



# American Association of University Women Greater Rochester Area (NY) Branch

The American Association of University Women promotes Equity for Women and Girls through, Education, Philanthropy and Research.

Volume 101 Issue #4 Moving the Mission Forward

April, 2014



## Nita Brown

## Branch Dinner Tuesday, April 8

Come to our April Branch Dinner Meeting and be inspired by the life journey and business enterprise of one of our fellow branch members, entrepreneur **Nita Brown**.

“Nita, founder of Red Sandal Tours, was born in Ghana. As a daughter of a diplomat, she left for her first overseas trip at the age of 7 when her father was assigned to the Czech Republic. Nita left Ghana after completing her secondary schooling. She made New York State her permanent home after living in Europe. Concentrating in history at Columbia University as well as living in Switzerland sparked her interest in historical and cultural traveling. Brown has traveled extensively throughout the world, studying painting, sculpture and architecture: from da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* to Bernini's *David* to the Ajanta Caves and the Taj Mahal in India. Her traveling experience and managerial skills were further strengthened working as a consultant for an international management consultancy and obtaining her MBA in International General Management from Georgetown University. Nita started Red Sandal Tours, the marketing name for Maame Koranchee's LLC in 2003 to introduce her clients to the treasures of select “third world” countries. The company focuses on trips to Ghana, South Africa, Brazil and the Gullah Islands in South Carolina. Nita not only accompanies clients on the tours, but also consults and conducts educational workshops for students and educators on best practices in multi-cultural pedagogy. These presentations aim to provide audience with another perspective of the country being featured. Click [here](#) for Nita's speaking engagements.”

Nita is also the owner of the newly opened store named "MansaWear" at 367 Park Avenue in Rochester. Nita is a fashion designer and entrepreneur who creates fashions and accessories that artfully combine Ghanaian and Western fashions. At her grand opening in February of this year, City Commissioner Del Smith commented on Nita's accomplishment, “MansaWear is a wonderful addition to the Park Avenue shopping scene. I want to thank Ms. Brown for making this investment in the city and helping us grow Rochester's economy.”

Please come and enjoy a pleasant evening at the Perkins Mansion learning more about Nita Brown, a most interesting and accomplished entrepreneur who will inspire us all. Visit her website at [Mansawear.com](http://Mansawear.com) and check out the fabulous styles and accessories.

### Schedule

5:00 – 6:00 pm Social Hour

6:00 - 7:00 pm Dinner

7:00 – 8:30 pm Program

Tickets: \$20

RSVP by Thursday April 3 at 244-8890 ext. 1

### DINNER MENU

- Caesar Salad (no anchovy)
- Bread Basket featuring artisan bread and soft garlic butter
- Pasta with artichoke and tomato bruschetta and grilled chicken
- Vegetarian (above pasta, no chicken)
- Strawberry Shortcake over scone with whipped cream

*AAUW is a powerful advocate and viable leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.*

*In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a 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.*

GRABAAUW [www.aauwrochester.org](http://www.aauwrochester.org)

New York State [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

National [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**GRAB AAUW ~ 494 East Ave. Rochester. NY. 14607 ~ Phone: 585.244.8890**

## Equal Pay: We've Waited Long Enough! April 3, 2014



Equal Pay Day draws attention to the gap between women's and men's paychecks. This year we are celebrating with an Equal Pay event happening on April 3rd!

**Metro Justice** is cosponsoring the **Equal Pay: We've Waited Long Enough!** event, discussing how the Women's

Equality Act will assist in closing the pay gap.

The featured **speaker, Martha Burk**, a women's issue expert and perhaps best known for challenging the Augusta National Golf Club's all-male membership policy at the 2002 Masters Tournament, will discuss why wage secrecy policies are the largest barriers for women in achieving pay equity.

Among other items, Martha will address why women not knowing how much they are being paid relative to their co-workers is the single biggest barrier for women achieving equal pay. This employee's right to share wage information with other employees without being retaliated against is an important part of the NYS Women's Equality Act (which passed the NYS Assembly but not the Senate last year).

