



The Easton Edition

Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

February 2013

Vol. 48 No. 5

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline
Friday, Feb. 15

Book Group
Monday, Feb. 18
Home of Zoe Roble

International Relations
Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 1:30 pm
Home of Barbara Bauer

Women In History
Friday, Mar. 8
Sigal Museum

Inter-Branch Diversity
Saturday, Mar. 16 at 9 am

Equal Pay Day
Tuesday, Apr. 9

AAUW-PA Annual Meeting
Saturday, Apr. 13

General Meeting
Thursday, Apr. 18 at 7 pm

Timely Topic
Tuesday, Apr. 30 at 6 pm
Joint Meeting with Senior Circle
Dinner & Talk at Easton Hospital

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Spring Garden Children's Center, Inc.



Spring Garden Children's Center, Inc. (SGCC) is a not-for-profit early care and education agency providing services for families in the Easton area and surrounding communities since 1955. Our mission is to provide families with quality, affordable childcare, educational services and the support needed to strengthen and improve their quality of life.

We are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a Pennsylvania Keystone STAR, licensed by DPW and an agency partner of the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley.

SGCC provides services to children, ages (3) months to (10) yrs. old. We operate, year-round, Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 6 pm. Services include: transportation to and from schools in the Easton, and Wilson school districts; and St. Jane Catholic Elementary School. We provide nutritious meals (breakfast, lunch, and snack); developmentally appropriate curriculums; literacy programs; and parenting education programs.

Spring Garden works in collaboration with local childcare centers and social service agencies to help meet the needs of families from various socio-economical and cultural backgrounds. We strive to provide a high quality early educational experience to a diverse population of children.

Our summer camp program for school age, preschool and toddlers will continue the creative learning process from the school year throughout the summer months. We engage children in kaleidoscope activities that foster learning and thinking skills such as: creativity and innovation, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, and literacy skills. It is our intent to fuse STEM education with hands-on-art experiences to create learning activities that help children understand the connection between art and science.

Spring Garden stimulates creativity by making learning fun. During the summer camps arts program our school age children explore past and present artists; use technology to create digital stories that chronicle their experiences throughout this process; and employ various art techniques that

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From the Presidents' Pens:



We have many new members in our branch and Marian and I thought it was time to write about how money earned from fundraisers is used. Every year at the January board meeting, the board members decide how the proceeds from the Book Fair will be allocated. This year the board decided that 50% of the net will go to our Scholarship Fund, 30% will go to AAUW Funds, and 20% will go into our General Operating Fund.

Since the net proceeds are \$4850.70, that means that we are able to put \$2425 into the Scholarship Fund. That money, along with the interest earned over the past year, is what we have to give out in scholarships. And we have some very exciting news—we will again be awarding the Jane Wait STEM Scholarship to a deserving NCC student majoring in the STEM fields.

As you know, Congress did not reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. We tsk tsk about how women are treated in other countries, but we only have to look at what happened in Steubenville, Ohio to see that we have the same problems here. According to a May 2012 report by the Congressional Research Service, a nonpartisan arm of Congress, the law provides grants to, among other things:

- Help fund state and local prosecutions of violent crimes against women.
- Encourage state and local arrest policies for domestic violence cases.
- Educate and train judges and court personnel on domestic violence laws.
- Help state and local governments enter data on domestic violence into national databases.
- Establish a national domestic violence hotline fund and fund battered women's shelters.

While other factors such as an increase in legal services for victims, improvement in women's economic status, and the aging of the population added to the decline in domestic violence, the decline was due, in large part to the passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

Contact your member of Congress and let him or her know how you feel about this type of behavior and why it is so important to reauthorize VAWA.

February is Black History Month in the United States. It's "an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history" (www.history.com/topics/black-history-month). It began in 1926, coincidentally the same year AAUW Easton Branch came into being, as Negro History Week. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated February as Black History Month. Harriet Tubman was instrumental in forming the Underground Railway, only a small part of which runs through Pennsylvania. Frederick Douglass made it out of poverty and slavery and went on to become an agent of change in the black community and America itself. Let us keep the example of these two remarkable people in front of us as February begins and we celebrate African American culture and what it has added to our country.

This month, on February 23, we will have the opportunity to tour one of the finest day care centers in our area when we visit Spring Garden Children's Center. We will also hear from our members Pat Hunter, the Executive Director, and Terry Thomas, an Early Childhood Consultant, on the opportunities these centers offer to young children. Don't miss it!

Marian and Toni

Spring Garden *(continued from front page)*

foster creative expression. Our STEM programs include developmentally appropriate learning experiences for toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarten children in this exciting creative process.

