Presidents’ Log

January—for Janus—The Romans depicted him as a god with two-faces, one looking behind and the other forward. This is a good time to reflect on where we’ve been and where we plan to go. The two financially-focused task forces were charged with investigating our funds investment and management options, financial and philanthropic priorities, and branch financial structure. Led by Sally Kalin and Linda Friend, task force members have engaged the issues, held a joint meeting, and will report out at different times in the new year.

Last year we appointed an Awards Committee chaired by Victoria Sanchez and encouraged all members to nominate candidates for branch awards. We’re pleased to report that this approach to recognizing branch members is being continued. You’ll read more about our branch awards on page 2; we encourage you to identify and nominate members, or agencies as appropriate, for these awards. So let one of your New Year’s resolutions be making at least one nomination before the January 31, 2013 deadline!

During their many years of co-chairing the Used Book Sale, Suzanne Kerlin and Sherry Crassweller continued to grow in their organizational and (see LOG, page 6)

Back by Popular Demand!

International Perspectives on Equity for Women

Thursday, January 24, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Nittany Lion Inn—Fireside Lounge

Join us for lunch and a conversation with the Penn State Humphrey Fellows. Learn more about the Humphrey Fellows at: http://www.ed.psu.edu/educ/international-programs/humphrey-fellowship-program

Make Your Lunch Reservation Today

The cost of the lunch buffet is $17.50, and reservations are required. To attend, contact Naana Nti by January 18th with your reservation. She may be reached at naananti500@gmail.com, 231-8751 after 6:00 p.m.

Please send your $17.50 check payable to “AAUW, State College Branch” to Naana Nti, P. O. Box 636, Lemont, PA 16851. You may bring late payments to the lunch program, but you still need to make a reservation.

AAUW 2012-13 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows on a visit to the U.S. Department of State.

AAUW Community Grants Update

Application Available Online

The AAUW State College Branch community grant applications soon will be available on the AAUW State College Branch website, http://www.aauwstatecollege.org/grants/nonprofit.html. Applicants must serve women and girls who reside in Centre County and the organization’s proposal must be for an educational program or project. Grant proposals may be submitted online and are due April 1st. Contact Funds Distribution Co-chairs, Connie Wheeler, conniewheeler@pennstatefederal.com or Gert Finley, gmf43@hotmail.com for additional information.
Recognizing Our Best

Help us recognize our branch’s best by submitting nominations for the awards described on this page. What individuals/groups best exemplify the qualities set forth here? It is important that we recognize the hard work that many of us are doing for the betterment of the branch. Nominations should include a paragraph on how the person, group, or organization meets the award criteria. The nominations deadline is January 31st.

This year’s Awards Committee is led by Suzanne Kerlin, and committee members include Sue Poremba, Joan Ribbons and Deana Ultman. Nominations should be sent to Suzanne electronically at suzkerlin@aol.com, or by mail: Suzanne Kerlin, 2465 Circleville Road, #136, State College, PA 16803. Questions? Call Suzanne at 237-5271.

Award recipients will be recognized at the branch Awards Gathering on April 23rd, and the AAUW-PA annual meeting on April 13th, held in State College.

Branch Teal Award

This recognition is for a recent-term contribution by an unsung branch hero or a branch member exemplifying the spirit of AAUW. This award honors a member who made a big difference in something important to the branch within the past year. The recipient exemplifies the spirit of AAUW, and need not be a branch officer or committee chair.

2012 Recipient—Joanne Bennett

Outstanding Woman

The Outstanding Woman Award recipient is a branch member who has given meritorious service to the branch and to the community over multiple years. Outstanding Woman awardees for the past ten years are:

2003—Jeanne Weber
2004—Nancy Weinreb
2005—Nancy DeWalle
2006—Gert Finley & Anne Heinosn
2007—Chriss Schultz
2008—Alex Broyles
2009—Talat Azhar
2010—Sherry Crassweller
2011—Connie Schroeder
2012—Candace Davison

Special Honoree

Nominate a longstanding member for some special recognition from AAUW-PA.

