

**CALENDAR**

**Women in History**

Friday, **March 13**, 2015, 1 pm

**Inter-branch Diversity**

Saturday, **March 14**, 10 am – Noon

**Newsletter Deadline**

**March 15**

**A Place at the Table**

Saturday, **March 28**, 8:30 am – Noon

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**Identity and Human Differences:  
an Inter-branch Diversity Program**

**March 14, 2015, 10 am – Noon. Registration will begin at 9:30 am**  
**Moravian College Theological Seminary, Bahnsen Hall**  
 60 W. Locust Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018



We are all differently abled from one another and context often decides what [differences] will be protected and indulged," writes author Andrew Solomon in *Far From the Tree: Parents Children, and the Search For Identify*. On Saturday, March 14, 2015 a panel of four individuals will offer perspectives on identities shaped by profound differences and on the role of social and cultural contexts in their lives.

Active in the national peer support organization, Little People of America, Joy Wyler, an ordained Unity minister, brings experiences as general counsel for a pediatric hospital, a faculty member, and clinical laboratory science employee to the conversation. Dorothy Viglione, a retired music teacher and timpani player, is a part-time employee of Values into Action, a company that provides services and support for people with disabilities. She has two sons, one of whom has autism. A graduate of Virginia Tech and Duke, a former research chemist and a college professor, Diane Boykin has been a part of the transgender community for fifteen years and transitioned from David to Diane in 2008. Born with a progressive neuromuscular disease, Shane Burcaw is an Emmy-winning producer, graduate of Moravian College, and founder of his nonprofit organization, "Laughing At My Nightmare, Inc." The panel will be moderated by Dr. Dana Dunn, Professor of Psychology and Assistant Dean for Special Projects at Moravian College. His latest book is *The Social Psychology of Disability* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

For more information, please contact **Ruth** at [aauwlehighvalleydiversity@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlehighvalleydiversity@gmail.com) or call **610.509.9263** by March 11. Please be sure to RSVP so we have an accurate count for seating and refreshments.



*Mark your calendar!*

**AAUW Women In History**

Please plan to attend! The AAUW Women In History program will be held at the **Sigal Museum** on **Friday, March 13, 2015 at 1 pm**, following a presentation at Paxinosa School in the morning. Many thanks are given to the members that are portraying local women who made significant contributions to our local, national, and international communities.

## From the Presidents' Pens:



Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

Did you know that the U.S. Government set an objective of reducing the rate of food insecurity of the Nation's households to half of its 1995 level by 2010. At the World Food Summit in 1996, the United States, along with 185 other countries, adopted the "Rome Declaration", which begins with this commitment:

*We pledge our political will and our common and national commitment to achieve food security for all and to an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015.*

At that time, the U.S. Government set an objective of reducing the then current rate of food insecurity in our country by half—to 6 percent—by 2010.

Households that are considered food insecure with hunger:

- Worry whether their food would run out before they got money to buy more.
- The food they bought did not last, and they did not have money to get more.
- They could not afford to eat balanced meals.

It is now 2015 . . . slow income growth has helped drive up food insecurity. There were 46.2 million Americans living below the poverty level last year. The federal minimum wage has stood at \$ 7.25 an hour since 2009. Today's minimum, which works out to \$15, 080 a year (assuming a full 40-hour work week), will lift a single person out of poverty. However, it's nearly \$1,000 below the poverty threshold for a one-adult, one-child household.

*We live in the richest country in the world. There's plenty and to spare for no man, woman, or child to be in want. And in addition to this our country was founded on what should have been a great, true principle—the freedom, equality, and the rights of each individual. Huh! And what has come of that start? There are corporations worth billions of dollars—and hundreds of thousands of people who don't get to eat.*

*Carson McCullers, The Heart is a Lonely Hunter (1940)*

*Fran & Nancy*

## Membership Activities

Take 50 – 75% off National Dues for New Branch Members from January 1 through March 15.

