

AAUW Pittsburgh Branch

Issue No. 59

The Newsletter of American Association of University Women - Pittsburgh Branch

September 2015

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September Program

On Saturday, September 12, 2015, our program will be, "Women, Men and Money: What's the Difference and Why it Matters", presented by Laura Freedman.



Women's earning power has dramatically accelerated over the past 30 years. Women now account for more than 57 percent of managerial and professional positions and receive more advanced degrees than men.

And while women continue to bridge the gaps in income and opportunity, one critical gap remains unchanged: women's role in investing decisions, which are the foundation of both executive decision-making and personal financial security.

Laura Freedman is a financial advisor who works with women to prepare for the economic realities of longer life spans, children and aging parents. Prior to joining Southpointe Wealth Management of UBS Financial Services, she was a Senior Human Resource Executive. Laura lends more than 25 years of experience advising leaders on sensitive matters and complex business decisions. She holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh Katz School of Business and is a Certified Executive Coach.

Join us for an interactive round table with Laura as she explores the specific differences between women and men as it relates to money, the impact of these differences, and what actions women can take to bridge the gap.

You won't want to miss this interesting and valuable program.

Please RSVP Pat Byerly so we can save you a seat.



The September meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at the PAA in Oakland located at:

4215 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Lunch will begin at 11:45 with the program to follow. Cost of lunch is \$20.

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.



It Wasn't Only Madame Curie

Contributed by Karin Neilson

Although the past decade has raised our awareness concerning female contributions in the STEM fields, women have long been making strides in research. The following ladies were highlighted in the April 2015 edition of *Oprah*:

Marie Tharp (1920-2006). Field: Oceanographic cartography. A keen mapmaker, Tharp worked to plot the ocean floor, still uncharted territory in the first half of the 20th century. By the late 1950s, her relief maps revealed a massive rift in the mid-Atlantic ridge – a wave-making discovery that helped finally give credence to the theory of continental drift.



Nettie Stevens (1861-1912). Field: Genetics. In 1905, Stevens published a radical paper arguing that an animal's sex was determined by chromosomal combinations rather than environmental factors, as some believed. How'd she figure it out? By scrutinizing chromosomes extracted from mealworms, termites, and other insects.



Grace Hopper (1906-1992). Field: Computer science. Decades before Silicon Valley, Hopper, a math professor, created the first computer program to automatically translate typed instructions into machine-readable code. And the computer term "bug"? Hopper and her team at Harvard popularized it after finding an actual moth in an early prototype."



Thanks for your curiosity and dedication, ladies.

From the desk of *Karin Neilson*

Our life is a journey
Through the winter and through the night.
We are looking for our path
In the sky where nothing glows.

[Notre vie est un voyage
Dans l'Hiver et dans la Nuit.
Nous cherchons notre passage
Dans le Ciel ou rien ne luit.

(Chanson des Gardes Suisses 1793)]

Upcoming Programs

Submitted by Karin Neilson, VP Programs

Ladies, we have some interesting events in the 2015-2016 membership year.

At our **Saturday, September 12th** luncheon meeting at the PAA, we will have the privilege of hosting Laura Freedman, whose topic will be, "*Women, Men & Money: What's the difference and why it matters.*" A synopsis of her presentation and her credentials is provided on page 1. This should be a wonderful meeting, ladies; I hope you can make it.

We will not have a meeting or activity in October; however, at our **Saturday, November 14th** morning meeting, Pat will once again lead a book discussion. Please take a minute to read her review on page 5 for a further description of the book and how to obtain it. We are also planning to have a short craft project at this meeting

Back by popular demand, on **Sunday, December 13th** we will once again meet at The Café at the Frick for their High Tea. It's fun, and the café is always beautifully decorated for the holidays. I hope you will be able to join us this year. More details will follow in future newsletters.

January is the traditional month for us to award our scholarship monies. The Scholarship Committee is working diligently on securing and reviewing applications, but the **Saturday, January 9th** luncheon meeting at the PAA will include the presentation of the funds as well as an overview of how the money will be used by the recipient.

Continued on next page

Upcoming Programs (Continued)

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.

Please remember to respond to Pat's requests for reservations at our meetings; we need an accurate head count for each meeting so there are enough chairs, supplies, and food for all.

The Knit Wits

Submitted by Karin Neilson



Many thanks to Bernie Cearsaro for her generous donation of yarn. It will enable me to complete another afghan for the critters at the North Side Humane Society.

