



Southern Highlights



Volume 11 Number 4

December 2012

Shaping the World One Woman at a Time



Marijo Alexander and Sue Grove, Co-Presidents

Co-President's Thoughts

It's hard to believe that 2012 is almost over! As I reflect back on the year, I am thankful for family and friends and the wonderful group of women who make up AAUW. We have such a vibrant branch who come together to support equity for all women and girls and to extend friendship to fellow members.

I love that we have so many opportunities to be together: book groups, travel group, First Friday Lunch, Great Decisions, and knitting to name a few options outside our monthly meetings. Our programs continue to be inspiring and diverse. 2013 promises to be even better. I am so looking forward to Women's History month and having Lisa Maatz, the AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, speak to an assembly at Austin High.

I hope to see everyone at the December gathering at the Coffee House on Main. It is so fun to be downtown in the evening in the cozy coffee house and to be able to look out at the Christmas lights. Please bring a friend or friends to enjoy the evening with your AAUW friends. Marijo and I wish you a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year.

Sue Grove
Co-President

Upcoming Programs

It's holiday time! Please mark your calendar for December 11th and plan to join us for our holiday social at the Coffee House on Main at 6:30 PM. Delicious goodies will be served and warm beverages will be available at this festive gathering of AAUW members. All are encouraged to bring a favorite children's book to donate to the Salvation Army Toy Drive.

January's program on Tuesday, January 8th, promises to be enlightening as we learn more about the work of the Michael H Seibel Family Visitation & Exchange Center and its mission "to facilitate the exchange and visitation of children by and between custodial and non-custodial parents while monitoring and maintaining safety for all participants." Heather Steinkamp, director of the center, will be our speaker. The meeting will be held at the Seibel Center - 105 1st St NW. Please join us there at 6:30 PM for goodies and social time. The program will begin at 7:00. We hope you can join us for these events!

Kari Bain & Yesenia Mendoza
Program Committee Co-chairs



Small Groups

These groups are open to any member wishing to attend.

Morning Book Group

Our selection for discussion on December 20th, is *The Other Wes Moore*. The meeting place is once again at Gymocha at 9 AM. NOTE CHANGE OF BOOK SELECTION FOR JANUARY 17th, 2013. We have chosen *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte, instead of Faulkner's selection. Meeting place TBA. For questions/suggestions, please call Lois McConnell.

Evening Book Group

We will be discussing *The Year We Left Home* by Jean Thompson on December 3rd at the home of Carolyn Bogott. Please note this is a change of location! Please RSVP to Carolyn. On January 7th we will be discussing *In The Garden of the Beast* by Erik Larson at the home of Ruth Monson.

First Friday

We will meet at the Austin Country Club on Friday, Dec. 7th at 11:30 for First Friday Lunch. January 4th we will meet at the Brick House at 11:30. If people are interested who haven't attended before they can email Dorothy at sdkrob@charter.net. Please RSVP to Dorothy.

Travel Group

The AAUW Travel Club will NOT be meeting in December. Many of our members cannot attend on our regular day because of different Christmas activities/functions. I want to wish everyone a most joyous Christmas Season with family and friends.

We will meet in January on Thursday, the 10th at 2:00 P.M. I will send out an email message after the first of the year with the details about the January meeting. If anyone new is interested in joining our informative and fun group to learn about all kinds of different places in our wonderful world, please either email me (drgraber@charter.net) or call (433-7897) me. Thank you and Happy 2013.

-DedaRae Graber

Great Decisions

The discussion group has grown and we are pleased to have welcomed new participants. On November 20 we completed the 2012 study program of these topics: Middle East Realignment; Promoting Democracy; Mexico; Cyber-security; Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq; State of the Oceans; Indonesia; and Energy Geopolitics. We have been challenged and enlightened about the complexity of these topics and the many responses to them in various parts of the world.

We will continue in 2013 with these topics: Future of the Euro; Egypt; NATO; Myanmar and Southeast Asia; Intervention; Iran; China in Africa; Threat Assessment. Like those above, these are timely topics and we look forward to another stimulating year of learning from experts and sharing our ideas and impressions.

Knitting, Needlework & Fellowship!

