

## JANUARY'S GENERAL MEETING

### IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA: HOW DO WE DECIDE?



How do we decide...

Who gets to come

Who gets to stay

How will they be treated while they are here?

**Thursday, January 10 at 6:00 PM**  
**McChesney Room, Schenectady County Public Library**  
**Main Branch**

Panelists will include:

**Sarah Rogerson**, Albany Law School Professor,  
Detention Outreach Project at Albany County Jail

**Dr. Victoria Martinez**, Union College Professor,  
Mini-term project with students at US/Mexico border

**Isabelle Paine Thacker**, attorney with The Legal Project  
and formerly with the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

This program is sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

### Mark Your Calendar



**Thursday, January 10, Forum on Immigration (see above)**

**February: No General Meeting or Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 General Meeting**  
**“Secret Agents in Hoop Skirts”, McChesney Room**

**Friday to Sunday, April 26-28**

**NYS Convention at the Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown**  
**The theme is *Women Leaders: Facing the Future Together.***

Contact Gail, Robin or Bobbi to car pool.



**\* Make sure you read the article on page 3 and Evvie Currie's article!**

## Board's Message:

## AAUW and the New Year

AAUW has long been focused on achieving equity for women in all areas of life. While women achieved the vote nationally a century ago, they still have a long way to go toward achieving true parity in most areas of public life. Economically and politically, AAUW is committed to closing the gender gap by 2030.

To that end, AAUW provides programs which educate women about salary negotiation techniques (Work Smart). To that end, AAUW supports strengthening Title IX protections and protests when those protections are weakened. To that end, AAUW supports Health policies which protect a woman's right to choose and which protect family planning programs.

The incoming Congress will - for the first time - have a truly significant number of women, many of them young and many of them of color. The 116th Congress will have a total of 126 women serving. Most of these women are serving in the House and the overwhelming majority of them are Democrats. This will be the largest group of women ever to serve in Congress!

Recognizing that equitable funding for quality public education is the basis of future ability to achieve economic and political equity, AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender equity. This includes vigorous enforcement of Title IX mandates. AAUW supports increasing access for girls and women to programs in STEM fields. Recognizing that women need to be able to control their reproductive choices, AAUW supports family planning initiatives and access to affordable health care.

The years ahead may present many challenges but AAUW has a track record of holding firm to those policy initiatives which benefit both women and the larger society.

You - as a member - can support these positions by becoming an activist. How? Become familiar with the **AAUW Action Network and Two-Minute Activist Tool**: The cornerstone of AAUW's e-advocacy efforts, [Action Network](https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/) (<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>) sends subscribers urgent email notices when their advocacy is needed most. With our [Two-Minute Activist](#) online tool, it takes no time to contact your legislators and make your voice heard. Anyone with an email address can subscribe.

If you have never done this, it's not too late to start. Here's to an Activist Year! ~ *Eleanor Aronstein*

## OUR BRANCH IS GIVING TO THE COMMUNITY

An appreciative Schenectady Teacher Impacting 140 Woodlawn Elementary. School Children

Dear AAUW Members,

My name is Cecilia Contreras Rottger. I teach English as a New Language (ENL) at Woodlawn Elementary School in Schenectady. We run a take-home program for our ENL students which has now extended into our first grade classrooms. Student take home books at their independent reading level along with other literacy activities in order to strengthen our connections with parents and strengthen the parent-child relationship.



I appreciate the financial support I got from your AAUW-Schenectady Branch through the Schenectady City School District Educational Fund. I was able to buy book bags for the students to take home their books and thanks to the children's book sale at the Whitney Book Corner, I was able to buy 115 children's paperback books at twenty-five cents each and 25 hard-cover books at fifty cents each. The books I most recently acquired were for my older ENL students in grades 2-5. All participating students will be evaluated using pre and post literacy assessments.

\*Ironically enough, I am a 1990 AAUW Naples, FL scholarship recipient when I graduated from Immokalee, Florida.\*

Thank you for your continued support. It is greatly appreciated. ~ *Cecilia Contreras Rottger*, Woodlawn ENL Teacher

# A Lifetime of Membership: Testimonial from Evvie Currie

Evvie Currie's 72 Years in AAUW



As I approach the age of 95 on November 21, 2018, I am remembering all the wonderful things which have enriched my life and kept my mind active. Among them all, AAUW has been the ongoing influence. I hope my thoughts will inspire all the members in AAUW NYS and especially the ones in my Schenectady Branch, to work for the AAUW Mission all of their lives.

I earned 2 degrees at the University of Rochester. To do that, I entered a 5 year program to achieve a Bachelors' degree in English from the Arts College in 1945 and a Bachelor of Music in Voice and Music Education from The Eastman School of Music in 1946. I joined AAUW right after graduating from the Eastman School in Rochester and continued my membership in the branches in each town to which we moved.