Terry Thomas, Early Childhood Consultant and **Patricia Hunter**, Executive Director—Spring Garden Children's center will offer a presentation on the importance of early childhood education.

AAUW Funds Are Used to Empower Women.

Listed below are only a few of the many programs and projects supported by AAUW in 2012

- Awarded \$3.7 million in fellowships and grants for 2011-12.
- Supported the plaintiffs involved in *The Invisible War*, a documentary about sexual assault in the military.
- Funded *It's my vote: I will be heard*.
- Provided Campus Action grants, up to \$5,000, to fund grassroots projects. CAP teams focused on Crossing the Line's findings and recommendations to address sexual harassment in middle and high schools.
- Gender Pay Gap.
- *Why So Few?*, a report regarding women in STEM.
- Celebrated 40 years of *Title IX*, one of the most important civil rights laws ever passed for women.
- Provided scholarships to 50 attendees of the 27th National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

AAUW Easton Branch helps make a difference.
Thanks for your support.

Nancy Butow, AAUW Funds Chair

Barnes Foundation and Rodin Museum in Philadelphia

AAUW Bus Trip, Saturday, May 11, 2013

Schedule

- 8 am Leave from Enzo Travel
3320 Airport Road
- First Barnes Foundation tour
Stop with audio guides
- Noon Old City for lunch on our
own—restaurant list will
be provided
- 2 pm Rodin Museum and
a guided tour
- 4:15 pm Leave for home
- 6 pm Arrive Home

Cost \$75 per person.

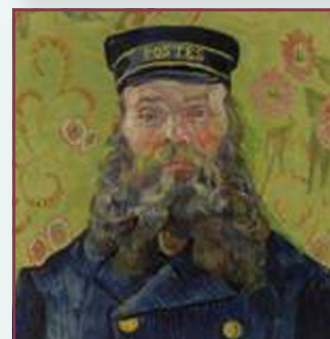
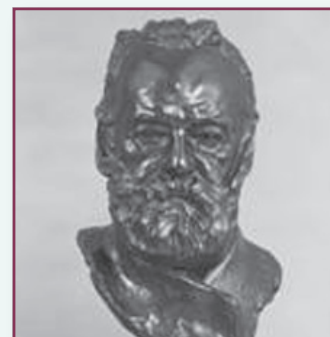
Cost includes museum admissions, bus transportation, and driver gratuity. If you want to sit with someone, mail your checks together in a single envelope.

Call **Lynn** with questions at **610.838.1482. Refunds only if YOU find a substitute.**

Make check payable to AAUW—Bethlehem.

Mail to Lynn Bittner,
1707 Keith Drive
Hellertown, PA 18055.

Deadline to register is February 20, 2013.



Return this portion with payment.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cell: _____

Traveling With: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Public Policy Items of Interest

New Report Confirms Women's Economic Well-Being Lags behind Men's

According to a new report released by Legal Momentum, women still lag behind men in economic well-being. Although today women surpass men in educational attainment, men ages 21-30 are better off than women of the same age group based on eight measures of economic well-being, such as salary and employment rates.

These findings support the conclusions of AAUW's research on the pay gap; most recently, AAUW researchers found in *Graduating to a Pay Gap* that women working full time one year out of college earned an average of 82 cents for every dollar paid to their male peers.

Senators Reintroduce Bipartisan VAWA Reauthorization

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) **reintroduced** the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization on Tuesday. This is essentially the same bipartisan bill that the Senate passed in April 2012 to improve VAWA programs and ensure all victims get the services they need. Because the House didn't pass this version of VAWA before the end of 2012, the process needed to start over in the 113th Congress.

AAUW has long **supported** "freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities." Since its enactment in 1994, VAWA has saved lives and saved money. AAUW is a **strong supporter** of the bipartisan VAWA reauthorization bill introduced in the Senate, particularly because it includes campus safety provisions which will ensure that institutions of higher education have comprehensive procedures in place to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. **Take action now: Urge your senators to co-sponsor VAWA and move this bill forward!**

AAUW Public Policy Fund Pins—and a Bonus

Show your support for advocacy for women and girls—and get a tax deduction. Contribute \$100 or more to the **AAUW Public Policy Fund** and receive the fund's annual pin. You can support this crucial work by making a tax deductible contribution. Click on this link: https://svc.aauw.org/contribute/index_aaauw_donation.cfm?CorpCode=AAUW&Fundcode=4337&emc=lm&m=38757&l=25&v=543059 to make a contribution.