Martha is co-founder of the Center for Advancement of Public Policy, serves as the Money Editor for *Ms. Magazine*, and is a frequent blogger for *Huffington Post*. Her latest book is *Your Voice, Your Vote: The Savvy Woman's Guide to Power, Politics, and the Change We Need*.

**Location: AAUW Perkins Mansion (494 East Ave)**

**Date and Time: Thursday, April 3rd, 7PM**

This event is sponsored by [Rochester NOW](#) and *M. Spurrier Financial Services*, and co-sponsored by [GRAB](#), [AAUW](#), [WELD](#), and [Metro Justice](#). We would love to fill the room with *Metro Justice* members in support of Equal Pay Day!

Help us spread the word by inviting your friends on Facebook!

To RSVP or for more information, make sure to visit the following link!

[http://metrojustice.nationbuilder.com/equal\\_pay\\_event](http://metrojustice.nationbuilder.com/equal_pay_event)



M. Spurrier Financial Services, Llc

## The House Speaks

What a wonderful feeling of being full!



International Women's Day was just what I needed to feel appreciated, warm and welcoming. I must admit every nook and cranny was in use – my stairs, floors, walls and ceilings

reverberated with the applause and cheers for the award recipients.

The energized conversation, laughter, and wonderful smells of food filled every room. It made me very happy and very proud to provide you with an elegant house to hold such a wonderful event. I want to thank the caretakers especially for being so careful with the set up and tear down after the event.

I did not feel any discomfort at all. I would ask in the future that you please not tape anything on my walls. I would also ask that you be careful to not accidentally drop food or spill any beverages.

A little slow movement and patience will help to preserve my looks. Just one more thing, a reminder to watch for the coffee donation baskets. Every little bit helps.

**Thanks for taking such good care of me. You all are wonderful, and I am glad the feeling is mutual. Look for my coffee donation cups.**



GRAB AAUW Members:  
**Marlene Gordon, April 29**

GRAB AAUW wants to celebrate with you. Send us the day and month of your birthday.

## Thank you!!!



I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to members of AAUW for the beautiful flowers, candy, cards and calls which I received while hospitalized with pneumonia. Special thanks to President Marilyn for her presence, prayers concern and care during and following my hospital stay.

*Myrtle A. Merritt PhD.*  
Vice President of Development



Dear Friends,  
A special thank you to all those who brought food, laughter, and love over the last few months, while I was caring for Tom Ferraro, my husband. Now that he has passed, I want to tell you how much your support meant to me. Merci beaucoup!

*Régine Calvar*, Communications Director

## Our Snowbirds are back!

Thank you to those who worked diligently while our Snow Bird members enjoyed warm weather for a few months. Among our wonderful volunteers are:

Jean Arrowsmith, Evelyn Bailey, Régine Calvar, Ana DeTomaso, Ginger Goyer, Uma Gupta, Deborah Hughes, Beverly Vaughan



# SUNSHINE

We wish a speedy recovery to Barbara Blaisdell who had surgery and Carol Achilles who will have surgery in April.

Please click on the icons below to visit our websites and social media



## Equal Pay Day

The next Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, **April 8, 2014**. This date symbolizes how far into 2013 women must work to earn what men earned in 2012.

Equal Pay Day was originated by the [National Committee on Pay Equity](#) (NCPE) in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages.

Since Census statistics showing the latest wage figures will not be available until late August or September, NCPE leadership decided years ago to select a Tuesday in April as Equal Pay Day. (Tuesday was selected to represent how far into the work week women must work to earn what men earned the previous week.) The date also is selected to avoid religious holidays and other significant events.

Because women earn less, on average, than men, they must work longer for the same amount of pay. The wage gap is even greater for most women of color.

For more information, see NCPE's Equal Pay Day Kit or contact the NCPE.

