

AAUW Pittsburgh Branch

The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch

Issue No. 30

Visit us at www.aauwpgh.org

February 2013

Project to End Human Trafficking (PEHT)



Jaime Turek

Jaime's presentation covered who is being trafficked and some signs to watch for in order to identify someone who is being held without their consent. She provided many examples of human trafficking and answered some very interesting questions from members.

Along with Pittsburgh branch members, attending the program were members from the Beaver Valley and Fox Chapel Area branches.

If you missed Jaime's presentation you can see it on the branch's web site at: <http://www.aauwpgh.org/WhatsNew/>. Just click on the link for the January 2013 program. The video is in two parts and it is something you don't want to miss.



Our program in February will be about current research and methods in the early detection of Breast Cancer. Our speaker will be Dr. Geetika Chakravarty.



40 years ago this month at the Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW

The February 1973 meeting of the Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW was held on the 10th at the William Penn Hotel. The program was entitled, "New Directions for Pennsylvania Government", and the speaker was Christine Altenburger, Associate Professor of Urban Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. This program was a result of interest in both the people and processes of the state and local government with a view to reform. A Tea was served immediately following the meeting. [Interestingly enough, this program occurred during the same time period as the beginning of the investigative journalism of Woodward and Bernstein, as they exposed the Watergate scandal.]

In the January 1973 bulletin, attention was alerted to the pilot program: "ONE WORLD: THE RICH AND THE POOR." This program was sponsored on the national level of AAUW along with other organizations, and Pittsburgh was chosen as one of four cities in the U.S. as a sight for a conference. The Pittsburgh Branch was invited by the National AAUW to help with the project in the city (not financially but with energy, time and talents).

The four new topics for the 1973-1975 Biennium were announced:

- Woman - Searching for Self
- Media - Issues in Communications
- Global Interdependence - Budgeting for Earth
- Dynamic Learning - Releasing Human Potential

Among this month's committee meetings and discussions groups were the following:

- Legislative Discussion Group
- Betwixts (staged dinner theater)
- Nominating Committee
- Membership Committee

Two new members were welcomed to the Branch, and plans were formalized for the Book Fair, scheduled to take place at Allegheny Center in April.

Submitted by
Karin Neilson



Dr. Geetika Chakravarty is a Scientist-Turned-Entrepreneur from Houston, TX. As a scientist, she has made original contributions in cancer research, particularly in breast cancer. To transform her laboratory experience to real world applications, she recently founded Jonakee Cancer Research, Inc. As its President and CSO, Geetika has focused her efforts on new mechanistic approaches for early detection and treatment of aggressive cancers. She has developed a well-regarded novel methodology that she has used repeatedly in different situations and across a variety of patient populations to demonstrate its promise to detect breast cancer early.

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 - 11:30 Board Meets
11:45 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 Program

Please R.S.V.P. no later than February 5, 2013 to reserve your seat! Cost of lunch is \$20.00 payable upon arrival.

For more information or to reserve your seat, please send an email to aauwpgh@aauwpgh.org

AAUW MISSION

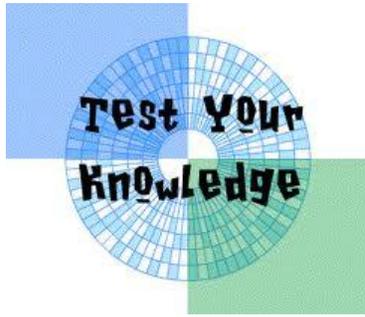
AAUW advances equity for Women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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.

An American History Quiz



How well do you know your American history?

We will be celebrating our nation's 236th 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 the last 5 questions. Are you ready for 21 through 25?