The AAUW Knitting Group has been meeting every Saturday morning at 9:30 for a month now. One or more of us have gathered each week for knitting, crocheting, and other needlework. We've had great fun and even completed projects.

Join us any Saturday morning at 9:30 at the Coffee House on Main with your handiwork or just for fellowship. Most of the time, there is someone there to offer instruction.



**AAUW Board Meeting
November 13, 2012**

AAUW Board met at the Austin Public Library. Present were Marijo Alexander, Kari Bain, Peggy Benzkofer, Carolyn Bogott, Sue Grove, Evelyn Guentzel, Barb Hunter, Ruth Monson, Laura Tjomsland, Harriet Ulland and Mary Kay Wilson.

Secretary's report was approved.

Board approved a \$10 increase in the cost of insurance for the coming year.

The Board approved the AAUW National Funds contribution in the same amount (\$850) and same allocations as last year with Eulalah Adwell as the named recipient:

EF Fund 4203 - \$300
EF Fund 4326 - \$550

Newsletter items are to be submitted to Rae Dawn on or before the last Friday of November. Agenda items are to be submitted to Marijo on or before the first Tuesday of the month.

There will be no Board meeting in December or January. The next Board meeting will be February 12, 2013 at 5:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Monson, Secretary

**AAUW Monthly Financial Report
November, 2012**

Period: 11/1/12-11/30/12

Opening Balance: \$7,840.60

Income:

Dues Received 130.00
Uncashed check, 2010 25.00

Total Income: \$155.00 \$7,995.60

Disbursements:

National Dues 98.00
State Dues 18.00

Insurance 160.00

Total Disbursements: \$276.00

Closing Balance 11/30/12 \$7,719.60

AAUW Gives Thanks

The American Association of University Women would like to pause this Thanksgiving to give thanks for the many opportunities and advancements for women and girls during 2012. **Although there is no way for us to list all of the advances we have seen this year, here are just a few to reflect upon and give thanks:**

We are thankful that as of November 2012, women have gained back 51 percent of their total jobs lost in the recession, and men have regained 52 percent of jobs lost.

We are thankful to the AAUW states, branches, and coalition partners that made voter education and mobilization a priority as part of the AAUW Action Fund It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard campaign. With your work and commitment, we challenged millennial women to make their voices heard; and they were.

(Give Thanks, cont.)

We are thankful for the record number of women elected to Congress: 20 in the Senate and 78 representatives and three delegates in the House. We are particularly grateful for the states that elected their first female Senators: Hawaii, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin and the other "firsts" in the 2012 elections, which broke representation barriers for religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

We are thankful for the implementation of the requirement that all new health insurance plans must include coverage without cost sharing of an additional eight women's preventive care services, including contraception, testing for sexually transmitted infections, and breastfeeding support.

We are thankful for the U.S. Olympic Team sending more female athletes than male athletes for the first time in history, and we are thankful that women won 29 of the U.S. teams' 46 gold medals. We are also thankful that 16-year-old Gabby Douglas became the first black woman to win a gold medal in the individual all-around gymnastics competition at the Olympics.

We are thankful for the health and bravery of Malala Yousafzai, the 15-year-old girl who was shot last month in Pakistan because of her work documenting Taliban atrocities and promoting women's education. We are also thankful for the tremendous outpouring of support from around the globe as Malala recovers.

We are thankful that the Susan G. Komen Foundation restored grants to Planned Parenthood for cancer screenings following a national uproar that included AAUW's decision to sever a tie with the foundation's Race for the Cure.

We are thankful for Sandra Fluke, the smart Georgetown Law student who parlayed House GOP blockage of her testimony and attacks by Rush Limbaugh into becoming the new voice of the year for women's rights.

We are thankful for AAUW's new research report, Graduating to a Pay Gap, which uses the latest nationally representative data to explore the earnings difference between female and male college graduates who are working full time one year after graduation. It also examines one immediate effect that the pay gap has on many women: the heavy burden of student loan debt. The

report has been featured by Reuters, U.S. News and World Report, and The Washington Post.

We are thankful for the release of pay equity advocate Lilly Ledbetter's book, Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond. AAUW received on-air recognition from our wonderful friend Lilly Ledbetter on the Rachel Maddow Show (MSNB) in June for our work on equal pay, and we were so excited to see Lilly speak about her book on The Colbert Report in October!

