

# AAUW Pittsburgh Branch

The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch

Visit us at [www.aauwpgh.org](http://www.aauwpgh.org)

Issue No. 29

January 2013

## Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap



*We worked for tips!!*



Gift wrapping sessions were held at Barnes & Noble at the Monroeville Mall and at the Waterfront on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday December 14, 15 & 16.

We worked hard, had a great time, and met a lot of interesting people. Let's all give a big **'THANK YOU'** to Susan Banerjee, Michele Buford, Pat Byerly, Bernie Cerasaro, Lisa Charlton, Katie Fanelli, Marci Henzi, Shari Muench, and Karin Neilson. Without their hard work we would not have been able to raise \$225.10 for our scholarship fund.



Don't miss the January 12, 2013 meeting . . .

### *Project to End Human Trafficking (PEHT)*

Jaime M. Turek, M.I.D., has been working with the Project to End Human Trafficking (PEHT) for over six years and is currently the Assistant Director of the organization. Some of her responsibilities include fundraising, event planning, conducting research, educational outreach and awareness, holding lectures, presentations, and workshops, consultations and interviews for films, magazines, journals, etc., and actively working to lobby for and implement city, county, state, and federal legislation. Jaime is also a member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition. While her position with PEHT is a volunteer position, she also works as a case manager at the Northern Area Multi Service Center (NAMSC), where she is the case manager for refugees who are newly resettled in the greater Pittsburgh region. She holds a Master's degree in International Development from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, where she studied Human Security and Human Rights. Her Bachelor's degree, which is also from the University of Pittsburgh, is in Political Science. She is certified in Russian and Eastern European Studies, Global Studies, and Conflict and Conflict Resolution.

Jaime will be speaking about human trafficking in general, who is trafficked, reasons why victims might be trafficked, the federal anti-trafficking law, and stories about human trafficking at the global and local levels.

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

4215 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
10:30 – 11:30 Board Meets  
11:45 – 1:00 Lunch  
1:00 – 2:00 Program

(412) 621-2400  
[www.paaclub.com](http://www.paaclub.com)

Please R.S.V.P. no later than January 9, 2013 to reserve your seat!  
Cost of lunch is \$20.00 payable upon arrival.

For more information or to reserve your seat and your journal, please send an email to [aauwpgh@aauwpgh.org](mailto:aauwpgh@aauwpgh.org)

## AAUW MISSION

AAUW advances equity for Women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

## About AAUW

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Because AAUW is a 501(C)(3) charitable membership organization, most of your national dues are tax deductible on your personal federal income tax return.

## End Human Trafficking. Combat Modern Slavery.



Red thread bracelets are now available for the January meeting for a cost of \$3.00 each. By purchasing a Red Thread Bracelet we join the fight against human trafficking and raise awareness of this form of slavery.

## *40 years ago this month at the Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW*

The first meeting of the Pittsburgh Branch of the AAUW in 1973 was held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at the William Penn Hotel. The program was entitled, "Community-Based Programs for Juvenile Delinquents, and the speaker was Mr., William Cammarata, Director for Youth Development Centers.

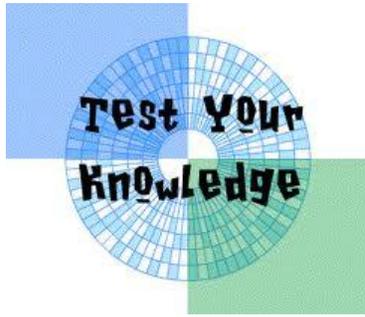
Ms. Edith Balas received the 1972 AAUW Educational Foundation Fellowships Program Award. Also, 7 new members were welcomed to the branch.

Among the activities slated for the month was an evening at Heinz Hall (*Tosca*), and the awarding of a \$1000 gift to Savina Skewis and Teresina Marino for their service to the purposes of the AAUW. In addition, the Board solicited the general membership for the names of nominees for the 1973 Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania Award.

Submitted by  
Karin Neilson



## An American History Quiz



How well do you know your American history?

We will be celebrating our nation's 236<sup>th</sup> birthday this year (continued from 2012) and there were 25 questions developed for *American Profile* by the American Historical Association, the nation's oldest and largest society of history teachers, professors, and historians.

Each month you'll be presented with 5 questions. Are you ready for 16 through 20?

