

AAUW Pittsburgh Branch

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Visit us at www.pittsburgh-pa.aauw.net

Patricia Byerly, Editor

January Program

The PAA will be closed for food service during the month of January. That means we will have to cancel our January meeting. It is possible that the March meeting will be a lunch and program meeting. More details will be available in the March newsletter. We will still do the book discussion in March. See page 2 for information about the book.

Upcoming Programs

Submitted by Karin Neilson, VP Programs

We will not have an event in February but the **Saturday, March 12th** morning meeting at the PAA will include The Book Discussion as well as a craft project. Stay tuned to future newsletters for Pat's review of that month's book selection.

There will not be a membership meeting in April. But on **Saturday, May 14th** we will have our final membership meeting for the year. There is no program listed at this time; please watch future newsletters for the details.

AAUW Pittsburgh Branch Elected Officers & Committee Chairs

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Newsletter Editor - Pat Byerly
Scholarship Committee - Bernie Cerasaro
Knit Wits - Karin Neilson
Show-Goers - Marci Henzi



**There will be no January meeting
on Saturday, January 9, 2016 .**

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 MISSION

AAUW advances equity for Women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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.

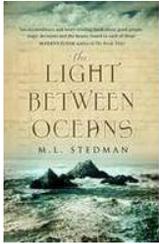


APB Book Discussion Group

Please come and join us in the APB (AAUW Pittsburgh Branch) Book Discussion Group's next book discussion. All branch members are welcome. You can even bring family and friends if they are interested.



This meeting of the APB Book Discussion Group will be held on March 12, 2016 (coffee and pastries will be provided) at the PAA. The discussion starts at 10:00.



The book selected is *The Light Between Oceans* by M. L. Stedman.

I purchased my copy from Amazon.com but I am sure you can find a copy at your local public library.

About the Author . . .

Her official biography comprises a single line: "M.L. Stedman was born and raised in Western Australia and now lives in London." Even her first name, Margot, is concealed.



In only her second media interview, by phone from Perth, Stedman is nervous and bats back questions about her age, schooling, family and her work as a lawyer with a polite: "I really don't want to answer that." Stedman later explains that she has never been one to seek out the limelight. "As the book's not autobiographical, details of my life won't really shed light on the story for the reader and I'd much rather let readers focus on the book and their own experience of it."

These are the dot points of her writing life that Stedman reluctantly offers for public consumption: raised and schooled in Perth, she says she always adored the artistry of words, had an affinity for them. Working in London as a lawyer in 1997, while staring at her office computer screen, she had a eureka moment, "from God knows where", deciding then to try creative writing. She hired a writing coach, went to Greece on a creative-writing holiday, where she wrote her first published short story, *Flight*, and went on to study creative writing part time at the University of London. Three novellas were published in an out-of-print anthology, *Desperate Remedies*, in 2008.

Sources: <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/interview-ml-stedman-20120322-1vkty.html>

The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman

After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast.

To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season and shore leaves are granted every other year at best, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel.

Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby.

Tom, whose records as a lighthouse keeper are meticulous and whose moral principles have withstood a horrific war, wants to report the man and infant immediately. But Isabel has taken the tiny baby to her breast. Against Tom's judgment, they claim her as their own and name her Lucy. When she is two, Tom and Isabel return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world. Their choice has devastated one of them.

M. L. Stedman's mesmerizing, beautifully written novel seduces us into accommodating Isabel's decision to keep this "gift from God." And we are swept into a story about extraordinarily compelling characters seeking to find their North Star in a world where there is no right answer, where justice for one person is another's tragic loss.

Source: <http://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/13-fiction/8859-light-between-oceans-stedman>

Do you have a book you would like to suggest for a book discussion? Send an email to Pat with the title of the book and the author. All suggestions will be considered.



NEWS FROM AAUW

Start the New Year Off Right — Empower Women and Girls



2015 is coming to a close, and we're taking a moment to look back on everything that AAUW's members and supporters helped accomplish for women and girls this year — as well as look ahead at all we hope to achieve in 2016.

From launching the nation's first free, citywide salary negotiation program for women to expanding our national science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs for girls, AAUW has made great strides toward empowering women and girls in 2015 — and the credit belongs to you!

You can continue AAUW's crucial work to empower women and girls throughout 2016. Just look at what your support has helped us accomplish together this past year:

We awarded more than \$3.7 million in fellowships and grants to 241 women during the 2015–16 academic year.

We tackled the gender pay gap on a bigger scale than ever before by launching the AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation program in Boston, which will train more than 85,000 women by 2020.

We fought to keep students safe from harassment and assault in classrooms and on campus by pushing for enforceable regulations for the Campus SaVE Act.

We continued to bring women and girls into STEM fields through our AAUW National Tech Trek Program, AAUW National Tech Savvy Program, and acclaimed *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing* research report.

The fight for gender equality is ongoing, and with an election year ahead, there's so much at stake. There is no better time to join the fight by making a tax-deductible gift to AAUW.

Your support helped drive crucial successes in 2015. In 2016, one of our most important priorities will be preparing for the November election. **We're ramping up our election work to help young women understand what's at stake and why their votes matter.**

Many of the challenges that women and girls face will not only continue but also intensify if we don't act. With your help, we'll be in a strong position in 2016 to continue making America's campuses, boardrooms, and workplaces equal playing fields for all women and girls.

Our success — and the success of women and girls around the country — depend on your support. Thanks for standing with us.

Source: www.AAUW.org

Closing in on the Pay Gap



Boston could be the first city to close the gender pay gap. At least that's Mayor Martin J. Walsh's goal, and it might just be possible, thanks to AAUW.

