



## Huntsville Branch Newsletter

November 2013

Volume 4, Number 4

### President's Letter: November 2013

#### A Time for Thanks



November brings about one of my most favorite times of the year, Thanksgiving. I have very fond memories of the Thanksgiving reunions my family has each year. From the food to the fellowship, Thanksgiving has always been a joyous time for me.

#### AAUW's Mission

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

Several years ago, November also became a time when folks would publicly declare their gratitude using social media like Facebook. This became known as the November Thankfulness Campaign, and I have taken part in it every year. The concept is simple: you share something you are thankful for each day on your

Facebook page, Twitter account, or in person if you prefer. As a general practice, I try to start each day reflecting on the ideas of gratitude and thankfulness; and in November I have the opportunity to share that more publically. If any of you have seen my comments this year so far, you'll know that I am thankful for a wonderfully supportive partner, parents who demonstrate unconditional love toward me, a job that is challenging and rewarding, my hound dogs, and my friends and others who bring me joy each day.

I am also thankful for AAUW and our Huntsville Branch, both of which have tirelessly worked to advance the lives of women and girls within our community and the greater global community as well. With these efforts, we are truly making an impact here and more broadly. Hearing from Dr. Esther Ngumbi during our November meeting only brought this gratitude I feel more to the forefront. Her own personal triumphs in achieving her academic goals and now of achieving her vision of providing education and sustainable water and work for her community are truly inspirational. I continue to reflect on what my own personal contributions might be to her efforts and the overall efforts we are taking on to improve the lives of women and girls here in North Alabama.

My hope for each of us this Thanksgiving is that we can spend a moment reflecting on the tremendous gifts we have to share with others and offer our thanks to those around us who have shared their gifts with us so freely. "Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." — Melody Beattie

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

## December Meeting Features AAUW National VP for Government Relations

Joy Agee, Program Co-Vice President

Please join us on **Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**, at [Covenant Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 301 Drake Ave. SE, Huntsville, AL](#), when **Lisa Maatz, AAUW Vice President for Government Relations**, will speak to us on various political issues that women should pay attention to as well as the policies AAUW is supporting. Lisa works to advance AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and in coalition with other organizations.



### Reservations Required

The **menu for our December meeting** will be detailed in the Evite later this month – watch for it!

**Reservations are required by Saturday, November 30.** Cost of the meal is **\$16**. AAUW members are happy to pick up the cost of meals for students. Respond to the meeting Evite, contact Lois Guendel at [lois.guendel@knology.net](mailto:lois.guendel@knology.net), or phone **(256) 880-8643**. This is AAUW's monthly program.

NOTE: We ask our members remember that when you make a dinner reservation, you are reserving a meal. If you do NOT attend the meeting, and have not canceled your reservation prior to the day of the meeting, you have still reserved a meal, and so need to pay the Branch for that meal.

## Membership

Sherry Anderson and Kenya Wallace, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

### Member Payment Program Now Available in Huntsville

The Member Payment Program allows anyone to join or renew AAUW membership online with a credit card or PayPal account or to mail a check directly to the national office and to include state and branch dues. It is available to all categories of members: regular, Lifetime, Honorary Lifetime, student, and E-affiliate. The Member Services Database is updated the same day the credit card payment is approved rather than weeks later. There is no cost to the branch for this service, and it saves time and effort in routine record keeping for Membership officers and the Treasurer. Other branches are already aboard and utilizing the program and are reporting that it works very well for them, and they highly recommend it.

Now, if you prefer to mail your check to your Membership person instead, you are welcome to continue to do so. The new program is simply another option available to you.

### Member Directory

The 2013-14 Member Directory is in the process of being created. **Patricia Smith**, Communications Chair, had a draft at our November meeting, and was collecting updates. If any of your information has changed since last year's directory was published, please let **Patricia** ([smithpatricia73@yahoo.com](mailto:smithpatricia73@yahoo.com)) know ASAP. Directories are slated to be available for distribution at the December meeting.

