



TOWSON BRANCH

Towson Branch Web Site: www.aauwtowson.org

Newsletter Editor: Janet Moses 410-321-0732

Send your newsletter articles to janetmoses@juno.com



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TOWSON BRANCH ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Gail Marciano Thies
Co-Vice Presidents Programs:
Co-Vice Presidents Membership:
 Ann Peterson and
 Roberta Sharper
Treasurer: Willard Graves
Recording Secretary:
 Geraldine Hisle
Corresponding Secretary:

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Educational Foundation:
 Marcia Brooks
Legal Advocacy Fund:
 Marcia Brooks
Public Policy: Christine Schmitz
Visibility: Mary Louise Ellenberger

SUPPORTING LEADERSHIP

Communications: Janet Moses
By-laws:
E-Group: Willard Graves
Finance Auditor:
International Relations:
Member News:
Newsletter Publication:
 Eunice Young
Newsletter Proof Reader:
 Lois Leuba
Scholarship for Interrupted Studies:
 Lois Leuba and Eunice Young
Yearbook: Carol Graves

EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

COORDINATORS

Bridge: 2nd and 4th Monday Evening:
 Eunice Young
Bridge 3rd Monday Evening:
 Marcia Brooks
Bridge Marathon: Bev Winter
Cultural Activities:
Day Books:
Evening Books: Bev Winter
Gardening:
Holiday Party:
Hospitality: Loraine Lewis

Scholarship For Interrupted Studies

Lois Reed Leuba
 410-296-0407

As 2008 comes to a close and you begin to think about your taxes, please consider a donation to the Scholarship for Interrupted Studies.

In the last two months we have received contributions from Janet Moses and Christine Schmitz. If you would like to make a donation please send it to me at 109 Gothard Rd., Lutherville, MD 21093.





Please Join Us

When: **Saturday, January 24, 2009**
10:00 AM for Networking
10:30 AM Program

Where: **Goucher College**
Alumnae/Alumni House

What: **Karline Tierney**
Not Your Mother's ERA

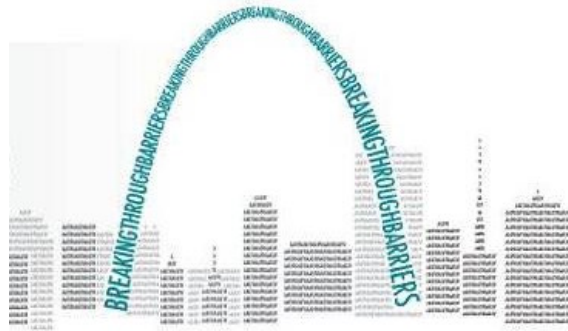
ERA? ERA? Isn't that, like, so out of date? Why should we be concerned, in 2008, about legislation from the 70's? Our speaker, Karline Tierney, will explain why ERA is still important and how lack of an equal rights amendment continues to adversely affect women today.

Karline Tierney has been working for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment since 1972 when it was passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification. Many states ratified quickly and with minimal fanfare. But for other states, many in the deep south, where Karline was living in Louisiana, ratification was, and still is, a very uphill effort.

Karline organized "ERA United," the coalition of over 100 Louisiana organizations supporting ERA. But the 1981 deadline passed with only 35 of the 38 states required for passage into the Constitution having completed their ratification. The world has changed and many people question the need for an Equal Rights Amendment. Come to our October meeting for an evaluation of its current relevance and need. Your rights, and especially your granddaughter's rights, are at stake.

Aside from an interest in women's rights, Karline is a chemist who worked in industry for 20 years reducing hazardous waste and cleaning up hazardous waste dump sites under the Federal Superfund law.

Several members of the Towson Branch heard Karline's talk at the Baltimore Branch meeting in October. We liked it so well we asked Karline to present it to the Towson Branch.



2009 AAUW National Convention will be 'BREAKING through BARRIERS'

AAUW-MO and the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) in St. Louis are hard at work planning the details of hosting the 2009 AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, June 26-28, 2009. This historic convention, themed "BREAKING through BARRIERS," will discuss and vote on issues related to membership requirements, dues payments, public policy issues, and much more. The results will have a momentous impact on who and what AAUW is to be in the coming years. You don't want to miss it! Check out the AAUW website for full details on the issues, the convention, and things to do in St. Louis: www.aauw.org/convention.

Convention registration began on December 1st and you DON'T want to miss out on Best Value Registration! * Hundreds of AAUW members are making plans to head for St. Louis next June to shape the future of our organization. The hotel has ample convention space, lovely rooms, great restaurants and is right in the heart of downtown St. Louis. The Cardinals will be playing ball, the Zoo is free, the Art Museum is world class, as is the Missouri Botanical Garden. Theater, opera and a great children's museum also await you.

