

AAUW Coastal-Georgetown Branch Newsletter

COASTAL TIDINGS

September-October 2011



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

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Presidents' Message

from Sheri and Betsy



“Bring your energy – share your ideas – have fun!”

We would like to welcome you to the 54th year of the Coastal-Georgetown Branch of AAUW after a summer filled with visiting friends & family, along with the unfriendly earthquake and hurricane Irene. We are looking forward to another fabulous year while the branch advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. We'd like to share our goals with you for this year.

We need everyone to be involved to achieve our branch goals! First, we want to promote **community awareness of AAUW**, especially our Branch's accomplishments. Thanks to our Membership VP Rose Laird, our Branch was featured in an informative exhibit at the Lewes Library last spring. Our local newspapers carry articles about our book groups and scholarship news, thanks to Mary Lou Urquhart. Next, we would like to **continue and enhance our scholarship programs**. These include our local high school scholarship to a female graduate, a revised or replacement scholarship to a woman already in a higher education program, awards for the Sussex County Science Fair, sponsorship of two women to the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) and two high school girls to attend Girls' State, and a co-sponsorship with the Newark Branch of the Math/Science Recognition Luncheon at the University of Delaware for 11th grade girls who excel in STEM (science, technology, engineering & math). Our continued donations to AAUW Educational Fund (EF) are also needed for national AAUW scholarships. In order to accomplish our scholarship goal, we need a **consistent source of funds**. Thanks to Terry Chester, our “Dine Out for Scholarship” evenings are continuing this year. We will also be sponsoring the Princeton Review Score Program at Cape Henlopen High School in September & October as a fundraiser. We would like to extend this to other high schools in our region this spring. Our geranium sale will continue in the spring. We are looking for a fundraising chairperson who can come up with new ideas. We will support the incredible efforts of the **Issues & Action Committee** along with assisting the **Lobby Corps**. They carry out the important work of advocating for national AAUW initiatives as they impact Delaware and more specifically, Sussex County. Our January Community Forum will focus on one of the issues. Lastly, **individual interest groups** are a way to become involved. If the interest group does not exist, you can create one and ask others at a branch meeting to join or put an article in the newsletter about your idea. Other branches in Delaware have interest groups including bridge, photography, travel, antiquing, cultural growth – anything is possible! Join a committee, share your ideas, and bring your energy to help accomplish these goals!

We look forward to working with everyone for the betterment of our branch as we carry out the AAUW mission and continue the tradition of fine leadership (note – it's taking 2 of us!).

As the 10th anniversary of 9/11 approaches, let's take a moment to remember....

A FEW WOW IMPRESSIONS FROM THE NATIONAL AAUW CONVENTION! *from Marty*

- Seeing over a thousand women from across the U.S who are committed to making a difference in the lives of young women.
- Hearing speakers who were spot on when it came to women's issues that we're facing today.
- Sharing ideas about programs that inspire girls and young women to reach for the brass ring.
- Knocking on doors on Capital Hill to voice our concerns to our representatives.

This was my first National Convention and what a memorable experience it was! Mary Beth Crafts, Sheri Borrin, Laurel Capodanno and I arrived in D.C where we met other Coastal-Georgetown members, Wave Starnes, Lana Cobb, Nadyne Rosin and of course Kathleen Thompson, organizer, par excellence. Kathleen and another AAUW member from Maryland were in charge of organizing all the volunteer workers for the convention.

Because Delaware was one of the host states, members from our state branches volunteered at a variety of tasks that included aiding members with the electronic voting, registering attendees, answering questions at the information desk and assisting during the breakout sessions. I overheard countless times just how smoothly this year's convention was running compared to other years and for this we can thank the two women who organized the workers.

