



AAUW SUM
News & Views from the
West Chester – Chester County PA Branch

Volume 53, Number 4 January, 2010

**Islamic Perceptions of
 Other Faiths and Implications**

Iftekhhar Hussain

Tuesday, January 12th
7 p.m. – Networking and Nibbles
7:30 p.m. Program
Grove United Methodist Church

Mr. Iftekhhar Hussain, a practicing Muslim and frequent lecturer on related topics, will provide a high-level overview of Islamic views of persons of other faiths and the implications of this theology in politics and everyday life. A background article will be distributed to members with email for background reading. A Q&A period will follow. Guests are invited.

Mr. Hussain is the Chairperson of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) PA Board of Directors and a member of the CAIR-PA Philadelphia Chapter Executive Committee. He is also currently serving as Secretary General of the American Muslim Society of the Tristate Area of PA, NJ & DE and on the advisory committee of the American Friends Service Committee, Middle East Peace Building Unit.

He is engaged in local interfaith educational initiatives with a focus on “Islam and the Middle East” and “US Foreign Policy and the Muslim World.” On behalf of CAIR-PA, he has developed a 10-part course titled “Understanding Islam and Muslims through History and Jurisprudence” and has taught it at churches, synagogues, mosques and local county night schools

Mr. Hussain was born in Bangladesh, has lived in the Middle East and Europe and earned a Bachelors and a Masters at Texas A&M University and worked toward a PhD at Penn State University. He works as a consultant in the pharmaceutical industry, traveling in Asia Pacific and Europe on corporate business process re-engineering assignments. He is married to Bushra Kourani and has three children Yousef, Omar and Huda.

Grove United Methodist Church, January 12 - 7:00 PM, 490 W. Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380; 610-696-2663. From West Chester, take Route 100 North to Boot Road; turn left. Grove United Methodist Church is located at the intersection of West Boot Road and Grove Road. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.grovechurch.org>

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Keeping Informed

Co-Presidents Musings - Kay Philipps and Louise Shea

These musings will be read in January, but written to meet our December newsletter deadline. My thoughts this Thanksgiving week go to all the wonderful Board Members, SIG Leaders, and Active Members who by their initiative, responsibility, and enthusiasm make our Branch a very vibrant entity. I am happy to report that two very interesting November meetings were well attended, with a strong showing of support from our members' husbands at our joint meeting with the League of Women Voters. The newspaper today spoke of Barbara McIllvaine Smith's decision not to run for reelection in 2010. Barbara, a Branch Member, spoke at our 50th Anniversary Celebration. We celebrate all that Barbara has been able to do and support her decision to use her considerable talents in the environmental field. Barbara mentioned that it is frequently women who are able to get things done. With that in mind, I urge our members to take an active part in advocating for the AAUW priorities that are important to them. And now my thoughts turn to 2010. I hope that each of you have enjoyed a good Holiday Season and are ready to resume or start involvement in our Branch's activities. Much is planned for Winter/Spring of 2010. Do stay Involved and Informed! Together we can accomplish much.

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Suraya Pakzad -- Executive Director of "The Voice of Women Organization", one of the speakers from the "Water in a Changing World" program.

Water in a Changing World - LWV/AAUW 11/14/09 - Program A Success

A big "Thank You" to all 60 plus women and men from the local AAUW and the League of Women Voters (LWV), along with a wide community presence, who came to the West Chester Municipal Building to hear the Water in Changing World presentation. Presenters included Stan Laskowski of the Philadelphia Global Water Initiative (PGWI), Aldo Magazzeni (Traveling Mercies) and Dr. E. Elijah Korich (Keiyo Soy Ministries) who discussed projects in Afghanistan and Kenya.

John Steele spoke about the Rotary Club's involvement in worldwide water projects. In addition, we were privileged to hear Suraya Pakzad -- Executive Director of The Voice of Women Organization which works to improve the status of the Afghan women in social, cultural, and financial terms by promoting human and women's rights. Her awards include: 2008 International Women of Courage, 2009 Voice of Peace, and the Afghan Top State Medal Malalai. PGWI showed the film "Running Dry" which depicted the deplorable conditions that occur when people live with little or no clean water.

