

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

December 2005 Volume II, Issue 4

PA Governor's Conference 2005

Once again the Governor's Conference was great. The opening keynotes were Lisa Ling and Sarah Jones. Ms. Ling spoke of her work with National Geographic and for Oprah Winfrey. For Oprah she recently did documentaries on gang rape in the Congo and bride burning in India. It is horrible to know that these things happen to women in today's world. Ms. Ling said in the Congo women that are raped are frequently abandoned by their husbands because he feels inadequate that he could not protect his wife—but the wife suffers again for doing nothing wrong. She also said that an Indian woman living in Bangladore today has a

better chance of being a victim of bride burning than a traffic accident. For those women that survive the burning, they are scarred and rejected by society. Ms. Ling said that she does the work she does because once you have seen and heard these stories, it is hard to turn your back on them.

Following the somber mood of Ms. Ling, Ms. Jones changed the atmosphere of the audience by taking on the characters of three women—an elderly African-American woman, a fast-talking Latina woman, and an Indian woman. In each character she managed to express issues that are important to these women and all

women. She was fascinating to watch as she took n each character.

The seminar I attended first was Women with Global Voices. Afaf Meleis, the Dean of Nursing and a Sociology professor at the University of PA, spoke of the gender divide in the world and some of the risk factors for women internationally. These include Women's Work—often farm work, animal care, housework, etc., jobs that are devalued and not compensated for monetarily; Marriage—women in the world are often defined by a man, their husband, abuse is common and condoned; Violence—trafficking of women, omission of laws (Continued on Page 3)

Important Dates to Remember

March 18-19, 2006 MAR Conference, Bethlehem PA

March 31, April 1-2, 2006 77th PA State Convention, Johnstown

Regular Features:

- ?? Association News
- ?? AAUW-PA News
- ?? Program Ideas
- ?? Public Policy Priorities
- ?? EF/LAF Corner
- ?? Adelante Book Club
- ?? Association Community Programs

Inside this

Sister to Sister Summits and Sisters in	2
New Moon Publishing	2
PA Governor's Conference 2005 (Continued)	3
EF/LAF Corner	3
Patsy T. Mink Fellowship	3
Public Policy Priority	4
Adelante Book Club	4

Sister-to-Sister Summits and Sisters in Action

The AAUW Educational Foundation's report *How Schools Shortchange Girls* labeled issues such as sexual harassment, violence, early sexual activity, substance abuse, and body image the "evaded curriculum." That report and subsequent Foundation research revealed that the evaded curriculum is inextricably linked to education. Teen girls who use drugs, fear violence, become preoccupied with their physical appearance, join gangs, or get pregnant cannot take full advantage of the educational programs available to them. Through local conferences, AAUW branches and states have launched a nationwide dialogue among girls in a program called **Sister-to-Sister Summits**. Sister-to-Sister offers teen girls a forum to talk about their generation's challenges and plan actions for improving their world. In adolescence, girls often experi-

ence a dramatic drop in self-esteem and lose the vibrant, strong voices they once had. Each teen girl views her life from a unique perspective that, if shared, can spark a rich and productive dialogue. Girls' discovery of their shared experiences can affirm their views and spur them to action, sister to sister. With their concerns identified, girls will articulate the messages they want to convey, services they need, and changes they want to make. Summit hosts can then help the girls transform their thoughts into a platform for action. The platform for action on paper becomes an agenda for change in our schools and communities. Association provides step by step guidance for planning activities, meals, registration and tips for fundraising to finance your summit (http://www.aauw.org/member_center/sistertosister/index.cfm). Association will even

help you staff your summit (call 202-785-7712 or e-mail sister@aauw.org).

Sisters in Action, funded by the AAUW Educational Foundation and designed to build on local AAUW Sister-to-Sister Summits, was launched in 2001. While Sister-to-Sister provides a forum for adolescent girls to discuss topics that concern them, Sisters in Action extends the work beyond a one-day summit, providing girls with multiple opportunities to address and negotiate the many issues that they face on a day to day basis. On their website Association provides strategies for eight Sister-to-Sister follow-up activities, a section on getting media coverage of your events, and a resource section that includes contact information for each of the eight pilot sites (http://www.aauw.org/member_center/sia.cfm).

(See article below.)