In October, the mayor, the city's Office of Women's Advancement, and AAUW leaders announced an ambitious initiative to offer free AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation trainings to half of Boston's working women in the next five years. That means training 85,000 women to negotiate higher salaries and better benefits — and making a dent in the gender pay gap, which stands nationally at 21 percent.

(Continued next page)

Closing in on the Pay Gap (Continued)

Women working full time in the United States typically are paid just 79 percent of what men are paid, and it's even worse for most women of color. The gender pay gap starts just one year out of college, and it only widens over the course of a career.

One of the many ways that AAUW is fighting the pay gap is by empowering women to negotiate for what they're worth. That's why, in 2014, AAUW acquired the Start Smart and Work Smart salary negotiation programs, which focus on college women and working women, respectively, from collaborator WAGE Project.

AAUW Start Smart is designed for college students who are about to enter the job market, and AAUW members have been putting on these workshops for years. AAUW Work Smart is for women who are already working, and it's now available for AAUW members to get involved in presenting. Both workshops have been completely redesigned using the latest research and negotiation strategies so that participants will leave with the skills and confidence to successfully navigate the complexities of job offers and promotions.

Now with AAUW at the helm of both programs, so many more women across the country will have access to the workshops, including women on dozens of college campuses who will attend AAUW Start Smart and women in Boston — and nationally — who will get training through AAUW Work Smart.

"I am thrilled to partner with AAUW to offer these workshops to the working women of Boston," says Mayor Walsh. "The AAUW workshops are the next step in giving women the tools they need to compete in today's economy. When women succeed, our businesses, our communities, and our city succeeds."

Other cities are interested in following Boston's lead, according to AAUW Senior Program Manager Jesse Rauch. "It's exciting to think about what these collaborations could mean for the future," he says. "Support for programs like these workshops translates directly into more dollars in the pockets of working women. There are not many programs that can do that. We have the chance here to effect meaningful change."

AAUW Work Smart and AAUW Start Smart will continue to fight the gender pay gap, but only with strong backing from advocates who want to make economic security accessible for all women.

To support AAUW's salary negotiation programs, please [give to the AAUW Fund](#).

This story was written for the 2015 AAUW annual report by Beth Pearsall.

Source: www.AAUW.org



Go to <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift/> and donate today.

Applelicious Easter Fundraiser

Easter is March 27 this year. Please consider ordering **Applelicious** hand-dipped chocolate apples and pretzels to promote an ongoing fundraiser towards our Scholarship Fund. Each 5-layer treat consists of a layer of vanilla caramel, two layers of milk chocolate, and a layer of your choice of cashews, pecans, M&M or Reese's Pieces, drizzled on top with white or peanut butter chocolate. Pricing for our fundraiser are as follows: Large Apples, \$12.50; Small Apples, \$10; Pretzels, \$4. If you would like to purchase Easter treats for delivery to you at the March 12 meeting, please contact Marci Henzi no later than March 1.

January Showgoers

Holiday Shows

We started the holidays early this year on the day after our last meeting. We saw the longest running show of any kind in the history of the world in the comfort of the **Legacy Theatre**. Agatha Christie's play **The Mousetrap** opened in London in October 1952 and since then there have been over 26,000 performances. The characters of the play find themselves at a snowbound lodge when one of them is murdered. When we read *After the Funeral* for our inaugural book discussion, at least one lady was able to figure out "who done it." That was not the case this time, but now that we know, our lips are sealed!

On December 6, we attended a concert which has now become a Showgoers tradition, the **Latshaw Pops Orchestra's Christmas Memories**. We had first row center balcony seats in the spectacular **Palace Theatre** in Greensburg. There were twenty-nine performers including singers, dancers and a twenty-two piece orchestra. The show is a little different each year. This year, twelve audience members spontaneously participated in the singing of the *Twelve Days of Christmas*. Next year, the show will be back at the Legacy Theatre in Allison Park near La Roche College. We hope you will join us.

Last but not least, on December 12 we attended the wonderful **Sinatra's 100th Birthday Tribute Concert** at the Legacy. As you might expect, the songs were mostly upbeat but there were also some somber moments. Songs were sung by various singers, followed by sequential, biographical vignettes. The six piece band was superb.

Upcoming Shows

- ◇ New to our group will be concerts by the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra. Please see the following website:
www.pittsburghyouthsymphony.org February 14, 2016 7:30-9:30 PM
- ◇ **Free Heinz Hall Concert – "American in Paris"**
Tickets can be ordered online via ShowClix but will not be available until after the first of the year. There is no charge or handling fee.
- ◇ A return to the ballet at the Carnegie Performing Arts Center to see **Beauty and the Beast** is being planned for the weekend of March 18-20. Since tickets can be purchased at the door (adults, \$15), the date will be decided at the March meeting. Please see:
www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com

Movies

Similar in spirit to our book discussion of *The Boston Girl*, a highly recommended movie which you may still be able to catch in theaters is **Brooklyn** which tells the profoundly moving story of a young Irish immigrant navigating her way through 1950's Brooklyn.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=15syDwC000k

With anticipated US release date of January 15, 2016, **Lady in a Van** stars Maggie Smith. This film tells the true story of the relationship between Alan Bennett and the singular Miss Shepherd, a woman of uncertain origins who 'temporarily' parked her van in Bennett's London driveway and proceeded to live there for 15 years.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIN1b0ok4D0

Scholarship Funds

Money raised from recent fundraisers:

Sherwood Forest: \$ 71.30

Applelicious: \$ 32.80

Total: \$104.10

Thanks to everyone who participated.