

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/ PROGRAM/ EVENT:

Note: Any program since last year's deadline of March 15 is eligible.

Category: (Please circle or highlight the category for which this program is being submitted.)

- Women – Education – Community – **International** – Cultural – Diversity

Title: Great Decisions Discussion Group

Describe your project/ program/ event in 150-300 words. Be sure to include:

- how the project addressed AAUW's mission (15 points)
- **branch goals** in doing this program (10 points)
- **specific action steps** in planning this program (15 points)
- involvement of **other community groups** (if any) (10 points)
- **number of members** (5 points) and **nonmembers** (5 points) **in planning and in putting on the program**
- steps taken for **community visibility** (10 points)
- **number of members** (5 points) and **nonmembers** (5 points) who attended or benefited
- **number of new members** who joined (if any) (5 points)
- **measurable impact on the community** (10 points)
- **lessons learned** for future programs/ projects/ events (5 points)

The Great Decisions discussion group meets once a month to discuss timely world public policy issues. This supports the AAUW mission to promote equity for women through education; an educated public is an informed public. The Rockland Branch goals for this project were to increase membership and community involvement. While the Foreign Policy Association produces a discussion guide and a video, the format of the program can be personalized to each group. To differentiate Rockland AAUW's group from other Great Decisions groups in the county, we brought in experts on the topic of discussion. This involved members of a USAID group, the FBI, students from a study abroad program, Rotary International, [REDACTED], and Turning Point, a Pakistani women's organization And Pace University Law School's Energy and Climate Center. While the chair organized the basics of the program (advertising, newsletters, presentation room), this was an effort by five members of the branch. The result is that the activity went from a participation of ten women members to a discussion attended by forty members and non members. This is the most popular Great Decisions discussion in Rockland County. Twenty four new members came from this program. We have learned that this program requires advance planning to secure speakers and that every current member can help to find

those speakers!

Attach copies of newsletter and newspaper articles about this project/ program/ event.
(No more than 4 pages maximum)

Mail or email the original of your entire application with supporting materials to:

- Peggy Kelland, AAUW-NYS Program Vice President
- 13 Susan Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

smkell45@aol.com

Questions? (845)297-0507

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

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

Editor's Note: Because there are so many exciting events coming up at the beginning of the fall season, we are sending this special summer edition of the newsletter so you can mark your calendars for each of these events. PLEASE JOIN US!! That will make them all the more memorable.

BRANCH NOTES

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!! We are delighted to announce the following new members:

Sylvia Kaufman
Warwick, NY

Amy MacDermott (MAL)
New City, NY
Fredonia State
CCNY

Sylvia Pridgen
Nyack, NY
Fordham Univ. – M.S.W.

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP 2008

AT THE NEW CITY LIBRARY 7:00 p.m.

“An informed public is an educated public” The Foreign Policy Association

The Great Decisions program, sponsored by AAUW, is a discussion of eight timely global problems relating to United States foreign policy. Deepen your understanding and judgment of critical policy issues during a focused discussion that is fact based and non-partisan. The group meets (usually) the first Thursday of each month. Come to one meeting or to the whole series.

Topics include:

US DEFENSE AND SECURITY POLICY ... SEPTEMBER 4 at 7:00 p.m.

The US military is adopting new policies and methods for defending the US and its interests abroad. What should US priorities be? How should its forces be structured and deployed to meet new security challenges?

LATIN AMERICAN: SHIFT TO THE LEFT?...OCTOBER 2 at 7:00 p.m.

What factors have prevented the US and Latin American countries from forging a strong relationship? What challenges confront US policy in Latin America? Can the US offer an alternative to the influence of left-leaning leaders like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez?

US – CHINA TRADE POLICY...NOVEMBER 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Recent product safety scares have thrown the spotlight on the enormous role China plays supplying products to the US. Could the large and growing trade imbalance with China have an adverse effect on the US economy? What role does the undervalued Chinese currency play?

PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY...DECEMBER 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Billionaire Warren Buffet's June 2007 pledge to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation prompted headlines about the size of the gift and the impact it could have on global education and health initiatives. Can private donors be more effective than governments in tackling world problems?

For more information about Great Decisions, www.fpa.org

To register call (914) 906-0242

“FISHING ART AND LITERATURE” Special New City Library Event:

Wednesday, March 11, 1:30 p.m.

