



Volume 80, Issue 5

March 2010

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

aaubethlehempa.org

Mark Your Calendar

March 6, 11 am, Interbranch luncheon, Best Western

March 16, 4 pm, Board Meeting

March 17, 10 am, Book Fair Kick Off & Sorting Session

April 6, 6 pm, Supper and Book Sorting Meeting, Pool Building

BETHLEHEM BRANCH

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

Valleywide Meeting of AAUW Branches

Saturday March 6, 2010 at 11:30 am

Luncheon

Best Western Hotel at Routes 22 and 512, Bethlehem

Bethlehem, Allentown, Easton, and Pocono Area AAUW branches gather for an Interbranch meeting biennially.

On March 6, keynote speaker Carolyn Donovan, AAUW's representative to the United Nations, will talk about how AAUW carries out its mission at the United Nations.

She will highlight the 15-year *Review of the Beijing Platform for Action* and what has been accomplished for women and girls since 1995 as well as the status of protecting women's and girls' rights through implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Ms. Donovan will examine whether the United States and the United Nations are truly working multilaterally. She will be looking ahead to a major opportunity for the AAUW mission in 2011: *The Commission on the Status of Women* and will be reviewing STEM: science, technology and math.



Carolyn Donovan represents AAUW at the United Nations.

Branches will announce recipients of the *Gateway to Equity Award*, presented in recognition of International Women's Day. Bethlehem's recipient is the Maternity Group House program of Valley Youth House, Inc. .

Registration opens at 11:30 am. The luncheon menu includes an entrée choice of chicken Caesar salad, a turkey wrap, or a trio salad plate (egg, tuna, and potato salad), rolls and butter, cheesecake with raspberry sauce, and beverage. Price per person is \$20 .

Last minute reservations (due February 26) will be considered. Call registrar Susan Nenstiel at 610-965-0663.

President's Message from Susan McNamara

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo, (610-797-9158)
A snow postponed our meeting to February 25 at Fran Bentkowski's. We then meet March 11 at Louise Wisser's house at 7:30 pm for a tasting of chenin blanc wines. On April 8, Myra Jones hosts a tasting of pinot noir wines. This year, wines are from countries in the southern hemisphere. New members are welcome.

Great Books Discussions

Cathy Barrett (610-868-9100)
We meet the second Wednesday of the month from October through May at 7:15 pm in the Bethlehem Area Public Library, 2nd floor. Following a brief business meeting, discussion starts at 7:30. On March 10 our selection is Wislawa Szymborska's *Selected Poems*. (pp. 325-334) The April 14 selection is Michael Foucault's *The Body of the Condemned* (pp. 335-362)

The Out to Lunch Bunch

Jeanie Keller, (610-865-3543) All AAUW members are invited. The March 16 luncheon will be at *Jack Creek* steakhouse on Catasauqua Road, near Airport Road, at noon. Please make reservations with hostess Bernie Gardiner (610-861-2925) by March 13. We will be at *Bubba's Potbelly Stove* restaurant on Route 309, Center Valley at noon on April 20th. Please make reservations with Shirley McBride (610-317-9603) by April 17.

By the time you read this message, the BIG snow storms of early February will be but a recent memory. The nearly snowless winter of 2008-09 a distant memory. Looking back for a moment however, we can see that both illustrate well our very human capacity to feel pulled by different, if not contrary, directions in our desires. During and after the winter of 2009, many complained that "we never had a 'real' winter, barely any snow at all;" but as we shoveled and shoveled this winter, we complained "enough already with the snow!" We similarly often think in the middle of a summer heat wave, "Oh, I'll take the cold of winter any day over this" as we yearn for the warmth of summer in cold Januarys. This pull and tug between sameness and difference, of course, is not limited to matters of weather; it pervades our lives. We want what we have but yearn for what we don't. We often describe sameness as 'being in a rut' yet lie awake at night worrying doing something different.