This program was developed by the International Relations Committee (chair Betsey Cullen), of the local League of Women Voters in collaboration with the local American Association of University Women (Yvonne Peiffer) for the purpose of addressing the United Nations Millennium Goals. Hopefully action projects will give further opportunities for all to do their part toward achieving this goal. The catalyst can be clean potable water for every nation. Presenters noted that when countries get such water, other good things happen. Schools and clinics are built and hunger, disease, poor education and poverty, the root causes of terrorism, are lessened.

"Water can be the bridge to Peace – not only in the Middle East, but all over the world."

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW Sum, pronounced awesome, is the newsletter of the West Chester-Chester County PA Branch of the American Association of University Women. It is normally published 8 times each year: September, October, November, January, February, March, April, and May. Deadline for copy is the 12th of the month preceding. January deadline is Dec. 1.

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Membership News

Welcome to a new member:

Info omitted for web version.

Send us your News!

The co-editors of AAUW SUM, Norma George and Nancy Rumfield, are delighted to bring you the January issue of the AAUW SUM newsletter. *We continue to need input from members.* Please send *articles* as Word documents. It is most helpful if you forward your news articles to the *gmail account*: aauwsumnews@gmail.com, indicating the topic and month in the subject box and cc the Co-Presidents. Norma and Nancy share access to this account, it keeps their work mailboxes from getting filled and makes the process of collaborating easier. The deadline is the 12th of the month preceding the issue.

Guidelines for AAUW SUM

1. Deadline for articles is the 12th of the month unless noted in newsletter.
2. Board will develop outline/plan for newsletter.
3. Copies of each article must be sent to the President.
4. Articles should be less than 340 words (1 column in 12 pt.) and sent as .doc (Word) files whenever possible.
5. Program information should be available for publication in the month prior to the event.
6. SIG information should be specific (when, where, leader, contact information, program or book).
7. Photos should be sent in .jpg format and should be the best quality possible. Leave cropping to the editors when possible.
8. Editors must keep newsletter to 10 pages or less (5 printed front and back).
9. Editors must consult with President or designee if newsletter is too long.
10. Circulation Chair will determine number of copies to be printed.
11. Board will review and decide list of Friends who receive printed copies.
12. The newsletter should go to the printer by the 25th of the month. Copies should include the Circulation Manager, Person who distributes the e-mail version, and, if requested, other named designees.

Help AAUW Save Money

Each year our editors put together eight informative, attractive, and news filled issues of our AAUW SUM newsletter. At current prices, printing and mailing costs exceed \$1.50 a piece per issue, costing over \$12.00 per member per year. For several years, many AAUW members have received their copies via e-mail. Through e-mail they receive the news as soon as it is published. By eliminating the paper copy, they are also making a contribution to a greener environment. If you are not already receiving AAUW SUM via e-mail and would be willing to do so, please contact Elaine Burgess at danb@chesco.com.

Get Your Keystoner Online!

Switch to receiving the Keystoner online. For each issue, you will receive an e-mail notice of the posting with a table of contents and a link to a downloadable copy of the issue. To sign up just fill in the blanks at:

<http://www.aauwpa.org/keystoner.htm>

Remembering And Honoring Neal Lawson

Each year our branch awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a college student attending a local university in the name of long-time AAUW member, Alice Lawson. Recipients are often non-traditional students, for whom the assistance makes a difference in continuing or completing their studies. Alice Lawson was a long-time AAUW member, who was active in many branch endeavors. Her family honored her initiatives by establishing the Alice Lawson scholarship fund. Her husband, Dr. Neal Lawson, was supportive of Alice's work with AAUW. Dr. Lawson was a chemical engineer employed for many years by DuPont. One of his achievements was the creation of a lubricant, designed for the extreme temperatures involved on space missions. Dr. Lawson died on November 17, 2009. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Lawson family. They have requested memorial contributions to the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund in his name.