Recruit new branch members with the half-price national dues rate of \$24.50 between January 1 and March 15.

Take 50% off National Memberships given by branch members from January 1 through March 15.

National membership is a great gift for those who want to support our mission but whose schedules don't allow time to participate in regular meetings and activities. Now through March 15, as a branch member, you can give the gift of a regular annual national membership for just \$24.50 online! Introduce your busy friends to AAUW, and once they have more time, encourage them to join your branch.

Celebrate Winter Graduates with a Free Membership.

Celebrate the success of a graduate this season with the **Give a Grad a Gift** campaign. Anyone who graduated within the last two years is eligible, so don't forget interns or student teachers you know. Give them a free, one-year membership in honor of their accomplishments.

For more on national membership dues and discounts, **check out the national dues, fees, and tax deductibility table!** Or Contact Nancy Berry, Vice President, Membership.

Do you have *NEWS*  
to share with your  
fellow members?

Do you have *ideas*  
for interest groups?

Do you want to have *more input?*

Submit your photos, articles and/or ads  
today to enhance  
*your newsletter!*

## Off To a Great Start

### AAUW International Fellowship recipient addresses Easton Branch “Tea”



Our first meeting of the new year was a big success. Held on a Saturday afternoon in February, nineteen members braved the cold to enjoy a tea party with tasty treats, delightful teas and great conversations. Our guest of honor was Marina Kudasova, recipient of AAUW International Fellowship and Fulbright Student Fellowship, who spoke about her life in Turkmenistan and Russia and her goal to help disadvantaged children especially those in orphanages.

Even as a young girl of thirteen, Miss Kudasova felt a strong sense of injustice and lack of opportunity for orphans in Russia. Perhaps it was this keen awareness which motivated her to eventually research and educate the public concerning the problems and challenges of marginalized children.

Marina was born in Turkmenistan and moved to Russia at the age of 13. Being refugees from Turkmenistan, Marina, her mother and siblings felt this sense of marginalization and despair. Marina became involved with meeting and visiting orphans in Russia.

She pursued a Bachelor Degree in English Language and Literature in Russia and did an Internship in Poland, working with Orphans and Drug Addicts. Later, Marina traveled to India and worked with Street Children. She recalled seeing children sleeping on the floor, a feverish child completely unattended, and women forced into sex trafficking by their husbands.

Marina returned home to Russia “a different person” and was committed to work with children and youth. “Education is the key factor for both women and men.” Thus she began her work in the Agency of Youth Affairs.

Marina received a Grant to Study at Lehigh University and pursue her Ph.D in Comparative and International Education. While at Lehigh she became the Youth Representative to the United Nations. Currently, she is president of Lehigh University UNICEF Club and an Editorial Assistant of the European Education journal.

Marina hopes to return to Russia and establish an NGO to improve the lives of Children in Russia and other post-Soviet countries.

*Janice Lupackino*



*Marina presented a framed landscape, inlaid with amber to Nancy Butow.*



*Annette Stody and Nancy Butow provided delicious tea and finger sandwiches.*



## Save the Date

### Hunger/Economic Insufficiency

Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown AAUW Inter-branch Forum on Hunger/Economic Insufficiency in the Lehigh Valley

**March 28, 2015, 8:30 am – Noon** (*note new time*)

Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem (Corner of Center and Wall Streets—Wall Street entrance)



Featuring the documentary: “A Place at the Table”

Join us along with members of the community to learn about the causes and impact of hunger in the Lehigh Valley and the steps we can take to address the issue.

For this forum, our AAUW Easton branch has partnered with the Bethlehem and Allentown branches to develop an outstanding program that focuses on how hunger relates to economic insufficiency and negatively impacts our nation’s educational goals. Besides the featured documentary, the program includes a panel of speakers from the Hunger Coalition, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the academic community that will address hunger and associated social issues in the Lehigh Valley. In addition, our “hunger game” will challenge you to feed your family on a food-stamp budget.

