

AAUW Pittsburgh Branch

Issue No. 57

The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch

May 2015

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

Annual Member Appreciation Meeting

The Annual Member Appreciation meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9th. Please come and join us for a free lunch. There will also be gifts for those attending as well as a gift if you pay your dues before May 9th and attend the May meeting.



Current memberships will expire June 30, 2015. As an incentive to pay your dues early, gifts will be handed out at the May meeting for those who submit their renewals before May 9th and attend the Membership Appreciation Meeting on May 9th. You must have paid your dues for next year and attend the meeting in order to receive your gift. Remember that lunch is on the branch in May so mark your calendar and plan to attend.

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.



AAUW Give-A-Grad-A-Gift

AAUW members can give a recent college graduate a free 1 year membership in AAUW, at no cost! Give a free membership to anyone who has graduated in the last year or two, who has earned an associate, bachelor, graduate, or doctorate degree, and who is not currently a regular member of AAUW.



The free 1 year membership does not cover the \$21 for state and branch dues. If you know someone you would like to gift please contact Pat Byerly.

Next issue of the newsletter will be July!



The May meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9 at the PAA in Oakland located at:

4215 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 621-2400
www.paaclub.com

11:45-1:00 Lunch
1:00-2:00 Program

The 2014 Scholarship will be awarded so please join us and meet the recipient.

If you have not already done so, please RSVP by Wednesday, May 6th so that we know how many gifts to bring.

Why it is important to R.S.V.P.?

It is important that if you plan on attending the meeting that you R.S.V.P. by the announced deadline. The reason that we ask you to do this is two-fold: (1) we know how many members to expect, and (2) in the event we have to cancel the meeting for any reason we know who to call. Please direct any questions to aauwpggh@aauwpggh.org.

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.

May Show-goers

by Marci Henzi

On April 3, three of us went to see *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the *Palace Theatre* in Greensburg. A production of *Stage Right*, a company that offers classes in musical theatre for young people, this performance was packed with family and friends of the large cast. *The Palace* is an opera house style theater with an interesting history. We were pleased to learn that the *Latshaw Christmas Show* which we so thoroughly enjoyed last year will be at the Palace this year.

On Tuesday, May 19, I will be attending the Scottish Ballet's performance of *Streetcar Named Desire* at the Byham. I am looking forward to this and will report back to you on it in June.



Perhaps you would like to join me for a trip to the *Little Lake Theatre* to see *Our Town* on May 16, 17, or 23? Yes, I received the new season brochure in the mail and will be sharing it with you at our meeting on May 9. I hope to see you then!

Pledge to Let the Girls in Your Life Tinker



When Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple, was a kid, he used to take apart and reassemble electronics in the garage with his father. Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos spent his childhood laying pipeline and repairing windmills on his family farm.

Many of the biographies of the best-known innovators of our time are filled with childhoods of taking things apart and putting them back together. And too few of these famous innovators are women.

AAUW research shows that girls and boys perform equally well in math and science by most measures — especially when parents and teachers remind girls that if they stick with a subject, their intelligence will grow.

But by middle school, boys tend to express more interest in and positive attitudes toward math and science. By high school, girls fall behind, as boys are more likely to take the standardized exams and accelerated classes associated with engineering and computing. And the numbers of women in these fields grow smaller and smaller the further down the career path you look.

The problem isn't that boys are better. It's that girls (and boys and parents and teachers and even employers) see them that way.

How can we stop this trend? By doing something that parents do with their children every day: Build their confidence, validate their curious minds, and let them do what they love.

That means letting the girls in your life get dirty. Let them wear out the knees in their clothes and get dirt under their nails. Let them take apart their toys and find out how they work. Don't let your concern about their politeness or cleanliness get in the way of their delight in exploring the world around them. And don't let your fear of seeing them fail stop them from finding their own solutions.

Why not let girls tinker?

It sounds simple, but it can make the path that much wider for the girls in your life. Girls who are given the freedom to explore and discover things for themselves are more likely to grow into women who confidently explore fields like engineering and technology — where women are sorely needed. Whether it's with Legos, Lincoln Logs, or the broken kitchen toaster, give the girls in your life room to explore.

