



* This is a combined February-March newsletter. *
There will not be a newsletter in March.

February's General Meeting



Liberian Flag

Wednesday, February 21
1:30 P.M.

Niskayuna Public Library



Program

John and Lynn Kucij, former Peace Corps volunteers, will speak about their experiences and their ongoing involvement in improving conditions in Liberia.

March's General Meeting



Wednesday March 21, 2:30 p.m.
McChesney Room
Schenectady County Public Library

Speaker: Anne Reynolds,
Executive director of the Alliance for Clean Energy, NY

Program: Can NYS get to 50% clean energy by 2030?
In Aug. 2016 Governor Cuomo announced the establishment of the Clean Energy Standard that mandates 50 % of NYS's energy must be renewable by the year 2030. The question is will our state reach that mandate.

These programs are open to the public.

As a special bonus, if someone joins our branch at our March meeting, they will get a 15 month membership for the price of a 12 month membership

Mark your Calendar



Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 3-4
Friends of Schenectady County Public
Library Book Sale
at the main branch
Saturday 9:00-5:00
Sunday 1:00-4:00



Wed. February 21, 2:30
General Meeting – See above

Thursday, February 22 7:00-9:00 p.m.
AAUW Start Smart Training
at SUNY Albany – See pg. 3

Wednesday, March 7, 6:45 p.m
Board Meeting, Niskayuna Town Hall

Wednesday, March 21, 2:30 p.m.
General Meeting – See above.



For more information: [Registration Form](#)
<http://aaunys.wp.aauw-nys.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/convention-general-mailing.pdf>

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March 2018
Vol.
XXXVII

OUR PRESIDENTS ' MESSAGE

As we break the ice off our windshields and deal with living in an icebox, our Branch continues to provide some great programs that enrich our knowledge and understanding of the world around us. Carol and Faith have provided us with some very interesting programs this year. So even though the weather is frightful, make an effort to support their efforts and connect with your AAUW friends.



In this New Year we continue to be the change makers that make a difference for women and girls and we must continue to fight for justice in sexual harassment and equality. As a glimmer of hope, Iceland became the first country in the world to make it illegal to pay men more than women for performing the same job.

Two new AAUW programs, Start Smart and Work Smart programs are taking an important step toward closing the pay gap. Both workshops are designed to empower women with the skills and confidence they need to successfully negotiate their salary and benefits. Robin is busy promoting these programs at SCCC and SUNY Albany. These programs have the backing of our Board and will make a significant difference for young women entering the work force after college.

We are in the midst of developing our leadership team for 2018-19 and are hoping that many of you will volunteer to help us move forward as a strong and effective presence in Schenectady and beyond. Teaming up with someone to do a job makes life easier and definitely more fun. We look forward to having new ideas and renewed energy as we enter a new year.

~ Bobbi Richardson and Robin Eddy

YOU are the "U" in AAUW!

Nominating Committee Update

Any organization is only as vital and functional as its members commitment and participation. It takes hard work and dedication to keep AAUW relevant and purposeful. We have been graced with many hard-working women over the years, and this is the time of year when the Nominating Committee puts out requests for member participation.

Your AAUW Branch Board is comprised of many positions which call for varying skills. Please step up to the plate and offer to serve for one or more years on the Board. One critical position we need filled is that of President. It is not a difficult position. Bobbi and Robin has offered to serve as mentors. The position can be shared or even broken up into a four month term. Please contact me if you are willing to help our branch in this very important and essential role.

~ Eleanor Aronstein, 845-462-6452, eleonoraronstein@aol.com



AAUW ART CONTEST – Did you know?



Work by women artists makes up only 3–5% of major permanent collections in the U.S. and Europe. That's why AAUW hosts an annual art contest to give women artists the equal attention they deserve.

Once again AAUW artists will be able to submit their entries to be voted on by other AAUW members! The entry period for the 2018 AAUW Art Contest is January 4–February 4 and voting begins February 6. The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members in the spring. For more information go to: <https://www.aauw.org/contests>

OUR SCHENECTADY BRANCH – Becoming Visible in our Community

We Supported **Van Courlier's** First and Second Grade Teachers



Our board wanted to support our Schenectady City School District. Stephanie Parrella, a first grade teacher at Van Courlier Elementary School, applied for a grant to the Schenectady City School District Foundation to purchase books for her first grade students for their summer reading. Since she received funding in past years, the Educational Foundation Committee suggested that we consider funding this project. Stephanie's grant proposal would provide six books to each of her students for their summer reading. Since she has done this in the past, the second grade teachers have noticed definite progress when Stephanie's students started school in September. Our board voted to support her project.

