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Vol. 70, No.4 *The Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Pennsylvania* SUMMER 2004

SNAPSHOTS FROM CONVENTION 2004



Marjorie Podolsky, right, of the Erie Branch, accepts the Susan K. Nenstiel Award on behalf of winner Dolores Sarafinski, Ph. D.



Marjie Mowery, left, with Leslie Annexstein, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Director, who was the featured speaker during the LAF Luncheon.



The Anna Crisus Women's Choir performs at the Dessert reception



Stacey Liberti, left, from Easton and Megan DeJesus from Allentown speak at the Membership Forum

Public Policy
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Diamond donor
campaign
pgs. 4&5

Outstanding
Women
pg. 8

Celebrate AAUW

By Linda Haigh Tozier, President

Our 75th state convention was indeed a celebration of AAUW-Pennsylvania. Almost 150 members gathered together to honor the sixteen branches that participated in the first state convention in Philadelphia. The 2004 convention was jam-packed with excitement. Convention-goers were treated to outstanding speakers, informative workshops, a lively business meeting, and wonderful hospitality from the host branches.

The three leaders from Washington were inspiring. Leslie Annexstein, Elena Silva and Lisa Maatz shared their personal stories and their hopes for the three corporations that comprise our wonderful organization. It was especially moving to watch these young, dynamic women give insight into the Legal Advocacy Fund, the Foundation and the Public Policy agenda of AAUW. Because AAUW-PA has worked vigorously during the last twelve months towards our Diamond Donor goal, we were able to bring these outstanding speakers to our convention.



This is the last column that I will write as your state president. I have enjoyed every minute of the past two years. I am indebted to my strong and enthusiastic board for their support. Together we accomplished many things. AAUW-PA continues to be a vital organization which gets its strength from the membership. The state board truly represents the 54 branches. There are many opportunities to serve at the state level. I urge anyone who is interested to contact your District Coordinator and let your wishes be known.

I have been a member of the AAUW-PA board since 1990. I would like to take the opportunity to thank those past presidents who asked me to be on their boards to serve in many different roles, including Cultural Chair, Outstanding Woman Chair and District Coordinator. I also want to thank everyone who assisted me in my efforts as state membership vice president and president. I am indebted to many, many women who have been there for me in my AAUW journey. My journey is not over. There is always more to do to advance our mission.

I would like to paraphrase a song from "The Sound of Music" by saying: "So long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodnight. I'm glad you're YOU. You made my life so bright!"



Lehigh Valley IBC Meeting, from left: Jane Snyder (Allentown President), Shirley McBride (Bethlehem President), Frances Hesselbein, Chairman, Leader to Leader Institute, Linda Tozier, Charlsie Young (Easton President)

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CONVENTION 2004 VALLEY FORGE

By Dot McLane, Convention Program Co-VP

Valley Forge was a great time. The Friday trip to the Barnes Foundation was spectacular and very well attended. Thanks to Wendy Beatty-Burg for facilitating this somewhat tricky visit. Equally satisfying was the Friday trip to Valley Forge Park with our extremely knowledgeable historian and tour guide, Nancy Loane. Friday's dessert buffet was good but the Anna Crusis women's choir was great. Saturday's six workshops were outstanding. Each workshop's speakers were rated from good to excellent by everyone and the topics were well received. Included in the offering was a live on-line chat with a sexual predator during the Cyber Crimes workshop which gave advice on how to protect children from this sort of activity, to guidance in increasing branch diversity, publicizing your branch in your community, fundraising ideas, and programs in math and science to boost young women's interest, to evaluating the multiculturalism in art – the whole gambit.

We were fortunate to have three great speakers from national, the Director of the Legal Advocacy Fund, Leslie Annexstein, who told us a little about what LAF does and updated us on a few local cases; the Director of Research at the Educational Foundation, Elena Silva, who told us about the report that is funded in part by the Diamond Donor Campaign on the state of women in higher education; and the Director of Public Policy, Lisa Maatz, who filled us in on the priorities national is currently focusing on.

