



Georgia DeGregorio – Gaynelle Wethers

Branch Dinner

November 12, 2013

“Focus on the Future of Girls & Women in the Greater Rochester Area”

This month’s branch dinner meeting on Tuesday evening November 12th, gives us another opportunity to explore our theme of “Focus on the Future of Girls and Women in the Greater Rochester Area.” We will be hosting two individuals who have intimate knowledge of the direction our Rochester City government is likely to take after this election and in the coming year:

- Gaynelle Wethers, one of our own GRAB members, has been tirelessly working as the campaign manager for the 2013 mayoral candidate Lovely Warren. When she’s not on the campaign trail, Gaynelle Wethers is a professor at Nazareth College and serves on the Board of The Anthony L. Jordan Health Center, a community health center in Rochester. She will share some of her experiences running the mayoral campaign and inside knowledge of how the Rochester political scene works.
- Georgia DeGregorio, president of our local League of Women Voters in Rochester will also be joining us. The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan and neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government. We will hear her perspective on the many issues facing our community.

November is the month we will be electing a new mayor and many other officials in the City of Rochester. Our newly elected officials will need to focus on many troubling issues that face our home town including education of our children, economic development and public safety considerations. Here are some startling statistics that may surprise and concern you:

- The city of Rochester is home to the 7th highest child poverty rate in the nation, with 54% of our children living below the poverty line.
- Rochester has an unemployment rate of 9.8%, with over 75% unemployed in some city neighborhoods.
- Only 5% of Rochester City School District students are proficient, the lowest in the state, with a graduation rate of 46% and at the bottom of the nation for outcomes for black and Hispanic boys.
- The city of Rochester has the highest infant mortality rate in NYS, nearly triple that of New York City.

Please join us at the meeting on November 12th at 5:00 pm for social hour, 6:00 pm dinner followed by our presentation and discussion at 7:00 pm. See you there for a very interesting discussion.

Jean Arrowsmith
GRAB AAUW VP Programs

Branch Dinner Menu

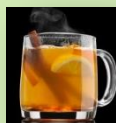
- **Roasted Baby Beet Salad**
Autumn Fruits, Goat Cheese & Banyuls Vinaigrette
 - **Roasted Chicken Breast**
Stuffed with Almond & Sage, Roasted Root Vegetables, Wild Rice, Dried Cranberry & Roasted Chicken Jus
- Or**
- **Sugar Pumpkin Risotto**
Sage, Almonds, Brussel Sprout leaves and Roasted Vegetable
 - **Artisan Bread Basket with sweet butter curls**
 - **Apple Cake**
Cider braised apples, caramel sauce and vanilla ice cream

Cost \$20

Caterer: Strathallan Hotel

Drink of the month

- **Hot Toddy**
Mulled Hot Cider with Rum & Cinnamon Stick
\$5.00



Call Leslie for reservations at 244-8890 ext. 1. Deadline Nov. 8

Conversations Change Lives: New York Protects Patients' Voices with MOLST

by Régine Calvar, MS



Before I took on the challenge of learning about healthcare ethics, I wondered who made the big decisions at the end of life. It first became an issue when after a diagnosis of Alzheimer my mother begged me to not put her in a home, ever. As she left the US for the last time to return to France, I felt disempowered, voiceless and guilty that I was abandoning her to a system where she no longer had a say and I had none either. This began my quest to better understand how the healthcare system here in the USA and there in France handles our loved ones facing dementia. Besides being her daughter and her friend, I also wanted to know her rights and who could advocate for her legally, ethically and socially. Even if I could not protect her from this nightmare looming over her, at least I could learn more and maybe affect her last years and end-of-life care.

Soon after her return, she could not remember how to call long distance, but still she wanted to maintain her autonomy as long as possible and the right to speak for herself. She resented losing her mind to a stupid disease, as she called it. Her conversations seemed mostly normal at the beginning as they were short and to the point of what was bothering her.

Over the months, denial would set in and with it an element of paranoia. She thought that neighbors and family were trying to lock her in her apartment, or were coming in to steal her things while she slept. The anxiety of being persecuted echoed with other memories of WWII when she was a refugee after her hometown was bombed. The unexpected unraveling of one's timeline is traumatic. The social filters that help each of us know what is appropriate to say to whom and when to say it were fizzling away. My brilliant, tenacious, witty, philosophical and patient mother was being taken hostage by her worst fears.

In 2005 the French healthcare system passed the Leonetti Law that recognizes the right of patient's and their designated person to guide the process of medical decision-making. However, only medical personnel can decide on life-sustaining treatments. Unfortunately, more than half of medical practitioners do not apply the directives from this law. There is no mandatory implementation in hospitals for emergency personnel or other medical practitioners. The 'do everything possible' philosophy is well-engrained in medical training in France as it is in America. Without a systemic implementation of such laws, patients will continue to endure a lengthy and painful death.

