



## Huntsville Branch Newsletter

April 2014

Volume 4, Number 8

### President's Letter: April 2014



WOW! April has been a very exciting and busy month for the AAUW Huntsville Branch! From the ALA-WSL Conference for women student leaders and the state convention to the fun get-to-know-the branch speed dating meeting, things have been hopping!

#### AAUW's Mission

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

Because of the work of some very dedicated members in our branch, the AAUW Alabama State Convention was a success. Held April 4-6 at the Huntsville Marriott, we were delighted to have Kate Farrar from the AAUW National Office, Amy

Blackwell as our AAUW Board Member liaison, and Lilly Ledbetter as our special guest. In addition, we heard from several members of our branch and local community higher education leaders about the challenges and opportunities facing women today. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Huntsville Branch Convention Chairs: Judy Wilson, Rose Norman, and Dana Wingate. They were assisted by the Huntsville Branch Convention Planning & Implementation Team which included Cindi Branham, Ellie Lienau, Tawana Townsend, and Peggy East who took care of all the finances. Lastly, Marilyn Robertson and Lorraine Mullins made everyone feel welcome through their work with the hospitality room. My thanks each of you who answered the call to register for the convention. I hope you had a positive experience through your attendance.

One of the most exciting aspects of the convention was the inclusion of day-long programming on Friday, April 4, for our women student leaders in our state. All of the credit and accolades for this outstanding program go to ALA-WSL Chairperson, Molly Johnson, and the ALA-WSL Planning Committee which included Sarah Ragan, Joy Agee, Kenya Wallace, LaJoy Johns, Rose Norman, Cindi Branham, and Erin Reed. Thanks to each of you for making the difference to the women who attended this event.

Important business was transacted during our April "Branch Speed Dating" meeting. I hope you took time to visit the tables and find a project or activity that is of interest to you. Thanks to Carolyn Lord and Joy Agee, our Program VP's, for your work to create this fun, interactive format. Ellie Lienau graciously agreed to chair our nominating committee. You can read Ellie's report later in the newsletter, but I want to say that we have need for several other appointed positions on our Branch's Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving in any of these roles, please contact me directly at [regina.hyatt@uah.edu](mailto:regina.hyatt@uah.edu). We would like to have the full board in place for our May meeting. We are currently seeking a newsletter editor/producer, diversity coordinator, college/university relations, and co-chairs for public relations and volunteers. We need your help!

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

## May Meeting – Women's Health Month

Joy Agee, Program Co-Vice President



Please join us on **Tuesday, May 6, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**, at [Covenant Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 301 Drake Ave. SE, Huntsville, AL](#), when Kimberly Hobbs will speak on the topic **Cardiovascular Disease: What Women Should Know**. In addition, **Jessica Rich** of **Crestwood Medical Center** will have a table with women's wealth information for us.

Cardiovascular disease, also known as Heart Disease, is the leading cause of death for women in the United States. Kimberly will share some facts about the biology of heart disease and some need to know facts for women. She will also discuss how genetics plays a role in the effects observed with this disease.

Kimberly Hobbs is a native of Chicago, Illinois and currently attends the University of Alabama in Huntsville as a graduate student in the Biotechnology Science and Engineering PhD Program. She is completing her dissertation research at the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Dr. Devin Absher's lab where she studies genetic and epigenetic signatures that contribute to cardiovascular disease. Kimberly is very passionate about her work and greatly values her contributions to the healthcare field through medical research. She is married to her husband of 12 years, Timothy Hobbs, and together they have two small children, Timothy (2), and Chase (1).

**Reservations are required by Saturday, May 3.** Cost of the meal is **\$16**. The **menu for our May meeting** will be available in the Evite announcement.

### **Standing Meeting Reservations Option now Available**

Beginning with the February meeting, the Branch will now maintain a list of "Standing" reservations. These are meant to make it easier for the member to deal with reservations.

How to do it: Contact Patricia Smith, who sends our Evites, at [smithpatricia73@yahoo.com](mailto:smithpatricia73@yahoo.com); if you have a special dietary request make that known as well.

What it means: You will not have to reserve your meal each month, but you will be responsible to cancel if you are not going to make it. Otherwise, you will be charged for the meal. Simple!

