

Welcome Lu In Wang Our Newest Branch Member

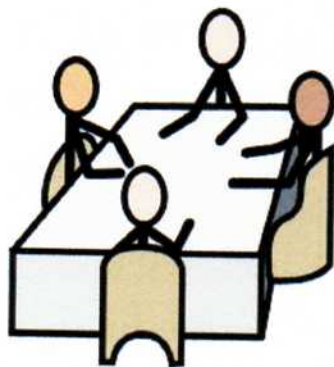


Lu In received her BS at Pennsylvania State University, her BA at the University of Pittsburgh, and her JD at the University of Michigan. She is a lawyer and a Law Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Professor Wang received the Student Bar Association's Excellence in Teaching Award in 2000 and 2006, and the University of Pittsburgh's Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2001. In 2006, she was elected to membership in the American Law Institute. Professor Wang previously practiced law with firms in Chicago, Illinois, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is a former staff attorney for the Center for Social Gerontology, a national support center on law and aging. She also served as a law clerk for former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ralph J. Cappy.

Lu In became a member of our branch effective December 1 and we were happy to meet her at the December meeting.

Lu In, welcome to the AAUW!

Remaining 2011-2012 Branch Meetings



- February 11, 2012
- March 10, 2012
- April 14, 2012 – State Convention in Greentree
- May 12, 2011 – Annual Meeting

Be a Member Detector!

New members are the lifeblood of every organization, including ours. We encourage everyone to invite their friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors to our meetings throughout the year.



Happy Birthday



Shari Muench



Susan Shapera



Patricia Byerly



- January 4 – Shari Muench
- January 8 – Susan Shapera
- January 24 – Patricia Byerly

Important January Events in History

- **Paul Revere**, Revolutionary War patriot, born January 1, 1735.
- Flagmaker **Betsy Ross** born January 1, 1752
- **Abraham Lincoln** issued the Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863.
- **J. Edgar Hoover**, director of the FBI from 1924 to 1972, born January 1, 1895
- **Georgia** ratified the Constitution, January 2, 1788
- Women's-rights leader **Lucretia Mott** born January 3, 1793.
- **Alaska** was admitted to the Union as the 49th state, January 3, 1959
- **Utah** became the 45th state, January 4, 1896
- **Nellie Taylor Ross** became the first woman governor of a state, Wyoming, January 5, 1925
- **New Mexico** became the 47th state, January 6, 1912
- **First American presidential election**, January 7, 1789
- **Andrew Jackson** defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815
- **President Wilson** stated his "Fourteen Points" before Congress, January 8, 1918
- **Connecticut** ratified the Constitution, January 9, 1788
- **Carrie Chapman Catt**, American woman-suffrage leader, born January 9, 1859
- American civil rights leader **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, born January 15, 1929
- **Kansas** became the 34th state, 1861
- **Robert E. Lee**, commander of the Confederate Army in the Civil War, born January 19, 1807
- **Edgar Allan Poe**, American author, born January 19, 1809
- Steelmaker **Sir Henry Bessemer** born January 19, 1813
- **Michigan** became the 26th state, January 26, 1837

Happy Birthday Ladies

Source: <http://www.entourages.com/barbs/january.htm>



Don't miss the January 14, 2012 meeting . . .

Jeanne Berdik, from the ARCS Foundation will speak on issues related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

The meeting will be held at the PAA in Oakland located at:

4215 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

(412) 621-2400
www.paaclub.com

- 10:30 – 11:45 Board Meets
- 12:00 – 12:20 Membership Meeting
- 12:20 – 1:00 Lunch is Served
- 1:00 – 2:00 Program

Please R.S.V.P. no later than January 11, 2012 to reserve your seat! Cost of lunch is \$17.00 payable upon arrival.

For more information call Pat Byerly (412) 482-4419 or email her at pabyerly@aaupgh.org

December's Program

In lieu of a speaker at the December meeting we all took a walk over to the Nationality Rooms at Pitt. The rooms were all uniquely decorated for Christmas. One room of special interest was the Italian Room.