Ways And Means

Leslie Wachob, Chair

Our branch has several ongoing activities to raise funds for branch programs and projects:

- Recycling ink cartridges--- Bring cartridges to Leslie Wachob
- Genuardi's Escrip program –Safeway /Genuardi's will rebate a percentage of purchases; **Enroll each fall** by internet (www.escrip.com) or using form available at Genuardi's; Our group ID is 150540758.
- *February Brunch Silent Auction:* Articles are needed to sell and Leslie pick them up. Items are also needed for a raffle basket. This is a great time for re-gifting.
- *Spring Museum Stroll:* A tour of the Perelman and Sculpture Garden and a no-host lunch at the Waterworks. This will probably be in April or May.
- *Pecans, Cashews and Candy* – still available. Valentine's Day is almost here. Contact Leslie at 610 458-1837 or rbs857@yahoo.com

Lifelong Learning as a Stroll Through the Town



Members and friends of the branch enjoyed a West Chester Stroll on a crisp November day. Barry Boose, a volunteer guide at the Chester County Historical Society, discussed the architecture and history of our charming county seat. Here, Barry comments on the architecture of the First Presbyterian Church, whose architect, Thomas U. Walter, also designed the dome of the Capitol in Washington. Afterwards, strollers enjoyed luncheon and

camaraderie at a local restaurant. Leslie Wachob coordinated the event.

Domestic Violence Center Project

Domestic Violence Center: In November we donated 17 rolls of toilet paper and 8 rolls of paper towels. For January we are collecting trash bags—33gallon size. In February we will be collecting laundry detergent (not the huge size), softener sheets or liquid, and bleach. Thank you. Any questions, please contact Marian Stevenson, 610-429-1490.

AAUW West Chester-Chester County Public Policy Focus 2009-2010

Yvonne Peiffer, Public Policy Chair

Eleven members of the Public Policy Group met on December 1, 2009 to organize and plan the next steps for the 4 areas of focus. Those areas are: 1) *Pay Equity and Rally* (April 2010): Leslie Jean Allison will head this area. Kay Philipps, Ann Boohar, Elaine Burgess, Sue Johnston, Barbara Leone, Carla Grot, Fran Pierce, Graham Boose and Yvonne Peiffer have signed up; 2) *Start Smart and Teaming* with local universities (West Chester, Cheyney and Immaculata): Graham Boose will head this area. Helen Reid, Barbara Leone, Rosemary MacDonald, Sue Johnston, Sandra High, Fran Pierce and Yvonne Peiffer have signed up; 3) *Title IX*: Roni Mullen will head this area. Jean Speiser, Cathy Horvath, Patti Barker and Fran Pierce signed up to help; and 4) *Cooperation with LWV Chester County*: Cynthia Fischer, Linda Lang and Sue Ciorletti have signed up. A person is needed to head this group and to be our contact with the League. Contact Yvonne at 610-363-9535 if interested.

Here is a very short summary of our discussion. The AAUW Board has approved organizing a *Pay Equity Rally* in April 2010 at noon in front of the courthouse --permission and date still needed. The actual date given by national is Tuesday, April 20th. If you know of any conflicts with this day or date please contact us. The decision will also be made in conjunction

with the universities who elect to join us. If you have other organizations in mind that should be contacted to be sponsors please let us know. To learn more information about the discussion call Leslie Jean at 610-436-1598. Also read your AAUW *Outlook Magazine* for lots of good information on Pay Equity.

The *Start Smart and Teaming* group will be working with the local universities through workshops for juniors and seniors, to provide information about what kind of salary they can expect based on the profession they're entering. In addition they will learn how to use that information in employment interviews, etc. Materials for the workshops will be supplied by wageproject.com. Call Graham at 610-405-2993 for further information.

The *Title IX* group will be informing us about Title IX -- what it is and how Chester County complies. Instead of focusing on the area of sports, the group plans to focus on Title IX in relation to technical and vocational issues. Call Roni at 610-436-0912 for more information.

The *Cooperation with LWV Chester County* group will help to "get out the vote", educate voters and look into gerrymandering. (verb - divide unfairly and to one's advantage; of voting districts -)
<http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=gerrymander>.

