



AAUW

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April 2009

Susan McNamara, President

Linda Robertson, Editor

Sarah Dunn, Technical Advisor

AAUW Value Statement

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

Mission & Diversity Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to members to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national orientation, disability, or class.

Bethlehem AAUW Website
aauwbethlehempa.org

Mark Your Calendar

April 7, 6 pm, Book Fair Dinner Meeting

May 5, 4 pm Board Visioning meeting at Susan McNamara's. All are invited.

May 12, 7 pm, Scholarship Reception, Central Moravian Education Building

BETHLEHEM BRANCH

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

Branch Salad Supper and Book Sorting

**Bethlehem Memorial Pool Building
Tuesday April 7, 2009
6 pm**

Here it is! Time for Book Fair Forty-Seven!

Once again we ask every AAUW member to don work clothes, bring your books to donate, along with your appetites, and gather for a casual supper and a working evening in support of our renowned and respected Book Fair.

All of us extend our thanks to Paperback II and Paperback III study groups for providing the salads and desserts. Our program co-chairs will supply sandwich supplies, beverages, and serving necessities.

Following a brief business meeting we will elect new branch officers for 2009-2010.

Then it will be all hands on deck for an hour of sorting and pricing books for the mid-April sale. Please join us in participating in our largest and most important annual event which raises dollars for our scholarship program. The Book Fair is a significant Lehigh Valley event that benefits our community while providing funds for college-bound young women.



2008 Book Sorting Supper Meeting

The following slate will be placed in nomination:

Vice President - Membership:
Yvonne Payne

Secretary: Bernice Gardiner

Treasurer: Myra Jones

The following have agreed to stand for a first term (2009-2011) on the Nominating Committee: Nancy Disario, Cinda Jensen, and Margaret Mahoney. In addition, the following members are candidates to serve a second term (2009- 2010) on the Nominating Committee: Darlene Borst, Jo-Anne Horn (incoming chair) and Bernie Gardiner.

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo, (610-797-9158)

On April 16, Jo-Ann Kelly will host with Joanne Wagner as co-host. We will taste and evaluate French Viognier and make plans for the end of the year activity.

Great Books Discussions

Cathy Barrett (610-868-9100)

April 8, 7:15 pm. Bethlehem Area Public Library, 2nd floor. Following a brief business meeting, discussion starts at 7:30. The book is *Great Conversation 3*. We will discuss Luigi Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (pp. 165-230). In May, members will enjoy a social meeting.

The Lunch Bunch

Bernie Gardiner, (610-861-2925)

All AAUW members are invited to join. On April 21 at *Thai Thai II*, a new restaurant located on Main Street, Marilyn Achey (610-867-1887) will be our hostess. Contact Polly Hinder (610-865-0358) for information about Starters at the Illicks Mill Golf Course on May 19.

Going Places

In May, the group will tour *Longwood Gardens*. Please contact Polly Hinder (610-865-0358) for information and to make a reservation.

Change of Address

Ann Banks has a new address: One Kirkland Village Circle #228, Bethlehem 18017; her phone number is 610-691-4861.

President's Message from Susan McNamara

Throughout the past month of activities and events, I have been reminded forcefully of the power of stories and story-telling. The most recent of these was the March 14th Inter-branch program. As participants arrived, the room was initially alive with energetic conversation, the bustle of organizing seating 'assignments' and the rearrangements required to add additional tables and chairs for a near over-flow group of 75 AAUW members. Seated to assure a table mix of members from each of the branches, we began to settle in, open our bag lunches, and enter the world of the film *The Way Home*. It took the shortest of times, however, before one became aware of the room's silence - the kind of silence captured by the proverbial "you could have heard a pin drop." Attention was riveted. In the film, groups of women: Native American, Hispanic/Latina, Asian, African/African-American, Mixed Race, Jewish, Gay/Straight, Young/Old told each other and us the stories of their identities, struggles, joys, heartbreaks, fears, expectations, successes and failures. Shaped by race, ethnicity, gender, family, culture, false assumptions, myths, stereotypes, prejudices within and beyond their own most immediate heritages, the women also modeled the most difficult yet vital kinds of dialogues human have within themselves and between and among others.