Emily Harvey from Rockland Community College will present a lecture and slide program on the artist Winslow Homer. Many of Homer's paintings mirror the themes found within the short stories of Sarah Orne Jewett in the collection The Country of the Pointed Firs. Selected stories will be discussed on March 18 at our Book Group.

AAUW BOOK GROUP, Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. New City Library

The Country of the Pointed Firs and Other Stories by Sarah Orne Jewett. Discussion will focus on four short stories in the collection: “Captain Littlepage,” “The Waiting Place,” “William’s Wedding,” and “The Foreigner.” AAUW member Nancy Lind, Ph.D., will lead the discussion. The author (1849 – 1909) chronicled the lives of the country people of coastal Maine, preserving a vanishing way of life. Although she was well-educated and well-traveled, she focused her literary attention on the comings and goings of extraordinary local townfolk. Winslow Homer’s Maine paintings capture the hardship and isolation of fishing villages that Jewett describes in her fiction. Jewett and Homer together offer a sumptuous view of this region at the turn of the century. **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND.**

BRANCH MEETING MARCH 17. New City Library 7:00 p.m. Speaker Dr. Terry Hamblin

This meeting was originally scheduled in October 2008 but was cancelled. Dr. Hamblin’s topic: “You Say You Want a Revolution: John Lennon, the Beatles, and the politics of the 1960’s and 1970’s.” The program is in collaboration with the New City Library and the NY Council for the Arts.

AAUW HOSTS GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP 2009, NEW CITY LIBRARY 7:00 p.m.

Come and join lively, non-partisan discussions!

Thursday, March 5 – “Afghanistan and Pakistan.” Speakers Robina Niaz, Executive Director, Turning Point from Pakistan, and a representative from Women for Afghan Women

Thursday, April 2 – Energy and the Global Economy. Rising energy prices, driven by instability in key producing regions such as the Middle East and increasing demand from developing countries are affecting the global economy. What are the potential consequences of huge wealth transfers to oil-exporting states? Are there any realistic alternative energy scenarios on the horizon? Speaker: James Van Nostrand, Executive Director, Pace University Law School Energy and Climate Change Project.

For more information about Great Decisions www.fpa.org Or call Melissa Guardaro (914) 906-0242

AAUW WOMEN

AAUW women are involved in many other things. Betty Vallone, who does our press releases and is involved with the CASS program, also is an ESL teacher for the One to One Program which services immigrants in the county. She is a docent for the Hermitage Museum in Hohokus, NJ and is writing her third book while attempting to get representation for the last one. One of Merle Petersen-George’s many activities includes volunteering at the Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program which provides free breakfast every morning at the United Church in Spring Valley. What are you doing? Send information about your volunteer activities to newsletter editor, Sylvia Miller, so that we may share with the membership.

AAUW ROCKLAND/ CASS STUDENT PROJECTS

We are privileged to have the Rockland Community College CASS students as student affiliates with our branch. Each young woman has a specific project which she plans to impart when she returns to her native country after her two years at RCC. We will feature one of the CASS student projects each month:

Patricia Aguilera (Mexico) “My project consists of forming a Non-Profit Organization in which young students will offer academic assistance to children of marginalized communities whose access to education is limited. Youngsters at high risk of drug and alcohol addiction will be particularly targeted.”

AAUW CONGRATULATES: State Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee who will be honored with a Lifetime Service Award by the Historical Society of Rockland County in March.

The winners of the AAUW 2009 Note Card Design contest: Michelle Stump, Janice Arrowsmith, Sharon Potteba Shaffer, Katherine Barit, Margaret Mathews. While you wait for these special note cards to arrive in your mail box in spring, feel free to visit the gallery where you will find the names and branches of all the artists who participated.



photo by Jorge Madrigal

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• **Comic Book Heroes**—Ages 5 & up learn the history of comics and make your own comic book. Wed, Mar 18, 4:30 to 6pm.

• **Flower & Leaf Pressing**. Bring a hammer and find out how Nature makes the best designs on cloth. For ages 8 & up.

New City Library

220 North Main St., New City, NY Info: (845) 634-4962. Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm, Fri noon-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Programs info, call Sally Pellegrini at 634-4997, ext. 139.

• **Book Discussion Group**—The Erie Canal and the Paradox of Progress, 1817-1862 by Carol Sheriff. Wed, Mar 4 at 1pm

• **Great Decisions Discussion Group**—Topic for March: Afghanistan/Pakistan. Thurs, Mar 5, at 7pm.

• **Learn, Laugh and Let Go**—Mime artist Robert Rivest performs. Sun Mar 8, 2pm.

