



Greater Rochester Area (NY) Branch

# Greater Rochester Area American Association of University Women

Volume 97 Issue #12 Moving the Mission Forward

December, 2013



## Branch Dinner & Holiday Party December Lights Around the World

December is the month for holiday celebrations all over the world! Come join us at our special holiday branch dinner and embrace food, customs and activities from around the world. For this special event we encourage you to bring friends, potential members, family members and significant others to share the experience.

To encourage learning about each other, consider bringing a personal or cultural holiday "treasure" to spark conversation. The item could be a hat, piece of jewelry, photo, ornament or whatever else tells something about yourself or your culture.

**When:** Tuesday, December 10th from 6:00 until 9:00

**Where:** The Perkins Mansion

**Cost:** \$20.00

**Food:** Incredible International hors-d'oeuvres at grazing stations by Richie Rich Catering. We also encourage those with international baking talent, (including American), to bring their own special cookie or dessert to pass.

**Entertainment:** Kathy Toole has graciously agreed to play a diverse selection of music on the piano and organize a sing-a-long for those who choose to participate.

**Activities:** The party committee is putting together some fun activities like learning how to put on a sari, ethnic dance lessons and learning how to say "Happy Holidays" in our international member's languages. Join in or just watch the fun.

If you would like to come to the party but don't have a ride, please call Jean Arrowsmith at 585-278-3964. We have plenty of volunteers who would love to pick you up and drop you back home.

Can't wait to see you at the event, so don't forget to RSVP as soon as possible and no later than Friday, December 6th by 3:00.

### Grazing Stations Menu

- Mini Beef Sliders on Brioche with Aioli Spread. Accompanied by Bleu Cheese Crumbles
- Authentic Maryland "mini" Crabcakes - Mango Papaya Salsa
- Grilled Chicken Satay - Indonesian Peanut Sauce
- Classic Bacon Almond Stuffed Dates
- Butternut squash, Cranberry & Goat Cheese tart
- Homemade Hummus Shooters with Colorful Veggie Matchsticks

Red and White Wines

Specialty Drink:

Holiday Nog with Rum and Nutmeg



### About our caterer this month

from inception to execution, Celebrate Events, the parent company of Richie Rich Catering, works with you to realize your vision for your event, and translates it into a successful affair. We will work with you to provide the perfect atmosphere and aesthetics. We tailor our menus specifically to your desires.

**For reservations,** call Leslie Sellers on her cell at 585-435-7202 or email her at [perkinsmansionevents@gmail.com](mailto:perkinsmansionevents@gmail.com) by Friday, December 6 at 3:00 pm.

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

# From the President's Desk



As I look back on 2013, I am so pleased to see the many accomplishments of our branch and members. The bulletin board in the kitchen is totally filled with newspaper clippings of our member's good works. All of us have been active participants in recruiting talented and diverse women into our AAUW community. We really are fulfilling our vision of becoming a driving force and making a difference in our wonderful city. I think we, as Rochester women, especially feel this historic passion to stand up for the democratic ideals of equality, justice and freedom. Our foremothers, Anthony, Stanton, Gage and Tubman courageously walked these grounds and we are walking in their footsteps.

Our community outreach has been exceptional this year starting with dialogues and workshops on racism, action on nursing home abuses, STEM initiatives with schools, corporations, not for profits and colleges, action on combating violence against women on college campuses, and educating ourselves on sex trafficking in our city. We are truly a diverse and socially active membership.

In two weeks, I celebrate my 67th birthday. Amid the cake and candles, the most important question I have asked myself is: How will I live the rest of my life?

Before the New Year begins, I will interview six new interns for this semester. As I sit and discuss their interests, passions and life's hopes and dreams, I am increasingly aware that nothing I will do on that day or even in my life, will be more important than to help these young women understand, clarify and achieve their goals. If I can have a positive effect on them that will challenge, enable and energize them, they in turn, will do the same for their children and their grandchildren. As we work as mentors, mothers and grandmothers, we can lift our children onto our shoulders so they can see above the crowd from a higher place.

To me there is nothing more important than helping and mothering others.

So how will you spend 2014? Do you have that spirit of volunteering at GRAB? Please think about a position or committee that you can lean into. Can you give us a few hours a week? Whether it is for the house or programs, our need is more than ever, and the need is NOW. We are looking for an assistant treasurer for membership, a librarian, a volunteer coordinator, a public policy director, an Education Opportunity Fund director and an interest group coordinator. Call or email me for further information on these positions.

