



## Huntsville Branch Newsletter

May 2014

Volume 4, Number 9

### President's Letter: May 2014



May brings...

Summer! It finally seems to be here! I have to admit, I am very happy to feel the sunshine and warmer temperatures. I vowed not to complain about the mid-summer heat after the winter we had,

so I will continue to welcome these warmer days. Summer also means a time when you may be able to squeeze in a little vacation or perhaps a change in pace from your regular academic year schedule. In my world, summer is a different kind of busy than the academic year; and this summer, I will have a nice vacation in celebration of my 18<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The work of the branch shifts a little bit in the summer too. Our monthly program meetings are on hiatus, but we do have some things to do look forward to, including new member orientation, summer book club meetings, Lunch.com, and a social event or two that we are still planning. We'll have our "Summer with AAUW Huntsville" schedule out to you soon!

#### AAUW's Mission

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

If you attended the May meeting, you know we installed our new officers. I welcome each of you to the board and wish you success in your new roles. I want to take a moment to publically thank **Cindi Branham** who served the branch as President for the past few years. Cindi has been an extraordinary mentor to me, and I am so grateful for the leadership she has provided to our branch. During her tenure, the branch has grown in size; attracted a diverse membership of all ages, races, nationalities, sexual orientations, and faith traditions; and expanded the programming offered to our local communities. More than anything though, Cindi has passion for the work of AAUW and that passion is evidenced in the time and energy she committed to helping AAUW Huntsville be the great branch that we are today. Cindi has agreed to stay on the board as the Outreach chairperson, so we will continue to benefit from her passion and leadership. Cindi, thank you!

We still have several volunteer roles that need to be filled for our 2014-2015 Board. As the saying goes, many hands make light work. Our volunteer roles vary in the amount time and energy needed to fulfill each role. Currently we have vacancies for public relations, newsletter editor, diversity chair, volunteer coordinator, and hospitality. If you have any interest in serving in one of these roles, please contact me at [regina.hyatt@uah.edu](mailto:regina.hyatt@uah.edu). If you don't want to take on the role of a chairperson, we'd invite you to complete our time and talents inventory so perhaps we can find a role that is more suited to your interests. You can complete the inventory online at [tinyurl.com/timetalentaauw](http://tinyurl.com/timetalentaauw). Thank you for considering how you might personally contribute to the success of the branch.

I hope this summer brings you an opportunity to enjoy all that is great about summer- fresh vegetables from someone's garden (not mine, the squirrels get all of ours), ice cream, the beach, sitting on the porch with a nice breeze blowing, time spent with friends and family, and anything else that brings you joy!

**Dr. Regina Hyatt, Co-President  
AAUW Huntsville Branch**

## 2014-2015 AAUW Board

Ellie Lienau, Nominating Committee Chair



Co-President **Sarah Ragan**, Co-Membership VP **LaJoy Johns**, Co-AAUW Funds VPs **Barbara Price** and **Dana Wingate**, Treasurer **Beth Altenkirch**, and Secretary **Danisha Jolly** were elected at the May meeting. They, along with the continuing officers of **Regina Hyatt**, Co-President; **Carolyn Lord** and **Joy Agee**, Co-Program VPs; and **Kenya Wallace**, Co-Membership VP, were installed by **Ellie Lienau**. Please congratulate them when you see them and give them your support for the 2014-2015 year.

Left: Danisha Jolly, LaJoy Johns, Carolyn Lord, Regina Hyatt, Barbara Price, Dana Wingate, and Kenya Wallace.

## Funds

Amanda Jarrett and Sarah Ragan, AAUW Funds Co-Vice Presidents



The Spring Belk Charity Fundraiser, held on Saturday, May 3, 2014, was a great success. Thank you to each of you who purchased tickets for this fundraiser, and to **Patricia Smith** and **LaJoy Johns** for your hard work during the event. We raised a total of **\$285** in ticket sales and volunteer contributions!

## Membership

Kenya Wallace, Membership Co-Vice President

### New Members

A hearty welcome to our newest member, **Patsy Lawrence**, who joined in April. We are delighted to have her as our newest member, and we look forward to a productive, rewarding friendship with her.

