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Vol. 69, No. 4 *The Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Pennsylvania* SUMMER 2003

Images from AAUW-PA Convention



Past AAUW-PA Presidents

(left to right): Wendy Armour Dickinson, 1998-2000; Mary Purcell, 1968-1970; Karen Allen, 2000-2002; Susan Nenstiel, 1992-1996; Anne Harker Dayton, 1982-1984



Nothing Keeps Me From Convention

A number of convention attendees were part of the "walking wounded" but said that nothing would keep them from participating.



Sharing AAUW Successes

Association President, Nancy Rustad, far left, Louise Tanner, District Coordinator, second from left, and members of the Butler branch talk AAUW over lunch.

LAF Luncheon

\$1,780 was raised for LAF and Graciela

Chichilnisky, Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) plaintiff, pictured here.

Chichilnisky, professor of statistics at Columbia University and UNESCO Professor of Math and Economics, has sued

Columbia university for sex discrimination, retaliation, and breach of settlement agreement. To read more about Ms. Chichilnisky's case and LAF visit: <http://www.aauw.org/laf/cases/chichilnisky.cfm>



Public Policy
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Diamond donor
campaign
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Outstanding
Women
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Find Your Niche, Speak Out and Become Involved

By Linda Haigh Tozier, AAUW-PA President

Our 74th state convention offered opportunities for us to do all of the above. Over 125 members participated in a wide array of activities from interactive workshops, to outstanding speakers, to the unveiling of the Diamond Donor pin, to two lively Town Hall debates. We were fortunate to have as leader-on-loan, Nancy Rustad, Association President, who conducted both Town Halls.

The Friday night Town Hall was devoted to discussion about the proposed bylaws amendments. The most spirited debate revolved around the proposal to change the membership requirements. Several branches read petitions in opposition to the proposal. Individual opinions expressed ran the gamut from strong approval to strong opposition.

The proposed Association dues increase was the sole topic at the Saturday Town Hall. Nancy Rustad began the debate by stating that revenue from dues has decreased significantly in the last two years. Nancy also stated that the number of Association paid staff has been reduced by one-third. The proposed fixed annual increase had strong opposition. Many pointed out that no ending date was attached to this proposal. The second proposal for a one-time increase prompted a variety of responses. In true AAUW fashion, we did "Speak Out."

Branches not attending Association Convention have a method of proposing amendments to the bylaws amendments, resolutions and biennial public policy program. The procedure for proposed amendments by unrepresented branches and the amendment form were distributed to every branch present at state convention. The District Coordinators mailed these forms to all branches which were not in attendance. It is important to note that this procedure is for branches only, not individuals.

I'll be at the Westin Hotel in Providence from June 20 – 23 for the Association Convention. I have booked a room for 5:30 on Friday night (June 20th) for the AAUW-PA state caucus. I hope that Pennsylvania has a strong representation to make our voices heard. The four convention workshop tracks look very interesting: Taking Action in Our Communities, Leadership and Organizational Change, Lifelong Learning (Work Force and Beyond) and Everything AAUW.

There are several ways for AAUW-PA members to become involved in activities right here in the Keystone State. AAUW-PA has agreed to participate in the Good Schools Pennsylvania Stand for Children Campaign, a campaign which is organizing groups who stand for education justice in Pennsylvania to meet in Harrisburg every day the legislature is in session. Wednesday, June 11th has been designated AAUW-PA Day. State Public Policy Chair, Jerry Blum, is in charge of this project. We are seeking 100 mem-



bers to gather in Harrisburg on June 11th. To get involved, contact Jerry at jerry.blum@lycos.com. Look for information updates to appear on the AAUW-PA e-mail network.

I hope that many of you will decide to participate in our 75th Anniversary Diamond Donor Campaign. The way you participate is up to you. You can give a donation at any of the gem levels over the next twelve months. No contribution will be turned down. Or perhaps you would like to purchase the beautiful 75th pin at a cost of \$20. All monies received are tax-deductible. To get involved, contact Karen Rowe at krowe@I-lead.org or Kathy Lepovetsky at drneal@ncentral.com. Make your plans now to attend the next State Convention in Valley Forge on April 16, 17 and 18, 2004, to share in the culmination of this project.

One final way to get involved is to make sure that your branch is represented at the AAUW-PA Leadership Training Day on July 19th in Lewisburg. AAUW-PA is inviting two members from each branch to join the Board at the Country Cupboard for a variety of informational workshops. Additional branch members are welcome but will pay for their own lunches. Those attending will receive an in-depth analysis of the results of the Association Convention, a how-to workshop to update branch bylaws, samples of branch 21st Century Recognition Program proposals, and an opportunity to network with other branches for membership and programming issues. Contact your branch president for details.

Whatever niche you choose, thanks for getting involved.