I married Bob Currie right after graduation also. He had returned from the Air Force and I taught at the University of Rochester while he completed his degree. He then joined GE and that was my first experience with how important AAUW was to be in my life. We moved to Schenectady in 1949 and I became a member of the Schenectady Branch for 3 years. Then on to the Detroit, Michigan Branch for the 15 years we lived there. (Our children, Meg and Robert were born during that time). Back to the Schenectady Branch, where I also taught in Scotia in the 60's. On to The Northern Westchester County Branch (as it was known then) while I taught in the Somers Central School District in the 70's. And finally back to my Schenectady Branch in 1985 as Bob and I retired to Burnt Hills. Each time we moved I found AAUW friends who welcomed me with open arms. We were all "Living the Mission of AAUW" to promote advancing equity for women and girls!

Along the way, I became a Paid Life Member and after 50 years an Honorary Life Member of AAUW. Along with my family and teaching responsibilities, AAUW has always been a priority in my life. It has been my way to "give back" to the many women who have helped me in my lifetime. As AAUW NYS President for 2 years, I traveled to each Branch in the state at least once. Some Branches had never had a NYS President visit them before and welcomed me!

The high points in my life have been many: President of the Schenectady Branch 1994-96 and being Named Grant Honoree in 1997; NYS LAF Director 1998-2002 when we raised the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest LAF contribution in the country; President of AAUW NYS 2002-2004; and "The Evvie Currie Giving Circle" a special LAF Fund named in my honor. Members can designate their Legal Advocacy Fund gift to that Fund.

As I reminisce, please don't think that AAUW's "Living the Mission" will always be easy. I have given up things along the way to follow my dream. There have been days during my life when I was tempted to say, "why do I bother? It was then that my many AAUW friends around NYS would prove to me, with their dedication, why I needed to keep pursuing the AAUW dream of equity for all women and girls. Thank you all for joining me, in all you do in Living the Mission of AAUW. I hope you will feel rewarded in a thousand ways, as I have been, with your friendship in AAUW. ~ Evvie Currie

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## OUR BRANCH IS GIVING TO THE COMMUNITY (continued) An Afternoon at Girls, Inc.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, Ann Hicks, Barbara Aldi, Gerri Pinkerton, and Gail Karl worked with girls from Girls, Inc. and taught them how to make bracelets and origami boxes. The girls really enjoyed making the bracelets & gift boxes so that they could give them as a holiday gift to their special loved one.

A very special THANK YOU to Gerri Pinkerton who organized this craft project and made the arrangements. The girls enjoyed the project.



## AAUW EMPOWERS WOMEN An Important Article for All Our Members

Everyone once in a while we need a reminder on what AAUW does for us and what as an organization we are is all about. AAUW is working to empower women and make their lives better through legislation, workshops, case support and educational funding. There are so many different aspects to our organization that go beyond our study group participation.

Our dues help support many programs that include education and training to help women achieve economic security and leadership roles.

Progress is being made as we have an historic number of women taking over Congressional seats and governorships in January.

AAUW is in the forefront in pushing an equity agenda – lobbying for the passing of such critical legislation as the Paycheck Fairness Act, The Pay Equity for All Act, the Fair Pay Act – to level the playing field for women.

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families. Now it is more important than ever to continue to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. This is your dues at work through our leadership.

**As we approach 2019, we need **YOU** to support our local chapter by offering to serve on the Board.** This is critical to keeping our Branch a vital part of our community. As you know Bobbi and Robin have been president for a number of years and their term is ending. We know a number of you have served in the past. **We need you again now!**

### Openings for 2019-2020

President(s)          Program V.P          Public Policy V.P.          Social Events – Dec. Luncheon and May Dinner

***OUR BRANCH CAN'T CONTINUE WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS!***

### **The History of our AAUW Quilt**

Presented by Mary Pritchard at our December Luncheon.

*In 1975 it was decided there would be enough specific topics to show in a 30 block quilt. Some blocks showed things the Branch has done in the past like the Teen Art show and the College Caravan.*

*The quilt was begun in the fall of 1975 with donated fabric on 14"x14" blocks. People designed their own blocks. The quilt was completed in April 1976 and helped to bring 28 members closer together. The quilt has been shown in Washington D.C. and Long Island, NY. It has also been part of a number of Bicentennial exhibits..*



**STUDY AND INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS for JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH 2019**

**Book Chat**

Leader: Ellie Rowland (518-250-4302)

**January 15, 2:00 p.m.**

Book: The Alice Network  
by Kate Quinn

Hostess: Ann Gotwals  
1359 Valencia Rd. Nisky

**February 19, 2:00 p.m.**

Book: Trails of the Earth  
by Mary M. Hamilton

Hostess: Linda Ward  
4028 Windsor Drive, Nisky

**March 19, 2:00 p.m.**

Book: The Flight of the Hawk,  
William Gear

Hostess: Ellie Rowland  
216 Lois Lane, Niskayuna

**Book Exchange 1**

Leader: Marguerite Pileggi 518-280-5623  
No regular meetings

**Book Exchange 2**

Leader: Ellie Rowland 518-250-4302  
No regular meetings

**Couples Gourmet**

Leaders: Faith Weldon (518-930 2843)  
Pat Terry (518-372-8431)