The Star Awards on Saturday night were a highlight for many attendees as we honored women across the state for their work and dedication to AAUW. Congratulations to all our STARS. By far the most enjoyable part of the convention for the majority of the attendees was meeting members from other branches, exchanging information and ideas with them, and being among women who share a common goal, to improve the lives of women and girls. Here and there we had to contend with a throbbing bass beat from the nearby nightclub and on Sunday a dance competition taking place on the floor above us, but in spite of all that, it was still a great time. See you next year.



Linda Tozier, Kate Sweeney, Maryrose Petrizzo and Bobbi Monroe (left to right) after the outing to the Barnes Foundation

FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear AAUW-PA Members,

Congratulations to Linda Tozier and the PA Board of Directors for an outstanding 75th Anniversary AAUW-PA Convention! On behalf of the Association Board of Directors, I applaud EF Chair Kathy Lepovetsky and LAF Liaison Karen Rowe for their outstanding performance in raising funds for the Diamond Donor Campaign. Kudos to the branches that were part of the 38% of Pennsylvania branches who maintained or increased membership!

NEWS FROM ASSOCIATION

On March 25, 2004, AAUW lost a great leader and dear friend, Sylvia Newman, LAF President from 1999-2003. In honor of her commitment to college and university women, AAUW will dedicate the LAF Fund's premier convention lecture to her name, beginning with the 2005 convention in Washington, DC.

The Leadership Conference for the in-coming State Presidents and EF Chairs will be held June 18-20, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington. This conference provides an opportunity for your in-coming state officers to learn the "nuts and bolts" of their positions, meet their counterparts from other states, and network with other AAUW officers.

The All State Foundation is giving the Association \$155,000 for the NCCSWL (Student Leadership Conference) *Purpose, Power, Progress* on June 3-5, 2004, at American University in Washington.

The Foundation released its latest research report, *Under the Microscope: A Decade of Gender Equity Projects in the Sciences*. Through an examination of over 400 projects funded by the EF and the National Science Foundation, this report examines trends among gender equity projects in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics during the past decade. *Under the Microscope* can be downloaded, free of charge, at <http://www.aauw.org/research/microscope.cfm>.

Check out the AAUW Online Museum at <http://www.aauw.org/museum/>. This one-of-a-kind museum, featuring artifacts, images, and documents that chronicle AAUW's history, has had wonderful reviews.

Enjoy your summer!

Jacqueline Ann D'Alessio
MAR Director

AAUW-PA Diamond Donor Campaign Update

Convention attendees raise unprecedented funds,
but ***we are not there yet!***

Research Report Unveiled...

After meeting and hearing from Leslie Annexstein, Esq., LAF Director, and Elena Silva, Ph.D., Director of Research for EF, convention attendees gave over \$3,400.00. Currently, we have raised \$67,115, which is 89% toward our goal of \$75,000! *We are so close, please give generously!*

Dr. Silva explained the research project that our funds are supporting. *Fighting for Tenure: Cases of Sex Discrimination in Academia*, a collaborative research project of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund and the AAUW Educational Foundation, examines a body of actual cases and gives a human voice and form to the concept of sex discrimination in academia. As this report makes clear, plaintiffs have risked and sometimes sacrificed promising, prestigious academic careers to pursue litigation and to tell their stories.

Some cases described in the report match the popular stereotypes of discrimination. They describe a tormenting and belittling relationship with colleagues, or they allege that they have experienced “quid pro quo” harassment for refusing sexual advances or acting as whistleblowers. Other cases describe more subtle forms of sex discrimination, alleging discrimination for pregnancy or motherhood choices, or tenure denial based on the subjective but all-too-common criterion of “lacking collegiality”.

Taken together, these cases provide a bold and unprecedented collection of stories that richly portray the nature of contemporary sex discrimination in academia, and the burdensome task of fighting for equitable and fair promotional practices. *Fighting for Tenure* is a report that will have wide-reaching implications for colleges and universities across the country, as well as for female faculty and aspiring faculty.

Our financial support is the **muscle** behind this “bold and unprecedented” report. If it weren’t for our donations, this document would be available on-line only. But because of your generous gifts, AAUW will be able to publish it, nationally distribute it, send out plaintiffs to personally tell their stories, and have a wide-spread media blitz.

