



November's Program



At the November 9th meeting of the Branch, it was our pleasure to hear a program from Sarah Neilson and Corey MacDonald entitled, "Abuse through the Eyes of a Child."

Sarah works as a child protection worker in New Hampshire, and Corey is an attorney and has been a law enforcement officer for seventeen years in Portsmouth.

They made several interesting points during the presentation, not the least of which was the differences in state laws related to abuse. For example, the law in New Hampshire says that it is everyone's responsibility to report suspected child abuse and neglect, whereas in Pennsylvania, there is some confidentiality written into the law.

Corey's investigations as Deputy Chief of Police go hand in hand with Sarah's. When Sarah goes into a home to follow up on a tip, she takes a police officer who waits outside as she gathers information. Forensically trained, Sarah interviews child victims, getting them to disclose information about abuse by asking open-ended questions and making them feel comfortable but all the while, videotaping the interview. As a law enforcement officer, Corey is less concerned with the family dynamics; his role is to make an arrest, to stop the abuse.

Sarah stated that today kids have received a high level of "stranger/danger" indoctrination, but ninety percent of offenders are family-based. Kids are "groomed" for abuse over a period of time by their abusers, and she pointed out that there is often escalation of abuse in a cycle of violence. Mental illness or criminal background in the family may be revealed during the course of investigation. But for the kids, this is what they are used to, this is what they know.

Sarah and Corey shared some important if not disturbing stories, and provided packets of information, giving citizens ways to report abuse. But on one point they were very clear; people should not be afraid to make a report on their suspicions; "don't talk yourself out of taking action". They advised that individuals leave their names and contact information when reporting abuse so that it can be followed up on, since anonymous tips cannot be taken seriously.

Thanks to Sarah and Corey for taking time to educate us on this critical issue. (Packets of information related to the presentation are still available from Karin Neilson.)

Save The Dates



The Barnes and Noble Gift Wrap – December 14th and 15th at the Monroeville Barnes and Noble Book Store. (See page 2 in the newsletter.)

Scholarship Award - At the January 11, 2014 Branch meeting, we will be awarding our Scholarship monies. Our recipient will make a short presentation on her research/work.

Trip to the John Heinz Archives - On February 8, 2014, we will be visiting the John Heinz History Center Archives to add more of the Branch records and newsletters. (Page 2 offers more details.)



Hear ye, Hear ye! **There no general meeting in December. Instead we will be participating in the Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap.**

This is a fun event where we wrap gifts at Barnes & Noble for tips. Last year we raised about \$220 for the Scholarship Fund. The event will take place at the Monroeville Mall Barnes & Noble on Saturday (12/14), and Sunday (12/15) from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. both days.



If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please send an email to Karin at aauwpgh.programVP@gmail.com.

If you would like to participate in some way but cannot be at the table to wrap, please consider shopping at Barnes & Noble Monroeville, and having your purchases wrapped; you could make a donation at that time.

Please see p. 2 of this newsletter for details about the Barnes and Noble Gift Wrapping.

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.

Newsletter Editor



Do you have a suggestion, a journal entry about a recent trip, adventure or talent, a tip that will benefit others?

Please feel free to send ideas and suggestions to Karin Neilson at aauwpgh.newsletter@gmail.com.



New Year's Eve – December 31, 2013

Each year, millions of people promise themselves that they will live their lives differently in the new year. Among the more popular promises are pledges to be more patient, adopt a healthier lifestyle, stop a bad habit, and so on.

New Year's Eve is a time for celebration and/or reflection, but some people have formulated "unusual" kinds of New Year's Resolutions. Following are some examples of those:

General Funny New Year's Resolutions

I will...

1. Start washing my hands after I use the restroom.
2. Stop drinking orange juice after I just brushed my teeth.
3. Stop licking frozen flag poles.
4. Only get divorced and remarried once this year.
5. Watch more movie remakes.
6. Go back to school to avoid paying my student loans.
7. Only eat white snow.
8. Keep it to myself that I have trouble with authority when I'm being interviewed.
9. Spend less than \$1825 for coffee at Starbucks this year.
10. Claim all my pets as dependents on my taxes.

Source: Ask.com

How Congress Voted

Even in non-election years, our elected officials are acting on our behalf in the consideration and passage of national and state legislation. In a democracy, it is the inherent responsibility of each citizen to remain informed not only about issues that affect Americans, but also the voting records of our representatives.

With the following you can easily track how congress votes on bills and resolutions. <http://www.govtrack.us/>

This is also an interesting site:
<http://www.opencongress.org/>

Source: Ask.com

Upcoming Programs

December 14 and 15, 2013

In place of a meeting in December, the AAUW Pittsburgh Branch will be participating in the Barnes and Noble Gift Wrap on December 14th (Saturday) and 15th (Sunday). Our branch is scheduled from 4 – 7 p.m. on each of those days. This will be our second year wrapping gifts for people at the Monroeville Barnes and Noble, and collecting tips, which will fortify our Scholarship Fund. Last year, we collected \$220.

