

AAUW Coastal-Georgetown Branch Newsletter
COASTAL TIDINGS
MAY - JUNE 2015



Mission Statement

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

“A woman is like a tea bag - you can’t tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.” Eleanor Roosevelt

President’s Message - Penny Deiner

This is the last newsletter for our 2014/2015 AAUW year. Although it is tempting to only look back at our accomplishments it is more exciting to look ahead. We are on a roll! We have candidates for all of our open elected positions and it is only April and it didn’t take very much arm-twisting. We increased the number of our scholarships (from 2 to 3) and the amount of the scholarships (from \$1500 to \$2,000). Find Your Future-Make it Happen will have presented to all of the 10th graders at Cape Henlopen High School.

The STEM Committee organized the judges for the Sussex County Science Fair and selected winners for each grade band. Dr. Bruce Frye “another science guy” thanked the CG AAUW Branch for our awards and continuing participation in the Science Fair. We have supported 75 student projects, half of which were generated by girls. The Spotlight on STEM has added a new dimension to our monthly meetings.

The Bylaws Committee has taken on a challenge that will last into 2015/2016 as it is in the process of revising our current bylaws and incorporating the changes that will be required by National.

We have increased our Fund Raising activities with the addition of a silent auction and Change for Change. Additionally, our Geranium sale is reaching new heights.

CG members participated in an advocacy training and Equal Pay Day in Dover and attended the film Paycheck to Paycheck with its discussion. (More details in other articles.) Our website is alive and well and a great and beautiful source of information.

Wave keeps telling me I don't know how lucky I am to be the president of this branch. I think I do. Some organizations drain energy, this one gives energy. There is a sense of excitement and purposefulness that makes it more than just going to interesting meetings.

At a personal level I have never been much of an activist, but since becoming the president of the CG Branch I now email our representative and senators frequently on mission-based interests. I am looking forward to being able to do this at the state level as well. I think we can make a difference for women and girls in Delaware.

My term as president of the CG Branch ends June 30th but my commitment does not. I have no worries about this branch; it will be in very capable hands. I think this is a time when all Delaware AAUW Branches can work together and join with other organizations such as the League of Women Voters in Sussex and the Delaware Commission for Women to advance our mission. I want to help make this happen when I become state president July 1. We are truly on a roll.

Penny

AAUW STATE BOARD *Penny Deiner*

The State Board of AAUW met on Saturday, April 25th in Dover. One of the joys of the state meetings is sharing ideas with each other about what is working well and the possibilities of incorporating these ideas into our own Branch.

To help Branch members become more aware of how the money that goes to National and the state one branch added a new item to their agenda called "What do you dues do?" They highlight one item at each meeting. (I shared our Spotlight on STEM.)

As a way to get speakers one Branch works with the Speaker's Branch at the Delaware's Humanities Forum. The Humanities Forum picks up most of the travel and pays the speaker and the branch only has to pay \$50.00. Her discussion of the speakers was very interesting.

There was a discussion about the slate of Bills to Advance the Cause of Women in Delaware and general agreement to develop a plan support these.

There was a lot of discussion about communications in general and the State Newsletter, web site and a proposal by the CIRJ (pronounced Surge) Concepts to upgrade the website to make it a mobile compatible site. An ad hoc committee was appointed to look at these communications related issues. These recommendations will be brought to the September meeting of the Board meeting.

The meeting also featured the induction of Penny Deiner as the new president of Delaware AAUW starting July 1 and the honoring of past presidents.

Congratulations, Penny!



Incoming president Penny Deiner, past president Nadyne Rosin, and outgoing co-president Wave Starnes. Maisha Britt presided over the induction ceremony. (Photo by Valerie Jermusyk)

A word of thanks to Penny Deiner, our President.

