

“VOTING: Around the World in 80 Years”

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Speaker: Cassandra Peltier

Executive Director, Susan B. Anthony
Birthplace Museum in Adams, MA

The Bennington Free Library
Rotary Room

This is a public meeting. Please bring
guests and family members to this
presentation.

Hostesses: Margaret Howland
and Judy Kniffin

Our speaker will examine some of the long-standing social and political climates which kept women from the polls as well as some of the historical events and remarkable women that helped the Women’s Suffrage Movement reach its goals.



Cassandra Peltier grew up immersed in the world of museums thanks to the rich artistic and historical heritage of Berkshire County and the freedom of a home-schooling education.

Ms. Peltier graduated Magna Cum Laude from Mount Holyoke College with a BA in History and “Nexus” Minor in Public History, Museums, Archives and Digital History.

Among her many hobbies are Irish Step Dancing and learning Irish Gaelic, needle-crafting, and cooking food from around the world.

The Women’s suffrage movement in the United States was not an isolated phenomenon. Women’s rights to vote were granted and rescinded many times in many countries, states and provinces in the centuries leading up to the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Whether seen as too emotional and frail to participate in political spheres, or too domineering and impulsive to be trusted with legal clout, women overcame a great number of obstacles and accusations in their quest for universal enfranchisement.

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First Monday Meeting

Monday, October 7, 2019 at 12:30 pm
Chauncey's Restaurant, Route 7A, Arlington

Program Planning Lunch for 2019-2020

To reserve a place for lunch, please contact
Jan Day mday2837@comcast.net (442-9299)
or Nancy Schoerke at NTS1016@comcast.net
(447-0829).

AAUW Calendar

Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 2:00 pm

Matinee Performance of *Water, Water Everywhere* written by Eric Peterson. This is our fundraising theater performance with \$19 of every ticket donated to our scholarship fund. Madeline will distribute tickets in the lobby starting at 1:30.

Monday, October 7, 2019 at 1:30 pm

First Monday program planning meeting at Chauncey's Restaurant. See announcement at top of page.

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 1:30 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Jeanne Rogers. Information: Suzanne Kirkpatrick at suzykirkpa@gmail.com (314-496-5628).

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Public Branch Program at the Bennington Library. VOTING: *Around the World in 80 Years*. For details, see page 1.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 1:30 pm

Book Group Meeting at Martha Canfield Library. *Dreamers of the Day* by Mary Doria Russell. Information: Mary Feidner at mfeidner@comcast.net (442-7845) or Margaret Howland at howlanma@yahoo.com (802-681-7555).

AAUW Calendar continued

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 1:30 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Judy Kniffin. Information: Suzanne Kirkpatrick.

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Public Branch Meeting at the Bennington Free Library. In this afternoon Suffragist Transcribe-a-thon, branch members and community volunteers will transcribe documents in the Suffragist Papers held by the Library of Congress. See a preview of the program on page 3.

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Meeting at Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. *Women Rowing North* by Mary Pipher. Information: Mary Feidner or Margaret Howland.

Saturday, December 7, 2018 at 2:00 pm

Branch Holiday Party at the Old First Church Barn. Refreshments, libations, music, and good cheer—with a suffragist twist!

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Holiday Party at Chauncey's Restaurant. After lunch, members will read or recite a favorite poem.

Wednesday, January 15, 2010 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Meeting at Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* Edited by Paul Hawken. Please read whichever sections of the book interest you. Learn what you can about that topic. If you read more than one topic, great! We can't master the whole book. Please give your choice of topic to Margaret Howland at the November or December book group meetings so we can organize a bit for January.

Program Preview:

Suffragist Papers Transcribe-a-thon

Public Branch Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2019
1:00 to 4:00 pm
Bennington Free Library

The November branch meeting is as close to encountering women suffragists face-to-face as we may ever get. In an afternoon Suffragist Transcribe-a-thon we will join forces with the Bennington Free Library and community volunteers to transcribe original source material from the Suffragist Papers held by the Library of Congress. This ongoing "By the People" crowdsourcing project, taking place in libraries, schools and homes across the country, will convert digitized materials—diaries, letters, speeches—into files that can be made available to scholars and the public as searchable databases.