### **Breaking Through Barriers – Diversity**

The emotional, sexual, and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor says, "It's a girl."

*Shirley Chisholm (1924–2005), first African-American woman elected to Congress, first major party African-American candidate for President of the United States, and first woman to run for the Democratic presidential nomination (1972). She was also an educator and author.*



**Panoply Arts Festival** is scheduled for **April 25-27, 2014**. The Arts Council is still looking for volunteers for its annual Panoply Arts Festival. This is TAC's biggest fundraising event. To volunteer please contact Gina Hurst with The Arts Council, [ghurst@artshuntsville.org](mailto:ghurst@artshuntsville.org).

## Nominating Committee Report

Ellie Lienau, Nominating Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee would like to propose the following candidates for officers, with terms starting on July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2016. They will be voted on at the May meeting.

Co-President	Sarah Ragan
Co-Membership Vice President	LaJoy Johns
Co-AAUW Funds Vice Presidents	Barbara Price and Dana Wingate
Treasurer	Beth Altenkirch
Secretary	Danisha Jolly

Nominating Committee members are Ellie Lienau, Chair; Cindi Branham; Peggy East; and LaJoy Johns.

## Funds

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

### Belk Charity Tickets on Sale!



Belk holds a Charity Sale twice a year. The next one will be on **Saturday, May 3, 2014, 6 – 10 a.m.** AAUW is selling tickets for this event. The tickets are \$5 each and will get you \$5 off your purchase. These also make good "thank you" gifts for special favors.

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 on Saturday. You can then pick up your

purchases at your leisure. We also can get additional money if we provide two members to work the morning of the sale or the day before/after the sale. I am looking for two volunteers. Please let Amanda or Ragan know if you are able to volunteer for this event.

### Breaking Through Barriers a Success!



Our annual "Breaking through Barriers" luncheon was held in March at the Valley Hill Country Club. Local news anchor **Liz Hurley**, our featured speaker, spoke eloquently about her professional achievements, including her experiences as a breast cancer survivor and how she works with educating women about breast cancer and supports breast cancer research in our community. Additionally, Mrs. Hurley was joined by Ms. Sandy Cross from Huntsville Hospital, who briefly discussed her role as a Nurse Navigator, and how she assists women who have

been diagnosed with breast cancer. Thank you Liz Hurley for your time, generosity, and knowledge, and thank you Sandy Cross for sharing how Huntsville Hospital can support women and families during diagnosis and treatment!



We are happy to report that this event had nearly 75 attendees, with \$1581.66 raised in proceeds, which will help support local women student leaders to attend leadership training at the National Conference for College Women Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, College Park this June.



We would like to thank the planning committee that helped plan, organize, and execute this event: Patricia Smith, Ellie Lienau, Regina Hyatt, Cindi Branham, Cheri Wilson, Marilyn Robertson, Dana Gideon, Joy Agee, Kim Hobbs, Carolyn Lord, Sherry Anderson, Kenya Wallace, and LaJoy Johns. Marilyn Robertson also provided the lovely fresh cut flowers and center pieces for the tables. Thank you all!

We would also like to thank the following individuals that sponsored students to attend this event: Marilyn Robertson, Rose Norman, Ellie Lienau, Cindi Branham, Karen Rudiger, and Regina Hyatt.

Thank you to the Valley Hill Country Club for beautiful facilities, delicious food, and wonderful service!

### Recycling Project

Please gather up your old cell phones, ink cartridges, and any other electronic item or old jewelry. These items do not have to be in working condition! **A recycling bin will be available at the May 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!

## 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 & ONQAS 19001 Certified Facility

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

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

AAUW Huntsville Branch

## Membership

Sherry Anderson and Kenya Wallace, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

### New Members

A hearty welcome to these new and renewing members, who joined in March and April:

- **Julie Andrzejewski** holds a BS in International Marketing and French from the University of Alabama, and a Master's in Management from Florida Institute of Technology.
- **Tovah Gibson**
- **Lynda Hall** holds a BA in Slavoslavic Studies from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.
- **Delois Smith** holds a BA in Psychology and M.Ed. in Educational Psychology from the University of Florida.
- **Elizabeth (Liz) Smith** holds a BS in Business Education and Elementary Education from Savannah State University.



