



The FORECASTER

Pennsylvania Division AAUW – Doylestown Branch

www.aauw-doylestown.org

A Platinum Branch

Gerry Sproesser, *President*

AAUW Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Doylestown Branch Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

7:00pm, Heritage Towers

We have to switch things up for our October program. Kamini Carroll's schedule developed some unforeseen problems and the easiest thing to do is to switch our April speaker into the October space, so Julia Child will make her appearance on October 7th at 7:00, and we'll be "Understanding Indian Culture through Interpersonal Relationships" with Kamini Carroll at our April meeting. Julia is portrayed by AAUW member Linda Kenyon, whom many of you know, and whom you may have seen as Eleanor Roosevelt in the Celtic Cross Room at our October 2006 meeting. Linda is a member of the Screen Actors' Guild, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and in addition to her two one woman shows and stage appearances in the Washington area, she has narrated for the Discovery Channel, the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Civil Rights Museum, the Postal Museum, the Gettysburg Visitors' Center and several video games. The 45 minute script, "Julia Says, 'Bon Appetit!'" was written by Clay Teunis. Although for practical reasons, no actual cooking goes on during the show, Linda is a pretty good cook, and will be happy to try to answer any cooking questions you may have

AAUW Tea, September 27, 2 to 4pm at the home of Pat Von Seggern, 1936 Street Rd., New Hope, (215-794-8297)

Members/Prospective Members/New Members are invited and encouraged to attend! This event is a wonderful time to socialize with other members, since that type of time is limited at meetings. We do want to know if you are coming and who you are bringing as a guest. **Please respond ASAP to Christina Dowling (215-348-1214, 215-801-4066, or cdowlingpa@aol.com) or Gerry Sproesser (215-322-7823, or gsproess@hotmail.com).** *We hope to see you all there*

Notes from the President

WARM, WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE AND ACTIVE

Gerry Sproesser

AAUW attempts to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. Each September we encourage women who share this mission to become members at our tea, a Shape the Future event. This social allows women to become branch members for a reduced fee.

Unfortunately, as our branch grows, (our membership is a scant 100 persons), it becomes more and more difficult for each of us to know others. All of us need to reach out to all of our members, to make our organization warm, welcoming, inclusive and active. Each of us needs to make everyone, present and new members, feel a part of a living, dynamic organization.

At meetings, introduce yourself to at least one person you haven't met previously, and then, in turn, introduce that person to one of your friends. Get to know one fact about a member....where they live....what do they like to do in their leisure time...etc. Invite her to join a study group you particularly like.

Get active. Attend as many activities as possible. Attend the District meeting, October 17. Volunteer your time. Agree to help with behind the scenes activities. Send a note or give a phone call to someone you haven't seen in awhile. Volunteer. Form a barn book sorting and lunch/brunch group to meet frequently. Determine what you can do to make our organization vital. Be outgoing. VOLUNTEER!

Our goal is to foster an active, growing membership, promote equal opportunities for women and girls and create a healthy, friendly culture in our branch. Membership – it's hard work! Give of yourself and you will be amazed at the benefits.

October Board Meeting ,October 7, 2009 at 5:30pm Heritage Towers

Study & Interests Groups

Paula Young 215-794-8602 pjyoung@pil.net and Doss Hermann 215-257-2550 Ms.Dos@hotmail.com

Adelante Book Club

Pat Niesenbaum 215-489-0739 pniesenbaum@comcast.net
The group will meet to discuss BAREFOOT HEART by Elva Trevino Hart. Our hostess is Betsy Smith, 215-489-1125. Please contact Betsy if you plan to attend. The date will be Wednesday ,**October 21st** at 3:00pm.
Newcomers welcome

Bridge

Maureen Shuster 215-348-2071 maureenv-shu@msn.com
The group meets the third Tuesday of November, February and June. Newcomers are always welcome

Curmudgeons (Book Sale)

Besse Brindle 215-348-4942, Amy Lancaster 215-348-9654
Meetings will be at 1:30PM at the home of Amy, 137 Lafayette St. Meeting dates: **October 16**, November 13, , January 15, February 12, , March 12, , April 9 and 23.

