



**Huntsville Branch Newsletter**

*October 2012*

*Volume 3, Number 3*

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## President's Letter: October 2012

### It's Your Vote: Do You Take It for Granted?



**Lucy Burns.**

**Dora Lewis.**

**Alice Cosu.**

**Alice Paul.**

**Helena Hill Weed.**

**Pauline Adams.**

Some of you know who these women were, and the role they play in our lives today. At our November meeting, these ladies will take center stage – not in a play of the typical sort – but in the play of life. History. The story of how women became more than property and second class citizens when they were granted the right to vote in 1917.

#### AAUW's Mission

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

Our country was founded in the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and it took over 100 years for half the population to be able to vote to elect their leaders and have a say in their future.

Half the sky, they accounted for half the population, and, in the words of authors [Kristof and WuDunn](#), they held up "Half the Sky." Yet they couldn't vote, own property, or defy a man, even in instances of abuse or cruelty.

It bears repeating:

For the first time in many generations, women's votes and rights are being **challenged**. Will you lie back and do nothing about it? Or will you get up, get out, and secure your rights and those of others with your vote?

Will you become **involved** in a campaign, cause, or party activities that you endorse? Will you contribute what you can to help those candidates who represent your positions? Or will you let "someone else" do it instead?

**Cindi Branham**, President  
**AAUW Huntsville Branch**

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## Saturday, November 3 Brunch – *The Politics of Women's Health*

Regina Hyatt, College/University Representative

The focus of November's AAUW meeting is the **Politics of Women's Health**. This topic is particularly timely with the impending elections. Three outstanding speakers will be with us to discuss this important topic: **Barbara Buchanan**, CEO of [Planned Parenthood of Alabama](#) will discuss reproductive rights and the current political climate related to these rights; **Dr. Pippa Abston**, a Huntsville pediatrician and author of [Who is My Neighbor? A Christian Response to Health Care Reform](#), will be discussing the [Affordable Care Act](#) and its impact on women's health; and

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**Hannah Ellis**, president of the [Alabama Birth Coalition](#) will be discussing access to midwifery by Alabama's women.



Barbara Buchanan



Dr. Pippa Abston



Hannah Ellis

AAUW supports a public policy agenda that advocates for healthcare for women and, in particular, has a strong stance on reproductive rights. The AAUW position on reproductive rights, stated in its public policy program, is that women should have, "choice in the

determination of one's reproductive life ... increased access to health care and family planning services including expansion of patients' rights"

([http://www.aauw.org/act/issue\\_advocacy/actionpages/reprorights.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/actionpages/reprorights.cfm)).

AAUW has seven initiatives related to reproductive rights including the following:

- Improve public funding for reproductive health.
- Put prevention first.
- Invest in comprehensive sex education.
- Support international family planning.
- Expand prescription drug coverage.
- Affirm access to emergency contraception.
- Ensure access to legally prescribed or available contraception and emergency contraception.

Additionally, AAUW has a public policy agenda related to health care. The Affordable Care Act has addressed, at least in part, some of the agenda items which will be discussed during the talk by one of our presenters.

We hope you will join us on **Saturday, November 3, 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, at **Covenant Presbyterian Fellowship Hall**, [301 Drake Avenue SE, Huntsville, AL](#) as we engage in a thought-provoking and important dialogue about these issues.

This meeting is for members and their invited guests, and **requires reservations by noon, Thursday, November 1**. Remember that when you make a reservation that includes a meal, you are responsible for the price of the meal, including your guest's meal. The menu for this meeting includes frittatas (vegetable, and vegetable with sausage), goat cheese grits, and biscuits with butter and jam. Coffee, iced tea, and water will also be available. Cost is \$16, payable by cash or check.

To make reservations, call **Lois Guendel** at **256-880-8643**, or email [lois.guendel@knology.net](mailto:lois.guendel@knology.net).

