



Volume 80, Issue 1

September 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

aaubethlehempa.org

Mark Your Calendar

September 15, Board meeting,
Susan McNamara's

September 22, 7:30 pm Branch
Meeting. *Let's Read Math*.

October 3, noon, Anniversary
luncheon, Tower Room, Lehigh
University Mountaintop Campus

BETHLEHEM BRANCH

BETHLEHEM BYLINES

Award-Winning Program: *Let's Read Math* Highlighted

Tuesday September 22, 2009
Education Building
Central Moravian Church
7:30 pm

Fran Bentkowski and the volunteers of the *Let's Read Math* study group have created an entertaining and informative program that will not only demonstrate how they work in the classroom but also share student comments and teacher reviews.

Funded in part by a Community Action Grant from AAUW's Educational Foundation to Graham Boose and the West Chester-Chester County Branch, our branch is entering its third season of *Let's Read Math* classroom presentations.

Administrators at the DaVinci Center, the English as a Second Language program at Marvine, the Allentown YW/YMCA, Mosser Elementary and William Penn Elementary have high praise for the quality of our programs and the children love us.

Help us kick off the AAUW season with fun, fellowship and refreshments, all courtesy of *LRM*.



Allentown's Jan Seaman and Bethlehem's Judy Lappen creating charts for a new *LRM* classroom presentation.



Elementary students working with oversized tangram shapes.

Bacchae

Phyllis Wargo, (610-797-9158)
Bacchae will hold its first meeting for the year on September 10 at Phyllis Wargo's house at 7:30 pm. We will set the schedule for this year's study and plan our second road trip to New York state wine country. 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.

The Out to Lunch Bunch

Jeanie Keller, (610-865-3543) All AAUW members are invited to join. Contact Jeanie for information about a noon lunch at *Mama Nina's* on Main Street, Bethlehem on September 22. Reservations requested by September 18.

Going Places

On September 24, the group will tour *Ephrata Cloisters and the Amish Farm and House* in Lancaster County. Please contact Shirley McBride (610-317-9603) for information. We plan to carpool at 9 am from Shirley's.

Mystery Paperback Group

Connie White (610-867-8398) We will meet October 27 to discuss Elliott Pattison's *The Skull Mantra*. Set in a Chinese-run labor camp in Tibet, an ethnic Han Chinese prisoner is forced to investigate the murder of a European to protect a group of monks.

President's Message from Susan McNamara

I write this message in August from my lake cottage. I know it is August not just because the calendar tells me; I know it is August because this week I watched the blue heron who has arrived during the first week of this month for most of my years here lift its pencil-thin legs in and out of the shallows as it moved toward the feast of the elderberry bush at lake's edge in front of the cottage; I know it is August because the Canada geese at the lake are likewise stretching their long necks to feast on the low-hanging blueberry bushes at the point of the property. I know because local corn is ready at the farm stand up the road and tomatoes are ripe. I know because dusk is arriving earlier each week and leaves are beginning to crisp and fall to signal the return of autumn. While I count the arrival of the heron or the ripening of the berries among my personal ordering markers, I am also aware at this time of year of that other more universally shared marker--the ritual of getting ready to go back to school. As the September of my first year of retirement from teaching approached, a number of family and friends asked whether I missed the getting ready go back to work. While the answer was a definitive "no," I was, at the same time, very aware that I did feel some pull of a deeply rooted, back-to-school, emotional tug - a tug that many of us feel throughout our lives.

Whether cues like these come from nature, work habits, or family traditions, they not only establish the order of our lives but also create a sense of anticipation of that order - a reassuring sense of predictability. And so, most of us do approach September or October with some of those deeply rooted 'back to school' expectations: catching up with friends missed during summer vacations, returning to a familiar schedule of events, getting back into the activities and routines that govern our lives for the greater part of each year.

