



## Huntsville Branch Newsletter

October 2013

Volume 4, Number 3

### President's Letter: October 2013

#### October: More than Pumpkins and Fall Leaves



October is a time to celebrate the beginning of fall. The leaves are changing colors, the temperatures are getting cooler, and pumpkin everything is available in the store

(have you tried the new pumpkin spice M&M's?). In addition to our celebrations of fall, October is also when we take time to educate ourselves and our communities about the impact of domestic violence. Many of us have personal experiences with domestic violence and among our friends and family members. Domestic violence can take on many forms including emotional and physical abuse, sexual violence, stalking and many other types of harassment.

#### AAUW's Mission

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

Sometimes we feel powerless to help ourselves, our friends, or others when we are confronted with the knowledge that someone is being victimized by domestic violence. It's important that we know about all of the great resources available here in our community, including Crisis Services of North Alabama (CSNA), which serves as a clearinghouse for domestic violence resources. You can call their 211 helpline or 256-716-1000 to learn more.

There are many ways you can get involved in the campaign to bring awareness to domestic violence. On October 25, CSNA will host a vigil on the campus of Oakwood University at 6 p.m. in Wade Hall. UAHuntsville will present the Red Flag Campaign October 21 through October 25. This campaign is designed to address dating violence on college campuses. The flags will be on display outside of the University Center on campus and a resource table will be staffed each day in the University Center lobby. You can also learn more about how AAUW advocates on behalf of those who are victims and survivors of domestic violence at <http://www.aauw.org/tag/violence-against-women/>.

On October 1, our branch worked together with UAHuntsville Women's Studies and other sponsors to host a showing of the documentary film, *The Invisible War*. The film dealt specifically with sexual violence in the military; I know many of our members who watched the film found it to be incredibly compelling and perhaps even left feeling called to action. I encourage you to do what you can to bring attention to these issues in the way that feels most comfortable for you, whether it's making a donation to one of our local community agencies that supports domestic violence survivors or attending an event or talking with your family members about this topic. Each of these actions makes a difference!

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

## Saturday November Meeting Features Dr. Esther Ngumbi

Joy Agee, Program Co-Vice President

On Saturday, November 2, AAUW of Huntsville will host **Dr. Esther Ngumbi**, post-doctoral researcher with the Entomology Department at Auburn University. She is passionate about issues of hunger, gender, education, youth activism, and sustainability. She is a co-founder of ["Young Thinkers Kenya - Creative and Innovative Towards Sustainable Development,"](#) a program that is engaging young Kenyan students attending high schools and universities in solving problems affecting their communities. She is also the co-founder of the [Faulu Academy](#), a primary school in Kenya. Dr. Ngumbi will speak on her experience as an AAUW fellow and her outreach endeavors. She was recently named by [One World Action](#) as one of the [Top 100 Women: The Unseen Powerful Women Who Change the World](#). **Please bring a book to assist Esther in her effort to collect books for the library at Faulu Academy and support literacy for students in Kenya.**



Please join us on **Saturday, November 3, 2013, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** at [Covenant Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 301 Drake Ave. SE, Huntsville, AL,](#)

### Reservations Required

The **menu for our November meeting** includes French toast casserole with maple syrup; mixed sausage bites - Italian, kielbasa, smoked; melon, berries in a lemon sugar sauce; and coffee, unsweet tea, water.

**Reservations are required by Thursday, October 31.** 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.

## Membership

Sherry Anderson, Membership Vice President

### New Member



In September, **Tawana Townsend** joined as our newest member. Tawana is currently a student at Calhoun Community College, and she also holds a BA in Business Information Systems from DeVry University as well as an MBA from Texas A&M Texarkana. Welcome aboard to Tawana! We look forward to a productive, rewarding association with her.

### Membership Renewals Are Overdue

Since the fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>, so do memberships for 2012-13. If you have already renewed for 2013-14, or if you are a Lifetime Member, many thanks to you! On the other hand, if you've been procrastinating, you are down to the wire. Here is the dues structure:

## Dues

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

## Student Affiliate\*\*

National	\$17.00
State	5.00
Local	7.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29.50</b>

\*National Paid Life-members pay for just state and local dues, \$25.