Our first night event was a dinner and program titled Women in Power in President Obama's Administration. Tina Tchen, the Chief of Staff for First Lady Michelle Obama, spoke primarily about her work on the Executive Council on Women and Girls. Russlyn Ali, the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights in the Department of Education, was a powerful speaker. With her at the helm of the Office of Civil Rights we can feel confident that the administration is doing all they can for young girls and women. Two other speakers, Jocelyn Samuels from the Department of Justice and Patricia Shiu from Department of Labor, detailed their efforts to advance equity for women. I must say that these women were forceful and we're fortunate to have them working for us. We had a surprise visit by Representative Rosa DeLauro from Connecticut who strongly urged all of us to speak up about protecting social security since women will be hurt the most if changes are made.

A highlight of the convention was Lobby Day where we joined over 700 other women to march on Capital Hill in a show of AAUW force in advocating for young girls and women's issues. Members from C-G met with staff from the offices of Senators Coons and Carper, and from Representative Carney's office. There we stressed the importance of Social Security protection and how crucial it was for Congress to pass the Campus Save Act, an anti-sexual assault bill. We also talked about issues of equal pay and efforts to encourage more young girls to consider STEM fields.

The four days weren't all work and no play – we had enjoyable evening dinners with AAUW members from other branches, and two of our members, Sheri and Mary Beth had a chance to attend the Women's Suffrage Newseum Tour.

The next convention will be held in New Orleans in two years and I would certainly encourage those who can to attend. It takes a lot to impress me and I was not only impressed but also excited to see so many committed, energetic and engaged women in one place.

C-G AAUW Branch Officers

We'd like to thank Rosalie Pitcher for a wonderful newsletter for the past two years.

New and continuing officers/committee chairs that we look forward to working with:

VP Program:	Penny Deiner & Charma Konnor
VP Membership:	Rose Laird
Financial Officer:	Johanna Barbati
Co-Secretaries:	Mary Dickson & Linda Stigile
By-laws:	Julie Davis
Public Policy:	Wave Starnes
Lobby Corp:	Lana Cobb
Diversity:	Rose Mary Hendrix
Educational Programs & Legal Advocacy:	Pat Porta

Meeting Coordinators:	Terry Chester, Denise Emery & Faith Kusterer
Scholarship:	Kathleen Thompson
Publicity:	Mary Lou Urquhart
Issues & Action:	Becky Moscoso
Historian:	Anita Angeny
Sunshine:	Rose Snider
Newsletter:	Rose Laird & Joan Sherry
Publications & University Relations:	Linda Fischer

C-G AAUW Branch Activities

A Big Thank You

Our Branch received two lovely handwritten thank you notes from Rob White, a Trustee on the RAL Board and Helen Skelton.

"Dear Betsy, The Rehoboth Art League Cottage Tour had another successful year and volunteers like your Association certainly deserve thanks for your help. Your role as docents is essential to the event and your participation is greatly appreciated."

"Dear Ladies, Thank you for your kindness and support of our Girl State Program. You made it possible for two girls to take part in this work of fun and learning more about our program. Thank you. Director, Helen Skelton."

The Princeton Review Fundraiser for C-G

Volunteers Needed to Help!

AAUW and The Princeton Review have formed a partnership to provide the Princeton Review Score Program as a local fundraiser. At no cost to the C-G Branch, we are sponsoring this two session program at Cape Henlopen High School. This is how it works.... On Saturday, September 24th, students (hopefully at least 50 will have registered) will come to Cape HS at 8:00 AM to take a practice SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) that will last until 12 noon. The students will have received flyers from the Cape Guidance Department, prepared by The Princeton Review, advertising the 2 sessions for the nominal cost of \$10. The students' checks are made out to our branch, and collected as they register, by Mr. John Myers, Cape Guidance Department Chairperson. On Wednesday, October 12th, the students will return to the Cape auditorium from 7:00 – 8:30 PM for a personalized score analysis, as well as a presentation of techniques and strategies to raise test scores. The group of students who this will benefit the most is the seniors who are taking the November 5th SAT. We will need several members to check the students in prior to 8:00 AM and to help proctor the practice SAT. We have no expenses for this fundraiser! For more information and to volunteer, contact **Sheri at 226-2296** or sborrin@aol.com.