Linda Tozier

Equal Pay Tops Public Policy Concerns

by Jerry Blum, AAUW-PA Public Policy Chair

Those of you with Web access will be pleased to know that the Association Web site <http://www.aauw.org> has recently (4/15) been significantly improved. For the first time, new items are available online for all AAUW members. Our highly prized Action Alert monthly policy newsletter is the first item under this heading. We'll also post guides, research, and many more "for members only" items in the future. In addition, other information and action items will be constantly added and updated. You'll also have easier navigation, less clicking, and less scrolling to find what you're looking for. Need a form, any form? Click on "Forms" and you're there. Your branch members will find it quick and easy to give their favorite graduate a free AAUW membership, by just clicking on "Give a Grad a Gift." Especially for our state and branch leaders, we have compiled information, tools, and resources all under the category of "Branches and States." For all leaders, we have enhanced the Leader Corner. You'll also find quick links to convention, Shop AAUW, and publications. The new Member Center offers immediate clicks to today's hot issues of concern to women and girls and a "Take Action Now" button for you to make sure all your members' voices get heard.

Tuesday, April 15, was Equal Pay Day. Currently, women are paid 76 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts. Over a working lifetime, this wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family an estimated \$250,000. AAUW continues to bring attention to the struggles working women experience to achieve pay equity. This week, AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund announced it is awarding a grant to Dr. Linda Brodsky, an acclaimed practitioner of pediatric medicine, in her case against the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. Dr. Brodsky, a nationally and internationally recognized expert for her research in pediatric otolaryngology (the study of ears, nose, and throat), is a powerful symbol of unequal pay for equal work. Please visit the link below to view AAUW's statement on this case: http://www.aauw.org/1000/press_release/030409.html

Visit the following link to view AAUW's position paper on pay equity:
<http://www.aauw.org/1000/fspp.html>

Also, the AAUW Educational Foundation will soon be releasing its latest research report, "Women at Work." Adding to the discussion on equal pay, this new report provides a detailed look at the changing nature and conditions of women's work in today's service-based economy.

Each year, advocates across the country sponsor Equal Pay Day events to bring attention to the struggle working women continue to endure for pay equity. This year the National Committee on Pay Equity, Business and Professional Women, USA, and

the National Association of Commissions for Women are taking the lead in planning events and activities for Equal Pay Day. Please click on the links below for more information on Equal Pay Day and events taking place nationwide to bring attention to the wage gap:

<http://www.feminist.com/fairpay/epd2003.htm>

[http://www.bpwusa.org/content/fairpay/](http://www.bpwusa.org/content/fairpay/EqualPayDay/equalpayday.htm)

[EqualPayDay/equalpayday.htm](http://www.nacw.org)

<http://www.nacw.org>

For those not getting equal pay, welfare is often a major concern. On Feb. 13, the House passed (230-192) the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2003 (H.R. 4). H.R. 4 lacks adequate access to education and training programs; increases work requirements without providing adequate childcare funding; authorizes \$300 million per year for experimental marriage promotion programs; and includes \$50 million per year in funding for abstinence-only programs. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) should have been reauthorized by the end of the 107th Congress, and has been operating under a continuing resolution since Sept. 30, 2002. PRWORA was enacted in 1996 and dramatically altered the way the federal government provides financial assistance to poor families. Under this act, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) was created, which among other things instituted work requirements and set an arbitrary time limit of 60 months on families receiving assistance. Further, these new rules made it harder for many poor women to access the education and training programs needed to achieve economic self-sufficiency and move out of poverty. As the debate moves to the Senate, advocates will press for increased access to education and job training. Call your senators at 1-202-224-3121, and ask them to support common sense welfare reauthorization that includes increased access to education and training programs, increased childcare funding, and maintains current work hour requirements. For more information, call 1-800-608-5286, email votered@aauw.org or visit http://www.aauw.org/takeaction/policyissues/welfare_reauthorization.cfm

**As of July 1st,
remit all dues to:**

**Susan DiGirolamo
AAUW-PA Finance Officer
735 Heathergate Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238**

AAUW-PA 75th Anniversary: Diamond Donor Campaign Update



We have secured over \$12,000 in pledges and donations toward our goal of \$75,000 to sponsor a joint EF and LAF report on the experiences and status of women in higher education. WE NEED YOU ~ contribute generously.

Q -Will my donation count toward my branch?

Yes, all donations will count individually, to your branch, and to the state as well. So your contribution will help your branch reach their per capita goals for EF and LAF.

Q -Can a branch be a Diamond Donor?

Yes, an individual or a branch can make a gift and receive the same recognition.

Q - Are my donations tax deductible?

Yes, as allowed by law.

Q - When will this campaign end?

We must reach our goal of \$75,000 by our next state convention, April 2004. This means – if you have a fixed amount set aside to annually contribute, you will have two years in which to give to the campaign! This also means – you can make monthly payments for up to eleven months! (\$100 x 10 = \$1,000 *A Diamond Donor!*)

Q – Where can I get an anniversary pin?

Pins are available from Karen Rowe and Kathy Lepovetsky for a minimum donation of \$20.

