

A GREAT Way to Start Our AAUW Year!

September's General Meeting

Monday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m.
Schenectady County Public Library
McChesney Room



Program: HUMAN TRAFFICKING – An Ongoing Problem
“Human sex trafficking is the fastest growing business
of organized crime in the world.”

Speaker: Debbie Fowler

President of EYES WIDE OPEN NENY, INC. and
owner of HER TREASURE BOX, an arts and craft thrift store at 1775 Van Vranken Ave.
opened Thursday-Saturday 10-4



Her Treasure Box opened in May as a means of raising money to
someday provide a safe haven and “a house of hope and healing
for survivors” of human trafficking.

Suggested donations you could bring to the meeting:

*cloth, yarn, craft paper, frames, buttons, canvas,
scissors, thread, craft books, patterns, stamps, etc.*

Bring a friend or relative to this very informative program!

This program is brought to you by the Diverse Topics Group.

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

Mark your Calendar



Monday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.

Challenger Mission Experience at miSci
15 Nott Terrace Heights, Schenectady
Contact Robin Eddy for your reservation.
See page 6.

Wednesday, September 14, 6:45 p.m.

Board Meeting, Niskayuna Town Hall

Monday, September 19

General Meeting
Sponsored by the Diverse Topics Group

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24-25

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library Book Sale

99 Clinton Ave., Schenectady
Saturday 9:00-4:00
Sunday 1:00-3:00



Wednesday, October 5, 6:45 p.m.

Board Meeting, Niskayuna Town Hall

Saturday, October 15, 9:00-2:00

District IV Conference (see page 7)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm writing this early in the morning of Friday, July 29th. Last night HISTORY was made as a major party selected a woman as its candidate for President of the United States! We can ask why it took almost one hundred years since women gained the right to vote? We can ask why the concept of exceptionalism is still applicable to women? The reality is that women are not judged by the same standards as men. We can ask if this really means that the glass ceiling has finally and irreparably been cracked?

We all know that certain factors make others judge us in different ways. People of color know that! Members of the LGBT community know that! American Muslims, Jews, Atheists know that! But we also know that we, the members of AAUW, are part of an organization that works to combat those narrow minded attitudes - and that should do three things. It should make us proud of our membership. It should energize us to become more active in our organization. And finally, it should motivate us to share the benefits of our organization with our friends, our neighbors, our family. Bring them to our General Meetings, encourage them to join, and look for opportunities to give a free gift membership to a young college student. AAUW, like the general population, is graying.... and we need to energize our chapter by the infusion of new members.

As we head into a very interesting political chapter in our great nation's history, let's keep one eye on the political scene and the other on the vitality of our organization.

A Special Thank You to our Recent Volunteers

Niska-Day Plant Sale Bobbi Richardson, Chair

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Joan Bergin | Reba Mehan |
| Maxine Borom | Jackie Mendini |
| Phyllis Budka | Bruce Mendini |
| Robin Eddy | Bobbi Richardson |
| Gail Karl | Pat Terry |
| Ann Hicks | Shellie van der Zee |

Garage Sale - Pat Terry, Chair

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Barbara Aldi | Chet Lonergan |
| Eleanor Aronstein | Gerri Pinkerton |
| Jay Borom | Bobbi Richardson |
| Maxine Borom | Pat Terry |
| Robin Eddy | Toni Walsh |
| Ann Hicks | Faith Weldon |
| Gail Karl | Jean Wildgrube |

Schenectady Kids Arts Festival – Bobbi Richardson, Chair

Gail Karl, Jackie Mendini and Bobbi Richardson

District IV Conference Planning Committee – Robin Eddy, Chair

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| Barbara Aldi | Robin Eddy | Gerri Pinkerton |
| Eleanor Aronstein | Gail Karl | Carol Reynolds |
| | | Bobbi Richardson |

YOU are the "U" in AAUW!

We could use your help this year. Think about helping us out by doing one small job. Our upcoming events are the Candidates Forum and the Election Night Poll Collection. Contact Maxine Borom at 370-2662 or mborom@nycap.rr.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Public Policy

GUN CONTROL-WHY NOT?

The debate between gun control advocates and gun rights advocates is still being argued in the media and on the floor of the United States Congress. According to the gun rights advocates, those in favor of stricter restrictions for gun ownership want to abolish the second amendment. No one wants to deprive hunters, target shooters, gun collectors from ownership. The second amendment is not in danger of being rescinded, but the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is being denied to many Americans killed every day by gun violence. How many more first graders, police officers, innocent people walking down a street have to be killed before our representatives decide to act on the side of protecting the American people?