### Spring New Member Orientation – June 3!!

The New Member Orientation is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 3** at **Covenant Presbyterian Church, 301 Drake Ave SE, 5:30–7:30 p.m.** It is free of charge and open to all members—those who are new and those who would like to get acquainted with them. A light supper will be provided, and there will be door prizes. Watch for an upcoming Evite in your email, or make a reservation by emailing [aauwmember@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmember@gmail.com) or by calling **Kenya Wallace** at **(205) 435-0346**.

This event will be in the smaller meeting room on the east side of the church. Park at the top of the hill, and cross the footbridge to enter the building.

### 2013–14 Member Directory Addenda Available

Addendum 1, Addendum 2, and Addendum 3 were available at our most recent meeting. These addenda will be available at the Spring Member Orientation as well. Many thanks again to **Patricia Smith** and **Kenya Wallace** for their many hours of hard work on the Member Directory.

## Give a Grad a Gift



The month of May is graduation time for many students, so remember the Give a Grad a Gift program. AAUW members can give recent college graduates a free, one-year AAUW national membership within two years of graduation, at no cost to you or them.

- Expose the grad to the power that comes from belonging to a national women-led organization of more than 170,000 members and supporters who believe in and advance equity and education for women and girls.
- Expand their networking opportunities through career development opportunities and community action projects.
- Keep them current on the events and people that affect their life as they receive *Mission & Action*, *AAUW Outlook*, Action Network alerts, and more.
- Increase their buying power with access to member only discounts.

State and Branch membership are available for an additional charge of \$25. For details, see the AAUW national website at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>, or contact **Kenya Wallace** or **LaJoy Johns, Membership VPs**, at [aauwmember@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmember@gmail.com) or **(205) 435-0346**.

## Time for Membership Renewals!!!

**June 30<sup>th</sup>** is the end of the fiscal year and the deadline for renewing memberships for 2014-15. If you have already renewed for 2014-15, or are a Lifetime Member, our greatest thanks to you! If you have yet to renew, you still have time to do so! Here is the dues structure.

Dues	Price
National*	\$49.00
State	\$10.00
Local	\$15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$74.00</b>

Student Affiliate**	Price
National	\$17.00
State	\$ 5.00
Local	\$15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37.00</b>

\*National Paid Life-members pay only state and local dues, \$25

\*\*Undergraduate students at a college or university that is already a partner member may join the national organization for free, bringing the cost down to \$12.50. Graduate students pay \$18.81 (for the first year) plus the \$12.50 for state and local dues.

This year, you are able to renew online via the Member Payment Program. Anyone can join or renew AAUW membership with a credit card or PayPal account, and your renewal is posted the same day! It is available to all categories of members: regular, Lifetime, Honorary Lifetime, student, and E-affiliate. The steps to renew online are listed below.

### Online AAUW Dues Payment Steps\*\*\*

1. Visit [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)
2. Login
  - a. Use your member number and password (if this is your first time logging in, you will

create a password)

- b. Don't know your member number? Contact **Kenya Wallace or LaJoy Johns**
- c. Click Join/Renew (left side of page)
- d. Under Branch Members, click Join/Renew
- e. Click Renew Now
- f. Click Enter Member Services Database
- g. Click Renew My Membership (left side of the page)
- h. The rest should be straightforward
- i. Help by Phone: (800) 326-2289

\*\*\*Life-members can renew branch membership online too. You will only be charged the \$25.

If you do not wish to renew online, please see either Kenya Wallace or **LaJoy Johns** at the **June 3 Spring Member Orientation**. Make checks payable to AAUW Huntsville. If you prefer, you may mail them to **Kenya Wallace, 4095 Lawsons Ridge Drive Apt 2010, Madison, AL 35757**. If you are uncertain whether you have already renewed, please email [aauwmember@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmember@gmail.com) or call **(205) 435-0346**.

