



## Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW

**Sunday, December 7** – In lieu of our regular meeting, interested members will be meeting at **The Café at the Frick** for High Tea. **We will meet at the Café at 2:30 pm.** The price for the regular tea is \$18/person and if you choose to have the Royal Tea (which includes champagne or wine), the price is \$25/person. You can decide which you want once you arrive.

Spaces for the 1 p.m. tour of the Clayton House are still available. General admission is \$12; Seniors and students are \$10. Call 412-371-0600 for reservations.

The Café at the Frick is located at 7227 Reynolds St, Pittsburgh, PA 15208 (412-371-0600). Free parking is available. Deadline for reservations is November 30. Contact Karin or Pat to reserve your seat at the Tea.

## 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)

**Secretary**, Marci Henzi

[aaupgh.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:aaupgh.secretary@gmail.com)

## Supporting Liaisons and Committees

**Scholarship Committee Chair**, Bernie Cerasaro

[aaupgh.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:aaupgh.scholarship@gmail.com)

## Interest Groups

**The Knit Wits**. Group Chair, Karin Neilson

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

**The Show-goers**. Group Chair, Marci Henzi

[aaupgh.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:aaupgh.secretary@gmail.com)

**APB Book Discussion Group**. Group Chair, Patricia Byerly

[aaupgh.president@gmail.com](mailto:aaupgh.president@gmail.com)

## Letters to the Editor

By Karin Neilson

We have been approached by **OASIS Tutoring**, offering information for those who have time and interest in tutoring a school-aged child. Preparation for tutoring will include a training program, and you do not need teaching experience in order to participate. The students involved will be in grades K-4, and will be attending Pittsburgh Public or Woodland Hills School Districts.



For further information, please contact John Spehar, Tutoring Coordinator; 412-232-2021 or [jdspehar@oasisnet.org](mailto:jdspehar@oasisnet.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.

## 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

## The Knit Wits

If you have any knitted or crocheted items to donate to the hospitals or one of the shelters, please contact Karin. She is collecting Chemo Caps as well as afghans "for the critters" at the local animal shelters. Thanks.



## AAUW-PA Western District Meeting

Submitted by Marci Henzi

Our state organization has been addressing the question "What kind of an impact can AAUW make at the state and branch level on education in terms of quality, funding, and structure?" Meetings have been held in districts after which a resolution will be made, approved by the State Board, and presented at the State Meeting in April.

I attended the **AAUW-PA Western District Meeting** on Saturday, October 18 at the Cranberry Campus.

Linda Hippert, Ed D spoke eloquently and authoritatively about educational issues in Pennsylvania. She is the Executive Director of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit III, the largest IU in the state which oversees the needs of 125,000 students in 42 districts. She highly recommended a book entitled *Myths of Creativity* by David Burkus which addresses the disconnect between what society wants and what schools do. Ron Cowell, President of the Education Policy Leadership Center (epic.org) spoke next. He lives in our area but spends a lot of time in Harrisburg. He encouraged members to get active in education – share new ideas, join something (partner), help fix something (law), help implement established policy (common core), affect "the climate" of education by being part of the discourse. I took copious notes from both speakers which I could share at a later date if there is interest.

A delicious lunch buffet was provided by the Butler Branch in the classroom. After lively table discussion, AAUW-PA Membership Vice President Linda Tozier spoke about efforts being made to increase membership. During the Branch Networking that followed, representatives from each of the branches shared what they were doing to promote a more vital and strong AAUW.