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

Branch board members are in the process of making calls to members who still have not renewed. At the end of October, the national database closes and no longer accepts any late renewals. If you wish to mail a check to renew, make it payable to AAUW Huntsville and mail it to Sherry Anderson, 101 Steeplechurch Ct., Huntsville, AL 35806-4072. If you are uncertain whether you have already renewed, please email [aauwmember@gmail.com](mailto:aauwmember@gmail.com) or call 256-895-8530. Otherwise, you may renew online at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) if you prefer.

## Member Payment Program Now Available in Huntsville

You asked for it, and it is now up and running. 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 and should be available for distribution at the December meeting.

## Funds

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



The Huntsville Branch of AAUW raises money several times a year to be used for various activities. There are two fundraisers that we are concerned with at this time: the **Belk Charity Sale** and the **Holiday "Phantom" Tea**.

Twice a year the Huntsville Branch of AAUW participates in the Belk Charity Sale. This is a wonderful opportunity to shop for bargains/rarely discounted items at the local Belk stores. This event takes place on **Saturday, November 9, 6:00–10:00 a.m.** The **tickets sell for \$5**, with the total amount going to our AAUW Branch (if you buy the tickets from us). Then when you shop, you will get \$5 off your purchase in exchange for your ticket. In fact, you can use more than one ticket during your shopping.

American Association of University Women

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

You can also sell them to your friends or give them as a thank you. Tickets may be used at any of the 300+ Belk locations. **Amanda and Ragan** have tickets and will be glad to meet you and sell you some. There is also a presale option: You may shop **November 4-8** and the merchandise can be rung up on Friday, November 8, using your Belk charge.

We get extra money for having two people working the morning of the sale. Thank you to **Marilyn Robertson and LaJoy Johns** for volunteering to fill this role!

The second fundraiser is the **Holiday "Phantom" Tea**. Each fall we send out 500 invitations 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. According to Marilyn Robertson, Branch Volunteer Coordinator, "We are a classy organization, so we address all of these invitations by hand." In the past this has been a "stuff the turkey" invite—so all the invitees need to do is put checks or money in the "turkey" and return it to the Funds Co-VPs. Right now, **Ragan** needs the names and addresses of people you think might be willing to make a donation to support education and equity for women and girls. Please email her at [ragans@alumni.uah.edu](mailto:ragans@alumni.uah.edu) with potential donors before **October 18**. If you prefer to snail mail her, you may call her at 256.656.2887 and she can provide you with her address.



We are looking for volunteers to address and stuff invitations at Marilyn's home on **October 28 at 1:30 p.m.** If you can help with this activity, please let Amanda or Ragan know. Thank you to **Karen Rudiger** and **Carol Roach** for volunteering to help!

Please let us know if you have any questions.

## Recycling Project



### 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 cleaned.
- 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

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 November 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!

## Volunteer Opportunities

Marilyn Robertson, Volunteer Coordinator

A BIG "thank you" to Anna Blair for leading the team taking calls for the WLRH fundraiser. The team included **Peggy East, Lajoy Johns, Francis Currie, Joann Cummings** and **Sarah Ragan**. Your help was very much appreciated!! Other needs are as follows:

- Galaxy of Lights Chair:** This is a fun and not terribly difficult activity, and training is provided! Training for volunteer leaders will be held on October 20 from 2 – 3 p.m. at Huntsville Botanical Gardens.

2. **Arts Council Representative:** Attend Arts Council meetings the third Wednesday of the month 5:30-7:00 p.m. to share information about AAUW upcoming events and to get information about what is happening in the Arts community to share with the branch. Also includes inputting information in the Arts Council calendar.
3. **Table decorator for events:** Provide table decorations for meetings. We don't have a budget for this, so it would have to be someone who has decorations already or is willing to do it at no cost. We **could use a committee** for this (volunteer and get your friends to help you!). If anyone is willing to donate things or money, that would be appreciated. Elaborate decorations are not necessary; a tablecloth would do.
4. **Newsletter Assistant Editor:** Work directly with Karen in producing the newsletter. This is a long-term volunteer position with the expectation that the person would be willing to take on Karen's role next year. NOTE: Karen really needs someone to publish in March, when she will be in Boston helping her daughter with a new granddaughter.
5. **Outreach Committee:** We need several women to work on the outreach committee with Ellie. The committee has not yet decided on projects. I would expect these would be time-limited activities.
6. **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).
7. 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

We've come a long way, Baby...

