



Volume 79, Issue 5

March 2009

Susan McNamara, President

Linda Robertson, Editor

Sarah Dunn, Technical Advisor

AAUW Value Statement

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

Mission & Diversity Statement

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

Bethlehem AAUW Website
aauwbethlehempa.org

Mark Your Calendar

March 10, 4 pm, AAUW Board Meeting

March 14, Saturday noon; Diversity Meeting, Moravian Theological Seminary

April 7, 6 pm, Book Fair Dinner Meeting

BETHLEHEM BRANCH

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

Saturday Inter-Branch Meeting in March

**Moravian Theological Seminary
North Campus, Moravian College
Saturday March 14, 2009
12:30 - 3:30 pm**

Please set aside Saturday March 14, 2009 at 12:30 in the afternoon for a very special inter-Branch meeting at Moravian Seminary in the Bahnsen Center on the College's North Campus. Members and guests will examine and discuss diversity with our sister branches in the area. Bring a bag lunch (drinks provided) and see the video *The Way Home*: comments from African-American, Jewish, Native American, and Hispanic women. Small group discussion will follow. 'Diversity' is an 'in-concept', but what does it really mean here in the Lehigh Valley?

Come learn how 'in' we really are or want to be! Meet new people including Moravian College students and faculty. Please Rsvp to President Susan McNamara by phone at 610-861-8066 or by email to smc5083@aol.com.

Many thanks to Bacchae, the wine study group, for providing refreshments.



AAUW members and guests of *Going Places* with their guide in Allentown at the Wheels of History museum. They also stopped in at the Liberty Bell Shrine, Zion Church, to view an exhibition of presidential portraits.

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo, (610-797-9158)
Sue Matheson (610-691-8322) will be our March 12 host for our 'end of winter' meeting. We will taste and evaluate ice wines. Bacchae is responsible for hospitality for the Saturday March 14 Inter-branch lunch and diversity discussion at Moravian Theological Seminary.

Great Books Discussions

Cathy Barrett (610-868-9100)
March 11, 7:15 pm. Bethlehem Area Public Library, 2nd floor. Following a brief business meeting, discussion starts at 7:30. The book is *Great Conversation 3* (call 800-222-5870 to order). We will discuss Rudyard Kipling's *The Man Who Would Be King* (pp. 133-164). The April 8 reading will be Italian writer Luigi Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (pp. 165-230).

The Lunch Bunch

Bernie Gardiner, (610-861-2925)
All AAUW members are invited to join. On March 17 at *The Café*, located on West Broad, Margery Gotshall (610-866-7746) will be our hostess.

Going Places

On March 26 the group will tour the Allentown Art Museum's newest exhibition: *Monet to Matisse*. We will lunch in Allentown. Call Yvonne Payne (610-867-6575) for details and to make your reservation.

President's Message from Susan McNamara

As I write today in mid-February, I do so accompanied by the furious beat and not quite melodious, many sounds of a most blustery day- the roaring, echoing, whistling winds; the pounding thumps of branches hitting ground, flapping flag whirling and twirling around its pole, and the swish of swirling leaves. As the temperature drops, it seems hardly probable that yesterday offered near sixty-degree temperatures, tempting us to believe we were approaching St. Patrick's rather than Valentine's Day. Although we are likely destined to return to some more weeks of winter cold and snow, before we know it, it will be mid-March, on the way to true Spring, and we will be throwing our winter perspectives to the wind and embracing both the outdoors and our traditional spring activities.

Before we leap ahead, though, a bit of attention to the winter perspectives seems merited. By the time you are reading this, I will have had the pleasure of visiting for the first time Paperback groups I and II meeting in February and looking forward to visiting with Paperback III and IV in March. This will be a chance for me to both enjoy the conversations about each group's readings and talk with some branch members whom I have not yet met. A second meeting with our representative at Moravian College, joined this time by the heads of the Leadership Development Program and Women Studies, will have been held. Our subject continues to be an exploration of ways in which we might renew collaboration serving the interests of Moravian students, our branch and AAUW mission.

Also looking back on the winter of 2009, AAUW members who joined with Kirkland Village residents as a sizable and receptive audience welcoming speaker, Dr. Paul Pierpoint, will remember this February program as a real mid-winter treat. A model of an adventurous traveler's tale amply illustrated with pictures of his January, Mt. Kilimanjaro hike in sometimes unexpectedly harrowing conditions, Dr. Pierpoint's narrative vividly reminded us of the power and unpredictability, as well as the magnificence, of nature; this power was more than matched, in this case, by the honest self-assessment, good humor, and determination, which Dr. Pierpoint brought to the 'mid-life crisis' that prompted his risk-taking adventure, his few moments of anxiety as he faced some of those conditions, the bonding with the hard-working porters and fellow-hikers, and the exhilaration of reaching the top of this majestic mountain. Another inspirational program in our 2008-2009 program series!