In this room hung a picture of Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia, the first woman in the world to earn a university degree. In 1678 she received the Doctorate in Philosophy by the University of Padua.



She died of tuberculosis on July 26, 1684. There is a statue of her at the University of Padua.

Source: <http://www.women-philosophers.com/Helena-Lucretia-Cornaro-Piscopia.html>

Recipe of the Month

Green Pepper Sandwich By Henny Adorante

Buns
Catsup or mayonnaise
Lettuce
Green pepper strips



On a bun the size of a hamburger bun, put either catsup or mayonnaise. Add a piece of lettuce and 3 strips of green peppers.



As a retired nurse, I went to Haiti in March of 2010 to help the January 12th earthquake victims as part of a 20-person team representing Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti. It is an all-volunteer, Christian-centered organization that provides medical care and training, Bible schools and various types of assistance to the Haitian people. Over 200,000 people perished in the earthquake and the survivors needed help badly. The local school served this sandwich to the children I worked with. If they had cold cuts or cheese, they would put 1 thin slice of either (not both) instead of the lettuce and green pepper. They had so very little—it was quite an emotional experience that I will never forget.

AAUW-PA position on Vouchers

AAUW-PA supports public education and choice in public education, but opposes vouchers.

AAUW believes a strong, free public education system is the foundation of a democratic society. Pennsylvania should demonstrate its' strong commitment to education by focusing on delivery of a quality public school education rather than vouchers. "AAUW members believe that taxpayer money should be invested in public schools" said Margaret McGrath, President of AAUW-PA.

Vouchers are a diversion of focus and funds from all public education students to enable a few to use public money to attend private and religious schools. While a voucher to help a student in a poor school is appealing, vouchers do not benefit public school children.

The priority goal is for ALL PA public schools to provide a quality education. "AAUW supports improving public education to ensure that high school graduating students are able to read, write, and do enough math to succeed in society and compete for jobs internationally" said Ms. McGrath. "Major initiatives should include implementation of common core standards, programs to reduce the dropout rate, and efforts to mitigate socio-economic disadvantages so that education can be a pathway to opportunity." She noted that the extent of remedial learning needed by college and university students demonstrates that quality is not just a problem for children attending failing schools.

Vouchers are a distraction from this priority goal, especially when there already IS choice in public education in Pennsylvania through charter and cyber charter schools. Student performance data for these schools are publicly available. AAUW PA's booklet "Finding Your Way" assists parents in choosing schools for their children. (download the booklet from www.aauwpa.org)

Source: www.aauwpa.org

Scholarship Fund Raiser – Cookbook

By Patricia Byerly



I am happy to report that we have sold 121 cookbooks to-date. That means we have raised \$1,210 for the Scholarship Fund. We still have about 60 cookbooks left and we hope to sell those at the Pennsylvania State Convention held in Greentree in April.

Receive the Newsletter Electronically

If you are finding the print in the newsletter a little small and hard to read you can now sign up to have the newsletter emailed to you when it is published. Or, you can view the newsletter online by going to our Web site at www.aauwpgh.org and clicking on the "Newsletter" link on the left side of the home page. To have the newsletter emailed to you in a PDF format, contact Pat Byerly at (412) 482-4419 or email her at pabyerly@aaupgh.org



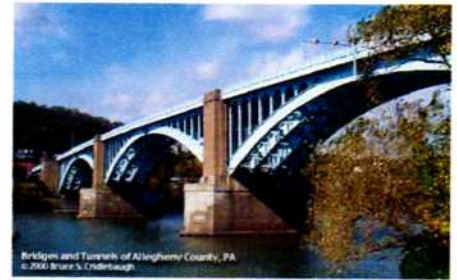
STEM Initiatives – Why So Few?