A lot has happened during the last two years within the Coastal Georgetown branch of AAUW under the leadership of our President, Penny Deiner. New initiatives came to fruition, membership grew and energies were ignited within the existing membership. Penny gave her full support and trust in all these aspects and the members felt it. In our digital world many important discussions were carried out via email with numerous thoughts expressed by our vocal ladies. Penny had the innate ability to reign us all in with her calm, wise and thoughtful responses that always made sense to us. Penny - you have a way to make us all feel that what we do is important and appreciated. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the last two years of leadership and congratulations on becoming the Delaware State President. We know you will continue to inspire others to do great things.

Susan Chin

PUBLIC POLICY

Marty Johnson

C-G AAUW Public Policy Update

At the National Level

- It is time to vote on the changes to the 2015-1016 AAUW National Bylaws, to the Public Policy Program and to a slate of officers. Online voting ends June 19 and paper ballots must be postmarked May 26. **PLEASE NOTE:** There is a proposal to the bylaws to eliminate the degree requirement for membership to AAUW. You are encouraged to carefully consider this proposed bylaw change and then cast your vote for this amendment along with the 4 other bylaw changes and 12 public policy amendments. For more information, see the C-G Web site at <http://geogetown-de.aauw.net> and the national web site at https://svc.aauw.org/RECore/omoVote/Ballot_Form_Enter_MID.asp

At the State Level

- AAUW Delaware held an Introduction to Lobbying session with our AAUW members at Legislative Hall. This session was followed by a presentation in both houses of Concurrent Resolution recognizing Equal Pay Day.
- A coalition of women legislators in the Delaware General Assembly unveiled 11 bills that address issues that impact Delaware women. The following is a synopsis of the eleven bills.
 - **1. Safety on college campuses, sexual assault reporting.** This bill would require universities to follow mandatory reporting procedures for sexual assaults to law enforcement agencies; improve data disclosure and monitoring by requiring the Department of Justice to provide annual sexual assault statistics; and require universities to train their staff on their mandatory reporting responsibilities.
 - **2. Sexual Assault Training for Law Enforcement.** This bill would require police officers to receive victim-centered, trauma-informed and offender-focused sexual assault training.
 - **3. Advocate Confidentiality.** This bill would state that counselors and advocates may not disclose certain victim communications without written consent.
 - **4. Title IX Coordinator Listing. House Bill 81.** This bill would add to the existing Education Profile reports compiled by DE Department of Education the name and contact information for a federal Title IX coordinator for every public school.
 - **5. Remote Testimony. Senate Bill 51.** This bill would allow, at a judge's discretion, for a victim or witness to appear at required court proceedings and give testimony via videoconference from a separate location.
 - **6. Statewide Rape Kit Audit.** This Joint Resolution would mandate that the Department of Justice oversee an audit of all untested and un-submitted sexual assault kits in Delaware and establishes a work group tasked with creating systemic changes to ensure proper testing of all sexual assault kits in the future.
 - **7. Family Leave for Public Employees.** This bill would make full time public employees eligible for 12 weeks of maternity or paternity leave after one year of employment. New parents would be eligible for leave for up to one year after the birth of the child.

8. **Safety Leave. House Bill 4.** This bill would protect employees by guaranteeing them the right to take leave based on circumstances of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault and specifying that taking such leave is not grounds for termination or discrimination.

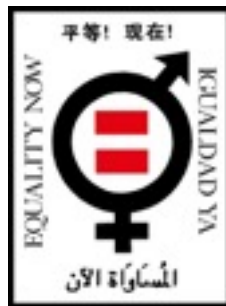
9. **Equal Pay for Equal Work in State Contracting. House Bill 3.** This bill would mandate that any company awarded a state contract certify that it engages in fair wage practices and will provide its employees with equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender.

10. **Breastfeeding Accommodations for Jury Duty.** This bill would allow mothers who are currently breastfeeding their children to have their jury service postponed by the courts.

11. **Postpartum Depression Resources and Education.** This bill would require physicians to educate prenatal patients and families on the warning signs and symptoms of postpartum depression.

You can monitor the status of the bills on the state website, <http://legis.delaware.gov>. In September C-G AAUW will present a plan for how our branch can support these bills through our advocacy.