Notices

Regarding the Newsletter

If any member has information that she wishes published in the newsletter, please either mail or e-mail the information to **Suzi Campbell**. This would include births, deaths, marriages, happenings at cultural institutions. *This is your newsletter!*

Women In History

Begin thinking about our annual Women In History presentation at the Sigal Museum on March 8, 2013. In addition to our presentation at the Sigal Museum, we hope to give our program at one or more of the elementary schools. **Kim Rose** is our Women in History coordinator this year, so give her a call if you would like to participate. Speaking from past experience, you will be amazed to learn just how many women from Easton went on to make their mark in history. It is gratifying and fun to dress up and pretend to be one of them.

Marian and Toni

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength."

Corrie ten Boom

Save These Dates

Women in History

Sigal Museum

March 8, 11 a.m.

Interbranch Diversity Program

Alumni Hall, NCC

March 16, 9 am

Equal Pay Day

Possible Rally and Bake Sale

April 9

AAUW-PA Annual Meeting

State College

April 13

General Meeting—Elect officers

Palmer Library

April 18, 7 pm

Joint Meeting with Senior Circle
on "Sleep"

Easton Hospital—Dinner & Talk

April 30, 6 pm

Annual Scholarship Awards

First Presbyterian Church—Dessert

May 21, 7 pm

Keep these dates handy near your
personal calendar.

Special Message from AAUW President, Carolyn Garfein

I am delighted to begin 2013 with an exciting announcement: AAUW will be unveiling a new logo and a new website in February!

Over the past few years, AAUW has undergone many changes to ensure our continued strength, growth, and nation-wide leadership on behalf of women and girls. The new logo, developed cooperatively by a board working group and the national staff, introduces a bold, bright look that complements our reinvigorated branch activities and expanding international efforts, and it works well with our lively publications, robust social media presence, and soon-to-be- updated website.

The new website will enhance our thriving online community, offering members and supporters a variety of new and improved tools to engage with each other and our issues. We will launch both the new logo and the website on February 20. They will also be featured in the February 21 issue of Mission & Action, which is e-mailed to all members who have given us their e-mail address.

Out to Lunch Bunch

This group meets the first Wednesday of the month, weather permitting and we're always welcoming new members. Janet Heffner, Shirley Schwarzbach, and Claire Degnan are in charge of arrangements this year and they would love to hear from you if you're interested in joining them.



AAUW Easton Branch Meeting

January 15, 2013 at Lafayette College, Pardee Hall

The business meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Marian Cunningham, Co-President. There were 13 members and 5 guests present.

The minutes were approved as published in the November newsletter. The financial report was approved as published in the January newsletter.

Marian reported that the February meeting will be held on **February 23** at the **Spring Garden Children's Center**. Women in History program will be done in March. Fran Kennedy reported that our Inter Branch Diversity program will be held on **March 16** at NCC. Program-Miss Representation.

Marian reported that the recently released video *"Invisible War-Military Sexual Assault"* was put together with money from National AAUW Funds and that is an example of how our contributions to AAUW Funds benefit many. Another way AAUW Funds come back to our community is through Community Action Grants. The Easton Area Neighborhood Center collaborating with Lafayette College and with a letter of commitment from our branch, sent in a proposal for a Community Action Grant.

Marion announced that the STEM scholarship has been renewed for another year.

A Nominating Committee needs to be formed to fill the offices of Membership VP and Finance Officer.

We would like to form a Fundraising Committee to think about ideas and brainstorm ways to raise funds. Contact Toni or Marian if you are interested in being part of the committee.

AAUW has sent the **Every Member Survey**. Please complete and return to them.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm. Marian Cunningham introduced Dan Brashler. Dan presented *"Computer Security for You and Me."*

Member Spotlight

Joan Kicska

Many of our Branch members know Joan because of her long time AAUW membership, her involvement in its activities and, most recently, her hosting of the Branch's Holiday Party.

A graduate of Wilson High School, Joan received a business degree from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. She then married Paul Kicska, also a Wilson native, and settled in the Easton area. She joined the Easton Branch and has been a faithful member for the past forty plus years. She has served on various committees, as well as holding the office of Membership VP. She participates in the Wednesday Night Bridge Group and the Gourmet Group.

Joan's community activities included membership on the Board of Directors of the State Theater in the early years when the theater was in a period of restoration and struggling to survive. Happily, Joan and the other board members and key players can enjoy its present day success. Today, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Easton Community Center. This year she is taking on the task of chairperson for the Center's Fundraising Gala to be held November 2, 2013, at the Northampton County Country Club. Funds raised are used to help underprivileged children and their families in the Easton Area.

Joan enjoys staying fit and does that by attending weekly ballroom dance lessons and joining friends to attend dances throughout the Lehigh Valley.