I anticipate that our March 14th program film featuring a diverse group of woman sharing stories of equally momentous, life-defining moments in each of their distinct but also representative lives will be as moving and thought provoking as our February program. I anticipate as well that we will take away from the round-table discussions of the film to which we will bring our distinct but also having-much-common perspectives, food for thought and, perhaps, future action. I hope you will agree that we want Bethlehem to be well-represented at this Inter-branch event; as an active branch with a healthy membership of engaged women, we have much to contribute to this program.

So well-supported by branch and community members is the annual Book Fair April that it hardly needs any 'plug' for workers. It is worth mentioning, however, that the Book Fair has enticed into branch membership some new

Public Policy & AAUW Positions

AAUW Applauds President Obama for Signing Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into Law Wage Discrimination Measure becomes First Bill Signed into Law by New President

AAUW applauds President Barack Obama for signing the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*, which restores the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allow employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive.

Lilly Ledbetter is perhaps the best-known face of pay equity. She worked for nearly two decades at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Gadsden, AL. Despite receiving top performance awards, Ledbetter discovered that she had been paid significantly less than male co-workers with the same job. After her 1998 retirement, she brought a suit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was awarded back pay and other remedies by a jury. The U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision not only erased Ledbetter's award, but also left women, minorities, and others in Ledbetter's situation with virtually no recourse to pay discrimination.

As President Obama continues to form his administration and his agenda, AAUW continues to be involved with the changes taking place in Washington, D.C. and beyond. On the AAUW website, www.AAUW.org, you can read documents AAUW has submitted to the new administration, learn more about the members of the president's new cabinet, and find additional helpful resources. AAUW looks forward to working with the Obama administration and the 111th Congress to move AAUW's priority issues forward. AAUW has already been working closely with the White House to ensure that breaking through educational and economic barriers for women tops his agenda. On the AAUW website under the *advocacy tab* are documents submitted to the transition team by AAUW, highlighting our federal policy priorities and goals:

Pay equity and workplace legislation

Improving access to higher education

No Child Left Behind Act reauthorization

Family-friendly work/life policies

AAUW is also pleased to see the appointments of highly-qualified women to key administration positions. Lisa Maatz, AAUW public policy and government relations director, issued the following statement on the Senate HELP committee's approval of Rep. Hilda Solis' nomination for secretary of labor:

"AAUW applauds the Senate HELP committee's bipartisan vote in favor of Hilda Solis' nomination. The American workforce has been hammered by the economic recession, and the need for a strong secretary of labor has never been greater. Solis has a long history of fighting on behalf of working women and their families, and she is extremely well qualified to serve this vitally important role."

Paperback I

Mardi Metzger, (610-866-1257)
March 19 Randi Blauth (610-974-9711) hosts a 7:30 pm discussion of *Don't Lets Go to the Dogs Tonight* by Alexandra Fuller. In this non-fiction account, the young daughter tells the story of a British family who lived in Rhodesia during civil war turmoil.

Paperback II

Sue Matheson, (610-691-8322)
We meet the third Tuesday at 7:30 pm. On March 17 Lynda Shoening (610-867-4905) hosts a discussion of Steve Lopez' *The Soloist*. This book was chosen by the Philadelphia Free Library as the all-city book for this winter and is coming out as a movie, which we hope to see. Discussion leader is Joanne Wagner. We will be reading *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks for April.

Paperback III

We are changing our meeting day to the second Tuesday of the month. On March 10 at 1 pm Myrna Sims (610-865-1566) will host a discussion of the delightful novel *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Shaffer and Barrows.

Mystery Paperback Group

Connie White (610-867-8398). Next meeting is March 24 at Nancy Light's to discuss Rex Stout's most famous detective character the orchid-growing Nero Wolfe. Our titles are *Some Buried Caesar* and *The Golden Spiders*.

AAUW Bridge Group

We meet at Star City Restaurant at 11:30 for lunch followed by bridge (18 hands rubber bridge scoring) on the third Thursday of February, March, April, and May. Our dues support the Branch's Scholarship Program. For information or to be on the list of substitutes please call Margaret Mahoney (610-691-1835).

