



V I S I O N S

Winter
Vol. XL
No. 4

UPCOMING PROGRAMS VIA ZOOM - Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, February 10, 7:00 p.m., Sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Branch
 Program: **The ABC's of LGBTQ+: *Why Language is So Important***
 Speaker: **Karen Marder**, Executive Director, The Dutchess Pride Center
 The program will focus on the importance of language and how the language around the LGBTQ+ community is constantly changing.
Register for this zoom program at
 link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMscOirrjgpHtC1D-WUBXKxYEsY3mpYRMs*h

Thursday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Buffalo Branch
 Program: **Persistent Challenges Facing Women in Business**
(The Undercapitalization of Women-Owned Businesses)

Speaker: **Dr. Susan McCartney**,
 The Director of the Small Business Development Center



Register for this zoom program at: <https://bit.ly/33zJQbF>

Tuesday, March 22, 7:00p.m. Sponsored by our Schenectady Branch
*** Yes, we are hosting and hoping for a good turnout!**

Speaker: **Elaine Auerbach**

Program: **From Innocence to Activism**

Elaine Auerbach will discuss her new book,

Dirty Linen: How Women Sued the Reader's Digest and Changed History.



Register for this zoom program at:

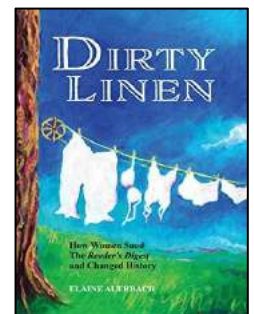
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuceCpqT0pE90cqNohfWoYGul0w_1GJmif

The *Reader's Digest* was in homes across the world, quite probably in your home as well. The author was delighted when she joined the huge publishing empire as an assistant editor right out of college. What she found there surprised her and will surprise you as well. The results changed the author, the *Reader's Digest*, the media and even history. Today, the situation for women in the workplace seems to be going backwards.

Join Elaine and AAUW in an "Empowering Women" story as she reveals how she and 7 other women stepped forward to advance equality, and what needs to be done now.

Elaine Auerbach spent thirteen years as an editor with the *Reader's Digest*, followed by nearly three decades as a communications professional at PepsiCo, a leading consumer food and beverage company. She received her undergraduate degree from Douglass College/Rutgers the State University and her MBA from Pace University. She is the mother of two adult children and lives with her husband in Arizona.

Read more about Elaine at <https://www.elaineauerbachauthor.com>.
 Her book is available from Wildcat Press <https://www.wildcatpress.com>
 in paperback, or from Amazon on Kindle. Signed copies are
 available from the author, email elaineauerbachauthor@gmail.com.



8 Women

1 Lawsuit

A breakthrough in sexual discrimination

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The effects of COVID are still affecting our Branch by keeping us from gathering in groups. This has been difficult but not insurmountable. We have initiated monthly zoom get togethers to chat and catch up. This has been made possible by Robin Eddy who applied and received a grant from NYS AAUW. We also have been able to connect with the Buffalo and Poughkeepsie Branches on two of their zoom programs. We hope to reciprocate and offer a zoom program that they can participate.



Some good things have come out of the pandemic, particularly zoom and a renewed cooperation with other Branches. On a recent zoom, the new AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell presented the current outlook for AAUW. It was nice to see her and feel confident that our organization is in competent hands.

I want to thank you all for continuing to support AAUW. We are certainly stronger together to continue our mission. I so enjoyed attending the unveiling of the statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton in her hometown, Johnstown, NY. It is worth a trip to sit beside her.

On a somber note we have lost three long time member, Ann Bish, Julie Burgess and Toni Walsh who all contributed so much to AAUW and their community. Those who chose not to renew are Winnie Balz, Sally Dewes, Barbara Piliere and Susan Wright. We miss them all.

~ **Bobbi Richardson**

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We need someone to look at the websites for AAUW National (<https://www.aauw.org>) and AAUW-NYS, (<https://aauw-nys.org>) to find zoom meetings, videos, webinars, and/or interesting articles that our members would find of interest. Links to some of these things might be all that's necessary.

Our Board will be meeting soon to discuss our leadership team for next year. If you are willing to help us out, even doing one small thing, PLEASE let me know. Our current leadership team has been doing it for a number of years.

To keep our organization going, remember, YOU are the "U" in AAUW.

AAUW AND COVID

AAUW has been at the forefront of bringing women together to effect social, educational, economic, and societal improvement - for over a century. The challenges of the past two years have been - well, challenges! At the national level, at the state level, and most importantly - at the local level - AAUW focuses on our membership, their interests by providing Zoom programs, their health and their safety. Because of isolation, social or mental health issues are of great import right now.

After two years of dealing with Covid, we are tired - tired of isolating, tired of zooming, tired of the anxiety that accompanies even the simplest of outings. And there are the wider implications for society - the economic and social disruptions that have disproportionately impacted women. AAUW has been at the cutting edge of fighting for economic equity for nearly 140 years. And what we're witnessing is how the pandemic is amplifying and exacerbating all of the nation's inequities.

AAUW has focused on the disproportionate impact Covid has had on women. Close to 30 percent of working Americans have no sick leave and have to choose between a paycheck and potentially losing their job or risking exposure to infection.