If you had been at the EF dinner on Saturday night, you would have witnessed a very pregnant (8.5 months) Dr. Silva as she enthusiastically shared with us the research, the report, and the power, effectiveness, and scope *Fighting for Tenure* will have **because of your support**. *We are so close...*

All donations are fully tax-deductible by law. Please make checks payable to Diamond Donor Campaign and put AAUW-PA on the memo line. Mail to Karen Rowe, 2498 Seneca Dr. York PA 17404.



Celebrate AAUW-PA's 75th Anniversary
in style by wearing this beautiful
hand-crafted pin for
only \$20.00.

Diamond Donors

(Gifts of \$1,000 or more)

Individuals

Marjorie Mowery
 Donald Mowery
 Jerry Blum
 Marjorie Dunaway
 Doris Cohen
 Sue Zitnick
 Virginia Palmer
 Linda Tozier
 Kathy Lepovetsky
 Patricia Sand
 Karen Rowe
 Barbara Gold
 Susan Nenstiel
 Arlene Butts
 Wendy Armour-Dickinson

Branches

Butler
 Makefield Area
 Fox Chapel
 Johnstown
 Eastern Delaware County
 Levittown-Lower Bucks
 North Hills-McKnight
 Pittsburgh
 Valley Forge
 Indiana
 Washington
 Easton
 Harrisburg
 Murrysville Area
 Lansdale
 Bethlehem
 Doylestown
 State College

Diamond Donor Walk Results

Congratulations to the following individuals and branches for their participation in the annual EF/LAF Walk:

1st Place Individual ~ Sue Zitnick, York
 2nd Place Individual ~ Kathy Lepovetsky, Elk County
 3rd Place Individual ~ Karen Rowe, York

1st Place Branch ~ York, \$570
 2nd Place Branch ~ Elk County, \$200
 3rd Place Branch ~ North Hills/McKnight, \$30

Legal Advocacy Fund Year-end Totals and Recognition Awards

Total Giving

1st Place ~ State College, \$2,967
 2nd Place ~ Lansdale, \$2,937
 3rd Place ~ North Hills-McKnight, \$2,220

Per Capita Giving

1st Place ~ Elk County, \$75.63
 2nd Place ~ Pottstown Area, \$55.00
 3rd Place ~ Pittsburgh, \$40.87

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: \$30,465.44

AAUW - PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

APPROVED for 2004-2006

The public policy program underscores the American Association of University Women's mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. In Pennsylvania, AAUW actively endorses the Association Public Policy Program. In addition, we support the value of celebrating community efforts that recognize our interdependence and individuality and that encourage community dialogue on critical issues. Biennial priorities in Pennsylvania are intended to complement Association priorities and to be a focus for the active efforts of individuals and branches.

To affirm the individual rights and the promotion of social justice of all persons, to promote a strong system of quality public education, and to achieve women's economic self-sufficiency, AAUW-Pennsylvania advocates:

- < Promoting equitable treatment in the judicial system in regard to gender, race, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, and economic status.
- < Developing and implementing programs and services that meet the health needs of women and girls, promote family planning, and allow choice in determination of one's reproductive life.
- < Supporting United Nations (UN) programs that address human rights and women's and girls' issues and urging the United States' ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Woman (CEDAW), which address these issues, particularly the sexual exploitation of youth.
- < Identifying and countering violence and extremist ideologies that restrict academic or individual freedom.
- < Supporting initiatives for education reform that encourage gender fairness and diversity, including enforcing Title IX.
- < Encouraging a commitment to the inclusion of the arts and humanities in public education.
- < Adequately funding programs and services that educate women and girls for employability.
- < Opposing the use of tuition vouchers or any other public funds for non-public elementary or secondary education, excluding the present mandated school code.
- < Adequately funding programs that address the needs of all women, with an emphasis on financial security and quality health care.
- < Adequately funding and/or providing tax incentives for quality child care facilities available to all parents regardless of income, education, race, religion, ethnic background, or marital status.
- < Promoting and encouraging women to seek appointed and elected public office.*

*Members and branches are reminded that AAUW is a non-partisan organization and cannot advocate for the selection or defeat of candidates in partisan elections. This means that supporting women for public office must be done in a general and non-partisan fashion. Individual AAUW members acting as private citizens may support or endorse candidates for public office but may not do so on behalf of AAUW or in a way that gives the appearance of AAUW endorsement of the candidate. Members can and must speak out on the issues we support. AAUW's Voter Education Campaign is focused on providing women with factual, straight forward information on how issues considered by elected officials affect their lives and families.

