 12309*



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