

This issue is dedicated to the memory of

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

A fierce defender of justice and a cultural icon.
Beloved for her vision and passion for defending
the rights of women.



Here are some of the issues Justice Ginsburg impacted.

- Before Ginsburg, state-funded schools didn't have to admit women
- Women couldn't sign a mortgage or have a bank account without a male co-signer
- Ginsburg helped women make strides toward equal pay
- Her presence on the court preserved a woman's right to choose
- Employers cannot discriminate against employees based on gender or reproductive choices.
- Women have the right to financial independence and equal benefits.
- Men are entitled to the same caregiving and Social Security rights as women.
- Juries must include women.
- She pushed to protect pregnant women in the workplace
- Ginsburg argued women should serve on juries
- She was a key vote in granting same-sex marriages
- Ginsburg made it cool to be a confident, hard-working female leader

For more information, check out this website: <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/life/2020/09/24/ruth-bader-ginsburg-8-things-she-did-womens-rights/3502065001/>

Words of Wisdom Quotes from Ruth Bader Ginsburg

"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

"I'm a very strong believer in listening and learning from others."

"A gender line ... helps to keep women not on a pedestal, but in a cage."

"You can disagree without being disagreeable."

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception."

"Don't be distracted by emotions like anger, envy, resentment. These just zap energy and waste time."

"When I'm sometimes asked 'When will there be enough (women on the Supreme Court)?' and my answer is: 'When there are nine.' People are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody has raised a question about that."

Staying Connected During a Pandemic

A Message from the Board

As this Pandemic consumes our lives, the Branch continues to seek ways to help us to make life more interesting and productive. Ways in which we hope we have been effective is through Connections, calling members, and this newsletter. Zoom has been a useful tool for our Board and some study groups. We thank Robin who produces Connections which provide activities and webinars to stimulate our mind and bodies. Our calling campaign early on was well received and we will be doing that again. We want to stay connected and know how you are doing. If you have any suggestions on how we can get through this, please forward your suggestions to any Board member or to Robin Eddy.

Our National organization is busy as well. This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, two milestones that gave women the right to vote. Our AAUW representatives in Washington DC continue to promote and monitor equity issues. There never has been a more important time to keep up the fight for fairness. Go to AAUW.org for up to date information on what are national organization is doing in Congress to protect and expand equity. When we combine our voices, we have an impact.



We wish you all well and hope you continue to stay well and safe. We are in this together. The Board, Schenectady Branch.

Membership

This has been a tough year for us all. Our Branch continues to find ways to connect our members and make sure you are staying well and are not isolated. We are here for you. In May members of our Board, Ellen Auerbach, Robin Eddy, Karen Huggins, Arlene Maranville, Carol Reynolds, Bobbi Richardson, Pat Terry and Faith Weldon, made calls to our members to check on our members. We heard many positive comments from members who enjoyed speaking with our Board members so we plan to do this again in October. We appreciate Robin's efforts to send out Connections with suggestions for activities that you might enjoy while we remain isolated.

This year has also been unfortunate as we lost three members, **Rhoda Mayer, Grace Riccobono, and Nancy Walden.** Grace a former librarian was an active member of Modern Lit. Members enjoyed her book reviews and input on books the group read. Rhoda was an active participant in many study groups over her 54 year membership and shared her love of Vera Bradley handbags by donating many of these bags to a Branch fundraiser. Nancy was a 58 year member who took many leadership roles, was active in Science Topics, and contributed her talents to the AAUW quilt. We remember and appreciate these women and their many contributions to our Branch. Although many of our activities are shut down, the National organization continues to pursue our interests before Congress. We cannot let up the fight. Women interests are being threatened everyday.

Any concerns or suggestions, contact Bobbi Richardson or Jackie Mendeni

Staying Connected and Active as AAUW Members

Covid-19 has changed the face of America...the face of the world. The impact of this pandemic has yet to be measured, but for women's organizations, we know the impact is especially devastating. That is because women are disproportionately impacted by the virus.

For us, members of our local branch, the impact is immediate and painful. We can no longer meet in fellowship. We email or Zoom. We can no longer come together in small or large groups - to share ideas and enjoy each other's company.

For the larger community of women, women who work - the impact of the pandemic has been devastating.

Women constitute the majority of low wage workers. Women are the majority of caregivers, both for children and the elderly. Women are less likely than men to have adequate health care and family leave benefits. As society adapts to new employment patterns, as schools furlough non-essential personnel, it is women who feel the impact most keenly.

The work they do is often underpaid and undervalued — an unseen labor force that keeps the country running and takes care of those most in need, whether or not there is a pandemic. One in three jobs held by women has been designated as "essential" according to a New York Times analysis of census data crossed with the federal government's essential worker guidelines - and the majority of these jobs are held by minority, nonwhite women. These are the jobs that keep the country running during a pandemic: working in schools, hospitals, pharmacies and supermarkets.

With school and daycare closures, women have been disproportionately impacted. Of job losses, women have accounted for 58.8% of those losses. AAUW has long been dedicated to full equity for women - equity in the political sphere, equity in education, and equity in employment. Now, more than ever, AAUW must stand behind policies which support women's work and policies of equity.

And what is our job during this time of pandemic and isolation? Our job is to stay connected to our local AAUW chapter, to call or email or Zoom with fellow members. To maintain our membership and support our leadership. To participate in civic actions which will result in equitable policies for women. To encourage voting. To write our elected officials. To maintain our vigilance so that equitable conditions no longer become a distant goal but a reality.

AAUW is a powerful force for achieving just that! Stay Strong!

~ Eleanor Aronstein

"CONNECTIONS"

A way to find interesting articles, webinars, and videos to fill you day.

Being at home at the beginning of the Covid-19 quarantine, I wondered what our branch can do to keep in touch with our members during these trying times. On the AAUW National website, I saw and participated in a AAUW webinar about what AAUW is going through because of Covid. Then I went to the AAUW-NYS website. I found that the Poughkeesie Branch had started a "Connections" page. It was just what I was looking for! I took their idea (with their permission) of a list of websites and adjusted it for what our members might be interested in.

I have sent out 5 editions of our Schenectady Branch Connections. If you haven't received my emails, please send me your email address.

If you have ideas for websites that I could include in the next edition, please send me the links. ~ Robin Eddy rjeddy321@gmail.com



STUDY AND INTEREST GROUPS

Book Exchange is into its second month of reading their exchanged books

Modern Lit – will have Zoom meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

Diverse Topics, Quilting and Mahjong will not meet until they feel comfortable to do so.

Varied Interests members are contacting each other to share their news of health, families and activities for the time being.

Gourmet has met a couple of times to chat—not cook—and catch up.

Give Every Grad You Know the Gift of AAUW Membership at No Cost!!

As an AAUW member you can gift one year of AAUW National Membership to as many recent college graduates as you like at no cost to them or to you. Fill out the form at <https://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift>

VISIONS

Schenectady Branch Newsletter AAUW

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

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AAUW's 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>

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