Few subjects in our lives today prompt this ambivalence more than those subsumed under the broad category *diversity*, the subject of the January Easton AAUW program attended by a few of us from Bethlehem. The program's speakers were women of varied background: one Asian-American, one Hispanic-American, and one white-American woman partnered with a black man and mother of a bi-racial child. Each spoke movingly about the tensions of sameness and difference experienced throughout their childhoods and early adult years in relation to race, ethnicity and culture. They asked of the audience that we also consider the implications of their life stories for our own individual and group behaviors.

It was, however, the warm-up 'exercise' with which the program began that provided the emotional context needed if the thinking was to resonate after the program ended. We were asked to stand whenever any one of a series of descriptors read aloud applied, to observe the numbers standing and numbers still sitting, and to consider what this tells us, and how we feel, about our own diversity. Typical descriptors were "Stand if you are fifty years or older...if you are married...if you are a widow...if you are a parent...if you are a single parent...if you work or have worked outside the home... if you ever experienced sexual harassment in a workplace."

Most memorable were the group responses, including my own: throughout the exercise as each descriptor was read and each group stood/sat, I was aware of a low but consistent murmur of laughter; the kind of laugh that suggests a degree of discomfort or anxiety. When for one descriptor I was a standing member of a comparatively small group and, for another, a seated member of an even smaller group, I was deeply aware of feeling very self-consciousness. I felt different; I felt being in the minority. The only smaller group was that of the lone woman who stood for the final category 'if you have a tattoo.' Laughter over that category was vigorous; fully vocalized, it conveyed a communal, unspoken consensus: because tattoo wearing is not typically included among diversity issues, it was okay to take this singularity as a bit of comic relief. I wondered whether the women with her body art felt "okay" as well.

Public Policy

Compiled by Myra Saturen

AAUW Responds to Proposed Changes in *No Child Left Behind*

A historic change to an education law will be set before the Congress. President Barack Obama has proposed and is seeking bipartisan support for significant changes in the *No Child Left Behind* law, a measure held over from the previous administration.

According to the law as it now stands, the results of high-stakes testing are used to determine whether a school is meeting standards of student performance or falling short. Those schools that are found to fall short of the mark must give students the option of transferring to private schools, be subject to faculty dismissals or face outright closure. The new proposal provides a more nuanced system of evaluation; instead of schools being judged by means of one standard, they would be appraised according to several benchmarks. Also, schools accessed as lagging behind would be granted substantial funds to help improve the education they offer.

While AAUW has supported the *No Child Left Behind* law in the past, the association welcomes the proposed changes: "AAUW believes it is possible, and necessary, to maintain a commitment to high standards and greater accountability in our nation's public schools and remains committed to ensuring strong academic principles and closing the achievement gap for all children. AAUW also believes that the federal government has a critical role to play in attaining these goals and endorses the use of a reasonable accountability system that helps ensure all children are prepared to be successful, participating members of our democracy. As Congress and the administration contemplate reauthorization of the law, AAUW will pursue the following improvements in addition to more general efforts, including increased funding, to strengthen the law's goals, improve its implementation, and make clear progress in closing the achievement gap."

It is also of note that AAUW has long opposed government-issued vouchers for private schools, deeming the voucher system as undermining the strength of public schools. The *No Child Left Behind* Law, by offering vouchers to students in schools considered failing, turns attention and support away from public schools, and public education is a mainstay of our democracy.

For decades writers such as Jonathan Kozol have decried the "savage inequality" of our schools. The proposed changes to the *No Child Left Behind* law give fragile schools the chance to provide more equal education to all students rather than penalizing and further weakening them.

Paperback I

Marie Boltz, (484-851-3435)
On March 18 at 7:30 pm at Randi Blauth's house we will discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. The April selection is *Street of a Thousand Blossoms* by Gail Tsukiyama.

Paperback II

Sue Matheson, (610-691-8322)
On March 16 at 7:30 pm Sue Matheson hosts and Phyllis Wargo leads a discussion of Muriel Barbery's *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*. Mme. Michel is concierge of a Paris apartment building. Paloma is a 13 year old with a death wish because she cannot bear to live among the rich. The novel poignantly reveals the absurd lives of the wealthy.