### Questions & Answers on Pay Equity

#### What is pay equity?

Pay equity is a means of eliminating sex and race discrimination in the wage-setting system. Many women and people of color are still segregated into a small number of jobs such as clerical, service workers, nurses and teachers. These jobs have historically been undervalued and continue to be underpaid to a large extent because of the gender and race of the people who hold them. Pay equity means that the criteria employers use to set wages must be sex- and race-neutral.

#### What is the legal status of pay equity?

Two laws protect workers against wage discrimination. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 prohibits unequal pay for equal or "substantially equal" work performed by men and women. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits wage discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion or national origin. In 1981, the Supreme Court made it clear that Title VII is broader than the Equal Pay Act, and prohibits wage discrimination even when the jobs are not identical. However, wage discrimination laws are poorly enforced and cases are extremely difficult to prove and win. Stronger legislation is needed to ease the burden of filing claims and clarify the right to pay equity.

<http://www.pay-equity.org/info.html>



## 4 Things That Really Haven't Change for Women since 1960s

We may have, as the 1968 Virginia Slims ad told us, "come a long way, baby." Or not. Sometimes, it seems, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Here are four examples:

### 1) Who gets the money.

Entrepreneurs and startups rely on investors and loans to launch their bright ideas. And guess what? The money still mostly goes from men to other men. Estimates of what share of funding goes to women-owned startups vary but never get above 15 percent, and often are as low as 7 percent, reported Emily Bell in a piece for The Guardian.

Women in the 1960s were routinely asked to have their husband or a male guarantor sign for a loan -- so yes, we've made some "progress."

### 2) Women are still behind when it comes to pay.

Until the early 1960s, newspapers actually ran separate job listings for men and women. And -- no surprise here -- the higher-paying jobs were primarily found under "Help Wanted -- Male." Between 1950 and 1960, women employed full time earned between 59-64 cents for every dollar their male counterparts were paid for doing the same job. The Equal Pay Act that took effect in 1964 was supposed to change all that. So how come women 50 years later are still earning less than men? In 2012 women earned 80.9 percent of men's wages -- an improvement of about half a penny per dollar earned every year...

Read more:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/25/womens-rights\\_n\\_4987159.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/25/womens-rights_n_4987159.html)



Archive Photos via Getty Images

A complete report of the Annual Appeal will appear in the May Newsletter.

# NYS AAUW 2014 CONFERENCE April 25 - 27, Ellenville, NY.



*“A World of Wellness:  
Stimulating the Mind,  
Inspiring the Soul,  
Energizing the Body”*

The entire [registration packet](#) is now available.  
Please click [HERE](#) to register online.

The hotel registration form is also available in two forms. Both need to be sent to the hotel with your signature.

- Click [here](#) for a paper to print and fill in by hand.
- Click [here](#) for a form to fill out online, then mail with your signature.

**The election of officers for 2014-2016 can be found on the business meeting agenda. The following candidates are listed below for each of the open offices:**

AAUW-NYS President:

Edwina Frances Martin, Staten Island Branch

AAUW-NYS Development VP:

Janice Brown, Jefferson County Branch

AAUW-NYS Program VP:

Jane Pfeiffer Russell, Bath Branch

**Mail to:** AAUW Convention Registration  
Betty Preble  
6935 East Quaker  
Orchard Park, NY, 14127

**Phone:** 716/662-0608

**Email:** [betty.preble@gmail.com](mailto:betty.preble@gmail.com)

# GRAB-AAUW Welcomes our new members!!!



Welcome to Spring, the arrival of new members, and the return of the Snowbirds! We look forward to gathering as we in our region thaw out and greet the.... SUN?! Say hello to our newest members:

Marlene Gordon, VP Membership



**Erika Myers** is a pharmacy student at Northeastern University in Boston and the daughter of member, Mary Myers. Erika is also a nationally ranked All American Collegiate Power-lifter.

“Myers first competition came in 2011 when she attempted to qualify for nationals the following spring. Her road to that first meet was a long, tough path that not only included introduction to an entirely new sport but an alteration of lifestyle that has changed the way she lives.”