## December Birthdays



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

12/12 Fatima El-Hamidi  
12/26 Karin Neilson

## APB Book Discussion Group

We will have another book discussion in March. Following are some of the questions that we answered for *After the Funeral*, and are typical of the interesting things we talk about:

- In the introduction, Sophie Hannah states that the motive in *After the Funeral* is "non-transferrable", that is "something that no other murderer in any other crime novel has ever had or will ever have: a motive that is unique to this character in this particular fictional situation." Do agree that the motive is "non-transferrable"? Why or why not?
- Nearly every suspect has a likely motive and opportunity. Agatha Christie inserts false clues among the real to lead the reader to the wrong conclusion. Which character did you suspect was the murderer and why? Were you surprised by the ending? Why or why not?
- Miss Gilchrist said that Cora always painted her pictures from nature and never copied from postcards. However, one painting important to the plot of this book was of a lighthouse at Polflexan Harbor. The lighthouse had been destroyed during WWII so it was impossible for Cora to have painted it from nature. If the artist had selected another scene to paint, do you think Poirot would have suspected the murderer and motive?

## Save The Date



**Saturday, January 10** – We will have our regular meeting at the PAA, including lunch, beginning at 11:45 a.m. The program will include a short presentation by Karin Neilson about her trip to Iceland. Cost of lunch is \$20.

## President's Report

The first APB Book Discussion Group was a huge success. There were 8 members participating and we talked about some of the characters and what was the motivation behind the crime. It was a lively discussion and everyone participated.



### APB Book Discussion Group

Top Row (L-R): Diane Pastorkovich, Karin Neilson, Marci Henzi, Bernie Cerasaro  
Bottom Row (L-R): Shari Muench, Lynnette Walker, Alma Bucher

We decided on Sherwood Forest Farms as a fund raiser and even though we were late getting started enough orders were received to make it work. Orders were placed before the deadline and product should be received some time after Thanksgiving in time for Christmas. We are considering this fund raiser for next year but will get started on it in September.

Please welcome two new members: Lynnette Walker and Diane Pastorkovich. They were at the November meeting and participated in the book discussion. We are very happy to have them join us.

Diane Pastorkovich has agreed to help on the Scholarship Committee. We are extending the deadline since we have had no applicants for the 2014-2015 Scholarship. Diane has agreed to contact the universities by phone to get things rolling again. She will be concentrating on Robert Morris University, Chatham University and Carlow University.

We are financially sound with a bank balance of \$4,360 and assets of \$25,660.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving. I will be attending the December 7 Tea at the Frick and hope to see many of you there.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia (Pat) Byerly

*The Show-goers*  
By Marci Henzi, Group Chair



One of the perks of living in Pittsburgh is the opportunity to see movies that are not everywhere available for viewing on the big screen; ***My Old Lady*** is based on the 2002 play written and directed by Israel Horovitz. The comedy-drama is set in Paris and stars Kevin Kline, Maggie Smith, and Kristin Scott Thomas, three veteran actors who are a joy to watch. Though much of the story takes place in a big, old, apartment building (with interesting interiors and yard,) the viewer is treated to many street scenes and cityscapes. Horovitz, a 75 year old American playwright has made his debut as a director with this film, his "love letter to Paris." <http://www.aarp.org/entertainment/movies-for-grownups/info-2014/maggie-smith-old-lady-review.html>

On November 1, we went to Little Lake Theater to see ***Love, Loss and What I Wore***. The actresses were dressed all in black and seated on high director's chairs. Skillfully they delivered a funny, heart-felt, fast-moving series of vignettes to which most of us could identify. We females learn the importance (to self-esteem and social success) of putting thought, effort and enthusiasm into what we wear; it can be a highly personal form of artistic self-expression, or perhaps an afterthought. For several days, I heard echoes of lines from the play (especially about boots, purses, and everything black) and spent more time than usual on my wardrobe.

Learning that the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra was to perform the ***Sci-Fi Spectacular***, I knew I would not be going alone; it's no secret that our Karin Neilson is the quintessential Science Fiction Buff! And, it was spectacular – the music, the lighting, the narration. George Takei (*Star Trek's* Mr. Sulu) gave accolades not only to the orchestra but to the city, its culture, restaurants, museums, and Heinz Hall, which is of course spectacular in its own right; he shared interesting facts about the optimistic, humanistic nature of the original *Star Trek* series. The selections were dominated by the compositions by John Williams – *Star Wars, E. T., Close Encounters of the Third Kind, March from Superman*. Our conductor, Jack Everly put together a medley from television series entitled *Lost In Syndication* which included themes from *Twilight Zone, The Jetsons, Lost in Space, and Space 1999*. Soprano Kristen Plumley dressed as both an Enterprise Starship Lieutenant and as Princess Leia from *Star Wars*. Her voice and the voices of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh added otherworldly effects, an "extraterrestrial" yet human section of the orchestra. She also sang *As You Wish Upon a Star*.