Daytime Literature Review

Peggy Michaud 215-345-8470 michaud20@verizon.net
The daytime literature group will meet Thursday, **October 22**, at Pat VonSeggern's where Nancy Brown will lead the discussion of Alastair McLeod's " NO GREAT MISCHIEF"

Evening Eclectics

Barbara Theiss 215-348-1145 grandbtheiss@comcast.net
October 14 The Passion of Artemesia by Susan Vreeland will be discussed at the home of Barbara Theiss

Health & Nutrition

Phyllis Weir 215-345-1075 drupesw@verizon.net
Our next meeting will be on Monday, **November 9** at 3:30pm at Phyllis'. Our topic will be LDL - size matters. Also we will discuss any topic of interest to our group that arises by November.

Issues

Lois Plotnick 215-343-0613 lois.plotnick@gmail.com
The next meeting is Monday, **November, 16** ,4:00p.m. Since the September meeting was canceled, we will pursue the same topic: The Economy & Its Effect on our Domestic Agenda. Carolyn Cowgill will host..

International Culture & Cuisine

Paula Young 215-794-8602 pjyoung@pil.net

Mah Jongg

Mary Lee Lieser 215-489-5577 billtravel@msn.com
The Mah Jongg group meets at a member's home on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. We will have games on **October 6th** and **October 20th**. Please contact Mary Lee by phone or email if you would like to join us for either or both of the October games. New players are most welcome!

NEW Group Psychology in the Popular Media

Mary Raskin 215-345-0961 donald.raskin@verizon.net
We would like to start a new group this fall:. This will be a discussion group looking at Psych topics covered in books, movies, magazines (Atlantic Monthly, New Yorker, Harper's, US News, Time, etc). Louan Lukens will be co-coordinating this with me.
We will discuss the plans for the group at the introductory tea and at the first general meeting. At those times, members interested in joining the group should let us know.

Quilters-Broken Dishes

Emily Sippel 215-340-1579 badem52@live.com
Contact Emily for information

Membership News

A card of condolence was sent to the family of Leola Van Valkenburg, who passed away n September 3, 2009. Leola served as President of the Doylestown Branch for the 1993-1994 year. She received the Doylestown Branch's Outstanding Woman Award in 1997.

Get Well cards have been sent to Louise McLeod and Gerry Sproesser. A card has been sent to Chris Dowling whose father is seriously ill.

Cultural Trips

Wednesday, October. 21st, Woodford Mansion and Laurel Hill Cemetery. Meeting time and place: 8:00am, Marshall's. We will have a 2 hour educational walking tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery, the docent led tour is \$10.00 per person. Lunch will be at Market Place East. After lunch we will have a one hour tour of Woodford Mansion, A Georgian summer home built in 1756 by merchant William Colman, followed by a tour of the Georgian mansion built in 1767 by Rebecca Rowle. Each homes will be \$5.00/\$3.00 (senior). Drivers will be needed, contact Pamela Good (215-230-8373) as a count is needed.

November. 6th, We will go to the Princess Diana exhibit at the National Constitution Center. They will have her wedding gown, 28 designer dresses, and priceless family jewels. . Please call Becky Powers @ 215-340-7742 by September 18th.

December. 9th, Wednesday, Christmas in Bethlehem

Leave. Buckingham Green 12:30 pm via Bucks County Transport; arrive Bethlehem 1:30 pm; browse, shop, lunch or refreshments on own. Board bus for group 40-min. tour of town with costumed guide; leave. for Doylestown after bus tour. Total cost - \$17.70 per person for those **65 & older** (trans. \$8.70; tour cost \$9.00). One person under 65 may come as a guide. Bucks County **Transport requires proof of age – call Jean Kraus for necessary form 215-453-1306 or jeankraus@comcast.net**. This trip limited to 20 persons

