

V I S I O N S

September
2014
Vol. XXXV
No. 1

September's General Meeting

**Join us on September 17th
at 6:30 p.m.**

For an Open House and Reunion with your AAUW friends!

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 153 Nott Terrace, Schenectady

Learn about and possibly join
one or more of our 11 Study and Interest Groups.
Find out what they have planned for the coming year.

Enjoy tasty refreshments provided our Schenectady Branch Board.

Bring a friend, neighbor, or relative who may be interested in our branch.

at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Diane Wilkinson
Schenectady High School Principal



Program: Schenectady High School - as the new school year begins

Issues affecting girls, such as the common core and bullying,
which impact education will be addressed

Mark your Calendar



Wednesday, September 3

Board Meeting, 6:45 p.m.
Niskayuna Town Hall

Wednesday, September 17

General Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
(see above)

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27-28

The Friends of Schenectady County
Public Library's Fall Book Sale
Sat. 9:00-4:00 / Sun. 1:00-3:00 (Bag Sale)
Contact Robin Eddy at rjeddy321@gmail.com
or 346-1683 if you can volunteer for a 2 hour (or
more) time slot at this great community event.

Wednesday, October 1

Board Meeting, 6:45 p.m.
Niskayuna Town Hall

Wednesday, October 8

Candidates Forum, 7:00 p.m.
Black Box Theater
Schenectady High School

Wednesday, October 15

General Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Program: Cyber Security
Schenectady County Public Library

Greetings From Your President

Dear AAUW Friends,

This is my first newsletter and I want to begin by stating how grateful I am to be among such a strong, diverse, energetic and enormously talented group of women. I am awed and humbled by your collective and individual talents and enthusiasms. I sincerely look forward to working with you.



In my first year as a Schenectadian, I have learned that this branch of AAUW is absolutely wonderful. I was impressed with the very informative general meetings and the study and interest groups. Looking at the energy put forth recruiting SCCC students to become AAUW student affiliates and helping with the set-up for the garage sale was an eye-opener. Participating in my first Niska-Day was another! And then taking part in the 2000 Year Old Woman during the May dinner was a wonderful culmination! YOU are an impressive group of women!

I look forward to getting to know each of you better at our meetings, volunteer opportunities, and other social get-togethers. Since that I am a newcomer to the Schenectady Branch (having been a member of the Poughkeepsie Branch for many years), I will be relying on the guidance of our Board of Directors as we plan activities and will look towards you, my new AAUW sisters, for inspiration, suggestions and assistance when we participate in community projects.

Your programming this past year was impressive because of its varied and relevant focus on women's issues (made ever more urgent by a series of recent Supreme Court rulings). This is one significant aspect of who we are and what we do!

I come to you with an open heart and a lot of enthusiasm - for all the wonderful things AAUW represents. We are the voice of women and girls - the next generation of women. Please, reach out to me. Offer me suggestions. Give me advice. Tell me what YOU think, what YOU want from your AAUW branch. And tell your friends and neighbors about us.... give them membership forms (which you can get from our membership vice-presidents - Pat Gregory and Arlene Maranville, on our website <http://schenectady-ny.aauw.net> or at our General Meetings) encourage them to join, bring them to meetings! There truly is strength in numbers! ~ ***Eleanor Aronstein, President***



Performers At Our Annual Dinner



The AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference

I had a wonderful time at my first AAUW Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College. Miriam Cajuste, Robin Eddy, and I attended meetings on programming, public policy and fundraising. We heard great stories from college students who told of their experiences in Washington D.C. at the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

We gleaned so many good ideas that we are excited to share and implement with our branch. The enthusiasm and experiences of our AAUW sisters throughout NYS were impressive and made us proud of being members of AAUW. ~ ***Jean Wildgrube, Programming Vice President***



PUBLIC POLICY

HERE WE GO AGAIN

Women's Equity Act Did NOT Pass in New York State

This is the second year that the Women's Equality Act failed to pass in the New York State Legislature. On May 19, members of our AAUW-Schenectady Board (Eleanor Aronstein, Maxine Borom, Robin Eddy, Bobbie Richardson, and Linda Rizzo) from the Schenectady branch met in the Governor's Executive Chamber with Alphonso David, Deputy Secretary for Civil and Human rights. The purpose of the meeting was to show support for WEA. We also discussed issues involving domestic violence and pay equity. It appeared that the Women's Equality Act in its entirety would have a difficult time passing in the Senate. Members from our branch also made calls urging our legislators to pass this bill.