Q – Will I get an anniversary pin if I am a “gem” donor?

Yes, the 75th anniversary pins cost a minimum \$20.00. If you give more than that, you will get a pin. In addition, if your donation is at least \$200, you are entitled to a 2003 LAF pin as well!



Celebrate AAUW-PA's
75th Anniversary
in style by wearing
this beautiful
hand-crafted pin for
only \$20.00.

If you would like more information about our AAUW-PA 75th Anniversary Diamond Donor Campaign or have questions on how to make a payment contribution, please contact:

Karen Rowe
2498 Seneca Dr
York PA 17404
717-767-6654
krowe@I-lead.org

Kathy Lepovetsky
PO Box 27
St Mary's PA 15857
814-781-7762
drneal@ncentral.com

Legal Advocacy Fund Sees Increased Giving in PA

TOP BRANCHES FOR TOTAL GIVING OF \$700 OR HIGHER

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| State College | \$10,585 |
| Philadelphia, Inc. | \$ 6,455 |
| Harrisburg | \$ 895 |
| Makefield Area | \$ 885 |
| York | \$ 870 |
| Eastern Delaware Co. | \$ 715 |

THE FOLLOWING BRANCHES INCREASED THEIR DONATIONS FROM \$ 0.00 TO \$ X.XX

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Hazleton | \$500 |
| Reading | \$375 |
| California | \$100 |
| Crafton-SW Hills | \$100 |
| Towanda | \$ 85 |

BRANCH GIFTS OF \$5.00+ PER CAPITA (Alphabetical Order)

| |
|-------------------------|
| Bethlehem |
| Easton |
| Philadelphia, Inc |
| Butler |
| Edinboro |
| Scranton |
| Carlisle |
| Harrisburg |
| State College |
| Crafton-Southwest Hills |
| Hazleton |
| Valley Forge |
| Doylestown |
| Makefield Area |
| West Chester |
| Eastern Delaware County |
| North Hills/McKnight |
| York |

TOP BRANCHES BY PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF 100% OR MORE

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Fox Chapel | 900% |
| Philadelphia, Inc. | 416% |
| Scranton | 235% |
| Lansdale | 125% |
| Edinboro | 100% |
| Lancaster | 100% |

TOTAL PENNSYLVANIA DONATIONS:

Increased from \$22,661
to **\$28,582.39**

AAUW-PA will join Good Schools Pennsylvania to *Stand for Children* in Harrisburg on June 11

At the AAUW-PA Convention in April, the Board adopted an historic resolution: to participate in the movement for funding and education reform in the public schools of Pennsylvania. In particular, the Board voted to host a ***Stand for Children Day*** along with Good Schools Pennsylvania on June 11, 2003 at the Capitol in Harrisburg. ***Stand for Children*** is a 50 day event hosted by various Pennsylvania constituencies that will maintain a presence in the Capitol every day the legislature is in session. They will urge legislators to pass meaningful education reform this session. This will be a day of action and lobbying local legislators and we urge all chapters across Pennsylvania to contact Good Schools Pennsylvania to arrange to participate.

As members of AAUW, each of us understands the value of quality education and the benefits and blessings of a college degree. Unfortunately, too many of Pennsylvania's children are not getting adequately prepared to enjoy the same good fortune.

There is a crisis in public education in Pennsylvania. Because of the way we fund education in this state, mainly through local property taxes, school districts in wealthy communities have lots of money for schools, while school districts in poorer communities struggle with barely adequate resources. The system is unfair to taxpayers too with some taxpayers paying almost twice what others pay for properties of similar value. The disparity in funding results in a wide disparity in achievement as well. Almost fifty percent of children in Pennsylvania score at marginal or below in 11th grade reading assessments.

For these reasons, Governor Rendell has recently offered a sweeping proposal that invests new dollars in programs demonstrated to boost student achievement, reduces local taxes as a primary source of education revenues, lowers property taxes and serves to narrow the gap between wealthy and poorer districts.

Pennsylvania faces a momentary opportunity to create historic change. Pennsylvania citizens must make their voices heard and tell their legislators that we want better educational opportunities for all of Pennsylvania's children. Members of AAUW can add their voices to this call for action.

In addition to AAUW Day on June 11, Good Schools Pennsylvania is coordinating **two state-wide rallies on May 13 and June 26**, just before the final budget deadline. Please make a commitment to attend one of these important events and take along a friend. Log onto www.goodschoolspa.org or contact Beth Olanoff at beth@goodschoolspa.org or 215-272-3696 for more information and to arrange transportation for your group.

The children of Pennsylvania are counting on you.

Membership Grant Winners and Ideas

by M. Petrizzo & S. Stevenson,
Co-Membership Vice-Presidents

Out of 8 applications 5 grants were awarded. The summary of each awardee's efforts is below:

Sate College: District 1

A panel discussion was held on "Title IX: Opening or Closing Doors?" which was publicized in the local media, on campuses nationwide, and within AAUW.

