

# KEYSTONER

VOL. 72 NO. 2 *The Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Pennsylvania* WINTER 2005

## AAUW-PA – Who?, What?, Where?

Sometimes it is a worthwhile endeavor to take stock of our organization. To that end the following is offered.

**Who** are we? We are nearly 3,000 women in 54 branches across the state dedicated to the mission “to promote education and equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change”. We are part of an organization that began in 1881. We are university-educated scientists, teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, businesswomen and homemakers. We are associated with the national Educational Foundation (EF), the world’s largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women, and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), the nation’s largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. We act at the local level offering branch programs and community programs, at the state level with an annual convention, Leader’s Meeting, and a biennial regional conference, at the national level at a biennial convention. We are a supporter and exhibitor in the PA Governor’s Conference for Women. The women and girls we want to affect are not only our own members, but others outside of our organization. For ourselves, we promote growth in professional and personal development, contributing to the common good, and belonging to a community. For others, we help them through promoting gender equity, positive societal change, and lifelong learning.

**What** have we accomplished? Our branches offer programs to their members and both independently developed and national AAUW projects to their communities as well as provide grass-roots activism. The programs are too numerous to list them all but a sampling includes community programs in math and science, such as Girls Exploring Tomorrow’s Technology (GETT) – girls learn about some exciting careers in information technology directly from successful businesswomen; Touch the Future – a day of math and science for girls and boys presented by women professionals; Expanding Your Horizons – a program to increase girl’s interest in science and mathematics, and become aware of opportunities for women in these fields; Tech-Check - a guide to help schools assess the technology opportunities they offer female students; and Let’s Read Math (LRM) – an EF-grant recipient project which addresses math anxiety that exists in society, particularly among women and girls. Write-Read-Write is a reading and writing skills program for elementary children. For self-esteem issues and leadership instruction we offer Sister-to-Sister summits which bring together diverse girls to address issues such as sexual harassment, violence, substance abuse and body image; Woman-to-Woman to discuss similar issues with adults; Transitions to help working women in the community overcome obstacles to returning to school; and Girls Overnight Leadership Development (GOLD) – a program to build girls’ confidence and self-esteem. We partner with the National Education Association’s Bullying Awareness Campaign offering members training to stop bullying and sexual harassment in school. We attack equity issues through voter education to educate women voters on critical issues and mobilize them to vote and ensure their voices are heard. We organize candidate forums often in partnership with the League of Women Voters for local elections, address pay inequity in our communities, sexual harassment in the workplace and on college campuses, and other public policy issues in the community.

**Where** are we going? We will continue to work towards education and equity for all women and girls. Work to ensure equity in the classroom and the workplace, the end to sexual harassment, fairness in tenure award, pay equity, job equity, economic security and all the other issues important to improving the lives of women and girls. The women of AAUW-PA belong to this organization and will continue these efforts because it is important to us.

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## The Power of MAR

By Linda Haigh Tozier, Middle Atlantic Region Director

**AAUW Power** is the theme of our 2006 Middle Atlantic Regional Conference to be held March 18 and 19, 2006, at the Gateway Conference Center and Holiday Inn, Routes 22 and 512, Bethlehem, PA. The Conference will begin on Saturday afternoon with keynote speaker, Dr. Dana Lightman, whose Power Optimism workshop at Association Convention electrified her audience. Dr. Lightman will lead us in "Developing Leadership with a Positive Edge." At the Town Hall we will share the powerful ways our Middle Atlantic states and branches are exploring AAUW's new programmatic theme, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security." Other workshops in the planning stage will explore AAUW's powerful data base technology and the powerful ways that the Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund have improved the status of women. Pennsylvania State Senator Lisa Boscola will address women's political power at the pre-conference lunch, organized by the Lehigh Valley Branches of Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton and Pocono Area.

Complete registration details for AAUW POWER and the pre-conference luncheon will be available in January. The registration deadline for the MAR Conference is March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Gateway Conference Center is offering single/double rooms at \$89 per night. This price includes lodging and continental breakfast. The special room rate is valid until February 18, 2006. Attendees must reserve their own rooms by calling the Gateway Conference Center at 888-222-8512. Mention AAUW when you call.