As adults we also eventually recognize that the order, the predictability and the comfort of the familiar connected with going back to school provided a context that allowed for and encouraged a degree of tolerance and a positive expectation of the yet-to-be-learned, the unfamiliar or unexpected--the new-- with its challenges of a twinge of anxiety, disorientation, even discomfort. We also usually come to recognize as well that this balance of the old and the new, the predictable and the unexpected, of the comfortable and what might be the temporarily uncomfortable remains essential for those of us committed to life-long learning and growth, service, vitality and contentment.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I consider the 2009-2010 agenda for AAUW-Bethlehem - an agenda that offers a mix of the familiar and the new, the established and the variant, the tried and true along with innovative. Among the new initiatives, we've tweaked the program calendar to try out a September meeting with a program that is not to be missed: An inter-active, show and tell presentation of the 2009 AAUW-PA STAR Award, *Let's Read Math* program by our terrific group of LRM volunteers. (Continued on page 5)

Recent AAUW Activities at the Federal Level

Notes Compiled by Myra Saturen
Public Policy Chair

Where Does AAUW Stand on the Health Care Issue?

AAUW characterizes health care as a basic right. A recent Advocacy Access Paper articulates that "AAUW believes that everyone is entitled to health care that is high-quality, affordable and easily accessible."

While AAUW is not endorsing any particular system of national health care insurance, our organization strongly believes that reforming health care is a necessity, not an option. The need is particularly acute for women, who still earn, on average, 78% of the wages paid to men. This inequity makes it difficult for women to afford health care coverage.

Whatever form a national plan takes, AAUW advocates

- an end to gender rating, a process that offers women different premiums for individually-purchased health plans
- required coverage for women's reproductive health care services
- ensured access to and coverage of preventive services and care.

AAUW and Justice Sonia Sotomayor

AAUW applauds the Senate confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court. Our organization supported the confirmation after a meticulous review of Sotomayor's 17-year federal judicial record. AAUW cited Sotomayor's profound legal experience, her outstanding academic credentials and the bipartisan support she has achieved.

"Today is a proud day for those of us who fight for gender equity and judges devoted to the rights of all Americans," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy, on August 6.

History Snapshot: From AAUW Online Museum

1920: Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie receives \$156,413 from AAUW members toward the purchase of one gram of radium.

1936: Members establish the Social Studies Committee to address a wide spread interest in consumer problems and broader social and economic issues following the Great Depression. This committee works to develop a well-rounded program that ranges from housing to individual liberties, consumer problems to mental health.

Paperback I

Marie Boltz, (484-851-3435)
We welcome new members. On September 17 at Marie's house we will discuss of Ken Follett's *World Without End*.

Paperback II

Sue Matheson, (610-691-8322)
On September 15 Shirley Daluisio hosts a discussion of *Broken for You* by Stephanie Kallos. It is the story of the friendship developed between two women brought together by unlikely circumstances. The American Library Association refers to the book's "layers of meaning, stylistic nuances and a message of hope". On October 20 we read *Murder on the Iditarod Trail* by Sue Henry. Myra Jones will show her Alaska slides and talk about meeting the author.

Paperback III

Pat Michael (610-861-2948) On September 8 at 1 pm Andie Silhanek (610-868-8698) hosts a discussion of Ken Follett's *World Without End*. October 13 Myrna Sims hosts and is discussion leader for *The Quiet American* by Graham Greene.

Let's Read Math

LRM will meet at 1 pm on September 9 and 16 at Judy Lappen's home to design a lesson plan and the hand visuals to add to our repertoire of children's books emphasizing math concepts. You do not need to be a math wizard to help present these sessions to area elementary classrooms. Call Judy at 610-686-1594 for information and to volunteer.

Current Book Exchange

Members purchase a book (published within the last two years), which is circulated monthly throughout the group. There are no meetings. A new exchange rotation starts October 1, 2009. Members and anyone interested in joining may contact Marge Gotshall (610-866-7746).

AAUW Members in the News

Bethlehem Branch member and past president Jeanie Keller received a 2009 Northampton County Outstanding Seniors Award on May 6 from the Northampton County Area Agency on Aging at a ceremony at Wesley United Methodist Church. Jeanie was recognized for her volunteer work as a *Turning Point* Court Advocate in the Northampton County Courthouse. She helps male and female victims of domestic abuse obtain Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders by acting as their chief advocate in the courtroom. Jeanie was the youngest honoree ever. Also, David Boltz, husband of Branch member Marie, received the intergenerational award at the same ceremony for his work tutoring students at Saucon Valley High School.

