

Branch Notes

Vrana Anderson and Rebecca Johnson Melvin, co-presidents

It is a common misconception for non-members that the AAUW Newark Branch is some sort of group affiliated with the University of Delaware. Though many individual members have close personal ties to UD as alumnae, employees, or familial relation to same, AAUW Newark Branch is simply a group of the community's women who believe in equity for women and girls and seek to advance that cause through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. That being said, the Newark Branch has enjoyed several programs and supported several UD students in 2010-2011. We are pleased to recognize these ties and appreciate partnership opportunities between our community and UD.

After a successful year with great return on our support for Meghan Wallace, a UD senior who we sponsored for the 2010 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, the Newark Branch voted in January to send *two* rising seniors to the 2011 NCCWSL. The selection process is underway, with the assistance of Becki Fogerty, UD Office of Equity and Inclusion and Meghan Wallace. Newark Branch will fund the conference fee (registration & board at \$395) and the two students will attend our September branch meeting to tell us about their experiences. More about Meghan's year of student leadership will be featured in the next newsletter.

Our Branch selection of the UD Outstanding Senior Woman award is also underway, thanks to Dr. Sandra Millard (AAUW DE member) and branch members Susan Arruda, Mary Hudson, and Dot Munroe. Thank you to these branch members and others who immediately answered the call for volunteers. Recognizing the accomplishments and community contributions of UD's many outstanding women is an inspiring job. The honoree will be recognized at the Annual Meeting and Salad Supper in May.

UD alumna Linda Lennon spoke at the January branch meeting about her professional work as an objects conservator, and UD doctoral candidate Gabrielle Parkin will speak at the March 14 meeting about her research in medieval English literature, in particular how a woman of that time might have read and used a Book of Hours. Branch programs are free and open to the public, so please bring a guest or encourage friends to attend at the Newark Free Library.

Branch member Lori Athey has chaired an incredible group of volunteers to plan the April 10 Math-Science Luncheon to honor Delaware High School Junior Women who excel in the STEM fields at their schools. The luncheon will be held in the Trabant Student Center this year; parking is in the adjacent garage (at the west end of Main Street, across from the Deer Park). The speaker is Dr. Clytrice Watson, Delaware State University Assistant Professor of Biology and Program Director for the BS in Forensic

Biology degree. Nancy Gray has worked with Lori to attract exhibitors and mentors from the local STEM community, all of whom are appreciated for the sponsorship and support they are showing our honorees. Additionally, a group of women graduate students from UD's College of Engineering will be attending. These young women participated in a year-long project funded by national AAUW's Community Action Grant. Their program, "Starting a Cycle of Mentoring: STEM Women and Girls in Delaware" shares a goal with our Math-Science Honors Luncheon to address the scarcity of females pursuing careers in these fields. The luncheon, which has reached its 12th year, is co-hosted by Newark and Coastal-Georgetown branches. Please plan to attend and please sponsor an honoree! See the attached reservation forms. Any proceeds from the event are contributed to AAUW Education Funds.

Bylaws & Branch Leadership

Bylaws officer Nancy Black and Branch secretary Alice Ryan are meeting to review the branch bylaws, which are being considered for simpler structure in accord with national and state trends. For more information, please contact Nancy Black. At the same time, all members are urged to volunteer for leadership and other team positions in 2011-2012. Please contact any member of the branch board for information. We want you! You know we do!

Hoops and Hollers

Shout out (*thank you!*) to Susan Arruda for arranging the February 20 branch meeting – 35 tickets were purchased by branch members and guests to attend the UD Women's Basketball game against James Madison University. The game was a close loss by the Lady Blue Hens, but everyone enjoyed the talent on the court and made a lot of noise for the players. Coach Tina Martin spoke to our AAUW group afterwards and there was unanimous agreement that Newark Branch will attend again. Pink was prominent at the arena: a health fair preceded the game, breast (and other) cancer survivors were celebrated at half-time, and many members received "Be Strong" pink t-shirts for attending.

Ahoy, Ladies! See you in Lewes!

