

# KEYSTONER

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The newsletter of AAUW – Pennsylvania

Winter 2010

## ***Celebrating successes***

*Erie Branch's education pavilion near Presque Isle State Park becomes reality*

The AAUW Environmental Educational Pavilion at Erie's Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC), seven years in the making, is about to become a reality. The Erie Community Foundation, in its most recent round of funding, announced a \$28,000 grant that will—at long last—complete the financing for construction of the pavilion. “It is a substantial contribution to environmental education in the Erie community—and beyond,” Erie Branch co-president Carole Wunner said.

The project itself was born back in 2003 when TREC was still in the blueprint stage, and the branch was observing its centennial.

On a proposal by Barbara Cole, it was voted to donate \$5,000 toward an outdoor amphitheater at TREC. “After all, where is there a better place for environmental education than outside, adjacent to Pennsylvania's most visited state park?” Erie Branch co-president Edie Cultu said.

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*Fox Chapel branch program grows into service project helping homeless youth*

When does a monthly program become an ongoing service project? In the case of the Fox Chapel Area Branch, that was in 2006, when the branch program was a presentation by Dr. Joseph Lagana of the Homeless Children's Education Fund and Ms. Myra Powell of The HUB Outreach Center. As an addendum to the program, the branch collected donations of items needed by the Hub. The branch now collects annually for that facility.

The HUB, a program of Three Rivers Youth, is an outreach and drop-in center for runaway and homeless youth age 21 and under. The center tries to address the youths' immediate needs, provide connections to services (shelter, jobs or job training, health care, and more) and decrease the likelihood of program participants suffering further physical or sexual abuse. Services include providing food and cooking facilities, clothing, laundry and shower facilities, assessment, counseling and crisis intervention.

The Hub also does street outreach to find homeless youth, whether they be “aged-out” of the state foster care system after age 18, runaways, or homeless for another reason.

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## **Karen Allen named state program VP**

The AAUW-PA Executive Committee appointed Karen Allen to fill the position of Program VP for 2010-2012.



Karen Allen

“I am honored to have been asked to fill the remainder of the 2010-2012 term of Program Vice President for AAUW-PA,

and I look forward to working with both board members and branch Program VPs to support the AAUW mission,” Allen said.

A member of AAUW for almost 30 years, I have served at both the branch and state levels.

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## ***Save the date!***

**82<sup>nd</sup> State Member Meeting**  
**April 30, 2011**

**9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Days Inn**

**240 South Pugh St.**  
**State College, PA**

Come and enjoy a round robin format of sessions with a potpourri of topics ranging from self pampering to financial understanding.

## ***President's Message***

### **Where there's a *will*, there's a way**

Motivation to learn something new, or change something you've done for years, is personal. My mother joined Facebook within two days of hearing that her grandson had posted pictures that she wanted to see. I acquired a Skype account when my son announced that he planned to video home rather than just call home from college. Motivation is a great trigger to improve our skills... and not be like the frog who doesn't recognize the danger and jump to safety when the temperature in the pot rises gradually.

One of the strategic priorities of AAUW PA is to "Embrace the Future." This recognizes that the temperature has started to rise in our pots...Group emails have replaced the "phone trees" of old. (Coaches are sending group text messages to cell phones). The white pages have been discontinued (and have had more errors in them of late anyway), as phone directories and dictionaries and encyclopedias are replaced online. Paper airline tickets may be available, but probably not at the "web only" prices. Much of this future is Better, Faster, and/or Cheaper.

While the motivation and *will* to use technology to enrich your life is yours, AAUW PA is hoping to facilitate the way... helpful hints on emails, web searches, printing documents and pictures, or other aspects that are confusing or just aren't working well for members. Together, we can enrich our lives and embrace the future.

Margaret McGrath

## ***Branches share info on notable achievements***

### **North Hills-McKnight marks 40th anniv.**

Jeopardy—AAUW style helped members and friends of this Pittsburgh area branch, chartered in 1971, mark their anniversary. The celebration took place at LaRoche College.

### **State College branch continues CSI**

In partnership with SCASD, this branch's CSI (Challenging Science Investigations) program conducted a lively session in State College this past summer. Donna Ricketts, the branch's liaison in the school district, helped make this possible. Over the five years since this program began, the branch has introduced hundreds of middle school girls to the field of science, making it fun, and stimulating their imaginations.

It is a very tangible way that the branch is able to curtail the gender gap that could otherwise be anticipated as these girls mature. Girls from underrepresented populations are a particular focus for AAUW

programs that promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. For details, visit [http://www.aauw.org/act/issue\\_advocctionpages/STEM.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocctionpages/STEM.cfm).

