

Connections



Newsletter of the Makefield Area Branch

December 2019

Holiday Party

Sunday, December 15, 12:30pm
Langhorne Hotel, 100 W. Maple Avenue, Langhorne

Join all your AAUW friends for this year's holiday party. For the first time, the party will not be held at a member's home and will be in the afternoon instead of the evening. No cooking this year! Lunch is on the branch. And the earlier time may allow more members to attend.

HOLIDAY RAFFLE: We will still be holding our traditional white elephant, so be sure to bring your items with you.

To help us plan, RSVP to Kathy Quinn at 215-753-2657.



Order Nuts Now!

Discounts available through Thanksgiving



It's time to order your holiday nuts. The cashews, chocolate covered pecans, and glazed cashews in gift bags make great gifts. The mammoth pecans are a fine addition to all your holiday baking. These nuts are fresh off the trees. Tell all your friends and neighbors that they will never have better. Order now and pick them up at the holiday party.

See the enclosed order form.

Branch News

Branch Programs

September



On Thursday, September 23, AAUW members from the Makefield Area, Lower Bucks, and Doylestown Branches gathered to "Meet Carrie Chapman Catt," a one-woman show by reenactor Pat Jordan, sponsored by Historic Fallsington. Ms. Catt reminisced about her life and her important role in the Women's Suffrage movement. It was a great way to prepare for celebrating the 100th anniversary in August 2020 of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

October



AAUW-PA Public Policy Co-Chair Barbara Price told “A Tale of Two Women,” a parable illustrating the ways in which economic barriers impact two women in different socio-economic situations during every stage of their lives. One graduates from high school to a minimum wage job, the other goes to college, racks up student debt and graduates to a 7% pay gap as compared to her male counterparts. Both marry and have children and face the problem of finding quality childcare and balancing the cost of that childcare against the amount that they can make outside the home. Both are impacted by the pay gap throughout their lives, retiring to get less in Social Security because of their lower average wages.

Pennsylvania is one of the worst states for women. An Oxfam report ranked PA 24th overall in its best and worst states to work in, but it ranked 36th in wage dimension relative to a living wage, and 37th in worker protections, such as paid family leave, protection from sexual harassment, and equal pay. Pennsylvania also has the highest average student loan debt. Pennsylvania also has a lower minimum wage than any of the surrounding states, including West Virginia. About 53% of those who would benefit from an increase are women. 41% are 40 years old or older. 60% work full-time.

There are six pieces of legislation in the state legislature, three in the House and three in the Senate, that would address these issues:

1. HB 850 and SB 721 would provide for pay equity.
2. HB 1215 and SB 12 would gradually raise the minimum wage.
3. HB 1739 and SB 580, The Family Care Act, would establish a statewide fund into which workers can make small payroll deductions and get benefits during times of family health emergencies.

Tell your legislatures to support these measures and thank them if they have already signed on. Here’s how the local legislators currently stand:

Sen. Steve Santarsiero (District 10) co-sponsored all three measures in the Senate

Sen. Tommy Tomlinson has not yet supported any of the pieces of legislation

Rep. John Galloway (140) co-sponsored all three bills in the House

Rep. Perry Warren (31) has signed on to 1215 and 1739

Rep. Tina Davis (141) has signed on to 850 and 1215

Rep. Frank Farry (142) has signed on to 1739

Rep. Gene DiGirolamo (18) has signed on to 850 and 1739

November

On November 2, a group of AAUW Makefield Area members, joined by several others from the Lower Bucks Branch, went to see retired National Archives Regional Director Kellee Green Blake talk about the role of women in the Delmarva Peninsula during the American Revolution.

Blake, speaking to a packed house, focused on the personal stories of three women: one a patriot and wife of an officer in Washington’s army; the second a loyalist; and the third a slave, who ran away to aid the British Army in return for their promise of freedom. Through materials gleaned from numerous archival sources, Blake pulled together a story of the activities of each woman during the war and their subsequent histories.



Kellee Green Blake with AAUW member Pat Kelle, both former presidents of the Lower Makefield Historical Society

Cops 'n' Kids



Cops 'n' Kids Delaware Valley volunteers have been keeping busy with a variety of community events, book pick-up, cleaning and distribution, and—a recent addition—taking part in Pre-K Counts programs at several local elementary schools. The project was also chosen to receive a \$1,000 donation from Attleboro Village Association. See the calendar for upcoming events.

Left: Kathy Shaginaw and friends make monster bookmarks at Lower Makefield Township Community Pride Day in September.