## Funds

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

### Belk Charity Sale

All funds from the tickets sold through the Huntsville, AL AAUW Branch will remain with our branch. Our Branch will also receive additional money for contributing volunteers during the event. Thank you **Marilyn Robertson** and **Lajoy Johns** for volunteering to support the Belk Charity Sale on the day of the event! We will report additional details from the results of the Belk event in the December newsletter.

### Holiday "Phantom" Tea



Editor's Note: This year's Phantom Tea invitations were designed by **Sarah Ragan**. Nice work, Ragan!

This fall we sent out around 400 invitations asking for donations to our AAUW funds contribution for National. Proceeds from this will go to support activities associated with the Association AAUW Funds. We request all contributions for this fundraiser to be mailed in by **Sunday, December 15, 2013**. We would like to extend a special thank you to Marilyn Robertson for hosting volunteers at her home to address the envelopes for the Holiday Phantom Tea. We would also like to thank the following volunteers who joined Marilyn in addressing the invitations: Carol Roach, Ellie Lienau, Cindi Branham, Billie Muhl, Lorraine Mullin, Rebecca Harbor Jones, and Karen Rudiger.

### Recycling Project

It's time again to gather up old cell phones, ink cartridges, and any other electronic item or old jewelry. Remember, these items do not have to be in working condition! A **recycling bin will be available at the December meeting** to collect your items. We will be sending the items to be recycled, and we will actually earn money for them! There is **no cost to you or to the branch** for these efforts. We will use the money to help send our local college women to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders! Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Collections so far this fall have totaled \$26.30. May not sound like much, but every little bit helps!



## Recycling Fundraiser

**SUPPORT OUR ORGANIZATION BY RECYCLING YOUR USED ELECTRONICS.**

- Cell Phones & Smart Phones
- Inkjet Cartridges
- Laptop Computers
- Netbook Computers
- iPads
- iPods
- Digital Cameras
- Gold, Silver & Platinum Jewelry

**Quick facts**

- All items will be data cleared.
- Items will be recycled properly – no landfills, incinerators or exports of e-waste.
- All items will be recycled by an R2, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 Certified Facility

Proceeds will help us send local college women to the **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders!**

Contact Amanda Jarrett  
[apjarrett@gmail.com](mailto:apjarrett@gmail.com)  
919.610.6581

AAUW Huntsville Branch

## Volunteer Opportunities

Marilyn Robertson, Volunteer Coordinator

Our needs are as follows:

1. **Galaxy of Lights:** Marilyn Robertson is the day captain and Lorraine Mullin co-captain for AAUW's night at [Galaxy of Lights on Saturday, December 28](#), and they need 20 volunteers! Working at Galaxy for drive-through nights is a wonderful experience. We all bring food to share (snacks, brownies, soup, chips & dip); we work in teams and shifts, taking care that our times outside are alternated with warm-up time inside; the people driving through appreciate our effort; and the fellowship with other workers is great. As for jobs: you could be counting receipts inside, collecting money and tickets at the booths outside (and by the way, the booths have heaters), directing traffic, counting cars, or acting as a courier. It is all fun. You can volunteer husbands, and children 16 and older. We gather **not later than 4:45 p.m.** in the Education Classroom of the Visitors Center at which time we receive instructions, work assignments, and shifts. The last car in line at 9 p.m. is admitted. How about making this AAUW opportunity a part of your family holiday tradition? Volunteers get to drive through Galaxy at no charge after their shift!



Call or email Marilyn Robertson ([marilyn.robertson@knology.net](mailto:marilyn.robertson@knology.net), 256-536-2701).

