



Volume 83, Issue 1

September 2012

Randi Blauth, President

Linda Robertson, Editor

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, philanthropy, 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.

Mark Your Calendar

September 18, 7 pm, film *Iron-Jawed Angels*, Moravian College

September 22, 10 am, Branch Meeting at NCC (Saturday)

October 20, 10 am, Branch Meeting at Bethlehem Area Public Library (Saturday)

AAUW-Bethlehem Website

Bethlehem-pa.aauw.net

FACEBOOK Home:

AAUW Bethlehem PA

BETHLEHEM BRANCH

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

A Preview of the 2012 - 2013 Programs

**Saturday, September 22, 2012
Northampton Community College
3835 Green Pond Road
10 - 11:30 am**

Wow! Do we have a great year of programs. The program committee: Anne Hammersmith, Debbie Spinney, Judy Lappen, and Ruth Skoglund (diversity chair) along with co-chairs, Trisha Moller and Olga Conneen have programs covering a wide range of topics.

On August 26, 1920 the 19th amendment, granting women the right to vote was passed, not even a hundred years ago! On Saturday, September 22, in preparation for the November elections, a panel of women who have been involved in politics on the local and state level will talk about *Women and the Power of the Vote*. We look forward to hearing how the passage of that constitutional amendment changed women's lives and whether there is still work to do. A continental breakfast will be served. Location: Northampton Community College, 3835 Green Pond Road, College Center Room 220. Time: 10 am to 11:30 am.

Last year one of the January mini meetings focused on the Bethlehem Area Public Library (BAPL) and its funding issues. As a follow-up, Kathy

Silks from the Pennsylvania Library Association (and a former president of the Harrisburg AAUW branch) will join us Saturday, October 20 with a look at *PA Forward*, a statewide library initiative, addressing the ways libraries are uniquely positioned to meet their community needs. Janet Fricker, BAPL library director, will also discuss how the BAPL is meeting the challenges of a new generation's information needs. This program will definitely prove the adage, *Don't Judge a Library By Its Cover* -- well, maybe we changed that adage a wee bit. A continental breakfast will be served. Location: Bethlehem Area Public Library, 2nd floor. Time: 10 am to 12:00 pm.

Diane Elliott of New Bethany Ministries will be *Shedding Light on the Homeless Problem* in Bethlehem with Donna Acerra and JoAnne Anderson, two founders of Luminaria Night. If you've ever wondered if we have children in our schools who don't have a place to live or what happens to the families who are not making it in the economic downturn, then this program will certainly be "enlightening". Join us for dessert and coffee, **Tuesday, November 13**. Location: Wesley Church, 2540 Center St. Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Continued on Page Eight

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo (610-797-9158)

The opening meeting of the fall season will be September 13 at Phyllis' house at 7:00 pm. At that time, we'll discuss our calendar and what wines we will be studying.

The Out to Lunch Bunch

Jeanie Keller (610-865-3543) On September 18 at noon we will meet at the Olive Garden on Grape Street in Whitehall. Please make your reservation with Jeanie by September 15. All AAUW members are invited to our luncheons.

Diversity, Deeds and Dialogue

This inter-branch study group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held on September 19 at Norma Ferguson's.

We will continue to read and discuss *Grassroots: A Field Guide for Feminist Activism* authored by Baumgardner and Richards. We are also beginning to plan the March 2013 inter-branch diversity program. Come join us! For more information: Ruth Skoglund at rskoglund@rcn.com or telephone 610-509-9263.

Want to Play Bridge?

Please call Shirley Dalusio at 610-866-7919 now if you are interested in becoming a regular or substitute player for monthly bridge. We resume play at 11:30 am on October 18, third Thursday of most months, at Kirkland Village Marketplace for lunch, followed by bridge in the Sun Room. Open to members and non-members.

President's Pen



Summertime....and the livin' was busy for the Bethlehem branch!

Summer began with some of the Moravian student affiliates attending the AAUW National Conference of College Women Student Leaders. Within these pages you can read some brief reports by the young women and at our web page and FaceBook page you can watch video clips by student affiliates Katelyn Cohen and Arielle Brent describe their feelings about AAUW and the conference! Energy

abounds within our student leaders!

