



BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 2002

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH, INC.

American Association of University Women

Girls Succeeding in Math, Science, and Technology

Barbara Barnett
AAUW Immediate Past President

In keeping with the mission of AAUW, the Committee on Girls Succeeding in Math, Science and Technology continues to encourage girls to seek careers in these areas. The Philadelphia Branch has joined with Women in Engineering at Drexel to provide the participants with an opportunity to observe and work with women Engineers.

The program will be held in the Engineering laboratories at Drexel University **on Saturday, March 16, 2002** from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This unique program will draw one-hundred 7th grade students from several public and charter schools in the City .

The students will be divided into small groups for the workshop experiences. Drexel engineering students will direct them through a series of meaningful laboratory exercises. Each student will be provided with a box lunch, as well as a few related momentos.

We believe that this program will truly have a positive impact on its young participants. A special thanks to the Women in Engineering, under the leadership of Kathleen Kennedy of Drexel University, and the AAUW volunteers.



Many Women, Many Voices: Muslim Women's Perspectives

Camille Macdonald-Polski
VP, Program

April 13th at Bryn Mawr College

The numbing events of September 11th took Americans in new and sobering directions. Our government, religious institutions, universities and community organizations all recognized a need to know more about Islam and its cultural and historical roots.

In November, Philadelphia AAUW members who attended the International Federation Conference in Ottawa met to discuss a program that would stimulate interest in AAUW international connections. Soon we too were engaging our collective need to know more about Islam, especially issues surrounding Muslim women. Thus was born the seeds of this exciting conference, *Many Women, Many Voices: Muslim Women's Perspectives*. The conference will take place on Saturday, April 13th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Bryn Mawr College.

The following women scholars are currently scheduled to participate:

- ◆ **Maysam J. al-Faruqi**, Department of Theology, Georgetown University
- ◆ **Mine Ener**, Islamic Civilization and Muslim Middle East History, Villanova University
- ◆ **Barbara Von Schlegel**, Department of Religious Studies, The University of Pennsylvania
- ◆ **Gisela Webb**, Department of Religious Studies and faculty fellow of the School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University

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Many Women, Many Voices

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- ◆ **Jameela Abdur Sabur**, Doctoral Candidate, Temple University. Concentration: Gender position of African American women
- ◆ **Amira Quraishi**, Doctoral Candidate, The University of Pennsylvania. Concentration: Ethics and Islamic Feminism
- ◆ **Kathleen Laurila**, Second Vice President, The International Federation of University Women (currently the highest ranking American women in the IFUW)

Put April 13th on your calendar as a must attend! This is a very special opportunity to benefit from the insights of Muslim scholars.



AAUW-PA Convention

The state AAUW Convention will be held on April 19th and 20th at the Four Points Sheraton Pittsburgh North. All AAUW members in Pennsylvania Branches are welcome to attend conventions, while voting delegates are limited by the size of the Branch. We will all receive an AAUW-PA *Keystoner* in a few weeks containing an application and complete information.

The 2002 Convention agenda has been specially crafted to conform to the general desire to do the business of the organization, learn some new skills, and socialize in two days rather than the more usual three day format. This convention has packed in some very useful workshops in addition to the very important election of officers.

The election of President and Vice President will be rather exciting this year, as two candidates are running for each office:

- ◆ President
 - Karen Rowe and Linda Tozier
- ◆ Program Vice President
 - Dianne Taylor Gregg and Joan A. Dengel

We hope you will want to attend this important event.



From the President . . .

Our Inter-Branch Council tour of the Kimmel Center on January 19th was attended by approximately 200 women from the Greater Philadelphia Branches of AAUW who were not deterred by the weather. Our thanks to Carolyn Ancker for arranging this much appreciated opportunity.

Branch members and friends enjoyed meeting Nancy Gilboy and hearing about Philadelphia's International Visitors' Center at our January 31 dinner meeting at The New Century Guild, a cozy charming place, not far from our office, where our own member, Theodora West, will talk about her work at our February 25th Dinner with Philadelphia Authors meeting.

We have very interesting programs prepared for this Spring, which we hope you will want to put on your calendar. We owe this exciting variety of events to the creativity of our program vice-president and committee chairs. Planning these events involves the joy of good company as well as the pleasure of learning new skills.