The 'still silence' of the room during the film suggested the power of story to capture attention; the round-table conversations following the film revealed a fundamental source of this power: another person's story, whether in fiction, memoir, biography, oral or written almost always evokes in others memories from their own life-shaping stories and often a desire or need to tell another that story or some part of it. That is, story-telling is one, if not the most, powerful of human bonding resources. So it was at our tables: some respondents felt a strong identification with one or more of the women in the film or with some experiences of many; for some the film's stories provoked memories that constituted part of a viewer's own life story; others connected with the life issues or themes at the center of the lives of the film's speakers; for all, the emotions experienced and provoked by the women in the film were deeply resonant. And while the film was a comparatively long, ninety-minute one, most in the audience were left wanting to hear more stories, mentioning for example, from groups such as WASP women, elderly, disabled. Many would like to see it again!

Stories and story-telling are powerful also as they work to extend our boundaries. Coincident with this program have been my visits with Paperback Groups I, II, and III in the past month. Each of the three works read and discussed: the Guernsey Island inhabitants' story of World War II German occupation in *The Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, the story of a group of Afghani women in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, or the tale of the harrowing journey of the young boys in *They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky: The Story of Three Lost Boys from the Sudan* - introduced readers to geography, culture, individuals, and issues that require a stretching of intellectual, emotional, experiential muscles for understanding and appreciation.

The bonding and extending boundaries roles of story were both a part of my most recent meeting at Moravian College to continue the dialogue on renewing the Moravian and AAUW-Bethlehem connection.

AAUW Applauds Creation of White House Council on Women and Girls

President Barack Obama recently signed an executive order creating the White House Council on Women and Girls. The council, to be chaired by Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, will, in the words of the order, "work across executive departments and agencies to provide a coordinated federal response to issues that have a distinct impact on the lives of women and girls, including assisting women-owned businesses to compete internationally and working to increase the participation of women in the science, engineering, and technology workforce, and to ensure that Federal programs and policies adequately take those impacts into account."

Some of the goals the council will strive for include stronger economic security for women, work/life balance for working women and their families, domestic violence prevention, and improved health care for women.

AAUW supported the establishment of the council, and AAUW Executive Director Linda Hamilton was among those witnessing the signing. Our organization will work with members of the council on meeting its objectives.

School Vouchers

The U.S. Senate had rejected an amendment to the Omnibus Appropriations Act that would have extended the Washington, D.C. voucher program. The program was the only one in the country to receive federal funding.

AAUW has long been opposed to vouchers to private and parochial schools, contending that the country should provide an excellent public education to all; vouchers would drain much-needed support from public schools.

Reproductive Rights

Also, as part of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, President Obama signed a provision that will again allow college health center to purchase contraceptives at a nominal cost. AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services.

President's Message Continued from Page Two

This time the story was AAUW's. The faculty and staff with whom I met knew little, if anything, about our organization. As I offered only the barest outlines of the AAUW story - its central role in higher education discrimination cases, advocacy for pay equity, campus action projects, graduate fellowships, the response was enthusiastic: "I'd like to learn more," "What about a program?" "How do we go about creating a student affiliate organization?" "Where do we fit in?" are questions which pointed the way to some next steps. I think, as well, that this, small-scale experience is obviously suggestive of what AAUW-National hopes to replicate in its work to bring the AAUW story to new and broader audiences. It is in telling these and our many other stories, local and national, to individuals and groups we have yet to meet and yet to engage that the future of AAUW at all levels in some part rests. It is through our stories that the mission and Value Promise of AAUW come to life. When asked what does AAUW offer me and contribute to my community, it will be our stories that persuade others to give us a closer look.

Paperback I

Mardi Metzger, (610-866-1257) April 16 Randi Blauth (610-974-9711) hosts a 7:30 pm discussion of *Accordion Crimes* by Annie Proulx. This ambitious novel of Americana uses the device of a musical instrument brought to New Orleans in 1890 by a Sicilian immigrant to tell the stories of a variety of colorful characters.

