



Southern Highlights



Volume 11 Number 3

November 2012

Shaping the World One Woman at a Time



Marijo Alexander and Sue Grove, Co-Presidents

Co-President's Thoughts

What a great meeting we had in October! There was a good turnout, and our three speakers: Janet Anderson, Judy Enright, and Jeanne Poppe were excellent. They shared stories about their experiences as women in elected positions and encouraged others to explore running for office and/or serving on local boards and committees. Thank you, too, to Evelyn, who continues to keep us informed on AAUW's positions on various issues that impact women and girls. I have been hearing positive comments even from nonmembers who have heard good things about the meeting.

I am looking forward to the November meeting to learn more about the progress of Austin's newest school, I.J. Holton STEAM School. Jean McDermott will be giving us an overview of what the school will be like and updates on its progress. It is exciting to think that Austin will have this school for fifth and sixth graders to explore science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Don't forget that we will be at the public library on November 13th.

Remember to invite potential members to meetings or small groups. It is the best way to get out the word on all the exciting things that are happening: book groups, lunch groups, knitting, and whatever you can think of. If you have ideas for new small groups, bring them on. Mahjong, anyone?

Enjoy these crisp fall days.

Sue Grove
Co-President

November Program

The November meeting celebrates American Education Week (November 11- 17). Please join us at the Austin Public Library on Tuesday, November 13 as Jean McDermott, principal of the new Holton Intermediate School, shares plans for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) education in Austin. The new school will open in the fall of 2013 and promises to be an exciting addition for Austin Public Schools students, their families, and the entire community. The program begins at 7:00, but plan to join us for the social hour beginning at 6:30.

Kari Bain & Yesenia Mendoza
Program Committee Co-chairs



Small Groups

These groups are open to any member wishing to attend.

Morning Book Group

Our AM Book Club will meet again at Gymocha on Thursday, November 15th at 9a.m. Our book selection for discussion is *Midwives* by Chris Bahjalian. Please feel welcome to join this AM group if you are interested. Our selection for discussion on December 20th, is *The Other Wes Moore*. The meeting place is TBA. 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 *Small Island* by Andrea Levy on Monday, November 5 at the home of Peggy Benzkofer at 7 PM. Please RSVP to Peggy at pjbenzko@gmail.com. On December 3rd we will be discussing *The Year We Left Home* by Jean Thompson.

First Friday

First Friday lunch will be at El Mariachi's Friday, Nov. 2nd, 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 be meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8th at 2:00 P.M. at Bursch Travel in the Sterling Shopping Center (1411 1st Ave. SW). Edie, along with one or two other travel agents from their company, will be sharing information on their travels to South America. They will mainly be talking about Brazil and Argentina. I'm sure it will be an interesting program. I hope you are able to attend.

I will be gone during this time, therefore, would you please let Sandy Folk know via email or phone (433-9150) if you plan to attend our meeting or if you are unable to attend before Tuesday, November, 6th.

-DedaRae Graber

Great Decisions

We had a lively discussion on Indonesia at our October meeting. Thank you to Yesenia for bringing an international student at Riverland who is from there. She was amazing at giving insights on her country and culture.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 20th at noon in room C124 in the east building at Riverland. It is open to everyone whether you have read the article or not. We always watch a 20 minute video produced by Foreign Policy Association at the beginning of our session.

If you would like a copy of the article for November, contact Sue Grove. Feel free to bring your lunch to the meeting.

Knitting, Needlework & Fellowship!

Join us for an informal time to do knitting, needlework, or just visit. We are meeting every Saturday at 9:30 at the Coffee House on Main. Sonia and/or Sue plan to be there most Saturdays, so just come even if you don't feel "crafty". We stay about an hour or however long the spirit moves us.

We have knitting needles and yarn available if you would like to learn how to do basic knitting. We have very creative members, so among us, we should be able to get you started!

See you at the Coffee House on Main Saturday mornings at 9:30!

DON'T FORGET TO



One year out of college, women already paid less than men, report finds

By: Jenna Johnson, Published in the October 23rd Edition of the Washington Post

Women are attending college at higher rates than men, graduating in greater numbers and earning higher grades. Yet one year after graduation, women were making only 82 percent of what their male colleagues were paid, according to a report by the American Association of University Women set to be released October 24th.

