



## President's Report



The May meeting was a success. We did a lot of brainstorming and creating. Many who attended were skeptical about the craft project but were surprised at how easy it was.

Our next meeting will be September 13, 2014. I hope you will be able to attend.

### May Branch Meeting Attendance

8

*Including 5 members and 3 board members*

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Byerly

## Save The Date

July 12, 2014 – AAUW PA Summer Retreat is being held in Lewisburg. Watch for details in the May issue of the *Keystoner*. You can also find more information and register for the retreat at <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/>.

## Membership Renewal Time is Here

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 have been mailed.

## 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 Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW will be in recess until our meeting at the PAA in September.**

In the meantime, have a happy summer, and if you have any questions about the Branch, do not hesitate to contact Pat Byerly.

## 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.

## "The Show-Goers"

Stay tuned throughout the summer for updates on "The Show-goers." Marci Henzi, who heads up this Interest Group, will be researching programs and movies in the area for the next couple of months, to find theater offerings for the new year.



We saw some wonderful shows this past year; be sure to watch for what Marci finds for us in the 2014-2015 season.

## June Birthdays



Birthday greetings are in order for our Finance Officer, Bernie Cerasaro, whose birthday is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 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

## Vacation Time

Once again, it's time for us to enjoy our well-deserved summer holiday. There are plenty of fun things to do, locally and out-of-town. But with gas prices remaining high, it's sometime difficult to find attractions that are affordable.

Have you considered visiting the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D C? Our nation's capitol is only a few hours away, either by train, bus or car, and this destination offers so many wonderful sites and activities, as well as being an opportunity for a family weekend jaunt.

Following are some of the programs:

**National Museum of African American History and Culture** – This year you can see an exhibit featuring Frederick Douglas (Abolitionist and Statesman), George Washington Carver (Scientist and Innovator), Madam C. J. Walker (Entrepreneur and Philanthropist), and Ida B. Wells-Barnett (Educator and Suffragist).

**National Portrait Gallery** – Many portraits of our nation's heroes, politicians, and patriots are featured in this Gallery.

**Freer and Sackler Galleries, The Smithsonian's Museums of Asian Art** is featuring the portrait of "The Qianlong Emperor as Manjusri, the Bodhisattva of Wisdom". This unusual portrait reflects upon the political strategy of the Qianlong emperor as well as his personal beliefs.

**National Air and Space Museum** – Well-known for its displays of the vehicles that have been part of the evolution of flight in America and the world. This museum is a must see.

Have a safe summer!



## *The Knit Wits*

Karin Neilson is the new leader of "The Knit Wits". She is happy to announce that our project for the summer and fall is afghans. Karin will be taking these lovely and useful items 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. We already have nearly a dozen afghans to bring to the Shelter

If these 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 Karin with any questions about this Interest Group; her email is

[aauwpgh.programVP@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.programVP@gmail.com).

## Pittsburgh Branch Executive Board

### *Elected Officers*

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

### *Supporting Liaisons and Committees*

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

### *Interest Groups*

The Knit Wits. Group Chair, Pat Byerly  
[aauwpgh.president@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.president@gmail.com)  
The Show-goers. Group Chair, Marci Henzi  
[aauwpgh.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.secretary@gmail.com)



During the summer, I will be collecting articles from local physicians and professionals designed to heighten our awareness of health matters that affect all of us.

If you have a particular topic that you would like to see featured, please do not hesitate to contact Karin Neilson, Newsletter Editor at [aauwpgh.programVP@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.programVP@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**.

## Karin's Travels



Did you know that our Program VP and Newsletter Editor, Karin Neilson is a "world" traveler. Her latest trip (which she is on right now) took her to Iceland. But on the way she had a layover in Equatorial Guinea. Here is what she had to say about her first day.

It's Friday night, 7:30 Malabo time (which is 5 hours ahead of PIT), and it's almost 90 degrees, with humidity that is like soup.

The flights were great and easy, but the plane to the mainland isn't working so I'm spending the night in the Hilton Malabo. Seriously incongruous, if you look at the rest of the country.

We will be taking a helicopter to the mainland tomorrow morning, since the plane hasn't been working for about a month, and no one expects that it will be working tomorrow morning, either.

I had planned on shopping tomorrow but with this delayed arrival to Bata, I will probably wait till later in the week. I hope that works because I just got a boatload of money exchanged; I'd hate to have to exchange it back to \$US.

This is tropical Africa; lots of palm trees and dense foliage all around. All residences of ex-Pats and upper class folks are surrounded by concrete walls, and the ones at the airport have barbed wire on top. Like many other tropical environments, the citizens (most of them anyway) are wooden or concrete with a tin roof. I bet it sounds loud during this rainy season. And there is plenty of new construction that actually resembles what I experienced while living in India. All the new buildings are concrete for the most part; I guess it's cooler and less expensive that way.

There was a sand storm in the Sahara as we passed over. France, Spain and Portugal has clear skies, and so did Morocco. But as we approached the desert, it was impossible to see the ground because of the swirling dust and sand. It takes a few hours to fly across the desert but eventually the skies cleared a bit, except for tons of fluffy, rain-filled clouds.

We landed in Cameroon first (Duala) for a short layover but then flew another 45 minutes to the island where Malabo is. There are three main islands in Equatorial Guinea and one of them has the capitol. I've heard this is because the President is so worried about more coups. Being on the island, it is very difficult for dissidents to take over the government without being spotted and stopped; access is tough and there are roaming guards near the palace especially. But there are elsewhere, too, and if they spot you taking pictures in an area where it is forbidden, they have the right to deport you. At the very least they will confiscate the camera. That's why there aren't any postcards to purchase here.



In case you don't know where Malabo is, it is the capitol of Equatorial Guinea and is located on the northern coast of Bioko Island on the rim of a sunken volcano off the coast of Africa.