



AAUW Pittsburgh Branch Annual Meeting Recap May 11, 2013

Before lunch, President, Shari Muench awarded Joyce Martin a Special Honoree Award.

AAUW-PA and its branches are proud to honor women who have contributed significant energy and enthusiasm to AAUW programs and activities over many years. We are grateful they are serving as examples to many more.



Joyce Martin has been a member of the Pittsburgh Branch since 1948 – 64 years! While some folks retire in the their 60's, Joyce remains active in the branch, having served as Secretary for many years and recently becoming the branch Historian.

Congratulations Joyce! We are happy to have you as a member of the Pittsburgh Branch and appreciate your service and contributions to the branch.

After lunch, Shari welcomed those members attending and turned the podium over to Karin Neilson. Karin reviewed the slate for the election about to take place. The slate was made up of Bernie Cerasara for Finance Officer, Karin Neilson for Program Vice President, and Pat Byerly for President.

Karin passed out the ballots and voting took place. Congratulations Bernie, Karin, and Pat! Their terms will run July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015.



Shari then welcomed new members Nishi Singh, Diane Mooney, Monica Ryan, and Jeannie Snodgrass. New members receive an AAUW cap when they attend their first meeting after joining. Jeannie was present and was given her cap.

Jeannie (*on right*) returned to Pittsburgh after a long absence. She was originally from Pittsburgh and recently moved back from Richmond, Virginia.



Shari gave a short talk on the Give-a-Grad-a-Gift program as well as how to vote in the National Election.

The Shape the Future Event is a campaign designed to help branches recruit new members by offering reduced membership rates.

You may remember that this year's Shape the Future Event was a "Teacher Appreciation" reception held at Propel Montour Charter School in Kennedy Township. There were 20-25 teachers and staff present. We consider it a huge success. Special thanks to Michele Buford for organizing this event.

Membership renewal forms were mailed in April. Everyone should have received theirs by now. If you did not, please contact Pat Byerly. Remember that your dues should be sent in by May 31, 2013.



The AAUW-PA Outstanding Woman Award is awarded to a member of a branch for meritorious service to the branch and to the community.

This year the Pittsburgh Branch chose Susan Banerjee because of her outstanding contributions to our branch and because of her work as the Scholarship Committee Chair and the Premier Design Jewelry Fund Raiser.

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Farewell Message from Shari



Dear Pittsburg AAUW Members,

My term as Branch President has come to a close and I want to thank you all for your ongoing dedication and commitment to AAUW. In the past two years we have accomplished many important things together. We have gained new members, had numerous interesting and educational monthly programs and luncheons, earned money to give two local \$1,000 scholarships and increased our operating budget. I appreciate every one of you on the board and in the general membership for all the many things you have done to assist our branch work toward its goal of making life better for women and girls in our city, our state, our country, and our world. This work is ongoing and I look forward to continuing our work together in the future. I hope to see many of you in the fall as we resume our monthly luncheon meetings at the lovely and historic PAA – under the leadership of our newly-elected and capable president, Pat Byerly. Meanwhile, have a wonderful summer!

Yours in friendship and commitment,

Dr. Shari Muench

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.



The AAUW-PA Teal Award is given to a branch member who has made a big difference in something important to the branch within the last year. The branch selects this recipient because she exemplifies the spirit of AAUW. She may be new to the branch or may be an unsung hero.



This year the Pittsburgh Branch chose Michele Buford to receive the Teal Award. Michele has helped our branch in numerous ways. She attends our monthly meetings and is always eager to share new ideas for activities and fund raisers for our branch. She is a committee co-chair for Public Policy, Advocacy and Diversity and has gotten our branch involved with the Red Thread Movement to stop human trafficking. Michele came to us just a few years ago and has become an important part of our group. Her friendly and helpful demeanor makes her a stand out member!

Branch Highlights as published in the AAUW-PA yearbook were read by President Shari Muench. A tri-fold containing information regarding the 2012-2013 year at the Pittsburgh Branch was on display at the AAUW-PA annual meeting.

There were two resolutions presented and passed at the AAUW-PA annual meeting:

Gun Control Resolution

Members of the Fox Chapel Branch of AAUW-PA propose that AAUW-PA adopt the following resolution:

AAUW-PA charges Pennsylvania elected and appointed officials, local, state and federal, to work together for the benefit of the community in the common goal of promoting safety and reducing gun violence and gun deaths. We propose that laws, regulations, and related enforcement be prudently strengthened to promote safety of all individuals and to reduce gun violence and gun deaths. We advocate nationwide studies on the root causes and consequences of gun violence so that the nation can change the prevalence and culture of such harmful behaviors.

Marcellus Shale Resolution

AAUW-PA opposes the development of shale resources in Pennsylvania, unless the environment, public health and safety, and the welfare of the communities involved are protected.

Any such permitted development should prioritize the value of water resources above gas resources. Permits should require essential impact studies by an objective panel.

We support strengthened regulations, safe disposal of wastewater and funding for the PA Department of Environmental Protection to monitor and enforce standards. The oil and gas industry should be held to the same clean air and water standards and disclosures as other industries.

Recent legislation undermines the power of local municipalities to manage where and when drilling will occur and necessitates closer evaluation and study by citizens and government.

All liabilities for any environmental damage during or after shale development should be the responsibility of the gas companies, their subcontractors and developers in perpetuity, in order to protect Pennsylvanians, their health and environment, and prevent unnecessary expense to the state.

