

Public Policy (Plus!) Calendar: February/March 2011

(updated: 2/22/11 by Susan Holland)

Action Items:

Show your support for **Kelley Williams-Bolar**, the Ohio mother who was convicted of a felony after allegedly misleading authorities and sending her children to a school outside her district:

http://act.colorofchange.org/sign/ohioschools_2/

http://action.momsrising.org/letter/Ohio_Mom/

<http://www.change.org/petitions/gov-john-kasich-pardon-kelley-williams-bolar---she-shouldnt-go-to-jail-for-protecting-her-kid>

February 2011

Black History Month

Tues., 2/22, 6 PM to 8 PM, Golden Hill Health Care Center public hearing, New Paltz BOCES

7PM, *The Health Risks of Genetically Modified (GM) Foods*, Elting Memorial Library, 93 Main Street, New Paltz. Did you know that: -- about 80% of all processed foods in the supermarket contain GMOs (genetically modified organisms)? -- FDA scientists warned of potential health risks of GM foods and called for long term safety studies, but were ignored? -- you can keep yourself and family healthy by avoiding GM foods? -- together we can create a tipping point of consumer rejection that will require labeling like other countries? Speaker Barbara Upton has been trained by Jeffrey Smith, executive director of the Institute for Responsible Technology and author of best-selling books on the subject: *Seeds of Deception* and *Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of GM Foods*. Bring a snack to share if you like! Brochures on the health risks and a shopping guide on how to avoid GM foods will be provided.

Wed., 2/23, 3 PM, Reapportionment Commission: Weekly Meeting, County Office Building, Legislative Library Conference Room, 6th Floor, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, ucrc@co.ulster.ny.us, 845-340-3900

<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/reapportionment/>

6:30 PM, *Race to Nowhere* (<http://www.racetonowhere.com/>), Onteora High School Auditorium, Route 28, Boiceville. **Cost:** \$10 (advance: <http://rtnonteoramiddleschool.eventbrite.com/>), \$15 (at the door). The film distributor will give a generous portion of the proceeds back to the sponsoring PTAs and PTSO (Phoenicia and Woodstock PTAs and the Onteora Middle School PTSO). Documentary made by a concerned mother turned filmmaker who aims her camera at the high-stakes, high-pressure culture that has invaded our schools and our children's lives. Points to the silent epidemic in our schools: cheating has become commonplace; students are disengaged; stress-related illness and depression are rampant; and many young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired. A call to action for families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing, and leading citizens. A moderator-led discussion with an invited panel of speakers will follow the screening; audience members are invited to participate.

Thurs., 2/24, 6 PM to 8 PM, Golden Hill Health Care Center public hearing, Marlborough Town Hall

7:30PM, New Paltz Town Board Meeting, 1 Veterans Drive, New Paltz.

Reapportionment Commissioners will attend to gather public input

Fri., 2/25, Last day for flea market drop-off: J.Davis (679-8731), V.Kohli (338-4990), P.Stedge (336-5986)

6:30 PM, *Freedom Writers* Essay Event, Everett Hodge Community Center, 15 Franklin Street, Kingston

Sat., 2/26, 9:30 AM to 3 PM, AAUW Table at the French Club Flea Market, Saugerties High School
2 PM to 7 PM, Annual WSW Chili Bowl Fiesta, Rec. Center, 1055 Route 32, Rosendale

Mon., 2/28, 6 PM to 8 PM, Golden Hill Health Care Center public hearing, Saugerties Senior Center
6 PM, Library Advocacy Gala, Albany (http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=1316)
7 PM, Town of Marlborough Town Board Meeting, 1650 Route 9W, Milton
Reapportionment Commissioners will attend to gather public input

March 2011

Womens' History Month

Tues., 3/1, NYLA Library Advocacy Day

Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Meeting Room 6, Albany

Join library supporters (trustees, staff, and friends) in advocating for library funding in Albany. On this day, we journey to the offices of NYS Senators and Assemblypeople to make the case for system and local library funding from the state. It's crucial to have as many people present as possible to show support. Register at: <http://calendar.midhudson.org/eventsignup.asp?ID=2389> -- for more info, contact Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, rsmith@midhudson.org, 845-471-6060 x239, or go to: http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=148

Tues., 3/1, 7 PM, *Gerrymandering – Our Public Policy Film/Discussion this month*

Rosendale Theater, 408 Main Street, Rosendale

Cost: by donation. **Sponsored by:** League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region.

Before the film: from 5 PM on, all are invited to join LWV members for dinner at the Rosendale Cafe (434 Main Street). Call 845-658-9048 to reserve.

Did you know that there are fewer competitive elections in the US than in the USSR? Almost all election districts in the US are "incumbent protected", forever-safe seats, carved out so that the results are assured to one party or another. This is the year of re-districting across the US based on the 2010 census.

