



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

Volume 49, Number 5

February 2006

LYRICS OF LOVE AND LAUGHTER

Saturday, February 11, 2006 10:30am

Theater and Luncheon

at the

Coatesville Cultural Society

143 E. Lincoln Highway, Coatesville

610-384-1790

By Donna Eaves

What better way to celebrate Black History Month and Valentine's Day than a return trip to the Coatesville Cultural Society to enjoy a theater performance followed by a delicious lunch at the Cultural Society's Café! The theater production, "Lyrics of Love and Laughter," is a vivid portrayal of the humor, joy and hardship of daily life in the rural antebellum South. It is based on the poetry of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, a son of slaves, who shared his mother's passion for poetry and literature, as well as his father's love of history. Dunbar was the first Black writer to gain worldwide recognition as a poet. The Cultural Society has graciously offered our group a very special rate of \$25.00 for the show and luncheon, so please come and bring a friend. Carpooling is highly recommended. Deadline for registration is February 4, 2006. See the registration form on page 3.

Directions from Exton: Take Rt. 30 Bypass west to the Rt. 82 exit for Coatesville. Take right onto Rt. 82 South for Business Rt. 30, Lincoln Highway. Take left on Lincoln Highway to find the Cultural Society on the left. There is meter parking on the street.

Call Donna Eaves, 610-692-5277, if you need a ride or further information.

Scholarships Available for State Convention

If you have always wanted to attend State Convention but have found the cost prohibitive, you will want to consider applying for the First Timers or Younger Member Scholarships (40 and under) to Convention 2006 in Johnstown, March 31-April 2. Includes convention registration, all meals, and mileage. First Timers, in 200 words or less, tell AAUW-PA how you and our branch would benefit from the experience. First Timers DEADLINE is March

1. Send to Linda Robbins, 65 Colonial Rd., Allentown, PA 19109, or LRob164832@aol.com. Include contact info. Scholarships are available for members under 40. DEADLINE is January 31. Call Graham, 610-431-7701 immediately if you are interested.

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH AAUW SUM IS
FEBRUARY 12.**

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Branch News

Reaching Out – by Sebronette Barnes Dr. Sebronette Barnes is an associate professor in the Fine Arts department at Cheyney University where she is also Director of the Arts and Lecture Series. She is currently appearing in the Opera Company of Philadelphia production of "Margaret Garner." Last year, she appeared in Opera Delaware's "Porgy and Bess." She was awarded an AAUW Educational Foundation grant in 1998 for her research on African-American composer Margaret Bonds whose songs she included on the recording "You Can Tell the World: Songs by African American Women Composers." She is branch Diversity Chair. I asked her to write Reaching Out this month to honor Black History Month.--Graham Boose

I was raised in rural Mississippi in an environment in which I knew love and security and one in which I felt insulated from the racism that loomed around me. As long as I stayed in the confines of this ark of safety, mine was a charmed life.

I was talking to my brother Sebron about the segregation we experienced during the days of my youth, and he put things in prospective for me when I remarked that our parents shielded us from racism. He corrected me and said that there was no shield. Racism was there. "We saw it. We accommodated it. We lived." Very simply, we had a place and we stayed in it. "Knowing my place" meant using the side entrance of the movie theater to go up to the balcony where I had to battle with the springs that protruded through the cushion of my seat as the smell of urine permeated the air. "My place" was accepting a hamburger in a bag which was handed to me out a back door or sitting in a "colored only" waiting room when I needed to see the doctor. "My place" was being ushered out of the Five and Dime store when I wanted something to drink by my mother who knew that my thirst on that day or any other day would not be quenched in that place.