Equal Pay Day and *Paycheck to Paycheck* Penny Deiner



Six members of the CG Branch attended Equal Pay Day. This is the symbolic day when women's earnings reach men's earnings. This year April 14 is the day that women's earnings (78 cents to men's dollars) will catch up to men's earnings from 2014. In 1963 the pay gap was 59 cents on the dollar. By 2004 it was 82 cents on the dollar and it has stayed almost the same for a decade. At the current rate the pay gap won't close for 124 years. As the legislature is not in session on April 14 we were in Dover on March 24.

Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life and Times of Katrina Gilbert is a film that was shown on April 14th. It focused on the issue of poverty and what it means to a single mother and have three children. The moving story highlights a year in the life of one mother whose daily struggles illuminate the challenges faced by more than 42 million American women and the 28 million children who depend upon them. Katrina never expected to be poor but after leaving her husband whose painkillers destroyed their marriage and gutted her finances. One saving grace was the Chambliss Center, a subsidized facility that provides round-the-clock-child care.

Although most of us intellectually know the issues related to poverty this film brought it closer to home. The discussion focused on the Katrina's lack of a family/friend support system and lack of having a round-the-clock child care facility

in Sussex County where so many workers have nontraditional hours. There was also discussion about how some workplaces are “woman friendly” but these are mostly for college-educated women. This film is available on HBO.

This movie (sponsored by AAUW DE, the League of Women Voters and the Delaware Commission for Women) is part of Maria Shiver’s groundbreaking multi-platform project “*The Shriver Report: a Woman’s Nation Pushes Back from the Brink.*” The project began in 2009 and has produced an award winning series of reports that chronicle the seismic shifts in the American culture and society affecting women today. This is something we might want to explore.

FUND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Linda Lewis



Our fiscal year is ending soon, June 30th. Our annual membership fees are due and please remember these fees cover our National and State dues and our operating expenses. To support our community efforts, Find Your Future and our scholarships, we raise those monies through our fund development efforts.

We are definitely having a great year in Fund Development - please see the chart below for our status as of mid-April. Our largest fund raiser, the geranium sales is yet to report in - so I know we are going to have a fantastic year. Thanks so much to all those who volunteered to lead and a special thanks to those who donated to support our scholarship fund.

We are looking for new volunteers to lead some of these efforts next year so if you are interested in helping us grow our funds please give me a call at 302-397-1290 or email me at linda.e.lewis@gmail.com

**Fund Development Progress as
of mid-April**

Activity	Budget	Actual	Notes
50/50	600.00	427.5	APRIL, MAY, JUNE MEETINGS REMAIN
BOOK SALES	150.00	71	APRIL, MAY, JUNE MEETINGS REMAIN
GERANIUM SALES	4400.00	478.5	MONIES WILL BE REPORTED IN EARLY MAY
GERANIUM EXPENSES	-2693.00		MONIES WILL BE REPORTED IN EARLY MAY
CHANGE FOR SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	183	APRIL, MAY, JUNE MEETINGS REMAIN
DINE OUT@ RESTAURANTS	300.00	0	WILL REMAIN 0 - NO ONE VOLUNTEERED TO ORGANIZE
SAT PRE TEST	500.00	90	WILL BE REPORTED IN MAY
DECEMBER AUCTION	0.00	843	COMPLETE
DINING CARDS	450.00	470	COMPLETE
LOCAL DONATIONS	200.00	1130	
NAMED DONATION		3006	
MISC 2			
	3907.00	6699	



UPCOMING SPEAKER ...

Iris Prager

Ruth Lytle-Barnaby has been President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Delaware since August 2012. Ruth moved to Delaware from Colorado when she accepted the position. Prior to Planned Parenthood, Ruth worked for Poudre Valley Health Care in Fort Collins, Colorado. Ms. Lytle-Barnaby will be speaking about Delaware's Reproductive Health at our next meeting on May 21. How does our reproductive health care compare to the rest of the nation? What are the biggest issues we face

and can these issues be addressed? And finally, what works and what doesn't with reproductive health care?