Volunteers are needed so please put these dates on your calendar and plan to sign up for a couple of hours.

January 11, 2014

We will be honoring our Scholarship recipient at the January meeting, at which time she will be presenting a short program about her work/research.

Also, Marci Henzi, Secretary for the Pittsburgh Branch, will be speaking to us about "Women in Mathematics". So, please mark this date on your calendar so you can hear about how well our scholarship monies are being used, and how women are making their mark in the field of math.

February 8, 2014

It has been more than a year since our branch members visited the Heinz History Center Archives. Traditionally, we have enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, lunching at the Café, and then working with Theresa Rae, the Acquisitions Archivist, who accepts our AAUW minutes, newsletters, and photos for preservation in the Archives. It's been a great day for all in attendance in the past, and we hope our members will be able to attend this year.



The Knit Wits

Do you knit or crochet? Would you be interested in using your free time and scrap yarn to benefit others? Consider participating in **The Knit Wits**, one of our branches Interest Groups.

Many women who have lost their hair due to chemo- and radiation therapy have found Chemo Caps a welcome alternative to traditional wigs and scarves. They are colorful, comfortable and lightweight.



To-date the Knit Wits have made 200 caps. Our friends at the Friendship Village of South Hills recently made another 15 caps and those caps were taken by our member Jeanie Snodgrass to the UPMC Cancer Center at 2000 Oxford Drive in the South Hills. Jeanie plans on making another visit to the Cancer Center in November.

A special thanks go out to Jeanne Brown, Emily Spadaro, Gisela Ruhberg, Bernice Simpson (not pictured), and Marian Yatsko (not pictured).

Caps distributed so far:

- 40 InterCommunity Cancer Center in Monroeville (Jul 2013)
- 40 Don Monti Cancer Center in New York (Aug 2013)
- 40 West Penn Outpatient Services in Monroeville (October 2013)
- 15 UPMC Cancer Center in the South Hills (October 2013)
- 65 Not yet distributed

We have a second project in progress. The Indiana (state) Special Olympics would like to collect 1,000 scarves for their athletes, families, coaches and volunteers. The deadline for making the scarves and getting them to Pat is December 10. If you are interested in participating please contact Pat and she'll give you all of the specifics. Several scarves have already been completed. For more information about the project go to <http://soindiana.org/donate/2013-scarf-project/>.

Contact Pat Byerly with any questions about this Interest Group; her email is aauwpgh.president@gmail.com.





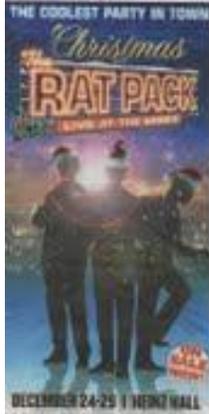
Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Fatma El-Hamidi (12/12) and Karin Neilson (12/26).

"The Show-goers"

Productions

We are very excited to announce that the **Showgoers** will be attending **Rat Pack Christmas** on December 28 at 2 PM at Heinz Hall. If you haven't yet indicated that you wish to go, you can still join us if you are able to obtain your own ticket. We plan to have an after party so please, do consider but don't delay!



In February, another performance option is available. At the last meeting, I had distributed calendars with dates for the concurrent performances in February of **Mama Mia** at *Heinz Hall*, and **Swan Lake** at the *Benedum*. **Porgy and Bess** then follows at the *Benedum*. Now, I am pleased to add that the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform **The Planets** at *Heinz Hall* from February 7-9.

So, please let me know what you would be interested in attending. (If you need to speak with me about details or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me through email or at **412.812.6140**.)



Respectfully submitted,
Marci Henzi

Pittsburgh Branch Executive Board

Elected Officers

President, Patricia A. Byerly
aaupgh.president@gmail.com
Program Vice President, Karin Neilson
aaupgh.programVP@gmail.com
Finance Officer, Bernie Cerasaro
aaupgh.financeOfficer@gmail.com
Recording & Corresponding Secretary, Marci Henzi
aaupgh.secretary@gmail.com

Supporting Liaisons and Committees

Public Relations Liaison, Rosemary Martinelli
Scholarship Committee Chair, Bernie Cerasaro
aaupgh.scholarship@gmail.com
Nominations Committee (2013-14), Bernie Cerasaro and Karin Neilson

Interest Groups

The Knit Wits. Group Chair, Pat Byerly
aaupgh.president@gmail.com
The Show-goers. Group Chair, Marci Henzi
aaupgh.secretary@gmail.com

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



New Meeting Times for AAUW-Pittsburgh Branch

September & January meeting at PAA

10:30 – 11:15 Board meeting
11:45 – 12:00 Lunch orders will be taken at 11:50
12:00 – 12:15 Member meeting
12:15 – 1:00 Lunch (\$20.00)
1:00 – 2:00 Program and Q&A

November & March meeting at PAA

9:30 – 10:30 Board meeting
10:30 – 11:00 Member meeting - coffee and pastries will be served
11:00 – 12:00 Program and Q&A

May Annual Meeting at a place to be determined

9:30 – 10:30 Board meeting
10:30 – 12:00 Member meeting

Please be sure to mark these changes on your calendar. We have some good programs scheduled for the upcoming year, and we don't want you to miss one word.