## Opportunities to Support Your Huntsville Branch

### Meetings:

- Nametags – Be in charge of nametags. Bring them to meetings, distribute to members as they come in, and collect them at the end of the meeting.
- Cashier – Help Lois collect money and keep track of payments.
- Table Decorations – Help set up tables before the meetings. Decorate the tables.
- Media Assistance – Collect information and set up video scrolling announcements. Make certain sound system is working.
- Dinner Preparations – Help Lois with food table, coffee, tea, water, etc.
- Be a Greeter.

### Committees:

- Program – Work with program vice-presidents on program planning and implementation.
- Finance – Work with the treasurer on formation of budget, and monthly reports.
- Membership – Work with membership vice presidents on membership events and plans for increasing membership.
- Communications – Serve on the committee that is responsible for “getting the word out” via Evites, newsletter, yearbook, newspaper, Facebook, and Twitter.

### Funds

Work with Funds co-chairs on fundraising events such as:

- Belk Charity Sales – held twice a year. Find volunteers (2) to work at the store during the event; sell tickets.
- Phantom Tea – held in the Fall. Help get the invitations printed. Spend an afternoon with other

members addressing invitations, stuffing envelopes, and adding stamps and return labels.

- Breaking Through Barriers Luncheon – held in March. Help with organization of the event, find a speaker, print tickets, help with ticket sales, find a venue for the event, organize table décor and hospitality, or help publicize the event.

### Special Projects

- WLRH Fundraisers – held in Spring and Fall. Take calls at the station on one morning for 3 hours.
- Regional Science Fair – held in March at UAH. Judge senior high and junior high science projects in the morning and afternoon (one day).
- State Science Fair Judging – held in April at UAH. Judge senior high and junior high science projects in the morning and afternoon (one day).

### Alabama AAUW

- Opportunities are available to serve AAUW at the state level also.

## Public Policy

Heather Harwell, Public Policy Co-Chair



**Heather Harwell** is a self-professed Public Policy nerd who is ecstatic to be serving as Public Policy Co-Chair with the brilliant **Anna Blair**. Heather obtained her Master of Arts from the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) in Public Affairs/Policy in 2012 and her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, with a minor in Women’s Studies in 2010. Heather’s keen interest in the values AAUW represents began during her undergraduate coursework at UAH, while serving as an AAUW Student Advisory Council board member. Heather is looking forward to the new position and working more closely with the Huntsville branch. Her interests include women and minority rights, voter rights, pay equity, and international policy issues.

### A Mother’s Day Message from Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren

“One Tuesday night back in 1979, I rushed from my new teaching job at the University of Houston to pick my son Alex up from daycare. He was sitting on a small cot in the crowded daycare, his diaper soggy. He clung to me and cried when I tried to change him, and by the time I got him in the car I was covered in tears, pee and baby snot.

When we got home, I gave Alex a bath, crumbled hamburger in a skillet, and started a load of laundry. By the time I got Alex and his big sister Amelia in bed, I was so tired my bones hurt.

My 78-year-old Aunt Bee called to see how I was doing. I started out ok, but finally I broke down and started to cry. I was failing my kids and I loved teaching, but I was doing my class preparations after midnight. I was always behind. I told Aunt Bee I was going to quit my job. Aunt Bee matter-of-factly told me, "I can't get there tomorrow, but I can come on Thursday." She arrived with seven suitcases and a Pekingese named Buddy, and she stayed for 16 years.

The reason I'm here today as a United States Senator is because my Aunt Bee rescued me on that Thursday in 1979. I know how lucky I was, because so many working moms don't have a family member who can rush in and save the day.

In fact, the deck has been stacked against working moms for years. And even though women are the main breadwinners, or joint breadwinners, in two-thirds of the families across the country, it's only getting worse.

When I was a law professor, I spent years studying why middle class families were going broke. In my academic research on bankruptcy, I uncovered some grim facts:

- In one year, more women will file for bankruptcy than graduate from college.
- Having a child is the single best predictor that a woman will end up in financial collapse.
- Single moms are more likely than any other group to file for bankruptcy – more likely than the elderly, more likely than divorced men, and more likely than people living in poor neighborhoods.
- Single moms who had been to college are actually 60% more likely to end up bankrupt than their less educated sisters.

