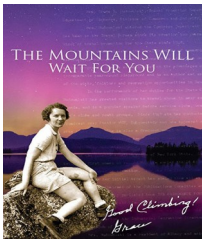


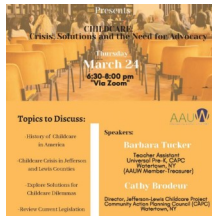
Top stories in this newsletter



The Mountains Will Wait for You



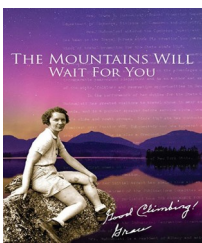
"Investing in Women in Philanthropy"



"Childcare: Crisis, Solutions and Need for Advocacy"



AAUW Website Updates



NOVEMBER EVENT: The Mountains Will Wait for You Guest Speaker: Marie Steinbeck, AAUW Member

AAUW members and guests enjoyed a Zoom 'Movie Night' which featured "The Mountains Will Wait for You." Marie gave us a brief overview of the movie about mountain climbing and shared some stories about her own climbing experiences. She explained that she scaled 9 of the 46 high peaks of the Adirondack (ADK) Mountains. She told us about Grace Kudowalski, who was the first woman to climb all 46 high peaks, the matriarch of these mountains and pioneer for the creation of the ADK '46ers' (those who climbed all of the 46 high peaks). The 46ers has been an official non-profit organization since 1950.

The movie was a very poignant and compassionate story, primarily narrated by Grace, regarding her adventurous mountain climbing and other climbers' experiences. Grace began climbing at age 15, loved it and continued for over 5 decades. She was the Correspondent for mountain climbers who sent her letters to document their trips and share adventures; she sent back letters of acknowledgement and encouragement. Throughout the years, she developed a special bond with each climbers and wrote over 60,000 letters. She maintained alphabetical files for the ADK 46er climbers which are archived in the NYS Library in Albany, NY, and available for public viewing.

Grace and the '46ers' got involved with botanists and foresters and it was the first organization to help through funds and labor to help preserve some of the ADK trails from erosion. She was a historian for the 46ers for over 60 years and continued to correspond and mentor other mountain climbers throughout her lifetime (1906-2004). Grace later received honors by both houses of the NYS Legislature for her life's works. Grace Kudowalski truly is a woman of distinction!

JANUARY EVENT: Investing in Women in Philanthropy



Guest Speakers: Sally Boulter and Mary Perrine.

Sally Boulter and Mary Perrine gave a presentation on "Investing in Women with Philanthropy." Sally is a Senior Engagement Officer for ImpactAssets in Baltimore, MD. She works with investors to help them achieve their personal missions through strategic philanthropy to make impactful investments, particularly with women to address their needs and causes. Sally also organized a group of accredited women investors. These various investments come from various sources across the US and are financial resources for: women owned businesses, leadership, reproductive rights, reproductive health, indigenous sustainable clothing, contraception, fetal monitors, and other women related needs and for other women's issues and concerns. Funding may be from wealthy individuals, corporations, financial advisors, etc.

(Sally is the daughter of our long-standing and dedicated AAUW member, Janet George).

Mary Perrine is the Coordinator of Partnerships for the Northern New York Community Foundation in Watertown, New York. She discussed some of the agency's program and her involvement with middle and high school students;

- Youth Philanthropy Council (grades 9 & 10)
- Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge (grades 7 & 8)
- Scholarship Programs
- Grant Opportunity Programs

She explained that her agency reaches out through social media releases, to school districts in the Tri-County area, to recruit students to assist with the review and screening process for grant applications. They provide their time and skills and have the opportunity to get involved in the administrative and financial processes all the way through the grant award stages. There are 20 recipients who are awarded \$500 each. Her agency also awards scholarships to traditional and non-traditional students going directly, not directly or returning to college. These were very informative and resourceful presentations on the many ways funding is invested in women and their causes.



MARCH EVENT: Childcare: Crisis, Solutions and the Need for Advocacy

Speakers: Barbara Tucker and Cathy Brodeur

Barbara is a Teacher Assistant, Universal Pre-K, Community Action Planning Council (CAPC) in Watertown, New York. She gave us a historical overview of childcare in America, from communal support to settlement houses to federally developed and subsidized programs, like Headstart. She outlined the issues and struggles throughout various eras and noted that 130 years later some of these still exist. She also discussed some of the requirements, funding and shortcomings of childcare programs. She highlighted some research that has been done and stressed the importance of periodic and ongoing training in childcare provisions and programs to “keep current.” Barbara also reviewed existing and existing legislation on childcare.

Cathy is the Director, Jeff-Lewis Project, of CAPC and addressed the need and importance of advocacy for childcare. She talked about the collaborative efforts with community partners, i.e., Jefferson Community College (JCC) to maintain and develop more childcare programs in Jefferson County. Although Jefferson County has been able to maintain its existing programs and add 6 new programs and Lewis County added 1 new program. Cohorts have been formed for support assistance with grants, licenses, marketing and accounting classes to start and maintain home childcare programs. Home programs are actually cheaper on a long term basis than utilizing a building for new day care center. This extra assistance helps to fortify new programs with guidance on food programs, inspections, regulations and certification which was otherwise burdensome and in some cases not achievable. They primarily help home providers navigate the childcare process and provide information that they need to know about childcare. Collaborative support has been invaluable and helped establish and maintain childcare facilities to deal with a lot of previous, unaddressed and unresolved childcare issues. Advocacy is essential for sustainable resources and improvements in in childcare.

These presentations were quite informative and motivational. The AAUW organization will continue to research and supports childcare initiatives.

New York State:

1. **Governor Kathy Hochul** - \$70million in ARPA funds will be made available to providers to cover start-up and personnel costs, build their program, recruit, train, and retain staff.
2. **Senator Jessica Ramos & Assemblywoman Sarah Clark** - Co-sponsors of the Early Learning Child Care Act that would introduce new revenue streams to fund access to childcare.
3. **Senator Jabari Brisport & Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi** - Co-sponsors of the Universal Child Care Act. This act would seek to create new funding streams to assist providers and parents and to lay the framework toward no-cost, universal access to child care.

Federal Government:

1. **American Rescue Plan Act** - Includes \$39 billion in new child care funding, including \$24 billion for child care stabilization grants to providers and \$15 billion in supplemental Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Discretionary Funds.
2. **Build Back Better** - Includes provision for free Universal 3&4-year-old Preschool and raises wages for teachers and other employees. Also included in BBB is a provision for four weeks, or 20 days, of paid leave for reasons generally provided for under the current Family and Medical Leave Act.

AAUW Updates its Website by Barbara Tucker: Treasurer

AAUW.org (<https://www.aauw.org/>) has recently updated and refreshed its website. Because of the changes, you will be required to create a new password when you log in for the first time. But don't panic! I have included here two videos that AAUW has provided to help you navigate the process. The first video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12q_974g-do will take you through the process of setting up your new password. Once you have reset your password and have logged in, I recommend you watch the second video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JjVe_mz0xw&t=6s This will teach you how to join, update, and renew your membership with AAUW.

I will still be accepting membership forms and checks. But don't be afraid to play around on the website once you're logged in to get a feel for the new system. There's a wealth of information available to members so feel free to check in periodically to stay current with the issues and our initiatives.

Social Media Contact:

Jefferson County Branch: **Facebook:** [AAUW - District 7](#) **Website:** <http://Jeffersoncounty-ny.aauw.net/>