Many of us attended the AAUW-PA Summer Retreat held in Lewisburg. We had the opportunity to brainstorm and problem-solve together. It was wonderful to meet strong women leaders from across the state. A main attraction of the retreat was to hear Amanda Holt, the young woman from PA who proved to our legislators that redistricting can be done in a more equitable way. She was a powerful speaker and advocate for making full use of our rights, asking questions continuously, and sticking with something even if it's difficult and takes times!

We have a new College/University partnership with Northampton Community College and had our first joint meeting this summer! Bethlehem is sharing this partnership with the Easton branch because we do share Northampton County! We are exploring various activities to do jointly and one is already underway. Have you heard about AAUW's Get Out the Vote campaign? If not, you can read about it in this issue and tell us you'll get involved!

We now have a new tool to use in our effort to make the branch more known in the community and to attract new members! We have a MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE! Many thanks to Anne Brown, Shirley Dalusio, and Yvonne Payne who kept going even when it wasn't easy!

And, have you seen the programs for this year? Led by Olga Coneen and Trisha Moeller, the Programming Committee has done a stellar job! The first program is Saturday morning, September 22 at Northampton Community College. We hope to see you there!

Let's thank Mary Ann Mitrisin for her service to our branch as board secretary. Anne Hammersmith has graciously consented to fill the remainder of Mary Ann's term.

There's more to tell you, but I'll save it for another time. Welcome back, and I look forward to an exciting year ahead, meeting with you all and sharing time together.

Randi Blauth

Public Policy

Compiled by Bernie Gardiner

Redistricting in PA

According to the Associated Press, Pennsylvania is #2 of the 50 states in driving redistricting for the political advantage of its incumbents.

After several attempts at redistricting in Pennsylvania, a plan based on 10-year old maps has been approved. Challenges to this plan have been brought by several groups, including one in the Spanish community. Members of the Spanish community believe they are not being given full and fair representation because their numbers have grown substantially during the last ten years. They believe the new plan is not in the best interests of their community.

On September 13, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court will hear oral arguments of appeals with regard to the latest redistricting plan. This will be broadcast live on the PA Cable Network.

If you have questions, contact connect@aauw.org or call 800-326-2289 between 10 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday. E-mail me, Bernie Gardiner, at bnkgardiner@rcn.com or call me at 610-861-2925.



Members of the AAUW-Moravian College Student Affiliate Group. From Left: Macaire, Kate, Casey, and Arielle. Read their stories about attending the 2012 National College Students Leadership Conference in this newsletter.

Paperback I

Norma Ferguson (610-515-1901)
We will meet on September 20 at 7:30 pm to discuss *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom. We welcome new members.

Paperback II

Debbie Spinney (610-865-4843) On September 18 at 7:30 pm at Shirley Daluisio's Linda Zimmerman will lead a discussion of author Ernest Hemingway. Please read one or more of Hemingway's novels and/or *The Paris Wife*. New members are welcome.

Paperback III

Barbara Myers (610-867-5222) September 5 at 1 pm, Jane Snyder hosts a discussion of *Sisters in the Wilderness* by Charlotte Grey. Barbara Myers will host the October 3 meeting where David McCullough's *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* will be discussed. New members are welcome.

Paperback Mystery

Linda Robbins (610-264-4416) On September 25 at 1:30 pm Linda Robertson (610-865-2087) hosts a discussion of *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins, considered by many scholars as the first mystery novel. New Members are welcome.

Email Update

Linda Robertson has a new email;
linda.c.robertson@gmail.com

Our Sympathies

Our member JoAnn Kelly's husband John W. Kelly died August 10, 2012 in St. Luke's Hospice, Bethlehem.