Kay McKenna

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Tel: 215.545.4903 Fax: 215.545.2270.

e-mail: aauwphiladelphia@att.net

website: aauwphiladelphia.org

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Deadline for Bulletin copy to the Editor is the fifth day of each month

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

SAVE THE DATE

Our **Branch Equity in Education** Committee, chaired by Marjorie Harris is planning a program on privatization in public education for **March 20th at the Union League** from 4 – 6 PM. This is such an important issue, as it affects the lives of thousands of children, for better or worse, in Philadelphia and in other locations where it is being tried. The program will be free to perspective members, so do bring interest friends. Members will pay \$15 each to help defray the cost of the program.

MAIN LINE BOOK GROUP

The Main Line Book Group will join the Branch Dinner with Philadelphia Author and Branch member Theodora West at the New Century Guild on Monday, February 25th in place of its regularly scheduled February meeting. Reservations for \$15 each should be sent to the office. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. **For the Monday, March 25th meeting**, the book will be "Beyond Belief", Islamic excursions among converted peoples, by V.S. Naipaul. Call Rena Burstein for details and directions.

SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS!

AAUW always welcomes new members! Call the Branch office at **(215) 545-4903** or go to our website at **aauwphila.org** for an application form and join the oldest nation-wide organization for women in its dedication to education for women and girls!

A named unit in honor of Carolyn Ancker was has been established by the Philadelphia Branch.

Carolyn has chosen research projects and grants as the area that will be funded by donations given in her name. We urge you to consider this designation for your donation.

*Merry Lou Shaw,
Stewardship*

Dinner with Philadelphia Authors

Anne Breidenstein
Chair, Dinner with Philadelphia Authors Committee

On Monday, February 25th, Dr. Theodora West will speak at the Dinner with Philadelphia Authors program which will be held at the New Century Guild. Dr. West, a member of our Branch, is a retired professor of English at West Chester University. Her special interest is in creative writing. She continues to teach her Short Story Workshop at the annual Philadelphia Writers Conference. She has turned to writing mystery novels, one of which, "Asleep in the Deep," she will discuss at the dinner meeting.

Dinner will start at 6 o'clock and will be followed by the program. The Main Line Book Group will join us for this meeting. Reservations are required, so please use the reservation coupon accompanying this Bulletin. We look forward to seeing you on February 25th.



MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE

It is time for us to do a new membership directory, and we would like to expand and increase the use of the directory by adding more information about our members, to be given to us as selectively or thoroughly as you wish.

We have enclosed a form for this purpose and hope you will fill it out and return it to the office. If you have had the experience of working on a committee and wishing desperately that you knew who among our membership works in a particular field or has expertise and interest in a particular subject you will warm to the idea of a fuller description of our members.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to bring us up to date!

AAUW CALENDAR

- February 25** **Branch Dinner** with Philadelphia author and writing teacher, Theodora West New Century Guild. Dinner at 6 p.m. and program at 7:00 p.m. \$15 per person. Reserve by using Bulletin coupon.
- March 9** **Branch Women’s Health Symposium:** Living with Illness - Seeking Quality of Life. LaSalle University, Union Building Ballroom and Music Room 1900 West Olney Avenue. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free parking. Program, \$25.00 per person. Reserve using the mailed flyer or bulletin coupon.
- March 16** **Girls Succeeding in Science Math and Technology** (Branch Committee) with Drexel University’s Women in Engineering for 7th grade girls. AAUW members who wish to volunteer should call Barbara Barnett or the office.
- March 20** **Branch Meeting: “Privatization in Public Education”**, with Dr. Donald Clark, Former Director of Curriculum and Academic Services for Pennsylvania Dept. of Education at the Union League, 4 - 6 p.m. \$15 for members. Free for perspective members. Reserve using Bulletin coupon
- April 13** **Branch Meeting:** “Many Voices, Many Women: Perspectives of Muslim Women” at Bryn Mawr College, \$15.00, 8:30 – 1:00 p.m. Register with Bulletin coupon or flyer you will receive separately in the mail.

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH, INC. AAUW

SUITE 420

1420 LOCUST STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102