



The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch

Issue No. 44

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

April 2014

## President's Report

### President's Report

Marci Henzi gave a very informative presentation on the history of "Women in Mathematics". All who attended the meeting were impressed and asked a lot of questions.

Attendance for the March Branch Meeting was 6 which included 3 board members.

Our next meeting will be May 10 at the PAA. Watch for more details in the May newsletter. This will be one meeting you won't want to miss.



### March Branch Meeting Attendance

6

*Including 3 members and 3 board members*

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Byerly

## Annual AAUW-PA Meeting

April 11 - 13, 2014

The Annual State Meeting of AAUW will be held the weekend of April 11-13, 2014 in Gettysburg, PA. This will replace our regularly scheduled Saturday meeting on April 12 at the PAA.



## Save the Date

May 10, 2014

The Annual Membership meeting will occur on Saturday, May 10. Watch for the May newsletter for time and place.

## Newsletter Editor

Do you have a suggestion, a journal entry about an experience, or an Idea of future columns?

Please feel free to send ideas and suggestions to Karin Neilson at [aauwpgh.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.newsletter@gmail.com).



The Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW will not be meeting at the PAA in April.

## 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.

## AAUW Pittsburgh Branch May Election

It is the time of year when new branch officers are typically nominated and elected. Unfortunately, there will be no election this year because no one is able to take on additional responsibilities. If you think you might be interested, it is not too late. The Nominations Committee is looking for someone who is interested in becoming the branch's Vice President Membership. To see what those duties are please visit our web site at <http://www.aauwpgh.org/MembershipVP.html> then contact Pat Byerly or Karin Neilson.



## Membership Renewal Time is Approaching

Your current AAUW membership will expire on June 30, 2014. Membership dues for the 2014-2015 year are due by May 31, 2014 so that the branch can pay your national and state dues to AAUW and AAUW-PA by their June 30, 2014 deadline. Forms to renew your AAUW membership will be mailed to you near the end of April

## Birthdays

Please take time to congratulate the following members on the celebration of their birthdays:

**04/07** Rosalind Atkins  
**04/18** Joyce Martin  
**04/22** Alma Bucher



## New Meeting Times for AAUW-Pittsburgh Branch

**May Annual Meeting** at a place to be determined

9:30 – 10:30 Board meeting

10:30 – 12:00 Member meeting - coffee and pastries will be served

**June Membership Meeting** – There will be no membership meeting in June. See you again in September.

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.

## Easter

**Easter** is a Christian festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion at Calvary as described in the New Testament. Easter is the culmination of the Passion of Christ, preceded by Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

The first Christians, Jewish and Gentile, were certainly aware of the Hebrew calendar and there is no direct evidence that they celebrated any specifically Christian annual festivals. It was probably as an aspect of Passover that Jewish Christians, the first to do so, celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, dated close to Passover.

Direct evidence for the Easter festival begins to appear in the mid-2nd century. Perhaps the earliest extant primary source referencing Easter is a mid-2nd-century Paschal homily attributed to Melito of Sardis, which characterizes the celebration as a well-established one. Evidence for another kind of annual Christian festival, the commemoration of martyrs, begins to appear at about the same time as evidence for the celebration of Easter.

The last week of Lent is called Holy Week, and it contains the days of the Easter Triduum, including Maundy Thursday (also known as Holy Thursday), commemorating the Last Supper and its preceding foot washing, as well as Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Easter is followed by a fifty-day period called Eastertide, or the Easter Season, ending with Pentecost Sunday.

Easter is a moveable feast, meaning it is not fixed in relation to the civil calendar. The First Council of Nicaea (325) established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon) following the March equinox. Ecclesiastically, the equinox is reckoned to be on 21 March (although the astronomical equinox occurs on 20 March in most years), and the "Full Moon" is not necessarily on the astronomically correct date. The date of Easter therefore varies between 22 March and 25 April inclusive. Eastern Christianity bases its calculations on the Julian calendar, whose 21 March corresponds, during the 21st century, to 3 April in the Gregorian calendar, and in which therefore the celebration of Easter varies between 4 April and 8 May. In 2014, Easter falls on April 20.