Lake Wallenpaupack: District 2

A tea was held for teachers in the Wallenpaupack school district's five schools during Education Week along with a raffle of AAUW merchandise.

Butler: District 3

This struggling branch has welcomed 12+ new members this year. Monthly meetings have been replaced by 4 key events. Members also have a booth at a local Festival, write questions for a televised candidate's debate, and co-sponsor a local Martin Luther King Day celebration.

Lansdale: District 5

This branch's goal is to increase membership by 10% and are targeting young professional women through a full service website.

Makefield Area: District 5

This branch began a website that was subsidized through a community paper which then discontinued this service. Makefield has launched a new website with links to Association, EF and LAF topics.

Convention 2003: Evaluating this Convention and Planning for the Future

By Dianne Taylor Gregg, PVP, AAUW-PA

Three quarters of those turning in evaluation forms for Convention 2003 rated it excellent. One quarter rated it good. Just one person gave it a lower rating: she said it was only fair because the schedule was too tight. The schedule was tight. Every event and presenter received positive evaluation, but that did mean there was little time to use the Chat Room.

This bears on the question we've been asking annually for some years now: what is the right length for Convention? All but two of those responding said this year's length was right. All responders except one plan to attend Convention in the future.

We appreciate the numerous helpful comments and suggestions that cover everything from order of scheduling to possible expansion on workshop topics. Every member of the State Board has a copy of the full list of comments, to use in developing Convention 2004.

Planning and running Convention is a rewarding job, but a time consuming one that overshadows the rest of the Program Vice President's portfolio. My recommendation to the State Board was that the interests of the state organization are best served by splitting the PVP's job. Wendy Beatty-Burg and Dot McLane, both of the Lansdale branch, have agreed to take on planning Convention 2004, in Valley Forge.

I will continue with the Program Grants, Leader on Loan, and development of a space on the website for branch PVPs. Expect news of developments on these matters in the summer mailing to branch presidents.

District IV: Successful Projects Highlight Successful Women

By Wilma Kennedy, District IV Coordinator

Carlisle Branch

Since 1990, Carlisle Branch has co-sponsored a half-day women's symposium for the Carlisle community. This year the twelfth annual Women's Symposium was held on Saturday, March 8, 2003 at the YWCA of Carlisle. Co-sponsors included Carlisle Branch AAUW, Dickinson College, Dickinson School of Law Women's Caucus, League of Women Voters and the YWCA of Carlisle.

About 85 persons, ranging in age from 24 to over 60, attended the event. Participants selected one workshop from each of two sessions. Workshops at Session One were: *Survival Tips for a Healthy Tomorrow*, a panel discussion about medical tests women should be sure to get; *Where's My Money*, a financial planner explained the ten most common financial mistakes women make; and *Simply Love Living*, practical tips for a less stressful life. During Session Two, workshops included: *Discover the Work You Were Born to Do*, a workshop designed to help participants make mid-life career changes; *Will My Daughter be 'Normal' Again*, author Cheryl Dellasega discussed her book (*Surviving Ophelia*) where mothers shared their wisdom in navigating the tumultuous teenaged years; and *Walking the Simple Life*, examined the lives of women authors who had gained solitude by living a simple life.

Please contact Marjie Mowery, MAMM44@aol.com or 717-243-2491 with questions.

Franklin County Branch

A May banquet is planned for Thursday, May 8 at which guests are welcome. The Education Foundation chair of the branch is raising money in order to be able to fund a \$500 scholarship for a woman in Wilson College's "Women with Children Program" and also to fund their contribution to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. Contact Melanie Mao at memomelanie@comcast.net with any questions.

Harrisburg Branch

The Harrisburg branch launched a new Women's History Project: "Today's Women Making Tomorrow's History." The program featured three outstanding women, each making history in their respective fields, at lunchtime programs at Harrisburg Area Community College. The programs were co-sponsored with the Women's Leadership at HACC.

Dr. Mary Simmonds kicked off the series on March 4 with the topic "Making Medical History." Dr. Simmonds is a Clinical Professor of Medicine and a medical oncologist and a leader in the care of breast cancer patients. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition

and has been elected in November as the first woman president of the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Dorothy King was the second presenter on March 11. She is a playwright, performance poet and author of eleven short plays and seven full-length dramas, some with music. Dr. King uses various performance venues to tell her life's story, as well as that of other underrepresented groups. Following her performance she and her group presented a brief, original work, "Voices and Votes." Dr. King is on the adjunct faculty at both HACC and Penn State Harrisburg.

Ms. Mimi Box, the third presenter on March 25, is a groundbreaker in nontraditional jobs for women. She made history as the IRS's first woman undercover agent. She has degrees in accounting and business and was lured away from the IRS by the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles, where she became business manager and subsequently Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. She currently serves on the boards of Eagles Youth Partnership, a charitable wing of the Philadelphia Eagles, and the Corporate Alliance for Drug Education.

