

AAUW Coastal-Georgetown Branch Newsletter

COASTAL TIDINGS

MAY – JUNE 2011



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

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President's Message

from Marty Johnson



Because this newsletter is the last issue until September and my last President's Message, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for building Coastal-Georgetown into one of the more active branches in the state. You have given your time, talents and money to ensure our branch continues to award college scholarships to deserving young Sussex County women, salute our high school junior girls who excel in Math and Science and reward our middle and high school science fair students. In the first newsletter of my 2-year term as president, I talked about why I believe that branch AAUW's are so important and how in addition to giving support to our young women, we, as members can use our diverse talents and knowledge to address broad community issues. This was exemplified when many of you supported and helped with our January Community Forums that addressed early childhood poverty, health and education and the impact of Delaware's Race to the Top federal grant on our Sussex County Schools. As a result of these forums, our members have joined several state committees as Coastal-Georgetown AAUW representatives. Additionally, we have advocated at the State Legislature for equal pay for women and for better early childhood education programs. Our branch has not been all work and no play. Our book clubs have been well attended and are an important part of our activities and while our Movie Night was discontinued when the Art Theater closed, some members still meet on an ad hoc basis when a good movie is in town. This year our program coordinators arranged for us to hear about the changing role of women staff at the White House, experience the holidays through poetry, recognize and value multiculturalism, ask questions about effects of radiation, and appreciate the work of marine life rescue teams. In May and June, we'll hear about Sailor Valentines and what we should be reading over the summer.

In two months our new co-presidents and their board will be installed. Betsy Baumeister, who graciously stepped into the treasurer's position this year, will turn in the treasurers books for the co-president gavel. She will share the gavel with Sheri Borrin who for the past several years has organized the trivia fundraiser, worked on the scholarship committee and taken the lead on the geranium sale. The branch will be in good hands with Betsy and Sheri at the helm!

In moving forward, I think that it is important to remember our two members we lost within the past two years; Virginia Rust and Barbara Merriwether. Both were strong women, dedicated active members who were passionate about advancing equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, philanthropy and research. These women set the bar high and it will be our job to meet and exceed that bar.

WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

While many of the board members will serve another year, several are completing their two-year term and will leave the position.

Three members were kept incredibly busy following crucial state legislation, writing grants for the lobby corps and leading the issue/action group. Thank you Wave Starnes for your public policy work and Lana Cobb and Jean Wastler for your lobby corps work.

We will miss the creative spirit and hard work that Rosalie Pitcher gave to our branch as our newsletter editor. Not only is the newsletter user friendly, but at Rosalie's suggestion a slight change of publishing dates let you receive the branch activities ahead of time.

Members were able to study and discuss timely world topics thanks to Nadyne Rosin, the Great Decisions coordinator for the past two years. The interesting discussions will continue next as Susan Morrison has agreed to coordinate the Great Decisions course.

Our increasing membership has kept our new membership vice-president, Rose Laird very busy. Look for an AAUW display at the Lewes Library in May that Rose is putting together. Thank you Rose and we look forward to your continuing work.

A large thank you to Mary Lou Urquhart, our publicity chair. She is responsible for letting the community know, via the local newspapers what wonderful things our branch does, and for making sure that each month our branch book groups and monthly meetings are listed in the papers' calendars.

The three book groups that are open to the public are as popular as ever and have been the incentive for several new members to join AAUW. Thank you to Laurel Capodanno, Ada May Shipley, Virginia Sullivan, Virginia Nee, Anita Angeny and Lois Rubinsohn for coordinating the groups. Members who attended our Diversity Book Group, chaired by Barbara Shamp, had some lively discussions about national and state policies and laws related to creed, ageism, race, national origin and sexual orientation.

Amy Hiller kept a close eye on the by-laws (we may see some by-law changes next year after the National Convention) and Pat Porta collected contributions for National's Educational Programs that fund National AAUW's research and legal advocacy programs. Pat Carlton continued as the Daisy Girl chairperson, and historian Anita Angeny, in addition to storing boxes of past Coastal-Georgetown AAUW information, prepared poster boards of branch activities for our monthly meetings. Thank you all for your work.

Coordinating the scholarship search is a time consuming but rewarding job and Kathleen Thompson took on the job with enthusiasm and determination to increase the number of applicants. This year we had 31 applicants from all four of our Sussex county schools. Thank you for a great job.