As desegregation slowly seeped into our town, I was transferred to a school where there were no more plays or proms. I was the first black cheerleader, and I was never invited to the parties that I heard the other cheerleaders whispering about as I prepared for one of them to jump on my back. At cheerleader camp, the person assigned to room with me decided to move to another room. I was robbed of being student council president when the rising freshmen who carried me to victory on Friday

were asked to vote again on Monday and to write their names on their ballots. Go, Trojans! The brevity of this discourse does not allow me to share other events so one might read the above and consider this not to be major, but I contend that anytime one group denies another group equal treatment or access, it is major and over time, loss is experienced by many. A racist principal who did the bidding of a bigoted school board left a residue that is still apparent today for productive and meaningful relationships were never allowed to take root, and the creative expression and intellectual growth of thousands were stifled. I conclude that in trying to hinder and discourage the "mixing" of the races, the proponents of separation and segregation got more than they bargained for since it is impossible for the oppressor to move forward when his foot is on the neck of another. Even in this oppressive atmosphere, I never lost sight of my goals because my father Sebron drilled this principle in all of us: "Get your education so you can have choices." Along with my childhood dream of becoming an opera singer, I armed myself with the tools that

(Continued on next page)

AAUW Sum 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. Deadline for January is December 1.

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Branch News

LYRICS OF LOVE AND LAUGHTER**Saturday, February 11, 2006 10:30am****Theater and Luncheon****at the****Coatesville Cultural Society****143 E. Lincoln Highway, Coatesville****610-384-1790****RESERVATION & LUNCHEON SELECTION**

Name(s) of person(s) attending _____

Please select one per person from the following menu choices:

Spanakopita (Greek spinach/feta pastry) with side salad _____

Salmon cake sandwich with cole slaw _____

Chicken salad sandwich with potato chips _____

Tuna salad sandwich with chips _____

Sprout sandwich with chips (has grated carrots, cheddar
cheese, tomato & alfalfa sprouts on 7 grain bread) _____

Coffee, tea and your choice of citrus salad or carrot cake for dessert will be included.

Mail check for \$25.00 per person, made out to AAUW, West Chester Branch, to Donna Eaves, 502 Todd Way, West Chester, PA 19380. Deadline is **February 4, 2006****Financial Report (As of December 31, 2005)****Checking Account** \$ 5,220.51**Savings Account** 500.00**Fund Balances:****Let's Read Math** 322.72**Members Helping Members** 209.00**Chester County Community Foundation:****Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund** 20,757.68**Let's Read Math (from Verizon)** 4,875.00

We made approximately \$500 on the Holiday Party. Thanks to Barb Smith for chairing it and to everyone who participated!

--Nancy Dore, Financial Officer

Reaching Out by Sebronette Barnes (continued)

would fit me for the role of an educator. I have exercised my choices with memories of my black world that was separate, but. equal, but not really, in tow.

Mine was a community that boasted of its own teachers like Ms. Hale and Ms. Johnson; schools, namely Mississippi Rural Center and Marion Central High; business establishments like Mrs. Breland's Blue Flame Restaurant and Beauty School; and the churches like Sunflower Missionary Baptist with their related activities. I survived and thrived because even with evil lurking at every turn, I had role models, who had survived under worse

conditions, and I got my education, and they encouraged me along the way.

As we celebrate the contributions of African-Americans during Black History Month, I would like to say how grateful I am to the many people who poured into me so that my dream was not deferred for you see, I **am** an opera singer and an associate professor at America's oldest historically black institution of higher education, for I was raised in rural Mississippi in an environment in which I knew love and security.

Branch News

Board Highlights

- ✓ Since Fran Pierce has been working closely with Program Vice-President Sybil Schwartz over the past several months, approved President's request to make co-Vice Presidents for Membership with one shared vote, per opinion from Leslie Olson, Bylaws Chair.
 - ✓ Approved contract with Beacon Technologies to develop and host branch website.
 - ✓ Nancy Dore, incoming Ways and Means Chair, agreed to connect with Genuardis for 2006.
- Members need to renew their membership for 2006 (online or at the store)** to continue to donate to branch while shopping with Genuardis card.
- ✓ Expressed concern regarding seemingly poor support by branch members for fund raisers critical to branch operation and programs: bus trip and book fair. Need to get data from members.
 - ✓ Barbara McIlvaine Smith has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. Members are Mary Smith, Hilary Kennedy, Donna Eaves, and Stanli Cushman. Please contact a member if you are interested in a Board position. We need administrative and financial skills. Don't be bashful! Marvelous group of women with whom to work.