Have you visited [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) recently? The 2005-2006 Leadership Directory is now live online and linked to AAUW's Raiser's Edge database. By visiting the Member Center Leader's Corner, you now have instant access to leadership contact information. An updated Membership Toolkit and revised Shape the Future Brochure are available for downloading. Here are links to four more sources of information:

"Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security" –  
<http://www.aauw.org/newvision/index.cfm>

The Campus Action Project on Building a harassment-free Campus –  
[http://www.aauw.org/campus\\_connection/cap.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/campus_connection/cap.cfm)

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's campus outreach –  
[http://www.aauw.org/laf/campus\\_outreach.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/laf/campus_outreach.cfm)

AAUW Educational Foundation's Research –  
<http://www.aauw.org/research>

The All Member Poll for 2005 (previously called the Every Member Survey) will appear in the November issue of Outlook as a separate insert. As soon as Outlook is mailed, an e-version will be posted online for member use. This questionnaire has been designed to allow AAUW leaders to better understand members' perceptions of AAUW. Please take the time to respond to the All Member Poll by January 15, 2006 either electronically or by pen. Your opinions DO count.

Many AAUW members have asked how branches can help in the hurricane recovery. The statewide AAUW Louisiana Library Project is tax deductible through the Louisiana Library Foundation. Both money and books will be accepted. The AAUW of Alabama effort still is being organized. For information on either project, contact the state presidents: AAUW Louisiana, Anne K. Taylor at [Akt1208@bellsouth.net](mailto:Akt1208@bellsouth.net) or AAUW of Alabama, Dr. Thomasyne Williams at <http://www.aauwalabama.org>.

Congratulations to AAUW-PA for receiving an Association Leader-to-Leader Grant.

Since AAUW-PA 2006 Convention will be held in Johnstown, Sara Barron, Conference Coordinator and Lila Packer, District 4 Coordinator enthusiastically and highly recommend to everybody David McCullough's book **The Johnstown Flood**. It will be interesting to compare how one of the most devastating "natural" disasters in America was handled 116 years ago, to the present day dealing with the hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE ON STATE BOARD

The Nominating Committee is accepting applications for the offices of President and Program Vice President. Applications can be mailed to:

Beth Hollis  
Nominating Committee Chair  
215 Springhouse Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-2511  
412-963-1720 or  
[eachollis@comcast.net](mailto:eachollis@comcast.net)

Please contact your branch president or nominating committee chair for job description and candidate form

Please send ALL ADDRESS CHANGES **directly** to AAUW Member Records  
1111 16<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC, 20036  
or email: [info@aauw.org](mailto:info@aauw.org)

## AAUW-PA Convention 2006 Plans

Dot McLane, PVP

Planning is nearly complete for the Johnstown Convention March 31 and April 1-2, 2006 at the Holiday Inn. AAUW-PA applied for and was granted an Association Leader to Leader Program speaker in Public Policy. Connie Hildebrand, an AAUW Public Policy Committee member will be a keynote speaker, workshop leader and Town Hall moderator at convention. We are finalizing plans for a keynote speaker on the topic of Women in Politics, an EF grant recipient and an LAF speaker as well as other workshop leaders – details will be in the Convention issue of the *Keystoner*. Our social outing on Friday afternoon will be to the Johnstown Heritage Discovery museum and a Membership Vice President hosted reception is planned at the Johnstown Flood museum for Friday night after dinner. Be sure to look for the *Keystoner* Convention issue and register early.

AAUW-Johnstown is excited to be hosting the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention, March 31-April 2, 2006. We invite you to learn more about our city and the region by visiting the following web sites:

[www.visitjohnstownpa.com](http://www.visitjohnstownpa.com)  
[www.laurelhighlands.org](http://www.laurelhighlands.org)  
[www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org)  
[www.johnstownchamber.com](http://www.johnstownchamber.com)

The Friendly City is looking forward to your visit!  
 Members of the Johnstown Branch

## AAUW- PA OFFERS CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP

If you are an AAUW branch member who has always wanted to attend Convention but have found the cost prohibitive, you will want to consider applying for the “First Timers” Scholarship to Convention 2006 in Johnstown.

The winner of this scholarship will be introduced to convention attendees and will write an article about the convention experience for the 2006 post-convention *Keystoner*. In addition to the article for the *Keystoner*, the winner will be asked to write a summary of the experience for the state board to the state president by July 1. You will benefit most from this experience if you attend all workshops and business meetings.

The application is simple. In 200 words or less, tell us how you and your branch would benefit from the experience. Send the essay and your contact information to Linda Robbins, 65 Colonial Road, Allentown,, PA 18109 or LRob164832@aol.com by March 1, 2006. The winner will be notified by March 7. Applicants must provide letter of recommendation from branch president or branch leader.