Women get hit hard. They still earn, on average, only 77 cents to the dollar that her male colleague earns. Bloomberg analyzed census data to find that women are paid less in 264/265 of major occupations – in 99.6% of jobs, women get paid less than men. Yet Republicans have blocked the Paycheck Fairness Act – a law that would make sure women don't get fired just for asking what the guy down the hall makes.

Minimum wage workers haven't gotten a raise in seven years, and today nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women. Mothers of very young children disproportionately work low-wage jobs in every state in the country. A minimum wage job no longer keeps a mother and baby above the poverty line, yet Republicans continue to block legislation to raise the minimum wage.

And seniors? Because women make less than men throughout their lifetimes, they receive, on average, more than \$4,000 less a year than men in Social Security benefits, yet women rely most heavily on those checks. At a time when Social Security is the only safety net keeping 14 million people out of poverty, Republicans continue to try to cut Social Security for women.

I know how lucky I was to have a woman in my life who was there when I needed her. She's gone now, but the best way I know to honor her memory is to help another woman – or maybe join with a lot of people and help millions of women.

It's time. It's long past time. Minimum wage. Equal pay. Social Security. Doing something tangible in honor of the women who helped us.

Happy Mother's Day!

**Elizabeth**

### **Take Action**

To take action, go to: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>.

Even better, **volunteer** to work with **Anna Blair**, who really needs some assistance with this position. Contact **Blair** at **256-520-0700** or [annablairlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:annablairlaw@yahoo.com).



## Tech Trek Camp Update

Cindi Branham

### Make a Difference - Volunteer with Tech Trek!

**Tech Trek Residential STEM Camp for Girls** is seeking **volunteers** for our camp **July 20 – 25, 2014**.

We will need volunteers for a variety of functions, and are particularly interested in STEM classes and workshops for rising 8<sup>th</sup>-grade girls that will round out our curriculum.

If you have a class or workshop you've taught to students in this age group. **Please complete our Volunteer Interest form at the link below.** We're looking for STEM learning experiences in all areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

We encourage you to **complete the form** as well **if you can help with registration, assist teachers with classes or workshops, or fulfill other needs as they arise** during our planning or camp time.

(<https://uahchargers.wufoo.com/forms/tech-trek-volunteer-interest-form/>)

Tech Trek is powered by AAUW with UAH and is designed to interest more Alabama girls in STEM careers.

For more information, please see (<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-trek/>) or (<http://techtrek-al.aauw.net>).

Thank you, and please feel free to contact me at [cindi@netfocusmarketing.com](mailto:cindi@netfocusmarketing.com) or **256-651-4241** (cell) with any questions or for additional information.

**Cindi Branham**

Tech Trek Volunteer Coordinator

## College/University Update

Molly Johnson, College/University Liaison

I am very pleased to report that the Huntsville Branch is helping send **five** students to the National [National Conference for College Women Leaders \(NCCWSL\)](#) this June! **Tiffany Rainey** will represent **Drake State Community and Technical College**. **Erica Mendoza** and **Claudia Mesnil** will represent the **University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH)**. **Ashley Dixon** will represent **Alabama A&M University**. **LaJoy Johns** will represent **Athens State University**. Mendoza, Mesnil, and Dixon all received national NCCWSL scholarships, too!

In addition, **Ruby de la Pena** and **Tracy Ross** from **Athens State University** received NCCWSL scholarships, with Athens State University covering the remainder of their travel expenses.

So, in total, **seven** students from the Huntsville area are attending NCCWSL this summer!

Thank you to ALL Branch members who supported the **Breaking through Barriers** luncheon and who gave additional donations to support these talented and promising women as they head to Washington, DC in June to experience NCCWSL.

I have found my year as the Colleges/ Universities Liaison for AAUW-Huntsville very gratifying. I have gotten to know many women active in our Branch much better, which has been a real pleasure. I am also very proud of the **ALA-WSL Conference** that we as a branch put on at UAH in April. In addition, I am thrilled that so many area women are attending NCCWSL.

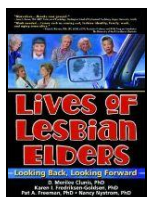
Another major gain for the Huntsville Branch this year is that Athens State has committed to an institutional membership in AAUW, and I am pleased to report that **Tovah Gibson** from Athens State will replace me as Colleges/ Universities Liaison for 2014-2015. She and I will be meeting soon to go over transition plans, and I know she will do a great job in this position next year.