Subscription Special: Last Chance

The Bethlehem Press always provides AAUW-Bethlehem with great publicity and we thank them. This entertaining and informative weekly paper is now offering AAUW-Bethlehem members a very special deal on a one-year subscription. You can get a 52-week subscription for only \$15 instead of the regular \$23.40. Call 1-800-596-6397 before September 10 to speak to a representative and secure this rate. When you call, mention the promotion code BOOK to get this special rate.

AAUW-Student Affiliates at Moravian College

Visit them on Facebook. Go to: AAUW Student Affiliates at Moravian College

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AAUW Help Line

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10 am to 5 pm

Connect@aauw.org

Association Website

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AAUW-PA Website

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NCCWSL Conference: Kate Cohen's Story

My deepest gratitude to our "mother branch," the AAUW-Bethlehem, for providing me with one of the most empowering experiences of my lifetime. At the NCCWSL Conference, I learned many lessons of strong leadership, the balance between personal and professional life, stress management, visionary guidance, respectful debate, and the power of women! Every moment of the conference held a life lesson that has already impacted the way in which I lead. For me, the conference is best defined by the women I met, and the stories they shared. Here are just a few:

Day One, Ola: On the first day, I met "Ola" (short for a beautiful African name I can't pronounce) at our "Meet the Student Advisory Council" reception. Ola is a grad student and empowered woman who has interned for the Obama administration, begun two non-profits of her own, and who advocates for students in wheelchairs (a cause close to her heart as Ola is confined to a wheelchair). Ola and I discussed the world of non-profits and the love for giving back we both shared, and I left the reception excited for the official conference's beginning.

Night One, Tianka: Our dorm room lacked pillows. I still had no pillow by 10 pm. I walked over to Queen Ann's Hall (NCCWSL Headquarters) with Casey and Ariel to ask for some linens. There, we met Tianka, a Jamaican student. As she was assigned to the same dorm, I offered to help her with bags. She had the room near ours and, for the rest of the conference, she joined our Bethlehem Bunch in attending activities. It just happened that one of her friends attends the Moravian College for Teaching in Jamaica. I am still in touch with Tianka. Learning about her culture, perceptions, and life story was a real eye-opener.

Day Two, Lily Ledbetter: Her story of wage discrimination and fight for justice was awe-inspiring, and surprisingly relatable. I bought her book, got it autographed, and I look forward to learning more about this pioneer.

Day Two, Sandra Fluke: Participants attended the "Women of Distinction" awards ceremony. Among many amazing women was the infamous Sandra Fluke, a character of political and pop-culture hysteria, who serves as a personal inspiration to many young women. Though I only got to talk to Miss Fluke for a moment, the kindness and ease with which she discussed her personal gone-public crusade for women's rights gave me a model of female leadership I will strive to achieve.

Day Three, Maria Pascucci: One of the most exciting opportunities was meeting Maria Pascucci, the CEO and founder of "Campus Calm," an organization dedicated to debunking the myths of female perfectionism, and providing means of stress relief and companionship for young women leaders. Maria's message of realizing and accepting your "perfectly imperfect self" has stuck with me since Dr. Moller sent us her website page this winter. Maria gave me her contact info as well as an open invitation to intern with her non-profit whenever I could. After the conference Maria and I had an hour-long phone conversation about our views of young women and what we took away from the conference.

I wish you all could have come with us to feel the energy a group of hungry, half-sleepy, empowered, and courageous women feels. But then again, I'm sure you already know that feeling :) Thank you so much for giving me these memories. I will cherish them for a lifetime.

From the Diversity Bookshelf

The War on Drugs and Its Relationship to Race

Did you know that when President Reagan officially announced his administration's War On Drugs in 1982, drug use was actually declining? But Reagan used The War On Drugs anyway as a wedge issue to win over and mobilize the resentments of white working and middle class voters toward blacks without using explicitly racial terms.

Did you know that whites comprise the vast majority of drug users and dealers in this country, yet African-Americans constitute 80-90 % of the drug offenders that are sent to prison?

Did you know that an overwhelming percentage of police stop-and-frisk activity occurs in poor black neighborhoods rather than in white communities or on college campuses or among high school sports teams where drug use is rampant?

