

## December Luncheon

*December 2nd*

*11:30 a.m.*

*The Glen Sanders Mansion*



Reservation due date has passed but if you would still like to attend, contact Barbara Aldi (518) 372-4802 or [barbaraaldi@aol.com](mailto:barbaraaldi@aol.com)

**Program: Just Pitchin (vocal group)**

Under the direction of Arla JN Wilding

**Schenectady County Community College**

**School of Music**

**Cost:** \$30 includes tax and gratuity.

Checks should be made out to **AAUW Schenectady Branch**

*Please consider donating toiletries to Patty's Place*

## January's General Meeting

**Wednesday, January 17 at 2:30 pm**

**McChesney Room,**

**Schenectady County Public Library**

**Program:**

**Secret Agents in Hoop Skirts:**

**Women Spies of the Civil War**

**Speaker: Dave Hubbard**

Site Manager of Friends of Ulysses S. Grant Cottage

### Mark Your Calendar

**Saturday, Dec. 2, 11:30 am**  
Luncheon, Glen Sanders

**January 17, General Meeting, 2:30 pm**  
McChesney Room, SCPL

**Wednesday, January 3, 6:45 pm**  
Board Meeting, Niskauyuna Town Hall

**No December Board Meeting**

**AAUW New York State  
2018 Convention**

April 20-22, 2018  
Radisson Hotel, Corning, NY



## ***PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE***



As 2017 draws to a close, we look back on a tremulous year in women's rights. AAUW has been foremost in this fight. AAUW was one of the sponsors of the Women's March on Washington in January in which some of our members participated. The National Convention in Washington D.C. addressed a number of issues including Student Loan Debt and Protecting Title IX. The 2017 AAUW research, **Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans**, shows that a lot of women struggle with their student debt. We also know that women and girls continue to face discrimination in schools. Other important issues include addressing sexual assault, promoting STEM careers for women, advocating for pay equity and continued advocacy. Our dues seem high but when we all work together, under the AAUW banner, we make a bigger impact and have a louder voice on the issues that affect women and girls and thus we all gain in the end. AAUW is doing the work with our help. **The combination of national, state and local work is what makes being a member of AAUW so powerful and special – we can be the change makers of our communities and our nation.** Locally we are initiating two AAUW sponsored programs, Start Smart and Work Smart and hoping to continue our support of sending a student to The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). See the thank you note from our 2017 NCCWSL recipient, Subha Tasnim, on page 4. The Work Smart training is for women already in the work force who want to improve their position and salary as well as for women who want to get back into the work force. We look to 2018 with anticipation of making strides towards a better world for women and girls.  
Bobbi Richardson & Robin Eddy

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## ***MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!***

Tips on getting others involved in our fantastic organization. Share your enthusiasm for AAUW.

Develop an **elevator speech** so you are prepared when the opportunity arises.

**Some of the points to include: What we are all about – in brief**

1. Equality for Women and Girls
2. A desire to give back to the community
3. Social Interaction – a place to make new friends and connect with others through our fund raising, general meetings and study groups.

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### **A Program of Interest in the Community**

**Thursday, December 7  
Schenectady High School  
6:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.**

### **YOUR FIRST AMENDMENT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**

**Sponsored by: POD: PROTECT OUR DEMOCRACY**

A panel discussion on understanding and protecting our First Amendment rights.

For more information contact Eleanor Aronstein (845) 462-6452 or

[eleanoraronstein@aol.com](mailto:eleanoraronstein@aol.com)

# December is a time for GIVING

## Plan a Gift That Will Change Lives for Women and Girls

For each of us, philanthropy is intensely personal. It is an expression of our values and our vision of the world we hope to create for the next generation. Your support of AAUW today makes it possible for us to fund critical programs to help break through the persistent barriers that continue to limit opportunities for women and girls. But when you plan a gift to AAUW in your long-term estate or financial plans, you will ensure future with changes that are so important to women and their families. Go to [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org) and type in Legacy Circle in the search box or go to <https://aauw.org/resource/legacycircle/> to learn more about estate planning, how you can include a gift to us as part of those plans and how you can benefit from your gift.

Throughout the AAUW website you will find some ideas for giving that you may be aware of — and some you may not. Many of these giving options provide benefits to you and your heirs in the form of tax savings and income in your retirement years. Page 6 in your Directory will give you other options to support women and girls.




## #GIVING TUESDAY

Big news! This year [#GivingTuesday](#) is special. It falls on AAUW's anniversary — Tuesday, November 28 — when we will celebrate 136 years of helping to level the playing field for women and girls.

Beginning at 8 a.m. ET on November 28, donations made to [AAUW](#) through Facebook will be **matched dollar for dollar by Facebook and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**. You can help us make the most of this matching opportunity by taking two minutes to create **a Facebook fundraiser on behalf of AAUW!**

**Learn more** and get started at [bit.ly/aauw-november28](http://bit.ly/aauw-november28).



**Support for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)** enables AAUW to support plaintiffs who fight gender discrimination and harassment in the workplace and in education. Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms: unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX. LAF addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to enact justice and change. Through the Legal Advocacy Fund, AAUW is able to make an impact.



## A Special Thank You

to all those AAUW volunteers who collected the voting results for the news media on Election Night, participated in Meet the Candidates' Night and distributed the Take Me To Vote Materials to schools. It should be noted that this is an example of our many "unsung" activities to promote democracy.