AAUW is supporting nationwide initiatives regarding STEM— science, technology, engineering, and math. Our branch is looking for current or new members who have interest in these fields—perhaps you have a degree in one of these areas, or have taught or worked in one of these areas. We would like to do a project that would bring this concept of encouraging girls and women to be engaged in these fields to people's attention. We have a toolkit, a DVD, and a Power Point Presentation—now we just need active participants and a plan, which is open to interpretation. We have a book from AAUW, called *Why So Few*, for all our members that we distributed at the September meeting. Please let us know if you would be interested in bringing this vital information to the forefront.

TIDBITS . . . Did You Know

The Washington Crossing Bridge (40th Street Bridge) in Pittsburgh is a historically significant span. Construction began in 19199, and the bridge was opened on December 29, 1924 – 171 years after Gen. George Washington crossed the Allegheny River at that location.



Mounted on the wall below the southwest obelisk, a plaque reads:

GEORGE WASHINGTON
A messenger from the Governor of Virginia to the
commandant of the French forces on the Ohio
and CHRISTOPHER GIST, his guide
crossed the Allegheny at this point
on December 29, 1753
on the return journey from Fort LeBoeuf.
Placed by the Pittsburgh Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution
1926

As representatives of the colony of Virginia, Washington and Gist were returning from a meeting with French General St. Pierre near Erie, PA in the winter of 1753. They arrived at the Allegheny River near Sharpsburg to find the river only partially frozen over and not passable on foot. After spending the night camped on the north bank, they built a raft and attempted the crossing at sunset. Impeded by ice, Washington was soon thrown into the freezing river and forced to make for a nearby island, Wainwright's or Garrison. The island has since become part of the south shore.

Source: American Profile
<http://pghbridges.com/pittsburghE/0587-4480/40thst.htm>

Dorothy Blumenfeld

Dorothy Blumenfeld, age 93, has been a member of the AAUW Pittsburgh Branch since July 1, 1949 passed away in December, 2011. Her daughter wanted us to know that her body has been donated to the University of Pittsburgh Medical School. There will be a memorial service held on January 14, 2012.

January's Famous Quote

"If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to formant a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

Abigail Adams, U.S. First Lady, 1776

Abigail Adams



*Abigail Adams, later in life, by Gilbert Stuart
First Lady of the United States
In Office
March 4, 1797 – March 4, 1801*

Abigail Adams (*née* **Smith**; November 11, 1744 – October 28, 1818) was the wife of John Adams, who was the second President of the United States, and the mother of John Quincy Adams, the sixth. She was the first Second Lady of the United States, and the second First Lady of the United States.

Adams is remembered for the many letters she wrote to her husband while he stayed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the Continental Congresses. John frequently sought the advice of Abigail on many matters, and their letters are filled with intellectual discussions on government and politics. The letters serve as eyewitness accounts of the American Revolutionary War home front.

Abigail Adams was born in the North Parish Congregational Church in Weymouth, Massachusetts, to the Reverend William Smith and Elizabeth (*née* Quincy) Smith. On her mother's side she was descended from the Quincy family, a well-known political family in the Massachusetts colony. Through her mother she was a cousin of Dorothy Quincy, wife of John Hancock. Adams was also the great-granddaughter of the Rev. John Norton, founding pastor of Old Ship Church in Hingham, Massachusetts, the only remaining 17th-century Puritan meetinghouse in Massachusetts.

Her father, William Smith (1707–1783), a liberal Congregationalist, and other forebears were Congregational ministers, and leaders in a society that held its clergy in high esteem. However, he did not preach about predestination, original sin or the full divinity of Christ; instead he emphasized the importance of reason and morality. Abigail was a sickly child and was not considered healthy enough for formal schooling. Although she did not receive a formal education, her mother taught her and her sisters Mary (1739–1811) and Elizabeth (1742–1816, known as Betsy) to read, write and cipher; her father's, uncle's and grandfather's large libraries enabled the sisters to study English and French literature. As an intellectually open-minded woman for her day, Adams' ideas on women's rights and government would eventually play a major role, albeit indirectly, in the founding of the United States. She became one of the most erudite women ever to serve as First Lady.