These and other eye-opening facts form the basis of an important and provocative book by Michelle Alexander called *The New Jim Crow*. It is a must-read for those of us who value social justice.

Alexander shows in meticulous detail how in our supposedly colorblind society—after all we elected an African American president,—a caste system has developed that permanently locks a huge percentage of the African-American community out of the mainstream society and economy. This result is achieved through the War On Drugs which allows our formally race-neutral criminal justice system to round up, arrest and imprison an extraordinarily disproportionate number of black and brown men, even though research shows that people of color are no more likely to be guilty of drug crimes than whites.

This book is not exactly light reading, but its message has important implications for the future of our country. While it is no longer socially acceptable to use race explicitly as a justification for discrimination and exclusion, racism is still alive and well in our criminal justice system.

Ruth Skoglund
Diversity Chair

AAUW Calendars Have a New Look

Calendar chair Marge Gotshall worked with local printer and friend of AAUW-Bethlehem Branch, Bethlehem Business Forms' Working Dog Press to produce the 2013 calendars. They even have the Collection and Sales Dates for our 51st Book Fair listed. Calendars cost \$6 and can be ordered from Marge at 610-866-7746. Proceeds from this fundraiser support our Scholarship Program.

Upcoming Programs Diversity Issues

On September 12th from 7-8 pm at Lehigh University, Packard Lab, Rm. 101, the founder of *Take Back the Night* will speak against sexual and gender violence.

On October 30 from 12:30 am to 1:45 pm at Muhlenberg College, the topic of the Muhlenberg *Common Hour Discussion* will be "Race, Gender and the 2012 Election."

New Members' Event

The Membership committee hosted a Wine & Cheese social, August 19. The Board presented information on upcoming programs, the study groups, the Book Fair, Scholarship program and other branch activities. New members who attended: Mary Dawson, Jane Oberman Mann, Carolyn Serva, Dorothy Viglione and Christina Farr Zaharchuk left with a wealth of information and all had a good time. If you know of anyone interested in joining the branch, this is a good time for them to apply for membership. Contact Membership Chair at 610-867-6575 for information on joining our branch.

Welcome Our Newest Member Sara Lynn Farwell

Sara Lynn earned a bachelor of science degree (2012) at Penn State University and is attending Lehigh University. She was formerly a member of AAUW-State College.

IT'S MY VOTE: I WILL BE HEARD!

Members in the News

Sharon Lee-Bond, Professor of Biology, Northampton Community College, is the lead project investigator on a \$600,000 federal grant that will fund full scholarships for about 90 students at NCC over the next five years. The National Science Foundation grant was awarded to help NCC students in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields or STEM.

On June 17, 2012 St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 474 Vine Street celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of service as a deaconess of Sister Gunnel Sterner. A reception followed the worship service. An August article in the *Morning Call* featured Shoshanna Hinder at the first reunion of co-workers of the former Hess' Department Store. She was belatedly presented with her 15-year service pin. Ruth Skoglund took second place in the Pennsylvania State Spelling Bee held August 29 at the Great Allentown Fair. Ruth made the evening news on RCN and you can see her photo at <http://www.allentownfairpa.org/index.php/press-room>.

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

Our branch needs help with the *Bylines* newsletter; training will be provided. If you are interested in hearing about the position of editor or assistant editor, please call Linda Robertson at 610-865-2087 or email her at linda.c.robertson@gmail.com

Pay Equity video at City Hall Plaza

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ywcabethlehem/videos>

"Women wield great power in American politics. More than ever before, women are registering to vote and casting ballots in greater numbers and with more consistency than men. We are a powerful and influential bloc of voters.

But as we look forward to Election Day 2012, we know that we have to do more: more education, more outreach, more voter registration, and more mobilization. That's why the AAUW Action Fund has launched a high energy, high return nonpartisan campaign which will mobilize women voters, with a focus on young women of the millennial generation.

There are as many Millennials as Baby Boomers—and they have enormous potential to be as potent a force in politics for years to come. The difference right now is that Millennials have yet to establish a consistent pattern of voting (studies have shown that voting is actually habit-forming). For example, Millennials were a force to be reckoned with in 2008, but stayed home in 2010.