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration held in the United States and also celebrated in other nations of the Americas. The celebration honors African heritage in African-American culture, and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa has seven core principles (*Nguzo Saba*). It was created by Maulana Karenga, and was first celebrated in 1966–67.



Kwanzaa celebrates what its founder called the seven principles of Kwanzaa, or *Nguzo Saba* (originally *Nguzu Saba*—the seven principles of African Heritage), which Karenga said "is a communitarian African philosophy," consisting of what Karenga called "the best of African thought and practice in constant exchange with the world." These seven principles comprise **Kawaida*, a Swahili term for tradition and reason. Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the following principles, as follows:

- *Umoja* (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
- *Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination): To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves.
- *Ujima* (Collective Work and Responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems, and to solve them together.
- *Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
- *Nia* (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- *Kuumba* (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- *Imani* (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Kwanzaa symbols include a decorative mat (Mkeka) on which other symbols are placed, corn (Muhindi) and other crops, a candle holder kinara with seven candles (Mishumaa Saba), a communal cup for pouring libation (Kikimbe cha Umoja), gifts (Zawadi), a poster of the seven principles, and a black, red, and green flag with supplemental symbols. The symbols were designed to convey the seven principles.

Christmas

December 25



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Christmas (Old English: *Cristes mæsse*, meaning "Christ's Mass") is an annual commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ and a widely observed holiday, celebrated generally on December 25 by millions of people around the world.

A feast central to the Christian liturgical year, it closes the Advent season and initiates the twelve days of Christmastide, which ends after the twelfth night. Christmas is a civil holiday in many of the world's nations is celebrated by an increasing number of non-Christians, and is an integral part of the Christmas and holiday season.

The original date of the celebration in Eastern Christianity was January 6, in connection with Epiphany, and that is still the date of the celebration for the Armenian Apostolic Church and in Armenia, where it is a public holiday. As of 2013, there is a difference of 13 days between the modern Gregorian calendar and the older Julian calendar.

Those who continue to use the Julian calendar or its equivalents thus celebrate December 25 and January 6, which on the Gregorian calendar translate as January 7 and January 19. For this reason, Ethiopia, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Serbia, the Republic of Macedonia, and the Republic of Moldova celebrate Christmas on what in the Gregorian calendar is January 7. Eastern Orthodox Churches in Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Antioch, Alexandria, Albania, Finland, and the Orthodox Church in America celebrate Christmas on December 25 in the revised Julian calendar, corresponding to December 25 also in the Gregorian calendar.

Popular modern customs of the holiday include gift giving, Christmas music and caroling, an exchange of Christmas cards, church celebrations, a special meal, and the display of various Christmas decorations, including Christmas trees, Christmas lights, nativity scenes, garlands, wreaths, mistletoe, and holly. In addition, several closely related and often interchangeable figures, known as Santa Claus, Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, and Christkind, are associated with bringing gifts to children during the Christmas season and have their own body of traditions and lore.



Wikipedia.com
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_-_cite_note-CRL-Christmastide-9

President's Report

As I sit here thinking about my report for this issue of the newsletter, I look out my window and see my yard and road covered in snow. It is a beautiful sight but also a reminder that winter will soon be upon us.

If you were unable to attend the November 9th meeting you missed a very interesting program. Sarah Neilson and Corey MacDonald presented some very interesting information on what our responsibilities are in reporting suspected child abuse. There are still some packets/handouts available, if you would like to know more about the role you can play in stamping out this crime.

The meeting was called to order at noon.

Finance Report

Our checkbook balance is holding steady at around \$5,000 and investments at around \$26,000.

Membership Report

Membership has dropped to 29. Members are our life-blood and we need you to keep this branch alive. Please invite your friends, family, and co-workers to come to one of our meetings – you never know where the next new member will come from.

Program VP Report

Karin Neilson as arranged our Barnes & Noble gift wrap fundraiser for December. See this newsletter for further details.

Special Interest Groups

"The Showgoers" are planning an outing to Heinz Hall on December 28th.

The *"Knit Wits"* are still making chemo caps and 10 scarves have been sent for the Indiana Special Olympics.

Scholarship Fund

We've met our goal for the 2014 scholarship. But we still need to raise money for the 2015 scholarship.

Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap – this is a fun event where we wrap gifts at Barnes & Noble for tips. Last year we raised about \$220 for the Scholarship Fund. The event will take place at the Monroeville Mall Barnes & Noble on Saturday (12/14), and Sunday (12/15) from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. both days. Please contact Karin Neilson if you are able to help out.



Bylaws

The proposed bylaws change passed at our meeting in September. The change to reduce the number of required meetings for both the board and membership from 9 to 2 was approved. Revised bylaws are being printed and will be available at the January meeting if you are interested in getting a copy.

*Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Byerly*