**Sara Inkin** is currently in the Masters in Public Administration (MPA) program at The College at Brockport. Her concentrations are nonprofit management and arts administration. Sara works part-time at the Anthony House in the administrative offices and remains an active volunteer for programming, as well. Her goal is to continue working in the museum field, on the administrative side.



**Peg Trego** moved to Victor NY in October. She has been a member of AAUW in Youngstown OH, Buffalo, NY, and Elmira, NY. She is a former Family and Consumer Science teacher, with certifications in Home Economics Education as well as Elementary Education. Having moved often, she has been a substitute teacher for all grade levels and all subjects, which has made her career very interesting. She recently worked as an adjunct professor at Youngstown State University, teaching a foods lab.

She is a graduate of the University of Dayton, and she earned her Master's degree at Miami University of Ohio. She has done post graduate work at SUNY Buffalo.

Peg has been married for 42 years to her husband Chuck, and she is the mother of three adult children, and the grandmother of one granddaughter. Her move to Rochester brings her close to her granddaughter, which makes her very happy.



**Lisa Helen Hoffman** is the Founding Consultant and Lead Trainer with LLH Consulting serving governmental, disability services, and arts organizations nationwide. Specializing in audio-description, she is one of a few consultants and trainers in the nation who is blind. For nearly 20 years, she has guided arts organizations to expand access across art forms. Regionally, she has spearheaded audio description at GEVA Theatre, Memorial Art Gallery and Syracuse Stage and internationally at the Royal

National Theatre in London, England, An artist in her own right, Ms. Hoffman is a violinist in the Rochester English Country Dance Ensemble, teacher of English Country Dance, and jewelry maker. She trained in audio-description at the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute at Ohio State University and is a graduate of the University of Buffalo.

# Annual Card Party at the Knights of Columbus

## April 10

You are cordially invited to join *The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs* Annual Card Party at the Knights of Columbus, 70 Barrett Drive, Webster, NY 14580.

**Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Cost: \$15.00**

Raffles, Prizes, 50/50 raffle and lots more.

**MENU:** chicken French, sliced pork, pasta w broccoli, herbed potatoes, candied carrots, tossed salad with rolls & butter, cake, tea and coffee

### COME CELEBRATE THE RFWCs 116th YEAR

This fundraiser supports The National Susan B. Anthony House and Museum.

Send payment payable to RFWCs and mail to:

Stephanie Augonis, 1519 State Road, Webster, NY 14580

**RSVP** by April 1st. Questions: call Stephanie at 585 217-9948

# YWCA Stand Against Racism April 25th

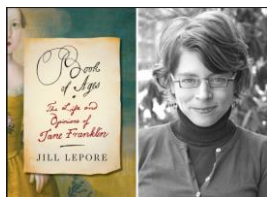


The YWCA's **Stand Against Racism** is committed to building a stronger Rochester community. The Stand is an annual community-wide event to build awareness about racism. The YWCA reaches out to businesses, schools, houses of worship, organizations, and government agencies to create greater awareness and to encourage conversations about race.

For this year's Stand, the YWCA is hosting a special breakfast event featuring YWCA USA CEO, Dara Richardson-Heron, MD, as the keynote speaker.

For more information about the Stand and to buy tickets for the breakfast on April 25, click [here](#).

# Tea and Titles April 23



On Wednesday, April 23 at 2.00 PM

LORA ALLEN will lead the discussion on **BOOK OF AGES** by JILL LEPORE.

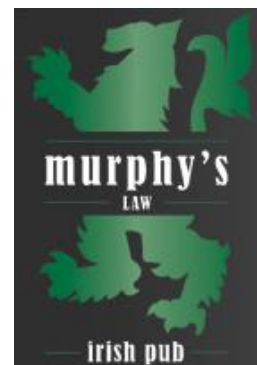
Do join us for active discussion and refreshments.