• **Women Illustrators** of the Golden Age of Illustration. Visual presentation. Thurs, Mar 26 at 1:30pm.

• **Crane Georgian Dance**

These dances, among the most beautiful in the world, evolved over centuries, and rival classical ballet in their demanding and refined technique blending strength, elegance & graceful movement.

Sun, Mar 29 at 2pm.

RIVERSPACE
119 Main Street, Nyack, 10960
Tickets—www.riverspace.org or (845) 348-1880

• **Celebrate the Spoken Word**—Hillary Jordan and Jeffrey Yang appear Sun, Mar 1 at 4pm; Lance Henson reads to jazz in the café Tuesday Mar 10 at 8pm. Admission is free.

• **Mike Nichols**—Riverspace Co-artistic Director Elliott Forrest interviews the iconic film director; this fundraiser is part of the Conversation Series.

Fri Mar 6, 8pm Tickets: \$125 includes premium seating & post-show party; \$65; \$35.

• **Celebrating Woman's History**—Nyack photographer Lisa Levatt's *Goddess on Earth* is a collection of more than seventy spectacular photographic images of women, each portrayed as the goddess who gives most meaning to her life. *Goddess on Earth* will be on view Mar 7—Mar 28. Info: Goddessonearth.com

Exhibition hours: Tues thru Sun, 4—6pm and by appointment.

• **The Banshee of Crokey Hill**—Has a Banshee put a spell on the house? Funny and mysterious, filled with Irish legend.

Fri, Mar 13 and Sat, Mar 14 at 8pm; Sun, Mar 15 at 3pm. Tickets: \$40/\$30/\$20.

• **Songwriters by the River**—A monthly series with local & national songwriters trading

songs and stories in an intimate café setting.

Fri, Mar 20 at 8pm. Tickets \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door.

• **Milk 'n Cookies Playhouse**—Erklingen Brass Quartet performs Handel's *Water Music*, Gabrieli and Joplin. Young listeners enjoy milk & cookies and an opportunity to meet the musicians and try their instruments.

Sat, Mar 21, 10:30am. Tickets: advance/members \$9 adults/\$7 children 2 and over. At the door: \$12 adults/\$8 children 2 and over.

• **Sound Bites**—a powerful, thoughtful singer-songwriter with her band

Fri, Mar 27 at 8pm. Tickets \$15



WEDNESDAY at the movies

All screenings at Riverspace, 119 Main Street, Nyack. Tickets: at the door: \$9 general admission, \$7 students, seniors & general subscribers, \$6 student & senior subscribers. Info: (845) 348-1880, or www.riverspace.org

• **VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA**

Wed, Mar 4 at 8pm

Directed by Woody Allen with Penélope Cruz, Javier Bardem, Scarlett Johansson. Rated PG-13 for sexuality & smoking; 96 minutes. in Catalan, English & Spanish with English subtitles.

"A ruseful comedy in which two young American women in Spain savor art, music, Gaudi,

continues on page 22



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Frank Becerra Jr./The Journal News
sterday's Class AA championship

injury with 4:13 left, and EMTs were called to the scene as he was carried off the floor. But before the EMTs arrived, Brickhouse was back in the game, limping, and leading the Red Devils to another title. The Red Devils will play the Section 4 champ at 8 p.m. March 11 at Vassar.

Reach Rick Carpinello
at rcarpin@lohud.com.



Vincent DiSalvo/The Journal News
Lisa Aronson of Upper Grandview gets her library books delivered, a new service just started for homebound residents.

ing kept by hand, so patrons cannot sign up or request materials through the Internet. That may change if enough people take advantage of the service, Berman said.

The library also will keep records of which books are sent out and to whom, to track missing materials and to help patrons keep track of what they have read and to suggest other materials if requested, he said.

"We realized we could do this and take the burdens off the (individual) libraries," Berman said. "The No. 1 concern would be abuse. We're going to take people on faith and give people the benefit of the doubt. We generally know our patrons. We have already spoken to them and know they need the services."

Reach Randi Weiner
at rweiner@lohud.com
or 845-578-2468.

LOHODUPPENTINGS

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TODAY

Children's programs

ORANGEBURG: Story Time and Craft Hour. For kindergartens to second-graders. Listen to stories and make a craft. Registration. Free. 4 p.m. Orangeburg Library, 20 S. Greenbush Road. 845-359-2244.