2. **Tinsel Trail:** AAUW Huntsville is excited to again participate in decorating a tree for the Tinsel Trail. If you are interested in assisting with the decorating, we are scheduled for **Saturday, November 23, 11 a.m.** (should be done by 12:30 pm). We need several people to assist, all decorations will be provided. Please email Regina directly ([rg0002@uah.edu](mailto:rg0002@uah.edu)) if you are available. Thank you!
3. **Newsletter Assistant Editor:** We need someone to take over the newsletter. Although Karen intends to continue through May, she will be going to Boston in early February to help her daughter's family welcome a third child, so we'll need someone to publish our February and March newsletters. That leaves only the December and January newsletters as opportunities to work with Karen before she leaves. Contact **Karen** (256-864-3102 or [rkrudiger@att.net](mailto:rkrudiger@att.net)) or **Patricia Smith** ([smithpatricia73@yahoo.com](mailto:smithpatricia73@yahoo.com)).
4. **Chairs/Co-Chairs:** We are still in need of some chairs and co-chairs for various positions, including **Awards** (chair), **Public Policy** (co-chair), **Public Relations** (co-chair and/or committee members).
5. If you have not yet done so, please **complete our Time & Talents Inventory** at <http://tinyurl.com/timetalentaauw>.

To volunteer or get more information, contact Marilyn Robertson at 256-536-2701 or [Marilyn.robertson@knology.net](mailto:Marilyn.robertson@knology.net).

## Public Policy

Anna Blair ("Blair"), Public Policy Chair

### Let 'Em Eat Less Cake

At the November meeting, we were challenged to discover what 4-letter word the underscored numbers below, seen in recent news reports, related to. The word is "FOOD."

On the first of November, the month when we celebrate our bounty by stuffing turkeys and ourselves, more than **47 million** Americans, including **22 million** children, had less food to eat. In a time of continuing economic struggle, our US Congress allowed a temporary boost under the 2009 Recovery Act to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or more commonly known as food stamps) to end. Without this boost, SNAP benefits during FY 2014 will average less than **\$1.40** per person per day. In Alabama, **910,000** – **1 in 5** – of our neighbors will be celebrating their Thanksgiving on this amount.

SNAP faces even harsher cuts as Congress debates the program's future. The Farm Bill Conference committee, including Alabama's Representatives Roby and Rogers, is currently working to iron out a final bill to ladle off even more benefits. They are considering a Senate bill to cut SNAP by \$4 billion over 10 years and a House bill, far more draconian, which would slice SNAP by \$40 billion (yes, that's 40!). The House bill would deny any SNAP benefits to almost 4 million Americans, including **74,000** Alabamians.

Contrary to some opinions that SNAP recipients are "able-bodied but just lazy and shiftless," the recipients include children (almost half), the elderly, the disabled, and the working poor. Maybe you know of the recent McDonald's worker's experience with her employer's McResource Line. Seeking advice on how to make ends meet for her and her two small children, she heard, to her dismay, the Line representative refer her to government assistance programs, including SNAP, to help her eke out a living on her **\$8.25/hr** earnings. A new twist on "corporate welfare?"

Well, there is the answer to the challenge. If all of us are not actively advocating – calling, writing, lobbying, demonstrating, voting – against these cuts, and for a living minimum wage, as well as equal pay for women, we are members of AAUW in name only.

And to any who may join Marie Antoinette in her oft-quoted solution to feeding her poor neighbors, "Let them eat cake," I say with Madame Defarge, "I'll bring my knitting."

FOOD CHALLENGE to all AAUW Huntsville Branch members: Plan your Thanksgiving dinner with a budget of \$1.40 per person and share the menu at the December meeting.

Read more at [www.arisecitizens.org](http://www.arisecitizens.org) and [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)