As it turned out, we budgeted a little more money than Stephanie needed, (We didn't know which proposal the Foundation was going to recommend.) So we suggested she spend the balance of the money at the Whitney Book Corner to provide books for Van Courlier's 2 first grade and 3 second grade classroom libraries. Fortunately, the Whitney was having a 1/2 price sale on all their children's books, so Stephanie was able to pick out 90 books. She and her colleagues were thrilled and appreciative of AAUW's generosity for helping to support their students.

We are Preparing Women for their Future

Our branch, along with funding from a Luna Bar grant, is sponsoring AAUW's START SMART training at SUNY Albany on Feb. 22. Smart Start gives college women the skills and confidence to negotiate salaries and benefits for a new job.

One of our new members, Damare Fredette, is being trained as a facilitator and four of our branch's past National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarship recipients, Julia Alford, Subha Tasnim, Anna Agnes and Langie Cadesca are helping to coordinate the event.

AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than their male counterparts and those lost potential earnings add up over a lifetime. Women who negotiate, increase their potential to earn higher salaries and better benefits packages. With our branch's support, more women will be prepared for job interviews and salary negotiations.

If you have ideas on how we can become more visible in our community contact Robin or Bobbi.



Study and Interest Group Meetings February & March 2018

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

Book Exchange I

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

Book Exchange 2

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

Book Chat

Leader: Ellie Rowland
(250-4302)

Tuesday, February 20, 2 p.m.

A Gentleman From Moscow

By Amor Towles
Hostess: Ellie Rowland
216 Lois Lane, Niskayuna

Tuesday, March 20, 2 p.m.

Destiny and Desire

By Carlos Fuentes
Hostess: Ann Gotwals
1359 Valencia Drive

Couples Gourmet

Co-Leaders: Pat Terry
(372-8431)

Faith Weldon (399-0048)

Friday, February 9, 6:30 pm

Theme: Baltic Experience
Co-Hostesses: Piliere/Terry

Friday, March 9, 6:30 pm

Theme: Southern Hospitality
Co-Hostesses: Terry/Chambers

Diverse Topics

Leaders: Barbara Aldi (372-4802)

Gerri Pinkerton (346-4560)

Monday, February 17, 11:30

Lunch at Scarboroughs

Monday, March 19, 1:30 pm

Program: Sirin Hemsho
Syrian engineer and inventor
Time and place TBA

Modern Literature

Co-Leaders: Joan Bergin
(399-1861)

Mary Delory (393-6811)

Monday, February 12, 7pm

Book: A Dublin Girl

By Elaine Crowley
Reviewer: Mildred Creasey
Hostess: Toni Walsh
113 Alexander Ave., Scotia
Co-Hostess: A. Maranville

Monday, March 12, 7 pm

Book: The Book That Matters
Most

By Ann Hood
Reviewer: Grace Riccobono
Hostess: Susie Leon
12 Laury Lane
Co-Hostess: Carol Reynolds

Mah Jongg

Leader: Linda Ward
(377-2377)

Monday, February 12, 1:30

Hostess: Ellie Rowland
216 Lois Lane

Monday, February 26, 1:30

Hostess: Dottie Potochnik
5000 Queen Philomena Blvd

Monday, March 12, 1:30

Hostess: Linda Ward
4028 Windsor Drive

Monday, March 26, 1:30

Hostess: TBA

Quilting

Leader: Marguerite Pileggi
(280-5623)

Tuesday, February 27, 7pm

Program: Table Runner
Hostess: Toni Walsh
13 Alexander Avenue

Tuesday, March 27, 7pm

Program: Boiled Wool
Hostess: Pat Terry
1059 Garner Avenue

Science Topics

Leader: Nancy Walden
(280-5623)

Monday, February 5, 7 pm

Topic: Mini Topics, Julie
Burgess, Nancy Walden
Hostess: Sally Dewes
Location: Glen Eddy

Monday, March 5, 7 pm

Mini Topics: Emily Hart, Kathie
Armstrong
Hostess; Sue Wright
Location: Fireside Lounge

Varied Interests

Thursday, February 8, 12:30

Program: TBA
Hostess: Arlene Maranville

Thursday, March 8, 12:30

Program: TBA
Hostess: Susie Leon
12 Laury Lane, Glenville

WELCOME to our
AAUW-Schenectady
Branch!

Catherine Norr

80 Saratoga Road
Glenville, NY 12302

H:518-852-5608

CatherineNorr@msn.com

In Memory of

Florence Luborsky

Former Branch President

who passed away

January 12, 2018



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: Pat Terry

Presidents: Robin Eddy and
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.

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



This is your
FEBRUARY- MARCH
News letter