Laurel Public Library Book Club Networking

Hello! I got these email addresses from the Internet in hopes that they would reach the appropriate persons. I am the adult services librarian at Laurel Public Library and I wanted to make sure that the AAUW is aware of a program we are sponsoring next month. It's called "Connecting Book Clubs" and the purpose is to gather various book club members for networking among themselves. New titles, new procedures, new tactics, etc. are hopefully some of the topics that will come up during the roundtables. Library staff will also be introducing new types of book clubs as well as ways that the library can help clubs with book selection and retrieval. I have attached the library flyer and registration form and hope that you will pass them along to your members who might be in book clubs. This would also be a good time for anyone not currently in a book club to come and see what it's all about. Light refreshments will be served.

The date is Wed, Sept. 28, 2011 from 10:30 to noon. We are asking for a pre-registration so that we can plan on things. If there is little interest we will have to cancel or postpone.

Thank you for your time and I hope that this will be of interest to your members.

Norma Jean Fowler

Please contact Laurel Public Library for Registration Form.

Laurel Public Library, 101 E. Fourth St. Laurel, DE 19956
302-875-3184

Issues/Action Group: by Wave Starnes

WORKING DOCUMENT

AAUW Women's Issues/Action Interest Group Coastal- Georgetown Branch Goals and Objectives for 2011-2012

The Issues and Action Committee arrived at the goals shown in the following tables through discussion at the May and June 2011 committee meetings and after reflection on past activities and accomplishments since the committee's inception in 2007. See page two for a partial list of those activities. Goals and objectives address contemporary equity issues for women and children. They also correlate with and support the Public Policy principles and priorities of the state and national AAUW. Goals with an asterisk are in discussion.

The Issues and Action Committee is looking for new members willing to take action on these important issues. For further information, contact Rebecca Moscoso at 302-829-8231.

Item	Goals/Objectives
Early Childhood: Poverty, Education & Health	Continue to follow the quality of DE child care and pre-school programs as the new legislation is implemented. Continue to maintain and exert influence at the state level that results in higher quality teachers. Monitor changes to the DE budget for 2011-12. Continue the relationship with the Coalition for Early Learning and other early childhood groups. Explore the expansion of Head Start programs including alternate funding channels. Research avenues to expand childcare for all levels in Sussex County. Continue to collect, organize, and share additional data related to the poverty, education and health of early childhood.

Item	Goals/Objectives
Public Education	<p>Follow the implementation of Race to the Top.</p> <p>Promote increased access to higher education.</p> <p>Promote awareness and implementation of equitable school climates free of harassment and bullying.</p> <p>Monitor the Drop Out rate.</p> <p>*Mentoring services in schools</p>
Item	Goals/Objectives
Equality, Individual Rights & Social Justice for Women	<p>Continue to maintain work for passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and expand knowledge of it particularly in the local area through more directed Equal Pay Day activities.</p> <p>Make a more meaningful effort regarding Equal Pay Day, incorporating larger events and focus on women's issues.</p> <p>Look into the "Economic Self-Sufficiency of Women" including women 66 and older relying solely on Social Security; and the needs of young, single women, especially mothers (AAUW Public Policy).</p> <p>Lobby for increased funding for foster children aging out of care.</p> <p>Identify areas to support and consider how to educate the community on topics related to social justice.</p> <p>*Local adult education</p> <p>*Women reentering the workforce</p> <p>*Gay, lesbian, civil unions</p> <p>*Political advocacy</p> <p>*Community Forum</p>
Item	Goals/Objectives
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)	<p>Introduce STEM concepts to children at a young age. The project pursued by Penny Deiner remains active. Obstacles are being overcome, but there is more to do.</p> <p>Establish opportunities for mentoring and tutoring.</p> <p>Support the Sussex County Science Fair for middle and high school students by providing judges. Explore ways to support female students in the preparation of their projects.</p> <p>Find out about the elementary Science Fair.</p> <p>Consider a possible focus on High School Career Days combined with STEM issues. There could be a program for each high school or at a separate venue.</p> <p>Continue the math/science recognition luncheon.</p> <p>*Scholarship committee</p>