Summer Retreat

The AAUW-PA Summer Retreat will be held on July 13th at the Country Cupboard in Lewisburg. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. with a buffet lunch being provided. The meeting should end no later than 4:00 p.m.

Beaver Valley Branch Annual Kitchen Tours

The Beaver Valley Kitchen Tours will be Saturday, September 28 this year. If anyone is interested in going please see Pat.

AAUW-PA 85th Convention and Annual Meeting

Next year's state convention and annual meeting will be held in Gettysburg. The state board is encouraging those attending to invite their friends and families. More information will be available starting in January of next year.

Western District Meeting

This year's district meeting will be held in Erie on Saturday September 7. This is still in the planning stage but Erie was chosen because the Tall Ships will be returning to Erie September 5th through 9th. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the building of Commodore Perry's fleet in Erie and the victory of Battle of Lake Erie off Put-In-Bay, Ohio on September 10th.

Along with the meeting, activities are being planned by the Erie Branch. The meeting will be kept short so that friends and family can attend the festivities.

Volume 10G-R2 of "Healthy Aging" (Mount Sinai School Of Medicine) focuses on ways in which each of us can minimize the decline of our mental abilities as we age. One of their suggestions is to "Stimulate your Brain". So why not try the Sudoku puzzle below? Even if you're a young woman, it never hurts to keep your brain challenged.

	1	7	4					
9	3			7				
			6			3		8
		2	9	8				6
6								3
7				6	5	1		
2		5		4				
				2			4	9
				7	8	2		

Sudoku is a logic-based combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The object is to fill a 9 x 9 grid with digits. The rules of Sudoku are very simple:

1. Each column, each row, and each box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.
2. No column, row, or box can contain two squares with the same number.

5	3		7					
6		1	9	5				
	9	8				6		
8			6					3
4		8		3				1
7			2					6
	6				2	8		
			4	1	9			5
			8			7	9	

A typical Sudoku puzzle

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

The same puzzle with solution numbers marked in red

Help Wanted

Newsletter Editor

Wanted . . . a branch member with some writing skills and creativity who has 8-10 hours a month to write and publish the branch's **The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch**



Anyone interested should contact Pat Byerly.

Give a Grad a Gift



AAUW members can give recent college graduates a free, one-year AAUW (national) membership within two years of graduation, at no cost to you or them. State and local dues are just \$21.

Expose the grad to the power that comes from belonging to a national women-led organization of more than 150,000 members and supporters who believe in and advance equity and education for women and girls.

Expand their networking opportunities through career development opportunities and community action projects.

Keep them current on the events and people that affect their life as they receive *Mission & Action*, *AAUW Outlook*, Action Network alerts, and more.

Increase their buying power with access to member only discounts.

Please contact Pat Byerly if you would like to give a grad a gift.



The branch is always looking for ideas for fund raisers to raise money for the Scholarship Fund and the branch's operating fund.

Do you have an idea for a fund raiser?



Do you have an idea for a program? Is there something you would like to see a program on? If so, don't be shy. Send your ideas to Karin, our Program VP at:

aaupgh.programVP@gmail.com

She will welcome your input.

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
aaupgh.membershipVP@gmail.com
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,
Michele Buford & Gwendolyn Ormes

Supporting Liaisons and Committees

Public Relations Liaison, Rosemary Martinelli

Scholarship Committee Chair, Susan Banerjee

Nominations Committee (2012-13), Karin Neilson and Gwendolyn Ormes

SAVE THE DATES

AAUW National Convention – June 9-12, 2013

AAUW-PA Summer Retreat in Lewisburg – July 13, 2013



AAUW Pittsburgh Branch annual trip
to our archive at the
Heinz History Center – July 27, 2013



AAUW Western District Meeting in Erie – September 7, 2013



AAUW Beaver Valley Branch **KITCHEN TOURS** – September, 28, 2013

AAUW Pittsburgh Branch Blood Drive – fall 2013.
We are working with Chatham University to sponsor a blood drive. Volunteers will be needed to pass out refreshments. More details will follow.



STEM Event at Propel Montour 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 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**.

NASA's Chicken Gun From Ed's Comedy Store *Author Unknown*

Sometimes it does take a rocket scientist!

Scientists at NASA build a gun specifically to launch standard 4 pound chickens at windshields of airliners, military jets and the space shuttles, all traveling at maximum velocity. The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high speed trains. Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to British engineers.

When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back rest in two and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin, like an arrow shot from a bow.

The horrified Brits sent NASA the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the U.S. scientists for suggestions.

NASA responded with a one-line memo – "Defrost the chicken."

World Book Night

Each year, 30 books are chosen by an independent panel of librarians and booksellers. The authors of the books waive their royalties and the publishers agree to pay the costs of producing the specially-printed World Book Night U.S. editions. Bookstores and libraries sign up to be community host locations for the volunteer book givers.

After the book titles are announced, members of the public apply to personally hand out 20 copies of a particular title in their community. World Book Night U.S. vets the applications, and the givers are chosen based on their ability to reach light and non-readers. The selected givers choose a local participating bookstore or library from which to pick up the 20 copies of their book, and World Book Night U.S. delivers the books to these host locations.

Givers pick up their books in the week before World Book Night. On April 23rd, they give their books to those who don't regularly read and/or people who don't normally have access to printed books, for reasons of means or access.



This year, the AAUW Pittsburgh Branch participated in World Book Night. Six branch members signed up to distribute books on April 23, 2013. Among those were Bernie Cerasaro, Shari Muench, and Michele Buford.