The Pew Research Center showed that politically 85% of Democrats and 55% of Republicans support a federal database track gun sales. In May 2013, the U.S. Senate rejected the Manchin-Toomey bill to extend background checks to internet and gun show sales. How did this bill endanger our second amendment rights? Gun rights advocates slogan is "Guns don't kill, people do". However, irresponsible people with guns do kill people. Statistics show that most murders occur because a gun was available. Most murders are committed by the use of guns as opposed to knives etc. Legal guns often are stolen from homes, cars or trucks by criminals.

The NRA has had control of the political process for several decades by bullying politicians. This organization has a powerful hold over our elected officials. The hold, of course, is money in the form of campaign contributions.

Samuel Adams said "It does not take a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brush fires of freedom in the minds of men". The minority supporting gun control must continue to fight so that all our citizens can safely enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The 2015-2017 AAUW Public Policy Program brochure will be available at our District IV Conference on Saturday, October 15th. ~ **Linda Rizzo**

**MEMBERSHIP – Shape the Future
Membership Campaign!**
**AAUW is offering a special discount
to new members!**

The Shape the Future membership campaign is a recruitment tool for current members to offer a discounted rate to prospective members. With this campaign, new members and students can take 50 percent off the national dues rate when they join on the spot during an AAUW public event. Branches also earn one free national membership to give away for every two newly recruited members, with a maximum of five free memberships annually.

Welcome to AAUW Schenectady Branch!

Paula Yablonsky

98 Killarney Drive
Schenectady, NY 12309
518-754-3041
pachya0901@yahoo.com

Quote of the Month



**When there are no ceilings,
The sky's the limit."**

Hillary Rodham Clinton

**Former Secretary of State, NYS Senator,
First Lady and current Democratic nominee for
President**

CONGRATULATIONS Linda Rizzo!

Our 2016 AAUW-Schenetady Branch Named Grant Honoree



Linda holds an ED.D from SUNY Albany. She was a Spanish and English teacher, middle school administrator and deputy associate Superintendent of Schools. She is currently an Educational Consultant for parents who have children with special needs. The Schenectady Branch was honored to select Linda as our emerging leader for 2013. Linda serves as public policy chair for our Branch. She regularly attends County Board and Town Board meetings, keeping the Branch up-to-date on current issues. Linda is a strong advocate for the Paycheck Fairness Act and made a spirited presentation at both Boards. As the result of her efforts, the Niskayuna Town Board adopted a resolution in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act which they submitted to the New York State Legislature. She also writes letters to the editor in support of AAUW policy. Linda is active in our community. She has been the co-chair of the Niskayuna Parade Committee for the town Niska-Day celebration and is active in the political arena. Her enthusiasm and creativity have added much to our Branch and has made the community more aware of our Branch and the issues that AAUW supports. She is a strong advocate for women's rights and has brought these issues to the attention of our local government and branch members.

Our Branch was the WINNER of the following awards presented at the 2016 AAUW-NYS Conference

Our Branch was one of the top 10 Branches for

* Total Contributions to the following funds:

- AAUW Funds,
- Public Policy Fund
- Legal Advocacy Fund,
- Leadership Programs Fund,
- Unrestricted AAUW Funds,
- EOF Contributions,
- * Top LAF/Evvie Currie Giving Circle Contributions
- * Membership Special Recognition for a gain of up to 10%

- * 21st Century Silver Program Award for the Black History Month Presentation
- * 2015-2016 Voter Registration and Education Award
- * Educational Opportunities Fund per Capita Contributions
- * Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Star Branch
- * Newsletter Award of Distinction
- * Website Award of Distinction
- * Visibility Award of Merit
- * Leadership: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow Essential Eleanor Award

Thanks to all of you who help support our AAUW mission!

AAUW Participating in Community Events

Schenectady Kids Arts Festival



Niska-Day

Niska-Day
**Thanks to all who
donated plants!**

Garage Sale



AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College

An Inspiring Weekend for Four Schenectady Branch Members

This leadership conference gave us, Gail Karl, Robin Eddy, Kim Blanchet and Peggy Coe, a lot of ideas from our State and National officers as well as from fellow members from branches throughout the state. The workshops were motivating. We hope to initiate some of the ideas at our branch.

We were very impressed with the AAUW training programs **Start Smart** and **Work Smart**. We will be looking into hopefully offering them at a local college and to our community.

We had the opportunity to meet with members of other District IV branches to brainstorm ideas for our upcoming District IV Conference that our Schenectady Branch is hosting on Saturday, October 15th. It will be an informative and engaging time for all.

~ **Gail Karl, Robin Eddy**

AAUW- Preparing Young Women for the Future

Langie Cadesca (AAUW National and SUNY Albany funded)
and Anna Agnes (Schenectady Branch funded) at AAUW's sponsored
National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)



Did You Know...