Contact Marcia Hajduk at mahajduk@adm.hacc.edu for further information.

Huntingdon Branch

Huntingdon Branch, as it has for more than 12 years, sponsored a Career Shadowing Program for sophomores from Huntingdon Area and Juniata Valley High Schools. All Juniata Valley sophomores (where the program is required) and a substantial number of Huntingdon students participated, each student spending a day or part of a day during the last week of April shadowing someone in that student's proposed career field. Parents and other interested local citizens helped Huntingdon Branch members to secure mentors for these students. Cooperation over the years involving AAUW members, schools, the local business and professional community, parents and students, has contributed greatly to the viability of our small branch and has been a very positive experience for students and mentors. Our Career Shadowing Program won the small branch Impact Award this year at AAUW-PA convention. We also are sponsoring a "Meet the Candidates" night in mid-May, to which we have invited all candidates for local school board vacancies, so that the Huntingdon area may be helped to make informed choices for these very important positions when they go to the polls. Please contact Elizabeth Traverse at etravers@earthlink.net with any questions.

District V: Members, Projects & Energy

by Kate Sweeney, District V Coordinator

Age is no barrier and youth works its own magic in **Makefield Area Branch** where members lives embrace new babies, demanding careers, 50th wedding anniversaries, and 75th-plus birthdays.

New members are wooed by a pro-active Membership VP whose creative efforts include tapping members-at-large (MALs), following up on suggestions, and cajoling. Prospective members attend branch meetings as honored guests, are welcomed warmly and introduced to other members. Contact is offered through the branch's website, www.aauwmakefield.com. Adding to each candidate's comfort, follow-up calls are made and newsletters mailed. The branch grows with women of all ages. Contact: Carol Kurland, 215-369-3500 or kurland38f@aol.com.

Other ingredients for branch success are diverse interest groups and community action projects. Balancing Act is the newest interest group and aims to include younger members facing the challenges of career, marriage and/or children. Makefield's Girls' Recognition Dinner in May of each year, recognizes the achievement in math and science of 38 seventh grade girls from 11 local middle schools. The event, which started on a shoestring as a potluck event, has grown in both size and prestige, with the help of grants from Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. The dinner, shared by girls, parents, teachers, and AAUW members, is followed by an awards presentation and a panel of three women currently working in math and science careers. They share their experience and encourage the girls to pursue higher level academics. Contact: Kristin Sullivan, kristin.sullivan2@verizon.net, 215-369-3500.

Philadelphia Branch is bustin' its seams with pride and joy at welcoming the Student Affiliate Satellite of Community College of Philadelphia (CCP). Philadelphia AAUW provides an up-to-date model for formal connection between an AAUW branch and local college students who are excited about the goals of AAUW and want to join the organization.

The pathway to this affiliation began with:

(a) a warm and welcoming AAUW invitation to a CCP student, (b) further encouragement by a CCP staff member, and (c) the vision of branch Membership VP who realized the opportunity to begin a student affiliate satellite on the community college campus. With continued support from Philadelphia AAUW and the staff of Community College of Philadelphia, students took the necessary steps to incorporate their group into the Philadelphia AAUW branch and become a recognized organization on their campus.

The new Student Affiliate's stated purpose includes the uniting of students to promote issues of self-esteem, equity, education, intellectual growth and development opportunities for girls and women, and promoting positive societal change on the campus and in the local community. Contact: Sally Stevenson, sarahymccs@earthlink.net, 610-649-

3421; Deborah Reed, Student Affiliate President, Dreedoasis3@aol.com.

From the **Pottstown Branch** comes a well-recognized quote: "We aren't many people but it's surprising how much we get done."

With small membership and a 30-year history, Pottstown branch members get involved with five nearby school districts during Women's History Month. They provide posters, make mobiles with students,



Student affiliates and Philadelphia branch members at the reception honoring the formation of the Student Affiliate.

and present portraits that tell about important women of the past. Additionally, a twelve-page coloring book, produced by Pottstown AAUW depicting historical areas in and around Pottstown, continues to be a school district request.

Pottstown AAUW raises funds through sale of cookbooks and pre-holiday nuts. The proceeds support a \$500 scholarship for a local woman returning to school in order to improve her work place opportunities. The branch has also participated in raising more than \$2500 for the Pottstown Library. Contact: Marilyn DiMuro, mhdimuro_weichert@e-realpro.com, 610-323-6960.

Valley Forge Branch is preparing its 33rd Annual Book Sale, July 30, 31, and Aug. 1, and 2 at the Baptist Church in the Great Valley in Devon, PA. Valley Forge invites other AAUW branches to attend the sale.