We encourage all of you, our members, to contact any leader of the different areas of focus. Each leader will appreciate whatever you can do to assist in the cause. Finally if you prefer to "do your own thing", do sign up for the *Two-Minute Activist* at <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/> and respond to whatever interests you. Thanks so much!!

Did You Know? ...

International Women's Day is annually held on March 8 to celebrate women's achievements throughout history and across nations. It is also known as the United Nations (UN) Day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/events.asp>

Public Policy Initiatives Win STAR Recognition for WC3 Branch

Note: Leslie Wachob, Immediate Past Co-President, was asked to write up for the *Keystoner* what the branch did to win this AAUW-PA award in 2009. I thought you would enjoy learning more about the leadership role our branch has taken, and so the article is reprinted here.—Kay Philips, Branch President

2008-2009 was a banner year for Public Policy in the West Chester-Chester County Branch. We established new partnerships with like-minded community groups, started new programs, and brought a dream in-the making for a year to reality. AND we had FUN doing all this, while we furthered the AAUW Mission of equality for women and girls throughout their lifetimes.

Our efforts focused on three areas:

1. voter efforts: registration and information;
2. pay equity initiatives; and
3. outreach to girls to promote Science-Technology-Engineering and Math awareness and comfort.

Our small but mighty Public Policy committee believed that informed voters in the fall 2008 election were key to furthering AAUW goals, and we banded together with the League of Women Voters of Chester County to register voters at local malls and to sponsor a public forum to provide information on proposed Pennsylvania redistricting to change the redistricting process so that it becomes non-partisan and transparent. Three State Representatives and a League of Women Voters Specialist provided spirited commentary to the current and proposed district maps. In addition, a fascinating October branch meeting was devoted to *Running for Public Office as a Woman... Navigating the Obstacles*, featuring a panel discussion by several women then and formerly running for public office.

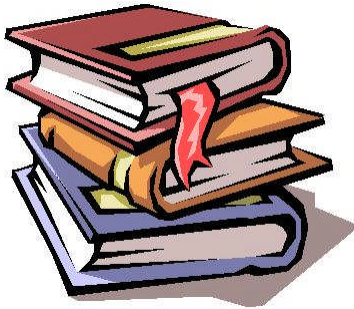
Our pay equity initiative focused on planning and holding an Equal Pay Day Rally. See separate article in this issue. We were severely

outside of our comfort zone during the early stages, but were pleased with the outcomes: a sense of doing the right thing (and many of the retirees said they would not have participated in the rally during their professional years) and advocating for our sisters and daughters.

We are fortunate to be community partners—there's that strong bond again—with the Chester County Intermediate Unit which has sponsored Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology for 10 years. This is a one-day seminar where junior and senior high school girls gain hands-on experience with robots, chemistry, computers, biochemistry, energy—in short, the components of a fascinating and rewarding career in Science-Technology-Engineering and Math (STEM). Members assisted in event planning and publicity, and staffed the registration desk. We had previously awarded the program our first Gateway to Equity Award. Approximately 100 girls participate each year, and the program is spreading to other areas of the Philadelphia region.

Our branch is also fortunate to be working with Dr. Claire Passantino of the Makefield Area Branch in the *Let's Read Math* program. We continued our efforts this year with a Community Action Grant, and involved approximately 15 additional branches in promoting this wonderful read-a-story-and-do-a-related-math activity that helps children, particularly girls, become more comfortable with math. Research shows that girls lose opportunities in the STEM area when they do not choose to study topics in these areas, due to their—and perhaps their caregivers'—aversion to math.

As a bonus, our February Brunch featured Educational Foundation Fellows and young women who had attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, providing a broad view of AAUW's support to women seeking leadership skills and academic recognition. In summary, we offered a variety of opportunities to members to live the Mission statement, and they did.



Tips for Readers

At the most recent meeting of Lit I, we were discussing good research sites and sources of gently used books. We thought it would be useful to publish this information, together with an invitation to other readers to augment the list. So here it is! Please send in your successful experiences for us all to share.