Best wishes for peace and joy at this holiday season. Thank you all for the time and talent that you have given this year.

Marilyn

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- **The American Association of University Women promotes equity for women and girls through, education, philanthropy and research.**
  - **AAUW will be 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  
New York State  
National

[www.aauwrochester.org](http://www.aauwrochester.org)  
[www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)  
[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

# Development Committee



Responses to our annual appeal are still coming in. This year the committee choose to fund house and gardens as we ran into a slight deficit last year. The committee also decided to have annual appeal money to go to scholarship.

We are creating several new scholarships of which one will be the Dr. Ruth Oakley scholarship. Also, we are picking up a New York State sponsored EOF Fund. This fund was started by Bettie Lindley and Carol Adams back in 2003. We now have \$12, 555. In it and we need to raise \$22,445 more before we can establish a fellowship for graduated interns.

The annual appeal will officially end on Dec 31, and a full listing of all who contributed will be reported in our January newsletter. A summary letter for all of your 2013 donations will be sent to you in January in time for your 2013 tax returns.

There was a question regarding donations to Women Helping Girls general operations fund this year as that was not a category on our list. Please note that any donations directed to Women Helping Girls or any other GRAB program you wish to contribute to will be forwarded to that program.

Thank you for your generous donations.

Myrt Merritt  
Development VP

## The Perkins Mansion Wish List... ongoing

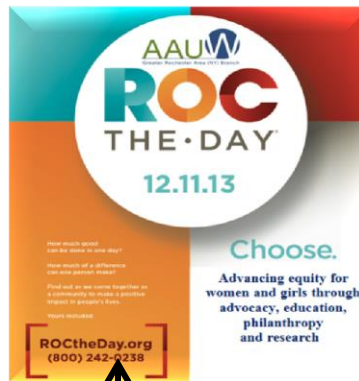
1. Baskets – various sizes
2. Nice Platters – medium & Large
3. Glass or Crystal Creamers – Large
4. Juice glasses – clear glass
5. Coffee Urns – 25c, 50c, 100c
6. Bowls – clear glass, large & extra large
7. Wedding Cake Knife & Server

**Thank you, Leslie Sellers!!!**

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



# ROC the Day-December 11, 2013



**ROC the Day** is a 24-hour, online event that provides you an opportunity to support not-for-profit organizations such as, **GRAB AAUW**, doing great work in the nine-county Greater Rochester area.

[Click here to visit our page](http://ROCtheDay.org)

Just go to ROCtheDay.org, a secure online giving platform, and type GRAB AAUW. All money given to us on December 11 will be used for GRAB AAUW scholarships.

You can really ROC the Day (and our world) by giving to GRAB AAUW and help us *advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research*—it’s an easy, one-stop way to fill your “cart” with causes that matter most to you. Tell your friends, family, co-workers and social networks about The American Association of University Women in the Greater Rochester Area and encourage others to ROC the Day!



# Sunshine

We send speedy recovery wishes to Maureen and Bill Mulley who have been having health problems.

Regine Calvar's husband, Tom Ferraro, who is now home recovering from pancreatic surgery.

Nancy Jones, who is now home from the hospital and recuperating from pneumonia.

Our sympathy goes out to Myrt Merritt on the passing of her sister and continues for Lorie Seagren who has lost both her mother and brother in the past month. And, to Lynne Mitchell whose favorite cousin died suddenly while on vacation in Turkey.

Good News!!

Ana DeTomaso, our program coordinator, has finished her EMBA from RIT Saunders School of Business.



## C'mon, We've Been at This Forever! (132 Years, to Be Exact)

On Monday November 11, 2013, the *New York Times* published an article about an exhibit, "Honoring Female Pioneers in Science," now on display at the Grolier Club in New York City.

It's awesome that the newspaper is acknowledging such an important topic. If AAUW's founders were alive today, no doubt they would be thrilled about women in science making national news! Then again, perhaps AAUW members of yore would not be surprised to see some of the same women they supported featured in the Times. After all, AAUW has been recognizing and supporting women in science since our inception in 1881.

Did you know AAUW fellowships, grants, and awards were behind almost half of the 32 women featured in that article?