And I've found another project that might interest you. It's called "Teddies for Tragedies"; take a look at the description: ***"This is an ongoing project. There is no time limit. Doctors who treat children in Third World countries, have found that children who have a Teddy to cuddle get better more quickly than those who don't have one. Each child keeps his/her own Teddy to take home, so doctors need a continual supply. They are very simple and quick to make and can be stuffed with toy and pillow stuffing."*** If this kind of project interests you, please let me know. I am happy to supply instructions, and provide pick-up for completed Teddies.

Finally, Pat has been working on items for the Senior Center where she volunteers. She will contribute black & gold scarves and dish clothes to the Avonmore Senior Center for their September 19th open house.

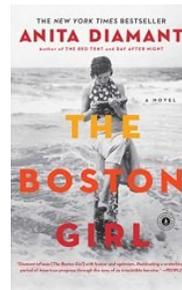
Thanks to all the women who have given their time and materials to better the lives of others.

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 November 14, 2015 (coffee and pastries will be provided) at the PAA. The discussion starts at 10:00.



The book selected is the *Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant.

Please read the article on page 5 about the book.

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

About the Author . . .

Anita Diamant (born June 27, 1951) is an American author of fiction and non-fiction books. She has published five novels, the most recent of which is "The Boston Girl," a New York Times bestseller, and is best known for her 1997 novel, *The Red Tent*, a *New York Times* best seller. She has also written six guides to contemporary Jewish practice: *The New Jewish Wedding*, "The New Jewish Baby Book," *Living a Jewish Life*, "Choosing a Jewish Life," "How to Raise a Jewish Child," and "Saying Kaddish." A collection of her personal essays, "Pitching My Tent," is also in print.



Diamant spent her early childhood in Newark, New Jersey, and moved to Denver, Colorado, when she was 12 years old. She attended the University of Colorado Boulder and transferred to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature in 1973. She then went on to receive a master's degree in English from State University of New York at Binghamton in 1975.

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anita_Diamant

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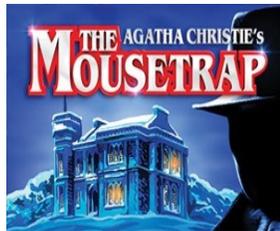
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SHOW-GOERS

By Marci Henzi



Legacy Theater, Allison Park

The play opened in the West End of London on October 6, 1952 . . . And it is still running! After more than 26,000 performances the show is the longest running show of any kind in the history of the world. Based on a short radio play called, "Three Blind Mice", Agatha Christie's murderous masterpiece has perplexed audiences for over 62 years and is showing no signs of slowing. Come join the cast of "suspects" at Monkswell Manor and see if you can figure out 'who done it' in the greatest murder mystery of all time. With all the twists and turns of a classic Christie mystery and that spectacular twist ending that she was so famous for, we ask our audiences not to reveal the secret to anyone outside the theatre. Let them figure it out themselves.

We're excited about returning to the **Legacy Theater** on **Sunday, November 15** at **2 PM** to see **Mousetrap**. This wonderful smaller theater is located at Cumberland Woods Village (Senior Community), just past UPMC Passavant on Cumberland Road in Allison Park. If you would like to join us, tickets will be purchased online in advance on September 12 after our branch meeting at the cost of \$26.75 per ticket. The tickets will be picked up at will call on the day of the show.



SINATRA: A CENTURY OF SONG

Legacy Theater, Allison Park

Cost: \$31 in Advance - \$36 at the door
Date: Saturday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Francis Albert Sinatra was born on December 12, 1915, and music changed forever! Come celebrate Old Blue Eye's 100th birthday at the Legacy Theatre this December and enjoy an unforgettable night of magnificent entertainment. This show pays homage to the man who single-handedly wrote the great American songbook. From the big band days through the swing era up to and including the Capitol years, the show presents his greatest songs sung by the area's top performers. This multimedia tribute also includes rare family photos and concert images as we celebrate the birthday of the greatest performer of the era. The Chairman of the Board would have been 100 years old and his style, showmanship, and songs have never aged a day. Come to the birthday party of the year and ring-a-ding-dong the holiday season in that Sinatra style!



At the **Palace Theatre**, the **Latshwa Pops' Christmas Memories** show is the area's most enjoyable holiday tradition. Celebrate the Christmas Season with this heartwarming variety show with the Latshaw Pops Orchestra and the Katie Kelly Dancers!

Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing the show again. Please contact Marci Henzi if you are interested in any of these performances.

The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant

Ron Charles is the editor of The Washington Post's Book World. For a dozen years, he enjoyed teaching American literature and critical theory in the Midwest, but finally switched to journalism when he realized that if he graded one more paper, he'd go crazy.

Anita Diamant's new novel, "The Boston Girl," comes to us as the transcript of a tape-recorded monologue delivered by an 85-year-old woman named Addie Baum. Addie is cheery, alert and full of needlepointed wisdom. If this allegedly spontaneous memoir is any indication, she's also the most well-organized 85-year-old woman in the world. Asked by her granddaughter to talk about how she got to be the person she is today, Addie takes us back to 1900, the year she was born. From there, she leads us through a series of episodes that have all the color and vibrancy of a plastic bouquet.

Addie was the plucky daughter of immigrants who escaped starvation and violence in Russia to settle in a tiny Boston apartment. "In 1915, there were four of us living in one room," she begins. "We had a stove, a table, a few chairs, and a saggy couch that Mameh and Papa slept on at night." They eat a lot of potatoes and cabbage. Deeply suspicious of America's loose culture, at home Addie's parents speak only Yiddish, mostly to bicker. Her mother, in particular, is a joyless hag. She criticizes Addie for wasting her time studying and staying in school: "She's already ruining her eyes from reading. No one wants to marry a girl with a squint." That's Mameh in a nutshell, which is where she stays throughout this novel, huddled and bitter, tossing off worn aphorisms and barbs about everyone else's failures. (Does Mameh turn sweet and loving on her deathbed? Such is the suspense that electrifies "The Boston Girl.")

Addie, of course, finds ways to escape her parents' suffocating expectations. She joins a reading club for Jewish girls. There she meets a better class of people, who introduce her to games and books and leisure activities that would scandalize her mother: lawn tennis, archery, croquet! She has to ask what the word "hiking" means. She's excited to see a wicker chair for the first time. One of her friends has the cutest dimples in the world. We're a long way from "The Red Tent," that feminist novel of biblical proportions that propelled Diamant onto the bestseller list in 1997. (This week's Lifetime miniseries based on the novel surely sparked new interest.) But here, in early 20th-

century Boston, Diamant strictly observes the rituals of the American immigrant story, which is not necessarily a problem. After all, that archetypal form offers a standard foundation while remaining flexible enough to accommodate an infinite variety of interior design.

At this late date, though, the demands of originality in the immigrant story, both in plot and style, are high — higher, alas, than this pleasant, undemanding novel is willing to reach. For instance, although Addie's father is a respected man in the temple and young Addie is aware of the anti-Semitic currents running around her, Diamant makes little effort to address issues of faith or ethnic prejudice. Instead, Addie's anecdotes are mostly charming, sweet tales one might hear while trapped with grandma for an afternoon in the retirement-home dining room. (Try the Jell-O; it's good.) Long stretches of "The Boston Girl" are so predictable that AARP should sue for defamation.

It's not as though serious, even wrenching events don't arise in these pages. Addie's desperately anxious older sister flits about like a character from "The Glass Menagerie."

A young man Addie dates has been ruined by post-traumatic stress disorder, which doctors tell him to deal with by not talking about what he remembers. And there's rape, abortion, suicide and all manner of thwarted dreams — other people's, at least. But Diamant insists on packaging these incidents in neat little chapters that admit none of the messiness or indeterminacy of lived experience. World War I, the flu of 1918, the Minnesota orphan train, Southern lynchings — they're all blanched in the warm bath of Addie's sentimental narrative. A reference to the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti immediately gives way to an engagement party. Later, an abusive man is murdered — probably by an ax — but Addie concludes that episode by crowing, "I had pie for breakfast every day for the rest of the summer." My hopes rose for a taste of "Sweeney Todd," but no.

"The Boston Girl" suffers most from its refusal to acknowledge the complexity of memory and oral history. Addie claims, "I've forgotten a lot more than I like to admit," but without hesitation, repetition or unconscious revelation, she delivers happy recollections from the 1920s with more detail and dialogue than I can recall from breakfast. On the tight, shiny surface of this narrative, there's so little tremor of real life. Without letting us hear the resonance of actual reminiscence and the timbre of authentic speech, the novel moves along without moving us.