We are delighted to have them as our newest members, and we look forward to a productive, rewarding friendship with them.

### 2013–14 Member Directory Addenda Available

Addendum 1 for March and Addendum 2 for April are now available for pickup at the April meeting. 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 Sherry Anderson or Kenya Wallace, Membership VPs, at [aauwmember@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmember@gmail.com) or 256-895-8530.

### New Member Orientation Coming in June

The New Member Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3rd at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 301 Drake Ave SE, 5:30–7:30. 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 Sherry Anderson at 256.895.8530.

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.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Marilyn Robertson, Volunteer Coordinator

**Thank you** to all the volunteers who helped with the following projects:

**The Alabama Science and Engineering Fair** - held April 4 at Spraggins Gym on the UAH campus. As usual we had a wonderful time looking at projects by Junior and Senior High students. The team consisted of **Evelyn Sabino, Bob Robertson, Carol Roach, Peggy East, Lynda Hall, Spencer Minor**, and **Frances Byrd** and myself, **Marilyn Robertson**. **Ellie Lienau** assisted with registration on Thursday evening. This year we decided as a team to present the award to a Junior student in hopes it would be helpful on a resume. As a result we looked at ALL entries by Junior girls. We selected two that seemed to

be of equal merit. These two young women, listed below, explained their projects in understandable terms and had wonderful reasons for conducting their experiments.

**Katelynne Herron, Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School, Irondale, AL:** *The Effects of Sedimentation on the Biodiversity of Bethic Macro-Invertebrates*

**Jasmin Revanna, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Birmingham, AL:** *Linking Images to Digital Cameras by PH 565 Observing Noise Patterns*

### Convention Hospitality

Many people helped with hospitality by providing food and/or time staffing the Hospitality Room. Volunteers included: **Lorraine Mullin, Judy Wilson, Sarah Ragan, Heather Harwell, Carol Roach, Dana Wingate, Regina Hyatt, LaJoy Johns, Rose Norman, Janice Marsh, Peggy East and Patricia Smith.** **Special Thanks** to **Lorraine Mullin** who provided wonderful planning, did a wonderful job of setting up, and was a constant cheerful presence!

### Convention Favors



**Cindi Branham, Patricia Smith, Ellie Lienau, Sarah Ragan, Carolyn Lord** and granddaughter **Juliana Lord, Amanda and Atticus Jarrett, Rose Norman,** and **Karen Rudiger** spent an evening making the pins that were given to each convention attendees. Thank you!



### WLRH Fundraiser

**Peggy East, June Grizzell, and Nancy Rohr** under the expert leadership of **Anna Blair** volunteered to take calls for the fundraiser, which was April 9. If you were listening, you will know that AAUW was frequently mentioned during the morning.

### 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

### Three Times a Charm...

But not when it comes to passing the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#). Senate Republicans have blocked its passage a third time. On April 9, a day after this year’s designated Equal Pay Day, the Senate failed to pass it by a vote of 54-43: 53 Democrats and 1 Independent, **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont, voting for the Act, to 42 Republicans and 1 Independent, **Senator Angus King** of Maine, against. Just 6 more “Yeas” needed to overcome the Republican filibuster.

According to a Heritage Foundation blog on April 9, there are three things to know about the Paycheck Fairness Act: 1) It Could Hurt Women’s Employment Prospects; 2) Equal Pay for Women is a Smokescreen for Washington Setting Economy-wide Pay Rates; and 3) The Act is Based on Bad Statistics.

On April 8, writing in [Forbes](#), AAUW’s own **Lisa Maatz** wrote, “The Paycheck Fairness Act is a commonsense fix to bring the 50-year-old Equal Pay Act into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The bill...would strengthen incentives in line with other civil rights laws to *encourage employers to pay fairly, empower women to negotiate for wages they deserve, and prohibit retaliation against employees who share salary information.*” [Emphasis mine.]

Why do we need the Paycheck Fairness Act? Why is the Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act not enough? Yes, the Fair Pay Act was a victory for workers' rights—all workers, not just women. But it doesn't correct big loopholes in gender-discrimination law that leaves workers, especially women, vulnerable. It mainly corrects the 2007 Supreme Court decision that told **Lilly Ledbetter** she should have filed her pay-discrimination complaint against Goodyear of Gadsden twenty years earlier, or 180 days after she received her first discriminatory paycheck. And how, pray, would Ledbetter have known about the wrong Goodyear committed against her if sharing salary information was grounds for dismissal? What this law did was to give all workers opportunity to file a complaint within 180 days from the most recent instance of discrimination.