As I was doing my practicum and learning about New York State Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatments (MOLST), I realized how much work was accomplished in NYS in protecting the patients' voice. Not only it is the law in NYS, but because end-of-life choices can be written on a medical order form, all medical personnel have to follow it. My mom passed on this past April in her bed after she had stopped eating and drinking. Hydration and palliative care were given until the end. I graduated a few months later with a MS in Healthcare Ethics. I find great comfort now in knowing that more patients in the US are given a voice through the use of a POLST/MOLST form and through their family. They have a better chance to have their voice heard and their last choices respected because of it. Honor your loved ones; consider a MOLST form for end of life choices.

rnacalvar@gmail.com

- **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
www.aauw-nys.org
www.aauw.org

Women Helping Girls



October has been as busy as ever around WHG. Miranda Wilcox, our program facilitator, spent a couple of evenings in the Wilson School Community Open House's recruiting girls for this year's program. A mentor gathering is in the works for the very near future.

Thanks to Karen Schule Williams, girls and mentors were able to attend the YWCA luncheon where Susan Taylor of *Essence* magazine fame was the keynote speaker. Mentor pair Marcy Tiberio and Reyanna have written their impressions of the event for the upcoming WHG newsletter set to appear in mid to early December. Also in October girls and mentors are excited to attend the monthly event presented by managers from the Gap and Old Navy. The girls will experience skits performed by the managers exemplifying good and not-so-good interviews. The girls will learn how to make a good first impression and hone their interviewing skills to aid them in job and scholarship interviews. Several mentor pairs made trips to the Pumpkin Patch in preparation for Halloween. Stay tuned.

Patricia Shurn Thompson
Chair. WHG

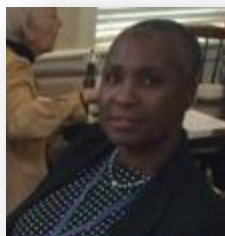


Sunshine

GRAB AAUW wants to send condolences to Lorie Seagren on the death of her mother and well wishes to Beverly Vaughan and Edith Thoburn on their recent falls.

GRAB AAUW also wants to send its support to Régine Calvar and Jean Erskine and wish their husbands a speedy recovery.

Triumph and Defeat: Adult Women Students and Academic Pursuit



Because The American Association of University Women (AAUW)

by its very mission statement is synonymous with promoting the pursuit of higher education as a gateway to economic, gender, and

racial equity for women, we therefore are called to recognize new trends in the demographic of current and immediate future of college university women students.

As one member of this growing population, I can attest to the fact that many female adult learners I have encountered say that they feel isolated and that their specific needs as women with family and community responsibilities, are either unrecognized or underrepresented.

One other issue for concern is the level of difficulty learners are having finding mentors in their respective fields. Currently I am writing an academic paper to study the role of traditional feminist institutions in promoting and addressing the population of older women attending institutions of higher learning. This trend is noteworthy and not one that women scholars and other professionals should ignore.

A recent article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* quoted an alarming trend, from a primary study done by The National Center for Education Statistics, "...Nontraditional students are more than twice as likely as traditional ones to drop out in the first year." (<http://chronicle.com/article/The-New-Traditional-on/135012/>) I encourage my own branch leaders at GRAB AAUW to see this trend as contraindicative to our goals for the advancement of all women. I invite members of my branch to take actions to implement programs that specifically address this new at-risk-college student population.

Lucienne Nicholson

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



Global Lens



Have you heard?

Female members of the French General Assembly protest against sexist “clucking” noise, according to *The Guardian*, a British newspaper.

Member Veronique Massonneau was rudely interrupted while speaking on the floor. The aggressor, another cabinet member Philippe Le Ray, made “clucking” sounds interrupting Ms. Massonneau. The sound is intended to equate the female speaker to a “poule,” the French word for chicken. In French culture, the term “poule” is very offensive when referring to a woman.

Mr. Le Ray was in for a shock. In the age of media, specifically Twitter, racing at the speed of light, his sad bad boy antics circled the globe a couple of times leaving him and France with no place to hide. French feminist group like Julie Muret’s *OSEZ le Feminine*, writes *The Guardian*, are working inside the government to eradicate entrenched sexist practices in the Assemblée Nationale.

French women are aware that the fight they face is so big that it requires as many hands in the struggle as possible. For example while Ms. Muret is fighting within the system, Ms. Lenaig Bredoux of Mediapart, has created “Machoscope;” the name is self-explanatory. Machoscope’s mission is to out those guilty of sexist attacks on women.

