

CAPITAL IDEAS

Dover Branch AAUW Newsletter

January-May 2012

Ramblings from Robin

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were filled with many blessings and will continue throughout 2012. Our holiday social at the beautiful Duncan Center continues to be a success! We are thrilled and grateful that Linda and Bob Duncan and Erin Cooper donate their beautiful Outlook space for us each year. Thanks to the generosity of our members and guests, a named gift in honor of Linda and Bob Duncan will be given from our branch (\$500 minimum needed for this honor) and we raised \$1130. The remainder of the funds raised (\$630) will be distributed to our Youth Scholarships. Our members outdid themselves with their donations this year, including the Welgan family whose donations received the highest bids. We ran out of space for the offerings which included: tasty temptations, antique glass and pottery, carved swan, homemade jams, cookies, crab dip, wine and Jack Lewis print to mention a few. A good time was had by all with the bidding, eating, socializing, and laughter. Thanks to all of you who donated, attended, and purchased one of the many items from our silent auction. I am always amazed at the wonderful objects our members bring and the generous bidding. Special thanks to Nadine Noble for getting the donations organized, providing instructions, and awarding the auctioned items. Barbara Reed and Jean Hitchens collected and tallied the money received throughout the evening. These are several of the many unheralded members of our branch—thanks Nadine, Barbara and Jean!

I hope you will join us at the annual luncheon at the Maple Dale Country Club on January 14 at 11:30 p.m. Barbara Reed has graciously consented to handle the reservations for this fun day and payment (\$21) must be received no later than January 12.

DOVER DAYS FOOD BOOTH

Reserve the date of **May 5** to work the Dover Days food booth on the Green. Our branch is a staple of this activity and residents look forward to the goodies our members provide for sale. Please sign-up to work the booth, donate food

(muffins, donuts, bagels), and/or money to make this fundraiser the best one ever!

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Jean Hitchens and Dorene Petrosky and graciously agreed to serve on the nominating committee for the 2012-14 slate of officers. We only need two offices filled for 2012-2014: Vice-President of Membership and Secretary. They will be contacting members for recruitment, but please call them if you are interested in furthering your commitment to AAUW by serving as an officer. The Dover Branch is filled with busy, influential, and competent women—please help us to stay an excellent branch!

Member Musings

Appreciation from:

Robin Smith for the many cards and notes received from members on the death of her father in October.

Jean Hitchens for the cards and kindnesses received from members during the last operation

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 14 11:30 a.m. Maple Dale Country Club
Brunch Luncheon with Ann Rhodes

February 20 7 p.m. Hitchens Home Movie
Fundraiser: Wasteland by Vic Munoz

March 5 7 p.m. Board Meeting at Physical Therapy
Services

March 19 7 pm. Wesley College Dr. Zingaro
Peoples Place

April 16 7 p.m. Wesley College Internet Fraud and
Youth Scholarship Recipients

May 5 9 a.m. Dover Days on the Green Scholarship
Fundraiser (Youth)

May 21 7 p.m. Delaware State University Art
Gallery Installation of new officers/Wine and
Cheese Social

BANNER DONATED TO DOVER BRANCH

Thanks to Maisha Britt for her donation of the AAUW banner to the Dover branch. Maisha has graciously loaned the branch her banner on many occasions and decided to gift it to the branch in December. We will utilize the banner more often due to her generosity.

Women and personal finances
By Jason Alderman

By many measures, women's lives have changed substantially in recent decades. According to a comprehensive government report called "Women in America" (www.whitehouse.gov/data-on-women), although certain social and economic situations for women have improved, when it comes to personal finances, many women still face challenging hurdles.

Key report findings include:

- Women live longer than men but are much more likely to experience critical health problems that hamper their ability to work – and to pass up needed care due to cost.
- Although the earnings gap between women and men continues to narrow, it's still significant: Among full-time workers, women's weekly earnings as a percentage of men's have increased from 62 percent in 1979 to 80 percent in 2009.
- More women than men now graduate high school and college, but far fewer earn degrees in engineering, computer sciences and other higher-paying fields.
- Women increasingly marry later, have fewer children or remain childless, yet still are more likely to live in poverty, particularly single-mother families.
- Women are less likely than men to work outside the home (61 percent vs. 75 percent in 2009) and are much more likely to work part-time and to take time off to raise children or care for aging relatives.

