



AAUW

Volume 80, Issue 3

December 2009/January 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

January 19, 4 pm, Board Meeting

February 10, 7:30 pm, Branch Meeting at Kirkland Village

March 6, Noon, Inter-branch luncheon at Best Western

March 16, 4 pm, Board Meeting

April 6, 6 pm, Book Fair Branch Meeting

BETHLEHEM BRANCH

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

Branch Considers Our Future Brainstorming Group Holds Discussion

Study Group Representatives Explore New Directions

As President Susan McNamara is fond of reminding us, "Change is always difficult." Difficult perhaps, but not impossible. Especially for AAUW members who have a passion for the organization.

On November 20 some members of Bethlehem AAUW met at Susan's home to begin a broader discussion of ideas that our Board of Directors started back in May.

Randi Blauth emphasized that, although she doesn't get to general meetings, she always makes an effort to come to Book Fair because someone takes time to extend a personal invitation to her. Someone chimed in that she wants to feel part of one big group and doesn't get that the way our branch is currently structured. Her study group provides that sense of community and consequently has her loyalty.

Several said that to have our programming reflect the Mission-based model used by national AAUW is a big job and would require a broad committee to share in the planning and many tasks involved. Everyone liked the idea of continuing or expanding joint meet-

ings with other AAUW branches to discuss important topics as we did last winter with *diversity* at Moravian College.

"Let's not be wedded to trying to plan an entire year's worth of programs. We have to be able to move quickly on a breaking topic", said Linda Robertson.

They discussed the concept of *The Big Book* where every member and every study group reads the same book with affiliated programming planned. Could we involve the community through a joint program with the Bethlehem Public Library? Should our evening meetings start earlier and include dinner?

There was unanimous sense that we need to survey our entire membership for their views on what AAUW means to them.

We will continue to explore many ideas about making it easier to reach out to all our members. In the meantime, if you need a ride to a meeting or Book Fair, feel free to call a nearby member. If you think for example, a Tuesday daytime general meeting makes sense call Susan or any officer.

Please see photo Page Eight.

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo, (610-797-9158)

We meet February 11 at Fran Bentkowski's house at 7:30 pm. for a tasting of shiraz wines. Jeanne Eroh will co-host. 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. December 9 we study Jorge Luis Borges's *The Garden of Forking Paths* (pp. 273-286 in Great Conversations 3). On January 13 the selection is Introduction to *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir (pp. 287-306). Planning ahead, our February selection is *An Interest in Life* by Grace Paley.

The Out to Lunch Bunch

Jeanie Keller, (610-865-3543) All AAUW members are invited to join.. January 19 we will visit Petra Mediterranean on Broad Street and Marge Gotshall will host. Please call her by January 16 (610-866-7746).

Going Places

Our group had a very successful trip to the Barnes Museum in Media PA. We are in the planning stages for an outing to the Reading Public Museum on March 25 in the spring. New participants are always welcomed. Please contact Shirley McBride at 610-317-9603 or Jeanie Keller at 610-865-3543.

President's Message from Susan McNamara

The first major study on the status of women to garner national attention in nearly forty years appeared last month. Prepared by Maria Shriver and The Center for American Progress, *A Woman's Nation Changes Everything* documents the changing trends of women in the workforce and society over nearly four decades. Complemented by a survey conducted by the Rockefeller Foundation, in collaboration with *Time* magazine, the study presents evidence that substantiates claims that women have made substantial gains in achieving educational, athletic, professional, marital equality; at the same time, it also substantiates claims that there is still much to be done. While women now make up just shy of half of all workers in the U.S, they still earn only seventy-seven (77) cents for every one (1) dollar earned by men. "The U.S. still is the only industrialized nation without a child-care policy. Women are still being punished by a tax code designed when men were the sole breadwinners and women the sole caregivers. Sexual violence against women still is a huge issue. Women still are disproportionately affected by a lack of health-care services" (*Time*, October 26, 2009) As the AAUW-National report on its related public policy and action agenda summarizes, "Society's institutions have not been similarly reshaped - leaving working women and their families without critical support structures." As members of an organization dedicated to the advancement of equity for women and girls, the publication of these reports reminds us of the significance of our mission components: advocacy, education and research, and of our responsibility to ourselves and other women of this generation and those of the future to continue to foster the goal of this mission through the many dimensions of AAUW.