STEMGirls Discovery Day

Volunteers from AAUW Doylestown, Lower Bucks, and Makefield Area Branches donated items for swag bags, stuffed the bags, and distributed the bags to attendees at the fourth annual STEMGirls Discovery Day on October 19. (Bucks decided to alter the name slightly from STEMgirlz.) Participants got to attend workshops on subjects like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, chromatography, and microscopes. Next year's Discover Day is already scheduled for October 17, 2020.



Mature Women Scholarships

The Mature Women Scholarship Committee, led by Carol Kurland, has announced this year's winners of the Peter and Kurland-Toney scholarships. The winners each receive a \$1,500 scholarship for the Fall Semester 2019, renewable for Spring 2020 if they maintain good academic standing.

The Judith Peter Scholarship, which is awarded to a student planning on entering the medical profession, went to Natalie Tull. Natalie received the award two times last year, but the committee decided to give it to her once again to allow her to finish her AA degree, which she will receive in May 2020.



Natalie, who you may remember from last year's "Meet, Greet, and Eat" brunch, is 32 and a single mother. She has two children; aged ten and six. Her GPA is 3.8 in nursing. She is currently taking nine credits. Her plan is to take the State Boards immediately after graduating and enroll in Penn State to obtain her Bachelor's degree. P.S.U. has a bridge program with BCCC. Then she says that, while working as a nurse in a local hospital, she will take classes toward her Master's degree. Future plans are to become a clinical instructor.

She works now as a home health aide. She's very involved in activities at Bucks. A National Honor society member, she's been training for Executive leadership. Also an officer in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, she has helped plan several community service projects, such a cancer fundraiser, holiday food drives, and a group called Addictions Victorious to help women who are affected by addictions.

The Amy Kurland Toney Scholarship went to Shannon Walsh. She is 37 and single mother of three children, ages eight, five and two. Her GPA is 3.5, and she is scheduled to take 16 credits this term. A first year student in Liberal Arts, history is her major. She says her goal is law so that she can respond to women who are changing their lives. Shannon has had a difficult life having been crippled by addiction and alcoholism until age 26 when she entered recovery. She now has had 11 years of continuous sobriety. Her father died when she was three from alcoholism and her mother was mentally ill her entire life. They lived in poverty. Shannon was in foster care until her sister took custody when she was nine. Her mother died a year ago suddenly from an aneurysm and her sister committed suicide this past August, both devastating to Shannon. She parted from the father of her children when she realized that it was an unhealthy relationship.



The scholarship will give her the opportunity to prove herself after working so hard to reach this point with such a difficult background.

Member News

Get to Know ... Angela Felver

by Sharon Abrahams



I met Angela at Chili's where we had lunch and the interview took place. She is a lovely, accomplished young woman, very new to AAUW...sort of. (I'll explain the "sort of" shortly.) The first things I wanted to know were: How new to AAUW was she? Did she recently move to our area of Bucks County? And why wasn't she listed in our Directory? She explained that she only became an AAUW member in January after obtaining her Bachelor's degree in accounting. She had thought about joining prior to that, when she only had an Associate degree, but decided to wait until she had a Bachelor's like most every other AAUW member. She didn't want to be one of the few members with only an Associate's degree.

Now here is where the “sort of” comes in. Angela explained that she grew up in Lower Makefield and was the recipient years ago of an AAUW \$300 scholarship. As a result, she has been grateful to AAUW ever since. Also, she is one of those rare people who constantly is thinking about what she can give back to society. That’s how grateful she was for the AAUW scholarship (and other factors as well.) Thus, many years later, once she joined AAUW and Harriet Freidenreich and Kathy Quinn asked her to take over as Chairperson of a Scholarship Committee because Harriet was retiring from the chairmanship, Angela readily agreed. Angela feels it will be a good fit for her as she will be dealing with finances, which is right up her alley. In addition, she will be assisting Kathy with AAUW accounting needs from time to time.



Angela is one very busy lady. She works full-time as an accountant, attends the University of Scranton full-time on-line so she can obtain a Master’s in accounting, and is planning to test for her CPA. She also has three children, a daughter Skyler, who is 21, a son Matthew, who is 14, and a second daughter Elora (or Ellie), who is 10. Given all this, one can understand why in her world there is no such thing as free time. Thus, the question as to what special interest(s) she has and/or what she does in her spare time, is just silly. There is no spare time. We were only able to meet today because this week she is on vacation.

Angela did admit that many years ago she liked to work with pottery. She explained that there was, and possibly may still be, a pottery studio in the back of Tyler Park. It’s where she would work on her pieces and have them fired in the kiln.