Help Stop Discrimination in Job Interviews

Currently it is legal in PA for interviewers to ask job prospects questions about family status, such as "How many children do you have?" or "Are you planning on having children?" Too often employers choose to discriminate against parents or prospective parents because of beliefs that they will be absent more and less reliable, regardless of facts. Two bills, House Bill #65 and Senate Bill #131, have been introduced into the PA legislature to address this problem. You can read the details of these (or any other) bills by going to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/> and entering the bill #. Please lobby your PA rep & senator (if you don't know who they are, you can also find that out at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>) to support these bills.

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE by Gerry Blum

The AAUW-PA Public Policy Impact Awards for 2004 were as follows:

The winner among **small** branches was the **Anthracite Branch** for their candidates' night project:

The Anthracite Branch of AAUW and the Danville Area League of Women Voters worked together for three months to develop and co-sponsor a "Northumberland County Commissioner Candidates' Night" on Monday evening October 20, 2003 at St. Peter's Church Fellowship Hall in Riverside, PA. All four candidates for the three Northumberland County Commissioner posts participated in this voter education event. The four area newspapers were represented, and the event was taped and broadcast several times by the Community Cable News Network TV station. The League and Anthracite Branch Presidents shared moderating duties during the evening, which included questions from the media panel as well as audience members' written questions.

The winner among **medium** branches was the **West Chester Branch** for their program promoting women's employment:

The West Chester Branch, in collaboration with 12 other Chester County women's groups, organized and sponsored the presentation of "A Change of Pace - Accelerating Women's Progress," together with an opportunity for new professional friendships and networking. The presentation was based on a report of research on the status of women in a five-county area around and including Philadelphia. The research was commissioned by Women's Way, in celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary, and reveals an "unsatisfying and incomplete quest for equality, even for middle-class white women in the region. The report is a call to action." Issues discussed included wages, pink/blue/white-collar jobs, women's businesses, (the penalty for) care giving, retirement insecurity, affordable housing, health care, reproductive freedom, women under assault, corporate brass and glass ceilings, and political under-representation. Over 60 people attended and approximately eight new members joined the Branch as a result of this special event. The new members are mostly leaders in the other organizations and will help in solidifying a women's coalition in Chester County focusing on "Stepping Up the Pace." [This event was funded in part by a membership grant from AAUW-PA.]

The winner among **large** branches was the **York Branch** for their primary & general elections voter's guide:

The York Branch of AAUW, the York Daily Record and York Newspaper Company prepared a Voter's Guide for the primary election on May 18, 2003 and the general election on November 2, 2003. This was a community project completed with donations to cover paper costs, editing and formatting assistance from the York Daily Record, publishing and distribution from the York Newspaper Company and volunteers. Several years ago the League of Women Voters, which had been responsible for compiling and publishing the twice-yearly voter's guide, disbanded. The York Branch of AAUW stepped in to continue this important community service. The Voter's Guide is produced from information collected from questionnaires sent by mail to all candidates for the offices of York County including school board races. AAUW works with the York Newspaper Company and the York Daily Record to produce a 12-to-16-page supplement that is included in the local Sunday newspaper. AAUW volunteers help with mailing the questionnaires, making follow-up phone calls and typing the information into a digital format used to publish the guide.

Reminder - Volunteers Needed to Coordinate Congressional Districts

AAUW-PA was honored to be one of only 12 state AAUW organizations to receive an Impact Award grant from Association. The grant will help defray our expenses for postage, copying, phone calls, etc. as we organize to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) and educate the electorate on the issues at stake in the election Association will choose as a focal point within PA. Association has designated a staff person to work with us in this effort & will provide guidance on preparing the issue summaries for the opposing candidates.