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## Fall Member Orientation

Mary Tomaine, Membership Vice President\*

New and current members gathered at UAHuntsville's Shelby Center last month to gain some insight

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into the history and current activities of AAUW, as well as the benefits of being a member.



Branch President **Cindi Branham** discussed AAUW's mission and legacy. Long-time branch member **Carol Roach** gave the guests an opportunity to look at the Huntsville Branch History. **Anna Blair**, our public policy expert, talked passionately about the role that AAUW plays in Advocacy, Education, Research and Philanthropy for Women. For example, were you aware that AAUW keeps a scorecard on how our national legislature votes on the issues that affect women and girls? **Ellie Lienau**, Co-Vice President of Funds for the Branch, highlighted the many volunteer opportunities available to members and talked about how Branch Funds are made and used. **Sherry Anderson**, Membership VP, explained the many levels of membership that are available. Preceding the program, a light supper was served. We thank UAHuntsville and **Regina Hyatt** for allowing us to use a wonderful room in Shelby Hall.

Because this event was so successful, another Member Orientation has been tentatively planned for this coming Spring. This event is for all members – not just our newest!

See more pictures from Member Orientation at <http://huntsville-al.aauw.net/calendar/2012-fall-membership-orientation/>

## Membership

\*Starting this month, **Sherry Anderson** will take over the duties of Membership Vice President. **Mary Tomaine** has had knee surgery and is unable to continue. We thank her for the time and effort she put into this all-important job, and wish her a speedy recovery.

We are quickly approaching the final deadline for AAUW renewals. On **November 1**, the window closes for late renewals for the 2012-2013 year, but please know that we do not want to lose you. We hope that your membership is as important and rewarding to you as it is to us, and we value your support and participation.

**Member dues** are **\$74**: \$49 for national, \$10 for state, and \$15 for branch. **Student affiliation** is **\$29.50**. Your dues can be paid by check made out to **AAUW**, and sent to **Sherry Anderson** at **101 Steeplechurch Court, Huntsville, AL, 35806-4072**. Questions? Call **256-895-8530**, or email **Sherry** at [aauwmember@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmember@gmail.com).

## How Can You Get Involved in Branch Activities?

Marilyn Robertson, Volunteer Coordinator

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Thanks to **Anna Blair, Ellie Lienau, June Grizzell**, as well as **Nancy Rohr, Rebecca Harbor Jones, Peggy East**, and **Margery Masterson** for the time they spent manning the phones at the **WLRH fundraiser!!**

### **Addressing Invitations**

The date for addressing invitations for the "**Phantom**" Tea is October 31, at 1 p.m., at my house, **1007 Locust Avenue** in Huntsville. All who are interested call me (**Marilyn Robertson**) at **256-536-2701** or **Ellie Lienau** at **256-655-9452** if you can assist. Folding invitations, addressing invitations, stuffing envelopes, and stamping them makes for a fun afternoon of conversation and comraderie.

### **Recycling Project**

The Huntsville AAUW Board has voted to try a recycling project to raise money for AAUW Funds. Things such as old cell phones and used printer cartridges can be turned in for money. We need someone willing to collect the items and mail them to the company (perhaps two or three people could work together on this effort). Please contact Ellie Lienau to find out more about it or if you will be able to help.

### **Galaxy of Lights**

We will be doing **Galaxy of Lights** on **December 28**. A chairman is needed to coordinate volunteers for this event, so a volunteer would be much appreciated. Thanks!!

### **Tinsel Trail**

[The Downtown Forty-Seven](#) will be presenting its second annual **Tinsel Trail** during the month of December. This is a display of live decorated Christmas trees in Big Springs Park. This year the trees will be near the [Huntsville Museum of Art](#). Huntsville AAUW has expressed an interest in decorating a tree. But in order to do this, we need someone to take charge of this project and others willing to help decorate the tree. Please let **Cindi Branham** ([cindi@netfocusmarketing.com](mailto:cindi@netfocusmarketing.com)) know if you can help with this activity.