The Annual Delaware State Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2011, at the Virden Center in Lewes. Several members of C-G as well as Ann Alexander of the Dover Branch have offered free housing to Newark Branch members who may wish to come down on Friday, May 13, and join the C-G members for a wine tasting. Dr. Nancy Targett will be the keynote speaker at the meeting on Saturday, which is a nice complement to the STEM interests of AAUW. Dr. Targett is dean of the Earth, Ocean, and Environment College at the University of Delaware, which has a truly global reach in its research projects. If you need a ride to Lewes, please contact Rebecca Johnson Melvin or Vrana Anderson. Registration forms for the conference will be available from <http://aauwdelaware.org>

International News: Come Learn about The Pakistan Project

AAUW Delaware is co-sponsoring a Wilmington Rotary Club luncheon program on May 19, 2011. The Rotary Club of Wilmington, as part of its Pakistan Project, has invited Bushra Aitzaz, a leading spokeswoman in Pakistan for Human Rights, Women's Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. Mrs. Aitzaz is from Lahore, Pakistan. The luncheon program will be held in the Gold Ballroom of the Hotel DuPont will be from 12 noon to 1:30 pm. The cost is \$30 (\$20 for students). AAUW DE will be represented by Vrana Anderson and individual members are also invited to attend. Reservation details will be available after March 25.

Join our DE State Lobby Corps!

Newark Branch members are encouraged to join our state Lobby Corps, led by state public policy chair Wave Starnes and past president Lana Cobb, in talking to Delaware State Legislators about issues of interest before the 146th Delaware General Assembly. To find out what's up, please contact Wave at 302-227-5577 or twstar54@aol.com or Lana at lcobb2@verizon.net. Did you know that you can follow the state legislative agenda online? Please visit <http://legis.delaware.gov/>

There are three dates to join AAUW DE members in Dover:

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 – Meet at 11 am in Cafeteria at Legislative Hall
Tuesday, April 12, 2011, for Equal Pay Day
Wednesday, April 13, 2011, for Early Childhood Advocacy Day

Reminder:

2011 AAUW National Convention
June 16-19, 2011
Renaissance Washington, D.C., Hotel
Registration & information at <http://conference.aauw.org>

In remembrance

Several members of the AAUW Newark Branch attended the memorial service for branch member Marjorie Purcell, who passed on February 15, 2011. Marjorie's love of travel, international friendships, nature, and music was celebrated with reminiscences and songs, especially with "Blue Skies From Now On." She was an active member of the League of Women Voters, secretary of the AAUW, a founding member of the Great Decisions Group, a founding member of the Friends of Newark Free Library, a friend of the Newark Symphony, and class co-editor for her alma mater, Arcadia University.

She is survived by a daughter, Leslie Anne Purcell of Ventura, CA, and two sons, Jeffrey W. Purcell and wife Karen of Cambridge, MA, and Coy W. Purcell and wife Nancy of Narberth, PA; and a grandson, Connor Purcell. Marjorie's husband, Dr. Ralph E. Purcell, died in 1994. In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions may be made in her honor to the Newark Area Welfare Committee, PO Box 951, Newark, DE 19715; the Newark Free Library, 750 Library Ave. Newark DE 19711; or the Prison Ministries of Delaware, PO Box 1055, Newark, DE 19715.

Don't Forget!

Check <http://aauwdelaware.org> for calendar, policy, scholarships, and news about all AAUW branches in Delaware.

Next Meetings

Program co-chairs: Sandy Boyce and JoAnne McNeely

Monday **March 14**, 7:00 pm, Newark Free Library
"How to Read a 16th Century Book of Hours," Gabrielle Parkin, UD doctoral candidate in late medieval English literature

Sunday **April 10**, 12:30 pm, Trabant Student Center, UD Campus, Newark
12th Annual Math Science Luncheon honoring Delaware highschool junior women who excel in the STEM fields. Speaker: Dr. Clytrice Watson, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences and Program Director for the Bachelor of Science in Forensic Biology, Delaware State University.

Monday **May 23**, 6:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 292 W. Main St
Annual Business Meeting and Salad Supper with UD Outstanding Senior Woman Award and branch named gift awards.