Joan's husband is now deceased and she heads a very close-knit family. Her son and his wife have careers in medicine in Seattle and have a son, 1½, and a daughter, 4. She enjoys being a grandmother and visits with them as often as she can. She also finds time to assist another son in developing his new sign business, "And The Sign Says," in Palmer Township. Another joy is having her daughter close by in NYC. Joan and her family cherish the times they spend together at her summer home in the Hamptons.

Happily, Joan chose to stay in the Easton Area and her contributions have made the area better.

In Memoriam

Margaret Wilson Harmon

Margaret Harmon died January 20, 2013, in Westminster Village, Allentown, PA, at the age of 100. She lived a long and productive life in a friendly, caring manner, always with an optimistic attitude.

After joining the Easton Branch of AAUW in 1962, she was very active for many years, participating on various committees and serving as Recording Secretary for four years. She was an Honorary Life Member and was twice honored by the Easton Branch with a Named Gift Honoree award in 1980 and Women of the Year award in 2001.

Margaret was born in Louisiana and graduated from Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in 1932. For sure, she was a pioneer for women who desired a college education.

She and her husband, Max, came to Easton to teach in the Easton School District – she in the elementary grades and he in the high school. She retired in 1973 after 25 years teaching at Traill Greene, Centennial and Paxinosa Schools.

Margaret will be remembered as a sweet, caring, quietly outgoing woman while maintaining her southern accent and always present smile.

Condolences go to her son, Elson, of Groton, MA.

Financial Report

February 3, 2013

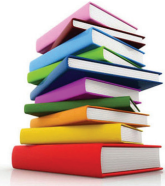
	Budgeted Cost	Credits	Debits
AAUW National			
Dues	\$3,332.00		\$3,430.00
AAUW Funds		\$1,455.21	\$1,455.21
AAUW Pennsylvania			
Dues	\$680.00		\$740.00
Banking			
Fees	\$24.00		\$12.00
Interest/credits		\$0.72	
Fund Raisers			
Book Fair	\$550.00	\$5,585.44	\$727.91
Nut Sale	\$1,200.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,341.29
Williams Center		\$470.00	\$315.00
Programs			
Meeting rooms	\$200.00		
Sept hospitality	\$30.00		\$36.64
Gateway to Equity	\$25.00		
Holiday party	\$100.00		
Scholarship Dinner	\$50.00		
Get Out the Vote Grant		\$105.00	\$153.72
Speaker gifts	\$35.00		
Misc expenses	\$50.00		
Conferences	\$1,500.00		\$425.00
Insurance	\$150.00		\$160.00
Membership (FY 12/13)			
Dues		\$5,375.00	
Donations		\$37.00	
Expenses			\$39.21
Newsletter	\$200.00		\$40.40
Ads		\$20.00	
Postal Expenses			
Box	\$62.00		\$76.00
Postage	\$130.00		
Officers' Expenses			
Membership	\$25.00		
President	\$25.00		
Treasurer	\$25.00		
Publicity			
Email Hosting			\$30.00

Help fund our newsletters
by placing your ad next month!

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



Group meets the third Monday of the month. The next meeting is Monday, **February 18 at 7 pm** at the home of Zoe Roble. The book is ***Coral Glynn*** by Peter Cameron.

International Relations



Group meets at 1:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is **February 26 at 1:30 pm** at the home of **Barbara Bauer**. The topic is **Madeleine Albright as Secretary of State**.

Diversity, Deeds, and Dialogue



The group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The February meeting is at the home of **Rosemary Baker** on **February 27 at 7 pm**.

Tapas



The next Tapas group is scheduled for March 23 from 6 – 8:30 pm at the home of Annette Stody.

Out to Lunch



Group meets the **first Wednesday of the month**, weather and holidays permitting. Janet Heffner, Shirley Schwarzbach, and Claire Degnan are in charge of arrangements this year.

Rotating Gourmet



This group is open to all AAUW members and their spouses. If you'd like more information, please contact Zoe Roble. It's a fun and delicious way to become better acquainted with members of the Easton Branch.

Wednesday Evening Bridge Group



Group meets **every Wednesday evening**. Call **Rosemary Baker** for more information.

Timely Topics



One time informal discussions on a topic of your choice. Call Marian Cunningham if you have an idea for a topic. Next on the schedule is a joint meeting with the Senior Circle on "Sleep," **April 30 at 6 pm** at **Easton Hospital**.

American Association of University Women

AAUW National	800-326-2289	www.aauw.org
Easton Branch	610-504-5861	easton-pa.aauw.net
Co-Presidents	Toni Hoffman, Marian Cunningham	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/
Membership	Carolyn Conners	easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/
Easton Edition	Suzi Campbell	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/

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.



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

P.O. Box 1464 Easton, PA 18044-1464
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Advances equity for
women and girls

Easton,
Pennsylvania
Branch