### **Other Ways to Make a Difference**

- Help plan a program
- Recruit members
- Help set up signs, set up the meeting
- Shadow an officer and train for that position
- Help coordinate volunteers for events in which AAUW Huntsville Branch participates
- **Patricia Smith** has agreed to be our

room, clean up afterward

Marketing Director, organizing publicity with **Wanda Foster's** assistance. Thanks, Patricia!

- Offer transportation to members who don't drive at night
- Get printed copies of the newsletters made and distributed to members without email or computer access.
- Serve on the Marketing Committee. Need someone to print out newsletters and mail them to our few members who do not have online access, in addition to other media-related activities (i.e., publicity for our Cocktails and Convos networking events, as well as our Breaking Through Barriers Luncheon).
- Let a board member know you are interested in becoming more involved!

## Cocktails and Convos

The Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women will soon announce a date for its fourth **Cocktails and Convos** women's networking event. These "after work" events are a great opportunity for members and potential members to mix and mingle. Great food and drink is "Dutch Treat" and reasonably priced. Just show up and join us in an evening of socializing and fun, with a short presentation on a current topic. Past topics have included Pay Equity and Voting Rights. For more information, phone 256-895-8530 or email inquiries to [aauwmember@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmember@gmail.com).

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## Funds

Ellie Lienau and Amanda Jarrett, AAUW Funds Co-Vice Presidents

You have probably received a request from the National AAUW to support the scholarship funds. **Please wait to send money.** We will be having our "Phantom Tea" later this year, with the invitations going out the first part of November. The money received from the Tea will be sent to the National AAUW in support of the Eleanor S. Lienau Fellowship (unless you designate something different). Names of the donors will be sent in along with the money, and you will receive a tax-deductible statement from AAUW. Additional details can be found below the article [Holiday "Phantom" Tea](#).

## Belk Charity Sale

Ellie Lienau

Belk holds a Charity Sale twice a year. The next one will be on **Saturday, November 3, 2012, 6-10 a.m.** AAUW is selling tickets for this event. The **tickets are \$5 each** and will entitle you to get \$5 off

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your purchase.

If you have a Belk charge card, you can shop the week of the event. If this is before Friday, the purchases will be rung up early Friday morning; those from Friday will be rung up on Saturday. You can then pick up your purchases at your leisure.

We also can get additional money if we have two people working the morning of the sale. The **first shift is 5:30 - 8 a.m.** This would allow you to get to the AAUW meeting following that shift. **Two additional shifts are available -7:30 - 10 a.m. and 8:30 - 11 a.m.** Cindi Branham had said that she would work, but that will be hard since she will need to get ready for the meeting. **Sherry Anderson** has volunteered, (thanks, Sherry!), so I am looking for one more person to work.

Please let me know if you can help with this fund-raising event. Thanks in advance. To get tickets or to volunteer, please call me at **256-655-9452**, or email me at [elienau@yahoo.com](mailto:elienau@yahoo.com).

## Holiday "Phantom" Tea

Amanda Jarrett, AAUW Funds Co-Vice President

Each fall we send invitations to 500 or so people asking for donations to our AAUW funds contribution for National. The profits from this go to support the activities associated with the [Association AAUW Funds](#).

Right now we are collecting names and addresses of people to whom invitations will be sent that are not members of AAUW. Please send these to Amanda Jarrett ([apjarrett@gmail.com](mailto:apjarrett@gmail.com)) or Ellie Lienau ([elienau@yahoo.com](mailto:elienau@yahoo.com)) **ASAP**. All of you will receive an invitation also. You may honor someone with your donation.

Marilyn will be looking for volunteers to address and stuff invitations **October 31 at 1 p.m.** If you can help with this activity, call Marilyn at [256-536-2701](tel:256-536-2701) or e-mail her at [marilyn.robertson@knology.net](mailto:marilyn.robertson@knology.net).

Please let Ellie or Amanda know if you have any questions.