It is also difficult to believe that our political leaders on the national level are still discussing whether birth control is acceptable. In addition, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Hobby Lobby regarding certain aspects of birth control for women. It appears that we are refighting the same issues that were settled years ago. We seem to be moving backwards instead of forward on women's reproductive health issues. There has never been an outcry from women that drugs such as Viagra should not be covered by insurance companies. However, our male counterparts have a great deal to say about birth control.

We can send a strong message in November that women want to be represented by politicians who will protect their reproductive rights. ~ **Linda Rizzo, Public Policy Vice President**



AAUW FUNDS

SPARE CHANGE 4 CHANGE

a new easy fundraising initiative

I am excited about this year's fundraising idea from Janice Brown, NYS AAUW Development Vice President that I learned about at the 2014 Summer Leadership Development Conference at Cazenovia College. The program is ingeniously easy, every member can participate and our branch gets the credit. It is called "SPARE CHANGE 4 CHANGE". It is a fundraising initiative designed to give our branch the opportunity to reach our goal of giving to all six big funds.

Each time a group meets (study or special interest); we are asking the group leader to collect spare change from all members. At the end of the month, all monies will be turned over to the treasurer for submission to National. Each group will be credited according to their participation, and we will track your success.

I will have available a "SPARE CHANGE 4 CHANGE" Bucket for every group leader to collect spare change at your meetings. I am hoping that you will take this initiative a step further and ask everyone who crosses your threshold to empty their pocket and bags of all spare coins and contribute to the AAUW causes.

Please share with me your ideas on how we can further expand on the "SPARE CHANGE 4 CHANGE" and increase participation. ~ **Miriam Cajuste and Maxine Borom, AAUW Funds Vice Presidents**

MEMBERSHIP

We're excited about the 2014-2015 challenges that AAUW is facing, and chief among them is the fact that women are still suffering the same pay gap as a decade ago! Perhaps this year we can more directly involve the local women who are in business, politics, and education, and engage them in joining us in this critical mission. As a nation we're affected by this inequality, and hopefully we can improve on the legacy we leave our daughters and granddaughters. Thank you for continuing to be a part of the struggle.

Pat Gregory and Arlene Maranville, Membership Vice Presidents

CONGRATULATIONS AAUW-SCHENECTADY!

Our Schenectady Branch won the following awards for the 2013-2014 year:

- Platinum Award for outstanding 2013-2014 programming that was consistently Marketing the Mission of AAUW
- AAUW-NYS Public Policy VP's Special Leadership Recognition Award to Linda Rizzo
- Consistent Effort to Educate Members about Public Policy issues through the Branch Newsletter
- Best Use of Op Eds to educate the community
- Being one of the Top Ten Branches for Total Public Policy Fund Contributions
- Being one of the Top Ten Branches for Total AAUW Fund Contributions
- Being one of the Top Ten Branches for Total Unrestricted AAUW Funds Contributions
- Being one of the top ten branch for Total Leadership Programs Fund Contributions
- Top Ten Branch for Total Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Contributions
- Being one of the Top Five Branches in Total LAF Evvie Currie Giving Circle Contributions
- Legal Advocacy Fund Star Branch for contribution of \$5 per capita or more
- AAUW-NYS 21st Century Communications Award of Distinction for Newsletters and Print Media
- Silver Star Public Policy Action Award
- Visibility Award of Distinction in All Categories (Website, Newsletters and Print Media, Social Media)
- 2014 Equal Pay Day Action Award
- Award of Distinction for Social Media
- Award of Distinction for Communications/Visibility (Website)

Our AAUW-SCHENECTADY BRANCH Website

Misplaced your newsletter

Want more information on National and State AAUW issues

Need a suggestion for a good book to read

Want to contact your legislator but don't know the phone number or email address

See photos of our recent events

Find your AAUW answers on our updated website!