To be ready to carry out this effort, we need a coordinator in each US Congressional District (CD). This CD coordinator will be the local contact between the state & Association PP staff and the members in the chosen district. We would like to have these coordinators in place soon so that we can start working as soon as we hear from Association on which race they want to focus.

To find out which CD you're in (if you don't already know), go to <http://www.usps.com/zip4> & put in your street address to get your ZIP+4. Then go to <http://www.dnet.org> & put in your ZIP+4, & it will tell you what districts you're in & (usually) who the candidates are going to be.

We had 6 women run for 5 of the 19 US House seats in the PA primary election, so there is a good chance we'll have a race to work on where the outcome will strongly affect our issues. Since we will have a new AAUW-PA state board effective July 1st, including a new Public Policy chair (since your current one has moved to VA), it will be important to help the new board and chair get off to a fast start on this campaign.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2004 BRANCH OUTSTANDING WOMEN!

BRANCH	NAME
ALLENTOWN	LINDA FRISCIA-OPPE
ANTHRACITE	BETSY MARATECK
BEAVER VALLEY	MARALEE MURRAY
BEDFORD COUNTY	CYNTHIA WHITMAN
BETHLEHEM	SHIRLEY McBRIDE
BRADFORD	FLORA COHEN
	PEGGY KARRASCH
BUTLER	LORMA WEAVER HILL
CALIFORNIA	MISS CAROL NOCHTA
CARLISLE	PATRICIA McCALLUM
CLARION	MARY EMERICK
DOYLESTOWN	BESSE MOORHEAD BRINDLE
EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY	JUDITH W. SMITH
EASTON	TAMARA SELDEN
ERIE	LINDA LORAH
FOX CHAPEL AREA	CAROLINE BLACKMORE
FRANKLIN COUNTY	PHYLLIS KOENIG
HARRISBURG	SHIRLEY H. MILLER
JOHNSTOWN	GLORIA REED
LAKE WALLENPAUPACK	SONIA MULLER
LANSDALE	PAM DAVELER
	WENDY BEATTY-BURG
LEVITTOWN-LOWER BUCKS	GRACE JONES
LOCK HAVEN	ANDIE BENNETT
MAKEFIELD AREA	FRANCES STRICKBERGER
MURRYSVILLE AREA	ROBERTA "BOBBIE" FABISH
NEMCO	CAROLYN CARR
NORTH HILLS-MCKNIGHT	JOANNE AHLSTROM
PHILADELPHIA, INC.	LORETTA BOVÈ CROWELL
READING	VICTORIA E. TROUTMAN
SCRANTON	BETSY FREY
STATE COLLEGE	NANCY WEINREB
VALLEY FORGE	MARGARET L. MORRIS
WASHINGTON	MARY LEE GALVIN EVANS
WEST CHESTER	GRAHAM BOOSE
YORK	HARLENE WEISS

DISTRICT III NEWS

In June I will complete my 2-year term as District III Coordinator in SW Pennsylvania, it has been a challenging experience. AAUW people have always been people that I admire. At the recent State Convention much time was spent formulating a statement for Public Policy Priorities. The major change came in the statement supporting United Nations programs that address human rights and women' and girls' issues. The United States has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The latter includes the sexual exploitation of youth. I refer you to the AAUW literature on this subject. It is appalling that our government will not even allow this to be debated in the Senate, let alone ratify it.

On April 25, 2004, I was proud to be with 800,000 women, men, and children who participated in the March for Women's Lives, in Washington DC. The purpose of this march was to draw attention to the fact that our government is dismantling reproductive freedoms for women in this country and around the world. I didn't hear anyone say let's go and get pregnant so that we can have an abortion. No one wants that. I was a student nurse in Pittsburgh in the late 50's when entire wards were full of botched illegal abortions. My guess is that your daughters and granddaughters have access to birth control. Others in this country and the rest of the world aren't so fortunate. Our government has eliminated monies for international birth control programs. Now, even in this country, access to birth control is being threatened. Major retailers such as Wal-Mart will not carry prescription drugs that do not fit into their definition of family values. Some pharmacists are refusing to fill birth control prescriptions that are contrary to their personal belief system.