At the convention we'll have welcoming activities on Thursday, stimulating workshops on Friday morning, First Timers' briefings, lively business sessions each day, dynamic keynote speakers, an exciting CEO Women Leaders luncheon, bylaws briefings, Meet the Candidates reception, elections for new officers, Taste of Success displays, the elegant banquet on Saturday night, and a final business session on Sunday morning. All this surrounded by the popular CyberStop, AAUW merchandise sales, our friendly AAUW Missouri hospitality and much more. We want YOU to have a GREAT time at the convention!

Please join us in St. Louis! Plan now to send branch members and delegates to convention by budgeting for it, appointing delegates early, discussing the issues and bylaws. Treat yourself to a mini-vacation at the historic Renaissance Grand Hotel where spa treatments, great restaurants, and lots of extras await you. Don't forget to invite your AAUW family and friends from across the country to "meet you in St. Louis" as we continue to 'break through barriers' for women and girls.

For additional information, you may contact the Local Arrangements Committee: Lynne Roney, chair (lynneroney@sbcglobal.net), Diane Ludwig - local sponsorships (dbludwig22@aol.com), Pat Shores - volunteers/hospitality (apatriciashores@charter.net), and Julie Triplett - volunteers/hospitality (julietrip@charter.net)

**There is a SPECIAL Best Value registration fee of \$375 for those who register between December 1, 2008 and January 15, 2009. This is the same rate as the 2007 convention two years ago! PLAN AHEAD and take advantage of this great deal!*

HAVE YOU SEEN AND READ THEM?

Mary Louise Ellenberger
Life Member and Towson Branch since 1992

This message to my AAUW Towson branch sisters is prompted by two pieces of mail: *The Marylander*, Winter 2008 issue, and AAUW's *Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008*, entitled "Breaking through Barriers."

Why did I find them exciting reading?

I don't recall a previous annual report from the Association. If I received one annually, it obviously didn't make much impact with me. But these 32 pages are beautifully illustrated stories of what AAUW is **ALL** about! I say ALL because I learned about Barriers being Broken beyond my general understanding of the American Association of Women! For just the least important example, I've finally waken up to the error of describing ourselves with those four words.....it's AAUW we present to the nation in this changing digital world.

Thank you Executive Director Linda D. Hallman and the board of officers who are now leading AAUW !

Rather extensive bios introduce the three acclaimed journalists who will lead the Maryland winter conference, front page news in our state's quarterly newspaper. Their assignment is to help us consider how we women around the nation affected the recent election and how that may affect our future. Other headlines and articles inspired and informed me with info about how branches are reaching out to help women and girls improve their lives.....as far as Kyrgyzstan with member Jane Costanzi's leadership and as close as America's blind children with state president Marcie Posner's guidance.

Thank you Maryland elected officers and, especially, Janet Moses who is current editor of *The Marylander* as well as our own branch newsletter.

SO WHAT? Expressing thanks isn't enough! What additional action will I take as a result of these messages? What can YOU do? How about a bunch of us:

registering now for the Chevy Chase winter meeting?

providing an additional Educational Fund check (Christine Schmitz of the Towson Branch is State V-P.)?

searching for younger career women or homemakers to invite to AAUW

Public Policy
Christine Schmitz
410-795-5091

TAKE ACTION!!

Visit the newly redesigned "Take Action" page on the AAUW web site! (http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/index.cfm)

AAUW's advocacy work builds upon a century of responsible public participation at the local, state, national, and international levels. The member-endorsed **Public Policy Program** illuminates and advances AAUW's mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. AAUW conducts comprehensive advocacy to pursue its public policy priorities, developing and implementing coordinated legislative and grassroots strategies to break through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

The AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Department – with input from the member leaders of the AAUW Public Policy Committee – implements the public policy program. But it is AAUW member advocates across the country who speak their minds on **AAUW issues** that truly advance AAUW's mission.

Join the AAUW Action Network!