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## October Meeting Highlights

Rose Norman, Program Vice President

***The Perfect 36: How Southern Women Won the Vote***, a one-act play by **Candace Corrigan** dramatizing the final days of the 72-year campaign for woman suffrage, was performed by the **Bank Street Players** of Decatur, AL on October 10 at Wilson Hall Theatre. Members and their guests gathered at the Wilson Hall Art Gallery for refreshments prior to the play. Most, if not all of us have no recollection of ever having been denied the right to vote. And, thanks to [UAHuntsville Women's Studies](#), who sponsored the performance, we all gained an understanding of the great debt we owe to those who came before us, instrumental in securing that precious and critical right.

Note: The source of **Anna Blair's** most appropriate reflection is ***33 things every girl should know about women's history***, edited by **Tonya Bolden**, and published in 2002 by Crown. Thanks for sharing, Blair!

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



Cindi Branham chats with Patricia Smith and her guest Sarah Rawls .



Wanda Foster visits with Barbara Lucero and Nancy Rohr.



Cindi Branham, Branch President, welcomes guests and members.



Anna Blair's choice for the Reflection was the perfect lead in to *The Perfect 36*.



Bernice Richardson, Barbara Lucero, and Laura Jo Hamilton.



Members and guests listen intently during the business part of the meeting.



The Wilson Hall Art Gallery was an interesting backdrop for our meal and meeting.



Carol Puckett, Director of Bank Street Players, addresses members and guests prior to the performance.



Bank Street Players pose after performing *The Perfect 36*.

Additional pictures are available on Facebook (requires logging on) at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/aawhuntsville/?fref=ts> and will also be available soon on our new branch website: <http://huntsville-al.aauw.net/>.

## Public Policy

By Cindi Branham

## Important Dates and Events for the Upcoming General Election on November 6, 2012

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

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| October 26 | Voter Registration Deadline  |
| November 1 | Last day for voter to make application for Absentee ballot               |
| November 5 | <i>Last day for voter to hand-deliver or postmark an Absentee ballot</i> |
| November 6 | Election Day (polls open 7 am to 7 pm)                                   |

Voter Registration and Mailing Information:

<http://www.alabamavotes.gov/downloads/election/vr/nvra-2.pdf>

Absentee Forms:

<http://www.sos.state.al.us/elections/AbsenteeVotingInfo.aspx>

AAUW National has a great program called **It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard**. You can read more at <http://www.aauwaction.org/my-vote/>. I'm looking for someone to help with our efforts in voting and voting rights in the next two months. Will you step forward and **help us be heard?**

If you have any questions regarding how to register to vote, or what identification is required to register to vote, you may contact Kendall East, Public Policy Chair, at [eastkendall@gmail.com](mailto:eastkendall@gmail.com).

For more information about **voter registration in Madison County, Alabama**, please visit the following link: <http://madisoncountyal.gov/voter/index.php>.

### AAUW Dialog Online

Tell the Presidential Candidates to **Talk to Women** – go to <http://blog-aauw.org/2012/10/09/tell-the-candidates/> to find out how you can "Tweet" the candidates and get heard!

### Two Minute Activist

Go to <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/> to find out what you can do to take action.

## AAUW College/University Update – "Let's Talk About 'IT'"

Regina Hyatt, AAUW College/University Representative

On September 26 the Dean of Students office at UAHuntsville sponsored a campus-wide lecture entitled "**Let's Talk about 'IT'**" which featured speakers **Kelly Addington** and **Becca Tieder**. Over 200 UAHuntsville students were in attendance including student athletes and members of the UAHuntsville fraternity and sorority community among others. Kelly and Becca's talk centered around their own personal experience with sexual violence. As a college student, Kelly was sexually assaulted by an acquaintance, and she courageously shared her story with us and with other college students around the country in an effort to prevent other sexual assaults. Becca's story is particularly powerful as well because she talked about the role that friends can play in helping to prevent sexual violence.