### Marie Curie

AAUW members contributed toward the purchase of a gram of radium for Curie in 1920. More importantly, after Curie's death, brilliant AAUW minds worked through the legal system to ensure that the remaining

funds were used for their original purpose, thereby creating the Marie Curie Fellowship for a woman studying physics, chemistry, or radiology.

### Barbara McClintock

McClintock received the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1983 for her groundbreaking work in genetics with the discovery of "jumping genes."

She was previously recognized by AAUW for those same discoveries not one or two years prior... but 36 years before, in 1947!

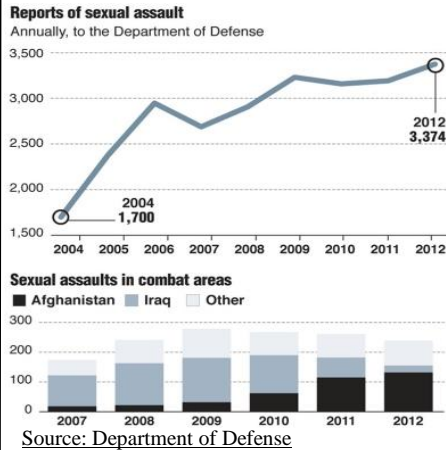


### Chien-Shiung Wu

Realizing that this Chinese physicist was overlooked for the Nobel Prize for her groundbreaking work in overturning a then-widely accepted "law" of physics, AAUW first wrote about the injustice and then recognized her in 1959 with our highest honor, the Achievement Award.

AAUW National

# AAUW Public Policy



Since its founding in 1881, AAUW has been breaking through barriers for women and girls. We applauded the military's recent decision to officially open combat positions to women. AAUW executive director, Linda Hallman, a proud nine-year veteran of the United States Army wrote,

"Women want to serve and have been serving in combat. We owe them recognition, equal treatment, and our full support." The decision to open these combat positions to women is a reflection of military leadership recognizing the value of the critical skills women bring to our modern military workforce.

As President Obama remarked, "This milestone reflects the courageous and patriotic service of women through more than two centuries of American history and the indispensable role of women in today's military." However, to maintain a strong military, we must address the problem of sexual harassment and violence all too common among women and men who seek to serve our country.

According to the Pentagon, nearly 3,000 women were sexually assaulted in 2008, yet the Pentagon also estimates that "80% to 90% of sexual assaults go unreported." New research by the Department of Veterans Affairs has found that sexual harassment is at epidemic levels in conflict zones, with half of the women sent to Iraq or Afghanistan reporting being sexually harassed, and nearly one in four reporting sexual assault. This is unacceptable and must change. Through accountability, education, and a robust prosecution system, we can end sexual assault in the military.

**Support amendments to [the Fiscal 2014 Defense Authorization \(S.1197\)](#) that will address the problem of military sexual assault and protect survivors.** Co-sponsorship and votes associated with these issues may be included in the AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Lisa. Maatz.

AAUW Vice President of Government Relations.

[Fiscal 2014 Defense Authorization \(S.1197\)](#)

Title V—Military Personnel Policy

Subtitle E—Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and Military Justice Matters

PART I—Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

## Domestic Violence (DV)

Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another partner.

Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that harm another person.

- 1 in 4 Women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime
- 1 in 7 Men will experience domestic violence in his lifetime

Domestic violence data should be viewed with caution, recognizing an estimated 70% of domestic violence incidents go unreported.

In 2012, approximately 194,800 Domestic Violence (DV) crisis/hotline calls were received by individual providers across New York State.

There were 78 reports of domestic violence per 10,000 residents in Monroe County, well above the state (excluding New York City) rate of 49. The rate in the City of Rochester is 143, nearly three times the state rate.

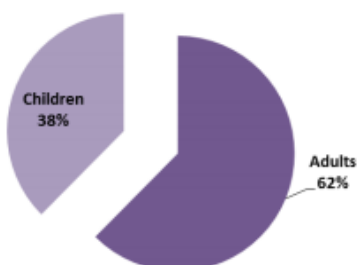
Of the average 6,100 domestic violence reports made in each of the last four years, 54% were in the City of Rochester and 46% were in the suburbs.

Recognizing the need for specialized supports for victims of domestic violence and their children, the New York State Domestic Violence Prevention Act became law in 1987. This law requires social services districts to provide shelter and services to victims of domestic violence.

Over the last four years, Alternatives for Battered Women's (ABW) Hotline received an average of 4,800 calls each year or 400 calls per month.