But, according to AAUW's recent report on the continuing wage gap between men and women, we ain't there yet! You will read with dismay and disgust in [The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap](#) that we've been stuck at 77% - 23 cents for every dollar men earn - for a decade. (We did rise to 77.8% in 2007.)

Graphs in this report show these median, or middle, annual earnings disparities in our own state and congressional district:

State/District Earnings Ratio	Men	Women	Disparity
Alabama	\$44,567	\$31,674	71%
(5 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District) Brooks	\$50,159	\$35,252	70%

National figures show men median earnings at \$49,398, women at \$37,791. Washington, DC, ranked higher, coming in first with only 90% difference. Wyoming placed last at 64%. Alabama, nestling between Indiana and Utah, took 47<sup>th</sup> place. Locally, we placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the array of Alabama's seven congressional districts. (Figures based on 2012 data and 113<sup>th</sup> Congress activity or lack thereof.)

These are shameful and disheartening figures especially considering the Equal Pay Act was passed half a century ago. As AAUW puts it: "What's better than the Equal Pay Act's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary? A Paycheck Fairness Act **birthday**." (Emphasis added!)



Read the report at [www.aauw.org/research](http://www.aauw.org/research). Then read more at [www.FightForFairPay.org](http://www.FightForFairPay.org). Then pick up a pen or the phone or the car keys and show our congressional delegation in Washington with your words and your presence that we want action to stop this discrimination for once and for all and WE WANT IT NOW!

### Take Action

Urge your members of Congress to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act (H.R. 1010/S. 460) today! The Fair Minimum Wage Act would gradually increase the minimum wage over the next three years until it eventually reaches \$10.10. The minimum wage is a working woman's issue – 56 percent of the workers who would benefit from this bill are women – and it is especially important for women of color.

So let's support America's workers the best way we know how: by advocating for an increase in the federal minimum wage.

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

### October Meeting Summary – *The Invisible War*

Carolyn Lord, Programs Co-Vice President



AAUW members, along with a number of UAHuntsville students including several members active in the UAHuntsville Veterans Network, gathered at the University Center on October 1 to learn more about sexual violence in the military. As the meeting began, members and guests discussed a set of questions on each table about our experience with the military and familiarity with issues of sexual harassment and assault, which included testing our knowledge with a brief quiz. During dinner, **Jennifer Blatter**, a **Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program (SHARP) Victim Advocate with Army Community Service**, spoke with us about her work here in Huntsville. AAUW members and guests then moved to the neighboring room to watch the 2013 Academy Award-nominated documentary *The Invisible War*, which exposed the problem of sexual assault in the military and the difficulties victims have finding justice. The film showing was co-sponsored with **UAHuntsville Women's Studies**, the **UAHuntsville Veterans Network**, and **POWER**, the UAHuntsville Women's Studies student organization. **Chanley Pickard**, a **SHARP Manager with Army Community Service**, introduced the film, and both Pickard and Blatter led discussion afterwards.

Did you know:

- 20% of women in the military have reported being sexually assaulted?
- Department of Defense studies suggest that 80% of such assaults, which affect many men as well as women in the military, go unreported?
- Those who do report sexual assault are often penalized for reporting it?

What can we do? Contact our senators and representatives and let them know that the military must not be a "safe" haven for sexual predators.



Rose Norman and JoAnn Perez greet members and guests.



Janice Marsh and Sherry Anderson work the membership table.



Jane Yantis and Carolyn Lord



Dr. Molly Johnson introduces our guest speakers from SHARP.



SHARP Manager Chanley Pickard



Jennifer Blatter, SHARP Victim Advocate



Members of the UAHuntsville Veterans Network



Lajoy Johns and Dana Gideon



The serious and sobering topic of Sexual Assault had everyone's attention.

## News to Note

### Women Honoring Women



Representing AAUW at the Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC) Women Honoring Women celebration were (front) **Liz Smith, Rebecca Harbor Jones, and Wanda Foster**; (back) **Joy Agee, Ellie Lienau, Marilyn Robertson, Lajoy Johns, and Cindi Branham**.