A Partial List of Accomplishments of the Issues/Action Committee 2007-2011

- ◆ Lobbied for foster care coverage from 18-21
- ◆ Supported and promoted career opportunities for women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- ◆ Provided mentoring and tutoring in schools, with an aim towards reducing the achievement gap
- ◆ Supported legislation to address early childhood poverty, health and education of Delaware's children through lobbying activities in face-to-face situations as well as through letter-writing campaigns
- ◆ Informed the public of key issues through an annual Community Forum and through local support of the State convention
- ◆ Political advocacy
- ◆ Through a scholarship committee, provided scholarships for female high school graduates
- ◆ Publicized DE legislature's bills in equity areas

- ◆ Lobbied for gay/lesbian and civil union bills
- ◆ Supported local adult education
- ◆ Worked with state and national AAUW and supported their conventions
- ◆ Identified core equity issues that need to be addressed
- ◆ Prepared a summary of Sussex County services for women re-entering the work force from incarceration
- ◆ Lobbied for climate change and wind energy alternatives
- ◆ Conducted research and gathered data on early childhood, public education, social justice, STEM, and other contemporary equity issues, sharing findings with other interested DE groups

Membership update

We began the year with 89 members, one member passed away, another moved out of the area and we added 9 new members. I thought for sure we were about to hit the 100 mark. Unfortunately we had 17 members not renew and have only had two new members join. Please help us get our numbers up. I will have flyers and brochures available at the September meeting. Please help me make people aware that we are an active organization within our community.

Scholarships

Coastal-Georgetown AAUW Awards the Virginia A. Rust Scholarship to Graduating High School Senior Woman

Charinel Matos, recent graduate of Sussex Technical School received the \$1,500 Coastal-Georgetown American Association of University Women's (C-G AAUW) Virginia A Rust scholarship for 2011. Ms. Matos will attend Salisbury State University in the fall.

C-G AAUW awards an annual scholarship to a graduating senior woman from one of the four high schools in the area; Cape Henlopen, Indian River, Sussex Central and Sussex Technical. The selection of the scholarship recipient is based on a short essay demonstrating the applicant's leadership qualities, her volunteerism and community service and her involvement in civic activities. C-G AAUW is a professional organization whose mission is to work for equity for all women and girls, to encourage lifelong learning and to effect positive societal change. AAUW promotes this mission through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy.

Memorial for Maria Simoes

The Board voted to name our scholarship to NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) in memory of former Coastal-Georgetown President Maria Simoes. The **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** sponsored annually by AAUW is the only conference that brings together college women to address important and contemporary leadership issues. This past June, we sent two women from the University of Delaware to the conference at the University of Maryland.

Fundraisers

"DINE OUT" FUNDRAISER at BETHANY BLUES RESTAURANT and GROTTO'S GRAND SLAM

Dine-Out for Scholarships

In an effort to raise money for the Branch's scholarship fund, plans are being made for two fundraiser dinners at local restaurants. The first event this fall is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 28 at Bethany Blues** on Rt. 1 in Lewes from 4 until 9pm. Diners need to present a coupon to their waitress to secure a 10% donation from their bill towards our benefit. Coupons will be available on line, at the September Branch meeting, and at the greeting table at the restaurant the night of the dinner.

The second event is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 26 at Grotto's Grand Slam** at 5 Points in Lewes from 4 until 9 pm. Again, diners must get a coupon on-line or at a Branch meeting and present it to the waitress to secure a 20% benefit. Note: There will be no greeting table and no opportunity to get a coupon once at the restaurant. Please plan ahead.

A third event is being planned for Green Turtle in Lewes but not until after New Years—more on that one later.

So please plan to come out and have a good dinner and some fun while supporting our local scholarship fund. And don't forget to **bring your family, friends AND COUPONS!!** See you there!