Please take out your calendar now, set aside a few hours that afternoon, bring your laptop (we'll also have additional laptops on hand), and get ready for a deep dive into the words that propelled the march toward women's suffrage. Not comfortable typing on a keyboard? Come help decipher cryptic handwriting, review transcriptions and tag subjects. We'll provide the overview and training, with floating volunteers available to help, and refreshments throughout the afternoon. Stay as long as you can, leave as early as you have to.

Expect surprises. You never know what the woman who wrote the document you're about to open is about to tell you. Please help us with a headcount and equipment inventory by contacting Julie Mackaman at jmackaman@gmail.com (823-5545) and tell her if you plan to come and whether you'll bring a laptop. See November newsletter for details.

Please welcome two new members
of the AAUW Bennington Branch:

Kate Canning

Catherine (Kate) Canning
157 Gypsy Lane
Bennington, VT 05201

Home phone 802-447-0176

Cell 802-440-6685

Email: ccanning157@comcast.net

Anna Marie College 1972 BA social work
Antioch NE Grad School 1982 M.Ed/MHSA

Kay Wisniewski

Kay Wisniewski
1906 Rte. 7A
Arlington, VT 05250

Cell phone 267-212-3591

Email kay.wisniewski@gmail.com

Trinity College, BA, 1977
Drexel University, MLS, 1983

Please add these two new members to your
Member Directory, and be sure to welcome
them when you see them at a meeting.



Interview of Wendy Lyons

By Jennifer Kern

Photo at left: Taken in early August 2019 in Bennington.

From left: Wendy Lyons, Susan Andrews, Vermont Representative Peter Welch, and Sandra Wirasnik.

Wendy Lyons is a four times AAUW scholarship recipient and a new AAUW Bennington Branch Member. She plans to graduate from CCV in June 2020 with an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts.

Human Resources is Wendy's area of study. Her immediate plan after graduation is to work at the Coalition for the Homeless here in Bennington. She is hoping to also have time to volunteer in the refugee center in Pittsfield, Mass. One of her many goals is to help form organizations all over the State of Vermont to address homelessness.

This summer Wendy immersed herself in understanding more about homelessness. Helping homeless individuals and families feel emotionally strong, learn new skills that would help with employment, and have opportunities to improve their lives, is something very dear to Wendy's heart. Having been homeless herself gives her insight into the many issues that exist when you are homeless. These insights could improve or expand programs to be more helpful.

The Kitchen Cupboard directed by Susan Andrews provides free food to individuals and families in need and teaches them how to eat better. Through Wendy's CCV course "Professional Field Experience", Wendy interned there and helped run the kitchen. She met, talked with, and listened to people of all backgrounds and situations.

Wendy also went to Washington DC to attend the Conference of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The conference sessions gave Wendy a clearer picture of the issues surrounding homelessness. She received a lot of information on ways other states work to house their homeless population with limited resources. Learning what would be needed to put together a plan of action for Bennington, Wendy started to gather a network of prominent individuals and organizations in the field for future use when she is ready to start planning with the Coalition for the Homeless and other organizations.

On Capitol Hill Day Wendy spoke to Vermont Members of Congress and their staff about Homelessness in Bennington. She made it clear the homeless numbers were rising and they live anywhere and everywhere because the local homeless shelter does not have enough beds for the homeless population. There is a great need in Bennington for programs and money. Many staffers gave her their cards so she could call on them for information and help moving forward.

When Representative Peter Welch came to Bennington for the Putnam Hotel Construction event, Susan Andrews, Kitchen

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Wendy Lyons

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Cupboard Director, Wendy Lyons, and Sandra Wirasnik, office assistant at GBICS invited him to see what was involved in the daily operation of the Kitchen Cupboard.

Afterwards Representative Welch joined the three women for a walk along the River Walk in Downtown Bennington to meet, talk with and listen to the many homeless people that gather there regularly to have a place to go, sleep, or even live. Susan, Sandra and Wendy wanted him to see and understand for himself the need for action about homelessness in Bennington.

(Editor's note: Jennifer Kern is chair of the Bennington Branch scholarship committee that selects recipients of AAUW scholarships. Wendy had outlined some of her summer plans in the required essay of her last scholarship application. Committee members were interested in further details about her activities and thought branch members would also be interested. Wendy Lyons has approved the content of this article.)

Pease welcome Wendy to our branch!