France still has a way to go as we do here in America too. The French socialist government, according to *The Guardian*, now has a woman, Najat Vallaud-Belcacem, whose job it is to keep watch on such aggressions against women in politics.

In addition to paying a small fine, Mr. Le Ray and all other ministers will receive sensitivity training on “male-female equality,” writes *The Guardian*. The aim of this hour-long class is to chip away at stereotypes.

Although Le Ray apologized, his apology did not prevent a certain Eric Zemmour from adding insults to injury when he went on the air to berate women, and calling their struggle “feminist nonsense.” But his most flagrant accusation did not stop there. According to Mr. Zemmour’s opinion, “women had slept their way into parliament.”

Having seen the news report of the event on the French channel, *TV5 Monde*, followed by the reading of Kim Willisher’s reportage, Ms. Massonneau’s experience proves that women have a long road to travel in the fight for their full civil rights.

Read the full story at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/18/wave-sexism-french-politics-backlash>

AAUW District 2 Conference



AAUW Members at the conference

On October 19th, women from the District 2 branches of AAUW gathered at Hobart and William Smith College to discuss the issue of violence against women on college campuses.

Keynote speaker Dr. Catherine Cerulli, director of the Susan B Anthony Center at the University of Rochester, opened the conference with her discussion focusing on the domestic violence issue. Through her research experience and work in the Monroe County District Attorney’s office, Dr. Cerulli presented on the issues in addressing domestic violence issues within the community: the prominence in our societal culture, the psychological boundaries in treating victims and prevention, and the resources that would be most beneficial to decrease rates and occurrences of domestic violence.

Also presenting at the conference were Dr. Hannah Dickinson, Dr. Barbara LeSavoy, and Angela Clark-Taylor. Dr. Dickinson, a Professor of Writing at Hobart and William Smith shared her findings on student’s perception of violence through analysis of her students’ papers discussing a violent experience. In addition Dr. Barbara LeSavoy and Angela Clark-Taylor shared their experiences with One Billion Rising and V-Day. Based on the Vagina Monologues, on February 14th there is an international demonstration to draw attention to violence against women across the world. The conference also featured a student panel of six university women who responded to the information presented by the speakers at the event. Laura Alexander (Hobart and William Smith), Kelsey Carroll (Hobart and William Smith), Annette Eko (RIT), Alexis Harris (RIT), Robin Graziano (University of Rochester), and Lucienne Nicholson (SUNY Brockport) gathered to share their unique stories from their respective campuses while also commenting on universal issues facing current university women on campus.

The Rochester Branch hopes to continue the discussion on this pressing issue facing university women. We plan, on November 23rd, to host a follow-up event with students from various colleges to discuss how the students can collaborate with AAUW to address this issue across campuses.

Robin Graziano
GRAB AAUW intern

Human Trafficking - in Rochester, NY ??

Despite a common misconception that human trafficking in the United States is a problem only in major cities like New York, the fact is that trafficking is appearing in smaller cities like Rochester and in rural areas as well. On Sunday, October 20, GRAB members Marlene Gordon, Jean Arrowsmith, Taffe Waygaye, Melody Cofield, and Leslie Sellers attended a conference on the topic at Temple Sinai in Penfield.

Led by Sean Wrench of Forsaken Generation, the six-hour informational and action-based workshop, "End Human Trafficking" included a wide range of aspects of this complex problem: creating awareness of the local trafficking problem through social media and awareness events; educating ourselves about what human trafficking looks like in the US; the glamorization of "pimp culture" and oversexualization of the media; challenges facing child trafficking victims; how to identify a victim; legislative basics and policy advocacy; rescue and restoration for victims of sexual trafficking.

Though the pervasiveness and tragic nature of this issue can be overwhelming, to say the least, Sean's knowledge and suggestions as well as the participant input and the number of individuals and community agencies in Rochester committed to tackling the problem, give us the will and the energy to mobilize efforts to **END CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING in ROCHESTER.**

Sean emphasized that, though each of us may feel helpless to effect change, the truth is that every one of us can do at least one action which **WILL** make a difference. Whether it's writing your Congressman about increasing legal penalties for convicted traffickers, organizing or participating in an "awareness action," mentoring a young person, housing a homeless youth, recognizing a current or potential victim, or any of thousands of "small" actions, or creating and acting on your own inventive idea, you can be a part of the change that you want to see in the world.

For a plethora of information and resources, go to www.forsakengeneration.com or email sean@forgottengeneration.com. To get involved here at GRAB AAUW in an action group, or to learn about the Rochester Coalition against Human Trafficking, call me at 585-402-5529.