### ***Doylestown members in the news***

**Carolyn Cowgill and Louise McLeod** are founding members of Women Graduates-USA. McLeod was elected to an international committee representing WG -USA at the recent International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Conference in Mexico City. WG-USA aims to provide their membership with information, resource material, world-wide discussions through the Internet

Congratulations to **Jeanette Gallagher** who was honored by the Jean Piaget Society in June in St. Louis where her writings were discussed. Her book, *The Learning Theory of Piaget and Inhelder*, is co-authored with Kim Reid.

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Erie Branch members joined with others at the award presentation to celebrate receiving funding for the project. Marion Gallivan (left) and Barbara Cole (right) are in the front. From left to right in the back row are Mary Birdsong, president of Presque Isle Audubon, Mike Batchelor, Executive Director of Erie Community Foundation, Lisa Baumgardner, Barbara Hauck, Marjorie Podolsky and Holly Best, TREC.

## Erie branch project underway

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“There is a whole new exciting natural world to discover outdoors at the TREC,” says Harry Leslie, operations manager for Presque Isle State Park. “If the name catches on and the amphitheater becomes popularly known as the AAUW pavilion, we can be very proud. We can be even prouder that we have helped add a new dimension to environmental education in the Erie area.” Cultu added.

## Allen named to state board

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Positions held include State Membership Vice President in Maryland and branch and State Public Policy Chair, Convention Coordinator, and State President in Pennsylvania.

She holds a BA in English from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) from Wesleyan University.

Her current “job” is community volunteer.

She has also had careers as a secondary school English teacher, a real estate agent, school to work coordinator for the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, and adjunct instructor for Harrisburg Area Community College.

## AAUW: Celebrating 130 years

130 years of existence is a significant reason to celebrate, and the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of AAUW is an opportune time to invite new members to celebrate with us. Special incentives to increase membership are being offered through November 30, 2011.

Branches that increase their membership by 13percentr over the Feb. 1, 2010, count can earn three free memberships available only for new members, and branches that increase membership by 7percent over that same date can earn one free membership for new or lapsed members.

Combining these incentives with a Shape the Future event, a branch can earn up to five free memberships. A Shape the Future event can be any event or gathering, related to our mission but excluding meetings, where membership information can be distributed and discounts on national and state dues are offered.

Prospective members may be new retirees, empty nesters, or newcomers to the community who are in good health and eager to find new and different interests. Once these women in transition understand our mission, they may be willing to contribute their time and talents in various ways as they recognize how AAUW may fit into their lives.

College/University Partnerships are also eligible for special incentives. Ordinarily, based on enrollments ranging from fewer than 1000 students to more than 30,000, annual dues for C/U partners range from \$125 to \$350. During the anniversary year, however, ALL membership dues for C/U partners will be \$130.

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## Branches share info

### Fox Chapel service project

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“The HUB’s requests are for little things: hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, new underwear, disposable razors, and the like,” branch communications chair Nancy Weinstein said. “These items mean a lot, not just to the youth, but also to The HUB.”

Last year, the facility lost grant money, and until additional funding is obtained, they have had to cut back on hours and services.

However, The HUB told the branch Community Services Chair, Joan Barnhart, how helpful the branch donations are. Then, at a recent meeting of non-profit organizations, The Hub cited our AAUW Branch as a valuable community support resource that has helped them to continue offering the services that they are still able to provide.

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## *Branches share info on notable achievements*

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Jeanette lectures to teachers and at universities about Piaget's theory of education and is associated with Temple University.

**Mary Bittner Wiseman (Goldstein)** is the co-author of a new book *Subversive Strategies in Contemporary Chinese Art*. It is a collection of 23 essays by American and Chinese philosophers and art historians on the new art from China. It will be published in cloth cover and as an e-book.

As a charter member of the National Women's History Museum, **Maureen V. Shuster** attended NWHM's first gala at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 21, 2010, honoring Our Nation's Daughters.

Cowgill, McLeod, and Goldstein are past presidents of the Doylestown Branch.

## **Think incentives for new year**

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A student attending a C/U partner institution is eligible for a free e-student affiliate membership and a free one-year membership after graduation under the Give a Grad a Gift campaign. With these one-time incentives being offered by AAUW, we hope that all branches take advantage of this anniversary year to find new and creative ways to increase membership.

Reminder. The Branch Recognition and Emerging Star Programs are posted on the website. We urge you to submit any time before the deadline of February 1, 2011, especially those branches that did not participate last year.

Jean Macaluso

AAUW PA Membership VP