Centre County Council for Human Services (CCCHS)

Volunteer of the Year

The CCCHS Volunteer of the Year is recognized along with representatives from other CCCHS organizations at the annual CCCHS dinner in April. Recipients for the past ten years are:

2003—Sue Hiester
2004—Barb Haring
2005—Mary Dupuis
2006—Chriss Schultz
2007—Nancy Weinreb
2008—Connie Schroeder
2009—Sherry Crassweller
2010—Talat Azhar
2011—Jeanne Weber
2012—Pat Kephart
Cultural Empowerment for Women Overview

This article was submitted by Carol Eicher, Co-chair of the Community Diversity Group. Carol recently joined our AAUW State College Branch, and we know she will be a wonderful addition to our group. Welcome, Carol!

Partnerships are invaluable. They afford opportunities for synergy between two or more entities, groups or individuals and accomplish far more than one party could alone. One such partnership is that between the AAUW State College Branch and the Community Diversity Group (CDG), resulting in a highly educational series entitled Cultural Empowerment for Women.

In our third year of this partnership, the steering committee is co-chaired by Pat Kephart (AAUW Diversity Committee) and Carol Eicher (CDG) and is comprised of members from both groups. From AAUW: Theresa Lafer, Mary Dupuis, and Talat Azhar. From CDG: Christina Johnson, Doris Conner, Kim Frankenfield-Pro, Georgette Beechan, and Jackie Benshoof. This dynamic group was successful in seeking and being awarded a grant from the Equal Opportunity Planning Committee (EOPC) of Penn State for three consecutive years and has been successful in creating, planning, organizing, and marketing the event to a targeted audience: culturally diverse women within the State College community.

Each year, two events have been held, one in fall and one in spring. The events include a luncheon and a panel of local experts and leaders focusing on a topic of interest to the attendees. Topics have included: The Judicial and Legal System, The Educational System, Financial Well-Being, Work-Life Balance, and Healthy Relationships. The steering committee is in the planning stages for a sixth event focusing on Women’s Health.

What we know is that the purpose of the EOPC grants is to provide support for initiatives that should become self-sustaining and each year the funds awarded diminish. Another thing we know is that the events have been highly successful in affording attendees social and professional networking opportunities within our community that did not exist before, thereby fulfilling the mission statements of both AAUW and CDG by contributing to a stronger sense of community for women of various cultures in State College. Their involvement with CDG will lead to improved skills and heightened confidence both personally and professionally, and their experiences help make our community more vibrant. The number of participants has continued to increase since the first event, growing primarily by word of mouth.

(see CULTURAL EMPOWERMENT, page 4)
2013 Local Race Highlights

This is an excellent time to talk about local issues and the elective offices charged with handling them. Candidates who decide now to run have time to organize their volunteers and get their paperwork in order before nominating petitions begin to circulate in mid-February.

School Boards will have 4 or 5 seats up for election, depending on the district. These races cross-file, meaning candidates usually run in both party primaries—although they are not required to. In the State College Area, where 4 seats are up for election, the stakes are high because we will be facing a referendum on the high school construction project, as well as settling the teachers' contract that has been unresolved for a year and a half, and considering the future of Memorial Field. All school boards, of course, face cross pressures of inadequate state funding and reluctance to raise taxes in a recovering economy, placing constraints on curriculum. We need responsible people who can think creatively and with compassion for the best interests of all to declare their candidacies.

Borough Councils and Township Supervisors also go on this ballot. The usual pattern is for about half of Council members to be up for election and about a third of Supervisors in any given odd numbered year. If interested in these positions that deal with quality of life issues like zoning, housing, public safety, roads, etc., contact your municipality to find out the number of seats.

The offices above receive at best a token remuneration to cover some expenses because these are volunteer positions. The best way to avoid having someone take a seat simply because of an ax to grind—as happened in one township two years ago—is to encourage people who are motivated by a desire to serve.

At the professional level, this is a judicial year. Locally we have four Magisterial District Justice seats up this year: both seats in State College, the one based in Ferguson, and one in Bellefonte. So far, only one statewide race exists, for a seat on the Superior Court. At the county level, so far the only election is for District Attorney. (Whether we continue electing Jury Commissioners is currently under review by the Board of Commissioners, with the status of those offices unresolved at this writing.)

Local races will get more attention than usual this year because they won't be drowned out by more prominent campaigns. In part that's

(CULTURAL EMPOWERMENT from page 3)

Survey responses from participants contain many topics that attendees have suggested for future events.

The diversity of our community is well represented at the events including over 29 different countries/ethnicities, parents of over 140 children under age 18, and who have been in this country/community between 1 and 30 years. The participants’ activities range from professional careers to stay-at-home moms supporting spouses/partners, children, and parents. They are a vibrant part of the fabric of our communities supporting the economic vitality, spiritual and educational affiliations and utilizing community services.