Marlene Gordon
Membership VP

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:

- Lotions
- Socks for women and boys
- Pajamas and robes for women (especially large and extra-large)
- Day journals and pocket diaries
- Sweatshirts – any size
- Flip flops
- Baby items

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 gifts on Friday, December 13.

Any questions please contact
Beverly Vaughan at 585-383-4019

bvaughan@rochester.rr.com

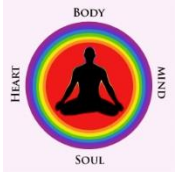
Barbara Stevens at 585-235-2548

ALTERNATIVES
for Battered Women

Offer services to people who are victims--or at risk of becoming victims--of domestic violence. They provide counseling, education, support, and advocacy. For victims (and their children) who need a safe place.

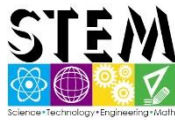
For more information visit:

<http://www.abwrochester.org/>

Sunday, November 3 – Holistic Health**Time: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Perkins Mansion**

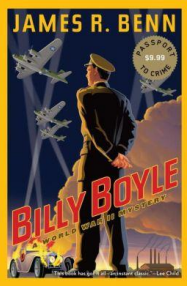
Learn to Be Well and Balanced for the Holidays: Body, Mind and Spirit; alkaline foods and PH balancing, meditation, energy enhancing with Tibetan bowl.

Coordinators: Sandi DeWispelaere and
Heide Parreño, 256-7372

Wednesday, November 6 – STEM meeting**Time: 8:30 – 10:30 p.m. Perkins Mansion**

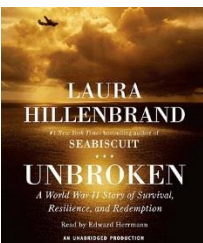
The purpose of this session is to dive in and develop a skeleton grant proposal for the AAUW STEM initiative, based on the ideas that we discussed. We have three grant writers who have graciously agreed to facilitate this meeting.

Uma Gupta

Thursday, November 14 – Mystery Book Club**Time: 4:00 pm**

We'll meet to discuss James R. Benn's Billy Boyle series on the unseen war on crime in the ranks of World War II allies. WWII mysteries are relatively rare but they will, no doubt, catch up with the mostly splendid WWI genre. This series certainly covers the inglorious aspects of the invasions. We will try the Rizzoli and Isles mysteries of Tess Gerritson next: *The Surgeon*, *The Apprentice*, *The Sinner* – gritty and harrowing. For something completely different, the Montana westerns of Peter Bowen are also a choice: *Coyote Wind*, *Specimen Song*, *Wolf*.

Lynne Mitchell, 383-7145

Wednesday, November 20 – Tea and Titles**Time: 2:00 pm Living room**

Beverly Vaughan, another long-time member and distinguished past president, will lead the discussion. The book is *Unbroken*, the long-awaited new work by Laura Hillenbrand, the author of an acclaimed story about a racehorse-Seabiscuit. *Unbroken* tells the tale of a young lieutenant who survives the crashing of his Air Force bomber into the Pacific Ocean in 1943.

Do join us for refreshments and active discussion.

All are welcome to attend.

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

Friday, November 22 – Nights Out!**Time: 5:00 – 8:00pm Location: Perkins Mansion**

Join us for another evening of fun and networking with members and guests!
Snacks and beverages provided. \$10 donation

RSVP 585-402-5529 by Nov. 15.

Marlene Gordon
Rachel Adonis



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
27	28	29	30	31	1 10:00 am Planned Parenthood Annual Luncheon 10:00 am Duplicate Bridge A	2
3	4 9:15am Bowling	5 10 am Retired Teachers Bridge	6 8:30-10:30am STEM meeting	7	8	9
10	11 9:15 am Bowling	12 10-2:30pm Crazy 8's Bridge 5:00pm Branch Dinner & Meeting	13	14 4:00 pm Mystery Book Club	15	16
17	18 9:15 am Bowling	19 4:00 pm Board Meeting	20 2:00 pm Tea & Titles	21	22 5:00 – 8:00pm Nights Out!	23 Noon AAUW District 2 Conference Student luncheon
24	25 9:15 am Bowling	26	27 10am Duplicate Bridge B	28 Thanksgiving!	29	30

Bridge

- **Retired Teachers Bridge**
Meets the 1st Tuesday at 10 a.m.
Carol Achilles – 421-0876
- **Duplicate Bridge A**
Meets the 1st Friday at 10:00 a.m.
Pauline Sherwood – 671-3556
- **Duplicate Bridge B**
Meets the 4th Wednesday at 10:00 am
Jean Erskine – 266-5055
Janet Miles – 787-0507
- **Crazy 8's Bridge**
Meets the 2nd 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- 259

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
December Newsletter is
November 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

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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.