6th Annual Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT)

by Mary A. Smith, GETT Planning Committee, and former Branch President

This year's event will be held at Immaculata University on Saturday, March 25th from 10:00-2:00. GETT is a free, fun informational event where Chester County girls in grades 6 through 12 and their parents learn about some exciting careers in information technology directly from successful businesswomen and educators. It is important because technology is having a huge impact in shaping our society and yet the latest statistics show that girls shy away from technology careers. The number of women entering the computer field continues to decline in this financially rewarding and influential industry. This is an opportunity for parents, girls and educators to learn the facts about how technology careers can be fulfilling, fun and rewarding personally, professionally and financially. It also provides an excellent way to expose girls to successful entrepreneurial women and educators who can be positive role models. You may call me or e-mail anytime if you have any comments or questions concerning this worthwhile event. We will be pre-registering girls in February and March so if you have someone in mind or would like to bring someone, you can register her at GETT2IT@cciu.org. Volunteers are needed to help with registration starting at 8:30 A.M. Volunteers are invited to stay on for the day and help as needed. GETT expects a good turn out of AAUW members, as in the past. AAUW's mission of getting girls and women into the technology fields is an important aspect of AAUW and is consistent with the mission of GETT. GETT is a fun and worthwhile experience for all involved. Keep in mind that GETT is run solely on contribution and is a "free" event for girls. This is a great opportunity to see what exists in Chester County in Information Technology and in other technology fields. Please help! E-mail Mary Smith pangea49@comcast.net or call 610-269-3375 today if you can volunteer. **Those who choose to stay are also provided with lunch.**

Going to the IBC Event at the National Constitution Center?

If you are going and want to carpool, please let Graham Boose know. If you need a ride, we will make every effort to get you one. Just call—it's a fun day with fun women and friends from other branches. Yes, it's fine to bring a friend or two, male or female.

See next page for signup information.

**Saturday,
March 4,
2006**



**National
Constitution
Center
525 Arch Street,
Independence Mall,
Philadelphia,
215-409-6600**

**AAUW Interbranch Council
will tour the**

Benjamin Franklin Exhibit

**In Search of a Better World
and the
Freedom Rising Exhibit**

This exciting exhibition has been created to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Philadelphia's favorite founding father. We will meet at the NCC between 9:30am and 9:45am for a 10am tour of the Franklin Exhibit and a 12pm Freedom Rising Tour.

The cost is \$10 per person, and lunch is not included.

Convenient parking for cars is available at the underground lots below the National Constitution Center, (enter from Race Street), and at the Independence Visitor Center, (enter from 5th or 6th Streets, between Arch and Market Streets.)

Name _____

Branch _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ reservations. Cost is \$10/person. Lunch is not included. We will have lunch in the Delegates Restaurant, at the NCC. After we all get our own lunches, since there are no reserved seating areas, we will attempt to all sit together.

Mail form and check, made payable to Philadelphia Area Interbranch Council, to:
Judy Peter, 127 Glenwood Drive, Washington Crossing, PA 18977

Early reservations appreciated. **Deadline is February 17, 2006.**

Branch News

Branch Fund Raising Concerns—IMPORTANT—We Want to Hear from You!

At the January Board meeting, Ways and Means Chair Sandi Kwisz expressed concern regarding the poor attendance from branch members on the November New York bus trip, as well as at the Book Fair.

Our budget is based on fund raising of \$800 or more to support the operational budget and gifts to Association's Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund, both critical to advancing equity throughout the lifetimes of women and girls. Through the generous gifts of the family of Alice Lawson and our branch members, we will award one \$1,000 scholarship this year to a nontraditional student from these funds.

We are in the process of developing the budget for 2006-2007 and will appreciate your talking with us about any concerns you may have regarding our current fund raisers, suggestions for other fund raisers, support to Association, or any other budgetary matters. (See related article on page 7.)

--Sandi Kwisz, Nancy Dore, Graham Boose.

The Blueprint Project: How Does It Affect You?

The Blueprint Project is a recent research effort conducted by

The Chester County Fund for Women and Girls

to assess the needs of women and girls in Chester County

The March 14 event is a women's networking opportunity to identify action steps to alleviate the identified problems.

Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19380

For a preview of the research results, see: www.ccwomenandgirls.org

Founding sponsors are

The Chester County Fund for Women and Girls

The League of Women Voters of Chester County

The American Association of University Women, West Chester-Chester County Branch

An organization can sponsor this event by agreeing to:

- Publicize it throughout the organization
- Make a good faith effort to attend with 5 members
- Bring literature for sharing and display
- Bring a plate of munchies to share
- Provide discussion facilitator(s) if possible

The format will be a one-minute overview by each organization; research presentation; Q&A; facilitated discussion of identified problems in small groups; reports out to large group with commitments to investigate further/provide solutions to identified problems; and post-meeting follow-up.