AND LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER



Bill Newcott, Emcee of AARP's Movies for Grownups

ECONOMIC ISSUES STUDY GROUP *Jo Ann Paulson*



PREPARE FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF ELECTION DEBATES!

For the next few months the economics policy discussion group is going to turn to issues that will be debated in the 2016 elections. Even if you haven't attended the economics policy group before, we are starting on a new set of issues and no prior knowledge of economics will be needed.

We will start by reviewing the government budget. How does the government get money and spend it? What can be changed and what can't be changed? We will start on the spending side of the budget and then move on to the revenue side. Should the tax code be reformed, including corporate taxes, inheritance taxes, taxes on capital gains, etc.? Should entitlements be changed? The intention is to debate and understand different positions and the ramifications of changes. We will not reach, or even try to reach consensus.

The next meeting will be April 30, 1 - 3 p.m. at Connie Jones' house, 34395 Skyler Dr., Villages at Herring Creek. We will read and discuss **A People's Guide to the Federal Budget. National Priorities Project.** You can also find helpful information on the web, including the site for the national priorities project:
<https://www.nationalpriorities.org/>

The May meeting will be held on the 28th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The location will be announced at the May meeting.

Contact Jo Ann Paulson, jporaj23@yahoo.com, for more information and to have your name added to the group email list.



DIVERSITY GROUP *Rose Mary Hendrix*

Join us on May 5, 2016 to discuss “Garbology: Our Love Affair With Trash”, by Edward Humes. Penny Deiner will be hosting and leading the discussion. We will meet on June 5, 2016 to discuss “Thank You For Your Service,” by David Finkel. It will be hosted and led by Mary Lu Pool.

For more information contact Rose Mary Hendrix at 302-537-9417 or rm.hendrix@mchsi.com

IN THE SPOTLIGHT *Mary Lu Pool*



Jean Wastler

As with so many other AAUW members, Jean Wastler, a long term member of the Georgetown chapter, is an inspiration to all of us.

She grew up in Frederick, MD, received her undergraduate degree from Towson University, her Master’s degree from Penn State, and completed extensive post graduate work at University of MD. She began her career as a junior high school teacher and later was part of an initiative to bring computers into the classroom and provide professional development for teachers. She also served as a specialist in student appraisal and testing and was involved in the development of gifted education programs in Montgomery County Schools, working with both students and parents.

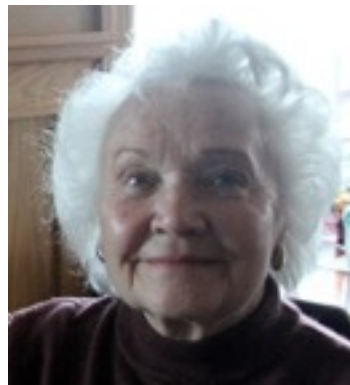
Because of her father's illness, she took early retirement to move to the Rehoboth and help run the family's antique business.

Jean has always been involved in political initiatives, dating back to the presidential campaigns of LBJ and Jimmy Carter. She continued her involvement after moving to DE, by writing grants to create opportunities for AAUW members to meet with DE legislators and also to participate in lobbying workshops. Her involvement in AAUW has led to a variety of other accomplishments, including compiling a master listing of available daycare facilities for working mothers.

In recent years, Jean has continued her involvement by making presentations about cyber security and privacy in the digital age as part of the AAUW Great Discussions group. She is also preparing to write a book on Nobel Prize winners in science. Her greatest passion these days is her work with the First Steps Early Learning Center in Georgetown, which provides early bilingual education, affordable quality childcare and other services for working families with limited support systems. She has written grants and secured funding for a variety of activities for the center. Among other accolades, she has been awarded the AAUW Daisy Girl Award for service above and beyond the call of duty.