Paperback III

Pat Michael (610-861-2948) On March 9, Yvonne Payne (610-867-6575) hosts the 1:00 pm meeting. Myra Sims will be discussion leader for *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. On May 11, Barbara Myers (610-867-5222) will host and lead discussion of *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

Mystery Paperback

We meet March 23 at Yvonne Payne's (610-867-6575) at 1:30 pm to discuss Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Linda Robertson researches. In June we will enjoy a picnic supper and choose new books.

AAUW Board Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of Bethlehem AAUW is March 16, 4 pm. Branch members may attend all board meetings upon request. Please call Susan McNamara at 610-216-4905.

Updates to Yearbook

Linda Zimmerman's email is now:
2TLzimmerman@PTD.net

Jane Snyder's email is changed:
jwrigleys@gmail.com

Kathi Gill: 4539 Harriet Lane, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Email: Kathigoad@hotmail.com;
Phone (still her CA number): 661-549-6592.

Going Places

On March 24 (note date change) we are traveling to the Reading Public Museum to view actor Gene London's outstanding fashion in film collection as well as an interesting photography show. The museum is also known for its interesting Pennsylvania Dutch room. Admission is \$8 adult and \$6 seniors.

The carpool will depart from Jeanie Keller's at 10 am and the trip should take an hour. We are planning either brunch on the way or late lunch on the way home.

Our last excursion was a 'sell out' so please act quickly and contact Shirley McBride at 610-317-9603 or Jeanie Keller at 610-865-3543.

AAUW-PA State Convention

Carlisle, PA

April 16-18, 2010

With

Keynote Speaker:

LINDA D. HALLMAN

AAUW Executive Director

BOOK FAIR CO-CHAIRS CHOSEN FOR 2011

Kick-off Coffee March 17

Nancy and Karen are happy to announce that Barbara Mueller and Linda Robbins have agreed to chair the annual Book Fair for 2011. Barbara is a former librarian and has worked at Book Fair for several years. She recently joined our branch. Linda has worked at the Bethlehem and Allentown Book Fairs and is a member of both branches. They are working with Nancy and Karen this year to experience what is involved in preparing for this exciting and worthwhile annual event.

Activities for this year's Book Fair will begin with a Kick-off Coffee on Wednesday, March 17, at 10 am in the Memorial Pool Building on Illick's Mill Road. Members and non-members are invited to attend. Donations of books, music, CDs, and DVDs will be accepted from March 17- April 14. The sale days for the public are April 21-24. Volunteers will be sorting and pricing Monday - Saturday from 9-12 noon. This is a time of renewing old friendships and making new ones from both AAUW and the community. It is also an opportunity to purchase books and music at our wonderfully low prices. We encourage you to stop in any time you are able.

Our dedicated Book Fair committee members are: Captains: Claire Ashby (who continues to drive from Lititz, PA), Marie Boltz, Dolores Demyan, Cinda Jensen, Joan Jones, DeDe Laver, Margaret Mahoney, Nancy Marsac, Sue McNamara, Gunnel Sterner, and Cynthia Weber. The treasurer is Barbara Guldner. Jo-Anne Horn and Myra Jones are in charge of sales and Pat Riley handles paperbacks. Sue Petit does the website and signs, and Linda Robinson is in charge of communications.

We remind everyone of the need for able-bodied men or women to help with moving the heavy boxes of books. If anyone knows some person who could help in this area, please let us know.

Nancy Disario 610-867-8533

Karen Donald 610-746-0337

Book Fair Co-Chairmen

Book Fair Factoid

Since its inception, the AAUW-Bethlehem Book Fair has raised more than \$500,000 for scholarships for area women and girls.

Please use the enclosed Book Fair flyer to spread the word. Post it in your office or a friendly neighborhood business.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Election to be Held April 6th at Supper Meeting in the pool Building

The committee met on November 18, 2009. The members of the committee are Jo-Anne Horn, Bernie Gardiner, Darlene Borst, Nancy Disario, Cinda Jensen and Margaret Mahoney. We propose the following slate for the 2010 through 2012 term of office:

President: Susan McNamara - Serving as our current president, we are delighted to nominate Susan for a second term. She received her bachelor's of arts degree from Lake Erie College, a master's of arts degree from University of Pennsylvania, and a doctorate in 18C and 19C British novels from New York University. Susan taught English at the high school and college levels as well as holding numerous positions as a college administrator. When she retired, she joined our branch and has been an officer ever since. Her hobbies include knitting, reading, gardening, and training and showing her West Highland White Terriers.