Women comprise more than 70 percent of the healthcare industry, including more than 85 percent of nurses. They are on the frontlines, putting themselves and their families at risk to care for others. More than 10 million Americans have already filed for unemployment due to the outbreak - and women may well be the majority. The female labor force accounts for a large proportion of service jobs: more than 80 percent of waitstaff, 65 percent of retail cashiers and 65 percent of hotel and hospitality workers. These fields are among those most likely to face furloughs and layoffs.

Part-time workers and hourly wage workers will face job loss, hourly wage loss and will need reskilling and retraining as we move beyond the immediate pandemic crisis.

Education is being upended, exacerbating existing education gaps for lower-income and students of color.

Women in college and graduate schools will be entering one of the worse economies in modern history, while still holding two-thirds of the nation's \$1.3 trillion of student debt.

Retirement and other savings have been hard hit. Already, retired women are twice as likely as men to live at or below the poverty level. As the economy falters, retired women's ability to pay monthly bills and survive will be at risk.

As we move forward, AAUW will continue to use its influence to fight for economic justice from grassroots to national and international fields. The goal is to secure equity and economic security for all. These are trying times for everyone: for us as individuals, for our families and friends and for our fellow AAUW members. But we are part of a community that is there for each other - as we have been since our inception. As members of our local chapter, we are learning to use technology to keep us connected. As members of our local chapter, we continue to reach out to our membership, to check on them, to provide opportunities for personal growth.

We can look forward to better times ... to spring and warmer weather, to getting together again in person, to remaining supportive of both AAUW and each other.

~ Eleanor Aronstein



THE POWER OF LEAVING A LEGACY
Supporting women and girls long into the future.

By making a planned gift to AAUW, through a charitable gift annuity or name AAUW as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy or individual retirement account, among other options, you become a member of AAUW’s Legacy Circle and confirm your commitment to ensuring a better future for women and girls.

There is no minimum gift requirement to join the Legacy Circle, and the benefits are many.

To find out more about AAUW’s Legacy Circle go to www.aauw.org/legacy or speak with an AAUW representative by calling 1-202-785-7766.

Kids Arts Festival

Sadly we will no longer be participating in The Kids Arts’ Festival. We continued to participate in this free annual event for the children of Schenectady for many years and the organizers are sad to see us go.



I want to thank all of you who participated throughout the years. A special thanks, however, goes to Ann Hicks and Robin Eddy who persevered in the blazing sun this last year to help kids be creative.

Aside from melting crayons, it has been a rewarding experience for both our Branch and the families in our community. ~ **Bobbi Richardson**

* A very Special THANK YOU to Bobbi Richardson who has been the organizer and a full day volunteer for this event for many years. ~ **Our AAUW-Schenectady Board**

STUDY AND INTEREST GROUPS

Diverse Topics:

No in-person meetings

Gourmet:

- February 11- Japanese Restaurant
- March – No meeting
- April – Hostess Choice
- May – No meeting
- June – Spring picnic

Modern Literature

March 8 – *This Tender Land* by William Kent Kruger
 Facilitator: Bobbi Richardson on ZOOM

April 12 – *The Truths We Hold* by Kamala Harris

May 10 – *The Searcher* by Tana French
 Host: Pat Gregory
 26 Central Ave. Saratoga Springs

If you have an idea for another group or would like to join one of these groups, please contact Arlene Maranville at 518 384-1639 or amara041@aol.com.

OUR AAUW-SCHENECTADY BRANCH GRANTS

This year our AAUW-Schenectady Branch Grants helped to support 2 teachers from the Schenectady City School District who sent applications for funding to Schenectady City School District Educational Foundation. The Foundation Committee then emailed me several applications. Our Board Members made the decision on which projects to fund.

Our winners were Jackie Rowen, the 7th grade Technology Teacher at Oneida Middle School and Katherine Leupold, a 3rd grade and ESL teacher at Pleasant Valley Elementary School.

Jackie requested money to expand her Cubelets Modular Robotic materials and to purchase a class set of Modular Robotic Activity Cards. These in turn would help to foster her students' engineering skills by having them design and build Cubelets modular robots. Jackie's curriculum using these materials would benefit 150 students.



Katherine requested student copies of **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** and a class set of headphones. Having individual copies of a class book would encourage student engagement and an increase of their time on a task during our class read aloud and independent work time.

In addition to the funds they requested, AAUW surprised them with a \$25 gift card for books for their classroom library that could be redeemed at The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library's Book Stores, **A Second Look** in ViaPort, Rotterdam and/or **The Whitney Book Corner** on Union Street.



Both teachers were very appreciative of AAUW's support. ~ *Robin Eddy*



VISIONS

Schenectady Branch Newsletter AAUW

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

Editor Faith Weldon and Robin Eddy
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Website: schenectady-ny.aauw.net

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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**GET YOUR NEWSLETTER
IN COLOR
Just a click away!**

To get VISIONS in color with the ability to click on links, get it delivered to your email days earlier, and save on printing and postage costs, email Faith Weldon to update your delivery status.

fpweldon@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar!
See page 1 for our upcoming programs.