"Quietly, without much comment or notice, the practice of gerrymandering has transformed from a dismal-but-bearable tradition of occasional opportunism into a cancer eating at the heart of democracy itself, rendering our votes nearly meaningless in countless constituencies across the land...nearly all U.S.

Congressional districts -- along with state assembly and senate seats -- have been gerrymandered in one direction or another." -- David Brin. Ph.D., <http://www.davidbrin.com/gerrymandering1.htm>

Tues., 3/1, 7 PM, *GASLAND*, Saugerties Library community room

Join FrackAction-Catskills for a screening of the Academy-Award-nominated documentary about the dangers inherent in the process of drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation, known as hydraulic fracturing or "fracking". Though New York State has a temporary moratorium on horizontal "fracking", it is limited and due to end in June. Nadia Steinzor, the Marcellus Shale regional organizer of Earthworks, will answer questions after the film. There will be time for discussion and suggestions for actions we can take to protect our air and water. For more info, contact Sue Rosenberg (rosenberg.sue@gmail.com, 845-246-3449).

Tues., 3/1, 7 PM, Marbletown Town Board Meeting, 3775 Main Street, Stone Ridge
Reapportionment Commissioners will attend to gather public input

Wed., 3/2, 3 PM, Reapportionment Commission Weekly Meeting

7 PM, Saugerties Town Board Meeting, Senior Center, Market Street, Saugerties
Reapportionment Commissioners will attend to gather public input

Thurs., 3/3, 7 PM, Veterans For Peace and Middle East Crisis Response present *The Captain and Two Passengers from the Jewish Boat to Gaza*, Woodstock Community Center, Rock City Road, Woodstock
7:15 PM, Shawangunk Town Board Meeting, 14 Central Avenue, Wallkill
Reapportionment Commissioners will attend to gather public input



Kingston New York Branch

AAUW advances equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, and research

Sat., 3/5, 7 PM, *Journey to Freedom: Songs and Stories of Sojourner Truth*
Saint James Methodist Church, 35 Pearl Street, Kingston. **Cost: \$10**

Mon., 3/7, 7:30 PM, Esopus Town Board Workshop Meeting, 284 Broadway (Route 9W), Port Ewen
Reapportionment Commissioners will attend to gather public input

Tues., 3/8, International Women's Day, 100th Anniversary

Solidarity Walk: Registration - 2:30 to 3:30 PM, Walk at 4 PM

Walkway over the Hudson, 75 Washington Street, Poughkeepsie

RSVP: If you'd like to walk with us, let Cecilia Dinio Durkin, AAUW member and My Sister's Keeper Poughkeepsie Branch Co-Chair, know ASAP (womensworkbw@yahoo.com, 845-518-2713). Cecilia will have a booth near registration where we can all meet. If you can't find us, call Joan Monk (914-318-6043). The first 500 attendees to register on 3/8 will receive a free Fair Trade gift from the Women's Leadership Alliance, commissioned through Women's Work, bringing income generation to women in Ghana. Keynote speaker Kadiatou Si-dibe Sarassoro of Beacon will talk about the adversity she faced while living in Mali. Local women's organizations will have informational booths set up. At 4 PM, everyone will walk together across the bridge. Once on the Highland side, we will all walk back together. If you do not wish to walk back across, there will be shuttle buses available. After the walk, we hope you'll join us for dinner at one of the local restaurants to continue our celebration!

Tues., 3/8, 3 PM, Board Meeting, Kingston Library, **Story Hour Room**

7:30 PM, Woodstock Town Board Meeting, 45 Comeau Drive, Woodstock
Reapportionment Commissioners will attend to gather public input

Wed., 3/9, 3 PM, Reapportionment Commission Weekly Meeting

7:30 PM, Rosendale Town Board Meeting, Recreation Center, Route 32, Rosendale
Reapportionment Commissioners will attend to gather public input

Sun., 3/13, 5 PM, Potluck, film, & discussion, [ViVi Hlavsa](#)'s home

Tues., 3/15 1 PM, Branch daytime book discussion: *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience* by Kirstin Downey. Frances Perkins was the first woman to serve in an American Presidential Cabinet. She was instrumental in securing "New Deal" legislation and served for 12 years as FDR's Secretary of Labor. **Kingston Library, **Story Hour Room****

7 PM, Ulster County Legislature Monthly Meeting, Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston

Wed., 3/16, 3 PM, Reapportionment Commission Weekly Meeting

Thurs., 3/17, 4:30 PM, *A Global Conversation about the Lives of Women and Girls*

Kingston Library, 55 Franklin Street, Kingston, Community Room

As part of **My Sister's Keeper, an AAUW-NYS Initiative**, please join the branch as we welcome today's guest speaker, **Lois Shapiro-Canter**, the president, CEO, and founder of the **Saratoga Foundation for Women Worldwide** (<http://saratogafoundation.org/>)

Sat., 3/19, 1 PM, Branch Meeting, Kingston Library, Community Room