In this context, I am pleased to let everyone know of plans in the works at Moravian College towards establishing an AAUW-Bethlehem Student Affiliate organization. AAUW-Bethlehem branch member assisted by our liaison to the student group, Trish Moller, participated in the College's student club fair in September. A core group of women with faculty advisor, Professor Stacey Zaremba, has selected 'mentoring' as a theme to provide coherence to a variety of volunteer activities. Exploring possibilities for mentoring at the elementary school level, they have also begun to plan for a program event at the College on the topic of *Finding a Niche* that might be informative and helpful for an audience including college freshman still adjusting to the many aspects of a college environment as well as seniors on the threshold of their post-graduation lives. In addition, they have decided that holding a Pay Equity event on campus might be both an educational and fun activity, and will be selling baked goods - at the cost of \$1.00 for men and 77 cents for women - on AAUW Pay Equity Day, April 20, 2010.

In a recent meeting with the students, I mentioned that, as they probably had already figured out, mentors very often learn at least as much, if not more, from those mentored as mentees learn from mentors. from an international perspective. (Article continues on the next page)

President's Message Continued

As an immediate case in point, I was reminded as we talked about the "Finding the Niche" program, that niche-finding certainly was an issue that I, myself, most recently addressed as I entered retirement and a relocation of full-time residence; it was an issue my eighty-three-year-old mother had to address as she faced, first widowhood, and later, a move to an assisted living facility. In short, their program topic seems one with resonance for all of us whether we are seventeen or seventy-one. I have no doubt that as these young women continue to experience the challenges and rewards of creating and guiding their AAUW related organization, we also will benefit in many ways from our affiliation with them.

In March 2010, AAUW-Bethlehem will join Allentown, Easton, and Pocono Area branches for our traditional, biannual luncheon. Complementing *The Shriver Report's* focus on women in the United State, our speaker, Carolyn Donovan, AAUW's representative to the United Nations, will also offer information and food for thought on the status of women, this time from an international perspective. If you haven't already done so, please mark you calendars for Saturday, March 6, 2010 and plan to attend.

At the luncheon, we will also honor AAUW *Gateway to Equity Award* recipients from each of the branches. At this time, the Board would welcome any recommendations you have for 2010 Award recipient. The Award honors an individual, group or organization that has shown by action and philosophy the promotion of the AAUW mission. Please contact Cinda Jensen by phone or email with your suggestions.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I express our gratitude to the membership for your generous responses to our Holiday Giving Appeal. As of this writing, you have donated more than \$2,500 to *Turning Point of Lehigh Valley* and, thus, exceeded our goal. Continuing our support of *Turning Point* serves as an immediate reminder of the on-going need for 'critical support structures' of women close to home. It also reminds us that we, who have benefited in many ways from the efforts of others on behalf of women's equity, have the capacity to contribute meaningfully toward the progress of the next forty years.

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and peace in the New Year.

Susan

Calendars for Sale AAUW Fundraiser

Marge Gotshall (610-866-7746) reminds members that a few spiral-bound calendars with large date blocks are available for \$5; sales benefit the AAUW Scholarship Program for area high school seniors. Call Marge to get calendars; they make nice stocking stuffers.

Paperback I

Marie Boltz, (484-851-3435)
We welcome new members. On January 21 at 7:30 pm at Mardi Metzger's house we will discuss Mary Ann Schaffer's *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*.

Paperback II

Sue Matheson, (610-691-8322)
On January 19 at 7:30 pm Louise Wisser hosts and Darlene Borst leads a discussion of *Jane Austin in Boca* by Paula Cohen. A clever and amusing novel set in a Jewish retirement community.

Paperback III

Pat Michael (610-861-2948) On January 12, Nancy Disario will host the meeting at 1:00 pm, at her home. The book is Jeffrey Toobin's *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*. Yvonne Payne will be discussion leader.

Mystery Paperback

We will meet January 26 at Marilyn Achey's at 1:30 p.m. Louise Penny's *Still Life* will be discussed. Set in the Canadian village of Three Pines, the exquisite undercurrents of this novel make it much more than a cozy mystery.