The scholarship includes convention registration, all meals, and mileage.

## Gateway to Equity Award

The Gateway to Equity Award will be presented in conjunction with International Women’s Day on March 8, 2006. This award honors an individual, group or organization that has shown by action and philosophy the promotion of equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change. Nominees should be chosen locally.

Examples of awardees could be volunteers, coaches, teachers, local businesses, groups and community members. Winners will be selected by each branch and will be honored with an AAAUW certificate and recognized at the Pennsylvania State Convention Star reception.

Your branch should select a Gateway to Equity Award winner. Please discuss this initiative at your next branch and/or board meeting. If you have read an article in the newspaper about an individual, group or employer who has inspired gender equity in the community or know of someone you would like to nominate, please contact your branch president. Questions regarding this 2006 Gateway to Equity Award should be addressed to your District Coordinator and/or Susan K. Nenstiel. You can download a copy of the certificate at [www.aauwpa.org](http://www.aauwpa.org) or contact your DC or Susan for a copy of the certificate.

Send Susan K. Nenstiel (contact info on page 8):

1. Recipient’s name
2. 1-2 sentence description of why you selected this person
3. plans for honoring the awardee on March 8, 2006

### Branch Timeline:

**March 8** – Present award to recipient.

**March 6** – Call newspaper photographer/confirm media coverage of March 8 “event”

**February 20** – Press release to local print, audio and video media outlets

**February 1** – Notify Susan K. Nenstiel of your branch’s selection. Include:

**January** – review and select award recipient for your branch, complete preparations for March 8 event, if needed.

**November/December** – gather nominations, plan what your branch wants to do to recognize the winner on March 8

## “JOIN AAUW!”

Jane Snyder, Membership VP

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the PA State Board, to announce the winners of the AAUW-PA **Membership Grants for 2006**. There were a total of six applicants, with three applicants from District 2, and one applicant each from Districts 1, 3, and 5. The board reviewed the applications and has awarded two free Association and State memberships to each of the following winners:

District 1: Lock Haven  
 District 2: Easton and Towanda  
 District 3: Fox Chapel  
 District 4: None submitted  
 District 5: West Chester-Chester County

Thank you to all branches that applied and congratulations to the winners. It is inspiring to see the many creative and innovative things branches are doing to attract and retain membership; winning entries will be highlighted at State Convention. **We are thrilled that the five branches, above, can now grow by two new members each—simply by winning the Membership Grant!**

Nominations for the **Emerging Star Awards are due by January 31<sup>st</sup>**. And once again, the board is offering two **Younger Member Scholarships** to State Convention which include registration fees, accommodations for two nights, and travel expenses, deadline also Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. Application information will be included again in the next FYI.

Remember to be using your Shape the Future **discounts** at all AAUW sponsored events, (not branch meetings), by simply having guests sign in on your Guest List/Referral Sheet, that you can download from the AAUW website. **AND please put up signs at all of your events that scream “JOIN AAUW”**. Remember, if the public realizes that we WANT them to join, they will be much more likely to ask us about it. Let's not keep our desire for new members a secret! Think about it...if you went to a League of Women Voters or Junior League event, and they had signs up saying, “JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS”, or “JOIN THE JUNIOR LEAGUE,” wouldn't you consider it, rather than just assuming it was a closed or invitation only organization. The same goes for AAUW; lots of women think we are a great group that does interesting things with a sisterhood that is bonded and not welcoming to outsiders. We MUST let them know otherwise. What a simple first step in trying to recruit new members!!!

## REMEMBER THE MAYTAG MAN

He was so lonely, because no one ever called on him for service. Or, you have heard the saying “All dressed up and nowhere to go”.

Both of these statements apply to me, I am feeling very lonely as your Diversity Chair; hardly anyone calls on me for service and I'm ready to go!!!

I have great ideas for large and small branches to initiate diversity into your branch, add diversity programs or just congratulate you on the great job you are already doing. I can visit your branch as the Diversity Chair or as a Leader on Loan.

Contact Linda Robbins ([lrob164832@aol.com](mailto:lrob164832@aol.com) or [lrobbins@state.pa.us](mailto:lrobbins@state.pa.us)) 610-821-6286 (9-4) or 610-264-4416. Please call!!!