Anyone with an e-mail address can subscribe to the AAUW Action Network, a group of AAUW members and supporters committed to mobilizing citizens on issues affecting women. Discover what's happening in Washington and what you can do to influence the outcome. Using Two-Minute Activist, it takes just two minutes to make your voice heard – one minute to read, one minute to act. AAUW members and supporters can also find detailed information on legislation currently under consideration in Congress and write letters to the editor of their local paper



Evening Book Group
 Bev Winter
 410-583-2356

Follows is the program for the AAUW Towson Branch evening book group for the 2008/2009 year. If you are interested in joining this group please call Bev Winter at 410-583-2356 or e-mail her at BHWinter@AOL.com

First Mondays

Hostess

- | | | |
|------------|---|----------------------|
| January 5 | <i>The Friday Night Knitting Club</i>
By Kate Jacob
<i>The group will meet at Priscilla Huppler's home (410-252-2598). Linda Prause will lead the discussion.</i> | Priscilla Huppler |
| February 2 | <i>A Buffalo Soldier: A Novel</i>
By Chris Bohjalian
<i>The group will meet at Ann Peterson's home (410-821-8824).</i> | Ann Peterson |
| March 2 | <i>Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation</i>
By Cokie Roberts | |
| April 6 | <i>People of the Book: A Novel</i>
Geraldine Brooks | Linda Prause |
| May 4 | <i>Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body</i>
By Neil Shubin | |
| June 2 | <i>The Sea</i>
By John Banville | Marjie Slater-Kaplan |

Potluck Dinner

January Board Meeting

Date: Monday, January 12, 2009
Time: 12 Noon
Location: Olive Branch Restaurant
 1721 Reisterstown Road
 Pikesville, MD

All members are welcome!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
February 17th

For the March/April 2009 newsletter
Send your submissions to:
Janet Moses at
janetmoses@juno.com
or by mail to:
21 Theo Lane
Towson, MD 21204-2751

Submissions for the March/April
newsletter
must be received by the deadline





Mark Your Calendar

Monday , January 12, 2009

Board Meeting

12 Noon Olive Branch Restaurant
1721 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, MD

January 17, 2009

AAUW Maryland Winter Meeting - Alfio's La Trottoria, Chevy Chase

Saturday, January 24, 2009

10:00 AM Hospitality and Networking

10:30 AM Program

Karline Tierney

Not Your Mother's ERA

Goucher Alumnae/Alumni House

Saturday, February 14, 2009

Guests of AAUW Baltimore, the College Club

Valentine's Luncheon at Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation

Guest Speaker: AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman

Saturday, March 21, 2009

10:00 AM Hospitality and Networking

10:30 AM Program

Ann Weller Dahl

A. A. Milne: Much More Than Just Pooh

Goucher Alumnae/Alumni House

Saturday, April 18, 2009

AAUW Maryland Spring Conference—Easton

Saturday, May 16, 2009

11:00 AM Brunch and Tour of the Historic Greenmount Cemetery

Details to be announced

June, 2009

Picnic

Date and details to be announced

June 26 —29, 2009

2009 AAUW National Convention

St. Louis, Missouri



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Gail M. Thies
410-597-8918

Our November 15th program featured Dr. Joseph Arminio who presented an interactive and in-depth interpretation of the 2008 election results with an eye-opening socio-economic twist. Rather than expound upon the varied points therein, I heartily recommend Dr. Arminio's book, *The Decline and Fall of the American Way* (2007, Wilmington, DE, Intrepid Press recommended as follow-up reading. The raw-data approach to news interpretation, albeit with a touch of economic think-tank statistical theorizing, held our attention despite the underlying conspiracy-school-of-history overtones. As far as AAUW is concerned, the organization does its fair share of theorizing as well – but, the theorizing gets transformed into formulated plans at conventions whereupon those plans are then scrutinized and eventually tailored to fit the needs of the specific branches. The plan can only work if it is well thought out and implemented using common goals and guidelines. In these challenging economic times, suffice it to say that the membership is part of the implemented plan, part of the organizational zeitgeist in the form of daily enthusiastic interactive and interpersonal support. AAUW succeeds and prevails due to a sense of solidarity and genuine purpose, like the St. Louis Arch, a bridge over troubled water or barrier buster as it were. Here's to convening in Chevy Chase on January 17, 2009 and in Baltimore on February 14, 2009 - so as to mutually share our barrier-breaking stories and experiences. Also, many thanks to our December Holiday Party planning committee for a wonderful time at Broadmead where Towson AAUW contributed to the Fund for Social Welfare/Holiday Project.

Gail Thies,
President

AAUW Baltimore Branch's Valentine's Day Luncheon
 Saturday, February 14, 2009
 12:15 P.M.
 Peabody Room
 Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation
 W. University Parkway and N. Charles Street
 Guest Speaker is AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman
The menu is lasagna, tossed salad, dessert and a drink

AAUW Towson Reservation Form - Valentines Day Luncheon
 Due by February 3, 2009

Name: _____	Meat _____	Vegetarian _____	Price \$8
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Phone number: _____

Mail check payable to AAUW Baltimore to:
 Ms. Berta Brightman
 P.O. Box 5765
 Baltimore, MD 21282