Though many opponents continue to chant that we already have laws that ensure equal pay, the Paycheck Fairness Act is a much needed update to the Equal Pay Act of 1963. It will close the longstanding loopholes and strengthen incentives to prevent pay discrimination. Together, these bills can help create a climate where wage discrimination is not tolerated, where fair employers can have a healthy workplace, and where the administration has the enforcement tools it needs to make real progress on ending wage discrimination.

On Equal Pay Day, **President Barack Obama** signed two executive orders to help close the continuing stagnant pay gap. He directed the Department of Labor to collect data from federal contractors and subcontractors to determine how they pay (with taxpayer money) women and minorities. Mr. Obama will also put part of the Paycheck Fairness Act in place now through his second executive order. It will prevent federal contractors from retaliating against workers who discuss their earnings. This protection will cover 22% of our nation's workers. Affording these rights to the remaining American workforce is up to Congress.

Perhaps, for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, FOUR is a charm! Let us hope. And soon.

### 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).

## Speed Dating for a Closer Look at our Branch

Carolyn Lord, Program Co-Vice President





On April 15, AAUW Huntsville Branch members were given the opportunity to learn more about various opportunities for member involvement within the Branch, such as !Adelante! Book Club, Great Decisions Discussion Group, Lunch.com, Bridge, Public Policy, Funds, Outreach, and Volunteers. We conducted a short business meeting to receive the report of the nominating committee and hear the proposed standing rules changes that we will vote on in May. Lots of yummy desserts and a selection of nuts were brought by members to share at the tables. We all overindulged as we made the rounds and tried something from each table. It seemed there was more interest in branch activities as members had a chance to ask questions and hear more details about the various programs. There was lots of laughter and time to chat. LaJoy Johns furnished our bell to announce table changes.



## Standing Rules Changes

Ellie Lienau, AAUW AL Bylaws Chair

The current Standing Rules (SR) for the Huntsville Branch are found in the directory. The board has reviewed them and is proposing the changes below. In some cases only the part of the standing rules that is being changed is presented. Refer to your directory for the complete standing rule. These changes will be presented at the April meeting and voted on at the May meeting. Some will be deleted, so the numbering will change if passed.

S R #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current: Guests eligible for membership may attend two (2) general meetings and two (2) study group encounters only.</li> <li>Proposed: Guests eligible for membership may attend <b>three (3)</b> general meeting <b>or three (3)</b> study group encounters <b>within a program year prior to being required to join.</b></li> </ul>
SR #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current: Reservations...Payment must be made to the Reservations Chair or the Treasurer for reservations not cancelled by the deadline date.</li> <li>Proposed: Reservations...Payment must be made to the <b>Treasurer...</b></li> </ul>
SR #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current: The Branch...official branch representatives to Alabama State meetings and the bi-annual SEC Regional Conference.</li> <li>Proposed: The Branch...official branch representatives to Alabama State meetings.</li> </ul>
SR #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current: A newsletter...mailed to each member at least five times a year. Designated...directors.</li> <li>Proposed: A newsletter...<b>distributed</b> to each member... <b>Delete: Designated times shall be at the discretion of the board of directors.</b></li> </ul>
SR # 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current: Chairs of committees. consecutive terms. They shall...appointment</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed: Chairs...terms. <b>Delete: They shall be a member of AAUW at least one year prior to appointment.</b></li> </ul>
SR #8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current: Expenditures...approval of the Executive Committee.</li> <li>Proposed: Expenditures...approval of the <b>Board of Directors.</b></li> </ul>
SR #9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current: Membership...to participate in the study groups.</li> <li>Proposed: <b>Delete entire.</b></li> </ul>
SR #13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current: Three (3) consecutive absences...</li> <li>Proposed: Three (3) <b>unexcused</b> absences...</li> </ul>
SR #14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current: An accurate...corresponding secretary</li> <li>Proposed: <b>Delete entire.</b></li> </ul>