AAUW Public Policy

Meg Sheketoff

AAUW in the News

from the NY Times

"The names of at least two more charities were used in a lobbying campaign that sent out letters in June falsely purporting to be from nonprofit groups to express opposition to climate change legislation pending in the House of Representatives. Last week, Congressional officials said that the letters, sent out by the firm Bonner & Associates, had used the names of an NAACP chapter and a network of nonprofit organizations serving Latinos in Charlottesville, VA. Among the additional charities whose names were used is the **American Association of University Women**, which said the ploy 'constitutes outright deceit and demonstrates a breathtaking lack of ethics.' ... The Sierra Club has asked the Justice Department to file criminal charges against the lobbying firm."

Stephanie Strom New York Times,

August 8, 2009

September 11, 2009

There are so many issues politically and personally involved in the AAUW public policy 2009 – 2011, that it is difficult to chose which one to write about this month. Last month I touched on Health Care Reform. As this is the nation's issue du jour, I feel it is worthwhile to address it again.

AAUW has put their desires for our new health care system succinctly on their web page:

"* End the practice of "gender rating": Gender rating is the process by which insurance companies charge men and women different premiums for individually-purchased health care plans.

* Require coverage of women's reproductive health services: AAUW's 2009-2011 Public Policy Program advocates, "choice in the determination of one's reproductive life...increased access to health care and family planning services including expansion of patients' rights."7 AAUW has long believed that politicians should not insert themselves into the decision-making process when it comes to reproductive health care, which is a basic element of women's health care overall. As a result, AAUW firmly believes that health care reform legislation should require coverage of women's reproductive health services.

* Ensure access to and coverage of preventive services and care: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the two leading causes of death for women in America are heart disease and cancer – afflictions that can often be prevented if women have access to preventive care services such as screenings, immunizations, and educational material. Please contact your Senators and Congress people to let them know how you feel. For contact information on your representatives, go to their respective web sites. "

Health care is intrinsically tied to economic security; this is particularly true for women, who earn less than men on average and use more health care services than men do. These two factors-less income, more costs-mean women face a high level of health care insecurity. Health care reform is necessary now more than ever, and it must focus on the need for access and affordability-in a way that is equitable to women.

Senator Specter 202-224-4254

Senator Casey 202 -224-6324

10/09

	OPERATING Fund	BOOK Fund
ASSETS	\$8,602.98	\$11,777.48
LIABILITIES	<u>00.00</u>	<u>3,280.00</u>
BALANCE	\$8,602.98	\$8,497.48

Doylestown Branch participates with **Genuardi's Community Cash Back Program**. If you register your Genuardi's card, a percentage of each purchase is donated to our organization. If you participated last year, don't forget to renew this year. Go to **escrip.com** and click on "YES! Renew." Have your Genuardi's card handy as you will have to reenter your number.

If you haven't been a participant before, go to **escrip.com** and click on "sign up" to register your Genuardi's card. Our Group ID number is **149029896**. Contact Besse Brindle at 215-348-4942 or **JBBrindle@aol.com** if you have questions or problems.

District Meeting

On Saturday, October 17, the AAUW-PA District 3 (Eastern PA) branches will gather at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The cost, including lunch, is \$18.00. The day will start with Kate Sweeney, AAUW-PA Co-President, presenting an update on the AAUW Convention in St. Louis.

Our focus will then turn to a topic in the news every day – health care reform. Dr. Walter Tsou, MD, MPH, a public health and health policy consultant, will discuss options being considered. We hope to add an additional speaker on health care reform to our agenda (stay tuned).

A networking lunch will follow the health care reform discussion. After lunch topics will include:

Social Networking 101: Facebook, Linked-In, Twitter, Second Life; Alternate Branch Structures – should your branch change how it operates?; Gateway to Equity Awards – a great way to recognize organizations and people who partner with your branch; Pay Equity & WAGE Project: Learn the latest on one of AAUW's highest profile public policy efforts and learn what you can do to help on a local level (Dot McLane & Graham Boose)

After the Regional Meeting, enjoy the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen's Fine Craft Fair on the other side of the MCCC campus.