By engaging with millennial women, we have the opportunity to support an enormous generation of young women (aged 18 - to about 31) in establishing lifelong voting habits and to strengthen the voice of women—and the visibility they care about—in the 2012 elections."

--VoterEd@aauw.org

To that end, our branch is holding voter registration and information drives at Moravian College and Northampton Community College, main campus and Fowler southside campus, this fall. Although our primary focus is young women, we will register any and all who are eligible and have a desire to vote.

Bethlehem and Easton will be participating in the Northampton Community College annual Quadfest/Community Service Fair event on August 30. We will have the following information available: Voter ID regulations and process, how to register to vote, voter registration forms, a list of internet sources to fact check political ads and emails, position statements from both candidates, plus some AAUW information.

The two branches will also be at the main campus of Northampton Community College (NCC) September 17 - 19 for 4 hours each day with the same information. Bethlehem will be at the Fowler Center, the south side NCC campus on September 12 and 27 from 8:30 am to noon.

AAUW-Bethlehem will also be supporting our student affiliates at Moravian College in their effort to get out the vote on campus. On September 18 they will be showing the incredibly powerful film *Iron-Jawed Angels*, preceded by a get out the vote drive and on September 25, National Rally Day, they will also be getting out the vote. The posters and some of the materials used in all of Bethlehem's voter registration drives were developed by Moravian College students.

NCCWSL Conference: Casey Hilferty's Story

My National Conference of College Women Student Leaders' experience was a whirlwind! My favorite experience was keynote speaker Mayda Del Valle's performance of her slam poetry. Her poetry was about race, gender, ethnicity, height, weight, boys, food, and more. We all felt that this was a perfect way to end the conference; Mayda Del Valle had so much energy and her poetry spoke to all of us. After I got home, I looked her up on YouTube to share with my friends. I felt much more confident about myself after hearing her poetry that was so empowering to women. We even got a chance to get a picture with her after her performance, which was awesome!

We had a lot of fun on the car rides to Maryland and back. We listened to music that had an empowering message and stopped in Delaware to stretch our legs and get lunch. The University of Maryland was very large, and at time confusing for us small liberal arts students! We made sure to take pictures with as many terrapins as we could find. One thing I would like to improve about the pre-conference was the organization. Our tour of the Capitol seemed very rushed, so it was difficult to really take in our surroundings. We did get to go back to DC on Friday night, when it was pouring rain! We spent time with our friend that we met who came to the conference from Jamaica. It was really interesting learning about the university system and how different it is in her island nation.

I also enjoyed the workshop sessions when we were able to pick different topics to learn about. We all tried to pick different ones so we could get a good variety. I attended Challenging Assumptions, Inspiring Future Leaders through Women's History, and Campus Rape: How Title XI Fits in at the Civil Rights Table. My workshops were interesting and the leaders were great. My favorite was Women's History because that is what I want to teach one day.

I want to thank the Branch for supporting us throughout this trip!



Our men volunteers celebrate a successful 50th Anniversary Book Fair in May.

Addresses For Elected Officials

Senator Robert Casey: 393 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510 (202-224-6324) or 840 Hamilton ST, Suite 301, Allentown, PA 18010 (610-782-9470)

Senator Patrick J. Toomey: 502 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 (202-224-4254) or 1150 South Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown, PA 18103 (610-434-1444)

Charles W. Dent: 702 West Broad ST, Bethlehem, PA 18018 (610-433-6790) or 1009 Longworth House Office Building, Suite 200 Washington, DC (202-225-6411)

State Legislators

Lisa M. Boscola: 458 Capitol Building, Senate Box 203018, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3018 (717-787 4236) or 559 Main ST, Suite 270, Bethlehem, PA 18018 (610-868-8667)

Robert L. Freeman: 207 Irvis Office Building, Box 202136, Harrisburg PA 17120 (717-783-3815) or 215 Northampton ST, Easton, PA 18042 (610-253-5543)

Steve Samuelson: 104 E Broad ST, Bethlehem PA 18018 (610-867-3890) or 34 East Wing, Box 202135, Harrisburg PA 17120 (717-705-1881)

Are you an AAUW member?