### Take Action

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

## Diversity

Lajoy Johns, Diversity Chair

I Am Diversity, Please Include Me  
I'm present in every place you go  
Depending on your lens I'm friend or foe  
I'm a force to be reckoned with  
Like the winds of change I move. I'm swift.  
I'm present when two or more are together  
If embraced I can make the good even better.  
I'm not limited to age, gender, or race.  
I'm invisible at times and yet all over the place.  
Don't exclude me due to a lack of knowledge  
Welcome me like the recruit fresh out of college.  
Let me take my seat at the table  
Even though I may be differently able  
My experience, my passion the authentic me  
Can help add value for your company.  
Learn about me; improve my underrepresentation  
And I can provide a competitive edge to your entire nation.  
I exclude no one I am strengthened by all  
My name is Diversity and yes I stand tall.  
Recognize me and keep me in the mix  
Together there's no problem that we can't fix.  
I am your best hope towards true innovation  
And to many, I reflect hope and inspiration.  
Your lives and companies will continue to change  
Thus the need for Diversity and Inclusion will also remain.  
Do all that you can to truly embrace me  
And experience life's fullness totally  
I'm the thought lurking behind the unfamiliar face  
I'm the ingenuity that helps your team win the race.  
I'm the solution that came from the odd question that was asked.  
I stand out in the crowd when I, Diversity, am allowed to be unmasked.  
I'm diversity embrace me and we'll journey far.  
I'm Diversity include me and we will reach the shining star.  
Coupled with Inclusion our lights burn longer  
Together we are smarter, better and stronger  
I am Diversity Yes, that's me

Charles Bennafield

Written 3/8/2012 by Charles Bennafield for The Conference Board Diversity Boot Camp, Spring, 2012. Charles Bennafield is a pastor ([www.crossroadsrockchapel.org](http://www.crossroadsrockchapel.org)) and poet located in Georgia. He is a diversity practitioner with an extensive background in IT. He can be reached at [diverselikeme@me.com](mailto:diverselikeme@me.com), and his phone number is (678) 886-1229.



## November Meeting Summary

Joy Agee, Program Co-Vice President

On Saturday, November 2, the AAUW Huntsville Local Branch meeting featured **Dr. Esther Ngumbi**, a research fellow in the Entomology Department at Auburn University, who received her doctorate from Auburn and is also an AAUW International Fellowship recipient.



Dr. Ngumbi inspired many through her presentation and talk as she shared with us her journey from receiving an AAUW fellowship to receiving her PhD to being a social advocate for ending hunger and poverty in her hometown of Ukanda, Kenya. She highlighted various programs that she has co-founded to create positive change in Kenya, such as founding and building Faulu Academy, an elementary school for impoverished children in her hometown; building



greenhouses to enhance farming and produce; and establishing a computer literacy program for local students. Dr. Ngumbi has a passion for inspiring women and girls; she also highlighted programs she started to train women to become farmers, as well as a girls' mentoring program between Auburn University female students in the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program and grade school students in her hometown. Dr. Ngumbi describes her work focusing on women and girls as "educating women and girls to provide them with a hidden muscle!" She firmly believes that through education, poverty can be overcome.

Prior to our meeting, there was much anticipation from our branch members to hear Dr. Ngumbi's talk. Our branch members took a great interest in her projects and collected over fifty books that she will ship to Faulu Academy to continue to build the students' library. In addition, financial donations totaling \$1,317.00 were collected from our members to further assist her in her outreach endeavors. Dr. Ngumbi plans to use a portion of these funds to purchase an additional greenhouse for her community in Ukanda. While many of our branch members already have a giving spirit, Dr. Ngumbi definitely inspired us all to do even more. When describing her overall experience of how AAUW provided a foundation for her outreach endeavors she says, "...I am proof of what AAUW funds can do for a student, and because of that I want to do the same to help others get to where I am."

Branch President Dr. Regina Hyatt; AAUW Leadership Corps Representative and Dual Member Mardi Stevens; AAUW Alabama President Wanda Foster; Guest Speaker Dr. Esther Ngumbi; and Program Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Lord and Joy Agee.



American Association of University Women

<http://huntsville-al.aauw.net/>

Follow us on Twitter: @AAUWHuntsville



Thanks to Ellie Lienau, who provided two poems for the Reflection, both of them touching on volunteering:

**It Couldn't Be Done**

Edgar Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
 But he with a chuckle replied  
 That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one  
 Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
 So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
 On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
 He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
 That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
 At least no one ever has done it";  
 But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
 And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.  
 With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
 Without any doubting or quiddit,  
 He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
 That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
 There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
 There are thousands to point out to you, one by  
 one,  
 The dangers that wait to assail you.  
 But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
 Just take off your coat and go to it;  
 Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
 That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

**You Never Know**

Helen L. Marshall

You never know when someone  
 May catch a dream from you  
 You never know when a little word  
 Or something you may do  
 May open up the windows  
 Of a mind that seals a light  
 The way you love, may not matter at all  
 But you never know it might.