16. More than 25 million passengers and members of ships crews entered the United States between 1892 and 1924 through which facility.
  - A. Port of Los Angeles, California
  - B. Ellis Island and the Port of New York, NY
  - C. Angel Island and the Port of San Francisco, California
  - D. Port of Galveston, Texas
17. All of the following were created as part of the New Deal response to the Great Depression of the 1930s except the:
  - A. Social Security Administration
  - B. National Labor Relations Board
  - C. Federal Reserve System
  - D. Securities and Exchange Commission
18. June 6, 1944, became known as D-Day, marking a major turning point in World War II when:
  - A. Japan attacked U.S. naval targets in Hawaii.
  - B. 156,000 American, British, Canadian, and other troops invaded Nazi-occupied France.
  - C. Germany surrendered to Soviet forces in Berlin, ending the war in Europe.
  - D. Scientists in New Mexico tested the world's first nuclear weapon.
19. In 1950, the Treaty of Detroit settled a dispute between:
  - A. The Sauk Indians and the French
  - B. Canada and the United States
  - C. The Temptations and Elvis Presley
  - D. The United Auto Workers and General Motors
20. American scientist Dr. Jonas Salk discovered:
  - A. DDT
  - B. Quinine
  - C. The polio vaccine
  - D. Penicillin

Source: [www.americanprofile.com](http://www.americanprofile.com)

## Pittsburgh Branch Officers and Board

### Elected Officers

President, Dr. Shari Muench  
[aauwpgh.president@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.president@gmail.com)  
Program Vice President, Karin Neilson  
[aauwpgh.programVP@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.programVP@gmail.com)  
Membership Vice President, Trina Hall  
[aauwpgh.membershipVP@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.membershipVP@gmail.com)  
Finance Officer, Bernie Cerasaro  
[aauwpgh.financeOfficer@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.financeOfficer@gmail.com)  
Recording & Corresponding Secretary, Marci Henzi  
[aauwpgh.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.secretary@gmail.com)

### Appointed Chairpersons

Communications/Web, Patricia Byerly  
[aauwpgh.communication@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.communication@gmail.com)  
Public Policy, Advocacy & Diversity,  
Gwendolyn Ormes  
[aauwpgh.publicpolicy1@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.publicpolicy1@gmail.com)  
Michele Buford  
[aauwpgh.publicpolicy2@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.publicpolicy2@gmail.com)

### Supporting Liaisons and Committees

Public Relations Liaison, Rosemary Martinelli  
Scholarship Committee Chair, Susan Banerjee  
[aauwpgh.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.scholarship@gmail.com)  
Nominations Committee, Karin Neilson and Gwendolyn Ormes

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## SAVE THE DATES

STEM, Teacher Appreciation, Share the Future Reception – March, 2013

World Book Night – April 23, 2013

This is an event that the board is very excited about. Learn more at <http://www.us.worldbooknight.org/> and watch for more information in future issues of the newsletter. It would be great if we can get everyone to participate in this very important event.



AAUW Pittsburgh Branch Blood Drive – spring 2013.

We are working with Chatham University to sponsor a blood drive. Volunteers will be needed to pass out refreshments. More details will follow.



First Annual Wine Tasting – April 20, 2013.

Watch for details in future newsletters.



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## Letters to the Editor

Do you have something you want to say? Well, here is an opportunity to let everyone know what you think. If you have something you want to speak out about please say your piece in an email to Pat Byerly at [aauwpgh.communication@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.communication@gmail.com) and watch for it to be published in future issues of *The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch*.

## The Flag of the United States of America



Left to right: Shari Muench and Michele Buford

At the request of the Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Member of Congress, 130 flags were flown above the United States Capitol on January 14, 2012, the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first meeting of the organization that was to become the American Association of University Women (AAUW). AAUW state presidents from every state received one of those historic flags on behalf of their state AAUW organizations in honor of this momentous anniversary and in recognition of its commitment to improving opportunities for women and girls across the globe. A flag was also sent to the president of the oldest branch in each state, in recognition of their longstanding commitment to AAUW's mission.

In 2013, the Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW will celebrate its 113<sup>th</sup> year.



## Eleanor Roosevelt Award Fund

To help support this fund, holiday tissue box covers were sold at the December meeting. Proceeds of sales were split between the Eleanor Roosevelt Award Fund (\$25.00) and our branch's scholarship fund (\$10.00). Thanks to those who purchased the tissue box covers.