From Hilary Kennedy: I am using this opportunity to jot down a couple of web sites for book reviews and discussions... I have also found that one worked well for a certain book that I couldn't properly access: readinggroupguides.com, www.booknoise.net, www.bookbrowse.com

From Graham Boose: Sources of used books b&n.com, amazon.com (from independent seller), and half.com. I have gotten lots of children's books this way, especially current science books, which are library bound.

From Kay Philipps: There are two second-hand bookstores in West Chester, the Second Reading, whose proceeds support the West Chester Senior Center. The original one is on Church Street and the second one is in the Parkway Shopping Center on South High Street.

From Nancy Rumfield: If you don't see what you are looking for at the Second Reading, ask them. The Parkway Center location has lots of books in their stockroom and knowledgeable volunteers who will be happy to assist. Also, if you sign up for their email list they will send you notices of their special sales such as a bag of books for \$10! This is also a great way to share

the books you've already enjoyed.

Advantages Of Thermal Heating And Cooling Of Buildings And Homes

C. Fischer, AAUW Publicity Chair

Jack DiEnna, Executive Director of GEO-NII, presented the advantages of heating and cooling public buildings, industrial buildings, and homes at the November 10th meeting of the West Chester Branch of the AAUW. He stated that heat exchanger fluid in composite tubes only eight feet below the surface can be maintained at 58° in Pennsylvania and that this can be used with geothermal heat pump equipment to moderate the hot ambient air in the summer and the cold air in the winter. Regular air vents are used to circulate the heated or cooled air in normal manner within a building. The in-ground tubes may be inserted deep in the ground vertically, which saves space, or they may be set horizontally at a more shallow level. The equipment is expected to last for about 40 to 50 years. This type of heating and cooling would save public schools thousands of dollars each year, for example, and would make funds available for other activities.

Four of the AAUW members in the audience that evening live in residences currently using the geothermal heat pump technology and benefit from the energy savings.

Save the date...

2010 "World Water Day Walk-A-Thon"

March 20, 2010
(5K Run/Walk) 10am to 1pm
Martin Luther King Drive,
Philadelphia, PA.

Pre-register by 2/20/2010 online at
WWW.KSMINISTRIES.COM or phone
267-528-8285.

(Action in relation to
LWV/AAUW Nov. 14, 2009 Program)

Thank You!

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) extends a sincere *Thank You* to all who contributed to their Sock It To Us Campaign. Our Branch contributed 81 pairs of socks. Overall RSVP received almost 4000 pairs of socks that have been distributed to various agencies throughout Chester County. Look for our campaign next September and October.

Save the Date... 2/13/10

February Brunch: Let's Celebrate the Contributions of African- American Women

AAUW West Chester-Chester County will join with people from all over Chester County to celebrate Black History Month with a brunch on February 13, 2010. The Food Interest Group (FIG) will provide the food for the brunch and, based on the culinary expertise of this group, it is certain to be outstanding!

This year's brunch will be held at the Charles A. Melton Center for Arts and Education, located at 501 East Miner Street, West Chester, beginning at 9 a.m. AAUW members are reminded and encouraged to invite friends, spouses and anyone interested in the topic to join them for the brunch. Special invitations should be extended to high school and college students.

The brunch will feature entertainment and education by two special women -- Lois Moses and Nia Williams. Lois will provide us with information about the contributions of African-American Women to our culture and history, and share with us some of her highly praised poetry on the same topic.

Nia Williams, a student at Coatesville Area High School, is a member of the school's acclaimed vocal group, the Meistersinger's. Nia will give a vocal performance that all will be certain to enjoy.

The cost of the brunch is only \$5 per person, but **reservations are required in order that we may provide an accurate count to those providing the food. You can pay your \$5 at the door before you enter the brunch.**

Please e-mail or call your confirmation along with your name and the number of attendees to: franpierce@verizon.net -or- 610-594-0625 and leave a message if there is no answer.

Spotlight On Our Members

Paula McGinnes, library director at Honey Brook Library, recently announced that the Kill-A-Watt Electricity Monitor is available for check out at the library. Patrons may check out the small, handheld device home with them, and they can find out for certain how much electricity their appliances use. Paula was featured with this unique library acquisition in a recent issue of the Community Courier.