AAUW Gets Major Press Coverage in *PARADE*

AAUW was featured in *PARADE* magazine on Sunday, January 18, in an article entitled, "A New Push for Equal Pay." This outstanding coverage was the result of AAUW's successful media briefing held last month in New York with women's magazine editors. The briefing focused on pay inequities confronting women and included remarks from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. The article highlights AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz, who explained why women still make 78 cents to a male colleague's dollar more than four decades after the Equal Pay Act was passed. *PARADE* is the most widely read magazine in the U.S. with a circulation of 33 million and a readership of 72.5 million. It is carried by more than 470 Sunday newspapers across the country. The Jan. 18 edition is likely to have had an even higher readership given its cover article featuring then President-elect Barack Obama's inspirational letter to his daughters prior to his inauguration.

KICK-OFF COFFEE ON MARCH 18

The kick-off coffee for the 47th annual Bethlehem AAUW Book Fair will be at 10 am on March 18 at the Municipal 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 18 - April 15. Volunteers will sort and price from 9 am to 12 noon Monday - Saturday, and at the same time have the opportunity to buy books and music for themselves. The sale days for the public are April 22-25. Book Fair is a time of renewing friendships from both AAUW and the community. Stop in anytime you are able.

This year our dedicated Book Fair committee members are Captains Clair Ashby, Marie Boltz, Dolores Demyan, Cinda Jensen, Joan Jones, DeDe Laver, Margaret Mahoney, Nancy Marsac, Sue McNamara, Gunnel Sterner; and Cynthia Weber. Barbara Guldner is the Treasurer. JoAnne Horn and Myra Jones are responsible for Sales, and Pat Riley for Paperbacks. Sue Pettit does the Website and Signs, and Linda Robertson is responsible for Publicity.

If you have any questions, call Nancy or Karen. Come and help make this one of the best Book Fairs ever.

Nancy Disario (610-867-8533)

Karen Donald (610-746-0337)

Book Fair Co-Chairmen



Some satisfied customers from a past AAUW Book Fair

Let's Read Math

February saw three days of programming at Mosser School, Allentown
Learn more about *Let's Read Math* by coming to observe

In February, a group of nine Allentown/Bethlehem AAUW members engaged in three presentations of *Let's Read Math* at Mosser Elementary School. For three consecutive Wednesday afternoons twenty 2nd and 3rd graders and twenty-one 4th and 5th graders interacted with AAUW presenters in *Let's Read Math* for 1½ hrs to play with measurement and shapes. It's a real treat for all of us, some former teachers and others not, to be exploring math concepts through stories and hands on activities with children who cherish lots of attention.

All of us look forward to further adventures with math, stories and children and to strengthening this enjoyable joint project of the Allentown and Bethlehem AAUW. This spring, plans include a date with fourth graders, a search for summer connections, and preparation of new stories and activities. Yes, there is room for you. More team members will allow everyone to have that fully flexible schedule we all cherish. Contact Jean Chapman, Cathy Kane, Lynn Pettit or Jan Seaman for more details.

Major support for the local *Let's Read Math* program is provided by the AAUW Educational Foundation.

Jan Seaman, Allentown AAUW

Save the Date

AAUW-PA 80th Annual Meeting

April 25, 2009

10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Country Cupboard Inn

Lewisburg, PA

Discuss: Proposed Bylaws Changes

[with Sally Chamberlain, Association Representative]

Every PA-Member Survey Results

Emerging Leader Internships

Present AAUW-PA Awards

Celebrate International Women's Day with AAUW and CARE

through A POWERFUL NOISE Live Through AAUW's and CARE's partnership, AAUW encourages you to join CARE (www.care.org) and more than 120,000 people gathering in 400 theaters across the United States to celebrate International Women's Day 2009. On the evening of March 5, CARE is hosting an unprecedented one-night event featuring the theatrical premiere of "A Powerful Noise," an acclaimed documentary that follows three extraordinary women — Hanh is an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam, Nada is a survivor of the Bosnian war, and Jacqueline educates girls in Mali. The film takes you inside the lives of these women to witness their daily challenges and significant victories over poverty and oppression. Immediately following the film, theatergoers will participate in a town hall meeting broadcast live from New York. It will feature renowned activists and experts, including Nicholas Kristof and Christy Turlington Burns, who will discuss how we can help empower women around the world. AAUW members across the country can plan to attend the event, and **your branch can make A POWERFUL NOISE Live your own official International Women's Day program for 2009.**