It is incredibly complicated to find restaurants that can accommodate our growing membership and provide a tasty meal and stay within an acceptable price range, but this year's meeting coordinators, Terry Chester, Denise Emery and Faith Kusterer did a spectacular job locating places that met the criteria. Thank you! This year, we instituted a series of Dine Out For Scholarship restaurant dinners and Terry Chester took on the job of scouting out the restaurants, coordinating the fund raisers and following up. Thank you Terry.

Charma Konnor and Penny Deiner, co-vice presidents for programs arranged interesting, stimulating and educational programs for us this year. Thank you and we look forward to more of the same type of interesting programs next year.

Again, Linda Fischer does it all when it comes designing, preparing and printing the multitude of publication items our branch activities require, starting with our Directory in the fall and including membership pamphlets, posters and flyers for our special events, book markers for our Diversity Book Club, name tags, buttons, placards and scholarship brochures. Thank you Linda!

Most of all I'd like to thank all our members for supporting the branch mission and goals.

Have a wonderful summer. It has been an honor to work with all of you. Come back in the fall ready to work with Sheri and Betsy and their board to move the AAUW mission forward.

C-G AAUW Branch Activities

Scholarship Fundraisers:



SPRING GERANIUM SALE

Thanks to all of our members who purchased and sold geraniums. We sold 310 plants for a profit of \$542.50, which will be deposited in our local scholarship fund.

The gorgeous flowers from Jeff's Greenhouse must be picked up on Saturday May 7th at the location you indicated on your order. The directions to the pick up locations are:

Georgetown: Lester's Realty - 111 N. Bedford St.

From rt. 9 turn left onto N. Bedford St. to Lester's Realty. The parking lot is just LEFT after exiting the circle onto N. Bedford. The geraniums will be in the parking lot in the back.

Rehoboth/Lewes: Lana Cobb - 34570 Michelle Dr, Rehoboth Beach 302-644-0495

From either north or south, get onto Plantation Rd. (basically runs parallel to Rt. 1). Plantation Rd. can easily be accessed from behind Lowes or from Old Landing Rd. or Rt. 24. If coming from the north, turn left from Plantation Rd. onto Craig Blvd. at the entrance to Aydelotte Estates. On Craig Blvd. you will see Wood Cove on the right. Turn left onto Michelle Dr. Lana's house is the 9th house on the right hand side. If coming from the south, take Plantation Rd., and turn right onto Craig Blvd. You will see Wood Cove on the right. Turn left onto Michelle Dr. Lana's house is the 9th house on the right hand side.

Bethany/Ocean View: Rose Snider - 1 Brookgreen Dr, Avon Park Ocean View 302-539-7911

From rt. 1, turn onto rt. 26. When on rt. 26, from the east, turn left onto Central Ave. and from the west, turn right onto Central Ave. Stay on Central Ave. for about 1.3 miles and you will see Bear Trap Dunes Golf/Country Club on the left. Across the street from Bear Trap is Avon Park at Wedgefield. From the entrance, take a right at the 2nd street. Then turn left on Avon Parkway. Follow to the end of that road to Brookgreen Dr. Rose is the last duplex on that road on the right.

Any questions please call or email Sheri Borrin, sborrin@aol.com or 226-2296.



DINE OUT FOR SCHOLARSHIP

The third DINE OUT FOR SCHOLARSHIP restaurant night will be on May 12 at the Green Turtle - 5-points, Lewes. Come support our scholarship program by dining at Green Turtle. A portion of your check will be given to our scholarship fund.

DE AAUW Lobbying by Wave Starnes



Equal Pay Lobbying

Several Coastal-Georgetown Branch members carpoled to Dover on two consecutive days to make their voices heard on important issues.

On April 12, Marty Johnson, Nadyne Rosin, Sheri Borrin, Mary Beth Crafts, Lana Cobb, Jean Wastler, and Wave Starnes participated in Equal Pay Day. There was a House Resolution recognizing the day which explained basic facts about Equal Pay Day. The published information referenced women earning less than men in similar occupations:

- Just one year out of college, working women already generally earn less than their male colleagues in the same field and with the same degree
- Over a working lifetime, this wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family \$700,000 to \$2 million in lost wages, also impacting social security benefits and pensions
- With women constituting 50% of the workforce, the wage gap has real and adverse consequences to a majority of families
- Women are increasingly serving as the sole wage-earners of families
- At age 66 and older, women are twice as likely as men to be poor

Early Childhood Advocacy Day



On April 13, several members went to assist in Early Childhood Advocacy Day at Legislative Hall in Dover.