Subscribe to [Washington Update](#), a members-only weekly e-mail bulletin with an insider's view on public policy and politics news, resources for advocates and programming ideas! **[Subscribe today!](#)**

**BE A PART OF THE ACTION!
LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE
AVAILABLE TO HELP GET OUT
THE VOTE!**

NCCWSL Conference: Macaire Kolchin's Story

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My time at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders was unforgettable. I met women of all ages from all over the country and North America. I thank AAUW-Bethlehem for this opportunity, with their generous aid, I was able to attend and gain leadership skills that I will be able to apply in college and beyond. I had the opportunity to listen to and meet many inspiring women leaders of today. They are role models for my generation of young women especially Lilly Ledbetter. Ledbetter is a modern women's activist who inspired the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (she sued Goodyear in 1998 for paying her significantly less than her male counterparts). The Act raised awareness that women still have to fight for equality. To listen to Lilly Ledbetter was motivating.

The conference offered workshops for all the women (and a few men) to help better themselves in many different ways such as relaxation exercises, resume improvements, leadership opportunities, and much more. I found these workshops to be most helpful to a college student who is still emerging as a woman leader. Over the four day stay at the University of Maryland, I was able to travel into Washington D.C. a few times and get a behind the scenes look at what it means to be a woman in politics. Every woman I met on my trip was inspiring in every way; either what they had accomplished at their colleges, how far they traveled, what they did professionally, and how they wanted to change the world.

I was one of 500 lucky participants to be able to attend the conference which was because of AAUW-Bethlehem Branch and I could not be thankful enough for the amazing experience.

Programs Continued from Page One

Do you have a favorite family recipe? Here is an opportunity to share that treasured family dish and enjoy an evening with great company and good food at our **Cultural Potluck Dinner on Friday, December 7**. Bring your spouse, partner or a potential new member. If your stove is out of order, a \$10 donation per person would be appreciated, but let us know in advance. Location: NCC, Fowler Center, 511 E. Third St., Room 605. Time: 5pm - 8 pm.

Since the mini meetings were so popular, we're doing it again. If you're interested in hosting a meeting, contact Olga Conneen(610-691-5371) or Trisha Moller (trisha@fraboni.net).

Our student affiliates were such a success last year, they have agreed to host a program on February 12 from 4 - 6 pm. Ruth has plans for an interbranch diversity program on March 16. There's the Book Fair in April with a supper and sort, and the Scholarship reception, in May.

In May, the month we traditionally honor mothers, Joyce Hinnefeld, Bethlehem author of *In Hovering Flight* and *Stranger Here Below*, will talk about mother/daughter relationships as they appear in her books. You have all year to start reading her books! You won't want to miss them.

BOOK FAIR NEWS SEPTEMBER

In September, the Book Fair Chairs start to work, there were some residual chores left over; sorting the signs and storing, filing and reviewing the paperwork and making notes for the coming year.

The end of last season, Mary Anne Mitrison resigned as Co-Chair, but will remain as a captain and in charge of the children's section. She and her husband, Ron, were invaluable to the last sale.

Linda Zimmerman joins me this year as Co-Chair and we will work together this fall to plan for an exciting 51st year. I am very excited to have her on board and she will bring new ideas and great support.

Another exciting new project is the possibility of borrowing a little AAUW book mobile. As you can see, it is a little trailer that will sit on the right side of the building. It has a roof and a door and will hold all the evening donations and can be emptied in the morning by the male volunteers with a cart. It will be taken away on the last day of donations, leaving space for the treasurer.

I found this little treasure at the Valley Forge Branch and we are in negotiation as to a rental or a loan. So our evening crew may get a break this year.