Co-Vice President, Program: Linda Zimmerman - Linda is a new member, who earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Kutztown University and a master's of education from Lehigh University. Linda is retired after 35 years of teaching in Bethlehem Area School District and is an active education volunteer and curriculum writer for Historic Bethlehem Partnership. Linda participates in our *Let's Read Math* project.

Co-Vice President, Program: Joanne Wagner - Joanne earned her bachelor's of science degree from East Stroudsburg University. Joanne has been a member of our branch for 5 years. She recently retired as the office manager of Scott's Auto Service where she worked for 23 years. She is a member of Paperback II, Mystery Paperback, and Bacchae. Joanne is active at her church and has been elected Church Council President. She is the first woman in her church to hold this position. She has taught Sunday School for 30 years.

The following members have been nominated to be the 2010-2012 members of the Nominating Committee:

Randi Blauth
Marge Gotshall
Linda Robertson
Sandy Utley

*Jo-Anne Horn, Chair
Nominating Committee*

Legal Advocacy Fund News

In February, several former women wrestlers and the plaintiffs of one of the five sex discrimination cases AAUW currently supports celebrated a win in their legal battle against the University of California, at Davis.

From the 1990s through 2001, UC Davis had a women's wrestling program. In fall 2001, however, the women wrestlers were informed that their team would be eliminated, even though they had chosen to attend UC Davis specifically to participate in wrestling. The women and their coach met with school officials over the matter, but the school officials would not budge and refused to let them wrestle.

In 2003, the women students filed a complaint in federal court against the university for discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 and the Equal Protection Clause.

In 2008, the federal judge ruled against the plaintiffs, saying they had failed to give the campus notice that they were making an allegation against the women's athletic program. Notably, the federal judge did not rule on whether or not discrimination had actually occurred.

In October 2009, oral arguments were heard for the case by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. On February 8, the appeals court overturned the lower court judge's ruling, denied summary judgment, and ruled that the case should be heard by a trial court.

AAUW has supported this case since 2005 financially and with an amicus brief.

Officers

President Susan McNamara
610-861-8066
Smc8066@yahoo.com

Past President Cinda Jensen
610-866-0389
cindajen@aol.com

VPs/Program
Shirley McBride 610-317-9603
sa.mcbride@att.net

Jeanie Keller 610-865-3543
Jeaniekeller@verizon.net

VP/Membership
Yvonne Spitzer 610-867-6575
paynespitzer@hotmail.com

Secretary Bernice Gardiner
610-861-2925
bnkgardiner@hotmail.com

Treasurer Myra Jones
610-865-3419
mejones@entermail.net

AAUW Help Line
800-326-2289
10 am to 5 pm

Or
Connect@aauw.org

Association Website
Www.aauw.org

“Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.”

Marie Curie

President’s Message Continued from Page Two

In the small group discussions that concluded the program, participants attested to the value of a program that gave them the chance not only to think about but also to feel just a bit of what our speakers described as all-encompassing in their daily lives. In this context, we turned to the question of how AAUW branches in which members, most commonly, share similar life experiences might become more inviting to those who, at least initially, might be viewed as different or whose life experiences have been ‘different’ in significant ways. We began to consider how to translate the thinking and feeling insights gained from this program into behaviors or actions that might strengthen the diversity of AAUW membership and outreach efforts. In other words, we left this program talking about the value of, and need for, member willingness to address with both heads and hearts the knotty tensions of sameness and difference at the core of a commitment to our AAUW equity goal. Thus began a conversation that we who attended were glad to be a part of and look forward to additional opportunities to continue. It is a conversation that I would welcome continuing among ourselves in Bethlehem as well.

Susan McNamara

Time to Think About Pay Equity Day Let’s Bake for Fairness!