## A Very Happy Member



Midway through the second year since the inception of the monthly raffle, Karin Neilson was thrilled to finally have her name drawn. Congratulations Karin!

To-date the raffle has brought in approximately \$300.00 for our operating fund. Thanks to all who support it.

Answers to quiz: 16 (B), 17 (C), 18 (B), 19 (D), 20 (C)

## Debt Ceiling Crisis

*The following are a series of articles that should be of interest to everyone.*



### Budget 101: Where We Are Today

September 12, 2012, by [AAUWquest](#)

*One year after the debt ceiling crisis, Congress and the president again are facing a series of tough decisions regarding federal spending and deficit reduction. With so much at stake in this debate, we'll be breaking down the details of the impending across-the-board cuts, also known as sequestration*

Each year, the federal government collects and spends money, which results in a balanced budget, a deficit, or a surplus depending on how much comes in and how much goes out. Between 1970 and 2009, the federal government had a budget surplus just four times — in [successive](#) years from 1998 to 2001. In all other years, the disparity between income and spending resulted in deficits. Due to several factors, including defense spending, tax cuts, and relief for the recession, the federal debt as [compared with the nation's gross domestic product](#) this year will reach the highest point since shortly after World War II.

By law, Congress has to act every year to raise the limit of the federal debt — also known as the debt ceiling — but in 2011, the government was forced to the brink of a shutdown because lawmakers could not agree on how to reduce the long-term deficit by cutting spending, increasing revenue, or both. Members of Congress reached an agreement in the [Budget Control Act of 2011](#), which created, among other things, the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction — the “[super committee](#)” — for the purpose of fashioning a bipartisan agreement to reduce the federal deficit by at least \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years.

The leadership of the House and Senate chose [12 members](#) from both chambers and both parties to serve on the super committee. To motivate the members to reach a long-term deficit reduction plan, the Budget Control Act also included a time-sensitive threat: If the committee failed to come up with a solution by November 23, 2011, \$500 billion in across-the-board cuts in discretionary spending — evenly split between security and non-defense programs — would go into effect in January 2013 and run through 2021. These automatic cuts are known as sequestration. The super committee [failed](#) to achieve its goal, and sequestration is now on the horizon. The first cuts are expected in January 2013, and \$109.3 billion in cuts will occur each year between 2013 and 2021. January 2013 will also bring the expiration of what are known as the Bush tax cuts — changes to the U.S. tax code that were passed in 2001 and 2003.

As of September 4, 2012, the deficit [stood](#) at \$16 trillion. If no changes are made to current law — if sequestration takes effect and tax rates are increased to return to their year-2000 levels — \$2.9 trillion will be [added](#) to the deficit over the next decade. If officials prevent sequestration's cuts and still keep tax rates at historically low levels, the deficit is [projected](#) to grow by an additional \$10.7 trillion by 2021. So while it may sound appealing to slash government programs and keep tax rates low, doing so would actually not balance the budget — it would instead damage critical programs that serve women, seniors, students, and working families.

Just a few of the federal programs that could be affected by the cuts are Social Security, Pell Grants, and Medicare. AAUW [supports](#) a [balanced](#) approach to reducing the federal deficit and [protecting](#) funds that assist disadvantaged communities, including programs that benefit gender equity in education and other areas.

## Budget 101: The Bush Tax Cuts

September 19, 2012, by [AAUWquest](#)

Tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003, commonly known as the Bush tax cuts because they were passed during George W. Bush's presidency, are set to expire in January 2013. When these tax cuts were passed, [proponents](#) argued that Americans with more take-home income would spend more money and therefore stimulate economic growth. However, [studies](#) of the tax cuts have found that they added to the federal deficit and contributed to a trend of [concentrating wealth](#) among the richest Americans.

Also in January, \$500 billion in across-the-board cuts in discretionary spending — evenly split between security and non-defense programs — will go into effect and run through 2021. These automatic cuts are known as sequestration. If these drastic spending cuts are made and the tax rates return to their higher year-2000 levels, the deficit over the next 10 years is [projected to increase](#) by \$2.9 trillion. If elected officials prevent sequestration and extend all of the tax cuts in addition to extending emergency unemployment insurance the deficit is [projected](#) to increase an additional \$10.7 trillion through 2021.