21. An important aspect of the 1950s and 1960s "space race" was the goal of the United States and the Soviet Union to:
 - A. Achieve an arms control agreement
 - B. Build missile defense shields
 - C. Establish an international space station
 - D. Increase their world reputations in science
22. The nonviolent ideas of Henry David Thoreau, Leo Tolstoy and Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi inspired what noted civil rights leader of the 1950s and 1960s?
 - A. Henry Newton
 - B. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - C. Malcolm X
 - D. All of the above
23. The founders of the United Farm Workers in 1962 included:
 - A. Cesar Chavez
 - B. Sam Yorty
 - C. Harry Bridges
 - D. John Steinbeck
24. The Internet originated in the United States from:
 - A. Defense Department efforts to streamline communication with scientists at universities and laboratories during the 1960s
 - B. A presidential initiative to streamline broadcasting regulations during the 1970s
 - C. The antitrust lawsuit that broke up telephone giant AT&T into smaller regional companies in 1984
 - D. Congressional initiatives to encourage entrepreneurs during the 1990s
25. Which U.S. presidents also served as presidents of the American Historical Association?
 - A. Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
 - B. Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson
 - C. William McKinley and Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - D. Herbert Hoover and John F. Kennedy

Source: www.americanprofile.com

Pittsburgh Branch Officers and Board

Elected Officers

President, Dr. Shari Muench
aaupgh.president@gmail.com
Program Vice President, Karin Neilson
aaupgh.programVP@gmail.com
Membership Vice President, Trina Hall
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Finance Officer, Bernie Cerasaro
aaupgh.financeOfficer@gmail.com
Recording & Corresponding Secretary, Marci Henzi
aaupgh.secretary@gmail.com

Appointed Chairpersons

Communications/Web, Patricia Byerly
aaupgh.communication@gmail.com
Public Policy, Advocacy & Diversity,
Gwendolyn Ormes
aaupgh.publicpolicy1@gmail.com
Michele Buford
aaupgh.publicpolicy2@gmail.com

Supporting Liaisons and Committees

Public Relations Liaison, Rosemary Martinelli
Scholarship Committee Chair, Susan Banerjee
aaupgh.scholarship@gmail.com
Nominations Committee, Karin Neilson and Gwendolyn Ormes

SAVE THE DATES

Shape the Future: Teacher Appreciation – April 4, 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.



STEM Event planned for September-October 2013

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 aaupgh.communication@gmail.com and watch for it to be published in future issues of *The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch*.

113th Congress



"The newly sworn-in 113th Congress is the most diverse group of representatives in history, reflecting changing demographics and changing public attitudes."⁽¹⁾ "98 women, 43 African-Americans, 31 Latinos, 12 Asian-American and Pacific Islanders, and seven gay and bisexual members are now new members of the House and Senate. Plus, there is the first Buddhist member in the Senate and Hindu member in the House of Representatives."⁽¹⁾



The demographic composition of the 113th Congress is somewhat historic.

Here are some interesting facts:

- Of the 98 women now in congress: 78 are in the House and 20 are in the Senate ⁽²⁾
- 3 states with two women senators: California, New Hampshire, and Washington ⁽²⁾

A record number of women and racial minorities were elected to the 113th Congress. Among them was the first Buddhist to join the Senate, as well as the first Hindu and the first openly bisexual woman in the House. ⁽³⁾

House Democrats became the first caucus in the history of either chamber not to have a majority of white men. It was a watershed moment for the Democratic Party, which has adopted diversity as one of its chief selling points and has marketed itself as the party that looks more like a fast-changing United States. ⁽³⁾

"It was a decision," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said in an interview about boosting the number of Democratic women in Congress. "We made a decision a long time ago that we were going to try to expand the number. We made a decision for women to help women, and also for the Democrats as a party to help recruit women and help fund campaigns."⁽³⁾

The overwhelming majority of lawmakers sworn in were white men. But the new Congress, while still lagging behind the nation as whole in diversity, reflects national demographic changes that hold significant implications for American politics. ⁽³⁾

While half of the House is made up of women and minorities on the Democratic side of the equation, white men make up about 90% of the Republican House, according to data from *Bloomberg Businessweek*. ⁽⁴⁾