## Tech Trek Camp Update

Dr. Rhonda Gaede, Camp Director

Thank you to all of the AAUW members that have helped interview girls for Tech Trek. All of the interviewers have been impressed with the girls and think they all should attend. The Tech Trek planning committee will meet, make the final decisions, and contact the girls by **April 25**. Because our fundraising efforts have gone very well, we may be able to accommodate more than 50 girls. Sponsors that have come in at the **\$2000 level or above** include **LogiCore, Jacobs, the Fishman Foundation, the UAH College of Engineering, AL EPSCOR, the UAH Office of the President, and Lockheed Martin.**



Carol Joyce briefs Tech Trek interviewers.

Our next big push is curriculum. We are working to fill teacher positions. If you know someone with a gift in this area that would be willing to stay at the camp for a week with the girls, please let me know. Opportunities also exist for workshop presenters. If you have a hands-on activity you are willing to facilitate one of the afternoons or evenings at the camp, please let me know. Workshop presenters do not have to stay on campus with the girls. Please contact camp director, Rhonda Gaede, at [gaeder@uah.edu](mailto:gaeder@uah.edu), or 256.824.6573 for further information.

The Tech Trek planning committee still needs volunteers to make [Tech Trek](https://uahchargers.wufoo.com/forms/tech-trek-volunteer-interest-form/) a real success. If you haven't already done so, go to <https://uahchargers.wufoo.com/forms/tech-trek-volunteer-interest-form/> and fill out a volunteer form.

Please contact **camp director, Rhonda Gaede**, at [gaeder@uah.edu](mailto:gaeder@uah.edu), or 256-824-6573 for further information.

Check out the official AAUW Tech Trek promotional video entitled "AAUW Presents Tech Trek" on the AAUW YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/aauwinfo](http://www.youtube.com/aauwinfo) or visit <http://bit.ly/SupportTechTrek>.

For more info on Tech Trek Camps, go to <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-trek/>.

## College/University Update

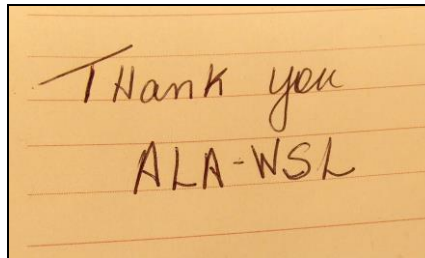
Molly Johnson, College/University Liaison



As AAUW-Huntsville Branch's Colleges / University Outreach Chair, I am delighted to report that AAUW Huntsville's first Alabama Women Student Leaders Conference (ALA-WSL), held on April 4 at UAH, was an overwhelming success. We had close to seventy student attendees from ten colleges and universities in the Huntsville and Birmingham areas. We have received extremely positive feedback from the student attendees and are very excited by the impact of the Branch's first ALA-WSL!



The morning began with a workshop on *Stories and Teasers: Selling Your Skills in a Tight Market*, developed and led by **Carolyn Lord**. Then **Delois Smith** spoke to the students at lunch about *Leaders Never Lose Their Focus: An Eye on Changing Diversity Demographics*. **Rebecca Zurn** kicked off the afternoon with the first of her two sessions on *Stress Reduction with Qigong*, and **Regina Hyatt** led a workshop on *I See Your True Colors Shining Through*. **Kate Farrar**, AAUW National Vice President for Campus Leadership Programs, followed with a session on *AAUW 101*. After a break and more *Qigong* with **Rebecca Zurn**, the final workshop featured **Cindi Branham** teaching the students about *Mind Mapping: The Solution to "Too Much or Not Enough Information"*. The capstone to the day was **Lilly Ledbetter's** keynote lecture, *Equal Pay for equal Work: Lilly Ledbetter Tells Her Story*.



ALA-WSL would not have been possible without the very generous support of UAH's Office of Diversity and Vice President for Diversity, **Delois Smith**. The [UAH Women's Studies Program](#) also offered critical logistical support. **Costco** provided complimentary refreshments. It was also a real pleasure to work with [Green Pea Press](#) at [Lowe Mill](#) to create take-away items printed with the ALA-WSL logo that Cindi Branham and Erin Reid designed. UAH graduate **Rachel Lackey** runs Green Pea Press and herself attended the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders \(NCCWSL\)](#) in 2008 -- another AAUW connection!