Maxine Borom



**A Letter of appreciation from our SUNY ALBANY Scholarship recipient  
who attended AAUW'S National Conference  
For College Women Student Leaders**

Hello everyone! My name is Subha and I am a junior at the University at Albany. This previous summer I was able to attend AAUW's National NCCWSL because of the generosity of the AAUW Schenectady branch and it was an experience I will never forget. There is something really beautiful about being surrounded by women from all over the nation, to come together and reinvigorate our selves with ideas for change. It was empowering to hear stories from other women and learn about how they had conquered their adversity with positivity and grace. My favorite aspect of NCCWSL was the welcoming atmosphere that was present, and how everyone was willing to learn from what was being presented. I personally really enjoyed a workshop that was called "Mindfulness as Resistance" because everyone in that room left with insight on how to self-reflect on what was important for their future goals. I was also extremely inspired by the amazing women of distinction, one being Amanda Nguyen, who is a graduate of Harvard University and the founder of RISE, a national civil rights non-profit, geared towards helping survivors of sexual assault. After graduation, I plan on attending law school and one of my goals has always been to help victims of human trafficking through advocacy. Hearing Amanda Nguyen speak on her experience helped to inspire and motivate me to keep working so I could one day impact thousands of young girls, just as she has through her organization. Attending NCCWSL was a rejuvenating experience that reminded me of the greatness we all have in us, and I can not thank the AAUW-Schenectady Branch enough for giving me the opportunity to attend. Thank you again for the scholarship.  
Subha T. Tasnim

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**Help our Branch support another young woman to attend the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders by sending a donation to our treasurer, Karen Huggins and writing NCCWSL on the memo line of your check made out to AAUW Schenectady Branch.**

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**You are the "U" in AAUW !**

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about our leadership team for 2018-2019

We all realize what a GREAT organization we belong to and realize our voices are louder when we work together for issues that affect women.

To continue our work we need to offer our talents to make our Branch vital and effective. If you would like to join our leadership team, please contact Eleanor Aronstein, [eleanoraronstein@aol.com](mailto:eleanoraronstein@aol.com) or (845) 462-6452.

We need volunteers in order for our branch to continue to thrive. Please volunteer to be a part of our effort. We are a team and we support each other. ~ **The Nominating Committ**

## Study and Interest Group Meetings December 2017 & January 2018

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

### Book Chat

Leader: Ellie Rowland (250-4302)

**Tuesday, December 19, 2 p.m.**

What Happened by Hillary Clinton  
& Unbelievable by Katy Tur

Hostess: Linda Ward  
4028 Windsor Road, Niskayuna

**Tuesday, January 16, 2 p.m.**

Golden Hill by Frances Spufford  
Hostess: Ellie Rowland  
216 Lois Lane, Niskayuna

### Book Exchange I

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

### Book Exchange 2

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

### Couples Gourmet

Co-Leaders: Pat Terry (372-8431)  
Faith Weldon (399-0048)

**Friday, December 9, 6:30 pm**

Theme: A Yuletide Celebration  
Hostess: Gail Puckette  
28 Via Maria Dr., Scotia  
Co-hostess: Bobbi Richardson

**Sunday January 15**

Brunch  
Restaurant TBA

### Diverse Topics

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

**December and January**

No meeting

### Modern Literature

Co-Leaders: Joan Bergin  
(399-1861)

Mary Delory (393-6811)

**December:** No Meeting

**Monday, January 9, 7 pm**

Book: Hillbilly Elegy

By D.J. Vance

Reviewer: Susie Leon

Hostess: Carol Reynolds  
609 Engleman Ave., Scotia

Reviewer: Pat Gregory

Co-Hostess: Mary DeLory

### Mah Jongg

Leader: Linda Ward  
(377-2377)

**Monday, Dec. 4, 1:30 pm**

Hostess: Dottie Potochnik  
5000 Queen Philomena Blvd.  
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**Monday, Dec. 18, 1:30 pm**

Hostess: Gail Puckette  
28 Via Maria Drive, Scotia

**Monday, January 8, 2018**

Hostess: Harriet Severenko  
23 Olde Coach Rd., Schdy

**Monday, January 22, 1:30 pm**

Hostess: Jackie Mendini  
5 Durham Court, Niskayuna

### Quilting

Leader: Marguerite Pileggi  
(280-5623)

**December/January**

No meetings

### Science Topics

Leader: Nancy Walden  
(280-5623)

**December No Meeting**

**Monday, January 8**

Dinner Out

### Varied Interests

**Saturday, December 3**

**11:30 pm**

Luncheon, Glen Sanders

**Thursday, January 11, 12:30**

Dine at International Restaurant



### **Suggestions???**

If you have suggestions for new Study or Interest Groups, contact Arlene Maranville, [amara041@aol.com](mailto:amara041@aol.com). Possibilities include bridge, word games, movie night, travel, singles gourmet etc. Any ideas you come up with are welcome.





## VISIONS

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

The deadline for newsletter items is the  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month prior to publication.

**Co Presidents:** Robin Eddy & Bobbi Richardson  
**Co-Editors:** Bobbi Richardson and Robin Eddy  
**Circulation:** Pat Terry

Website: <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 Roberta Richardson**  
**1417 Fox Hollow Road**  
**Niskayuna, NY 12309**

