



Volume 80, Issue 6

April 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

aauwbethlehempa.org

Mark Your Calendar

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

April 21-24, Book Fair sale days

May 11, 7 pm, Scholarship reception

BETHLEHEM BRANCH

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

Branch Salad Supper and Book Sorting

**Bethlehem Memorial Pool Building
Tuesday April 6, 2010
6 pm**

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

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 2010-2011.

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.



Joan Jones working at the 2009 Book Fair.

The following slate, recommended by the Nominating Committee, will be placed in nomination:

President:

Susan McNamara

Co-Vice Presidents, Program:

Linda Zimmerman and Joanne Wagner

The following have agreed to stand for a first term (2010-2012) on the Nominating Committee: Randi Blauth, Marge Gotshall, Linda Robertson, and Sandy Utley. In addition, the following members are candidates to serve a second term (2010- 2011) on the Nominating Committee: Nancy Disario, Cinda Jensen, and Margaret Mahoney.

President's Message from Susan McNamara

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo, (610-797-9158)
On April 8, Myra Jones hosts a tasting of pinot noir wines. Our final meeting is a May 13 dinner featuring sauvignon blancs. 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 April 14 we read Michel Foucault's *The Body of the Condemned* (pp. 335-362). On May 12 the reading is *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri (p. 363)

The Out to Lunch Bunch

Jeanie Keller, (610-865-3543) All AAUW members are invited. 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. The final luncheon of the AAUW year will be held at *Yianni's Taverna* on Seidersville Road at noon on May 18. Please make reservations with either of the hostesses, Jan Fredericksen (610-838-1525) or Betty Wellner (610-868-4609) by May 15.

Branch Bylaws Approved

Thank you to the 53 members who responded to our request to approve the bylaws as presented. They have been sent to the State for final approval.

Shortly after our Inter-branch Luncheon, my attention was caught by the header *Magazine Sets a Stage to Lift Up Women* of an article in the business section of the *New York Times*. Well, I thought, isn't AAUW always about the business of setting multiple stages to "lift up women." Wasn't "lift up" an unspoken theme of our luncheon program? Certainly, by definition, each of the Equity Award recipients embodies "Lift Up Women." It is obvious that the subject of the luncheon talk: The UN and its Commission on Women and Girls, is primarily about "Lift Up Women" globally. Beyond this, as I read the article, I remembered something speaker Carolyn Donovan had said in an informal conversation we had. I had asked how she came to serve as the AAUW representative to the United Nations; she began by saying that when she had been first asked, her initial response was, "Oh no, I couldn't do that!" With the words barely out of her mouth, she saw herself as falling victim to a "woman thing" of being too quick to assume inadequacy. She asked for time to think, later accepted the challenge, and since feels she's thrived in a role that encouraged her to raise her expectations for herself and embrace a new self-confidence. Her presence at the luncheon was testimony to a personal AAUW 'lift-up' experience for her and her story a reminder of our own - perhaps many - 'lift up' from "I couldn't" to "I can" experiences connected to AAUW.

For the magazine, *Good Housekeeping*, their "lift up stage" is to be a show called "Shine On" "that will pay tribute to the achievements of women who have inspired, informed, educated, captivated and sometimes infuriated Americans during the last 125 years." The luncheon offered our own 'shine on' opportunities to:

- applaud the cooperation among branches and the healthy representation of members from all branches, smallest to largest
- to shed light on the work of the United Nations and its Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
- to illuminate and honor Equity Award recipients

Not to be overlooked in such spotlight moments is the fact that as we honor others, whether at an Inter-branch Luncheon or a Scholarship Reception, we also honor our own highest aspirations, raised expectations, and discovered capacities. These remind us of our own best selves.

Additionally, we are reminded of the importance of turning the spotlight from the center stage of self and honorees to those who work behind the curtains. We applaud Cinda Jensen for her work on our Equity Award; Linda Robertson for her communications reach-outs and photography; Susan Nentstiel for her meticulous record-keeping; Linda Robbins for her Luncheon To Do Checklist; and Judy Summers and Ellen Hemmerich for continued counsel and preparation of the colorful name tags and table place cards. Finally, a personal thanks to my presidential partners.

Susan McNamara

Public Policy Notes

Compiled by Myra Saturen

Studies Show Title IX Has Benefited Women

“Almost four decades after the federal education law called Title IX opened the door for girls to participate in high school and college athletics, a crucial question has remained unanswered: Do sports make a difference in young women’s lives?” So begins a recent article in the *New York Times*.