The primary ALA-WSL planning team members were **Joy Agee, Cindi Branham, LaJoy Johns, Molly Johnson, Rose Norman, Sarah Ragan, Erin Reid, and Kenya Wallace**.

We were also very pleased by the overall moral support and encouragement that the Huntsville Branch

provided and by the many Branch members who came to ALA-WSL during the day to help out with various tasks.

ALA-WSL was a wonderful collaborative achievement of which we all should be proud.

## **\$tart \$mart**

The Office of Career Development at UAH hosted a free \$tart \$mart starting salary negotiation workshop on April 17 in Shelby Center 301 at UAH.

Endorsed by **Lilly Ledbetter** at Alabama's State AAUW Convention, [\\$tart \\$mart](#) is a collaboration between [AAUW](#) and the [WAGE Project \(Women Are Getting Even\)](#).

## **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 C (upstairs) on Thursday, April 24, at 6:00 p.m.** We'll be reviewing the April selection, ***The Slave Across the Street*** by **Theresa L. Flores**.

This book is about the new slavery of Sex Trafficking. The major of sex slaves are young adolescents from the ages of 12 or 13. The average cannot survive this life more than 7 years. This book is one girl's story and takes place near Detroit, Michigan, but, unfortunately, it could have and does happen in Madison County, Alabama.

**Please note the change in date and time due to Easter Week.**

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/>

**May's iAdelante! Book of the Month Club selection** is [\*In the Shadow of the Banyan\*](#) by Vaddey Ratner.

### **iAdelante! Book Review: The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Keirnan**

The decision was made by members of the University of California radiation lab, the director of Standard oil, project scientists, James Conant and Arthur Compton and J. Robert Oppenheimer to buy the land in East Tennessee. Military engineers and other high ranking military officers were in attendance in September of 1942. By October of 1942, the notifications came - Notices of Condemnation, Declarations of Taking, and Requests to Vacate. Some came home after work to find the notices and in some cases, school children were sent home from school to deliver the bad news. Some had only two or three weeks to pack up and leave.

By the fall of 1943, three plants, code-named Y-12, X-10 and K-25 would be underway with thousands of construction works laying foundations and erecting structures, at what was then called the Clinton Engineer Works? It would grow to be a city of 75,000 people and at the height of WWII it used more electricity than New York City. It was a secret city that to most of the world did not exist.

Women and men from small towns all over the south came- enticed by the thought of high wages and



supporting the war effort-work that could end the war. Young women who were just graduating from high school were sought because it was thought that they were easily molded and could be intimidated enough that they would keep their work secret. They were not allowed to talk about it. In addition the work was broken down into such small tasks that no one really knew what they were handling or even were aware of the risks they were taking. It was only at the end of the war that the women and men of Oak Ridge knew of their role in history. They had prepared the uranium necessary for the atomic bomb.

Kiernan researched this book by talking to the women who worked there and searching the Oak Ridge archives. Her book delivers a fascinating look at a time in America when trusting the federal government was critical to winning WWII.

Learn more about the real women of Atomic City at [http://girlsofatomiccity.com/the\\_girls.html](http://girlsofatomiccity.com/the_girls.html).

### Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet on **Tuesday, May 13**, at **7 p.m.** at Mary Witherspoon's home, **5713 Criner Road**. **Mary Johnson** will lead the discussion of **Chapter 6** of the Briefing Book, **"Food and Climate."** This group welcomes all who are interested. For information contact Mary at **256-881-6540** or [witherspoon8@comcast.net](mailto:witherspoon8@comcast.net).

### 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).

#### April

#### Lunch.com Schedule

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 18 | <a href="#">1892 East, 720 Pratt Avenue NE</a> |
| 25 | <a href="#">Grille 29, 445 Providence Main</a> |

#### May

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 2  | <a href="#">The Eaves, 501 Church Street NW, Suite A</a>                             |
| 9  | <a href="#">Happy Tummy, 2211 Seminole Drive SW</a>                                  |
| 16 | <a href="#">Ol Heidelberg, 6125 University Drive</a>                                 |
| 23 | <a href="#">Below the Radar, 220 Holmes Avenue NE</a>                                |
| 30 | <a href="#">Carrabba's Italian Grill, Parkway Place, 2801 South Memorial Parkway</a> |

### 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** ([lorrm@knology.net](mailto:lorrm@knology.net), **256-772-2549**) for more information.