## ATTENTION

Information and forms for the 2005-2006 newsletter competition are available on the state website at [aauwpa.org](http://aauwpa.org)

## ATTENTION

## DISTRICT 2 NEWS

The Towanda and Sayre/Athens Branches celebrated their 82 joint meeting October 12, 2005 at The Bakery in Sayre. (The branches were one until 1948 when they split into two branches.) Marina Young and Cheri Champion, co-presidents of Sayre/Athens helped organize this event. The speaker was Maj. Stacy Garrity, who had just returned from one year of running the Bucca

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Everyone appreciated getting to know more first hand information about a small corner of Iraq.

**As District 5 Coordinator, I have had the pleasure of attending several branch programs this fall. I hope this sharing will provide ideas and opportunities to other branches for future successful programs.**

*Wendy Beatty-Burg, District 5 Coordinator*

**Eastern Delaware County** sponsored an October branch meeting with Lisa Maatz, AAUW Association Public Policy Director. Ms. Maatz's knowledge and enthusiasm for AAUW issues vibrate directly from her lips to your heart. Being in her presence was a □ and concerns with regard to House and Senate voting, November elections, Supreme Court Appointments, and provided ways in which AAUW members and branches can make an immediate impact.

Ms. Maatz shared the success of the Patsy Mink Bill that is AAUW's first individually created and sponsored bill to pass the House and move to the Senate where it awaits approval. Thanks to Eastern Delaware County Branch for inviting the District 5 Branch Presidents to share in Lisa Maatz's presentation. We are all more focused after meeting with her!

**Lansdale** sponsored an October forum on Bullying by partnering with the National Education Association's Bullying Awareness Campaign offering members training to stop bullying and sexual harassment in school. The NEA Speaker provided insight on how to stop bullying and equip children with the proper tools to handle situations before they arise. The speaker flew in from New Hampshire to present to a packed house of community members including community educators, school board members, and numerous guests. The prevention/Intervention Program handouts can be found on Lansdale's website at <http://www.aauw-lansdale.org/bully.pdf>

November's "Reflections from Iraq" presented a female soldier's perspective of the war in Iraq as First Lieutenant Tina Minoski had just returned from an eighteen month tour of duty where she had traveled over 17,000 miles and saw firsthand the humanitarian efforts given by the Coalition forces in the Middle East. This was a rare opportunity to hear a personal account of this international issue of great significance. The program included her perspective as a woman in the military, as well as her observations of the culture, civilians, and schools. She shared photographs and offered her opinions of the ongoing situation in Iraq.

**The Philadelphia Inter-Branch Council** held its annual fall meeting to plan a district wide spring event as well as to discuss opportunities to better serve the branches in the five county areas. The results of their brainstorming will be voted upon and shared to all members in January.

**West Chester-Chester County** had an excellent turnout in October for "Islamic Women: their Roles, Rights, and Religion." T□ years. Several women joined on the spot that evening. Now that's a successful event!

November's meeting welcomed the Opera Company of Philadelphia's, Michael Bolton, as he reviewed the life of the historic Margaret Garner who was a pivotal figure in the US antebellum history. The Garner family was escaping slavery in Kentucky as they were captured in Ohio. Rather than see her daughter return to slavery, Margaret sacrificed her own daughter, which initiated national debate on her punishment for murder in Ohio or destruction of property in Kentucky. Mr. Bolton provided video about the new American Opera on the life of Margaret Garner. Themes of love, freedom, and hope were discussed at the meeting on Cheyney University's campus.

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**WWW.AAUWPA.ORG**

**AND**

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IS POSTED**

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**FOR HELP WITH BYLAWS CONTACT  
WENDY ARMOUR-DICKINSON AT  
WARMOURDICKINSON@HOTMAIL.COM OR 717-  
245-0982, BEFORE 9 PM  
THANKS!**

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## MORE NEWS FROM DISTRICT 5

### Let's Read Math!

Your Branch Can Do It, Too! You can adapt this for use in your community.

From Dr. Claire Passantino, Makefield Area Branch, American Association of University Women, and Graham Boose, President, West Chester-Chester County Branch, American Association of University Women (AAUW)

- *What is the objective of the program?*

Everyone loves children's books, and the simple messages that are conveyed in pictures and print. There is a growing body of children's literature with embedded math themes. Why not use these books as an avenue towards building both literacy and numeracy in children? At the same time, adults will be having positive experiences reading the books to their children, and perhaps overcoming some of their own negative feelings about math: "Math is hard, I hate math, I could never do math, who needs it?" These messages are not good for adults to communicate to children.