And just in case it could be  
 That another's life, through you  
 Might possibly change for the better  
 With a broader and brighter view  
 It seems it might be worth a try  
 At pointing the way to the right  
 Of course it may not matter at all,  
 But then again...it might.



Thank you, **Dana Gideon**, for volunteering to provide table decorations for our meetings. Beautiful!

## News to Note

### Tech Trek Camp Coming to Huntsville

Dr. Rhonda Gaede, Camp Director



Tech Trek is a weeklong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) summer camp for rising eighth-grade girls. Through Tech Trek, girls are immersed in a world that empowers and encourages them to think about themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer specialists.

AAUW piloted four national Tech Trek sites in 2013, in Florida, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Washington and will expand to three more sites in 2014, including Huntsville. **Dr. Regina Hyatt** spearheaded the proposal effort that was deemed worthy of receiving a **\$10,000 grant** from the **AAUW national** office. I agreed to be the camp director and attended a weekend of training in Washington, DC in October. The entire planning committee had a kickoff meeting on October 25. The committee consists of myself; **Dr. Regina Hyatt, Assistant Camp Director; Joy Agee, Student & Family Coordinator; Cindi Branham, Volunteer Coordinator; Jennifer English, Fundraising Coordinator; Kenya Wallace, Social Media Coordinator; and Molly Johnson, Marketing Coordinator.**

If you are interested in joining our committee, there is always room for one more. One of the unique aspects of Tech Trek is that every camper is required to pay only \$50, a fraction of the cost of attending the camp. The grant from AAUW helps tremendously, but there will be a flurry of fundraising activity both on the corporate and personal level as we raise the more than \$15,000 that will be needed. We have decided to hold the camp **July 20 – 25, 2014** and will keep you updated as our plans develop. Please contact me, **Dr. Rhonda Gaede, Camp Director**, at [gaeder@uah.edu](mailto:gaeder@uah.edu), or 256.824.6573 for further information.

### AAUW HQ Supreme Court Preview Teleconference – Eyewitness Report

Sarah Ragan

On Thursday, 24 October 2013, I attended the [Supreme Court Preview Teleconference](#), which was hosted at the AAUW National Headquarters in Washington, DC. I was accompanied by Huntsville Branch member **Heather Harwell** and her sister **Haley Harwell**. We were in town for another function but were graciously invited to the office for the teleconference. We had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Mollie Lam, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Program Manager; Ms. Beth Scott, Regulatory Affairs Manager; and **AAUW COO Dr. Jill Birdwhistell** while we were in DC, and were able to briefly discuss the current women's issues before the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court Preview Teleconference was hosted by **Mollie Lam** and **Beth Scott**. The purpose of the teleconference was to discuss the current Supreme Court term's cases that interest women and girls, which include cases dealing with reproductive rights, health care, equal education, and separation of church and state. This teleconference was the first for AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund and had over 400 AAUW members registered to participate. Mollie Lam and Beth Scott provided a well-organized and researched review of the Supreme Court cases that will be heard during this term and explained how

these cases impact women and girls. It was inspiring for us to attend this event and witness the enthusiasm and passion that this organization has for ensuring equal rights for women through the legal system.

For a complete summary of the court cases that were reviewed during the teleconference or to listen to the full recording go to <http://www.aauw.org/2013/11/01/scotus-preview/>.

If you would like to request a transcript of the Supreme Court Preview Teleconference, please send requests to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

## Arts Council

**Tawana Townsend** has graciously agreed to be our Arts Council representative. Thanks, Tawana!

## College/University Update – From the Road

Molly Johnson, College/University Liaison

Prior to our AAUW meeting, Dr. Ngumbi spoke before the students at UAHuntsville at an event hosted by the UAHuntsville Office of Diversity, Women's Studies Department, and Global Studies Department. Students had an opportunity to meet Dr. Ngumbi and learn of ways that they could partner with her in future projects.