*Strength lies in differences, not in similarities.*
— Stephen Covey

What is the future of these events? The Steering Committee is working on that question and has realized that now is the time to reach out for help. We not only want to continue these events, but we are hoping to expand our ability to include even more women from our community. To date, the events have been free to the participants and, as in every other aspect of our lives, costs have increased. So our thinking caps are on to explore how to continue this wonderful venue for empowering the diverse women within our State College community!

We invite you to participate, to suggest funding resources, and/or be added to the CDG mailing list.

Pat Kephart (AAUW) - pbk11@comcast.net
Carol Eicher (CDG) - ece2@psu.edu
Community Diversity Group: www.communitydiversitygroup.com/
because judicial candidates may not comment too directly on issues that might come before them, so they are limited in what they can say. This gives us an excellent opportunity to discuss issues that matter to us as this community continues to heal from the disastrous events of the past year. We believe people now have a deeper appreciation for the things that matter here, and a desire to work for constructive solutions. And, as always, we need more women in these positions. Think of women who should be encouraged to run and encourage them to do so. Please do your part!

Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis
Public Policy Co-chairs

Mentoring Programs Available Through Center for Women’s Leadership Initiatives

The Center for Women’s Leadership Initiatives (WLI) provides opportunities for women worldwide to participate in training, professional development and mentorship and exchange programs. To learn more about WLI, visit http://www.iie.org/en/Who-We-Are/Centers-of-Excellence/Center-for-Women.

TechWomen is a public-private partnership, developed to implement Barack Obama’s vision of greater collaboration between the United States and communities with predominantly Muslim populations, bringing together emerging women leaders in technology sectors for a professional mentorship and exchange programs. It is administered by the Institute of International Education. Currently, applications are being sought for the TechWomen Program, http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/TechWomen.

We Could Use More Friends

The AAUW-State College Branch could use more Facebook friends, so be sure to visit the AAUW-State College page and "LIKE" us. By doing so, you will stay informed. Program information and Used Book Sale updates will be posted on our Facebook page, as well as in the newsletter. We will also post links to pertinent articles for AAUW. Facebook is a great place to help us spread the word about coming or past programs, or to suggest a new AAUW activity.

Cecilia Mills, Social Media Chair

(2013 ELECTION from page 4)

because judicial candidates may not comment too directly on issues that might come before them, so they are limited in what they can say. This gives us an excellent opportunity to discuss issues that matter to us as this community continues to heal from the disastrous events of the past year. We believe people now have a deeper appreciation for the things that matter here, and a desire to work for constructive solutions. And, as always, we need more women in these positions. Think of women who should be encouraged to run and encourage them to do so. Please do your part!

Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis
Public Policy Co-chairs

Global Connections Passport on a Plate
Sunday, February 24th

Details forthcoming in February newsletter.
It Takes All Types

Jeff Trapp is a really wonderful addition to the Monday night volunteer team at the Used Book Workshop. He is married to Donna Trapp, Monday Night Used Book Workshop Co-chair. Jeff adds some levity to our female-oriented group, is a great sport and a hard worker. Bob Gruver, father of Lee Gruver, also helps out from time to time. We appreciate them both.

If there is a man in your life who likes to volunteer and especially if lifting is his game, invite him to join you at the Used Book Workshop.

Used Book Workshop Parking Reminder

The parking lot at the Used Book Workshop is owned by our neighbors, Sunrise Homes. When donating books or volunteering at the workshop, we are asked to avoid parking in the following spaces:

- In the space on the right between the Sunrise Homes building and the garage adjacent to it.
- In the two spaces on the right immediately beyond the garage.
- In the space to the left immediately beyond the mailboxes and facing the building.

By sharing this information with you, we look forward to being a good neighbor to the Sunrise Homes staff and owner.
New Member Welcome

Blaire Willson Toso - bwt121@psu.edu

After many years of quiet but consistent urging by Talat Azhar, I am becoming a member of AAUW. In learning more about AAUW, I was intrigued by the idea of the Coalition for Women’s Empowerment (CWE) and then met several other AAUW members at the United Nations dinner this fall. What more can I say — I signed up and volunteered to help out with the CWE.