<http://schenectady-ny.aauw.net>

Robin Eddy
Website Editor



GENERAL MEETINGS for 2014 – 2015

(Programs, times, and dates are subject to change.
Always check the monthly newsletter for the current information.)

Wednesday, Sept. 17th at 6:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 153 Nott Terrace. Learn about the programs of our Study and Interest groups
7:00 p.m. General Meeting followed by Principal Diane Wilkinson of Schenectady High School who will speak on current school issues.

Wednesday, Oct. 15th at 6:30 p.m., Schenectady County Community Library, McChesney Room
John Borst will speak on Cyber Security: Threats, NYS Resources and what we can do to protect ourselves.

Monday, Nov. 17th at 1:30 p.m. Schenectady County Community Library, McChesney Room
Professor Davis-Kram's of Queens College will speak on "Dying For Beauty". (note the day)

Saturday, Dec. 6th at 11:00 a.m. The Glen Sanders Mansion, Scotia
Holiday Buffet. Entertainment TBA

Wednesday, Jan. 21st at 1:00 p.m., The Glen Eddy, Niskayuna
Maxine Borom and Miriam Cajuste joined a Florida State League of Women Voters group to spend a week in Cuba last winter. The Communist Caribbean Island has been under a US embargo for over 50 years. The ladies will talk about how Cuba has fared and share photos of their amazing journey.

Wednesday, Feb. 18th at 1:00 at the Schenectady County Public Library, McChesney Room
Paul and Mary Liz Schwartz will speak on the history of the Underground Railroad in the Capital Region, NYS and its significance in the history of the United States. Also included will be stories of some of the courageous women involved in the movement.

Saturday, March 21st – AAUW-NYS District 4 Conference (more information will follow)
"Herstory 2015: Our History is Our Strength"

Wednesday, April 15th at 11:00 a.m. at the Ellis Medicine at Bellevue Campus
A tour of the newly renovated hospital followed by lunch in the cafeteria.

Wednesday, May 13th at 5:30 p.m. at The Mohawk Golf Club, Annual Dinner, Installation of Officers & Review of our Year. Entertainment: The Thursday Musical Club led by Julie Panke

Quote of the Month

*"I've learned that
people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget
how you made them feel."*

Maya Angelou

Named Grant Honoree - Robin Eddy

Each year our branch honors one or more women who has made a positive difference both to our branch and to our community over an extended period of time.

In the six years since her retirement and rejoining AAUW, Robin has been an active member of AAUW. She jumped right into AAUW leadership positions as newsletter editor, then President for 3 years and Website administrator for 5 years. She has chaired and co-chaired the Children's Plays, the Niska-Day Plant Sale and the Annual Schenectady Kids Arts Festival. As AAUW's District 4's co-chair for 2 years, Robin helped to put on AAUW-NYS District 4 Conference in 2012 that focused on violence against women and girls: prevention, support and advocacy, locally and state-wide.

As part of our branch's community projects, Robin was a mentor at Keane School, worked with women at Bethesda House, helped at two of Girls, Inc. Holiday Shopping events and has been the leader of the Mah Jongg interest group since it started.

She has attended several AAUW-NYS Conventions as well as the AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conferences.

Robin has applied for and received grants for our Schenectady Branch from Stewards, Schenectady County and Walmart. Last year she helped to get donations from local businesses for Schenectady County Community College's Finals Week Survival Bags and helped to recruit 218 students as e-affiliate members.