Source: Wikipedia

## "The Show-Goers"



Thanks to **The Show-Goers**, we got to view some great programs this year. Stay tuned for news of some of the great shows and concerts scheduled in the new year.

Our thanks to Marci for taking time to keep us informed and arrange for tickets.

## 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. We currently have three ongoing projects.

1. 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 and distributed 235 caps.

2. On alternate years, Karin Neilson takes afghans to the local Women's Shelter. If you have enough scraps of yarn to knit or crochet squares that can be put together into simple afghans, please consider participating in this project. You can contact Karin for additional ideas, questions, and pick-up.

3. If the first two projects don't interest you, perhaps you can use your scraps of yarn to knit or crochet hats, scarves and/or mittens for children in the local shelters. All colors are welcome, but the finished product should fit a small child (ages 1-5). Contact Karin Neilson for pick-up or more information.



Contact Pat Byerly with any questions about this Interest Group; her email is [aaupgh.president@gmail.com](mailto:aaupgh.president@gmail.com).

## Pittsburgh Branch Executive Board

### Elected Officers

President, Patricia A. Byerly  
[aaupgh.president@gmail.com](mailto:aaupgh.president@gmail.com)  
Program Vice President, Karin Neilson  
[aaupgh.programVP@gmail.com](mailto:aaupgh.programVP@gmail.com)  
Finance Officer, Bernie Cerasaro  
[aaupgh.financeOfficer@gmail.com](mailto:aaupgh.financeOfficer@gmail.com)

### Supporting Liaisons and Committees

Public Relations Liaison, Rosemary Martinelli  
Scholarship Committee Chair, Bernie Cerasaro  
[aaupgh.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:aaupgh.president@gmail.com)  
The Show-goers. Group Chair, Marci Henzi  
[aaupgh.secretary@gmail.com](mailto: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 [aauwpgh.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.newsletter@gmail.com) and watch for it to be published in future issues of ***The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch.***

## 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

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## Fighting for Equality

By Dr. Sharon Muench, Patricia Byerly (reprinted from May 2011)

America Celebrated a milestone on January 5, 2007, when headline news all across the nation announced that Representative Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, had been elected as America's first female Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Pelosi proclaimed, "This is an historic moment, for Congress, and for the women of this country. It is a moment for which we have waited more than 200 years." Elizabeth Cady Stanton has been buried for 105 years, but if she could hear this news, she might feel vindicated that a woman had finally reached this significant milestone. She, herself, had been told in 1840 at the age of 25, that because she was a woman, she was not permitted to be recognized as a delegate at the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, where she had gone with her husband, who was a delegate. There she met Lucretia Mott, an outspoken women's advocate. There inability to participate incensed them both and put them on the path to their life's work of female liberation. The two of them together immediately conceived a plan to create the first women's rights convention.

They made this convention a reality eight years later in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, where at the Seneca Falls Convention, they introduced a document Stanton wrote demanding social and political equality for women, *The Declaration of Sentiments*. Along with another close friend, Susan B. Anthony, Stanton remained for life on a quest for women's rights. Stanton was the philosophical leader who wrote eloquent speeches. Being a mother of a large family, she was unable to travel frequently, so Anthony with her organizational abilities was the deliverer. The two women had a profound friendship and a long-lasting collaboration in their work with the rights of under-represented peoples, starting with slaves and moving to women. In 1878, Stanton began what turned out to be a lengthy crusade to have Congress approve her proposal – a constitutional amendment that guaranteed women the right to vote. For 40 years, it was continually brought before each session. Finally, it was passed into law in 1920, 18 years after her death. Such stalwart women forged the way for those women of today who still attempt to obtain equality in the modern world.

The mission of AAUW is to promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. Since 1881 the American Association of University Women has been the nation's leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls.

### Lucretia Mott



**Lucretia Coffin Mott** (January 3, 1793 – November 11, 1880) was an American Quaker, abolitionist, social reformer, and proponent of women's rights. She is credited as the first American "feminist" in the early 19th century but was, more accurately, the initiator of women's political rights.

Born Lucretia Coffin into a Quaker family in Nantucket, Massachusetts, she was the second child of seven by Thomas Coffin and Anna Folger. At the age of thirteen, she was sent to the Nine Partners Quaker Boarding School in what is now Millbrook, Dutchess County, New York, which was run by the Society of Friends. There she became a teacher after graduation. Her interest in women's rights began when she discovered that male teachers at the school were paid four times more than the female staff.