Monthly Meetings and luncheon September 15

Big Fish Grill, Rt. 1 Rehoboth 11:00 – 2:00



Program: Connie Miller will be the presenter on the craft of Victorian Sailor's Valentines and Shell Mosaics." She will speak about her art and what it means to be an artist in this area. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this type of art and would like a preview go to <http://www.cmmshellart.com/gallery.htm> and then come to the meeting to learn more and see the real thing.

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

Menu: The restaurant will provide selections from their menu.

October 20



El Mariachi, 14 Wilmington Ave., Rehoboth 11:00 – 2:00

Program: Joan M. Cole, Director of USO, Delaware Dover Air Force Base

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

Menu: Salmon Salad, Carne Asada or Sizzling Pechuga (Chicken)



Welcome New Members

New Members

Joan Sherry

I graduated from the Univ. of Utah with a double major in English and Political Science, and later obtained a Masters in International Relations at the Univ. of Maryland, College Park. Fortunately, I have been able to maintain both of these interests throughout my life. By profession, I have been a business writer and Editor/Managing Editor in Washington, D.C., Geneva, Switzerland, and Maastricht, The Netherlands, as well as the Washington half of a New York City editorial firm partnership. The International Relations part was enabled by my husband John, a U.S. Foreign Service Officer (who died in 2009). We were posted to 4 countries in Asia, and to Paris and Geneva in Europe. John retired to accompany me to my editorial job in Maastricht, where I worked with documents of the Commission of the European Community. When my 2-year contract ended, we decided to move back to Paris where we still had friends. We stayed for 3 years until the economics of a falling dollar and a demanding Vietnamese landlady made us realize it was time to go home. When not unpacking, I enjoy tennis, hiking, skiing, and reading. Our family has had a second home in Lewes since 1997.

Patricia Makos

I grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota and lived there with my husband and three children. A corporate move in 1980 took us to Brookfield, Connecticut. While in CT, I attended Western Connecticut State University and graduated with a BBA degree. In the 90s, another corporate move took us across the country to Gig Harbor, Washington (south of Seattle). During our stay in Gig Harbor, I joined AAUW. After ten years in the Puget Sound region, we moved to Fairfax, Virginia to be closer to our children and grandchildren. Again I joined AAUW and was active in book group, technology day, and the scholarship committee. Each summer we vacationed in the Lewes/Rehoboth Beach area and obviously loved the area.

I recently retired from an international trade association and we moved into a new home in Lewes this summer. I look forward to becoming involved in AAUW. Besides reading, I am taking up knitting after a 30-year break, and am starting to exercise again now that I no longer have lack of time as an excuse.

Monthly Discussion Groups

American Library Association Notable Book Discussions



October

Book is "Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition." By Daniel Okrent

October 6	Lewes Library	10am - 12Noon or
October 11	Selbyville Library	1pm - 3pm

For more information call:

Laurel Capodanno 226- 3773, Ada May Shipley 436-2981



New York Times Notable Book Discussions

South Coastal Library

11am-12:30pm 1st Thursday of the month

October

October 6, The Same River Twice, fiction by Ted Mooney

For more information, call:

Virginia Nee 539-4969, or Lois Robinson 537-2906 or Anita Angeny (537-6353)

This book group is offered as a public service by the Coastal-Georgetown Branch of the AAUW and is open to all without signup or reservation.

Diversity Book Group



The Diversity Book Club is recalculating. We are looking for new ideas to make our discussions on the issues of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability and class more meaningful.

Our first book on **October 13** will be "**A Moment in Time**", by Chris Fisher, who is from Rehoboth. If you are interested in the Diversity group, read this book and join us at Rose Mary Hendrix's house at 10:00 A.M., to discuss the book and suggest other books and ideas for the group. It can be fiction or non-fiction as long as it realistically relates to a topic listed above. You may have ideas that no one has thought of before and we welcome them. If you don't have time to read the book before the 13th, you can still join us if you would like to participate in future meetings.

Let me know if you are interested by calling 537-9417 or emailing rm.hendrix@mchsi.com.