Nearly every occupation has long paid men more than women, despite laws aimed at narrowing and dissolving the differences. Often the gap is attributed to men picking careers with higher salaries, women slowing their careers after having children and differences in work experience. The AAUW researchers decided to look at workers when they are most similar — freshly done with their undergraduate studies, lacking vast experience and unlikely to have spouses or children.

They focused on those who graduated during the 2007-08 school year, zeroed in on full-time workers and studied what they earned in 2009, one year after graduation. The women made only 82 percent of what the men were paid, with the average woman making \$35,296 while men were paid an average of \$42,918.

The report relied on data from an Education Department survey of about 15,000 college graduates via Web or telephone surveys.

Even when men and women had the same majors, there were often gaps in pay. The researchers found that female business majors earned an average of slightly more than \$38,000, while men earned just over \$45,000. In engineering, technology, computer science and social sciences fields, researchers found that women made between 77 percent and 88 percent of what their male colleagues were paid. (The health-care and education fields were credited for paying men and women about the same.)

But the overall gap — the 18-percentage-point disparity — could be explained by career choices; men are more likely to enter high-paying fields such as

engineering and computer science. The researchers controlled for that, along with other variables, but an “unexplained” 6.6-percentage-point gap remained.

“This pay gap is not merely the result of women’s choices,” researchers Christianne Corbett and Catherine Hill wrote in their report, “Graduating to a Pay Gap.” “Lower earnings have an immediate effect after college, setting into motion a chain of disparities that will follow women throughout their careers.”

One of those disparities: If women earn less, they will have a harder time repaying their student loans, a “significant and growing problem,” the researchers wrote. For the Class of 2008, the average amount of student loan debt was about \$20,000, an amount that didn’t vary much between the genders, although women were more likely than men to have taken out loans.

The researchers put forward suggestions for reducing the pay gap, including encouraging women to pursue careers in higher-paying fields and to negotiate higher pay.

“A problem as long-standing and widespread as the pay gap, however, cannot be solved by the actions of individual women alone,” the researchers wrote. “Employers and the government have important roles to play. The pay gap has been part of the workplace so long that it has become simply normal.”



AAUW Fellowships Available (Pass the Word!)

Program: Selected Professions Fellowships

Agency: American Association of University Women Educational Foundation

Next Deadline: Jan 10, 2013

Master's and First Professional Awards provide \$5,000 to \$18,000 for women pursuing full-time graduate study in architecture, computer/information sciences, engineering, and math/statistics; or for women of color who are working toward an MBA, JD, MD or DO. See

http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellowships_grants/index.cfm for details. Email: aauw@act.org

Contact: Fellowships and Grants Staff (ext. 60)
Department 60
101 ACT Drive, PO Box 4030
Iowa City, IA 52243-4030
319/337-1716

AAUW Monthly Financial Report October, 2012

Period: 10/1/12-10/31/12

Opening Balance: **\$7,863.35**

Income:

Dues Received 325.00

Total Income: **\$325.00** \$8,188.35

Disbursements:

National Dues 245.00
State Dues 72.00
Supplies - Printing Dir. 30.75

Total Disbursements: **\$347.75**

Closing Balance 10/31/12 **\$7,840.60**

AAUW Board Meeting October 9, 2012

AAUW Board met at Riverland Community College. Secretary's report was reviewed and approved.

Mary Kay reported a \$7,863.35 balance, noting that this was the largest amount ever carried over from a previous year. The board will consider how to use the extra money.

Marie reported about the local website and noted that she has not updated the Facebook page recently. Yesenia and Sue offered to be administrators for the Facebook page. Marie asked for members to submit quotes for the "Why Am I a Member" website column.

Barb gave a membership update. She reported a total of 52 paid members and will follow up on several members who have not yet paid their membership dues. The Membership Directory is finished and is being distributed to members.

Next month's general meeting will be held on November 13 at the Austin Public Library. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Jean McDermott will speak about the new STEAM School. December's meeting will be a Holiday Social on December 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Coffee House on Main. Members are invited to donate a children's book.

Sue invited members to consider attending the AAUW State convention April 26-28 in Rochester. Our branch will donate a basket of items on the theme "Our Favorite Things".

Agenda items are to be submitted to Marijo on or before the first Tuesday of the month. There will be no Board meeting in November. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Monson, Secretary

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.

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