*Peg Opthof*



## Notices

### Regarding the Newsletter

If any member has information that she wishes to have published in the newsletter, please e-mail the information to **Suzi Campbell**. This would include births, deaths, marriages, happenings at cultural institutions. We also encourage submissions of photos of events and anything that you think may be of interest to other members.

Please note, however, that **submissions must be in by the 15<sup>th</sup>** of the current month to be included in the next month’s newsletter. Otherwise it will be in the following month’s newsletter.

### Newsletter Ads

*Do you have a business or service that you would like to promote?* Ads are being accepted for inclusion in the newsletter. The charge for including an ad will be only **\$5 for each issue** in which it appears. This helps defray the cost of the newsletter and serves as a way for members to advertise. They should be no larger than business card size and they must come from members. Payment for ads should be made to Annette Stoodly and she will notify the newsletter editor, Suzi Campbell, that the ad is ready to be placed. If you need help with the ad, contact Suzi.

*Don't let the design keep you from getting your message out!*

### Newsletter Costs

I’ll bet that many of you do not realize that the branch dues of \$10 per year does not cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. As officers of the branch, your board is concerned with the rising cost of printing and postage and what it does to our bottom line. If you have computer access, please consider receiving our newsletter via email.

*It saves the branch money and saves trees too!*

## Condolences

Our condolences to Rosanne and Maria Ramunni and their family. Vincent F. Ramunni was Rosanne and Maria’s father. He passed away on Thursday, February 5, 2015 in his home. He was a United States marine serving three years on Guam. He was also a member of the Marine Corps Band. He retired in 1973 as a lieutenant with the Easton Police Department. A mass was held on Saturday, Feb. 7.

## AAUW Easton Branch Meeting

February 7, 2015 at the home of Nancy Butow

A tea prepared by Nancy Butow and Annette Stoodly preceded the business meeting.

Nancy Butow, Co-President called the business meeting to order at 2:30pm.

There were nineteen members present. Janice Lupackino thanked Nancy and Annette for the lovely tea and introduced Marina Kudasova, AAUW 2013-2014 International Fellow.

The minutes and the financial report were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Fran announced the following Upcoming Events:

- Women in History-Kim Rose is coordinating. She has written an article for the newsletter. She is looking for more members to portray our Women in History. The portrayals would be done at the Sigal Museum in the morning and the schools in the afternoon. She is trying to schedule this for the first or second week in March.
- InterBranch Diversity Program is March 14 at the Moravian Theological Seminary from 9-12.
- March 28 Forum on Economic Self Sufficiency. The film "Place at the Table" will be shown
- Author's Luncheon April 25 at the Hampton Inn

Fran announced that the Gateway to Equity award will be awarded to Judith's Reading Room. Lets Read Math-Fran announced that Peg Ophof has volunteered to be a co-chair. Another co-chair is needed. Fran also suggested that a volunteer could take just one program and coordinate the involvement with just that program.

Nancy Berry, Membership, announced she has been meeting with the Bethlehem branch to plan a Shape the Future Event. A "Story Slam" is being discussed.

Newsletter deadline is February 15.

Fran announced that there are thank you notes in the newsletter from two of our scholarship receiptants. Marian's sister has again donated \$1,000 for next year for the Jane Wait Scholarship.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm.

Janice introduced our speaker Marina Kudasova, AAUW 2013-2014 International Fellow who presented an inspiring talk of her many experiences.