I currently work at Penn State as a Research Associate with two institutes in the College of Education; my work highlights adult and family literacy. Previous to this I worked in the field of English as a second language (MATESOL from the Monterey Institute of International Studies). Throughout my career I have worked in about every aspect of the field in the U.S. and internationally. Most recently I was lucky enough to travel to Saudi Arabia to work with English teachers and extend my world-view yet again.

My family moved with me from Minneapolis when I began a PhD program here. We all survived the process. Two are in high school and one just started at Penn State. I am looking forward to learning more about AAUW and meeting more of the members.

Coalition for Women’s Empowerment Update

The Coalition for Women’s Empowerment steering team will be meeting on January 25th. We, a group of representatives from several local women’s organizations, will begin work on developing a website that will offer a comprehensive one-stop introduction to women’s organizations in the area. Once we decide on content, we will work with a web designer to create and launch this website. The steering team will also revisit and prioritize other projects, such as holding another meeting for interested and committed organizations to broaden our support and gather additional input from the larger base and develop a speaker series.

If you have ideas or thoughts about this project and our activities or know of a group who might be interested in joining us in this venture, please email Blaire Toso at bwt121@psu.edu.

Candace Davison Receives 2012 Landis Award

In her day job, AAUW State College Branch Co-President Candace Davison is a Senior Reactor Operator - Research and Education Specialist at Penn State. In this capacity, she received the American Nuclear Society’s 2012 Landis Public Communication and Education Award, which was awarded on November 12th.

Candace Davison (right) receives the American Nuclear Society Landis Award. She is pictured here with Mary Lou Dunzik-Gougar, Vice-chair of the ANS Public Information Committee.

The award recognizes an individual for outstanding efforts, dedication, and accomplishment in furthering public education and understanding of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. It is given to an individual who has made a significant impact in public education and communication. Congratulations, Candace, on a job well done!
About AAUW

Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today, with more than 100,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 500 college and university partners, AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW’s voice has long influenced legislative debate on critical social issues. It provides millions of dollars in fellowships, grants and awards to outstanding women from around the globe and for community action projects. AAUW also funds pioneering research on women, girls, and education.

Through leadership programs, women and girls acquire the skills they need to succeed and assume leadership roles in their academic, professional, and personal lives.

Winter Reading List

Last fall, AAUW-PA selected one fiction and one non-fiction book for the book group discussion at the next AAUW-PA state meeting in State College, April 13. The fiction selection is *Caleb’s Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks, and the non-fiction selection is *Enrique’s Journey: The Story of a Boy’s Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with his Mother* by Sonia Nazario. We hope you find time to read these books and plan to join in the discussion of them on April 13. Winter is a wonderful time to curl up with a good book. Many of the remaining suggested titles are listed below.

**FICTION**
- Martyr’s Crossing by Amy Wilentz
- Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
- Super Sad True Love Story by Gary Shteyngart

**NON-FICTION**
- A Singular Woman by Janny Scott
- Feminism Without Borders by Chandra Talpe Mohanty
- Midnight’s Children by Salman Rushdie
- Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking by Susan Cain
- She’s Not There: A Life in Two Genders by Jennifer Boylan
- The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson
- Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

Congratulations to Peg Pennepacker, who was featured in the 2012 AAUW annual report. The report featured last September’s branch program, which celebrated 40 years of Title IX.

Congratulations to Louise Tukey whose granddaughter, Carolyn Louise Shea, was married on December 1 to Gregory Carl Finch in Charleston, South Carolina, where they are both lawyers.

Please send *Have You Heard* items to Louise Tukey, tukey@psu.edu.

Reaching AAUW

**AAUW Member HELPLINE**
800/326-2289

**AAUW E-mail**
connect@aauw.org

**AAUW website**
http://www.aauw.org

**AAUW Congressional Action Line**
202/785-7786

Mark Your Calendar

**Monday, Jan. 7, 11:45 a.m.**
AAUW Branch Board Meeting

**Used Book Workshop**
2100 East College Avenue
(814) 235-6884

**Branch Co-presidents:**
Candace Davison, ccd2@psu.edu
Charlene Harrison, chh1@psu.edu

To join, renew, or update your membership, contact: **Membership Vice-presidents:**
Michelle Decker
mgd152@psu.edu
Carol Hodes
carolhodes@yahoo.com

**Newsletter:**
Connie Schroeder
connieschroeder@gmail.com

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT**
In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.