For this event, Jennifer August, Laurel Capodanno, Lana Cobb, Rebecca Moscoso, Penny Deiner, Marty Johnson, and Wave Starnes participated along with Delaware Coalition for Early Learning and others. Most of us wore yellow, and Jennifer supplied bright yellow daisies for our branch members. There was a resolution recognizing the importance of early education and preservation of Purchase of Care funding at the state level for needy children.

We are eager to extend lobbying to members who may not want to travel to Dover, but are willing to call and write concerning bills of importance. Please call or email Wave Starnes, 227-5577 twstar54@aol.com to join this group.



AAUW Forum on Race to the Top: Implications for Sussex County by Jean Wastler

Feedback from the written comments of the January 20, 2011 Annual AAUW Forum held at Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach, indicated, as a result of the Forum, the attendees learned more about "Race to the Top". The respondents indicated gained information about: Sussex County Schools and the effect of increased funding, more collaboration, higher standards, increased graduation rates, and improvements in education.

Participants learned about other community resources including the RODEL Foundation and parent groups. They cited other resources beyond those provided by the state that can be employed to support Sussex County schools: business supports, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers.

Sussex County citizens will play roles in implementation of Delaware's "Race to the Top" by direct support such as volunteering and mentoring, influencing legislation, and holding leaders and teachers accountable for children's educational growth, according to the attendees.

Other needs cited as not addressed by "Race to the Top" included early childhood education, thinking skills, individual interests of students, self-discipline and special need challenges. Compliments with regard to the program included: "Focus on education very appropriate for AAUW."

AAUW Delaware's Annual Meeting



Where: University of Delaware Virden Center, Lewes, DE

When: May 14, 2011

The keynote speaker is Dr. Nancy Targett, Dean of the Earth Ocean Environment College of the University of Delaware. She will address the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) for girls and women and for the world. Vice President of AAUW Patricia Ho will talk about all the changes that have happened at AAUW and the upcoming national convention.

Registration starts at 9:30. Check the [AAUW Delaware March Newsletter](#) for the Annual Meeting Form.

COME FRIDAY NIGHT MAY 13TH TO THE WINE TASTING COASTAL GEORGETOWN BRANCH IS GIVING TO ALL STATE MEMBERS.

AAUW Excellence in Science & Math Luncheon

On April 10, 2010, at a luncheon at the University of Delaware Newark campus, the Coastal-Georgetown and Newark Branches of the American Association of University Women honored female high school juniors who excelled in science and/or mathematics.



Standing left to right: Grace Cummings (Indian River HS), Sarah Meding (Cape Henlopen HS), Adrianna Field (Sussex Central HS), Seated: Alexis Smith (Delmar High School), Lindsay Townsend (Delmarva Christian HS), Eryn Johnson (Seaford HS), Not shown: Jessica Chung (Woodbridge HS)

240 honorees and family members, AAUW sponsors, University employees, students and mentors attended the luncheon and celebrated the accomplishments of the young women nominated by their schools as the best in Science and Mathematics study. The speaker, Dr. Clytrice Watson, Delaware State University Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences and Program Director for the Bachelor Science in Forensic Biology, shared an inspirational message of the value of mentoring, and how mentors influenced her and helped her overcome poverty.

Mary Beth Crafts and Linda Fischer wish to thank the Coastal-Georgetown members who helped sponsor the student participation.

AAUW & the Sussex County Science Fair

The Coastal-Georgetown branch of the American Association of University Women was one of several organizations that presented special awards to Sussex County middle and high school students who participated in the March 7, Sussex County Science Fair at the Biden Center in Lewes.

AAUW selected six students to honor for their projects. The two middle school students from Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences that were recognized were Richard Brokaw for his project "Weed Killers – Plant Killers Too?" and Adam Johnson for his project, "Can You Hear It?" Ninth grade student Bansri Patel from Sussex Tech was chosen for her project titled "Degradation of Triclosan: The Environmental Toxin". Tenth grade Gopika Lakshmanan from Indian River High School was selected for her project titled "Turmeric vs Salmonella." Two 11th grade students were selected for their microbiology projects: Kourtney Bastianelli from Sussex Central HS for her project "Effect of L. Plantarum Bacteriocins on E Coli Growth" and Grace Cummings from Indian River HS for her project titled "Death by Vinegar!"



Left to right: Bansri Patel, Gopika Lakshmanan, Kourtney Bastianelli, Richard Brokaw and Marty Johnson, President of Coastal-Georgetown AAUW. Not shown are Grace Cummings and Adam Johnson.