We are thankful for the Senate-passed, bipartisan Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, which builds on the success of previous reauthorizations, addresses the needs of all victims nationwide, and includes important campus safety provisions. AAUW will continue to pressure the House to agree to this vital reauthorization.

We are thankful for the 40th anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the landmark legislation ensuring equal opportunity in education for all students. We are also thankful for the release of a coalition report, chaired by AAUW, recognizing this milestone.

We are thankful for the anti-bullying work done by Cynthia Germanotta, Lady Gaga's mother, and Katie O'Malley, Maryland's first lady, who received copies of AAUW's Crossing the Line research report at the Third Annual Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Summit hosted by the Department of Education.

We are thankful that Air Force Lt. Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger became the first female four-star Air Force general and the second female military officer to receive four stars. We are also thankful for the Pentagon's recommendation that women be allowed to serve in more jobs closer to the front lines, a move that would open around 14,000 additional jobs to women, and for the Marine Corps' decision to open its infantry course to women for the first time.

(Give Thanks, cont.)

We are thankful for President Barack Obama's endorsement of AAUW priority anti-bullying legislation, the Student Nondiscrimination Act and Safe Schools Improvement Act.

We are thankful that the U.S. Department of Education finalized regulations for a new Pay-As-You-Earn plan for student loan repayment, as well as changes to the current Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) and Income Based Repayment (IBR) plans.

We are thankful for the Obama administration's creation of the Master Teacher Corps program to boost science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, part of the administration's ongoing efforts to produce 100,000 additional math and science teachers in the next 10 years.

We are thankful for the expansion of certain spousal benefits to same-sex domestic partners of federal employees.

We are thankful for the marriage equality victories in Maryland, Washington, Minnesota, and Maine; the defeat of an anti-choice amendment, an anti-separation of church and state amendment, and an amendment that would have limited the state's ability to collect tax revenues in Florida; the defeat of three Idaho ballot initiatives that would have harmed Idaho's education system; the passage of in-state tuition eligibility for undocumented students in Maryland; and the defeat of a ballot measure in North Dakota that could have allowed individuals to claim religious justification for discrimination or violence against women and children under the law.

We are thankful for the confirmation of Jacqueline H. Nguyen of Los Angeles to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, which made her the first Asian-American woman to sit on a federal appellate court.

We are thankful that Shannon Eastin became the first female to referee a National Football League (NFL) game in August when she officiated a preseason game between the Green Bay Packers and San Diego Chargers.

We are thankful for 19 years of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which allows eligible women and men who work for employers with 50 or more employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid

leave each year for certain family and medical purposes.

We are thankful for the appeals courts in Massachusetts and New York that struck down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

We are thankful that the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act in a complex 5-4 decision in June 2012. AAUW believes that, although not perfect by any stretch, many of the reforms included in the Affordable Care Act will improve the collective health of the American people.

We are thankful for the 19th International AIDS Conference, held in Washington, D.C., in July. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke about the impact of AIDS on women at the conference, which was held in the U.S. for the first time since 1990.

We are thankful that leaders of G20 nations mentioned women for the first time in a declaration following a two-day summit in Mexico in June 2012. The declaration included a "firm commitment to advance gender equality in all areas, including skills training, wages and salaries, treatment in the workplace, and responsibilities in caregiving."

We are thankful for AAUW's 2012 Legal Advocacy Fund victories, including *Parker v. Indiana High School Athletic Association*, *Mansourian v. Regents of the University of California*, and *Bull v. Board of Trustees of Ball State University*.

We are thankful for AAUW members and supporters who generously give of their time, talents, and treasures to empower all women and girls to advance their educations, increase their economic security, and develop their leadership skills.

From all of us at AAUW to our more than 150,000 members, donors, and supporters nationwide: Best wishes for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving and a safe and joyful beginning to your holiday season!

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

Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

Southern Highlights Editor: Rae Dawn Rao
rao_raedawn@yahoo.com

Minnesota State Website:
<http://www.aauwmn.org>

The Pine Editor: LouAnne Hoppe
Association Website:

<http://www.aauw.org>

Association e-mail: info@aauw.org



AAUW Southern Highlights
1001 22nd Ave. SW
Austin, MN 55912