Co-chairs: Maureen May 385-1133 and Joy Kinz 392-7134

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2014



WANTS TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:







If you are planning an event at the Perkins Mansion please contact Leslie Sellers, Events Director, at 244.8890, ext. 1 or 435.7202. You can also visit the Perkins Mansion website at <http://perkinsmansion.org/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31 9:15am <b>Bowling</b>	1 10 am <b>Retired Teachers Bridge</b>	2	3 7:00 <b>Equal Pay meeting</b>	4 10:00 am <b>Duplicate Bridge A</b>	5
6	7 9:15am <b>Bowling</b>	8 10-2:30pm <b>Crazy 8's Bridge</b> 5:00 pm <b>Branch Dinner</b>	9	10	11	12
13	14 9:15 am <b>Bowling</b>	15 4:00 pm <b>Board Meeting</b>	16	17	18	19
20	21 9:15 am <b>Bowling</b>	22	23 10:00 am <b>Duplicate Bridge B</b> 2:00 pm <b>Tea &amp; Titles</b>	24	25	26
27	28 9:15 am <b>Bowling</b>	29	30	1	2	3

**Bridge**

- **Retired Teachers Bridge**  
Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.  
Carol Achilles – 421-0876
- **Duplicate Bridge A**  
Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 10:00 a.m.  
Pauline Sherwood – 671.3556
- **Duplicate Bridge B**  
Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 10:00 am  
Jean Erskine – 266.5055  
Janet Miles – 787-0507
- **Crazy 8's Bridge**  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 10:00 am  
Carol Achilles – 421.0876

**Duplicate Bridge B group**

Please note: If you want to play, please call Janet Miles at 787-0507 by Monday of the preceding week.

**You will no longer be called - you must call to say you intend to play.**

- History & Archives**  
Doris Meadows – 328.4059
- Mystery Book Club**  
Lynne Mitchell – 381.7145  
Bimonthly meetings
- Tea and Titles**  
Maureen May- 385-1133  
Joy Kinz- 392.7134

**Knit, Quilt & Chain Stitch**  
Beverly Vaughan -383-0896

**Night Out At the House**  
Rachel Adonis – 654.5259  
Marlene Gordon – 402.5529  
Bi-monthly social evening for members and guests.

**Holistic Health and Wellness**  
Heide Parreño – 414.6312

\*\*Bridge leaders: Please call Blake Kowalski at 489.2539 the night before to give him your set up numbers.

**GREATER ROCHESTER  
AREA BRANCH  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

494 East Ave.  
Rochester, NY 14607

**Phone: 585.244.8890**

**Fax: 585.244.5277**

**The deadline for the  
May Newsletter is  
April 15, 2014**

Please email items to

**Ana DeTomaso  
newsletter@aauwrochester.org**

We welcome suggestions or contributions to include in future newsletters. Please contact us at the mailing address above.

Articles submitted are printed at the discretion of GRAB.

## Board Members

President – *Marilyn Tedeschi*  
Program VP – *Jean Arrowsmith*  
Membership VP – *Marlene Gordon*  
Co-House VP – *Vickie Fumia, Anne Miller & Evelyn Bailey*  
Development VP – *Myrtle Merritt*  
Recording Secretary – *Laurie Ditzel*  
Corresponding Secretary – *Lorraine Cappellino*  
Treasurer – *Virginia Goyer*  
Assistant Treasurer – *Sandra Kobel*  
Assistant Treasurer for Membership – *Mary Myers*  
Past President – *Beverly Vaughan*  
Communications Director – *Régine Calvar*  
Art Forum – *Lorie Seagren*  
College and University Relations – *Barbara LeSavoy*  
Educational Loan Fund – *Marie Ginther*  
Leadership Development – *Helen Jae Cheves*  
Legal Advocacy Fund – *Lynne Mitchell*  
Women Helping Girls – *Patricia Thompson*  
Public Policy Director – *Ana DeTomaso*



### **Vision**

*GRAB AAUW Is a World Class Lifelong Learning, Teaching and Study Center for all generations of Women & Girls and seen as a key Community Resource and Driving Force for any and all Women's Issues in the Greater Rochester Area.*

### **Diversity Statement**

*In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.*

### **AAUW Promise**

*By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*