As its only fund raiser, members are asked to help by picking up donated books from grocery stores, sorting books, or helping on the sales days. Some perform all these duties. Six weeks are spent in June and July preparing for the sale. Most interest groups are suspended for the summer so this activity provides social activity and is an opportunity for community service that promotes and encourages reading and book ownership. Buyers include many loyal customers in addition to book dealers who come to find bargains. Every year the proceeds are contributed to the Educational Foundation, nine libraries, the

continued on page 8

2003 Impact Award Winners

Small Branch: Huntingdon Branch, Career Shadowing for High School Sophomores

Huntingdon AAUW has sponsored Career Shadowing for high school sophomores for more than 12 years. Currently Huntingdon Area HS, Huntingdon & Juniata Valley HS, Alexandria are part of this program. Students at JVHS must complete our program to graduate; most complete the experience as set up by their school in their sophomore year. The program is optional for HAHS sophomores & operates under the aegis of the English Dept. with oversight of the Guidance Counselor(s). In 2002, 82 of the 217 sophomores at HAHS shadowed while all 70 sophomores at JVHS participated. Each student spent all or part of a day during the last week of April shadowing someone in that student's proposed career field. Participating professionals were taxidermists, excavation specialists, graphic designers, lawn care specialists, physical therapists, veterinarians, attorneys, morticians, and many others. Contacts: etraverse@earthlink.net or ebbedubbel@aol.com

Medium Branch: West Chester Branch Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT)

GETT is designed to be a fun & informative event where girls grades 7-12 & their parents learn about some of the exciting careers in Information Technology (IT) directly from women successful in IT. The girls get to talk with local women who started their own technology companies, while parents learn more about career opportunities in IT & why they are personally, professionally & financially rewarding. In 2002 70 girls attended this 2nd annual GETT, up from 50 in 2001. Contact: pangea49@comcast.net

Large Branch: Erie Branch Panel Discussion on Diversity

People with unique backgrounds have come together to make the United States a great place to live! Erie AAUW's diversity group presented a panel discussion on this topic 10/14/02 at the Waldron Campus Center of Gannon Univ. in Erie. Four highly educated foreign-born women: Victoria Aliev from Baku, Azerbaijan, Ilham Krid from western Algeria, Jasminka Glavasec from Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Krystyna Medksza from Sroda, Poland responded to questions from moderator Kim Skarupski, PhD. Each woman answered specific questions describing (1) brief demographic information about their countries, (2) the uniqueness of their own cultures, (3) their reasons for immigrating to the United States, and (4) their hopes & aspirations as U.S. citizens. A question-answer session with the audience followed. For instance, Jasminka Glavasec, who was in general practice as a physician in her country, came to Erie to leave behind the oppression of war in Sarajevo. She presently conducts case management and interprets for immigrants who speak Bosnian, Croatian & Serbian languages, while working toward her license to practice medicine in the U.S. Contact: LKBaumgardner@compuserve.com

District V, continued from page 7

Women's Resource Center in Wayne, the Boy Scout troops who help the branch, and last year a gift was made to LAF.

Contact: Nancy Gibbs, Chairperson, RGibbs@snip.net.

Valley Forge also celebrates 14 new branch members in '02-'03, along with two programs of historical reference that the branch supported. Margaret Orner performed a play she wrote on the life of Mary Harris Jones, aka "Mother Jones", an important figure in the labor union movement of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Mother Jones was incensed about young children working 10-hour days in mines, textile mills, and factories in order to help support their families. Margaret Orner performed in costume of the day. She has written and performs several plays about Mother Jones. A second historical program was "Meeting for Equality: the 1852 Women's Rights Convention. Speaker Laurie A. Rofini, of Chester County Historical Society led the program. The 1852 PA Women's Rights Convention was held in West Chester's Horticultural Hall on June 2 and 3, 1852. It was one in a series of conventions that began four years earlier in Serneca Falls, NY. Contact: Lunetta Headley, Co-President, lhea737440@aol.com, 610-644-1648.

Among the activities of **West Chester Branch**, two community projects were collaborative with related organizations. West Chester AAUW became part of the Meet Your Judges program. Judges, lawyers, and volunteer actors interacted in vignettes that demonstrated the multi-level workings of the judicial system. Initiated 10 years ago by the PA State Trial Judges Association and the PA League of Women Voters (LWV), the Chester County version of Meet Your Judges took on a life of its own in collaboration with the Court of Common Pleas, District Justices, the Bar Association, schools, community groups and the LWV. AAUW members served on the steering committee and played adult parts in each of four scenarios that involved audience participation.

In addition to their monthly program schedule, West Chester AAUW remains active in the WISE program at a local high school, and raises funds to award a \$1000 scholarship to a woman who is returning to college to finish her undergraduate degree. Contact: Kathryn Retallick, wbret@voicenet.com, 610-399-1371.

VISIT
www.aauwpa.org
and
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each time a new issue is posted



The Butler Branch displayed this quilt at the Convention. "I'm A Shining Star" is a paper quilt created by sixth grade girls who attended "Girl Talk" - a program conducted by the Butler Branch on March 28, 2003.

"Girl Talk" is a free program combining small group conversations with fun activities aimed at giving girls some of the tools they will need to maintain their self-esteem as they enter adolescence.