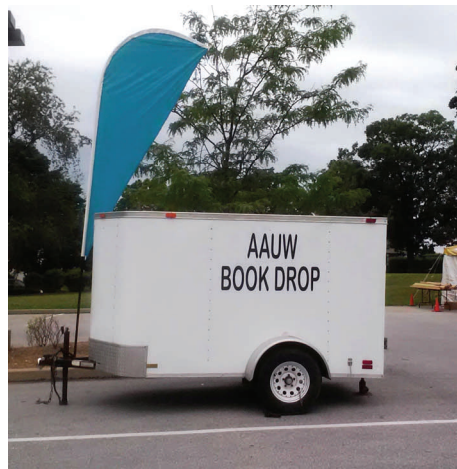
Next month will be lots of important information-get your 2013 calendars ready.

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Our mini book mobile may make evening collections easier.

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In Economic Recovery, Women Begin to Catch Up With Men

A [report](#) from [the Institute for Women's Policy Research](#) outlined job growth in the third year of recovery since the Great Recession ended. The first two years saw men gaining back jobs at a much higher rate than women. This year, women's job gains have begun to close the gap. Throughout the recovery, women have fared the best in education and health services. Men have gained back proportionately more jobs than women in every industry. Women have gained back 38.7 % of jobs lost, compared with men's 45.2 %.

AAUW strongly believes access to high-wage, high-skill jobs should be a right for women and girls from diverse racial, ethnic, socio-economic, age, and disability backgrounds, and that access should include training for nontraditional jobs. AAUW maintains that creating opportunities for women — and opportunities that promote equal pay — is an essential part of the economic recovery.

Hispanic Student College Enrollment Reaches Record Level

In 2011, the number of Hispanic students enrolled in colleges and universities reached a new record of 2 million students (U.S. Census Bureau). Hispanic students make up the largest minority population in institutions of higher education and are gaining a larger share of college degrees, making up 13.2 % of those with an associate degree and 8.5 % of bachelor's degrees. AAUW is committed to making sure higher education can be a reality for more women. We must invest in higher education, which is the most direct route to innovation, job creation, and long-term economic self-sufficiency.

NCCWSL Conference: Arielle Brent's Story

Thanks to AAUW-PA I was able to attend the National Conference for Student Leaders - The Conference of a Lifetime! My hope was to bring back new leadership skills to Moravian College. We headed for the University of Maryland. Anticipation grew as we traveled three hours to this beautiful campus and settled in.

We set out to explore our surroundings and meet other conference attendees. A few were members of AAUW's Student Advisory Committee. They were responsible for spearheading some activities and for introducing the Women of Distinction at an evening event.

The next morning we started early for the pre-conference activities. The morning trip was rushed and seem a bit disorganized, but we did get to hear from women working in the political realm in Washington DC, which was inspiring. I'll definitely return to the Capitol to explore more.

Attendees were from various backgrounds with differing beliefs and values, but we all had a similar goal of creating a more equal world for women. Our plan: to inspire each other to become incredible female leaders.

The most moving event was the Women of Distinction awards ceremony. Recipients' achievements have been world-changing. Each spoke about how we can make our own footprints and use our education and privilege to fix the world. I felt touched and motivated to start making a difference.

Workshops I attended were The Keys to a Balanced Life: When Life Feels Like You're Walking a Tightrope; Creating and Maintaining your Mentor Relationships; Love Your Perfectly Imperfect Self and Lead!; and Leading from the Heart: Bringing Your Passion to Life. I wanted a renewed sense of purpose and to evaluate how my values correlated with my career goals. I learned other women my age share my struggles and that we now had new tools to overcome them. Presenters spoke about the importance of young leaders to make connections and foster relationships with women we admire and how to foster relationships with those who look up to us. We can create a national team of young women seeking the same goals.

Networking was a major activity and hearing so many different perspectives made me reevaluate how I have always thought about discrimination, policy reform and feminism. I realized that those in support of women's rights have a myriad of opinions regarding the actions women are taking currently to achieve those rights. By meeting women from other states and educational backgrounds, attendees were able to share opinions and reaffirm their own values and getting others, like me, to understand I still have so much to learn.