I marched on April 25, 2004, for my granddaughters and all women around the world. Keep government out of medicine. If your legislator wants to practice medicine, suggest that he or she go to medical school. The November election is critical. Women had better pay attention to issues that will affect all of us for a long time. This grandmother votes!

2004 Susan K. Nenstiel Humanitarian Award Winner Believes that Reading is a Predictor of Success!

The Susan K. Nenstiel Humanitarian Award honors the Pennsylvania AAUW member whose personal commitment to AAUW extends to her branch activities as well as her community contributions. She exemplifies the "complete AAUW woman." The 2004 recipient is **Dolores Sarafinski, Ph.D.**

Dolores believes that the most important predictor of success in school is reading. A retired Erie English professor, she founded the "Hooked on Books!" program in 1989. This program matches inner-city children with adult readers with the goal of stimulating their love of reading for pleasure. Over 3000 "reading pals" have volunteered to read to the children ages seven to fourteen.

"Hooked on Books!" supports AAUW's historic commitment to education by promoting children's literacy and social growth, and Dolores is the heart and soul of the program. She cannot be refused when she asks for volunteers! Generous donations have created an extensive selection of culturally diverse books which emphasize positive images of girls, women, and minorities.

Volunteer readers include, along with ordinary citizens, professionals from local industries, attorneys, legislators, and judges. Four local colleges and several high schools send their students to mentor children. "Hooked on Books!" is supported by Michelle Ridge, former first lady of Pennsylvania, and by Erie County Judge Stephanie Domitrovich, who believes that this program may prevent children from becoming involved in the court system.

The "Hooked on Books!" program has been well publicized and has attracted attention to the needs of inner-city children. Hopefully this awareness will shape local and state public policy on their behalf. The program won a commendation from the National Points of Light Foundation for taking action toward solving social problems.

Dolores Sarafinski has been active with the Erie Branch for many years. She has served as Chair of the Scholarship Committee, and is the Public Policy Chair. As a member of the Program Committee, she organized the November 2003 program, "Women and Spirituality," featuring a panel of women from Jewish, Muslim, and African-American congregations that won an AAUW-PA program award. As a follow-up, the Erie Branch co-sponsored the program, "Peace and Understanding," with four international women describing their immigration experiences and the roles of women in their countries of origin.

Because of her work with Erie's inner-city children and her numerous branch activities, Dolores exemplifies the spirit of the Susan K. Nenstiel Humanitarian Award.

DISTRICT V NEWS

On the evening of March 11, 2004 the Doylestown branch of the American Association of University Women sponsored **GUEST** (Girls Understanding Engineering, Science, and Technology) at BAE Systems in Lansdale, PA. Working with BAE Systems, Lansdale, the Doylestown branch had an interactive event with female engineers of the company and local middle school students. BAE Systems ("A Global Company With a Local Heart") not only opened their facility for the event, but also generously provided snacks and drinks, quality gifts, and supported their female engineers' involvement.



Doylestown, PA AAUW members helped the middle school students throughout the evening. The project was to build a bridge out of Popsicle sticks. Everyone had a great deal of fun. All of the bridges passed the quality and weight test. The BAE Systems engineers and AAUW members interacted with the students throughout the evening. As the students left they said they looked forward to next year's event (already being planned).

The program was conceived by Suzanne Fellman Jacob, Doylestown, PA branch president and a Contract Administrator at the BAE Systems, Lansdale facility. When she approached her company with the idea, BAE Systems wholeheartedly supported the plan and encouraged her to go forward with the program. She then contacted the female engineers at the Lansdale facility and these professionals threw themselves into the planning and execution of the evening with gusto. The BAE Systems employees were: Adrienne Ceneviva, Christine Genco, Susan Hartenstine, Beverly King, Alla Schwartz, and Sheila Smith. All have Master's degrees.