It wasn't that long ago that women didn't have the right to vote, and even more recently, own their own credit card! Up until 1974, a single woman could not have a credit card in her own name, and yet women today are the backbone of the U.S. economy, accounting for 85% of all consumer purchase.

Congratulations to our AAUW Scholarship Winners!

Chantel Schermerhorn from SCCC

Farishta Hamdard from Schenectady H.S.

Our AAUW-SCENECTADY WEBSITE



Misplaced your newsletter?
Want more information on National
and State AAUW issues?
Need a suggestion for a good book?
Want to contact your legislator but
don't know the phone number or email address?

Find your AAUW answers on our branch website!

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



**We now have a FACEBOOK Page! Go to
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWSchenectady>
and "LIKE" us!**



Study and Interest Group Meetings for September 2016

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

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)

September 9, 2016, 7 p.m.

Theme: Blue Apron Specials
Co-Hostesses: Faith/John Weldon
Blanche Payne

Diverse Topics

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

September 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Branch General Meeting

Program: Eyes Wide Open
Location: McChesney Room
Schenectady County Library

Modern Literature

Leaders: Joan Bergin (399-1861)
Mary DeLory (393-6811)

September 12, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Book: A Man Called Ove
by Fredrik Backman

Reviewer: Ellie Rowland
Hostess: Pat Gregory
Location: 26 Central Ave, Saratoga Springs
Co-hostess: Mary DeLory

Mah Jongg

Leader: Dottie Potchnik
September 12, 2016, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Ellie Rowland
Location: 216 Lois Lane
September 26, 2016, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Shellie Vanderzee
Location: 35 Warwick Way

Quilting

Leader: Marguerite Pileggi (280-5623)
September 27, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Program: Gerri's Surprise
Hostess: Gerri Pinkerton
Location: 803 Dongan Ave, Scotia, NY

Science Topics

Leader: Nancy Walden (280-8065)
No meeting in September.

Varied Interests

Leaders: Reba Mehan (374-7886)
Carol Reynolds (377-3856)
September 8, 2016, 12:30 p.m.
Program: visit to SICM Food Pantry
Location: 839 Albany Street, Schenectady



New Groups

Book Discussion Group

Organizational meeting
September 13, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Ellie Rowland, 216 Lois Lane, Niskayuna
Contact Ellie if you're interested in the group
250-4302 or erowland@nycap.rr.com

Take a FREE 7-9 Week Online College Course with AAUW Friends

For information, contact Robin Eddy
at 345-1683 or rjeddy321@gmail.com.



***Join us on Monday, September 12th at 10:00. at miSci for a
CHALLENGER mission experience. SPACE IS LIMITED, so contact
Robin Eddy at rjeddy321@gmail.com or 346-1683 to reserve a spot.***



AAUW-NYS District IV Conference

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Zion Lutheran Church
153 Nott Terrace
Schenectady, NY



Program: ***Beyond Barriers and Bias – Fulfilling the Potential of Women***

9:00-9:30 Registration / Continental Breakfast

9:30 Welcome - Eleanor Aronstein, President of AAUW-Schenectady Branch

9:35-10:45 Martha Asselin, Ph.D., Vice President of Student Affairs, SCCC
will speak about gender barriers and bias

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-12:00 Maxine Getty – retired Senior Master Sargent, US Air Force and re-enactor portraying Mary A.R. Livermore, abolitionist, teacher, nurse, suffragette and writer. re-enactor portraying a nurse, abolitionist, suffragette and writer

12:00-1:00 Lunch - Networking & hear from SUNY Albany students who have taken part in the AAUW Elect Her Training and The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

1:00-1:45 A Jewelry Workshop (optional):

Create a bracelet for yourself - Donate a bracelet to a woman at our local women's shelter

RSVP by October 8, 2016

(Naturally we would appreciate it sooner.)

Cost: **\$25 AAUW members, \$27 non-members, \$15 students**

If non-members decide to become members at the conference,
not only will that save money on the conference, they will get 50% off the National dues.

Send your check payable to "AAUW-Schenectady Branch" with this tear-off form to:
Barbara Aldi, 15 Haviland Drive, Scotia, NY 12302

Name _____ Branch _____

Phone _____ Branch/Position _____

E-mail Address _____

If you have special dietary needs, please specify: _____

Will you be staying for our bracelet workshop? _____ Yes _____ No

**Sponsored by the Schenectady Branch of The American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Funded in part by a grant from AAUW-NYS**



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 and Bobbi Richardson

Circulation: Carol Reynolds

President Eleanor Aronstein

Bobbi Richardson and Robin Eddy

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.

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