We hope to bring Dr. Ngumbi back to meet and talk with more UAHuntsville and North Alabama women, perhaps for our State Convention student workshops. She was an inspiration and education for all women who were there.

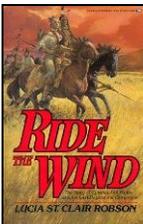
I am also excited to be representing AAUW at the Miles for Midwives walk to support the Alabama Birth Coalition next week.

Right now I am headed to the National Women's Studies Association conference and will attend sessions for program directors – Women's studies – I might get ideas for AAUW c/u activities too!

## Study Groups

### iAdelante! Book of the Month Club

Patricia Smith, Public Relations



**iAdelante! Book of the Month Club** will meet at the **Huntsville Madison County Main Library, Meeting Room D (upstairs) on Thursday, November 21, at 5:45 p.m.** We'll be reviewing the November selection, ***Ride the Wind***, the November Native American Heritage Month selection by **Lucia St. Clair Robson**. For more information, contact Patricia Smith at [smithpatricia73@yahoo.com](mailto:smithpatricia73@yahoo.com) or Karen Rudiger at [rkrudiger@att.net](mailto:rkrudiger@att.net). Join us! <http://www.aauw.org/resource/adelante-book-list/>

**Review: Icy Sparks** by Gwyn Hyman Rubio

**Wanda Foster:** This is Rubio's first book, published in 1998, and a *New York Times* Notable Book and Oprah's Book Club selection. The reason I liked it so much is that it paints an accurate and evocative portrait of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century life in Appalachian Eastern Kentucky. Ten-year-old Icy lives with her

grandparents on a farm. She does not get along with her peers, who perceive her as strange and difficult. When she develops Tourette's—undiagnosed until the end of the novel—she tries to hide it from her grandparents, her peers, and her teachers. She has fits where she croaks, groans, and has physical spasms; shouts socially inappropriate remarks; and exhibits signs of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Icy is placed in a mental institution where, more than ever, she feels her isolation and difference. When she finally goes home, she and her grandmother turn to religion, and she observes that people touched by the Holy Spirit behave as if they have Tourette's. She discovers a gift for music she can share with others. She attends university, becomes a therapist, and works with children with Tourette's and some mutes. This is a tale of allies who love you and enemies who torment you and people you love and respect who do not understand you. It is a funny, deeply moving story of discovering the humanity in others past the obvious differences, and the redemptive power of love.

### Great Decisions

Great Decisions does **NOT** meet in December. Our January meeting will be **Monday, January 13, 7 p.m.** **Patricia Smith** will lead the discussion of **Chapter 3, "NATO."** Everyone is invited. This is a good time to join the group because we will be purchasing new books for use beginning in February. Contact Mary at 256-881-6540 or [witherspoon8@comcast.net](mailto:witherspoon8@comcast.net) for more information.

### Bridge Group

On the **third Thursday, September to May, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**, the AAUW Bridge Group meets. We can use **substitutes** for bridge in addition to **more members**. Right now, we do not have enough participants to fill two tables. 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** ([lorrm@knology.net](mailto:lorrm@knology.net), **256-772-2549**) for more information.

### 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 [lorrm@knology.net](mailto:lorrm@knology.net) or **256-772-2549** (h) or **235-683-5530** (c).

### November

### Lunch.com Schedule

- 15 [D & L Bistro, 7500 Memorial Parkway SW](#)
- 22 [Cotton Row Restaurant, 100 Southside Square](#)
- 29 [Four Leaves Asian Bistro, 7044 University Drive NW](#)

### December

- 6 [The Eaves Restaurant, 501 Church Street](#)
- 13 [1892 East Restaurant & Tavern, 720 Pratt Avenue NE](#)
- 20 [Pan e Vino Pizzeria, 300 Church Street](#)
- 27 [Papou's Greek Cuisine, 110 Southside Square](#)

## **AAUW of Alabama**

Wanda Foster, State President

On November 5, Jo Ann Cummings, Ellie Lienau, and I spent a very long day traveling to Montgomery to attend The 2014 Project Alabama Women's Summit on Government Leadership at the State Capitol. Adam Thompson, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Election Division, Office of the Secretary of State, spoke on the Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA). Reporting of campaign contributions and spending has changed dramatically, and, of course, The 2014 Project Alabama and AAUW's Ready to Run™ project want to educate women candidates on the changes.