**Upcoming Shows**

Please contact Marci Henzi, [auwpgh.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:auwpgh.secretary@gmail.com)

Care to see the hysterical ***A Tuna Christmas*** at Little Lake Theatre either Saturday 11/29 at 8 pm, or Sunday 11/30 at 2 or 7 pm? Shows sell out, so I will be purchasing in advance. \$21.75

Advance tickets have been purchased for the ***Pops Christmas Show*** at Legacy Theatre in Allison Park for Saturday, 12/6 at 2 PM. Tickets may still be available at the door for \$36. The phone number is 412-635-8080. Please consider joining us.

We are planning to go to the Carnegie Performing Arts Center to see ***The Nutcracker*** on Saturday, December 13. Adult tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 (seniors, \$12). Please see <http://www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com/TheTicketindex.html> for other performances.

Since 2004 The Latshaw Pops Orchestra has thrilled audiences in performing arts centers all over northeastern United States, the Midwest and Canada. This talented group of 30 professional musicians, singers and dancers have headlined at The Tropicana in Atlantic City, NJ, played to capacity crowds at The Warner Theatre in Erie, PA, as well as scores of performing arts centers and casino showrooms from Boston to Chicago and from Buffalo to Richmond.

The Latshaw Pops Orchestra founded by Producer Gary Latshaw is uniquely designed to perform popular American Standards, Broadway show tunes, favorite songs from Hollywood movies and the best in Swing Music. At the heart of The Latshaw Pops Orchestra are the gifted instrumentalists, conducted by Maestro Bruce Lauffer, who perform musical arrangements by trumpeter Ralph Guzzi, Ray DeFade and John Wilson.

To date The Latshaw Pops Orchestra has shared the bill with singing groups including The Manhattan Transfer, Wayne Newton, The Vogues, Jimmy Beaumont and The Skyliners, The Duprees and Danny and The Juniors. As for the future, The Latshaw Pops Orchestra is committed to having the finest musicians, performers and technical personnel to insure the finest quality entertainment the whole family can enjoy.

**GARY LATSHAW POPS CHRISTMAS SHOW** Cost: \$31 in advance — \$36 at the door Date: Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 — 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy this very popular holiday variety show featuring singers, dancers, and the Gary Latshaw Pops Orchestra as they entertain you with the sounds of the season! A new show every year, this group of versatile performers with lovely costuming, keeps your attention throughout the entire show!

Legacy Theatre, Cumberland Woods Village, 700 Cumberland Woods Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101, Phone: 412-635-8080

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**THE NUTCRACKER** December 5—7 and 12—14 Cost: \$15 Time: 8 PM or 2 PM on Sundays

An Old-Fashioned Holiday Tradition! Christmas time brings the magical dream of a little girl named Clara and her handsome Nutcracker Prince. Battling an evil Rat King and sledding through swirling snowflakes are just a few of the adventures leading them to their Candy Kingdom. Join Clara and her Prince in the holiday event of the season.

The **Carnegie Performing Arts Center** is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing quality performance opportunity and dance education. For more than 35 years CPAC has been committed to bringing quality affordable performing arts education and experience to students of all ages. By providing a caring and nurturing environment CPAC believes that active participation in all aspects of performing will make available the most well-rounded arts education and result in the best prepared performer.

<http://www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com/directions.html>

Located at 150 East Main Street, Carnegie PA 15106, it is directly down the hill from the historic Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall. There is ample parking available around the building.