## AAUW AL State Convention Highlights

### Empowering Women: Leadership, Advocacy and Education

Reflections from the Convention will be featured in the May newsletter. Additional information can be found online at <http://huntsville-al.aauw.net/photo-gallery/2014-aauw-alabama-state-convention-in-huntsville/>.



American Association of University Women

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

Follow us on Twitter: @AAUWHuntsville



## Convention News

Congratulations to the following branch members who will serve on the AAUW of Alabama Executive Committee next year:

**Ellie Lienau**, President

**Cindi Branham**, Program Vice President

**Audrey Salgado**, AAUW Funds Vice President

**Regina Hyatt**, Communication Director

**Jo Ann Cummings**, Finance Director

## Announcements



**One Huntsville's** monthly [Diversity Dinner Celebration](#) is held on the **third Tuesday of each month** at **The Children's Advocacy Center, 210 Pratt Ave.**

## 2014 Project Update – Gaining Ground

With 54 women candidates running for state level elected positions in Alabama, [The 2014 Project Alabama](#) will be closely watching the results of the June primary election. The United States Congressional races include three women: **Martha D. Roby, District 2;**



**Tamara Harris Johnson and Terri A. Sewell, District 7. Kay Ivey** is the only woman running for **Alabama Lieutenant Governor**. Other Alabama Executive office bids by women are **Lula Albert-Kaigler, Secretary of State; Miranda Joseph, State Auditor;** and **Kathy Peterson, Public Service Commission, Place 1.**

"A webpage of all of the women candidates in Alabama for 2014 will go live within the week at <http://www.cla.auburn.edu/wli/>," stated **Audrey L. Salgado, Chair, The 2014 Project Alabama**. She reports this effort is part of the transition from The 2014 Project Alabama to **Vision 2020**.

**Dr. Barbara Baker**, Auburn, **Vision 2020 National Delegate**, shared "In an effort to build collaboration among Alabama women, **AU Women's Leadership Institute (WLI)** is building the **Coalition for the Advancement of Women in Public Office** in cooperation with [Vision 2020](#)."

The idea is to invite all women running for public office to a mix and mingle to be held on Auburn's campus in early fall. Candidates will be given a few minutes at the microphone to talk about one (or all) of our goals:

- Increase the number of women in public office in the state of Alabama
- Increase women's participation in the political process
- Engage and educate women voters on the issues that matter.

Those interested in attending the WLI mix and mingle and joining the Coalition for the Advancement of Women in Public Office may register (free) by calling **334.844.2491** or emailing [wli@auburn.edu](mailto:wli@auburn.edu).

At the University of Alabama at Birmingham, **Evelyn Douglas, Birmingham, Vision 2020 National Delegate**, spoke this week with the UAB Women in Politics class about the lack of women in government leadership positions in Alabama. The class is taught by **Dr. Wendy Gunther-Canada, Chair, UAB Department of Government**. Wendy and Evelyn also serve on **The 2014 Project Alabama Leadership Team**. If your campus would like to invite Evelyn to speak, you may contact her at [evelynthe2014projectal@gmail.com](mailto:evelynthe2014projectal@gmail.com).

#### **ACCR and Alabama Readers Theatre Plus Bring History to Life**

The [Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform Foundation of Madison County](#) and [Alabama Readers Theatre Plus](#) present "**Alabama Speaks about the 1901 Constitution.**" Performers will represent real Alabamians who lived during the time our Constitution was drafted and have a direct or indirect connection with it.

The cast includes [John Knox](#) and [Thomas Heflin](#), chair and member of the Constitutional Convention. The cast also includes such contemporary notables as [Reuben Kolb](#), [Booker T. Washington](#), [Jackson Giles](#), and [Frances Griffin](#).

The production is scheduled for **Sunday, April 27, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.** (to include a fifteen-minute question-and-answer period) in the **Auditorium** of the **main branch** of the **Huntsville Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL.**

This event is **open to the public**. Information is available at **(256) 520-0700** or **(256) 489-3113**.