Elected as the first president of the American Equal Rights Association after the end of the Civil War, Mott strove a few years later to reconcile the two factions that split over the priorities between woman suffrage and Black male suffrage. Ever the peacemaker, Mott tried to heal the breach between Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone over the immediate goal of the women's movement: suffrage for freedmen and all women, or suffrage for freedmen first.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucretia\\_Mott](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucretia_Mott)

### Elizabeth Cady Stanton



(1815 – 1902) Women's rights activist, feminist, editor, and writer. Born on November 12, 1815, in Johnstown, New York. The daughter of a lawyer who made no secret of his preference for another son, she early showed her desire to excel in intellectual and other "male" spheres. She graduated from the Emma Willard's Troy Female Seminary in 1832 and then was drawn to the abolitionist, temperance, and women's rights movements through visits to the home of her cousin, the reformer Gerrit Smith.

In 1840 Elizabeth Cady Stanton married a reformer Henry Stanton (omitting "obey" from the marriage oath), and they went at once to the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London, where she joined other women in objecting to their exclusion from the assembly. On returning to the United States, Elizabeth and Henry had seven children while he studied and practiced law, and eventually they settled in Seneca Falls, New York.

During the Civil War Elizabeth Cady Stanton concentrated her efforts on abolishing slavery, but afterwards she became even more outspoken in promoting women suffrage. In 1868, she worked with Susan B. Anthony on the *Revolution*, a militant weekly paper. The two then formed the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) in 1869. Stanton was the NWSA's first president—a position she held until 1890.

Source: <http://www.biography.com/articles/Elizabeth-Cady-Stanton-9492182>

### Susan B. Anthony



**Susan Brownell Anthony** (February 15, 1820 – March 13, 1906) was a prominent American civil rights leader who played a pivotal role in the 19th century women's rights movement to introduce women's suffrage into the United States. She was co-founder of the first Women's Temperance Movement with Elizabeth Cady Stanton as President. She also co-founded the women's rights journal, *The Revolution*. She traveled the United States and Europe, and averaged 75 to 100 speeches per year. She was one of the important advocates in leading the way for women's rights to be acknowledged and instituted in the American government.

On November 18, 1872, Anthony was arrested by a U.S. Deputy Marshal for voting illegally in the 1872 Presidential Election two weeks earlier. Justice Hunt refused to allow Anthony to testify on her own behalf, allowed statements given by her at the time of her arrest to be allowed as "testimony," explicitly ordered the jury to return a guilty verdict, refused to poll the jury afterwards, and read an opinion he had written before the trial even started. The sentence was a \$100 fine, but not imprisonment; true to her word in court ("I shall never pay a dollar of your unjust penalty"), she never paid the fine for the rest of her life, and an embarrassed U.S. Government took no collection action against her. The trial gave Anthony the opportunity to spread her arguments to a wider audience than ever before.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan\\_B.\\_Anthony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_B._Anthony)

### Lucy Stone



**Lucy Stone** (August 13, 1818 – October 19, 1893) was a prominent American abolitionist and suffragist, and a vocal advocate and organizer promoting rights for women. In 1847, Stone was the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree. She spoke out for women's rights and against slavery at a time when women were discouraged and prevented from public speaking. Stone was the first recorded American woman to retain her own last name after marriage.

Lucy Stone was born on August 14, 1818 on her family's farm at Coy's Hill in West Brookfield, Massachusetts. She was the eighth of nine children. Francis Stone, her father, drank too much hard cider, had a raging temper, and ruled the household as master. The family lived close to the earth. Despite a steady but modest flow of cash coming in from selling cheeses and shoes, Hannah Stone had to beg her husband for money to buy clothing and other necessities for the family. Hannah sometimes stole coins from his purse, and she sold an occasional cheese out of his sight. Lucy was unhappy seeing the subterfuge required of her mother to maintain a simple household.

When the Bible was quoted to her, defending the subordinate position of women to men, Stone declared that when she grew up, she'd learn Greek and Hebrew so she could correct the mistranslation that she was confident lay behind such verses.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucy\\_Stone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucy_Stone)