Now, twenty-five years after Title IX took effect, two independent studies of women in their late 30s and early 40s reveal a 7% reduction in obesity and the closely associated hazards of diabetes and other health problems. The authors of the studies took care to control for changes in diets and the increasing age of the women whose health was assessed. Additionally, the authors say that while the decrease in obesity may seem modest, it is greater than any shown by other health-related programs. The studies also showed that young women’s participation in sports positively correlated with their educational and career achievements. Credit is clearly given to Title IX for increased participation in athletics among women.

AAUW’s support of Title IX, which made gender equality mandatory in any school sports program receiving federal financial support, is firm and long-standing. Our organization continues to advocate for vigorous enforcement of this law, which has not been without challenge in some states, most recently in Louisiana.

Senate Hearings on Paycheck Fairness Act

On March 11 the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee began hearings on the Paycheck Fairness Act (S 182). AAUW is live-blogging the hearings, and you can access the blog at the AAUW website, which is www.aauw.org.

Family Health Act Introduced by Senators

Senators Chuck Schumer and Carolyn Maloney have introduced the bill *The Family Health Act*. The law would grant an additional 30 million men and women the protection of paid sick leave. AAUW supports this measure because employees covered by it would no longer have to choose between taking care of themselves when ill or losing pay. Not only would it protect sick employees; it would also prevent the spread of illness in the workplace

Paperback I

Marie Boltz, (484-851-3435)
On April 15 at 7:30 pm at Norma Ferguson’s house we will discuss *Street of a Thousand Blossoms* by Gail Tsukiyama.

Paperback II

Shirley Daluisio, (610-866-7919) On April 6 at 6:00 pm, we are responsible for desserts for the Book Fair work night at the Memorial Pool building. On April 20 at 7:30 pm, Linda Zimmerman hosts a discussion of *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout.

Paperback III

Pat Michael (610-861-2948) On May 11, Barbara Myers (610-867-5222) will host and lead discussion of *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. This best selling novel is an interesting character study and riveting social commentary on Southern families.

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 books to read in the fall.

Going Places

In May we will get together for a planning meeting. All are invited to participate. Please contact either Shirley McBride at 610-317-9603 or Jeanie Keller at 610-865-3543.

Tax Deductibility Reminder

IRS regulations permit AAUW members to deduct \$46 from our annual dues.

Updates to Yearbook

Linda Zimmerman's correct email is: T2Lzimmerman@PTD.net (printed incorrectly in the March Bylines)

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.

Card Shower Request

Mary Louise Wheeler, an AAUW Life Member and stalwart afternoon bridge player, is in skilled care unit at Kirkland Village. A card or note to her at 1806 Main Street 18018-1909 would be appreciated.

Our Sympathies

To Shirley Mongeon's husband Don and their daughters Jeannine and Sharon. Shirley, who died on February 23, served as Chairman for Scholarships and Educational Foundation.

AAUW Board Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of Bethlehem AAUW is June 1, 4 pm. Branch members may attend all board meetings upon request. Please call Susan McNamara at 610-216-4905.

AAUW-PA State Convention

Carlisle, PA
April 16-18, 2010
With
Keynote Speaker:
LINDA D. HALLMAN
AAUW Executive Director

Getting Ready for the 48th Book Fair

Everyone is looking forward to our 48th 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 looking forward to see if they have won a scholarship with the book fair monies. And 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 people wanting to come to our event or donate books. We even have a customer from Canada who calls and comes every year. This is the excitement during Book Fair time and it is why our endeavor is such a worthwhile cause.

Please continue your support for Book Fair by donating books, helping with sorting and pricing, working on sale days and spreading the word about our Book Fair 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 put in any other prominent place.

DATES TO REMEMBER: (Put them on your calendar)

Wed. March 17 - April 20, 9AM - 12 noon Mon. - Sat. sorting and pricing of books - come and have fun with your AAUW and community friends

Tues. April 6 - Book Fair Dinner and meeting

Tues. April 13 - Last day for donations

SALE DAYS

Wed. April 21, 8AM - 10AM Early entry \$10 donation

Wed. April 21, 10AM - 8PM regular free entry

Thurs. April 22, 10AM - 8 PM

Fri. April 23, 10AM - 8 PM Half-price day

Sat. April 24, 10Am - 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

Book Fair Factoid

This year, the AAUW-Bethlehem Book Fair is positioned to top the \$600,000 mark in monies raised to support scholarships for area women and girls.

Get Involved with Pay Equity Day

Keep the Change Until Women Have Real Change!

