

AAUW Coastal-Georgetown Branch Newsletter

COASTAL TIDINGS



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010



The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

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President's Message *from Marty Johnson*

For many of us, the months of November and December are associated with the spirit of giving. Often we find ourselves reeling from the number of solicitations that find their way to our mailboxes. Nevertheless, we open our hearts and our pocketbooks to help those in need.

As an organization, AAUW encourages philanthropy as one of the four means to advance equity for women and girls, and our branch members support this goal through their donations to our scholarship fund, the National Educational Program and the Legal Advocacy Fund.

However, in addition to monetary giving, there is another way to show your generosity that is equally as important, and that is through the gift of your time and knowledge. We see this spirit of giving as our Coastal-Georgetown members volunteer in a myriad of ways to foster AAUW's goals. Our members continue to work with young children through mentoring programs such as Read Aloud, West Rehoboth New Beginnings and the Children's Beach House to name only a few. Some of our members are crucial advocates for children living in the foster care system. Other members promote affordable quality early childhood education in Sussex County through their participation on the Delaware Early Childhood Council, the Sussex Early Childhood Council, the Delaware Coalition for Early Learning and the United Way-Educational Advisory Council. Still others volunteer their time and expertise by spearheading STEM programs aimed at fostering young girls' interest in the science, technology, engineering and math fields. (This spring, we hope to host a math/science luncheon for middle school girls modeled after the yearly Excellence in Math Science Luncheon held at the University of Delaware).

Finally, our branch activities could not run smoothly if it weren't for the members who give so generously of their time to plan our monthly meetings, pay our bills, write our newsletters, raise monies for our scholarships, recruit new members and select our scholarship awardees – all of this work takes energy, time and a commitment to furthering our branch goals.

In the coming months, please consider giving some of your time to our branch activities.

***“Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless,
but because they are PRICELESS!” --author unknown.***

C-G AAUW Branch Activities

Scholarship Fund Raisers Team Trivia and Park An Shop

Special thanks to all of you who contributed in any way, from organizing, working, donating items to sell, donating money, or attending the events. Thanks for making our fund raisers a success.

New C-G Secretary

Welcome to our new secretary, Barbara Miller. Thank you Barbara for accepting this position.

DE AAUW Public Policy Grant from Jean Wastler and Lana Cobb

Thanks For Your Support

Thanks to those of you who attended forums and other meetings during the 2010 Election Campaign and giving us feedback. Your support helped us with our Public Policy Grant. It is great to know we can always count on Coastal-Georgetown members for support.

Our work will be continuing as we promote increased availability and access to quality early childcare and early childhood education in Delaware. We will focus on Sussex County to begin the process. We look forward to working with you beginning in January.

DE AAUW Lobbying

Delaware AAUW Lobbying 2011

Now that elections are almost over, the members of AAUW need to think about promoting our causes with the elected members of the Delaware State Legislature.

We have a Lobby Corps of interested women who make the case for bills and causes that we consider important. Our first planning meeting will be Friday, December 3, 2011.

Below are other lobbying dates; please put them on your calendar now and plan to come and help support AAUW priorities by lobbying in Legislative Hall in Dover. It is important to have all AAUW branches represented.

To join the group or learn more about the activities, please call or email Wave Starnes 302-227-5577, twstar54@aol.com.

Lobby Corps Dates:

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 Equal Pay Day*

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

*

Monthly Luncheon Meetings



November 18

Casa DiLeo in Rehoboth Beach

11:00 am-2:00 pm

Program: "Behind the Scenes at the White House: Changing Role of Women." by Chris Limerick

Cost: \$16 includes gratuity (PLEASE BRING CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS)



December 16

DiFebo's at Bear Trap in Ocean View

11:00 am-2:00 pm

Program: To Be Determined

Cost: \$23 includes gratuity (PLEASE BRING CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS) i

Save the Dates for 2011

Our next forum will be held on January 20.

Our **DE AAUW annual state meeting** will be **May 14** at the Virden Center in Lewes. Our Branch will host this meeting.

Delaware and Maryland will serve as local hosts at the **AAUW National Convention** to be held in **Washington D.C.** on **June 16-19** at the Renaissance Hotel. The theme of the national convention, at which AAUW will celebrate its 130th anniversary, is **—Breaking Through Barriers - Advocating for Change.**

New Members



Mimi Pearson

Mimi completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Trenton State College (The College of New Jersey) with a concentration in Special Education. She worked as a teacher of the deaf and later, when her own two children were in school all day, returned to full time teaching at Mercer County Special Services School District in Hamilton NJ. She continued her work at the Mercer County School district with the preschool disabled children, the Early Intervention Program and the autistic population. Later, she was employed by Ewing, NJ Board of Education where she taught children with autism and helped develop the district's Preschool Autistic Program. She retired from teaching in January 2010 and moved to DE with her husband, Dell. She enjoys reading, yoga, walking and spending time with family, especially with granddaughter, Anna!