As third cousins, Abigail and John had known each other since they were children. In 1762, John accompanied his friend Richard Cranch to the Smith household. Cranch was engaged to Abigail's older sister, Mary. John was quickly attracted to the petite, shy, 17-year-old brunette who was forever bent over some book. He was surprised to learn

Abigail Adams (Continued)

that she knew so much about poetry, philosophy and politics, considered unusual for a woman at the time. Although Abigail's father approved of the match, her mother was appalled that her daughter would marry a country lawyer whose manners still reeked of the farm, but eventually she gave in.

The couple married on 25 October 1764, five days before John's 29th birthday, in the Smiths' home in Weymouth. Abigail wore a square-necked gown of white challis, while John appeared in a dark blue coat, contrasting light breeches and white stockings, a gold-embroidered satin waistcoat his mother had made for the occasion, and buckle shoes. Then Rev. Smith (the bride's father) performed the nuptials.

After the reception, the couple mounted a single horse and rode off to their new home, the small cottage and farm that John had inherited from his father in Braintree, Massachusetts (later renamed Quincy), before moving to Boston, where his law practice expanded.

In 10 years she gave birth to six children:

- Abigail ("Nabby") (1765–1813)
- John Quincy Adams (1767–1848)
- Susanna Boylston (1768–1770)
- Charles (1770–1800)
- Thomas Boylston Adams (1772–1832)
- Elizabeth (stillborn in 1777)

Abigail was responsible for family and farm when her husband was on his long trips. "Alas!" she wrote in December 1773, "How many snow banks divide thee and me." She raised her two younger sons throughout John's prolonged absences. She also raised her elder grandchildren, including George Washington Adams and a younger John Adams, while John Quincy Adams was minister to Russia. Her childrearing style included relentless and continual reminders of what the children owed to virtue and the Adams tradition.

When John was elected President of the United States, Abigail continued a formal pattern of entertaining. With the removal of the capital to Washington in 1800, she became the first First Lady to preside over the White House, or President's House as it was then known. The city was wilderness, the President's House far from completion. She found the unfinished mansion in Washington "habitable" and the location "beautiful"; but she complained that, despite the thick woods nearby, she could find no one willing to chop and haul firewood for the First Family. Adams' health, never robust, suffered in Washington. She took an active role in politics and policy, unlike the quiet presence of Martha Washington. She was so politically active that her political opponents came to refer to her as "Mrs. President".

After John's defeat in his presidential re-election campaign, the family retired to Quincy in 1800. Abigail followed her son's political career earnestly, as her letters to her contemporaries show. In later years, she renewed correspondence with Thomas Jefferson, whose political opposition to her husband had hurt her deeply.

Abigail Adams (Continued)

Abigail and John's marriage is well documented through their correspondence and other writings. Letters exchanged throughout John's political obligations indicate that his trust in Abigail's knowledge was sincere. "She could quote poetry more readily than could John Adams," states McCullough. Their correspondence illuminated their mutual emotional and intellectual respect. John often excused himself to Abigail for his "vanity", exposing his need for her approval.

Abigail died on October 28, 1818, of typhoid fever. She is buried beside her husband in a crypt located in the United First Parish Church (also known as the *Church of the Presidents*) in Quincy, Massachusetts. She was 73 years old, exactly two weeks shy of her 74th birthday.

Her last words were, "Do not grieve, my friend, my dearest friend. I am ready to go. And John, it will not be long."

Women's Rights

Adams was an advocate of married women's property rights and more opportunities for women, particularly in the field of education. Women, she believed, should not submit to laws not made in their interest, nor should they be content with the simple role of being companions to their husbands. They should educate themselves and thus be recognized for their intellectual capabilities, so they could guide and influence the lives of their children and husbands. She is known for her March, 1776 letter to John and the Continental Congress, requesting that they, "...remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation."

John declined Abigail's "extraordinary code of laws," but acknowledged to Abigail, "We have only the name of masters, and rather than give up this, which would completely subject us to the despotism of the petticoat, I hope General Washington and all our brave heroes would fight."



Adams as a part of the Boston Women's Memorial on Commonwealth Ave.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abigail_Adams