Over 490 individuals stayed at ABW's emergency shelter in 2012 – 288 women and 202 children. In addition, over 400 community members participated in support groups and individual counseling.

**2012 ABW Residential Shelter**



## Attention All Shoppers!



Once again we will be giving holiday assistance to women and children in the Rochester Area.

For the past 15 years we have been providing needed items for Alternative for Battered Women & Sojourner homes. Below are some items from their wish list:

### Alternatives for Battered Women

pajamas for women and children--new  
 bathrobes for women--all sizes--new  
 new socks for women and children  
 flip flops, slippers  
 planners  
 school supplies  
 new underwear for women and children  
 sweat shirts--new  
 baby products  
 lotions and shampoo

### Sojourner House

diapers--all sizes  
 body lotions and shampoo  
 planners and calendars  
 new socks and underwear for women and children  
 bath towels and wash cloths  
 first-aid kits  
 feminine hygiene items  
 baby wipes, soap and shampoo

All items should be new and unwrapped.

Please leave them in the board room at the Perkins Mansion, by December 12, 2013. We will deliver our ABW gifts on Friday, December 13 and the sojourner House will be delivered on Friday, November 29.

Any questions please contact  
 Beverly Vaughan at 585.383.4019  
[bvaughan@rochester.rr.com](mailto:bvaughan@rochester.rr.com)  
 Barbara Stevens at 585.235.2548

ALTERNATIVES  
 for Battered Women



Tuesday & Wednesday, December 10-11 – STEM meeting

Time: 7:30 – 10:30 p.m. Perkins Mansion

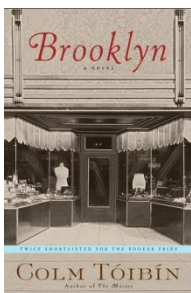


The purpose of this session is to dive in and start the grant proposal for the AAUW STEM initiative, based on the ideas that we discussed. We are still looking for volunteers to help us moving the initiative forward.

Uma Gupta

Wednesday, January 22 – Tea and Titles

Time: 2:00 pm Living room



Tea and Titles will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22, when Maureen May will lead the discussion on *Brooklyn*, a novel by acclaimed Irish author, Colm Toibin.

Co-chairs: Maureen May 385.1133

Joy Kinz 392.7134

# Happy Holidays

**From GRAB AAUW and the Perkins  
Mansion Events Team**

The Holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us.

Terri Marshall





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
1	2	3 10 am <b>Retired Teachers Bridge</b>	4	5	6 10:00 am <b>Duplicate Bridge A</b>	7
8	9 9:15am <b>Bowling</b>	10 10-2:30pm <b>Crazy 8's Bridge</b> 5:00pm <b>Branch Dinner &amp; Meeting</b>	11 7:30 am <b>STEM Initiative</b>	12 7:30 am <b>STEM Initiative</b>	13	14
15	16 9:15 am <b>Bowling</b>	17 4:00 pm <b>Board Meeting</b>	18	19	20	21
22	23 9:15 am <b>Bowling</b>	24	25 <b>Christmas</b>	26 <b>1<sup>st</sup> day Kwanzaa</b>	27	28
29	30 9:15 am <b>Bowling</b>	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>	1	2	3	4

**Duplicate Bridge B is cancel for December**

**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

**History & Archives**

Doris Meadows – 328.4059

**Holistic Health and Wellness**

Heide Parreño – 414.6312

**Knit, Quilt & Chain Stitch**

Beverly Vaughan -383-0896

**Mystery Book Club**

Lynne Mitchell – 381.7145  
Bimonthly meetings

**Night Out At the House**

Rachel Adonis – 654.5259

Marlene Gordon – 402.5529

Bi-monthly social evening for members and guests.

**Poker**

Marilyn Tedeschi -244.4107

**Tea and Titles**

Maureen May- 385-1133

Joy Kinz- 392.7134

\*\*Bridge leaders: Please call our head caretaker 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  
January Newsletter is  
December 15, 2013**

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*  
Development VP – *Myrtle Merritt*  
Recording Secretary – *Laurie Ditzel*  
Corresponding Secretary – *Lorraine Cappellino*  
Treasurer – *Virginia Goyer*  
Assistant Treasurer – *Sandra Kobel*  
Assistant Treasurer for Membership – *Nella Corryn*  
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*



### **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.*