Let's Read Math

LRM volunteers were highlighted in an article with photos in the *Bethlehem Press* in November. We presented interactive math-based programming to 150+ elementary students in November and December. As we prepare for our 2010 programs in schools we are seeking enthusiastic new volunteers. Training provided. Please call Fran Bentkowski at 610-866-7462.

Nominating Committee Starts Work

Jo-Anne Horn chairs this year's Nominating Committee. Members include Darlene Borst, Nancy Disario, Bernice Gardiner, Cinda Jensen, and Margaret Mahoney. The positions to be filled are President and Program Vice-President. Please contact Jo-Anne with candidate suggestions.

Updates To Your Yearbook

Nancy Disario: email: jdisario@hotmail.com
Susan McNamara: email: Scm8066@yahoo.com
Deborah Spinney: email: dspin202@PTD.net

AAUW Member Wins Nobel Prize

Carolyn Grieder, an AAUW member since 2002, was honored for her work with Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack W. Szostak on chromosomes, which played an important part in the development of new therapies for cancer treatment. Greider and Blackburn are the first women to share the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.

In addition to Grieder and Blackburn, three other women were honored: Elinor Ostrom (economics), Herta Muller (literature), and Ada Yonath (chemistry).

AAUW Member in the News

Bethlehem Branch member Beth Corroda's photo of her pet basset hounds is featured in the recent issue of Northampton Community College's Magazine.

Our Sympathies

To Myra Jones on the loss of her 94 year old step-mother Nettie Heimbrook.

**Bethlehem AAUW Raises Record Amount For Turning Point
It's Not too Late to Participate!!**

Treasurer Myra Jones reports that an incredible number of Bethlehem branch members contributed \$2,570 (as we went to press), blowing by our goal of \$1,500 to help *Turning Point of Lehigh Valley* buy gift cards for families to use to choose holiday gifts.

Seventy-five members or 68% (!!) of our membership helped make the holidays merrier by participating in this project. This was such a fitting outreach effort during our Branch's 80th anniversary year.

Although we have delivered our gifts to *Turning Point*, we can make one more visit. The final date for accepting (tax-deductible) gifts is January 15, 2010. Please call Myra at 610-865-3419 with questions you may have.

Thanks to every single member who showed amazing generosity.

*Bethlehem AAUW 2009 Holiday Project
(Turning Point of Lehigh Valley)*

Yes, I want to help *Turning Point*!

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Amount: \$ _____ (Please make check out to Turning Point)

Phone (day): _____

Email: _____

Please mail to: Treasurer Myra Jones 2229 Main St, Bethlehem PA 18017-3700. Thanks so much.



Jeanie Keller delivered checks to *Turning Point* Executive Director, Nancy McCullar.

Welcome to Our New Members

We have had eleven new members join Bethlehem AAUW this year. If you have friends or colleagues who would like information on AAUW or are considering joining, please have them contact Yvonne Payne, Membership Chair, at 610-867-6575 (email: paynespitzer@hotmail.com). Membership is now open to graduates of community colleges and diploma-granting schools of nursing.

Our Newest Members (Clip and add to the yearbook please):

Karen Hierl: 1952 Sunderland Drive, Bethlehem 18015-5144; phone: 610-866-9129; email: Hierl@verizon.net. Karen earned a bachelor's of arts degree in English from Cedar Crest College and is currently working on a master of social work degree. Rounding out her activities are her teenaged children.

Mary Anne Mitrison: 7031 Rotterdam Square, Bethlehem PA 18017; phone 610-837-7693; email: mitrison@rcn.com. Mary Anne earned her bachelor's of science from Kutztown U. plus a master's equivalency. She was a longtime teacher in the Allentown School District. Sheridan Elementary was her last post prior to retiring.

Barbara Myers: 707 E. Macada Road, Bethlehem PA 18017; phone: 610-867-5222; email: djmyers@rcn.com Barbara earned a bachelor's degree in business from Muhlenberg College. Following retirement from the insurance industry, she enjoys gardening and reading.

Judith Shellhammer: 2014 Westfield Terrace, Bethlehem PA 18017; phone: 610-865-6861. Judy earned a nursing degree from the Allentown Hospital School of Nursing. She is now retired from nursing and her AAUW activities include the Lunch Bunch and Going Places study groups.