Jean credits AAUW with sparking her interest in a variety of volunteer initiatives. What Jean has learned over her many years of service is that you can do anything you put your mind to and to consider your gender a strength, not a liability.

Lana Cobb



As a past DE state president of AAUW, Lana Cobb, has enjoyed a lifetime of commitment and service to others,

Lana grew up on a farm in Middletown, MD and made her way to Frederick and Gaithersburg, MD, where she spent most of her working years. She began her career as a key punch operator for a company in Frederick, later moving on to a job as a computer analyst with the Federal Government. In 2002, she retired from her job with the Department of Energy and moved to Rehoboth to enjoy full retirement. Throughout her career, she was a champion of workers' rights, and was very involved in union activities, serving as a union steward. She was a single mom for many years before remarrying, and, in addition to her job and family responsibilities, she also managed to secure a Master's degree from University of Maryland.

AAUW has provided Lana with many volunteer and political opportunities. Among many other initiatives, she worked with her long term friend, Jean Wastler, to secure grants to fund receptions where AAUW members could speak to their legislators. They also worked together to fund and establish lobbying workshops, and to write and distribute a daycare directory for the working mothers of Sussex County. When she isn't spending time with her family, Lana is involved with church activities and also many educational programs, after school and during the summer, for both children and adults in underserved communities such as West Rehoboth.

Lana is committed to efforts that foster and enhance children's education, especially for those living in poverty. She feels that being involved in AAUW has led to lifetime friendships with caring and involved people. She encourages all young women to do what they can to help others and to start early, which will lead to the rewarding life she has enjoyed.

REHOBOTH ART LEAGUE COTTAGE TOUR



Betsy Baumeister

The Rehoboth Art League Cottage Tour will take place on Tuesday, July 7th and Wednesday, July 8th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For the past 7 years, our Branch members have served as Docents to one of the homes on the tour. Our house this year is in the Bay Vista Community outside of Rehoboth and overlooks a marsh on to Rehoboth Bay.

We will have sign-up sheets for volunteering. Please check your schedule, so you can participate in this fun project. Shifts are two and one half hours: either 9:45 to 12:30 or 12:15 to 3:00 so you can have lunch with a friend either before or after your shift. Plus your friend can volunteer to be a docent. It's a great public service to our community.

Don't forget there is a cocktail party for docents and homeowners on July 2.

Please contact Fran Wimbush, this year's coordinator.

GERANIUM PALOOZA *Sheri Borriu*



What an incredible group of women you are!!! The challenge was to exceed last year's geranium order of 848, and you all sold 1103 geraniums. The Ocean View women tripled the number of plants that were sold last year. Please call or email Rebecca Moscoso & Maggie Kilroy to help them unload the truck from Jeff's Greenhouse which will be delivering 475 plants to their garage on Saturday, May 9th between 8:30 - 9:30 am. We have several people already lined up at Lana's (join the fun & enjoy Lana's muffins) for the Rehoboth delivery at 8:00 a.m., and Chris Limerick is handling the orders that she took from the members at Curves. Here are the incredible numbers for our local scholarship fund - we made a profit of \$2411.60! Get out your garden gloves and start planting on May 9th - after you help Rebecca & Maggie unload those 475 plants! Thanks to all!!!



New Members: Anita Adkins, Dorrie Anshel, Christine Babicki, Vickie Buckles.

AAUW and the Baby Pantry *Sandy Dodson*



Susan Morrison, Carole Basso, and Sandy Dodson have been volunteering at the Baby Pantry for indigent families. We are so happy for the continuing support throughout the year from our AAUW members, who have been dropping off diapers and baby supplies to Sandy's house, or at the monthly AAUW meetings to one of us. The Baby Pantry now has 143 clients with children from Sussex County, and is open twice each month at the Community Resource Center in Rehoboth.

Thank you for AAUW's continued support of this service to local women and children.

Photo Credits:
Cobb, Newcott, Wastler by Mary Lu Pool
Bird by G.F.