In addition to her AAUW involvement, Robin has also been active in the community as well by volunteering at the Regional Food Bank and the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. She was a substitute teacher in the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District where she had taught and held teacher leadership positions for 28 years. Currently, she volunteers weekly sorting the donated non-fiction books at the Schenectady County Public Library as well as posting books for the library's Online Book Sales. She is starting her third year as one of the co-chairs of The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library Book Sales with the responsibility of getting over 325 volunteer slots filled for their big spring and fall book sales and fewer for their indoor winter book sales. She also is a substitute volunteer at the Whitney Book Corner. Each week Robin also volunteers at Things of My Very Own, a non-profit organization that provides crisis intervention services and programs to children in emergency situations.

Robin enjoys being a part of the Schenectady Branch of AAUW, going to Union College's UCALL classes, being with friends, reading, watching her favorite TV shows, gardening, traveling and naturally visiting with her children and grandchildren.

CONGRATULATIONS Robin Eddy

*for winning the raffle at the
Summer Leadership Conference!*

Not only did she win a big basket of picnic supplies,
the money raised in the raffle (\$530)
was donated into
the Evvie Currie Giving Circle
in the name of the Schenectady Branch.



Study and Interest Group Meetings for September 2014

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

Book Exchange #1

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

Couples Gourmet

Leader: Jennie Pennington (372-7503)
Co-Leader: Jackie Mendini (869-3816)
Friday, September 12, 7:00 p.m.
Theme: Africa
Hosts: Faith Weldon's house

Diverse Topics

Leader: Gail Karl (393-7590)
Monday, September 15, 1:30 p.m.
Program: Guardian House Tour
Hostess: carpool
Location: 1214 Saratoga Road, Ballston Spa

Modern Literature

Co-Leaders: Joan Amell (399-4709)
Mary Delory (393-6811)
Monday, September 8, 7:30 p.m.
Book: Monuments Men
Reviewer: Andrea Versaci
Hostess: Joan Amell
Location: 14 Marilyn Drive, Scotia 12302
Co-hostess: Mary Delroy

Mah Jongg

Leader: Robin Eddy (346-1683)
Monday September 8, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess Shellie van der Zee
Location 35 Warwick Way, Schenectady

Monday September 22, 1:30

Hostess: Bobbi Richardson
Location: 1417 Fox Hollow Road, Niskayuna

In Memory

of our long-time member

Mary Ann Boord

who passed away on Saturday, August 16th

Book Exchange #2

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

Quilting

Leader: Pat Terry (372-8431)
Monday, September 23, 7:00 p.m.
Program: Gerri's surprise
Hostess: Gerri Pinkerton
Location: 809 Dongan Ave., Scotia

Science Topics

Leader: Emily Hart (374-3229)
No Meeting in September
Monday, October 6, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
Leader: Emily Hart (374-3229)
Program: Mini-topics
Julie Burgess and Sally Dewes
Hostess: Winnie Balz
Location: 1121 Baker Ave., Schenectady

Scotia-Glenville, Burnt Hills Varied Interests

Co-Leaders: Arlene Maranville (384-1639)
Toni Walsh (372-8764)
Thursday, September 11, 12:30 p.m.
Program: Volunteer experience in Uganda
Speaker: Paul Phillips
Hostess: Arlene Gollmer
Location: 2 Pinewood Drive, Glenville
Co-Hostess: Josephine Christy

Serendipity

Co-Leaders: Jennie Pennington (372-7503)
Reba Mehan (374-7886)
Program: TBD

Word Games

Leader: Eleanor Aronstein (518-265-2500)
Monday September 29, 3:00 p.m.
Location: 909 Londonderry Court, Schenectady

This is the last page of the newsletter.



empowering women since 1881

VISIONS

Schenectady Branch Newsletter AAUW
(published monthly except
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The deadline for newsletter items is the
1st week of the month
prior to publication.

Editor: Robin Eddy
Circulation: Carol Reynolds

President: Eleanor Aronstein

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
C/O Robin Eddy
1222 Hempstead Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309