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Hospitality

Pamela Good 215-230-8373

The Hospitality committee welcomes you back to the first AAUW meeting on Wednesday, October 7 the refreshments will be provided by the Adelante book group.

EMPOWERING WOMEN GLOBALLY

By Carolyn Cowgill

You are eligible to join our on-line organization, Women Graduates-USA, if you have a graduate degree and live in the USA. Louise McLeod and I were among the founding members of this group who met in Manchester, England in 2007 after AAUW decided to drop out of IFUW (International Federation of University Women). Louise volunteered to be the web mistress, a very important position in an on-line organization, and I became the secretary. By the fall of 2008, we had incorporated, achieved 501 (c) (3) tax status, and been accepted as the US representative for IFUW. We met face to face for our first Annual General Meeting in Perry, Iowa, and our speaker was Ardith Toogood, past president of Canadian Federation of University Women. It's been an exciting ride and along the way we were joined by Mary Goldstein, Amy Lancaster, Meg Sheketoff, and Paula Young.

This fall we will join our west Coast members in Long Beach, California for our second Annual General Meeting. We will have dinner on the Queen Elizabeth which is docked nearby, elect officers and board members, and network with women discussing the needs of women around the world. Are you interested in empowering women globally through education, friendship, and mutual support? Louise put together the beautiful website at www.wg-usa.org. Our dues are \$50, and we welcome you to join us on line and in Long Beach.

MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS!

On Friday, October 2, 2009, the 29 organizations in the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition are sponsoring **A Conversation with Our Legislators**. It is a public forum on the needs of women and girls in Bucks County which will be held at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit at 705 N. Shady Retreat Road in Doylestown from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Come have a cup of coffee and learn more about the needs of women and girls in Bucks County. At the same time you will be showing your support for the BC Women's Advocacy Coalition and AAUW Doylestown Branch's mission.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HEALTH CARE

You will hear speakers from local agencies and women's organizations if you attend the 12:00 **HEALTH CARE RALLY** at the Bucks County Court House in Doylestown on Wednesday, October 14. Tam St. Clair announced at the September 8 meeting of the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition that the White Ribbon Campaign representing bandages to repair health care originated in Bucks County. As a White Ribbon event sponsored by Bucks County Voices for Health Care Reform, there will be a march from the Doylestown Library at 11:30 a.m. ending at the Court House where the rally will take place. Health Care is one of the areas being researched by the Advocacy Coalition because it impacts women who are working toward economic sustainability.

"Frame the Message"

Lois Plotnick

How should we frame our message to inspire the public and motivate our legislators to take action? Carolyn Cowgill, Louise McLeod, Nancy Blois and I attended a workshop sponsored by the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition for the purpose of advancing our mission. AAUW- Doylestown is one of 29 women's organizations that constitute the Coalition. As a non-partisan organization, it works to empower & advocate with its non-profit supporters to promote gender equality and economic self-sufficiency for all. The two areas targeted were how to frame our message to the public and understanding the legal limitations and opportunities of advocacy. Sharon Wilson, a law professor & Director at the Center for Community Nonprofits, shared her legal expertise on these matters. Our other presenter, Sara Stuart, Director of Development and Communication for a New York Association, created hands-on activities to develop media strategies for promoting the Coalition's goals. A benefit of our relationship with the Coalition will encourage legislators to take notice of our advocacy as there is strength in numbers. The workshop also presented opportunities for networking with similar organizations. We were pleased to take advantage of this event.

AAUW PA Statewide Teleconference with Lisa Maatz
AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations
September 10, 2009

This information was compiled by Louise McLeod

At the recent AAUW National Convention, AAUW encouraged all attendees to call and urge their senators to support pay equity and the Paycheck Fairness Act. The first state delegation to fill their senators' voice mailboxes with these messages would receive a special prize. Through our wonderful activism, tenacity, and enthusiasm, the AAUW Pennsylvania delegation won!