I look forward to continued involvement in AAUW-Huntsville activities, and I will retain my position as one of UAH's faculty representatives to AAUW.

## Study Groups

### iAdelante! Book of the Month Club

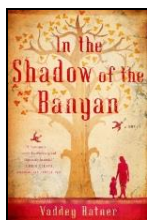
Patricia Smith, Public Relations



Join us at the **Huntsville Madison County Main Library, Meeting Room C (upstairs) on Thursday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m.** We'll be reviewing the June Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month selection, ***Lives of Lesbian Elders*** by **D. Merilee Clunis, Pat A. Freeman, Nancy M. Nystrom, and Karen I. Fredriksen-Goldsen.**

*Lives of Lesbian Elders: Looking Back, Looking Forward* illuminates the hopes, fears, issues, and concerns of gay women as they grow older. Based on interviews with 62 lesbians ranging in age from 55 to 95, this very special book provides a historical account of the shared experiences of a part of the lesbian community that is so often invisible or ignored in contemporary society. The book gives voice to these women's thoughts and feelings on a wide range of issues, including coming out, identity and the meaning of life, the role of family and personal relationships, work and retirement, adversity, and individual sources of strength and resilience.

### iAdelante! May Book Review: **In the Shadow of the Banyan** by Vaddey Ratner



*In the Shadow of the Banyan* by Vaddey Ratner is a beautifully written book about a terrible event in Cambodian history-the overthrow of the Cambodian government by the Khmer Rouge soldiers. From 1975 to 1979, as the Khmer Rouge leaders attempted to realize their vision of a utopian society-one of the most complete social transformations in modern history-families were separated and put into work camps, systematically starved and executed. They were finally overthrown by the Vietnamese military in January 1979.

While the true number will never be known, scholars estimate that between 1 and 2 million people died, as much as a third of the population.

A young girl, Raami is the central character. We experience life and its changes through Raami and her family. Her father, a poet prince who had been educated abroad, is one of the first targets of the Khmer Rouge. Raami inherited her vision of the world from her father and throughout the book she is learning about survival, love and loss. She learns a lot about herself through her struggles.

It is a book that I would never have selected for myself, but I am grateful to have had the opportunity to read it. A rare treasure, the writing is lyrical.



## Great Decisions

Great Decisions takes a break in the summer! Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 9**, when **Bob Robinson** will lead the discussion of Chapter 7 of the Great Decisions Study Book, "**China's Foreign Policy**". As usual, the meeting will be at Mary Witherspoon's house, **5713 Criner Road** at **7 p.m.** New members are always welcome. You can contact Mary at [witerspoon8@comcast.net](mailto:witerspoon8@comcast.net) or **256-881-6540**.

## Lunch.com

Lunch.com meets **every Friday at 12:30 p.m.**, unless the email notice says otherwise. All members are welcome. Just respond to the weekly email so **Lorraine Mullin** can advise the restaurant how many guests to expect. Not getting the notice? Contact Lorraine at [lorm@knology.net](mailto:lorm@knology.net) or **256-772-2549** (h) or **235-683-5530** (c).

### June

### Lunch.com Schedule

- 6 [Pan e Vino Pizzeria, 300 Church Street](#)
- 13 [Main Street Café, 101 Main Street, Madison](#)
- 20 [Tai Pan Palace, 2012 Memorial Parkway Southwest](#)
- 27 [Phil Sandoval's, 6125 University Drive](#)

### July

- 4 **4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday – No Meeting**
- 11 [Viet Hung Vietnamese, 930 Old Monrovia Road Northwest](#)
- 18 [1892 East, 720 Pratt Avenue Northeast](#)
- 25 [Cafe Berlin, 964 Airport Road Southwest, Suite 3](#)

### August

- 1 [Connors, 345 The Bridge Street Northwest #101](#)
- 8 [Casa Blanca, 7500 Memorial Parkway Southwest, Suite 115a](#)
- 15 [Papou's Greek Cuisine, 110 Southside Square](#)
- 22 [Saigon, 8760 Madison Boulevard, Madison](#)
- 29 [Grille 29, 445 Providence Main](#)