Paperback II

Sue Matheson, (610-691-8322) On April 21 we will meet at Louise Wisser's to discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. The book is inspired by a true story of an Australian rare book expert who accepts the job of a lifetime, to analyze and conserve a rescued book from the Bosnian War. On May 19, we will meet at Ann Brown's to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. The tale of a unique book club formed as an alibi to protect its members from arrest by German occupiers during World War II. The story turns on the correspondence between an English author and the book club member.

Paperback III

We are changing our meeting day to the second Tuesday of the month. In April we are providing assorted salads for the book sorting meeting. On May 12 at 1 pm Yvonne Payne (610-867-6575) will host a discussion of William P. Young's provocative novel *The Shack*.

Pennsylvania Candidate for AAUW President

Sally Chamberlain, former president of the Harrisburg PA AAUW and member of the national AAUW Board of Directors, is a candidate for AAUW President. A vote will be taken at the national convention in St. Louis this summer. Please visit Sally's website at electsally.com to learn of her vision for AAUW. Here is a statement from Sally:

"Right now, we have a choice in AAUW. We can accept the status quo or come together to become an organization known for embracing change, revitalizing our mission, and demonstrating our value as a 21st-century organization. This election is about our future.

"I am uniquely qualified to lead AAUW's Board of Directors from strategic process and plan to strategic implementation and renewal. As part of the Unity Slate at the convention in Washington, my choice was clear and the organization remained intact. I served on the core team which designed the 2005/06 Strategic Process *Roadmap* and am part of joint boards strategic planning task force. I have been a board member, Program Vice-President for the Foundation and a member of the Executive Team. I am passionately committed to our mission and value promise, and strongly support the changes outlined by our strategic initiatives and framed by the new bylaws.

"To that end, I support and will work to bring about an AAUW that will champion ideas and actions that unify AAUW in common purpose and mission driven growth."

47 Years of Book Fair

Forty-seven years ago the first Bethlehem AAUW Book Fair was held in a store at 451 Main Street near the Hotel Bethlehem. Fran Scully and Jan Adams were the chairmen and the first Book Fair raised \$1,600 for scholarships. The Book Fair moved to City Motors on Broad Street and was held there for 5 years. The next 3 years, Pennsylvania Playhouse was our headquarters and finally in 1972, we took over the Rink Building on Illicks Mill Rd. After 14 years we expanded to both the Rink and Pool Buildings for 12 years. Since 1998, we have been using only the Pool Building.

In our 47th year of Book Fair volunteers are again looking forward to having fun pricing and sorting books. Shoppers are looking forward to buying those book bargains and community members are looking forward to donating their unneeded books. Scholarship hopefuls are eager to see if they have won a scholarship with the book fair monies. Karen and Nancy are looking forward to opening day!! After posting our Book Fair on booksalefinder.com and sending out a large mailing we have received calls from many wanting to come to our event or to donate books. This is the excitement of Book Fair and it is why our event is so worthwhile.

Please continue your support for Book Fair by donating books, helping with sorting and pricing, working on sale days and spreading the word about dates. Use the poster in the last *Bylines* and the special mailing you received to put in your church bulletin, hang in your office or post prominently.

DATES TO REMEMBER: (Put them on your calendar!)

Tues. April 7 - Book Fair Dinner and meeting

SALE DAYS

Wed. April 22, 8 am - 10 am Early entry \$10 donation

Wed. April 22, 10 am- 8 pm regular free entry

Thurs. April 23, 10 am - 8 pm

Fri. April 24, 10 am- 8 pm Half-price day

Sat. April 25, 10 am - 1 pm Bag Day, \$5 a bag

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Nancy Disario (610-867-8533)

Karen Donald (610-746-0337)

Book Fair Co-Chairmen

Let's Read Math . . . A Successful Beginning

Our first year of *Let's Read Math* is drawing to a close. We will be doing one more presentation for two classes at William Penn Elementary School in the Bethlehem Area School District during April. During this first year, we have worked with over two hundred students, with many of them receiving multiple presentations.