Discussion topics included: Education policies, No Child Left Behind, Paycheck Fairness Act, Health Care Reform, Effective Public Policy Action. About 50 PA AAUW members participated in the call. Lisa spent the first 30 minutes discussing the topics that had been given to her prior to the call and then members were allowed to field questions. This is a short synopsis of the Lisa's remarks.

No Child Left Behind: In a nutshell, there is nothing being done in this area by Congress at this time, nor will there be anything to work with any time soon since all efforts are being directed towards health care reform.

Education Policies

STEM: AAUW at the present time is working towards strengthening the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) project.

Title IX: AAUW is directing its energies towards sports at the secondary school level and is currently collecting data on who plays sports and what are they playing. They will focus on how schools should be held accountable for their progress and their AYP (adequate yearly progress) scores. Most of the data collection and focus to date has been at the colleges/universities level. AAUW is working on a safe and drug-free schools act. Check out AAUW's report "Where the Girls Are" that shows a closer achievement gap.

Health Care Reform: AAUW has been circumspect in regards to health care and does not have a strong health care policy. We are not a health care organization. Public Policy is best left to those organizations that have a strong focus on that topic and have credibility within the area of expertise. There are other groups/organizations that do it better and with more. AAUW does concern itself with health care inasmuch as good health reform will effect the economic status and security of the women it affects. That is where our strength lies. AAUW published a position paper on Health Care Reform and it can be found on the AAUW website.

AAUW's position on Health Care:

- 1) get rid of the gender rating for health insurance. Women get charged more than men.
- 2) Ensure coverage of reproductive health issues such as birth control and reproductive health tests such as pap smears.
- 3) Ensure preventive care coverage: screenings, immunizations, and educational materials.

Paycheck Fairness

33 senators are now co-sponsors of the Paycheck Fairness act. Senator Specter is not one of them although Senator Casey is. Health Care is now deemed to be a priority so we need to speed up the process towards an equal pay act. We also need to teach women how to better negotiate salaries and contracts.

How to Motivate Branch Members in areas of Public Policy

Make AAUW Public Policy issues a part of every branch activity, even the bridge groups. (ie. Bring up a topic for discussion during the play).

Always leave room for civil debate in conversation.

Spur public policy action by reminding everyone that AAUW public policy debate is needed now more than ever before. Our non-partisan background is needed and is a valuable tool.

Attend town hall meetings and speak out as an AAUW member as long as you are taking an AAUW position.

Use AAUW resources. Everything is available on the website.

Question from a participant:

What kinds of coalition partners are best to work with so we can move our issues forward? (note: AAUW Doylestown is part of the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Group)

Answer: Business and professional women's groups; League of Women Voters; General Federation of Women's Clubs; the PTA; Colleges/Universities Departments of Women's Studies; Soroptimist; Altrusa etc.

Pull in another group to share the load eg. Equal Pay Day Coalition; have an interesting event (include high school girls and discuss the wage gap)

When speaking on behalf of AAUW, you may not adopt a position that AAUW doesn't have policy on or one that is contrary to an AAUW public policy position. In that case, speak as an individual. Call or e-mail AAUW to find out.

Lisa is a very motivational speaker and researches her topics well. It was a stimulating hour of listening and conversation.

Pat Von Seggern
 1936 Street Road
 New Hope PA 18938



AAUW

AAUW Calendar; October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 BRANCH MEETING	8	9	10
11	12	13 Mah Jongg	14 Evening Eclectics	15	16 Curmudgeons	17
18	19	20	21 Adelante Cultural Trip	22 Daytime Lit	23	24
25	26	27 Mah Jongg	28	29	30	31

Dates to Remember

Member/New Member/Prospective Member Tea, September 27, 2009

First Branch Meeting, October 7, 2009

Board Meeting, October 7, 2009

National: www.aauw.org	Pennsylvania: www.aauwpa.org
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