

AAUW Coastal-Georgetown Branch Newsletter

COASTAL TIDINGS

March/April 2015



The Point – Cape Henlopen State Park

Mission Statement:

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

President's Message

from Penny Deiner

It is strange to be writing this Newsletter from Costa Rica when I haven't been with the Branch for two months. However it has given me the opportunity to be reflective and to look ahead. Most of us who live in the Coastal Georgetown area take vacations in winter and have company in summer. I am grateful for the shared leadership that makes that possible. If we were a football team we would be admired for our depth. Although I do believe that we need to revise our bylaws and that things may not always work like this, it is so rewarding to be part of a group of women who make things happen and can roll with the punches.

When Kings Creek Country Club had the fire there was no wringing of hands and wondering what we should do. It was a problem that needed to be solved immediately and Susan solved it. The venue was changed. Members adjusted, the speaker adjusted and the meeting went on as planned. And from what I have heard, our members went from learning about and discussing the topic, with Ceil's guidance, to thinking about actions that we might take.

The Science Fair has the Judges it needs and if there is such as thing as an accurate long term forecast it will not be snowed out again. (I keep looking at that particular forecast as our plane from

Costa Rica lands late in the evening of March 1st.) Sherri has the SATs' at Cape Henlopen set up and the part I like best is that we are taking orders for geraniums. It helps us all believe that spring will come.

I am going to the AAUW National Conference in June. They put out a request for Branches who had a successful program they were willing to share to submit a proposal. I submitted our Find Your Future-Make it Happen. I had previously talked with members of that group to see if they were willing to share this program. They agreed. The proposal was short and general. We will know March 15th if it is accepted and, if so, work out the specifics.

On a final note, I just wanted to let you know that the March calendar will probably be a few days late. We are in a rural part of Costa Rica. It has been unusually windy and when that happens the Internet goes out. It has gone out so frequently that the University of Delaware thinks I have been hacked and will not allow me to log into my email. My husband's email is fine so I have been using his and I never log out of my email on my iPad so I can read it from there. Suffice it to say that it will take me a day or two to sort this out with them when I get home. I guess I should get another email address but this is the only one I have ever had.

I look forward to seeing you all in March.

Penny

Penny Deiner

President, AAUW Coastal-Georgetown Branch, State of Delaware

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Bandstand - Rehoboth

PUBLIC POLICY

Marty Johnson



At our February meeting member, Ceil Payne, told us about her new novel, *Dancing in Quicksand*, a story of one woman’s difficult decision to leave an abusive relationship. Ceil explained that running through almost all stories of domestic abuse are the four F’s that often keep women tied to an unhealthy relationship. One of these F’s is finance or, for women, the lack of financial self-sufficiency. As we know AAUW has been in the forefront of advocating **economic self-sufficiency** for all women through legislation that will impact women favorably. Such legislation includes raising the minimum wage, decreasing the gender pay gap, reducing the discrimination toward women in the higher paid STEM fields and guaranteeing workers’ right to earn paid sick days.

While in the 1980s and 90s, women’s earnings rose and the pay gap shrank, more recently the pace of change has slowed to a near halt nationally with women working full time, year round, still earning only an average of 78 cents for every dollar earned by men and that pay gap is worse for women of color. According to AAUW, an increased minimum wage and closing the gender wage gap aren’t just matters of fairness; they’re the key to America’s families making ends meet. Forty percent of households with children include a mother who is either the sole or primary earner for her family, and if she isn’t being paid adequately or fairly, those families suffer.

Women alone cannot close the pay gap. Policymakers must do their part by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, by raising the Federal minimum wage, by supporting paid sick days legislation.

Here’s what you can do. **On March 24 you can attend the AAUW Delaware’s Equal Pay Day Recognition at Legislative Hall in Dover.**

- At 11:00 there will be a one-hour advocacy training session where House Majority Leader Valerie Longhurst, Representative Ruth Briggs-King and Debra Berke, AAUW Delaware public policy co-chair will explain how AAUW can most effectively work with our representatives to advance legislation that affects women and children.
- Following the training session, there will be a press conference and a concurrent resolution read in both the house and senate recognizing Equal Pay Day.
- You will then be able to visit with your representatives to advocate for the important issues that affect women and children in the state of Delaware.
- **Questions? contact Deb Berke at debra.l.berke@wilmu.edu**

Remember numbers do count – so please consider attending. Car pools will be available and will be announced at the March meeting or on the Coastal-Georgetown AAUW web site at <http://georgetown-de.aauw.net/>

Marty Johnson, Public Policy

FIND YOUR FUTURE

Sheri Borrin



“Find Your Future” Continues at Cape Henlopen High School

The Find Your Future presentations – Career Exploration, Interviewing & Networking – continue for the 3rd quarter at Cape Henlopen High School on March 16th. At this point Find Your Future has been presented to over half of the entire sophomore class of about 300 students. The team of presenters – Kathleen Thompson, Lynn Masiello, Cristi Gillean, Rebecca Moscoso, Cathy Sourk, Judy Merkel and Marie Mayer - are a dedicated and talented group who are not all former educators. In fact, four of the presenters are new to Coastal-Georgetown AAUW this year. There are several other members who have observed the program, and will jump in soon. You are welcome to come and observe the program which will take place on March 16th, 18th, 23rd, 25th, and 27th from 8:30 am – 11:20 am at Cape Henlopen High School. You only need to stay for about 80 minutes during that time frame.