I left feeling that I have a better handle on my future career goals because I had the chance to take time to discover where my values and dreams intersect. Although I felt overwhelmed by a sense to do as much as some other attendees, I still felt that my mind was clearer. The return trip was filled with laughter and reminiscing about our new knowledge and motivation. We can't wait to share with the other AAUW members!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PENNSYLVANIA'S NEW VOTER ID LAW

Doesn't PA already require voters to present an ID at the polls?

Yes, but only if you are voting for the first time ever or voting for the first time in a new division (for example, when moving requires you to vote at a new polling place). And the current law allows you to identify yourself by showing photo or non-photo ID with your name and address (for example, a utility bill, paycheck or bank statement). The new law dramatically changes this by saying: (1) all voters must show an ID every time they vote, and (2) only a photo ID is acceptable.

When do I need to bring a photo ID to the polls?

Starting with the November 6 general election – and for all future elections. In other words, if you want to vote for president on November 6, you must present an acceptable photo ID.

Acceptable PHOTO IDs in November include:

- A PA driver's license: currently valid or expired less than 12 months.
- An ID issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation: currently valid or expired less than 12 months.
- A currently valid U.S. passport. Expired passports will not be accepted.
- An active duty or retired U.S. military ID, including an ID for members of the PA National Guard: an indefinite expiration date will be accepted.
- A currently valid military dependent's ID. Expired IDs will not be accepted.
- A currently valid employee ID issued by federal, PA, PA county or PA municipal government. Expired IDs will not be accepted.
- A currently valid ID issued by a PA university, college, seminary, community college or two-year college to students, faculty, employees and alumni. Expired IDs will not be accepted.
- A currently valid ID issued by a PA care facility (such as a long-term care nursing facility, assisted living residence or a personal care home). Expired IDs will not be accepted.

Where can I find the nearest PennDOT Driver's License Center?

Photo IDs for voting are not available at all PennDOT offices – just at PennDOT Driver's License Centers. Check here for a listing of Driver's License Centers around the state: <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/>

How can I get a PA birth certificate?

Information on obtaining PA birth certificates is available by calling the PA Department of Health's Division of Vital Records at 724-656-3100 or by logging onto: <http://www.health.state.pa.us/vitalrecords>. If you were born in another state, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>, to find out how to obtain your birth certificate.

Act Now to End the Federal Judicial Crisis

With all of the attention on the elections, it can be easy to forget that there's a third branch of government. But the judicial branch is just as important – and it needs our help.

Our constitutional rights and individual liberties are protected by a strong and effective judiciary. But our courts are in crisis because of the "judicial emergency" created by vacancies in courtrooms nationwide. Why? Because an average of 1 out of every 10 judicial seats is vacant nationwide.

[Ask your senators to help protect our freedoms by moving forward with judicial confirmations!](#)

A strong judiciary is critical to American women. The federal courts be a shield for civil rights laws like Title IX and the Equal Pay Act, and they're also often the last, best hope for women who have experienced discrimination in education, employment, or health care. Yet with the Senate dragging its heels, we've got 32 federal courts in a state of "judicial emergency," which means there are too few judges to keep up with all the cases. Half of these courts have pending nominees – but the Senate still hasn't acted to fill those vacancies.

The slow confirmation process is affecting the diversity of the courts. President Obama has nominated an impressive number of women and people of color for the bench, but that's only half the battle. The only way to increase the diversity of the judiciary is for the Senate to confirm qualified nominees. Of the 32 nominees pending before the Senate, 19 of them are women or people of color.

AAUW

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Time Sensitive Material

Dinner Dialogues



AAUW and the YWCA joined together to offer dinner dialogues in July. Invitations were sent to YW members, our inter-branch diversity group, and the NAACP of Bethlehem. Guests visited one of three homes for a wonderful potluck dinner and interesting, honest conversation about race, racism, and other types of discrimination.

All would agree that this first dinner dialogues event was a success and we hope to hold many more!

AAUW members pictured in one home: Froy Thompson, Ruth Skoglund, Randi Blauth, and Fran Kennedy (Easton).