District I: Parade and Scholarships Boost AAUW Visibility

by Bobbi Monroe, District I Coordinator

For the past three years, the **Indiana branch** has marched in the Indiana University homecoming parade. This program has proven to be an educational, membership and visibility tool. It has enabled members to form a closer bond.

The parade theme defines the entry. Three years ago (an important election year), the "Power of One Vote" banners were placed on the sides of a red jeep pulling a wagon decorated in red, white, and blue. The Indiana members and their daughters marched in costumes of women throughout the ages who have worked on legislation. Their sashes highlighted political and legislative advances along with AAUW. The AAUW banner was carried by teenage daughters while other members carried U. S. flags. The members wore the "Power of One Vote" pins. Women cheered, college students yelled questions like "What's the 19th Amendment?," and at three after-parade parties members were asked about AAUW. The branch was featured in the Indiana Gazette newspaper.

The following year the theme was "Women's Firsts." Members dressed in attire reflecting a particular woman's profession or cause.

Last year the theme was "Women and the Spirit of Freedom." Dressed in costume were Eleanor Roosevelt, our State Representative and AAUW member Sara Steelman, Abigail Adams, a Buffalo Fighter, Rosie the Riveter, Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem and many more! The branch had more participants than ever. One of the members said, "It's great to represent women and the parade is so much fun!"

For the past two years, the **Clarion branch** of AAUW has given scholarships to high school girls to attend the Summer Academies at Clarion University. This program offers a unique academic experience for high achieving students to explore advances in science and mathematics. The students spend one week at the university learning and having fun with others that have similar interests.

The Clarion branch provided a \$100 scholarship in "Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics" Academy in 2001 and three \$150 scholarships in "Investigating Chemistry and Biochemistry with Computers" and "Molecular Biology and Forensic Science" Academy in 2002.

The branch hopes to continue these scholarships as long as the academies are offered at Clarion University-one way the Clarion branch can support high school girls in science and mathematics.

Allentown Branch: Diversity Outreach Project

By looking in the newspaper, Allentown Branch's new Diversity Chair, Linda Robbins, learned the names of leaders in the community who work with diverse populations. She then contacted each one, and asked if he/she could get together with our diversity committee for lunch or dinner. At these informal get-togethers, we got to know these leaders, became friends with them, and learned from them what ethnic/diverse groups might need and what we could do to help them.

By finding the keys, (getting to know the leaders in the community), Linda has opened the doors to diversity within our branch and begun two ongoing projects. Through one key leader, Wanda Mercado-Arroyo, the Allentown School District's Parental Involvement Coordinator, we are involved in Wanda's wonderful Parent College Workshop Series, at which we volunteer with registration, childcare assistance, and teaching. These workshops help many ethnic families who struggle with

the problems of poverty and limited English skills. Through another key leader, Erika Sutherland, Professor of Foreign Language and Culture at Muhlenberg College, we have joined Grupo Apoya. We meet socially with this group of Hispanic immigrants every other month for dinner, a picnic, or dessert, at which time we also tutor them in English and help them with challenges they face.

Linda Robbins Wins 2003 Humanitarian Award

by Marjie Mowery

The Susan K. Nenstiel Humanitarian Award honors the one AAUW member whose personal commitment to AAUW extends to her branch activities as well as her community contributions. She exemplifies the "complete AAUW woman." This year's award was presented to Linda L. Robbins at the AAUW-PA Convention in State College.

This was said of the honoree. "Many people talk about the mission of AAUW, and nothing much comes out of this talk. But Linda Robbins acts."

As a social worker for the Allentown Public Welfare Office, she recognized a need for her clients to have suitable business outfits to wear to job interviews. They had no extra money for "good" clothes, as most were mothers whose resources went to raising their children and keeping their homes together. In 1997, with help from the Allentown Branch, she established The Clothes Closet. By 2000, a coalition of community groups was formed to run the program and The Perfect Fit was born. They now have space at the Leigh County Tec Center which houses clothing and accessories, several large dressing rooms, and a full staff of volunteers. In addition, classes are offered in completing resumes, coaching for interviews, and choosing an appropriate business wardrobe.

As an AAUW member, Linda was co-chair and an original planner for Allentown's first Sister-to-Sister Summit held at Cedar Crest College. The college women have embraced this project as their own, hosting their first Summit in March 1999 and annually thereafter.

As Diversity Chair, Linda brings the branch and community together. They held a public forum, "Women of Islam – Many Voices, Many Perspectives." She has established relationships with several local Hispanic organizations, involved the branch in Allentown School District's "Back to School for Parents" program, and organized social events with a group of Central and South American immigrants and refugees, many of whom hold college degrees. Linda makes sure that they have applications for continuing education grants.

Linda's work on behalf of welfare mothers, college students, refugees and immigrants definitely qualifies her to be honored with the 2003 Susan K. Nenstiel Award.



Susan K. Nenstiel, left, stands with Linda Robbins, right, as she accepts the award.