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

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Kelly and Becca always start out their presentation by trying to weave the terrifying statistics related to sexual violence with stories and humor. They promote sexual empowerment for men and women and encourage students to take responsibility for their sexual behavior and choices. They also warn against the dangers of alcohol and other drug use, in particular as it relates to being able to make positive choices about sex. They come from a non-judgmental framework which helped to put the UAHuntsville audience at ease.

Some of the takeaways students shared about the presentation with Kelly and Becca included: "It's important to speak up and speak out"; "Any rape is one too many"; "Be careful when drinking and have a friend help you make good choice/watch out for you"; "Every two minutes someone is raped in the US"; "75% of all college campuses crimes include alcohol." These were important messages for our students to hear, and for Kelly and Becca to share during their talk.

We also asked students about ways we could be more proactive at UAHuntsville in regard to educating the community about sexual violence. In fact, this event was planned as a result of work done by our campus-wide sexual violence prevention workgroup that includes faculty, staff and students from around campus. Our students resoundingly supported having more events like the "Let's Talk About 'IT'" presentation in addition to creating a campus-wide poster campaign around sexual violence.

Our **thanks to AAUW and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) grant** for supporting this effort on our campus. We are certain that these kinds of events are helpful in educating our campus community about sexual violence and ways that we all can play a role in ending sexual assault on our campus.

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## AAUW Huntsville Branch Website

Have you checked out our new Branch website? Information (including pictures and slides) from meetings and events can now be found online. Newsletters, too – under News, of course! See what's happening this year at <http://huntsville-al.aauw.net/>.

## News to Note

Member **Beth Altenkirch** has an entry in this year's **Scarecrow Trail**. Think she might be a blue Charger Fan?! The Scarecrow Trail can be found at [Huntsville's Botanical Garden](#), off Bob Wallace Avenue, through October 31.



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## Study Groups

### Great Decisions

Great Decisions, a study group on U.S. foreign policy, meets at **7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month** from September through May, except in December. Meetings are held at the home of **Mary Witherspoon, 5713 Criner Road**, and visitors are always welcome. Members take turns leading the discussion based on a book put out by the [Foreign Policy Association](#).

The topic for **November 12** will be "**Energy Geopolitics**" (Chapter 8 in the Study Guide) led by **June Grizzell**.

### Bridge Group

The Bridge Group meets **September through May** on the **third Thursday** of each month at **9 a.m., usually ending by noon**. Contact **Lorraine Mullin** at [lorm@knology.net](mailto:lorm@knology.net) or call **256-772-2549** (h) or **235-683-5530** (c) if you are interested in joining the group as a permanent player or as a substitute.

### Lunch.com

All members are welcome at Lunch.com. 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).

October

- 19 [Wintzell's Oyster House, 5100 Sanderson Rd. NW](#)
- 26 [Grace Lutheran Church, German Luncheon, 3321 South Memorial Parkway](#)

November

- 2 [Cantina Laredo, Bridge Street](#)
- 9 [Viet Huong, 930 Old Monrovia Road NW](#)
- 16 [Commerce Kitchen, 300 Franklin Street](#)
- 23 [Tazikis Greek, 4855 Whitesburg Dr. South](#)
- 30 [Limestone Bay Trading Company, 24950 Old Hwy 20, Mooresville](#)

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## Hold the Date

**October 20, 2012 – Alabama Birth Coalition Hosting Healthy Moms and Babies Expo**



**Alabama Birth Coalition**

Your support can make a big difference toward Alabama Birth Coalition's efforts in educating & 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.

**Walk Midwives**

Advocate  
Alabama's  
Underserved  
Women

**Alabama Birth Coalition (ABC)** is walking (and running) for midwives all across Alabama on **October 20, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** in **Big Spring Park**.

AAUW will have a booth at the event, and we're looking for one or two volunteers to work the booth and offer information to perspective members. Further support for this event can make a big difference toward Alabama Birth Coalition's efforts in educating & 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**. To make donations to this cause or for more information, please contact **Amanda Jarrett** at [apjarrett@gmail.com](mailto:apjarrett@gmail.com) or phone **(919) 610-6581**.