Jane Wrigley Snyder: 3805 Maulfair Drive, Allentown PA 18103-9667; phone: 610-703-7404; email: snydrpa@aol.com. Jane earned her bachelor's of science degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1967 and a master's of education in 1981 from SUNY at Buffalo. Jane is a past president of Allentown AAUW and recently served as Membership Chair of AAUW-PA.

Mary Patrone Westwood: 3745 Sydna Street, Bethlehem PA 18017-1045; phone: 610-691-3110; (Cel) 610-428-3228; email: mpwestwood@hotmail.com. Mary earned a bachelor's of science from West Virginia University in 1962 and a master's of science from Louisiana Tech University in 1970. She keeps active with children and grandchildren and is a member of the AAUW Bridge group.

Some of our newest members are pictured on Page Seven.

Carolyn Donovan UN Representative AAUW to Speak to Area AAUW Branches

Please mark that new AAUW calendar for Saturday March 6, 2010 for an Inter-branch luncheon at the Best Western Hotel on Routes 22 and 512. Carolyn Donovan, AAUW's representative to the United Nations will talk on how AAUW carries out its mission in the United Nations.

She will comment on 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).

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

All Work; Not Much Play
A Michigan State University study found that boys spend more time than girls playing video games - one possible reason for the persistence of the technology gender gap. Although gaming is associated with less time spent on homework, it does not seem to affect students' GPA. Girls' lower level of interest in gaming no doubt contributes to the lack of women in the game-design industry, which in turn, results in more games designed to attract male gamers.

Officers

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

Association Website
www.aauw.org

**“It is today that we must create
the world of the future.”**

Eleanor Roosevelt

Bethlehem AAUW Operating 2009-2010 Budget

<u>Revenue</u>	
Dues	\$7,500
Interest	900
Book Fair	32,950
Calendars	155
Bridge	300
Let's Read Math	300
80th Anniversary	925
Scholarship	200
TOTAL	43,230

<u>Disbursements</u>	
National dues	5,000
State dues	1,000
Scholarships	25,000
Newsletter	1,700
Insurance	225
80th Anniversary	950
Postage	500
Officers' expenses	50
Convention fees	250
Programming	1,250
National scholarship program	2,500
Website	150
Let's Read Math	325
Calendars	150
Contingency	200
TOTAL	39,625

AAUW's *Outlook* Highlights 'The Difficult Balance' Fall 2009 Issue Hits Issues Hard

Just because more women are working does not mean that gender equity in the workplace is inevitable. Each of us should read the recent issue of *Outlook*, AAUW's award-winning magazine. If you are no longer a member of the work-for-pay community, you may have a daughter or granddaughter who is or who will be; surely you have a close friend or colleague who is impacted by workplace practices and subtle, or not so subtle, discrimination.

For the first time in history, women make up half the workforce. "Our lives have changed dramatically over the last forty years. When will the world catch up?" asks the article *Women at Work: Still Waiting for Change*".

Academic Motherhood: Negotiating Work and Family highlights how most universities, and many other workplaces, now have guidelines intended to help working parents. The challenge is to find policies that actually work.

Giving Birth - to Workplace Challenges emphasizes that three-quarters of working women become pregnant at least once over the course of their careers. Despite laws designed to protect them, pregnancy discrimination is on the rise.

Each article takes a look at why so many women find it so hard to achieve a balance between their work and family life. Read about some new ideas and initiatives that will help women and girls break through barriers.



Welcome new members. From Left: Mary Westwood, Jane Snyder, Judith Shellhammer, Mary Ann Mitrisin, and Barbara Myers at the November Branch meeting.

Committee Chairs

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Time Sensitive Material

Bethlehem AAUW Members Look to the Future



Student affiliates at Moravian College, pay equity, girls' education in the sciences and technology, and exactly what is the purpose of our general meetings were some of the topics discussed at a November brainstorming meeting. Thank you Randi Blauth, Fran Bentkowski, Bernie Gardiner, Kit Jones, Myra Jones, Susan McNamara, Trisha Moller, Yvonne Payne, Linda Robertson and Louise Wissler.