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

Eleanor Roosevelt

Report of the Nominating Committee

Election Scheduled for April 7th Dinner Meeting at the Pool Building

The Nominating Committee met November 5 at the home of Evelyn Musselman. Attending were Cathy Barrett, Darlene Borst, Karen Donald, Bernice Gardiner, Jo-Anne Horn, and Evelyn Musselman. The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for the 2009 to 2011 term of office:

Vice President for Membership: Yvonne Payne. Yvonne received a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology and a bachelor of science degree in math and computer science from the College of Staten Island. She was a social worker for a child care agency in Staten Island and, after earning her second degree, went into computer programming. She retired as director of a programming group at the New York Stock Exchange. She and her husband Jerry moved to Bethlehem in 2004. Yvonne volunteers in the Adult Literacy Program at the Fowler Building, Northampton Community College, is a docent at the Allentown Art Museum, and serves on the Museum's SOTA board. She is completing a term as Secretary of Bethlehem AAUW and is active in AAUW's *Let's Read Math* program.

Secretary: Bernice Gardiner. "Education has always been my passion. Following high school I attended nursing school and discovered I was more interested in academics than nursing. I returned to college while raising four children. I also worked for a bank while earning a business degree in 1989 from Muhlenberg College. I spent seven years at Lehigh University managing the JASON Project, an international program founded by Dr. Robert Ballard, a Navy research scientist. Additionally, I helped establish the SMART Discovery Center, which is now the DaVinci Center at Cedar Crest College. In 1998 I earned a Master's in Education from Lehigh University and spent eight years as a substitute teacher. Presently I volunteer with Hospice of the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's, Habitat for Humanity, Animals in Distress, and the Bethlehem Garden Club."

Treasurer: Myra Jones. "Shortly before my daughter Jennifer was born and I became a stay at home mom, I joined AAUW to keep up with my education and socialization with other women. I cherish the friendships I have made in Paperback II, Bacchae, and general membership. The Book Fair really interested me and I have worked on it every year since 1973 - collecting books from the book barrels, sorting, pricing, selling, delivering and putting up posters as poster chairman, counting money as Book Fair treasurer. I was play chairman and active member for Children's Theatre of Bethlehem, served on the Scholarship Committee in the 1980s and again today, and am a past treasurer of Bethlehem AAUW. *Let's Read Math* has kept me involved with teaching children. I graduated from Moravian College and Kutztown University and enjoyed my teaching years, mostly first grade, with the Bethlehem Area School District (retired with 30 years). For 26 years I was co-director of Messiah Lutheran Child Center and taught in the four year class for 6 years. Mike and I also have a son Timothy."

Report of the Nominating Committee Continued

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

The Nominating Committee is pleased with the caliber of the above slate and believes Bethlehem Branch AAUW will be well served by the nominees.

Evelyn Musselman

2009 AAUW National Convention Theme is **BREAKING** through **BARRIERS**

AAUW-MO and the Local Arrangements Committee in St. Louis are hard at work planning the details of hosting the 2009 AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, June 26-28, 2009. This historic convention will discuss and vote on issues related to membership requirements, dues payments, and public policy issues. The results will have a momentous impact on who and what AAUW is to be in the future. You don't want to miss it! Check out the AAUW website for full details on the issues, the convention, and things to do in St. Louis: www.aauw.org/convention.

The hotel has ample convention space, lovely rooms, great restaurants and is right in the heart of downtown St. Louis. The Cardinals will be playing ball, the Zoo is free, the Art Museum is world class, as is the Missouri Botanical Garden. Theater, opera and a great children's museum also await you.

Treat yourself to a mini-vacation at the historic Renaissance Grand Hotel where spa treatments, great restaurants, and lots of extras await you. Don't forget to invite your AAUW family and friends from across the country to "meet you in St. Louis" as we continue to 'break through barriers' for women and girls.

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Susan McNameara

members who found they enjoyed the good company, varied conversations, and laughter of volunteers. If you have any candidates, do bring them along — March 18th- April 25th! Also scheduled for April 25th is the annual AAUW-PA Meeting to be held in Lewisburg, PA. The issues raised by the proposed revisions to AAUW-National Bylaws are sure to be a major topic of this meeting. The Survey Questionnaire you have received and a Conversation 2009 phone conference with each PA Branch President are among the preparations the PA State Board is making for this April meeting as well as the June National conference. If you have reviewed the chart outlining the proposed changes, you know that some of these are quite substantial. If you have not yet read through the chart, I encourage you to do this soon and also to talk with one another - at programs, in book groups - and let me and other Board members know what you think. I want to carry to that meeting an informed understanding of your individual and collective responses to these changes.

President's Message Continued from Page Two