

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

January/February 2006 Volume II, Issue 5

AAUW-PA State Convention 2006

The theme of the 77th AAUW-PA Convention is Women, Politics and Public Policy. Friday night's activities start out with our **LAF** dinner at which the keynote speaker, **Laura Violand, Director of Medical Center Advancement at George Washington University (GWU) School of Medicine**, will discuss her suit against GWU involving pay inequity. Our keynote speakers for the Saturday luncheon are **Allyson M. Lowe, Ph.D., Director of the Pennsylvania Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy as well as an Assistant Professor of Political Science at**

Chatham College and Sara Grove, Ph.D., Elsie Hilliard Hillman Chair in Politics at Chatham College. Our Saturday **Educational Foundation** dinner speaker is **Milena Deric**, a 2005-2006 International Fellowship Grantee. Ms. Deric has worked with girls who were victims of domestic violence and is currently studying trafficking in human beings. We are especially pleased to have with us all weekend **Connie Hildebrand, AAUW Public Policy Committee**, as our Leader to Leader program representative. Ms. Hildebrand has been employed in the social

work fields of medical, psychiatric, and vocational rehabilitation, child welfare, group therapy and administration and management in both public and private settings. Her role at convention will be multifaceted including a workshop on Saturday, **Public Policy - Impacting Pennsylvania State Legislation**, a **Town Hall** on Saturday night and keynote speech at our **Public Policy** breakfast Sunday on **AAUW Public Policy and Programs**.

Additional workshop selections this year are **Planning a Run for Public Office**

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Regular Features:

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

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Important Dates to Remember

March 18-19, 2006

MAR Conference, Bethlehem PA

March 31, April 1-2, 2006

77th PA State Convention, Johnstown

Resources for Girls—Self-Esteem, Self-Confidence, Empowerment, Relationships

There is a wealth of organizations for girls and their parents on the internet that provide guidance, resources, ideas, etc. Below a sampling of these is given.

New Moon Magazine (www.newmoon.org).

As described in the December issue of Get With the Program, New Moon Magazine for girls 8 to 14 contains fiction, poetry, artwork, letters and articles on different cultures and enterprises by girl contributors from around the world. In addition to the magazine, New Moon offers workshops that share strategies to support girls and women in expressing their dreams and voices. Among the topics is "How to Say it to Girls – Communicating with Your Growing Daughter", a workshop based on the book written by the founder and publisher of New Moon, Nancy Gruver. This book provides advice on "how to broach uncomfortable subjects, or simply open the lines of communication with girls". Ms. Gruver is available to speak at workshops or conferences. New Moon Adventures are trips for a girl and a parent to experience bonding time and a chance to learn about themselves and each other through journaling. The website also provides many links to other websites such as **For Girls and their**

D r e a m s . o r g (www.forgirlsandtheirdreams.org) a New Moon service which contains interesting articles and resources for girls. There are also links to a reading list, parenting articles and a special section for girl scouts.

Daughters – The newsletter for parents of girls (www.daughters.com).

This newsletter founded in 1999 is published by the national education and advocacy nonprofit, Dads and Daughters. It provides tools to strengthen parent-daughter relationships and information, guidance and support needed to raise strong, self-confident daughters. The newsletter is a blend of expertise of professionals and input of experienced parents. The website provides book lists and a chat room for parents to learn and share ideas.

Girls' Circle Association (G C A) (www.girlscircle.com).

The mission of this organization is "to promote girls' resiliency and connection by equipping group facilitators with skills and resources to hold Girls' Circles in their communities". Since 1997 GCA "encourages the development of strength, courage, confidence, honesty, and communication skills for girls". GCA is a model of structured support

groups for girls from 9 to 22 years with topics such as being a girl, relationships, body image, goal setting, sexuality, substance abuse, economic literacy, competition, and assertiveness skills. The GCA provides training and support materials for workshops designed for girls across every socio-economic, geographical, ethnic population, religion, and sexual identification. For a fee facilitators are available to train on location or you can order Facilitator Workbooks that contain all the materials for various workshop topics on-line at the website.

Girls Matter (www.girlsmatter.com).

This website is a "space and place for girls to have fun while they learn: to question, to inform, to interview, to discuss and take action". It encourages girls to express their opinions, listen to others and to grow into active political participants. It is a part of WomenMatter (www.womenmatter.com), a non-partisan political mentor site which encourages women to take action in the political process.

The Ophelia Project (www.opheliaproject.org).