**Updated Program Year Overview**

Details in August newsletter.

**Saturday, November 3, 10 am-1 pm: The Politics of Women's Health**

**Tuesday, December 4, 5:30-7:30 pm: Women and STEM Education**

**Saturday, January 12, 10 am - 1 pm: (tentative)  
Body Work for Good Health and Posture**

**Tuesday, February 5, 5:30-8 pm: Heroic Women of Palestine  
Nominate new officers**

**Friday, March 1, 11:30-1 pm: Breaking Through Barriers Luncheon**

**Tuesday, April 2, 5:30-8:** Branch member attorney Anna Blair will explain the importance of having advanced directives, which will include all aspects of living wills and durable powers of attorney, both of which we need in Alabama, in addition to a regular will. . **Vote on new officers**

**Tuesday, May 7, 5:30-8 pm TOPIC OPEN. Install new officers**

AAUW Huntsville Branch

**\* \*DATE CHANGE: March 1, 2013 – Breaking Through Barriers Luncheon\* \***

### **June 9–12, 2013 - 2013 AAUW National Convention**

The national convention will be held in New Orleans, LA, at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. Laissez les bon temps rouler!

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## The 2012 Project Update: Don't Get Mad – Get Elected!

After spending the summer working on research to support [The 2012 Project Alabama](#) efforts to encourage women to run for office, the team gathered in Birmingham on Saturday, September 8, 2012. The team is led by **Audrey Salgado** and includes members from across the state. Huntsville AAUW member, **Carol Joyce**, is one of two members from Huntsville. The meeting focused on a plan to recruit and train women to run for office in 2014.

As a result of redistricting at the state level, Alabama will be able to take advantage of the national dynamics of 2012 in 2014. Team members attended the [Women's Public Leadership Summit](#), Thursday, September 13, 2012, in Atlanta. Speakers will share research and messages for the fall election which will help us prepare for 2014.

For more information, contact **Carol Joyce** at [carol2012project@gmail.com](mailto:carol2012project@gmail.com).

[The 2012 Project](#) is a nonpartisan national project of the prestigious [Center for American Women and Politics \(CAWP\)](#) that identifies and engages accomplished women over 45 who have not previously been active in politics.

Want to know more? Visit The 2012 Project website at [www.the2012project.us](http://www.the2012project.us). Ready to get involved? Contact [info@the2012project.us](mailto:info@the2012project.us) or 1-650-326-2216.

## 140 Voices for a Better Alabama

Purpose: To recruit one citizen for each of the 105 House Districts and 35 Senate Districts to be a voice for constitutional reform and educate citizens in their respective districts on how the state constitution impacts them in their daily lives.

[www.bringitbackhome.org](http://www.bringitbackhome.org)



## AAUW 2012 National Convention Resources

Valuable resources and updates are available at <http://convention.aauw.org/live.aspx>, including videos and handout materials – many related to your area of responsibility within the Huntsville Branch.

## Playground Update

**The Playground has moved!** In fact, it's not even called the Playground anymore: It's **People Power Unlimited**.

**Valuable Personal and Volunteer-Related Content at Cynthia D' Amour's Site. Register for**

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

**live sessions or listen to archives:**

<http://www.peoplepowerunlimited.com/free-webinars/>

You can register for the newsletter and learn of upcoming Webinars on this page.

You are STRONGLY encouraged to check out the resources on this site to assist you with your Branch responsibilities! All free to AAUW members. You'll find segments that will help in specific areas of responsibility as well as many general topics. Note that you may have to sign up for the site to access the recordings, which play over your computer.

## **Breaking Through Barriers – Diversity**

Now one of two things is true: Either a republic is a desirable form of government, or else it is not. If it is, then we should have it, if it is not, then we ought not to pretend that we have it.

*Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Leader of Women's Suffrage Movement in the U.S. (1847-1919)*

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