## Diversity

**Lajoy Johns** has graciously agreed to be our Diversity Chair. Thanks, Lajoy!

## NCCWSL Attendees in the UAHuntsville News

Read all about **Karelohn Williams** and **Kenya Wallace** and their idea to host a NCCWSL-like student conference here in Huntsville at AAUW Alabama's State Convention: <http://www.uah.edu/news/people/6814-national-leadership-conference-inspires-two-uah-students-to-host-a-local-version#.UlyYjM0o45t>

## Strategies to Practice Emotional Restraint During Conversations

With thanks to Dr. Elizabeth Smith

In these trying times, it is so easy to find ourselves embroiled in discussions that seem to run us headlong into a solid brick wall, or worse, end up in shouting matches. The following suggestions can help us all improve our communications skills and those with whom we are trying to communicate.

1. Cite your sources – or ask for sources – of facts. Be honest in your search for and representation of your facts.
2. Use qualifying words in your statements of facts (may, some, many, etc.) unless you know what your facts represent.
3. Preface your opinions with "I think," "It is my opinion," etc.
4. Start with a definition to make sure you are talking about the same concept.
5. Be aware of red flag/hot button words – yours and others' – and avoid or acknowledge them.
6. Watch your own tone of voice. If other people get angry, acknowledge the intensity and suggest a calming step (time out, stop the conversation, or take a deep breath and start over again).
7. Recognize the validity and authenticity of others' views. (What experiences have you had that make you feel this way?)
8. Ask clarifying questions. (What do you mean? Why do you think that would work? How would you solve it?)
9. Recognize weaknesses in your own arguments and acknowledge them. No perspective is 100% perfect...
10. Keep the purpose of the conversation in mind. It may be helpful to reiterate it during the course of the conversation (for example: Let's remember, we are doing this to try to understand each other, not bludgeon each other with "facts" we don't agree on).

## College/University Update

Molly Johnson, College/University Liaison



As College and University Relations chair, I was delighted with the success of the September AAUW meeting, where local women students from three colleges and universities talked about their transformative experiences at NCCWSL last summer. In addition, close to a dozen women students from five area colleges and universities attended the meeting to learn more about NCCWSL and AAUW. Each table also discussed "leadership," including brainstorming ideas for a student leadership program to be based on NCCWSL and to be held in conjunction with State Convention in April.

American Association of University Women

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



A number of women volunteered to be involved in planning, and our committee met on October 9 to formalize planning. If any of you would like to be involved, please get in touch with me at [molly.johnson@uah.edu](mailto:molly.johnson@uah.edu).

Wearing my UAHuntsville Women's Studies hat, I would also like to announce the upcoming visit of Dr. **Linda Gordon**, University Professor of the Humanities and Florence Kelley Professor of History at New York University, to UAHuntsville as a Humanities Center Short-Term Eminent Scholar. Dr. Gordon is one of the foremost experts on the history of women and gender and of social policy in the United States.

Dr. Gordon will give two public lectures on **Thursday, October 24, 2013**. Her keynote lecture will be "**Birth Control and Abortion: Why Still So Controversial? An Historical View**," at **7:30 p.m. in Wilson Hall Theater, Room 001**. While at UAHuntsville, she will give a second public lecture, "**Visual Democracy: How Dorothea Lange Used Photography to Promote Equality**," at **11:10 a.m. in Shelby Center, Room 107**, as part of the Honors Lecture Series. Please direct questions about Dr. Gordon's visit to me as well at [molly.johnson@uah.edu](mailto:molly.johnson@uah.edu) or 256-824-2566.

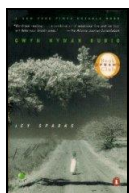


See last month's newsletter for more detailed information about Dr. Linda Gordon.

## 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, October 17, at 5:45 p.m.** We'll be reviewing the October selection, ***Icy Sparks***, by **Gwyn Hyman Rubio**. 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: **Caramelo** by Sandra Cisneros

**Patricia Smith:** This is the story of a Mexican American family that journeys between Chicago, Mexico, and Texas. The main character is a young girl, Celaya, who comes of age in the book. *Caramelo* is the color of her skin and also the color of the scarf that she inherits. It is a blended color as is the story - blended between cultures, between Celaya's and her Grandmother's time and between family members. This is exemplified in the book in the words of Celaya: "The universe is a cloth, and all humanity interwoven. Each and every person connected to me, and me connected to them, like the strands of a rebozo. Pull one string and the whole thing comes undone. Each person who comes into my life affecting the pattern and me affecting theirs." It is the connection between Celaya and her family that is explored and examined in the book.