Email Sheri Borrin if you are interested. It is quite rewarding!



Kaplan SAT Practice Test Postponed Until Friday, March 6

On Friday, March 6th (there are no classes due to professional development), C-G AAUW will partner with Kaplan to provide the SAT practice test for the students of Cape Henlopen High School. The students have always been fabulous, even at 8 am on a morning when they could have slept. This is a scholarship fund-raiser for our Branch charging \$10 for each student. Kaplan lets us keep all of the funds which go into our local scholarship fund. John Myers along with the Cape Henlopen College Counselor have been extremely helpful with the logistics for the practice SAT. **Email Sheri Borrin for more information or to volunteer as a proctor.**



Downtown Lewes

STEM

Susan Chin



I would like to thank the following members of the Coastal Georgetown Branch (who waited patiently for instructions on the morning of the Sussex County Science Fair - delayed due to icy roads) to judge the 67 projects submitted by the students:

Christine Gillean, Ava Cohen - Grades 10, 11, 12
Rose Laird, Brenda Snyder - Grades 7, 8
Nadyne Rosin Grade 5, 6

We all made it to Delaware Technical College in Georgetown safely and thoroughly enjoyed talking with all the young scientists. Their presentation boards were very well done and they are interesting young people to talk to. This year fifth and sixth grade students participated for the first time and were only eligible for special awards like the ones that CG AAUW provides.

I also had the pleasure of meeting Bansri Patel's mother who was one of the fair coordinators. If you recall, Bansri won one of the scholarships that CG AAUW awards. Her mother informed me that she is doing well and is in an accelerated medical school program at University of Pittsburgh. This reaffirms the importance of our support to the community.

Here is a list of the winners:

- 11th grade - Mikayla Ockels , Heritage Hen, Weighing in on Feed to Egg Conversion Rate
- 11th grade - Lance White, Does Algae Grow in Anaerobic Digest?
- 10th grade - Hannah Lowe, The Math Myth
- 8th grade - Erin Cannon, Fears of the Ages
- 7th grade - Tessa McDonough, Fingerprints and Tongue Shape, Are they a Match?
- 6th grade - Elena Barton, Does Smiling Make you Feel Better?
- 5th grade - Frederick Koster, Does Angle Change the Distance When You're Shooting an Air Cannon?

Susan Chin, STEM Chair

Sussex County Science Fair Judges and Winners



THE DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB *Rosemary Hendrix*



On March 3, 2015, we met to discuss Maya Angelou and her many works. We discussed the author, her poetry and prose, and her many remarkable achievements. This led to a lively discussion about women and economics, a woman’s place in our society, how our own mothers influenced us, and how we influence our own children. Lisa Graff hosted and led the discussion.

We will meet on April 7, 2015 to discuss “The Good Lord Bird”, by James McBride. Ginger Livingston will host and Wave Starnes will lead the discussion.

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



ECONOMICS ISSUES STUDY GROUP *Joanne Paulson*



The Economics Issues Study group, led by Joanne Paulson, had a lively discussion in January about the proposals for tax reforms from the President’s State of the Union address. We continued with an analysis of the information in the first three chapters of the book we are using - *The Price of Inequality* by Joseph Stiglitz. Economic concepts about government policies and the allocation of resources in our market system were examined. We always leave with new knowledge and insights into how things work in our economic (and political) systems in the U.S., and how intertwined these two systems are. New women are always welcome at these interesting discussions, which are *usually* held on the 4th Thursday of each month from 1-3.

Sandy Dodson

Because of weather related issues, the next meeting of the Economics Issues Study group has been rescheduled and will meet on **Friday March 6 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm** at the home of Sandy Dodson. We will be discussing issues covered in Chapters 4 and 5 of *The Price of Inequality*. Please join us!!!

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

ANNUAL GERANIUM SALE *Sheri Borrin*



Geranium Sale – Only \$5.50 for Fabulous Plants!

Just as the ground will unfreeze, AAUW will be ready for our annual spring geranium sale. The proceeds from the sale go directly to our local scholarship fund which now supports three high school scholarships for \$2000 each and awards for the Sussex County Science Fair. So, we need to sell a ton of fabulous geraniums. If all of our 120 members bought at least 2 plants, we would make enough money to support our scholarships. Last year we sold 848 plants for a profit of over \$1800.00. Contact your neighbors, gym classes, church/synagogue groups, and anyone else to help to support our programs. We will be getting the plants from Jeff’s Greenhouse again since his geraniums have been gorgeous and healthy. Orders can be placed at the March 19th & April 16th meetings with payment due at the time of ordering. The available colors are **red, white, lavender and pale pink**. The plant pick-up will be in the morning on Sat. May, 9th at Lana Cobb’s house, 34570 Michelle Dr., Rehoboth Beach, Rebecca Moscoso and Maggie Kilroy’s house, 37140 Lord Baltimore Lane, Ocean View, and Curves, 29 Atlantic Ave. (rt. 26), Ocean View. The final day for orders is April 23th. **The order form is on the website.** Thank you so much for your support for the geranium sale. **Any questions, please contact Sheri Borrin, 226-2296.**



NEW MEMBERS Lenore Savage

Photography by Mary Lu Pool