Virginia daCosta, faculty member at West Chester University, was selected to receive the prestigious Fulbright scholarship award. Virginia, an art history professor, is visiting several regions throughout Egypt documenting the training and work of women artists in such traditional crafts as weaving, quilting, embroidery and pottery. Virginia will share her research at our May banquet. She was featured in the annual fall report of the West Chester University magazine.



Virginia in Women's Art Studio, Egypt.

Branch Board Meetings

All Board meetings are open to the membership and will be held at the Grove United Methodist Church. Meetings begin at 7 pm, are over by 9, and are usually on the first Tuesday of the month. Upcoming: Tuesday, January 5th.

Special Interest Groups

Couples Bridge

Couples Bridge will meet the 3rd Saturday evening monthly at a member's home. We are a social group and welcome all who like to play.

Those with questions about Couples Bridge or interested in joining the group may contact the chair, Carol Habig, 610-431-9987, whabig@verizon.net

Women's Social Bridge 2009 - 2010

The Women's Social Bridge Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Please advise Beatriz Wee, at least seven days in advance of the scheduled date, if you would like to be the hostess for any month. She may be contacted at 610-594-2719; beatriztil@gmail.com.

Book and Discussion Groups

Lit I (formerly Lit III): Afternoon Book Discussion: January 28th, 12:30 pm. *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Leader: Martina Ossman, Hostess: Alice Spivey 610-696-5536.

Lit II, Fiction and Non-Fiction: meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month. January 20th, 7:30 pm, *The Way We Live Now*, by Anthony Trollope; Leader: Lyn Eaton; Host: Fran Pierce; February 17th, *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck; Leader: Fran Pierce; Host: Chester County Book Company-Magnolia Grill

Lit IV, Monday Evening Nonfiction Book Group -- The Non-Fiction Lit. group will hold

its next discussion Monday, January 18th at the Magnolia Grill, Chester County Book Company, West Goshen Shopping Center, at 7:00 pm. The discussion book is *Outliers; a Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell. The book is available at county libraries but it will be necessary to place a hold to get a copy. You may call Paula McGinness for assistance or more information, 610-942-4852 (home) or 610-273-3303 (work).

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions special interest group meets regularly at the Chester Book Company. For the current topic and meeting time contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887.

FIG (Food Interest Group)

The FIG Group will have a "Mardi Gras" dinner on January 9th at the home of Leslie and George Wachob. Everyone is welcome, singles included. Please call Leslie at 610-458-1837 if you can attend.

Finance Discussion Group

The Finance Discussion Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. at the Chester County Book Company. Participants are invited to bring related articles to share. For more information contact: Leslie Olson, 610-793-2983; olsonfour@aol.com

Knitting & Possibly Other Needlecraft

Contact Roselyn Cadoff, 610 256-2839; racadoff@verizon.net

Computer Interest Group

Office 2003 Applications; Interested? Contact Graham Boose, 610-405-2993; GDBoose@gmail.com (note change)

Travel Interest Group

The concept of this group is to attend an interesting event and enjoy a meal out. The events will be local. If you can assist please notify: Kay Philipps, 610-399-0697, khp65khp@verizon.net or Louise Shea, 610-738-1233, MLShea35@aol.com



West Chester-Chester County PA Branch
415 Sunset Hollow Road
West Chester, PA 19380

January 2010 NEWSLETTER

Meeting is Tuesday, January 12th, 7:00 pm

AAUW Mission Statement

The AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW Vision Statement

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

AAUW West Chester – Chester County Branch Vision Statement

The West Chester-Chester County Branch will

- Actively recruit members who support Association goals.
- Nurture these members through active Interest Groups, through monthly meetings with intellectual and social merit, and through member support.
- Sponsor at least one project per year with volunteers and with funds to promote Association and branch goals.
- Sponsor at least one local scholarship per year for a nontraditional student
- Support programs for training and self-development of branch members to promote Association goals.
- Raise funds through community projects and member gifts to support Association goals.

Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today, with more than 100,000 members, 1,300 branches, and 500 college and university partners, AAUW contributes to a more promising future and provides a powerful voice for women and girls—a voice that cannot and will not be ignored.

www.aauw.org

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