Municipal meetings

NEW CITY: Clarkstown Traffic and Traffic Fire Safety Commission. 7:30 p.m. Town Hall, 10 Maple Ave. 845-639-2010.

PEARL RIVER: Library Board of Trustees. 7:30 p.m. Pearl River Public Library, 80 Franklin Ave. 845-735-4084.

SUFFERN: Board of Trustees. 7:30 p.m. Village Hall, 61 Washington Ave. 845-357-2600.

TOMORROW

PIERMONT: Board of Trustees. 7 p.m. Village Hall, 478 Piermont Ave. 845-359-1258.

SPARKILL: Board of Fire Commissioners of the Sparkill/Palisades Fire District. 7:30 p.m. Sparkill Fire House, 520 Route 340. 845-359-1324.

School board meetings

HILLBURN: 7:30 p.m. Ramapo Central School District, 45 Mountain Ave. 845-357-7783.

HILLBURN: Budget Workshop. 6:30 p.m. Ramapo Central School District, 45 Mountain Ave. 845-357-7783.

MARCH 4

Book discussions

NEW CITY: Reading Between the Lines Book Discussion Group. Topic: "The Artificial River: The Erie Canal and the Paradox of Progress, 1817-1862" by Carol Sheriff. Part of the Hudson 400 Year Celebration. Led by urban anthropologist Sherrill D. Wilson. Free. 1 p.m. New City Library, 220 N. Main St. 845-634-4997.

Business-related workshops

WEST NYACK: The Successful Resume. Speaker: Greg Faherty. Topic: Strategies for effective self-promotion. Registration. Free. 7 p.m. West Nyack Free Library, 65 Strawtown Road. 845-358-6081.

MARCH 5

Adult programs

GARNERVILLE: Wii Bowling. Free. 3 p.m. Haverstraw King's Daughters Library, 10 W. Ramapo Road. 845-786-3800.

NEW CITY: Great Decisions Discussion Group. Topic: Afghanistan/Pakistan. Free. 7 p.m. New City Library, 220 N. Main St. 845-634-4997.

MARCH 6

Book discussions

SPRING VALLEY: Spring Book Dis-

cussion. Topic: "The Great Fire" by Shirley Hazzard. Free. 10 a.m. Finkelstein Memorial Library, 24 Chestnut St. 845-352-5700.

Fundraisers

BARDONIA: United Hospice of Rockland Youth for Hospice Dance-a-Thon. Registration. Pledges. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Albertus Magnus High School, 798 Route 304. 845-634-4974.

WEST HAVERSTRAW: Penny sale. Sponsor: Ladies Auxiliary of Volunteer Hose Company 2. 6 p.m. Village Hall, 130 Samsondale Ave. 845-429-8772.

Movies

TAPPAN: "Elmo Loves You." For preschoolers with a caregiver. Free. 11 a.m. Tappan Library, 93 Main St. 845-359-3877.

Sales

SUFFERN: Book sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Also: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Suffern Free Library, 210 Lafayette Ave. 845-357-1237.

Special events

CONGERS: "American Ideal" Finals. \$5. 7 p.m. ARC of Rockland, 25 Hemlock Drive. 845-267-2500.

MARCH 7

Farmers markets

PALISADES: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Palisades Community Center, 675 Oak Tree Road. 845-359-6589.

Fundraisers

GARNERVILLE: Family Style Corned Beef Dinner. Corned beef and cabbage, Irish soda bread, dessert. Take-out available. Reservations. \$12, \$5 children. 5-7 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church, 28 Chapel St. 845-947-1090.

SLOATSBURG: Spaghetti Dinner. To benefit the fifth-grade D.A.R.E. program. \$9, \$4 children 3-12. 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Sloatsburg Municipal Building, 96 Orange Turnpike. 845-753-2720.

THIRTELLS: Corned Beef Dinner. \$14, \$12 seniors, \$8 for age 10 and younger. 4-8 p.m. American Legion Leo Laders Post 130, 130 American Legion Way. 845-671-9870.

Teen programs

TAPPAN: Babysitting Preparedness Training. Instructors: Sue and Jamie Esposito of the South Orangetown Ambulance Corps. Bring lunch, a snack and drinks. Registration. \$10. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tappan Library, 93 Main St. 845-359-3877.

Calendar submissions

Send information at least three weeks in advance. Go to www.lohud.com/calendar and use the online submission form. To reach the centralized listings desk, call 914-696-8298.

3/2/09
Journal News Newspaper
and On-line Lohud.com