Campus bake sales are routine, but on Tuesday, April 20 the halls of the Hauptert Union Building of Moravian College’s main campus will host discrimination in action. Our AAUW student affiliate group will be selling cupcakes, cookies, and pies. A male customer will be asked to pay \$1.00 a piece, while women can buy the same dessert for 77 cents: the difference in the average hourly pay earned by women in the United States today.



Please put the date on your calendars and *Bake for Equity*. Trisha Moller will be collecting your contributions. You can call her at 610-758-8263 to arrange a delivery. President Susan McNamara wants to alert us that there will be many other opportunities to participate on April 20 at the College; the details will appear in the April *Bylines*.

Call Trisha to volunteer to bake.

President Susan McNamara wants to alert us that there will be many other opportunities to participate on April 20 at the College; the details will appear in the April *Bylines*.

AAUW-PA Asks for Our Cooperation Sign up for Electronic State Newsletter

If you haven't already done so, sign up now for the online version of the AAUW-PA newsletter, the *Keystoner*.

You will get an email notice of the posting of each issue, with a table of contents and a link that will take you to a downloadable copy of the issue that you can print out yourself or read on your computer screen.

There are still only a small fraction of AAUW members signed up for the online version. We realize that many people will still prefer getting the print version of the *Keystoner*, but we are also sure that there are many more members out there who would prefer to receive an email notification of each issue and be able to download the newsletter whenever they wished.

Getting the *Keystoner* online helps the environment and saves the state organization money. You don't have to wait for delivery and have access to the issue as soon as it is published.

Type the following link to go to the latest issue of the *Keystoner* to be sure that you have no trouble downloading the PDF:<http://aauwpa.org/keystoner/KeystonerWinter2009.pdf>.

Then, go to the *Keystoner* pages on the AAUW-PA website to enter your subscription:http://aauwpa.org/content/?page_id=92.

Kathy Quinn
Keystoner Editor

Please Welcome Our Newest Member Kathi Gill Relocates from California



Yvonne Payne, Bethlehem-AAUW Membership VP with Kathi at Paneras.

Kathi had been a member of the AAUW branch of Bakersfield CA and found out about Bethlehem-AAUW through our website. She took an early retirement from teaching 8th grade English and reading, including ESL, middle level, and GATE level students in June 2009 to prepare to move here.

Her daughter and family live in Bethlehem and she helps with babysitting her two-year old grandson as the whole family prepares to welcome a new baby. Kathi's son lives in CA.

Please add her contact information to your yearbook: 4539 Harriet Lane, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Email: Kathigoad@hotmail.com; Phone (still her CA number): 661-549-6592.

Committee Chairs

Book Fair Co-chairs
Nancy Disario 610-867-8533
jdisario@hotmail.com

Karen Donald 610-746-0337
kdonald@ptd.net

Calendars Marge Gotshall
610-866-7746
Geeg@mymailstation.com

Public Policy Myra Saturen
610-974-9385
myra125@hotmail.com

Scholarships Fran Bentkowski
610-866-7462
fbentkowski@verizon.net

Educational Foundation
Lynda Schoeninger 610-867-4905
tomlynda@rcn.com

Communications
Linda Robertson 610-865-2087
LCRob123@PTD.net

Study Groups Cynthia Weber
610-837-9615
cynthia@acweber.net

Bylaws Fran Bentkowski
610-866-7462
fbentkowski@verizon.net

Yearbook Shirley Daluisio
610-866-7919
budshirl@hotmail.com

Historian Joan Jones
610-867-0151

District III Coordinator
Kathy Thrush Shaginaw
katt@verizon.net

PA State Co-Presidents
Deb Roney
president@aauwpa.org
Kate Sweeney
co-president@aauwpa.org

AAUW
Linda Robertson
1842 Kenmore Avenue
Bethlehem PA 18018-3339

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lehigh Valley, PA
Permit No. 245

Time Sensitive Material

Book Fair Needs Your Donations

Collections Kick Off March 17, 2010



Two-year old Owen Fraboni (son of Trisha Moller and Mike Fraboni) examines some of the colorful books already collected for our annual Book Fair. Take a few hours to go through your shelves and boxes and collect books that will be transformed into scholarship dollars. Donations will be accepted daily at the Memorial Pool Building starting March 17.