The Ophelia Project is a national organization founded in Erie in 1997 "dedicated to helping girls form healthy peer relationships while creat-

ing a safe social culture for all youth and adults". They define a safe social culture as "one that does not accept taunting, covert aggression, and bullying as normal behaviors or rites of passage". The Ophelia Project's Creating a Safe School (CASS) program provides multi-level mentoring programs, community education, and research-based relational aggression prevention and intervention programs across North America through various workshops and seminars that can be tailored to the needs of the requesting organization, e.g., parent groups, teachers, guidance counselors, etc.). Presenters are trained professional educators, trainers and researchers of The Ophelia Project and are subject to availability. There is a sister project affiliate in Warren County PA (www.ophe-liawarren.org) that supports CASS and provides programs for the community.

Hardy Girls Healthy Women (www.hardy-girlshealthywomen.org).

The mission of this organization is "to create opportunities, develop programs and provide services that empower girls and women". The co-creators of Hardy Girls Healthy Women, Lyn Mikel Brown, Karen Heck and Lynn Cole participate

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Resources for Girls—Self-Esteem, Self-Confidence, Empowerment, Relationships (Continued)

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on boards and conferences planning committees and as guest speakers and trainers to keep the perspective of girls' needs in the forefront of any discussions taking place. The programs "focus on the social and political landscape in which girls are coming of age". They provide services such as the annual Girls

Unlimited! Conference and Hardy Girl Saturdays. Girls Unlimited! is a conference held in Maine for girls to spend a day broadening their horizons. Hardy Girl Saturdays are designed for smaller groups to discuss topics such as healthy dating relationships, body image, and media influences. You can investigate having Hardy Girls come to you or the extensive

lending library of books, videos, magazines and curricular material to help you develop your own hardy girls and women.

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

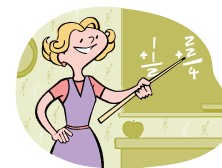
EF

On January 24, the AAUW Educational Foundation released a new research report, *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*. The report describes the findings from a nationally representative survey of

undergraduate college students conducted in spring 2005 by Harris Interactive Inc. for the Educational Foundation.

As part of the press event, the Association also announced 11 related Campus Action Projects including one in

Pennsylvania at **Pennsylvania State University**, University Park, PA: *Changing the Campus Culture: A Multimedia Service Campaign to Stop Sexual Harassment*.



AAUW-PA Convention (Continued)

presented by our keynote speakers **Allyson M. Lowe and Sara Grove** joined by members from the **Young Academics for International Awareness** who have attended a campaign school; **Coalition Building and Grant Writing** presenters to include **Michael Kane**, Executive Director of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and **Sally Chamberlain**, AAUW Educational Foundation board member; and a workshop on **Challenges Women Face on College Campuses** presented by **Anna Weitz**, the President of Pennsylvania Highlands Community College which will discuss the current day experi-

ence on college campuses for women. **Jane Snyder**, AAUW-PA Membership Vice-President will offer a continuing workshop on **Membership** entitled **Recruitment Activities, Yours and Ours**, at which you will be provided with some recruitment activities and asked to share some of your ideas. Jane will also host a **New Member/First Timer Convention** reception at the **Johnstown Flood Museum** on Friday night. Although the emphasis is on newer members/conventioners, all interested members will be welcome.

If you are arriving early on

Friday, we have a great social outing planned to the **Heritage Discovery Center** in Johnstown where you get to explore this industrial town through the eyes of a typical immigrant from the early 20th century. We have a new session this year called a **Sharing Tea**. On Saturday afternoon over a cup of tea branches will be given an opportunity to share their successes in a moderated session.



**AAUW Pennsylvania Newsletter
for Branch Program VPs**

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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 January is *Nickel and Dime: On (not) Getting by in America* by **Barbara Ehrenreich** (2001). In a portrait of the working poor, the author moves from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, taking a variety of jobs for poverty-level wages. She discovers that even the lowliest jobs require exhausting efforts and that you need two if you want to live indoors.

The Adelante Book Club selection for February (Black History Month) is *The Known World* by **Edward P. Jones** (2003). Henry Townsend, a black farmer, bootmaker, and former slave, has a fondness for Paradise Lost and an unusual mentor—William Robbins, perhaps the most powerful man in antebellum Virginia’s Manchester County. Under Robbins’s tutelage, Henry becomes proprietor of his own plantation—as well as of his own slaves. When he dies, his widow, Caldonia, succumbs to profound grief, and things begin to fall apart at their plantation.

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:

“Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education”

And

“Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education”



“Nickel and Dime”

By Barbara Ehrenreich

“The Known World”

By Edward P. Jones