Sister
-to-
Sister

a summit for
and about girls



New Moon Publishing

A resource for girls and their parents is New Moon Publishing which published New Moon Magazine which they describe as "New Moon Magazine is for every girl who wants her voice heard and her dreams taken seriously, and for every adult who cares about girls." New Moon is a bi-monthly magazine edited by and for girls ages 8 to 14. Contributions are from girls around the world in fiction, poetry, artwork, letters and articles.

New Moon strives to empower girls and foster their creativity and self-confidence. In addition to the magazine, New Moon publishes books including "How to Say it to Girls, Communicating with Your Growing Daughter" by Nancy Gruver who is the founder and publisher of New Moon Magazine. This book provides advice on how to approach conversations with girls on uncomfortable subjects.

The information about New Moon Publishing can be accessed at their website, www.newmoon.org. The website provides information, resources and links to other related websites.

PA Governor's Conference (Continued)

that protect women; Birthing & Children—women often die in childbirth, back street abortions; Healthcare—not based on prevention; and Invisibility of Women's Issues. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky spoke of the organization she chairs, Women's Campaign International (WCI). This organization was started in 1998 and its goal is to travel around the world and teach women to be advocates. WCI does political training, helps in campaign strategies, and so on. They recently visited Malawi in Africa and had a program on HIV-AIDS training with the Women's Caucus of the Parliament of Malawi. The idea is to follow the ABCs of AIDS prevention—abstinence, be faithful and condoms; but in addition to focus on D—detection and E—education. Lisa Ling also spoke at this

seminar and endorsed the Women for Women Organization (www.womenforwomen.org) which helps women in war-torn regions rebuild their lives by giving them financial and emotional support, job skills training, rights education, etc.

The lunch keynote was Madeleine Albright who is a phenomenal woman and speaker. She gave an entertaining and informative talk about her days as Secretary of State. The afternoon seminar I attended was *The View from Inside the Beltway*. Donna Brazile was one of the speakers. Ms. Brazile has worked on multiple campaigns at all levels of government. She said that in the past women have lacked the resources and party support, but that these impediments are gone and it is a great time for women to

run for office. She said you need passion, convictions, strength of character, and family/friends behind you.

The closing keynote speaker was Sandra Day O'Connor who spoke about her appointment by Ronald Reagan as the first woman Supreme Court Justice and her perspective of that experience.

The AAUW-PA booth looked great and seemed busy every time I went by. Thanks to all the volunteers who staffed it that day. Unfortunately next year the conference will be in Pittsburgh so I don't think as many of us will be able to attend, but if you have a chance, you should definitely go.



Educational Foundation (EF)/Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Corner

EF

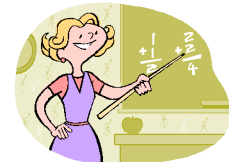
The report *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*, funded by an Eleanor Roosevelt grant and AAUW of Oregon will be published in January 2006. This study was done by the same group and was formatted similarly to the *Short-*

changing Girls in America study.

The *Pathways to Leadership* professional development program has been discontinued for business reasons.

LAF

Eleven grants for LAF plaintiffs to travel to state and regional conferences were awarded. Among them is Pennsylvania for our spring convention.



Patsy T. Mink Fellowship

Minorities make up less than 14 percent of all collegiate faculty. AAUW along with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) recommended a new program be established as part of the Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization. This fellow-

ship was named in honor of the former Asian-American congresswoman, Patsy T. Mink. The Patsy T. Mink Graduate Fellowship Program was passed out of a Senate committee in September as part of the HEA reauthorization bill after two

years of AAUW's work on this issue. This program offers women and minorities the opportunity for financial support while they earn the doctorate needed to become a university-level educator.





**AAUW Pennsylvania Newsletter
for Branch Program VPs**

103 Green Spring Circle
Lansdale, PA 19446

215-362-3805
dotmclane@comast.net

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

State Website aauwpa.org

Association Website aauw.org

Get With the Program

**Adelante Book of the
Month Club**

The Adelante Book Club selection for December is ***“Thinking in Pictures: and other reports from my life with Autism”* by Temple Grandin (1996)**. Writing from the dual perspectives of a scientist and an autistic person, Grandin tells us how that country is experienced by its inhabitants and how she managed to breach its boundaries to function in the outside world. What emerges in *Thinking in Pictures* is the document of an extraordinary human being, one who, in gracefully and lucidly bridging the gulf between her condition and

our own, sheds light on the riddle of our common identity.

Public Policy Priority

The featured association priority is:

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates:

“Increased support for, an access to, higher education for women and other disadvantaged populations.”



***“Thinking in
Pictures”***

By Temple Grandin