*Respectfully Submitted: Rosemary Baker*

## Financial Report March 1, 2015

	Budgeted Cost	Credits	Debits
<b>AAUW National</b>			
Dues	\$3,332.00		\$3,601.5
AAUW Funds			
<b>AAUW PA Dues</b>	\$680.00		\$570.00
<b>Banking</b>			
Fees/Interest	\$24.00	\$0.88	\$14.00
<b>Conferences – 2014</b>	\$1,500.00	\$10.00	\$445.74
<b>Fund Raisers</b>			
Book Fair	\$550.00	\$5,503.85	\$430.00
Just a Dream		\$43.63	
Williams Center		\$470.00	\$378.00
Poinsettia Sale		\$352.00	\$270.57
<b>Insurance</b>	\$150.00		\$175.00
<b>Membership</b>			
Dues 14/15		\$5,157.00	
Donations		\$198.00	
Expenses			\$95.10
<b>Newsletter</b>	\$200.00		
Advertisements		\$10.00	
<b>Officers' Expenses</b>			
Membership	\$25.00		
President	\$25.00		
Treasurer	\$25.00		
<b>Postal Expenses</b>			
Box	\$62.00		\$80.00
Postage	\$130.00		
<b>Programs</b>			
Authors Luncheon			
Donations	\$50.00		\$50.00
Gateway to Equity	\$25.00		
Holiday party	\$100.00		
Inter-branch Lunch			\$125.00
Meeting Rooms	\$200.00		\$75.00
Presidents' Gifts			\$97.58
September Hospitality	\$30.00		\$55.37
Scholarship Dessert	\$50.00		
Speaker Gifts	\$35.00		\$46.96
<b>Publicity</b>	\$75.00		\$307.43

## Interest Groups

The Easton Branch has several interest groups created to stimulate discussions, encourage networking and support the community. If you have ideas for additional groups, let us know. Every group looks forward to new participants. Call if you are interested in joining a group.

### Book Discussion

**Chair:** Toni Hoffman



This group meets on the third Monday of each month. The next meeting is on **Mar. 16** at the home of **Toni Hoffman**. The book is *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert.

### Timely Topics

**Chair:** Marian Cunningham



The next meeting is on **March 9 at 7 pm**. The topic is: Education in America. **Location TBD**. Contact Marian for more information.

### Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue

**Chair:** Rosemary Baker



The next discussion is on March 25 at the home of Rosemary Baker. Topic: Ideas for social action around the book *Losing Our Way*.

### Tuesday Evening Bridge Group

**Chair:** Rosemary Baker



This group meets **every Tuesday evening**. Call **Rosemary** for more information.

### Photography Group

**Chair:** Janice Lupackino



There is no meeting for March.

### Out to Lunch

**Chair:** Janet Heffner



The next lunch is on the **April 9** at **Hampton Winds**.

Contact Janet for more information.

### Rotating Gourmet

**Chair:** Carolyn Conners



Rotating Gourmet has nothing scheduled at this time.

### Tapas

**Chair:** Toni Hoffman



Meets quarterly—schedule to be announced

### Mah Jongg

**Chair:** Toni Hoffman



Here are the dates and locations for this month: **March 9 at the home of Louise Sipos**, and **March 23 at the home of Colleen Kuschke**. Both times are **10:30 am**.

### International Relations

**Chair:** Jean Riker



Will meet on **Tuesday, March. 24** at the **home of Janet Rosenthal**. The topic will be Women Leaders in Latin America. New members are welcome; contact Jean.

# American Association of University Women

<b>AAUW National</b>	<b>800.326.2289</b>	<b>www.aauw.org</b>
<b>Easton Branch</b>	<b>484.548.0831</b>	<b>easton-pa.aauw.net</b>
<b>Co-Presidents</b>	<b>Nancy Butow, Fran Kennedy</b>	<b>easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Nancy Berry</b>	<b>easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/</b>
<b>Easton Edition</b>	<b>Suzi Campbell</b>	<b>easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/</b>

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

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

The AAUW Funds include the Educational Opportunities Funds (formerly a part of the AAUW Educational Foundation) which help us to advance equity for women and girls through programs such as American and International fellowships, and Community Action grants.

AAUW Funds also include the Legal Advocacy Fund which provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination, the Leadership Programs Fund (formerly the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute), the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and the Public Policy Fund.

**Easton,  
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Advances equity for  
women and girls