**June Wilson:** *Caramelo* was a very interesting yet a somewhat challenging book to read. In the true diversity spirit of the AAUW iAdelante! reading program, this book, as September's selection, truly represented National Hispanic Heritage month. I enjoyed reading the story of a multi-generational family different from my own culture. However, I felt I always needed an English-Spanish dictionary on hand to look up the unfamiliar Spanish words and phrases that the author used. In an interview, the author explained that there often is not an adequate translation that truly expresses the sentiment.

## Great Decisions

**OCTOBER 21** (NOTE: 1 week late), Great Decisions will meet at **7:00 p.m.** at the home of Mary Witherspoon, **5713 Criner Road**. **Brenda Courtney** will lead the discussion of **Chapter 7: "China in Africa."**

**Monday, November 11**, Great Decisions will meet at **7 p.m.** at the home of Mary Witherspoon, **5713 Criner Road**. **Mary Johnson** will lead the discussion of **Chapter 8, "Threat Assessment."** Everyone is welcome to attend. 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).

### October

### Lunch.com Schedule

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 18 | <a href="#">Hildegard's German Cuisine, 2357 Whitesburg Drive South</a> |
| 25 | <a href="#">Bandito Burrito, 208 Main Street, Madison</a>               |

### November

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | <a href="#">German Luncheon at Grace Lutheran Church, 3321 South Memorial Parkway</a> |
| 8  | <a href="#">Romano's Macaroni Grill, 5901 University Drive NW</a>                     |
| 15 | <a href="#">D &amp; L Bistro, 7500 Memorial Parkway SW</a>                            |
| 22 | <a href="#">Cotton Row Restaurant, 100 Southside Square</a>                           |
| 29 | <a href="#">Four Leaves Asian Bistro, 7044 University Drive NW</a>                    |

## AAUW of Alabama

Wanda Foster, State President

A lot of exciting things are happening with AAUW of Alabama.

For starters, watch for a short article about AAUW of Alabama in your November *Outlook*. A lot of attention got stirred up at national when Lilly Ledbetter agreed to serve as honorary co-chair of the public policy committee alongside Elaine Hughes, state public policy chair.

This came about through the happy circumstance of my attending the AAUW of Alabama Ready to Run™ training in Jacksonville, Saturday, September 21, and running into Lilly. She attended the meeting most of the day and shared some of her experiences with the group. It was altogether a delightful and informative day, and Lilly and I seized a few minutes to talk privately about AAUW of Alabama. The result was that she was interested in serving on the public policy committee and the next Friday, at

American Association of University Women

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

Elaine's suggestion, I phoned and asked her to serve as honorary co-chair. She very graciously agreed and will lobby for pay equity. State Representative Laura Hall, who has worked so faithfully and so long to get a pay equity commission established, has agreed to prefile the bill. Once that is done, sometime before the holidays, branch members will need to contact their legislators and ask them to sign on to the bill. We need as many cosponsors as possible.

Lilly first came to the attention of AAUW of Alabama in early April 2008 as a speaker at a Legal Advocacy Fund banquet at our state convention, hosted by The Shoals branch. Shocked to learn what had happened to Lilly, we took up a collection on the spot, one of the first groups to contribute money to help her. AAUW of Alabama has had a relationship with Lilly ever since, and today she is a lifetime member at large.

Pay equity is only a part of an ambitious program state public policy is working out with our grassroots coordinator, Chardonnay Singleton. Elaine has tried to appoint committee members to geographically represent the state and/or because of their particular expertise. On October 3, committee members had a phone conference to firm up plans.

In addition to pay equity, we will concentrate on the invalidation of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (the recent lawsuit, *Shelby County v. Holder*, originated in Alabama's Black Belt, battleground of the civil rights movement); the Affordable Care Act and health care reform in Alabama; and the Alabama Accountability Act, which gives tax credits to families with children in failing public schools to offset the cost of tuition at private schools.

We will work as well to develop a state lobby corps and more coalitions with other state organizations on common public policy goals. In the process, we expect to add branches, increase membership, increase college and university partners, and recruit e-student affiliates. Elaine's committee includes Nancy Wilstach (Voting Rights), Lea Ann Webb (Affordable Care Act and health care reform in Alabama), Jo Ann Cummings (College/University Partners), Audrey Salgado and Susan Barrow (Membership), Joan Hudiburg (New/Revitalized Branches), and Wanda Foster (Pay Equity, Building Coalitions). Elaine will also work on the Alabama Accountability Act and Building Coalitions. The committee will work with appropriate state officers and our intent is to involve branch public policy chairs/committees.