Let's All Bake for Fairness!

Katie Cibort, AAUW-PA Younger Member Chair, remarks, "Pay equity is something no female in my class was thinking about as she walked across campus. I personally was not aware of the pay gap until I became a member of AAUW. Becoming informed was frightening!"

Why is April 20, 2010 considered Pay Equity Day? This date symbolizes how far into 2010 women must work to earn what men earned in 2009. The wage gap is even greater for most women of color.

On Tuesday, April 20 in the Hauptert Union Building on Moravian College's main campus our AAUW student affiliate group will offer cupcakes, cookies, and other *hand-friendly* delicacies. A male customer will be asked to pay \$1.00 a piece, while women can buy the same dessert for 78 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 from west Bethlehem. You can call her at 610-758-8263 to arrange a delivery.
- We need a volunteer to collect baked goods on the north side of town
- Come to the Bake Sale to support the students
- Call President Susan McNamara at 610-216-4905 to learn what each of us can do during the bake sale on April 20 at the College.
- Wear RED on Pay Equity Day to symbolize how far women and minorities are *in the red* with their pay!

Women and people of color are often segregated into a few low-paying occupations. More than half of all women hold sales, clerical, and service jobs. Studies show that the more an occupation is dominated by women or people of color, the less it pays.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 the ratio of women's and men's median annual earnings reached almost 78 cents on the dollar for full-time year-round workers, up from just under 77 cents in 2006. This is the narrowest the wage gap has ever been, but it's only an additional cent on the dollar. One cent is chump change. It isn't real change.

While women worked hard to earn that extra penny, Congress has failed to pass legislation that would give women effective pay protections. In this light, AAUW is telling Congress, "Keep the Change Until Women Have Real Change."



Sue McNamara brainstorms the Bake Sale with Moravian College seniors Colleen Siti and Celeste Rosati (Right).

Greetings from Nelisa

Valley Youth House

Maternity Group Home Graduate



I was sorry that I could not attend the luncheon, but I am certainly thankful for the opportunity to share my story. Before I found the Maternity Group Home program with Valley Youth House, I was *couch hopping* at my uncle's home, where there was little room for myself and my daughter among him and his three children. I entered the program in June 2008 with my daughter Serenity, who was less than a year old. One month prior to becoming a participant in the program, I was accepted to the KEYS program at LCCC, which enables me to obtain my high school diploma while working to get my Associate's degree. The MGH has allowed me to obtain my high school diploma, have a stable home, and pursue employment.

I am within two months of obtaining independent housing and completing my degree in Criminal Justice. I was not able to come to the luncheon because my employer, a nursing care facility, has promoted me to an activities assistant.

While my time at Valley Youth House is coming to a close, I am certainly optimistic about my future. Thank you.

Please see the photo of Valley Youth House staff receiving the Gateway Award from Cinda Jensen on Page Eight.

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“Do the best you can in every task,
no matter how unimportant it may
seem at the time. No one learns
more about a problem than the
person at the bottom.”

Sandra Day O'Connor

National AAUW Releases New Research Paper

Why So Few? *Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*

In a time when women are increasingly prominent in medicine, law, and business, why are there so few women scientists and engineers? AAUW's new report presents compelling evidence that can help explain this puzzle.

Why So Few?: Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics presents in-depth, yet accessible profiles of eight key research findings that point to environment and social barriers, including stereotypes, gender bias, and the climate of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities, that continue to block women's participation and progress in science, technology, engineering, and math.

To order a pdf copy of the report go to the AAUW website at www.aauw.org and complete the order form.



Members of the AAUW-PA Board of Directors joined us at the recent Inter-branch luncheon. From Right: Rosemary Baker (Education Foundation), co-presidents Deb Roney and Kate Sweeney, and Toni Hoffman (Diversity Chair).

AAUW

Linda Robertson
1842 Kenmore Avenue
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Time Sensitive Material

Our 2010 Gateway to Equity Award Recipients Valley Youth House Honored at Inter-Branch Luncheon



Cinda Jensen presents Dr. David Gilgoff with an appreciation. Looking on are Valley Youth House's Lisa Weingartner and Trish Walters.

Valley Youth House CEO Dr. Gilgoff writes, "We are deeply honored to have our Maternity Group Home be recognized by the AAUW's Gateway to Equity award. We also appreciate the gift of \$50 to the MGH. Our MGH does provide opportunity and a gateway to a successful adulthood to both the young moms and their children.

Thanks again for your generosity and for recognizing the work that Valley Youth House does with our community's young people."