**January 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:00**

Theme: **Brunch/Lunch at Stella's**  
Organizer: Pat Terry

**February: NO GOURMET**

**March 8, 6:30 p.m.**

Theme: Irish  
Organizer: Pat Terry

**Diverse Topics**

Leader: Eleanor Aronstein 518-265-2500

**January: No Meeting**

**February 18, 1:30 p.m.**

Bornt Library  
Program: Jean Wildgrube's trip to  
Haiti, presentation with slides  
Co-hostess: Linda Ward

**March 18, 1:30 p.m.**

Hostess: Eleanor Aronstein  
909 Londonderry Court, Schenectady  
Program: Family Court Judge Polk  
Co-Hostess: Erica Berger

**Mah Jongg**

Leader: Linda Ward (518-377-2377)

**January 7 1:30 p.m.**

Hostess: Harriet Severenko  
23 Old Coach Road, Scotia

**January 21, 1:30 p.m.**

Hostess: Jackie Mendini  
5 Durham Court, Niskayuna

**February 11th, 1:30 p.m.**

Hostess: Ellie Rowland  
216 Lois Lane, Niskayuna

**February 25th, 1:30 p.m.**

Hostess: Dottie Potochnik  
5000 Queen Philomena Blvd, Schdy

**March 11, 1:30**

Hostess: Linda Ward  
4028 Windsor Drive, Niskayuna

**March 25<sup>th</sup> 1:30**

Hostess: Eleanor Auerbach  
848 Beech Drive, Niskayuna

**Modern Literature**

Leaders: Joan Bergin (518-399-1861)  
Mary Delory (518-269-0966)

**January 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**

Book: The Flight of the Sparrow  
by Amy Brown

Reviewer: Joan Bergin  
Hostess: Susie Leon  
12 Laury Lane, Glenville  
Co-Hostess: Toni Walsh

**February 11<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**

Book: Killers of the Flower Moon  
by D. Grann

Reviewer: Carol Reynolds  
Hostess: Toni Walsh  
113 Alexander Ave, Scotia  
Co-Hostess: Grace Riccobono

**March 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**

Book: Mudbound by Hillary Jordan  
Reviewer: Susie Leon  
Hostess: Dottie Potochnik  
5000 Queen Philomena Blvd, Schen.  
Co-Hostess: Joan Bergin

**Quilting**

Leader: Marguerite Pileggi  
(518-280-5623)

**January: No Meeting**

**February 26th**

Program: "The Hexagon"  
Marguerite Pileggi  
Hostess: Toni Walsh  
113 Alexander Ave, Scotia

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Program: TBD  
Hostess: Geri Pinkerton  
803 Dongoan Ave, Scotia

**Science Topics**

Leader: Dot Gray (518-859-4420)

**January 7<sup>th</sup> 12 p.m.**

Special: Lunch, Garden Bistro  
Rte 7, Latham  
Regular Meeting Location:  
Fireplace Lounge  
Glen Eddy Senior Center  
1 Glen Eddy Drive, Niskayuna

**February 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**

Program: Current Science Topics  
Julie Burgess &  
Ellie Rowland

**March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**

Program: Artificial Intelligence  
Sue Wright

**Varied Interests**

Leader: Arlene Maranville  
(518-225-2143)

**January 10th, 12:30 p.m.**

Hostess : Susie Leon  
12 Laura Lane, Scotia  
Program: TBD

**No February Meeting**

**March 14th 12:30 p.m.**

Hostess: Karen Kump  
76 Frederick Road, Scotia  
Program: Travels

*If you are interested  
in attending a meeting,  
contact the leader.*

**WELCOME TO AAUW!**

**Jenny Overeynder**

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Niskayuna, NY 12309  
518-372-0632  
joverbean@gmail.com



## VISIONS

### Schenectady Branch Newsletter AAUW

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

**Editor:** Faith Weldon  
**Circulation:** Pat Terry

**Presidential Council**  
Gail Karl, Robin Eddy  
Bobbi Richardson

**Branch Website**  
<https://schenectady-ny.aauw.net>

## AAUW's New Strategic Plan

**Mission:** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy

**Vision:** Equity for all

**Values:** Nonpartisan, Fact-based, Integrity, Inclusion and Intersectionality

### Our Focus

- Education & Training
- Economic Security
- Leadership

<https://www.aauw.org/who-we-are>

*AAUW*

*Schenectady Branch  
C/O Faith Weldon  
27 Brittany Oaks  
Clifton Park 12065*