In the afternoon, Jenny Feinberg, political strategist formerly associated with The 2012 Project, now with the for-profit Democracy.com organization, did a presentation on Campaign Technology Challenges. Dr. Wendy Gunther-Canada, chair of the Department of Government at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, spoke on Tips and Trends for Women Candidates.

At 6:00 pm, Ellie, Jo Ann, and I met with 14 Montgomery residents at True restaurant in a riff on the "Cocktails and Convos" format called "Dinner and Discussion" for a presentation on health care and to discuss the possibility of revitalizing the Montgomery Branch. Char Singleton, our state grassroots coordinator, set up the meeting and issued invitations to former Montgomery AAUW members and individuals from other nonprofit groups in Montgomery. Dr. Tom Ellison, a cardiologist and member of the Doctors for America National Organization, spoke, as did Jo Ann, who is now a Navigator for the Affordable Care Act, on health care and the ACA. The attendees were enthusiastic, and Jo Ann and I are both encouraged that there is a basis for revitalizing the branch.

Here are some of the planned activities the public policy committee hopes to implement, with which we will need the help of the branches:

Voting Rights Act Invalidation – registering voters through the branches, letters to the editor from branches

Affordable Care Act and Health Care Reform – increase pressure on governor through petitions, social media

Pay Equity – Laura Hall will prefile the pay equity bill; then we will need to speak with legislators in both houses to get as many as possible to sponsor

I'm very happy to say that Esther Ngumbi has agreed to serve as state diversity chair. Those who know her or heard her speak recognize Esther as a dynamic, deeply committed individual who will bring a unique perspective to our state organization.

And, of course, save April 4 – 6, 2014, for our state convention in Huntsville at the Marriott next to the Space and Rocket Center. It's going to be exciting.

## Program Year Overview

<b>Saturday, January 11, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Women Moving Huntsville Forward</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 4, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Impact of Arts on Local Economy</b>
<b>Friday, March 7, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Valley Hill Country Club</b>	<b>Breaking Through Barriers Luncheon</b>
<b>*Tuesday, April 8, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Girls of the Atomic City</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 6, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Women’s Health Month: What You Should Know About Cardiovascular Disease</b>

\*Denotes Program Dates May Be Switched

### Hold the Date

<b>April 4, 2014</b>	<b>Student Seminars</b>
<b>April 4-6, 2014</b>	<b>State AAUW Conference in Huntsville</b>

### Announcements

			 <b>enrollhuntsville@gmail.com</b> <b>or call 205-332-0175</b>
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 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alabama Birth Coalition</b></p> <p>Your support can make a big difference toward Alabama Birth Coalition's efforts in educating &amp; empowering mothers and families, securing the qualified care of Certified Professional Midwives for women facing unassisted births and providing more options for low-risk mothers who choose the Midwives Model of Care.</p> <p><b>Advocate Alabama's Underserved Women</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Nov 16</b> <small>AAUW Huntsville Branch See Amanda Jarrett</small></p>	 <p>Preparing students for the global economy</p> <p>National curriculum, now being implemented in Huntsville, Madison City and Madison County schools</p> <p><b>HS Engineering Program</b></p> <p><b>HS Biomed Program</b></p> <p><b>Middle School Gateway to Technology</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow;">             Improves performance in regular and advanced math and science         </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow;">             Hands on, project based rigorous curriculum         </div> </div>
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### Breaking Through Barriers – Diversity

So often we dwell on the things that seem impossible rather than on the things that are possible. So often we are depressed by what remains to be done and forget to be thankful for all that has been done. —

*Marian Wright Edelman (1939) is an American activist for the rights of children. She is president and founder of the [Children's Defense Fund](http://www.childrensdefensefund.org).*