Lock Haven Branch: Program Grant Report

As a recipient of one of this year's AAUW program grants, the Lock Haven Branch has used its \$100 for the Clinton County Youth Leadership Conference. This conference, sponsored by the Clinton County Youth Council, took place at the Ross Library in Lock Haven during two days in October. At the conference, students from Clinton County met to practice leadership skills, decide how they could best impact their community in a positive way, and learn how to write a grant to get funding for community projects that they had planned. After each group of students planned a specific project, the group presented its grant request to the council. Local organizations donated money to help fund the conference.

A group of students from Renovo was awarded a \$900 grant for its well-prepared Renewing Renovo Project. This is currently a student and community effort to clean up the appearance of the Renovo community. It began in the fall of 2002 and has progressed and widened in scope. Up to this point, they have revitalized several dilapidated storefronts, restored parking meters and flowerpots, and begun work on area recreational facilities. Over the winter they have been making park benches for areas in the business district and in the parks. This project aims to revitalize Renovo, instill community pride, engage youth in the future of Renovo, beautify the community to entice new business, and preserve the community for posterity.

Easton Branch: Woman to Woman Career Forum

One of our best programs has been a "Woman to Woman Career Forum." We've done it for the past two years and it's a great evening! Approximately eight women are asked to be panelists and all they do is spend five to ten minutes talking about the paths that have brought them to this point in their work lives.

The first year we featured more traditional careers, and in March we had "Career Forum II: Thinking Outside the Box." It was fascinating! Some of our members said it was the best program ever—inspirational, humorous, and educational. Retired women in their 80's enjoyed this program, as well as the students who attended.

Contact Phyllis D. Finger, Ed.D, President, Easton Branch at pfinger118@aol.com with questions.

District III:

Branch News and Events

by Louise Tanner,
District III Coordinator

The Washington Branch enjoyed having a team participate in a Rotary sponsored fund raising event. A Trivia Contest raised money for the eradication of polio worldwide. They look forward to participating again next year.

The Greensburg Branch held an overnight winter retreat at the home of a member. They enjoyed talk, games, yoga and food. A recent speaker reviewed the history of one-room school-houses. A slide presentation included the discovery and renovation of a schoolhouse on her property. This month they will tour the Westmoreland Museum of American Art.

North Hills/McKnight feels that the highlight of the past year has been their program called Great Decisions. This is an 8-week program devoted to foreign policy, which is held at La Roche College and a local library. Their Woman of the Year, Linda Loewer, is responsible for obtaining international speakers and people interested in international affairs. The program is sponsored free of charge for members of the community by the branch.

The Johnstown Branch reports that they have been active with several projects working with school age girls. Last week they gave a GIRL POWER PROGRAM in Gallitzen, PA. The purpose of this program was to get girls interested in thinking about a career. This was offered to girls in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The Branch will repeat the program to fourth and fifth grade girls in Lilly, PA. They have developed a 24-person photo display of women in different careers. The display includes educational requirements and comments from the women. This was done through the Communities in Schools program. They also obtained some grant monies to bring a musical to fourth and fifth graders in the Johnstown School District.

Outstanding Women Awards 2003

| <i>BRANCH</i> | <i>NAME</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ALLENTOWN | BARBARA OURSLER |
| ANTHRACITE | LYNNE HOMIAK |
| BEAVER VALLEY | NORMA KEHR |
| BEDFORD COUNTY | CANDI BUSSARD |
| BETHLEHEM | KAREN DONALD |
| BRADFORD | TERRI A. SMITH |
| BUTLER | MELITTA GARBUNY |
| CALIFORNIA | GEORGETTA WILES |
| CLARION | CAROLINE TOWNSEND |
| CLEARFIELD AREA | LINDA LEWIS |
| DOYLESTOWN | LOUISE McLEOD |
| EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY | DOLORES GERKENSMEYER |
| ERIE | BARBARA LIEDTKE HUTZELMAN |
| FRANKLIN COUNTY | MELANIE MAO |
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| HUNTINGDON | PAT E. CROISSANT |
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| LOCK HAVEN | JAYNE ARNONE |
| MAKEFIELD AREA | KRISTIN SULLIVAN |
| MURRYSVILLE AREA | REBECCA "BECKY" D'ANGELO |
| NEMCO | LEE RUDDY |
| NORTH HILLS-MCKNIGHT | LINDA LOEWER |
| PHILADELPHIA | SALLY STEVENSON |
| PITTSBURGH | KAY McKENNA |
| READING | HELEN FAISON |
| SOUTHAMPTON AREA | NANCY J. WOLFGANG |
| STATE COLLEGE | LUCILLE ESCHBACH |
| VALLEY FORGE | JEANNE WEBER |
| WEST CHESTER | MARYROSE PETRIZZO |
| YORK | NANCY DORE |
| | JANICE F. CROMER |



Outstanding Women Award Winners Pictured at Convention

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AAUW promotes equity for women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

MISSION STATEMENT

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.



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