## Bridge Group

On the **third Thursday, September to May, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.**, the AAUW Bridge Group meets. We can use **substitutes** for bridge in addition to **more members**. Right now, though we do have enough participants to fill two tables, bridge is sometimes cancelled because not enough players can come. We do not expect seasoned players, but if you have had some practice, want to improve, and enjoy a happy social event, please contact **Lorraine Mullin** ([lorm@knology.net](mailto:lorm@knology.net), **256-772-2549**) for more information.

## First Annual Non-Profit University

Tawana Townsend, Arts Council Representative

On **June 12**, the **Community Foundation of Huntsville/Madison County** will partner with **United Way of Madison County, Huntsville Hospital Foundation, the North Alabama chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Leadership Huntsville/Madison County, Leadership Class 27**, and **Alabama Association of Nonprofits** to host the first annual **Non-Profit University (NPU)**, a half-day, all-inclusive training event for nonprofit staff and Board members.

**NonProfit University** will feature a luncheon with a keynote address sponsored by the Alabama Association of Nonprofits, followed by six concurrent training tracks over the course of the afternoon. The training tracks - featuring three classes each - will be sponsored by the following subject-matter experts:

- Nonprofit management (sponsored by United Way of Madison County)
- Finances (sponsored by the Community Foundation of Huntsville/Madison County)
- Marketing (sponsored by Huntsville Hospital Foundation)
- Fundraising (sponsored by the North Alabama chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals)
- Board development (sponsored by Leadership Huntsville/Madison County) [designed for current and prospective Board members]
- Nonprofit 101 (sponsored by Leadership Class 27) [extended track designed for emerging nonprofit organizations or staff members]

The cost for this event will be **\$40** and will include lunch, seminar materials, and a networking reception to close out the day.

Registration for NonProfit University at <http://communityfoundationhsv.org/>

## May Meeting Summary – Women’s Health Month

Carolyn Lord, Program Co-Vice President



**Kimberly Hobbs**, who is working on her PhD at UAHuntsville and doing research for her dissertation at **Hudson Alpha Institute**, gave us a wonderful overview of the prevalence of heart disease and its current and projected costs. She shared the [American Heart Association’s Life’s Simple 7](#) tips to prevent heart disease: 1) Get Active, 2) Control Cholesterol, 3) Eat Better, 4) Manage Blood Pressure, 5) Lose/Maintain weight, 6) Stop Smoking, 7) Reduce Blood Sugar. She then delved into her area of interest: genetic and epigenetic research. Much research is focusing on Gene 9 and abnormalities in the genome sequence. We enjoyed watching a short video that could save a woman’s life. You can watch this and share it at:

[https://www.goredforwomen.org/about-heart-disease/symptoms\\_of\\_heart\\_disease\\_in\\_women/just-a-little-heart-attack/](https://www.goredforwomen.org/about-heart-disease/symptoms_of_heart_disease_in_women/just-a-little-heart-attack/)

Kimberly was asked how she got into her line of research. Her answer was that she was interested in geriatric care. Since heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in this country, her cardiovascular research fell into place. We were all amazed that she was doing this research with two small children at home.

American Association of University Women



**Jessica Rich** (center) from Crestwood Medical Center set up a table with lots of information on Heart Health. She brought **Audrey** and **Chris** with her to help do blood pressure checks that several members took advantage of before and after dinner.



**Eve Award Recipient – Dana Gideon Wingate!**

**Dana Gideon Wingate** has provided the table decorations at our Branch meetings this past year. She also put in a great deal of time pre-planning and preparing for our Branch's hosting of the AAUW Alabama State Convention. Dana will continue to serve our Branch as Funds Co-Vice President this coming year. **Congratulations**, and **thank you, Dana!** The Eve Award was present to Dana by **Rebecca Harbor Jones**.