The goal of the meeting is to identify action steps to alleviate the identified problems.

Branch members: please help us publicize the opportunity to co-sponsor this event by being in touch with organizations to which you belong and asking them to co-sponsor. Please also plan to attend—note the change in meeting place. Responses to Fran Pierce at franpierce@verizon.net or 610-594-0625 by not later than February 8.

Branch, State, and Association News

Dues Increase? Yes or No?

As many of you are aware, at last summer's Association Convention, delegates voted to approve the recommend dues increase of \$2 EVERY year at the Association (national) level.

At our May Banquet, outgoing President Cathy Palmquist expressed concern about this anticipated approval and stated that she hoped the branch could find a way not to raise dues every year to accommodate the Association increase. Historical data suggests that an increase in dues inevitably means the branch loses several valued members.

In response to this concern, our branch Membership Committee suggests that we add a nominal amount to the banquet charge at our May meeting to help in avoiding a dues increase. In addition, Cathy has generously agreed to run a fund raiser next fiscal year to

raise the remainder of the funds required. Since we base the budget on 75 members, we will need to raise \$150 this first year in order not to raise our dues, which is a combination of Association (\$45 as of July 1, 2006), State (\$10), and branch (\$16) dues.

The Board has expressed interested concern (see article on page 6) regarding lack of member support to the fund raisers on which we currently depend.

This will add another fund raiser, and each year Association will raise its dues by \$2, so we will need to raise \$300 the second year, etc. if we are to subsidize the dues hike at the Association level.

Please let us know how you feel on this issue since we are developing next year's budget.

-Barbara Leone, Nancy Dore, Graham Boose

WHAT'S NEW ON THE ASSOCIATION PROGRAM THEME?

from Cathy Wieland, AAUW-PA FYI Editor

Announcement has been made of the three threads to the new programmatic theme for AAUW, *Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security*. They are 1) equity on campus (sexual harassment); 2) workplace equity; and 3) financial literacy.

"Building a Harassment-Free Campus" initiative is the first project under the Campus thread of the theme, and a research report, *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*, is scheduled for release in January

2006. States and branches have been invited to create state "theme teams" to organize programming around the new theme. In the next several weeks a listserv will be set up to facilitate the flow of information and ideas about programming around the theme. *Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security* is the theme of the Middle Atlantic Regional Conference, to be held in Bethlehem, March 18-19. Details to come.

Association Update on International Federation of University Women

Below is a message from AAUW-PA to clarify AAUW's relationship with IFUW: AAUW is still a member National Federation/Association of IFUW. Although AAUW is in arrears for 2005 dues, we remain a member without vote through 2007, which includes the next IFUW Triennial Conference scheduled in 2007.

The Association Board is committed to remaining a member of the IFUW. The Board's Working Group is soliciting input from current and past leaders, key staff, and a random selection of members on IFUW membership. Communication lines with IFUW are open. IFUW is examining their operations, and actively pursuing cost reductions and a new dues structure.

Branch News

SAVE the DATES**Branch Board Meetings**

Members are invited to attend. All Board meetings are held at the West Goshen Township Municipal Building, Community Room, first floor. The building is located at 1025 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380, 610-696-5266. It is the northeast corner of the intersection of Route 202 and Paoli Pike.
 Tuesday February 7, 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 p.m., Joint Board meeting.

COMMUNITY EVENTS**Lee Carter Exhibit**

February 1-March 2, Biddle Hall, Cheyney Universtiy

“The Road to Freedom” showcases the paintings of former Negro Baseball League player and Chester County native Lee Carter. Gallery talk/reception and book signing, February 1, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Please call 610-399-2365 for gallery hours.

Ain't I A Woman?

Monday, February 13, 7:30 p.m., Dudley Center, Cheyney University

This chamber music theater work for actress and trio (piano, cello, percussion) celebrates the life and times of Sojourner Truth, Zora Neal Hurston, Clementine Hunter, and Fannie Lou Hamer. Call for more information or to reserve free tickets, 610-399-2365.