Policy makers have considered a [few options](#) for the tax cuts:

- [Extend](#) the reduced tax rates for individuals who earn less than \$200,000 and for couples filing jointly below who earn less than \$250,000. For the 2.5 million households whose incomes are over that threshold, tax rates [would increase to between 36 percent and 39.6 percent](#) — the same rates paid in 2000.
- [Extend](#) the tax cuts for those who earn less than \$1 million.
- Extend all of the Bush tax cuts for one year.

AAUW advocates for making smart choices about federal [spending](#) and the growing deficit. Extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for individuals who earn up to \$200,000 and couples who earn up to \$250,000 would [protect](#) the middle class while increasing government revenue to pay down the deficit and protect important programs. The extension of all tax cuts would not [advance](#) our AAUW [priorities](#), including expanding access to higher education, closing the achievement gap among elementary and secondary students, promoting career and technical education, expanding affordable health care, and advocating for gender equity in employment and education.

## Budget 101: The Payroll Tax and Social Security

September 26, 2012, by [AAUWquest](#)

Social Security is funded through [taxes on payroll](#), which include contributions from both employers and employees. This tax is officially known as Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI), although it's commonly referred to as the payroll tax. Currently, the [tax rate](#) is 4.2 percent for employees and 6.2 percent for employers on up to \$110,000 of income. Before 2011, employers and employees paid the same amount. But the [Tax Relief and Job Creation Act](#) in 2010 reduced the tax rate paid by employees because the economic recovery had slowed and the president and Congress sought to boost workers' take-home pay. The lower-rate “tax holiday” was [extended](#) through 2012 and is now set to expire on December 31. The [Bush tax cuts](#) are scheduled to expire around the same time, and [sequestration](#) — \$500 billion in across-the-board cuts in discretionary spending split evenly between security and non-defense programs — also could go into effect after the New Year.

Although the 2012 tax-cut [extension](#) was [offset](#) by a transfer from the U.S. Treasury to the two Social Security trust funds, both the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and the Disability Insurance trust funds are on track to be exhausted in the next 30 years — the OASI fund in 2035 and the DI fund in 2016. This does not mean that benefits will suddenly stop at that time. Rather, Social Security programs would be forced to “live within their means” and [match](#) payouts to income from payroll taxes, which would not cover the total benefits included in the programs today. According to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), the Social Security trust funds could pay for 75 percent of the scheduled benefits after 2033 but would only be able to cover 73 percent by 2086.

Sustaining the current level of benefits requires immediate attention. One way to strengthen the trust funds is to allow the payroll tax holiday to expire. According to [trust fund data](#) from the Social Security Administration, the payroll tax holiday [reduced](#) the share of income paid through employer and employee contributions to the Social Security trust funds from 82 percent to 70 percent between 2010 and 2011.

Allowing the payroll tax cut to expire may be politically unpopular, but it would be a great step toward protecting Social Security and disability insurance beneficiaries in the future. AAUW's Public Policy Program [advocates](#) for strengthening retirement benefits and programs and for a Social Security program that

provides inflation-protected, guaranteed lifetime benefits with a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits. For these reasons, we believe allowing the payroll tax cut to expire is good policy that will benefit the Social Security trust funds in an immediate and tangible way.

## Budget 101: Unemployment Insurance

October 3, 2012, by [dswerdlow](#)

The basic premise of the social safety net is that help is available when people are most in need. That's why Medicaid enrollment expands when we're in an economic recession — because more people meet the low-income eligibility requirements, which means that more people need assistance obtaining health care. The same thing happens with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps. More people qualify for SNAP during recessions because more people struggle to put food on the table due to their lower incomes.

That's also why one of the first actions Congress took when the economic crisis began was to create a temporary expansion of the unemployment insurance program that would provide additional weeks of benefits. In a normal economy, unemployment insurance — in the form of weekly checks — would be available for up to 26 weeks to people who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. But as the unemployment rate ticked up, lawmakers realized that the need was greater, which meant the social safety net had to adjust to fit the need. So in 2008, they created a program called Emergency Unemployment Compensation, which allows people to receive [anywhere from 14 to 47 additional weeks of benefits](#) depending on their state's unemployment rate. A resident of a state with a higher unemployment rate would be eligible for more weeks of benefits.

Now, more than four years since that first extension, we are still dealing with a chronically high unemployment rate. Moreover, [40 percent of those who are unemployed have been without jobs for 27 weeks or longer](#), which means that they still need unemployment insurance beyond the initial 26 weeks. And at the same time, our country is facing a series of tax and budget changes that are slated to take effect at the beginning of January 2013 and are likely to impact the day-to-day lives of most Americans. One of the changes is the expiration of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program. The question, though, is whether lawmakers will once again extend the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program or let it expire.