Monthly Luncheon Meetings

May 19



Harpoon Hannah's, Fenwick Island

11:00 am-2:00 pm

Program: Connie Marshall Miller will discuss her artistic creations, Sailor Valentine Boxes

Cost: \$17 includes gratuity (PLEASE BRING CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS)

June 16



Irish Eyes in Lewes

11:00 am-2:00 pm

Program: Summer Reading Recommendations will be discussed. Installation of new officers will occur and last year scholarship winner will tell us what she has been doing.

Cost: \$15 includes gratuity (PLEASE BRING CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS)



New Members

**Deborah Meredith Mass
Frances Greer Stangl
Jeannie Walsh
Peg Ward**

**Peg Ward
14683 Pleasant Pond Way Lewes, DE 19958
302-644-1805 pward8166@aol.com**

Peg was born and raised on Long Island, NY. After graduating from SUNY at Albany, NY with a teaching certificate in secondary English, she went to work for the New York Telephone Company and worked until she had children. After raising three daughters, Peg returned to Bell, and worked for C&P in Virginia, Illinois Bell, and later AT&T. She moved to New Jersey and became a Telecommunications Manager for the Summit Bank Corporation.

Peg married her high school sweetheart and has been married for 45 years. Her hobbies are reading, Mah Jongg, and crocheting. She has also enjoyed taking classes at Osher Lifelong Learning. She joined AAUW to become part of the book group and to make new friends here in Delaware.

Monthly Discussion Groups

American Library Association Notable Book Discussions



May Book Discussion

Book: "The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon" by Davis Grann

Dates: **May 5** **Lewes Library** **10am - 12Noon or**
May 10 **South Coastal Library** **1pm - 3pm**

June Book Discussion

Book: "Spooner" by Pete Dexter

Dates: **June 2** **Lewes Library** **10am - 12Noon or**
June 14 **South Coastal Library** **1pm - 3pm**

For more information call: Laurel Capodanno 226- 3773, Ada May Shipley 436-2981, Virginia Sullivan 541-0254.

Diversity Book Group



The Diversity book group will meet **May 12** at Rose Mary Hendrixs home. (rm.hendrix@mchsi.com). Topic is Disability and the book is **Pretending to be Normal** by **Liane Willey Holliday**. (this was postponed from last month)

New York Times Notable Book Discussions



The AAUW Coastal Georgetown New York Times Notable Book Group will meet on **Thursday, May 5th**, at **11:00 at the South Coastal Library** to discuss *Fordlandia*, by Greg Grandin, a non-fiction book describing the cultural and industrial philosophy of the great magnate Henry Ford in his building of an American rubber plantation/colony in Brazil in the 1920s.

On Thursday **June 2nd** the same group will gather at **11:00 in the South Coastal Library** meeting room to discuss *Gate at the Stairs*, by Lorrie Moore, a work of literary fiction dealing with a young nanny who comes to work in the home of an activist.

This group will not meet in July or August.

The committee members wish all of you a wonderful summer full of enjoyable reading experiences! If anyone would like one author to carry you through the summer, Ken Follett's WWI trilogy "Fall of Giants" is recommended.

For more information, please call Virginia Nee 539-4969, or Lois Robinson 537-2906.

Special Movie Discussion Group



Made in Dagenham presented by the Rehoboth Beach Film Society

Rehoboth: Fri (May 27) 7:00 pm

Rehoboth Screenings: Upstairs Screening Room (Movies at Midway)

Ocean View: Thu (May 26) 7:00 pm

Ocean View Screenings: DiFebo's at Bear Trap Dunes, Ocean View

Admission: \$2 RBFS member \$4 General public

Runtime: 113 min, Rated: R

Based on a true story, **Made in Dagenham** portrays a decisive moment in 1960s England, when the fight for equal rights and pay was led by ordinary working-class women. The women employed at the Ford Motor Company toiled in a decrepit old plant in sweat shop conditions, unlike their male counterparts in the automaker's gleaming new main facility. Despite their highly specialized work, sewing car seat upholstery, the women were classified as unskilled labor and paid a fraction of the men's pay, since husbands were considered the principal breadwinners. The women went on strike for equality. Without the women to finish the car seats, the factory shut down, forcing the men - some of whom were married to the striking women - to go without a pay check. In the face of angry husbands, condescending bosses, and a belligerent local community, **the women of Dagenham stood together and pushed boundaries for the rights and expectations of women everywhere.**

Following the screening, the *Film Society* members and Southern Delaware Academy of Lifelong Learning instructors Betty & Gary Grunder will integrate their considerable knowledge about film into a discussion about *Made in Dagenham*. This is a great discussion for AAUW member to attend.