BAE Systems, Lansdale, and AAUW, Doylestown PA prove that doing a program with a corporation provides greater impact for the AAUW mission statement of "...equity...lifelong education...and positive societal change." Both BAE Systems, Lansdale and AAUW, Doylestown look forward to next year's event and the positive impact it will have on local middle school students.

PROGRAM GRANT WINNERS

The **Butler Branch** coordinated with Butler County Community College's theater to promote a program for Women's History Month. The international folk music performers, Simple Gifts, comprised of three women playing twelve different instruments, performed on Saturday, March 6, 2004. This was the kick off to a month long celebration of women's history. Our branch hosted a "Meet the Artist" reception as well as provided displays of art and crafts made by our branch members in the adjoining art gallery.

There are several goals that we achieved with this project. We increased visibility for AAUW in our community. We promoted awareness of the AAUW mission by providing information in the gallery and lobby of the theater. By working with the community college we played a more active part in our community.

Since this program was open to the community we provided information not only to the students of the community college, the majority of whom will transfer to a four year institution, but also women in our community who would be attracted to this type of performance.

We had a large participation from our branch members. Members provided dessert items for the "Meet the Artist" reception but also provided display items for the art gallery. The executive, program and communication committees of our branch were involved with this project.

The college promoted this event through newspaper, radio and direct mail advertisement. We were able to provide additional promotion by having a branch member attend a local talk radio show as well as distribute additional flyers. The program grant allowed us to buy supplies for the gallery display, pay for additional publicity costs and purchase refreshments.



Maggie Stock, Louise Tanner, and Mary McGinnis at the Butler Branch exhibit at Convention

The **AAUW Lansdale Branch** was most grateful to receive the AAUW-PA program grant for a community-wide program they sponsored on March 16, 2004 at the North Penn High School, Lansdale PA. Dr. Dorie Rothman, Co-Founder of the ERA Campaign Network, spoke on the Equal Rights Amendment. We felt a need to educate people about the importance of ratifying the ERA, which affirms that both women and men hold, equally, all of the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Dr. Rothman explained why the ERA is needed and how the ERA will give a clearer and stricter federal judicial standard for deciding cases of sex discrimination. Since AAUW is already involved in equity cases through its Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), this program fits in handily with AAUW-PA's 75th Anniversary Diamond Donor Campaign, which promotes support for LAF.

We contacted local AAUW branches, The League of Women Voters and any persons in the community interested in hearing about equity for women. School district teachers contacted middle and high school students. We wanted the audience to understand that equal rights benefit all people and be encouraged to support ratification of the ERA.

On October 10, 2003, The **Erie Branch** presented a panel, "Women of Faith Share Their Vision," at Temple Anshe Hesed. Speaking were Mary Al-Hasnawi, a Shia Muslim and an immigration counselor for the International Institute of Erie; Ellen L. Murray, Vice-President of Education for Temple Anshe Hesed; and Reverend Darlene Y. Johnson, assistant pastor of Shiloh Baptist Missionary Church. The panel moderator was Robin Cuneo, a Presbyterian lay preacher and religion writer for the *Erie Times News*.

Each speaker described the role of women in her own denomination, agreeing that progress was being achieved, however slowly, with the promise of a greater role for women in the future. They then responded to challenging questions from the community audience of 175, some of them students of comparative religion.

The forum opened possibilities for further meetings among women of faith, suggesting that

knowledge of each other's spiritual traditions leads to understanding, and ultimately the hope for peace in our communities and in the world.



Left to right: Robin Cuneo, moderator, Mary Al-Hasnawi, Ellen Murray, and Reverend Darlene Johnson.



Dr. Dolores Sarafinski, who arranged the program, shakes hands with Mary Al-Hasnawi. Erie President Marge Podolsky looks on

PA Celebrates EF Successes

Convention 2004 celebrated the success of the 2003 Educational Foundation (EF) campaign. At dinner Saturday night, Dr. Elena Silva, Director of Research for EF, talked about the exciting research that we will help fund through our Diamond Donor Campaign. I hope everyone will take the opportunity to read this publication when it is released.