"One thing that's always been very startling to me is to see that on the floor of the House of Representatives when you look over on one side where the Democrats caucus and you look to the other side and it looks like two different visions of America," U.S Representative Donna Edwards told *Businessweek*. ⁽⁴⁾

Sources:

1. <http://inamerica.blogs.cnn.com/2013/01/03/meet-the-113th-congress-more-diverse-than-ever/>
2. <http://www.cnn.com/2013/01/03/politics/btn-113th-congress/index.html>
3. http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-01-03/politics/36209417_1_diversity-democratic-party-presidential-election
4. <http://www.policymic.com/articles/19332/113th-congress-lack-of-diversity-in-the-gop-is-reflected-in-congress>

Shape the Future: Teacher Appreciation

For the first time (in a very long time) the Pittsburgh Branch will hold a "Shape the Future" event. The theme will be "Teacher Appreciation" and the event will be held at Propel Montour Charter School, 340 Bilmar Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

Propel Montour opened in 2007 and is home to 410 students in grades K-8. The school is located in Kennedy Township, just north of the City of Pittsburgh. Propel MONTOUR was the 2009 recipient of the Charles Gray Award from the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, recognized for an outstanding arts education program. Propel MONTOUR is also a leader in technology integration, hosting Propel's annual Technology Fair, which is attended by educators from various school districts throughout the state. In 2011, Propel Montour received an Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC) Award from New Leaders for New Schools, in the "Silver Gain" category, recognizing Montour's significant gains in student achievement. The board felt there could probably be no more perfect venue than Propel Montour for an important event like "Shape the Future".

We will need many volunteers to help with this event which is to be held on Thursday, April 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. If you can't volunteer your time maybe you can volunteer your cooking skills. We will need to serve refreshments at the event and are asking members (if they can) to prepare a hors d'oeuvre type snack or dessert.

2012 Scholarship Recipient



The 2012 Scholarship Recipient, Karen Kormouth (pictured above with Scholarship Committee Chair Susan Banerjee), received a check for \$1,000 at the January 2013 meeting.

Karen is a native of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the bulk of her education has taken place here. She attended Washington & Jefferson College and graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Cellular and Molecular Biology. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University.

Recently Karen learned that her laboratory will cease to exist at CMU by mid-2013. While she plans to continue her project in pursuit of her degree at CMU, funding issues caused her to reach out to AAUW-Pittsburgh branch to help her obtain certain resources that are specific to her specialized research project.

Congratulations Karen and best wishes on your continued effort to obtain your Ph.D.

Answers to quiz: 21 (B), 22 (D), 23 (A), 24 (A), 25 (B)

COLD OR FLU?

You're achy, your nose is runny, and your throat feels a little scratchy. Is it a run-of-the-mill winter cold or more serious flu? Three ways to tell the difference:



Flue comes with a fever.

This may be your first clue: The common cold rarely causes body temperature to rise. A high fever, however, is characteristic of the flu – it usually runs between 100 degrees and 102 degrees (or higher, especially in kids) and lasts three to four days. If your first signs are a runny nose, scratchy throat and sneezing, that's most likely a cold. Those symptoms tend to develop more slowly, while the flue usually comes on suddenly.

Flu makes you miserable.

Aside from an initial high fever, the aches and pains are more severe. Coughing is continual (and lasts longer), and weakness and exhaustion can be intense. Early reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict a severe flu season this year. While a cold may lead to sinus congestion in adults or an ear infection in kids, the flu could develop into bronchitis, pneumonia or even a brain infection for high-risk people (such as children under 2 and adults over 65).

Meds won't help a cold.

Get rest and plenty of fluids – that's the advice you'll hear for both conditions. For some flu cases, doctors may prescribe antiviral drugs to ease symptoms and prevent complications. These don't work on colds and should not be confused with antibiotics. A survey showed about one in three Americans believe antibiotics treat both cold and flu. It's not true: Antibiotics help fight bacterial infections; cold and flu are caused by viruses. There's no cure for a cold, but if you want to try over-the-counter meds, talk to your doctor first – many meds have side effects, and some are dangerous for children.