It's a politically difficult decision to make because these benefits are real and tangible. [In 2010 and 2011, the average weekly unemployment benefit was \\$300](#). That check could cover your utility bill, a grocery store trip, or an emergency car repair so you can make it to your next job interview.

In addition, unemployment insurance helps not only the recipient but also our economy as a whole. According to an [analysis](#) by the financial research organization Moody's Analytics, for every dollar spent on unemployment insurance, \$1.61 goes back into the U.S. economy, which makes unemployment insurance the most successful form of government stimulus. That's because, as a Moody's researcher told NPR, people who receive unemployment benefits tend to spend the money rather than save it, since the point of unemployment insurance is to replace a person's lost income so she or he can still buy the necessities. Such consumer spending boosts economic growth and demand. [You could correctly argue that unemployment insurance creates jobs](#).

Yet, as our [Budget 101 series](#) has shown thus far, these decisions are not so simple. The federal government has been footing the bill for the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program for more than four years, and with much attention focused on [reducing the U.S. budget deficit](#), it's a tough climate in which to argue that unemployment benefits should be extended further. In truth, these decisions are never simple, but this time, with the expiration of unemployment insurance coming at the same time as many other fiscal decisions, it is even more difficult.

## Budget 101: Sequestration and the Path Forward

October 10, 2012, by [bethscott123](#)

So far in the Budget 101 series, we've covered the current state of the [federal budget](#), the impact of Bush-era [tax policies](#), the payroll "tax holiday," and the importance of [unemployment insurance](#). In this post, we'll discuss the sequester, what will happen if we go over the "fiscal cliff," and what AAUW thinks elected officials should do.

Last year, as part of the agreement to raise the debt ceiling, Congress passed the [Budget Control Act](#). There were two key aspects of this legislation. First, \$917 billion had to be cut from the federal budget over the next decade. These automatic cuts have already begun with \$21 billion removed from the fiscal year 2012 budget. The second part of the legislation created the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, the so-called [super committee](#). Members of the committee, a small group of representatives and senators, were charged with producing a plan to cut at least \$1.2 trillion from the deficit over the next decade. Congress gave itself an incentive to succeed — if the committee failed to produce a plan by November 23, 2011, or if Congress failed to pass one by December 23, 2011, \$500 billion in automatic, across-the-board spending cuts ("sequestrations") split between defense and non-defense spending would occur.

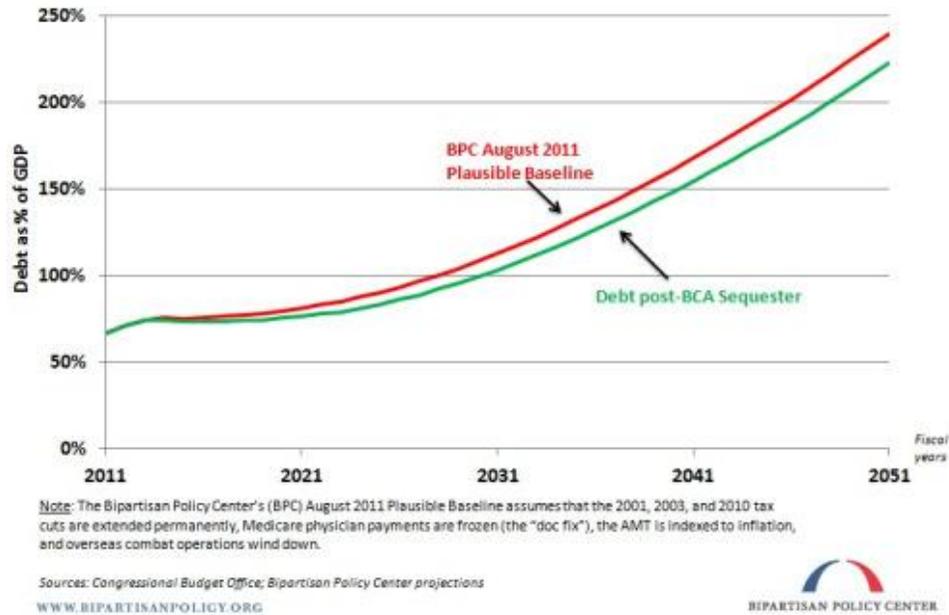
Congress failed in this mission, and sequestration now looms. The first cuts are expected in January 2013, and \$109.3 billion in cuts will occur each year between 2013 and 2021. Social Security, Medicaid, civil and military employee pay, and veteran benefits will be exempted, and Medicare benefits will be limited to a 2 percent reduction.