- *What is the target audience?*

Children, ages 6 through 10, although we have had excellent response from younger and older children. Tailorable to various school levels. Since this started as an AAUW program, we are particularly concerned about girls becoming comfortable at an early age with the excitement of math concepts, thus keeping open many career choices providing financial equity in tomorrow's world of work. We believe that the program supports the national AAUW programmatic theme of *Envisioning the Future: Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security*.

The program began in Makefield, and was first run on a monthly sign-up basis in the library. West Chester became interested, and ran it in the YWCA of Chester County at its summer camp. Demographics between the two groups of children are very different,

able; and, did we mention fun for both adults and children?

- *What is the basic "feel" of the program?*

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and helps organize a math-related activity for the children afterwards. Suitable for small groups of children, say 4 or 5, through 20 or so. Of course, multiple groups can be run simultaneously. Suggested facilitation: reading circle plus tables to work on. The how-to for the math activity is provided in "cook book" form. For instance, if you read *The Greedy Triangle* by Marilyn Burns, whi

picks and hardened small marshmallows. As the children (and adults) become comfortable with the concept, the geometric shapes will quickly evolve into 3-dimensional geodesic domes, etc. Adults and children will become animated with the magic they are creating, and positive encouragement is offered on all sides. Don't you remember all that stuff from geometry? (Or you never were comfortable with it back then?) It's all in the adult's "cook book."

We see a couple of ways for a branch to sponsor the program: branch members can be the activity leaders, or branch members can project manage the program for an organization that has its own volunteers or paid staff—either model will work.

- *Is this all there is?*

No, this is the tip of the iceberg. We suggest starting with three simple books, probably *The Greedy Triangle*, *How Big Is a Foot?* by Rolf Myller, and *Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday* by Judith Viorst. A branch could do one book in each of three meetings, say, once a month. This is the second year for the program, and adult "cook books" are being developed, together with a "Funbook" of activities for children that covers activities for each of 16 books. Consequently, the program can be expanded, as the interest of the adults and children warrants, including additional books next year, or perhaps some group activities and independent work in a summer camp atmosphere or career-preparation day.

- *Who pays for it?*

We are fortunate to have received grants from AAUW-PA, the Philadelphia Area Interbranch Council, the AAUW Educational Foundation, and a large corporation. We believe that we have funding to provide to each of 5-7 branches the following: one group of 16 books; "cook books" for adult helpers as they are developed (yes, you may copy them); and one "Funbook" for each girl. Note that Funbooks may also be copied. The covers of the Funbooks contain pieces to punch out and use in the activities. We can work out exact details with you. The idea is to increase girls' confidence with critical life skills, and the materials are reasonably priced.

- *We like it—what do we do next?*

We suggest you discuss this with your branch. We will provide training. Each time we present it, we modify it slightly to fit the children and adults participating, and expect to continue evolving this model as we work with additional community groups. Be sure to check out the website [www.letsreadmath.com](http://www.letsreadmath.com). Contact Dr. Claire Passantino, [cbpass@aol.com](mailto:cbpass@aol.com), or Graham Boose, [GDBoose@comcast.net](mailto:GDBoose@comcast.net) for additional information.



Dr. Claire Passantino, Makefield Area Branch, reads to children at the YWCA Chester County Summer Enrichment Program. The effort is funded by Claire's grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation.



After reading a book with math-related concepts, children explore the concepts during an activity period. This youngster progressed to 3D shapes as her confidence increased.



District 5, of South East PA, has an Inter-Branch Council which meets twice a year and holds a winter educational and social function. The fall meeting was held October 29th to plan the year and to re-organize and re-focus the IBC organization. Those in attendance are:

**Seated (l-r):** Barbara Barnett (Philadelphia), Carolyn Ancker (Philadelphia/NEMCO), Graham Boose (West Chester-Chester County)

**Standing(l-r):** Debbie Steelhammer (Lansdale), Nancy McClay (Eastern Delaware County), Marion Cassidy (Valley Forge), Kathleen Little (NEMCO), Lyn Allison (Doylestown), Judy Peter (Makefield Area)

### Please note the following CORRECTION

The article that appears on page 6 of the Fall Keystoner under the headline of District 5 news was submitted by Cathy Palmquist, Past President of the West Chester-Chester County branch. This activity was a key program of the WC-CC Branch.