I asked Angela a two-part question: what she would wish and have materialized on a personal level and what she would wish and have materialized in general. Her answer showed her sincere concern for others. Her personal wish was assurance that her children would be “ok” as adults. Her other wish was for a long, happy, healthy life for her best friend who has survived breast cancer.

We talked about what makes Angela happy. She likes always to be busy. She likes to try new things. And she likes to be involved. I asked what she wished people knew about her. Her altruistic answer was quite different from most of the answers I’ve received from this question: She wants to make life better for others.

Angela had a very unusual job (for AAUW members) in the past. She was a volunteer firefighter. Yes, a firefighter! When she explained that she started when she was about sixteen, I didn’t understand how someone so young could be permitted to do that. She explained that she was allowed to do everything a firefighter does except to go into a burning building. When she was eighteen, she finally was certified to actually fight a fire. She did that job for about 6 years at local fire departments, until her growing young family made it too difficult to continue.

Angela has a suggestion regarding the scholarships AAUW awards, which will be discussed at the beginning of the 2019-2020 season. Apparently, AAUW currently gives these particular scholarships to high-school girls who were accepted to four-year colleges. Angela has brought it up to the committee that there is a great need as well for students to receive them who plan to attend two-year colleges, then transferring to finish their four-year degree (like she had to do in her own past because of limited finances).

My last question was the usual fun one: If a chef would make her any dinner she wanted, from soup to nuts, for free, what would it be? Angela decided it would start with a Caesar salad, then filet mignon (medium-well), potatoes and corn. For dessert there would be cheesecake.

It was a pleasure meeting and chatting with Angela. She will be an asset to our organization.

National and State News

AAUW National Committees

AAUW has 11 committees and task forces of volunteer leaders to advise the AAUW Board of Directors on issues like public policy, inclusion and equity, organizational governance and more.

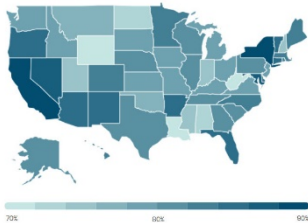
Pennsylvania is well represented. Thank you for your dedication to AAUW.

Linda Tozier (North Hills Pittsburgh) – Advancement Committee
 Ann Pehle (Carlisle) -- Advancement Committee
 Susan Nenstiel (Allentown) – Audit Committee
 Karen Peiffer (Allentown) – LAF Committee
 LaWanda Ward (National member) – LAF Committee
 Barbara Price (Lower Bucks) – Public Policy Committee

If you are interested in serving on the AAUW National Board of Directors the application deadline is 6:00 pm ET on Friday, November 22. The member-led Nominating Committee is looking for dedicated members to lead AAUW and our vision for the future. You can review the selection criteria and apply online. Contact nominations@aauw.org if you have any questions about the application or nominations process.

PA Pay Gap

WHAT'S THE GENDER PAY GAP IN YOUR STATE?



The new pay gap numbers are here, and Pennsylvania saw a one cent increase over last year. Women now make 81 cents for every dollar a man makes.

Pennsylvania also moved from 24th in the country to 21st. Narrowing the pay gap by one cent is not sufficient. We still need to pass SB721 and HB850. The pay gap chart by Pennsylvania congressional district is out. District 1, which includes Bucks County, ranks 11th in the state with women earning only 77.7% of what men make.

PA WorkSmart Workshops

AAUW Pennsylvania collaborated with the Pennsylvania Commission for Women to bring AAUW Work Smart workshops to the working women of Pennsylvania. With the goal of reaching every corner of Pennsylvania, the first step is a pilot of eight workshops that began on September 25. Over 80 women have attended the first four workshops and over 90 are registered for the remaining workshops! At every workshop, women approach the facilitator afterwards with heartfelt expressions of gratitude and appreciation. Starting with the first workshop, every workshop has been covered by media.

Things you can do in one hour



Watch your favorite show



Go to the gym



Learn to negotiate your salary

Take AAUW's free online salary negotiation training to get the salary you deserve! Register now at salary.aauw.org.

WORK SMART

Calendar

11/21/19: Cops 'n' Kids reading at Wee Care Too Care and Early Learning Center

11/28/19: Deadline to order nuts at a discount

12/6/19: Cops 'n' Kids at Pre-K Counts at Walt Disney Elementary

12/7/19: Cops 'n' Kids at St. John the Evangelist Christmas Bazaar

Cops 'n' Kids at Morrisville School District's Winterfest

12/10/19: Cops 'n' Kids at Brookwood Elementary

12/15/19: AAUW Makefield Holiday Party

12/19/19: Cops 'n' Kids at Morrisville Free Library Christmas Party