While dramatically cutting the federal budget might sound appealing, it would come with real costs. One [recent analysis](#) found that implementing sequestration would mean, among many other things

- Head Start would serve 96,179 fewer low-income children.
- Five million fewer families would be served by the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, which provides funding for prenatal care; well-child services; infant mortality, injury, and violence prevention; oral healthcare; school-based health programs; and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities.
- 1,133,981 fewer students would receive grants for career and technical education.

Another point against sequestration is that it would not actually close the deficit. Although the proposed cuts would bring defense and domestic discretionary spending levels down to historic lows as a percentage of the U.S. economy, it would do little to stabilize or end the debt.

## THE SEQUESTER DOESN'T CONTROL THE DEBT



So what should Congress do to prevent the sequester and what political analysts are calling the "fiscal cliff" — the combination of sequestration's spending cuts and the expiration of the Bush-era tax cuts, unemployment insurance extensions, and the payroll tax holiday — from wreaking havoc on the economy in January 2013?

AAUW believes that any agreement must be balanced. We shouldn't cut programs for the young, the old, and the vulnerable while protecting cuts to other programs. Any agreement must include additional revenues, not additional hardships.

Second, AAUW believes any agreement should create capacity, not destroy it. While some argue that Pell Grants for college students or job training for displaced workers is too expensive, think about how much human potential we would lose if we didn't provide these opportunities. A few dollars spent today can create hundreds of dollars for our economy in the future. We shouldn't risk our country's capacity for greatness by cutting this funding.

Finally, AAUW strongly believes that any package must honor the commitments we've made to one another. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are promises that we've made as a society — no one should starve or die because they're too poor or too old. It's that simple, and Congress needs to recognize that and leave these programs alone.

These are tough budgetary times, and we face difficult decisions as a country. But this argument isn't just about numbers — it's about who we are and who we want to be as a country. AAUW urges our elected officials to enact a sensible, balanced proposal that allows our economy to grow and lets Americans live in dignity and prosperity.

### Avoiding the Fiscal Cliff

December 5, 2012, by [bethscott123](#)

Welcome to AAUW's Budget 101 series, where we examine tax and budget issues in the news. So far, we've gone over the [federal budget](#), the impact of Bush-era [tax policies](#), the payroll tax "holiday," [unemployment insurance](#), and what happens if we go over the "fiscal cliff." In this post, we'll talk about what Congress and the White House should do to avoid the cliff.

For several years now, AAUW has advocated for commonsense budget policies that promote fairness and fiscal responsibility. We believe that any outcome to the current debate must 1) focus on job creation, 2) be balanced in its approach to spending cuts, and 3) include additional revenues. Specifically, AAUW supports returning to the Clinton-era tax rates for high-income earners while continuing the current rates for the middle class. This policy will ensure a balanced approach to deficit reduction without creating devastating results for America's middle class. Additionally, AAUW strongly prefers that Congress avoid further extensions of the payroll tax cut [holiday](#), which breaches Social Security's guaranteed funding stream and forces the program to rely on transfers from the U.S. Treasury's coffers, setting a problematic precedent that may undermine Social Security's long-term solvency.

AAUW is a nonpartisan organization, but we're also multipartisan, representing a variety of political affiliations and viewpoints. Despite our differences, AAUW members come together to get things done and serve our communities. Congress should do the same. These decisions will only get harder if a solution is deferred.

Since our founding in 1881, AAUW has been breaking through educational and economic barriers to empower women. Our member-adopted [Public Policy Principles](#) support "public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to the community." Like most Americans, AAUW members applaud financial success and responsibility but also value fairness and community. When the top 2 percent of earners and the wealthiest corporations get tax breaks the country can't afford, the middle class has to make up the difference — otherwise we simply add more to the budget deficit and national debt.

AAUW has long been committed to speaking out for women and their families. We support budget policies that further the principles of fairness and fiscal responsibility — these ideas are not mutually exclusive. Congress should act, and act now, to avoid the fiscal cliff.

Source: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)