Linda Levin

Linda graduated from Rosemont College in Medieval Studies and went to Penn for her masters in Religious Studies. She worked in the library many years and finished her career working on a Mellon grant cataloging the Henry Charles Lea collection. The collection numbered over 10,000 volumes, written before the 16th century, were mainly in Latin and about the inquisition and early church history- fun stuff!

Linda and her husband both retired from University of Pennsylvania at the end of June. Her husband taught in the dental school and Linda worked at the Van Pelt Library Rare Books and Special Collections. They moved to Lewes one week later retiring ! They had a cottage in Rehoboth Beach area for twelve years before retirement, so they were familiar with the area.

Linda is volunteering at the Lewes Library and enjoying yoga and Mah Jonng, as well as their new Aussie puppy who is keeping them very busy.

Pearl Westreich

Pearl lived in North and Central New Jersey most of her life, and recently retired and moved full time to Delaware in May of 2010.

She attended Trenton State College from 1968 through 1972, graduated with a BS in Education. She substitute taught for several years, then started working in the business field and continued until today.

Pearl learned to be a paralegal and worked the past 16 years for a law firm in New Jersey doing real estate closings and never went back to teach.

She enjoys playing any kind of sports like ice skating, bowling, bicycling, walking, gardening and playing cards.

Monthly Discussion Groups



American Library Association Notable Book Discussions

NOVEMBER 4th and 9th :

Book is "Brooklyn:A Novel" by ColmT'ib'n

NOVEMBER 4th Lewes Library

10am - 12Noon

NOVEMBER 9th South Coastal Library

1pm - 3pm

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

For more information call:

Laurel Capodanno 226- 3773, Ada May Shipley 436-2981, Virginia Sullivan 541-0254

New York Times Notable Book Discussions

NOVEMBER 4th

Book is "Lit:A Memoir" by Mary Karr

South Coastal Library

11am-12:30pm

DECEMBER 2nd

Book is "When Will There Be Good News" by Kate Atkinson

South Coastal Library

11am-12:30pm

For more information, call:

Anita Angeny 537-6353, Virginia Nee 539-4969, Lois Rubinsohn 537-2906

Diversity Book Group

Meetings are at 10 AM at a member's homes

NOVEMBER 11th

Book is "Driven Out: The forgotten War Against Chinese Americans " by Jean Pfaelzer

Topic is Race. Meeting at Marty Johnson's home

DECEMBER 9th

Book is "American Islam:The Struggle for the Soul of a Religion" by Paul M. Barrett

Topic is Creed.

For more information, call: Barbara Shamp at 426-9193

Issue Action Group by Wave Starnes

Working on Public Policy in Coastal-Georgetown

Even as we are in the middle of planning the next forum slated for January 20, 2011, we continue to follow up on our 2010 Forum on early childhood issues.

Penny Deiner attended the newly formed Delaware Early Childhood Council at the state level. Marty Johnson has been invited to be a part of the education advisory council for United Way; a key role for AAUW will be representing the interests of Sussex County. Wave Starnes has been attending meetings of the Delaware Coalition for Early Learning. In all of these groups, we plan to continue our advocacy for improved early childhood health and education, with special attention to children in poverty. Penny Deiner is also developing a grant proposal related to early childhood education which may lead us into action as well as advocacy.

Our 2011 forum will focus on K12 education, particularly Delaware's Race to the Top efforts. Several of us attended the Vision 2015 Leadership Forum in September at the University of Delaware. We heard about the wonderful grant Delaware received and how it will help meet the goals originally set for 2015. Several of us attended a session on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics); STEM efforts are a part of the Race to the Top program. The spring Math-Science Luncheon always addresses a STEM issue. Coastal-Georgetown wants to increase other aspects of encouraging STEM efforts during this year and in the future. We will have more specific proposals next spring.

The Issues/Action group is always anxious to have new group members who have an interest in a topic, or the time now to participate. just call or email Wave Starnes, 302-227-5577, twstar54@aol.com

Scholarship Committee by Kathleen Thompson

In keeping with the mission of AAUW--to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research--the Coastal Georgetown Branch currently awards two scholarships a year, one to a graduating high school senior and one to a graduate of Delaware Technical Community College who will continue their education at a four year institution. To secure funds for these scholarships the Executive Board discussed establishing a fundraising subcommittee. The members of the scholarship committee recently discussed this proposal.

At present, the scholarships are funded by profits from several events held throughout the year attended primarily by branch members. Branch dues are not used to support the scholarships. The dues cover expenses related to the operating costs of the branch.

Members of the scholarship committee agreed that new and creative ideas for raising funds are welcome and the input of branch members is valued and appreciated. Have you participated in a unique fund raiser that would attract wide participation from the community? Do you have some ideas about making use of sites such as Facebook to broaden our audience of donors?

If you have suggestions about how to increase our financial support for the young women of Sussex County through increased and effective fund raising, please forward them to Barbara Miller at Barbmill711@aol.com. Or, bring them to our November monthly meeting. You can offer ideas anonymously, and sharing ideas will not require a commitment to serve on the committee!