In a nutshell: Women generally earn less and live longer than men, so at retirement they often have less in savings, receive smaller retirement and Social Security benefits and must spread out their

money longer. Clearly, women need to take charge of their financial wellbeing. Here are a few places to start:

Develop a budget to track income and expenses. Either download a budget spreadsheet template or investigate software packages and online account management services like Quicken (www.quicken.com), Mint.com (www.mint.com), Yodlee (www.yodlee.com) and Mvlopes (www.mvlopes.com).

Plan for retirement. Time is your biggest ally when it comes to retirement savings, so get cracking. Start estimating your retirement needs:

- Social Security's Retirement Estimator (www.ssa.gov/estimator), which automatically enters your earnings information from its records to estimate your projected Social Security benefits under different scenarios, such as age at retirement, future earnings projections, etc.
- Check whether your 401(k) plan administrator's website has a calculator to estimate how much you will accumulate under various contribution and investment scenarios. If not, try the retirement calculators at Bankrate.com and AARP to determine your current financial status and what you'll need to save to meet your retirement needs.

Do your research. Many helpful personal financial education and management tools are available online, including:

- The National Foundation of Credit Counseling's MyMoneyCheckUp™ program offers a step-by-step assessment of your overall financial health and behavior in four personal finance areas: budgeting and credit management, saving and investing, planning for retirement and managing home equity (www.mymoneycheckup.org).
- Social Security's Website for Women provides information on retirement, disability and other issues. You can also order or download their informative, free publication, "What Every Woman Should Know" (www.ssa.gov/women).
- The Women's Savings Initiative, a program jointly developed by Heinz Family Philanthropies, the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) and Visa Inc.

(www.practicalmoneyskills.com/womensave). This free program features an audio- and e-book called "What Women Need to Know About Retirement," which you can order on CD or download as a PDF or audio file from Practical Money Skills for Life, a free personal financial management program run by Visa (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/resources).

Barbara Reed

UPCOMING PROGRAM NOTES

Our January "brunch" will feature Ann Rhodes, a Delaware State University economist speaking on the topic, "Banking and the Role of the Government". Be there at 11:30 pm.

February 20th, we are viewing a film, "Wasteland", at the home of Jean Hitchens at 7:00 pm. This film is a documentary about the photographer, Vik Munoz. He is originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil and returned to the garbage dumps of Rio de Janeiro to turn garbage into art. He is amazing and you do not want to miss this opportunity! This is the story of waste to riches!

March 19th at 7:00 pm we are meeting at Wesley College for a program about adolescent children presented by Joe Zingaro, psychologist. Whether you are a parent or a grandparent this program will elucidate the teenage mind.

Ann Alexander

Book Club

All book club meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the homes of the individual hostesses. They are held the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Here is the list of the books and the hostesses for the rest of the year. Everyone is invited to attend. Please call the hostess and let her know of your intent to attend.

January 24: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce Hostess: **Laura Kelley**

February 28: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot Hostess: **Jan Konesey**

March 28 State of Wonder by Ann Patchett Hostess: **Marty Ruane**

April 24 Hiding in Plain Sight by Greg Dawson Hostess: **Anne Mace**

May 22: Fun Home by Alison Bechdel Hostess: **Shirley Dunham**

June 26: People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks Hostess: **Dorene Petrosky**

Shirley Dunham

Treasurer's Report from December Silent Auction

Thanks to ALL who attended and supported our December Silent Auction to benefit EF. We realized a profit of \$1129.50 of which \$500 has been sent to EF. We are especially indebted to the Welgan family for donating several items to the auction.

The Ginny Welgan Scholarship total is now \$6283.00, a wonderful tribute to a dear woman.

Debra Catts

Evening Bridge Information

The night bridge group starts at 7:30 p.m. The following dates/hostesses and phone numbers are so that you may report your availability and/or interest. January 17: Karen Nold phone 674-4927, February 21: Donna Witham phone 678-8620, and March 20: Ann Alexander 697-2879.

Betty Bowdle

Youth Scholarships—2012

Scholarship applications have been sent to all of the public high schools in Kent County for the 2012 awards. We will give three awards this year, the Cornelia Taylor Jones Branch Scholarship (funded by Dover Days), the Sandra Robinson Memorial Scholarship, and the Virginia Welgan Memorial Scholarship. Applications are due to Anne Mace by March 1, 2012. Winners will be notified the second week in April, and awards will be presented at the AAUW Branch Meeting at Wesley College on Monday, April 16. Call Anne or Robin if you have any questions.

Anne Mace