Our Sympathies

To Brad Pease on the loss of Monica June 25. Brad donated Monica's 2009 dues, saying, "AAUW was a great joy to Monica, especially the antique study group, bridge, and fellowship with many good friends."

To Ray and the family of Josephine (Jo) DeVantier, who died July 27. Jo's memorial service emphasized her lifelong commitment to education in more than 45 years as a teacher and guidance counselor.

October 3 Anniversary Luncheon

Reservation deadline is September 15, 2009

A very special noon luncheon on Saturday October 3 will mark the 80th anniversary of Bethlehem AAUW. Join us in the Tower Room on the top floor of Lehigh University's Iacocca Hall, Mountaintop Campus. The Tower Room provides a 360 degree view of both Lehigh and Saucon Valley.



Kirk R. Brown will portray John Bartram, plant explorer and seedsman. Bartram, born near Philadelphia in 1699, was appointed by King George as botanist to the American colonies. He collected and sent to England seeds and cuttings including maples, oaks, sycamores and evergreens. Bartram, a true Renaissance man, knew Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. Brown's well-researched Bartram is both entertaining and enlightening. "Kirk's portrayal of America's first world-class plantsman is a masterful blend - passionate, humorous, educational, but never pedantic," says the program chair of the Perennial Plant Association.

Visitor parking is available beyond Iacocca Hall. Metered parking spaces are located at the entrance.

You have a choice of organic salmon with grilled baby bok choy and sweet soy citrus glaze or cavatelli Nonna (pasta) with broccoli rabe, toasted garlic and breadcrumbs. Lunch includes a mixed greens salad with cranberries, goat cheese and raspberry vinaigrette, chef's choice vegetable, chocolate mousse ganache cake, and beverage.

SPACE IS LIMITED to 50 guests, so mail your check and reservation form ASAP to Connie White, 1830 Wilson Ave, Bethlehem PA 18018. Phone 610-867-8398.

Make the \$28 check (per person) payable to Bethlehem AAUW.

NAME(S): _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

MENU CHOICE: _____ Salmon or _____ Pasta

President's Message Continued from Page Two

Early in the fall each Study Group will be asked to select a representative - someone who is not a member of the Board - to meet as a group with a few Board representatives to continue the visioning discussion begun in May by the Board. At that meeting, we considered broad issues such as our vision of AAUW-Bethlehem five years from now; we talked about this balance of the familiar and the new; debated mission-based programming, explored thoughts about community outreach projects; heard about a possible opportunity for a joint event with the Bethlehem Area Public Library; put on the table new Study Group interests; considered follow-up, inter-branch programs like the successful one this past March; and tackled ideas for increasing membership and stimulating broader involvement in programs and activities from our membership. At the conclusion of this brainstorming, we determined that before we moved further we wanted the wider representation of the full branch membership that this request represents.

New also this year will be engagement with a newly formed AAUW Bethlehem/Moravian College affiliate AAUW student organization. Specifically, we will want to welcome them into the AAUW community and help them learn more about us. We will need to identify the ways through which we will encourage and support their AAUW related initiatives such development of their own program topics, creation of a Campus Action Plan (CAP) or participation in the June AAUW National Student Conference.

I am excited about the coming year in which at an Anniversary luncheon we celebrate all of the programs and activities that for eighty-years have bonded members to one another, the branch, and the AAUW mission. I am excited also about the possibilities in both the well-established events and programs and new initiatives, for sustaining and enriching the vitality of AAUW-Bethlehem. I look forward to joining with each member in a rewarding and fulfilling program for 2009-2010.

Welcome to Our New Members

We are very pleased to welcome five members to Bethlehem AAUW this year: Olga Conneen, Mary Anne Mitrisin, Barbara Myers, Beverly Nehilla and Judith Shellhammer. Several Allentown AAUW members may pursue joint membership with our branch.