Parents, teachers, relatives, and advocates for girls: You can make a difference. Will you take the pledge with AAUW to let the girls in your life tinker?

Go to <http://www.aauw.org/article/pledge-to-let-the-girls-in-your-life-tinker/> and take the pledge now.

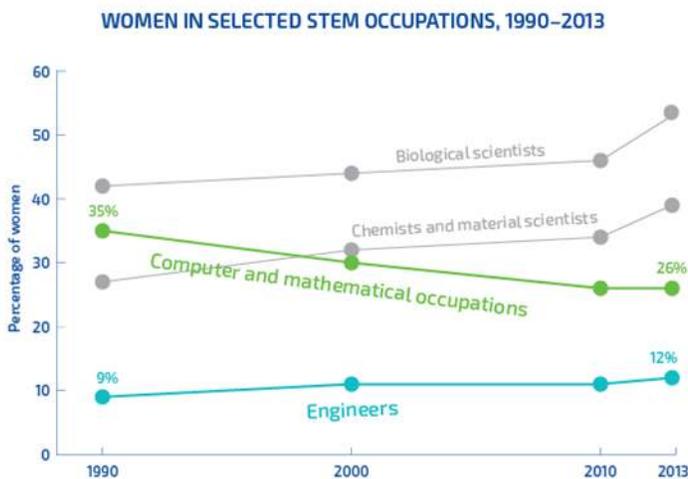
Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing

Five years after AAUW asked “Why so few women in STEM?” the report *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing* takes a closer look at the two STEM fields where the jobs are but women aren't. The report discusses the state of women in engineering and computing, where women make up only 12 percent and 26 percent of the workforce. Stereotypes, biases, and unwelcoming environments still hold women back in these fields, but increasing the representation of women in engineering and computing is good for women and good for business.

This colorful, accessible fact sheet makes it easy to share some of the key themes of the report and spark discussion in your community. Download this one-page summary as a companion piece to the full report or as a conversation starter at an event.

Go to <http://www.aauw.org/resource/fact-sheet-solving-the-equation/> to download the Quick Facts for Solving the Equation

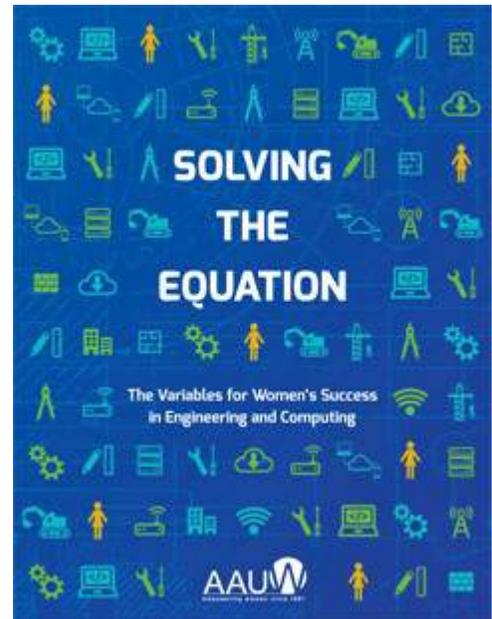
More than ever before, girls are studying and excelling in science and mathematics. Yet the dramatic increase in girls' educational achievements in scientific and mathematical subjects has not been matched by similar increases in the representation of women working as engineers and computing professionals. Just 12 percent of engineers are women, and the number of women in computing has fallen from 35 percent in 1990 to just 26 percent today.



The numbers are especially low for Hispanic, African American, and American Indian women. Black women make up 1 percent of the engineering workforce and 3 percent of the computing workforce, while Hispanic women hold just 1 percent of jobs in each field. American Indian and Alaska Native women make up just a fraction of a percent of each workforce.

Solving the Equation is made possible by these generous supporters: the National Science Foundation, Research on Gender in Science and Engineering award 1420214; AT&T; and the Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle

Source: <http://www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/>



Knit Wits

A dozen chemo caps were sent to the Don Monti Cancer Center by Karin Nielson.