We have focused on three different books during this first year. They include *The Greedy Triangle* which had the students creating geometric shapes out of marshmallows and toothpicks... a real crowd pleaser!! *How Big is a Foot* had the kids acting out a play complete with props. The students worked on not only measuring with rulers, but other forms of measurement including time, the use of calendars, and weight. The kids loved seeing their weight much more than we do as adults!! The third book was *Grandfather Tang's Story* which focuses on the use of "tangrams." And don't worry...if you don't know what a tangram is, you are not alone. I, too, had to learn something new. A tangram is a group of seven shapes, that when put together correctly, form a square, or as the kids now know...a quadrilateral.

We started our "road show" at Marvine Elementary last June working with ESOL students attending a summer program. During the school year, we went to Calypso Elementary and Thomas Jefferson Elementary in the BASD, and also the Mosser Family Center in the Allentown School District for an after school program.

Did our program have an effect on the students? Sometimes in teaching we don't know, but if the thank you notes we received were any indication, we can consider this a very successful year. One of the students at Calypso wrote, "Dear Volunteers, thank you for everything you did for us. My favorite thing was the play. I'm glade (sic) that I was the king. P.S. I measured my pensol (sic) it is 9 in." And from one of the students at Mosser, "Thank you for coming to Mosser. My favorite activity was when we did the marshmallow shapes. I also liked when we played with the tangrams. It was awesome and fun. You and your friends were totally cool. I loved what you taught us. I hope you come back again."

We hope to continue our work next year, and are planning to add some new stories to our repertoire. This has been a joint venture with the gals from the Allentown branch. We have enjoyed getting to know each other and working together with children in our communities.

We can always use more helping hands. If you would like to join our merry band of volunteers, please let me know at fbentkowski@verizon.net.

Or give me a call at 610-866-7462. We would love to have you join us.

Fran Bentkowski

AAUW, the WAGE Project Join Forces to Address Equal Pay

AAUW and The WAGE Project announced the formation of a partnership to ensure that women graduating from college start their careers knowing how to negotiate for fair and equal pay. This partnership will offer Start Smart Campus Negotiation Workshops to 500 college campuses over the next three years.

These nuts-and-bolts workshops, piloted by WAGE in 2007 and 2008 on more than 60 campuses, will be presented by trained AAUW facilitators. AAUW and WAGE urge all campuses in the nation to offer this valuable workshop, which can serve as a powerful influence in the lives of young women.

The gender wage gap begins as early as the first year after a woman graduates from college, according to AAUW's research report, *Behind the Pay Gap*. A decade after graduation, it widens. In fact, AAUW found that the gap is clear even when women have the same major and occupation as their male counterparts.

Over a 40-year career, college-educated women will have an average lifetime loss of roughly \$1 million. In higher-paying fields, such as law, the wage gap can result in even greater lifetime losses — and long-term significantly impact retirement and Social Security income. Nationwide, working families lose \$200 billion of income annually to the gender wage gap. And as benefits, raises, and job offers are typically based on current earnings, a fair wage at the beginning of a career can help set the stage for lifetime equity.

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Members' Comment on Inter-Branch Meeting on Diversity

Marie Boltz reports that 75 women, an overflow crowd, crammed into the Bahnsen Center on Moravian College's north campus on Saturday afternoon March 14 to view a stimulating video produced by World Trust, a California social justice organization. The video, which took eight months to create, followed discussions by 64 women of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. Sharon Brown of the College's Institutional Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Department led follow up conversations.

Many were astonished that it is the law that Native Americans are required to carry a special identity card.

When asked about her reaction to the video, Myrna Sims, mused "it is useful, even if it is uncomfortable, for our predominantly white AAUW members to be reminded of racism experienced by women of different cultures. *The Way Home* provided vivid examples of the pain that racism causes."

Members from Allentown and Easton AAUW joined with almost 20 Bethlehem AAUW members. President Susan McLamara is exploring how to deepen our relationship with students at Moravian College.