If you know of anyone interested in joining AAUW please have them contact Yvonne Payne, Membership Chair at 610-867-7565 or by email at paynespitzer@hotmail.com. Remember that the membership criteria now welcomes graduates of community colleges and diploma-granting schools of nursing.

Erna Fritz Writes

Life member Erna Fritz relocated to be closer to family and encourages her friends to contact her at 2033 Butterfly Ln., Apt 415, Naperville IL 60563; telephone 630-717-6588. In her active retirement community she joined the investment club, computer club and the crew of the in-house TV station. Erna is still trying to sell her home in Bethlehem Township.

Lily Ledbetter Featured in *Oprah*

In the summer issue on Powerful Women of *Oprah* magazine, Lily Ledbetter was number 29: The Awesome Power of Everywoman. "Work hard and play by the rules: That cornerstone of the American dream crumbled a bit in 2007 when the Supreme Court ruled against Ledbetter. Five male justices invoked the statute of limitations for pay-discrimination claims, and decided that the inequity Ledbetter suffered had expired. She kept fighting and the new law that bears her name nullified the Court's decision. Today the 71-year old retiree is championing what she calls the next logical step - the Paycheck Fairness Act. Ledbetter never received a dime in back pay but her name is now shorthand for a new motto: Work hard, play by the rules - and, if necessary, change them."

2009 Book Fair Breaks Record

Co-chairs Nancy Disario and Karen Donald report that the April Book Fair grossed \$34,559 with a net of \$32,951. "The public loves our event," says Nancy. In addition to many sales, five charities took the leftover volumes, making clean up easier.

Officers

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

Eleanor Roosevelt

AAUW National Convention St. Louis Provides Dramatic Background for Meeting



Pennsylvania delegation members at the AAUW National Convention.
(Linda Robbins in striped shirt, standing)

Our own Linda Robbins attended the June convention along with 976 delegates. The overriding topic was a change to membership requirements. That amendment did not pass and membership in AAUW continues to require a minimum of an associate's degree from an accredited college, university, or school of nursing.

An important change for conventions is that the delegate system was eliminated and one person (attending) will now represent one vote. This may change the flavor of floor debates, but one hope is that technology may allow video-conferencing by the 2011 Washington DC. convention.

AAUW Partners were established. This will allow organizations that share our mission to join - examples might be Girls Scouts and corporations.

The only required officers that a branch must have going forward are President and Treasurer (Financial Officer). Branches may choose to keep their current structure. Suggested models for branch structures will be posted on the Association website.

Linda Tozier (MAR Director and past AAUW-PA President) received the second highest number of votes of the nine Director-at-Large candidates. She gave a great speech, ending with a song and waving signs. Linda is retiring on June 30th, so she will have plenty of time to devote to her new office.

Pennsylvania's Sally Chamberlain lost her bid for AAUW President by about 50 votes to Carolyn Garfein (CA). Sally ran a great campaign, but AAUW-CA is hard to challenge with a delegation of just under 100 pushing for their candidate.

AAUW Scholarship Recipients Honored in May



From left: Soyeon Kim, Rebeka Torley, Catherine Zalit, Laura Ranella and Taryn Luchinsky.



From right: Bethany DeWalt, Brynne McGarry, Arianna Lightfoot, Jessica Laubach, and Julie Brugger.

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Time Sensitive Material

Call President Susan McNamara with your questions (610-861-8066).

Make your \$18 check payable to "AAUW Makefield Area Branch" (includes lunch) and send to Kathy Shaginaw: 808 Kent Drive, Yardley PA 19067. Registration deadline is October 10, 2009.

Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls! is our theme and Bethlehem AAUW is carpooling. Come to hear workshops on health care reform (Dr. Walter Tsou), Social Networking, Alternative Branch Structures, and the Equal Pay/WAGE Project. We may even stay to explore the booths of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen Fine Arts Fair at the same location.

Pennsylvania District 3 Meeting
Saturday October 17 at Montgomery County Community College
10 am - 3 pm