Congratulations to the Reading Branch for completing their Reading (PA)/S Helen Ahrens American Fellowship and to the York Branch for completing their York (PA) Branch American Fellowship. From this day forward, fellows will have the privilege and good fortune of being sponsored by these fellowships.

The hard work, generosity and dedication of Pennsylvania's branches and individuals was celebrated at convention. A total of \$68,147.25 was contributed to the Educational Foundation for the 2003 year.

The top ten branches in total contributions for 2003 were: Allentown \$7203; York \$6640; State College \$5738; Reading \$4421; Harrisburg \$3223; Eastern Delaware County \$3022; Philadelphia Inc. \$2819; Lansdale \$2620; Doylestown \$2550; and Fox Chapel Area \$2238.

The top ten branches in per capita giving for 2003 were: Elk County \$66.25; Pottstown Area \$62.50; York \$55.33; Pittsburgh \$41.17; Eastern Delaware County \$35.14; State College \$33.55; Allentown \$33.04; North Hills-McKnight \$31.59; Hazleton \$28.13; and Lancaster \$27.89.

The Named Gift Honorees were: Allentown: Susan Victor, Janet Hobbie; Bethlehem: Linda Robertson; Butler: Kaye Reiber; Carlisle: Wendy Armour Dickinson; Doylestown: Sue Jacobs, Paula Young, Pamela Good, Besse Brindle; Eastern Delaware County: In Memory of Evelyn Stevenson, Delores Gerkenmeyer, Mary Ellis, Community Learning Center; Fox Chapel: Caroline Blackmore, Beth Hollis, Rachel Swarts, Nancy Weinstein; Harrisburg: Kate Berrigan, Toni Simmers, Anita McCarthy; Hazleton: Karen Graziano; Johnstown: Vera K. Leidy; Lansdale: Lorene Ahrens, Rose Gannon, Judy Lalli, Karen Maglaty, Amy Ryan Faga; Levittown Lower Bucks: Amy Czop-Bartley, Levittown-Lower Bucks Branch of AAUW; Murrysville Area: Judith Johnson; Pittsburgh: Winifred Carr, Alma D. Bucher; Pocono Area: In Memory of Miss Ruth Black; Pottstown Area: Barbara Bainbridge; Reading: Victoria Troutman, Delite Hawk, Carol Toomey, Eleanor Kress, Donna Sartaim, Violet M. White, Sara Flowers; State College: Barbara Blank, Nellie Boyle, Marian Davison, Nancy DeWalle, Agnes Hay, Martha Hummel, Max Hummel, Suzanne Kerlin, Louise Tukey, Louise Wartk, Nancy Weinreb; Valley Forge: The Booksale Committee; Washington: Helen Bartley Crunick; York: Sue Zitnick, Melinda Inners, Janice Cromer, Carol Little.

Thank you AAUW-PA for your support of the work of the Educational Foundation.



AAUW "Yard Sale": Branches contributed new and gently used items to be sold at Convention. All proceeds (\$81.00 to date) went to the Diamond Donor Campaign

CONVENTION GOODIE BAGS

Many thanks to the District V Branches that contributed items or money towards the registration Goodie Bags at State Convention. Comments and compliments flowed throughout the convention that this was the Best Goodie Bag Ever. Hats off to District V for a job well done! Branches that contributed were: Doylestown, Eastern Delaware County, Lansdale, Levittown-Lower Bucks, Makefield Area, NEMCO, Philadelphia, Pottstown Area, Southampton Area, and West Chester.

The bags were overflowing with Stroehmann product coupons, Peppermint Patties, Goldenberg's Peanut Chews, IBC Bookmarks, a water bottle, Tropicana orange juice, Hostess honey bun, PA Calendar, 3 different sizes of notepads, 4 pens, keychain, crackers, chocolate biscotti, chip clips, and granola bars.

A special thanks to Cathy Palmquist of West Chester who brought along many extra items such as baseball caps, chips and pretzels, and some goodie bags were lucky enough to have a pedometer inside. Thanks also to Kathy Quinn (3D Printing) of Makefield Area, and Marilyn DiMurio (Weichert) of Pottstown for their generous contributions from their workplaces.

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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of origin, disability or class.

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