**AAUW State Convention Notes - My Day with Lilly**

Cindi Branham, Co-President



We can all remember a time in our lives that we can point to and say "That wasn't part of my plan. But it happened, and I had no choice, really. It was bigger than me, and I knew my life would change direction; that I'd follow it and do whatever it took."



Those are my words, not **Lilly Ledbetter's**. But in the stories she tells, Lilly conveys that feeling and that shift in life path that overtook her own life near the end of her career. What she had planned was

retirement with her husband Charles. The path she went down gave her "retirement" with many. Some of those life shifts are short term; some are long. Some are simply doing the right thing when we hadn't planned on doing anything at all.

As I was working arrangements with Lilly, on the day I was able to tell her we'd have sponsorship funds to accompany her visit, she was very emphatic in one thing: Always mention – in write-ups and introductions – that she gives great credit to AAUW for the work they've done to help her cause. It became apparent that they have also pulled her into the fold and that she considers them a part of her family now. I think the feeling is reciprocated – locally and nationally.

Taking Lilly around to her engagements on the day she joined us in Huntsville for State Convention was quite an honor – and an experience. I learned so much from this person who'd planned on just being retired and escaping the problems she'd stood up to for so many years in her job at Goodyear in Gadsden. Her path can teach us all, so I recommend that you read her book [\*Grace & Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond\*](#) for a few lessons. Her down-to-earth personality shows through in the book and in person.

Lilly loves being around students, and we gave her multiple opportunities to do that, as she spoke to the UAH Colleges of Business and Engineering, capped off the ALA-WSL student program, and got to interact with many of our student members at her book-signings and at the convention banquet. She also loves being around AAUW members in general.

I learned that Lilly doesn't have an answer for every question she's asked – she has a story. A very good story. And I love a good storyteller.

## Announcements



**One Huntsville's** monthly [Diversity Dinner Celebration](#), held on the **third Tuesday of each month** is now meeting at [UAH's University Center Exhibit Hall](#), **5:00 – 5:45 p.m.** with dinner and informal table discussion. Our next **One Huntsville program** features leaders from **Nexus Energy** and the new **Smart Energy Council**, collaborative stakeholders of community and faith-based organizations. The SE Council is addressing the gaps in the underserved and their utility bills, including

the statistics and [getting the community together with one voice](#) to discuss the correlation between utility and poverty. Ways for citizens and organization to join the cause will be laid out, as will the plan for full community engagement.

With both the Cafeteria Buffet and Flatbread Café closed for the summer, feel free to bring your own meal (water provided); OR you may come at 5:00 for conversation; OR come by 5:45 to hear of the life of our community before the program at 6:00.

## Alabama Speaks: Reflections on the 1901 Alabama Constitution



[Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform \(ACCR\)](#) and Alabama Readers Theatre Plus performance brought history to life. If you did not catch one of their performances on April 27, you miss out on a real treat! Written and directed by our own **Anna "Blair" Blair** (center), the cast included [John Knox](#) and [Thomas Heflin](#), chair and member of the Constitutional Convention. In addition, contemporary notables such as [Reuben Kolb](#), [Booker T. Washington](#), [Jackson Giles](#), and [Frances Griffin](#) (and don't we wish we could have known her!) were represented.

The Madison County Chapter of ACCR meets monthly at the Huntsville–Madison County Public Library Main Branch in Rooms A and B (just outside the auditorium on the first floor) at **5:30 p.m.** on the **third Monday of the month**. Please join us!

## Breaking Through Barriers – Diversity

Our current notion of success, in which we drive ourselves into the ground, if not the grave—in which working to the point of exhaustion and burnout is considered a badge of honor—was put in place by men, in a workplace culture dominated by men. But it's a model of success that's not working for women, and, really, it's not working for men, either. If we're going to redefine what success means, if we are going to include a Third Metric to success, beyond money and power, it's going to be women who will lead the way—and men, freed of the notion that the only road to success includes taking the Heart attack Highway to Stress City, will gratefully join both at work and at home.

*Arianna Huffington, author and syndicated columnist best known for her news website [The Huffington Post](#), from her 2014 book [Thrive: The Third Metric to Redefining Success and Creating a Life of Well-Being, Wisdom, and Wonder](#). (Submitted by Carolyn Lord)*