SPECIAL NOTES—OUR FEBRUARY MEETING IS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 10:30 A.M.. NOTE CHANGE IN DAY AND TIME.

OUR MARCH MEETING, THE NETWORKING EVENT IS NOT AT GROVE CHURCH, BUT IS AT THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES CENTER TO ACCOMMODATE THE LARGER CROWDS EXPECTED.

NON-BRANCH AAUW EVENTS**Interbranch Council Event****See page 5**

It's a Birthday—Ben Franklin's 300th!!

Saturday, March 4, the Philadelphia Area AAUW Inter-Branch Council will sponsor a visit to the National Constitution Center in downtown Philadelphia to see the Benjamin Franklin exhibit *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*. The exhibit is organized by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and is a blockbuster exhibition created to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Philadelphia's favorite founding father.

We're scheduled to arrive at 9:45 to start a 10 a.m. tour, Ben's exhibit is about 1 1/2 hours and *Freedom Rising*, a film, is 30 minutes. We'll have lunch after this, those details to follow.

—Judy Peter, Makefield Branch, Chairperson.

- International Women's Day: March 8, 2006, to increase visibility of AAUW in PA
- AAUW Middle Atlantic Region (MAR): March 18-19, 2006, Bethlehem, PA. Details to be available soon.
- PA-AAUW-PA State Convention: March 30-April 3, 2006, Johnstown, PA. A carpool is going from West Chester. Scholarship details on page 1.
- Association Convention: Phoenix, AZ, June 29-July 2, 2007 (it is every two years)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**Bridge**

Women's Social Bridge Women's Social

Bridge will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of a member. Please contact Evelyn Love if you wish to play bridge, 610-719-0822, evelynlove@mindspring.com

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Couples Bridge Couples Bridge will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of a member. Please contact Evelyn Love if you wish to play bridge, 610-719-0822, evelynlove@mindspring.com

Book and Discussion Groups

Lit IV, Monday Evening Nonfiction Book Group will meet Monday, March 20. Please call Paula McGinness, 610-942-4852 or 610-273-3303, for additional information. This book group meets every two months.

Lit III, Wednesday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction will meet on Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 p.m. for dessert. The book being discussed is Looking for Alaska by Peter Jenkins. Host: Elaine Burgess, 610-383-7018. Leader: Elaine Burgess. The meeting begins promptly at 8:00 p.m. Please call the host if you plan to attend.

Lit II, Thursday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction will meet on February 17, 2006, 7:30 p.m. for refreshments, 8:00 p.m. for book review. A Lesson Before Dying by E. Gaines. Leader: Donna Eaves. Elma Mack will host at The Hickman. Please call Donna Eaves at 610-692-5277 for further information.

Great Decisions will meet on February 13, 2006, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Kathryn Retallick. Leader: Carla Grot, topic: "Energy." Please call 610-359-9887 if you plan to attend the meeting.

Finance Study Group, Wednesday Evening, Research and Discussion of Financial Topics of Interest

The Finance Group will not meet this month. All AAUW members are welcome to attend any meeting where the topic interests them. For additional information, contact Leslie Olson, Chair, olsonfour@aol.com or 610-793-2938.

Nominating Committee Needs YOUR Help NOW

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Barbara McIlvaine Smith, needs a few good women. Next year, our branch is looking for a President (or co-Presidents), a Program Vice-President (or co-Vice-Presidents), a Financial Officer, and chairs of the following committees: Local Scholarship and Public Policy. We always need ideas for good membership events, fund raisers, and fun outings, not to mention membership recruitment and retention.

The Board welcomes your participation and interest in all the above. Please contact Barb Smith, 610-429-3132 or btmsmith@gmail.com, or Graham Boose, 610-431-7701 or GDBoose@comcast.net, if we can interest you in Vita Abundator. Stanli Cushman, Donna Eaves, Hilary Kennedy, and Mary Smith also serve on the Nominating Committee and will be glad to hear from you.



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

West Chester-Chester County PA Branch
415 Sunset Hollow Rd.
West Chester, PA 19380

FEBRUARY 2006
NEWSLETTER

AAUW Mission Statement

The AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

AAUW 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.

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

www.aauwpa.org