This is only the beginning. Stay tuned for what happens next!

## Program Year Overview

<b>Tuesday, December 3, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>News From National</b>
<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, 5:30-8:00pm</b>	<b>Girls of the Atomic City</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 6, 5:30-8:00pm</b>	<b>Women's Health Month: What You Should Know About Cardiovascular Disease</b>

\*Denotes Program Dates May Be Switched

## Hold the Date

**November 9, 2013**, 6:00–10:00 a.m.

**Belk Charity Sale**

**April 4, 2014**

**Student Seminars**

**April 4-6, 2014**

**State AAUW Conference in Huntsville** (We're hosting!)

## Announcements



**The 2014 Project Alabama** is hosting an all-day training session, the **Statewide Women's Summit on Government Leadership**, at the **Alabama State Capitol Auditorium** in **Montgomery**, **Tuesday, November 5, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Adam Thompson**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Elections Division, Office of the Alabama Secretary of State, will kick off the event, followed by **Jenny Feinberg**, Political Strategist, Democracy.org, Palo Alto, CA.

**Dr. Wendy Gunther-Canada**, Chair, Department of Government, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, rounds out the agenda. Women government leaders have been invited. Get the facts about the [Fair Campaign Practices Act](#)! Speak with a political strategist to answer your campaign questions! Learn the latest tips and trends regarding women and politics!

There is **no cost** for the event; however, **all food and beverages are on your own**. To register, **send your name, mailing and email addresses, and phone number(s)** to **Audrey L. Salgado** at [audreythe2014projectal@gmail.com](mailto:audreythe2014projectal@gmail.com). If you have questions, contact Audrey at her home/office **205-437-0951**, or call/text **205-249-7788**.

In conjunction with The 2014 Project Alabama, AAUW of Alabama's **Ready to Run™** political training program was held in Jacksonville, Saturday, September 21. Twenty-five participants attended. Guest speakers included **Tahiera Monique Brown** and **Judith Kidd** from Toastmasters International, who led an interactive session, "The Competent Communicator." A new session about media productions featured **Bill Chitwood**, Birmingham media consultant. The training also included Branding Yourself, Launching Your Campaign, Alabama Political Parties, and Redistricting. Local women leaders shared their experiences in running for office.

**Ready to Run™** is a nonpartisan program for women who want to run for office, work on a campaign, get appointed to office, become community leaders, or learn more about the political system. It is affiliated with Rutgers University Center for American Women and Politics. **The 2014 Project Alabama** is a statewide, nonpartisan campaign to increase the number of women in government leadership.



**National Philanthropy Day Friday, November 15**

**Merrimack Hall 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.**

Registration takes place at 8:30 a.m. with morning workshops on important fundraising topics. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by a 1/2 day workshop with **Jerold Panas**.



### Policy News

#### Spread the Word

- **Health Insurance Exchange (Marketplace)**
- **Opens Tuesday, October 1**
- **For information, go to**
  - [THISISOBAMACARE.COM](http://THISISOBAMACARE.COM)
  - [Healthcare.gov](http://Healthcare.gov)



AAUW Huntsville Branch






Tune in to BET on Sunday, November 3 at 6 p.m. to see the Black Girls Rock Annual Awards. This year's honorees include Patti Labelle, Queen Latifah, tennis champion Venus Williams, screenwriter-producer Mara Brock Akil, ballet dancer Misty

Copeland, community organizer Ameena Matthews, and children's rights advocate Marian Wright Edelman.

Learn more about this program that mentors and enriches the lives of young girls from the ages of 12 – 17 here: <http://www.blackgirlsrockinc.com/>




**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.

**Advocate Alabama's Underserved Women**

**Nov 16**

AAUW Huntsville Branch See Amanda Jarrett



**Project Lead The Way**

Preparing students for the global economy

National curriculum, now being implemented in Huntsville, Madison City and Madison County schools.

**HS Engineering Program**

**HS Biomed Program**

**Middle School Gateway to Technology**

Improves performance in regular and advanced math and science

Hands on, project based rigorous curriculum

## Breaking Through Barriers - Diversity

Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.

*Anne Lamott (1954), American novelist and non-fiction writer. She is also a progressive political activist, public speaker, and writing teacher.*