Watch video on this topic from *The Doctors* at usaweekend.com

Source: USA Weekend – Jan 18-20, 2013

LETTER

The Women are Watching

Published: January 14, 2013

To the Editor: The American Association of University Women celebrated with women voters when the nation elected a record number of women to Congress in November. We also saw the re-election of a president with a strong record on women's issues, and we look forward to seeing him improve on that work. Indeed, after women propelled the president to victory, we expected nothing less.

Yet we have been surprised by the Obama administration's second-term appointments and largely all-male inner circle. The president should not rest on his laurels as he reconfigures his cabinet and top policy team.

A.A.U.W. has previously expressed congratulations to the president for appointment women at high-ranking cabinet posts, policy positions and the federal judiciary. We encourage him to renew and further his commitment to diversity in future appointments. The election may be over, but women voters are still watching.

LINDA D. HALLMAN
Executive Director, American
Association of University Women
Washington, Jan. 10, 2013

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

Supports Virginia LeBlanc's Case against Trustees of Indiana University

WASHINGTON — The American Association of University Women Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) announced today that it will provide case support to the Equal Pay Act and Title VII lawsuit *LeBlanc v. Trustees of Indiana University*.

Virginia LeBlanc, former director of Indiana University's Hudson and Holland Scholars Program, filed a complaint against the university in federal district court alleging gender discrimination and unfair pay. LeBlanc says she filed the lawsuit after encountering resistance to her attempts to resolve the pay disparity internally.

LeBlanc's complaint alleges unfair and inequitable hiring practices and processes, preferential treatment toward men in salary and other practices, a hostile work environment, verbal sexual harassment and intimidation, and failure to process gender-discrimination complaints through internal systems. The unequal pay portion of her complaint alleges that LeBlanc's pay was not commensurate with that of the two previous male directors of the scholarship program and that Indiana University generally pays higher salaries to men than to women.

"While unfair pay affects all women's economic security, the gap impacts Hispanic and African American women the most," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "AAUW has advocated for fair pay for decades, and we're proud to stand with women like Virginia LeBlanc, whose case we hope will be a catalyst for change."

A study of the latest census numbers by AAUW found that earnings for African American women in 2011 were 70 percent of what white men were paid and 85 percent of what white women were paid. Legal Advocacy Fund support has been instrumental in the success of many gender discrimination cases during its 31-year history. Other LAF initiatives include community and campus outreach programs, an online resource library with downloadable advocacy tools, a Legal Referral Network, and research reports.

AAUW's strategic case support program provides financial and organizational backing for a select number of cases that have the potential to provide significant protection for all women. The funds come directly from the generous contributions of AAUW members who support the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Source: www.aauw.org

AAUW Applauds Recent Decision in *Dukes v. Wal-Mart*

WASHINGTON – The American Association of University Women (AAUW) applauds the latest development in *Dukes v. Wal-Mart* case. A federal court has given the plaintiffs in the California-based lawsuit the green light to proceed with their gender discrimination class action against the retailer. AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund has provided case support to the plaintiffs since January, 2011.

In rejecting Wal-Mart's motion to dismiss the case, Judge Charles R. Breyer, of the U.S. District Court of Northern California, upheld the plaintiffs' right to proceed as a class and present evidence that Wal-Mart and its subsidiary, Sam's Club, discriminated against its California region female workers in pay and promotion.

"AAUW" is pleased that this case will be able to move forward. The plaintiffs have had a long journey, and it's heartening to think that their fight hasn't been for naught," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "As we saw with the latest census numbers, pay equity remains a huge issue for women and their families. AAUW stands behind these women as they demonstrate that discrimination is not good for anyone's financial health."

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund support has been crucial to the success of many gender discrimination cases during its 31-year history. The case-support program provides financial and organizational backing for lawsuits that have the potential to set significant precedents for gender equity.

Source: www.aauw.org