

Branch Bark

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Battle Creek, MI
AAUW e-newsletter

April 2014

APRIL BRANCH PROGRAM



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Newsletter Editor - Phyllis Heaberlin

WHAT: "Human Trafficking in Michigan"

WHERE: First Congregational Church, 145 Capital Ave.

WHEN: April 7, 7:00 p.m.

**Presented by Jane P. White, Director
Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force**

Most of us in AAUW are probably aware of the worldwide tragedy of human trafficking. This horrific crime encompasses both sex trafficking and forced labor, and is a highly profitable form of modern-day slavery, involving mostly young women and girls. Most people view this as an international problem and assume the federal government deals with it through law enforcement and immigration policies. As Ms. White will make clear, however, Michigan is not immune to human trafficking. In fact, Michigan has become a focal point, for several reasons.

Ms. White will explain the work of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, a nonprofit organization (which she founded) that is part of the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. The broad mission of the Task Force is "To facilitate a collaborative effort to prevent trafficking of persons within the State of Michigan, to pursue prosecution of perpetrators, and to protect and rehabilitate trafficking victims." Over 90 organizations and agencies are members of the Task Force.

We will also learn about recent efforts by the State of Michigan to address this problem. In March 2013 the Michigan Legislature and Attorney General created the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking. Ms. White was an active member of that commission. She will share with us some of the commission's key findings and recommendations, including the passage of several laws, being worked on right now.

Ms. White has a long, impressive history of leadership-level work in criminal justice. Among other things, she developed and ran the largest law enforcement training center in the state, was the first female in the nation to head a police academy, and is a nationally recognized developer and trainer of programs that address community policing, leadership, ethics, and human trafficking issues.

President's Message

I saw some very interesting facts about Calhoun County and Kalamazoo County in the 2014 issue of *Southwest Michigan Living*. The population of Kalamazoo County increased by 4249 from 2010 to 2011 while it decreased by 1137 in Calhoun County. The 2010 median age of Kalamazoo County was 34.1 while in Calhoun County it was 39. That means that half of the residents in Calhoun County are over 39 years old. We are "senior citizen" rich. We are not only losing people, but most probably the people leaving are the younger ones. Average median household income in Kalamazoo County for 2007-2011 was \$46,019 while Calhoun County's was \$42,287. The median rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in 2010 for Kalamazoo County was \$687 and for Calhoun County in 2012 it was \$524. Average median value of owner-occupied housing units for 2007-2011 in Kalamazoo County was \$144,200 but for Calhoun County it was \$107,000. So why is Kalamazoo County growing but Calhoun County shrinking? It appears that housing costs and incomes are not an adequate explanation. What can we do to keep the young people in Calhoun County? There are many positive assets in Calhoun County. To name a few: excellent community college, state-of-the-art science and math magnet high school, outstanding symphony and many other music opportunities, Binder Park Zoo, Leila Arboretum, long-standing baseball and softball tradition and a very caring community. Let us talk up the positive things and support our local establishments rather than going out of county. Let's mentor and encourage our young people and participate with them in the activities that this community has to offer.

Calhoun County is home to Albion College which played a significant role in the women's suffrage movement. One of its graduates, **ANNA HOWARD SHAW**, was a close confidante of Susan B. Anthony. Trisha Franzen, a professor of women's and gender studies at Albion College describes Shaw as "perhaps the most eloquent orator in the women's suffrage movement." Frazer's book *Anna Howard Shaw: The Work of Woman Suffrage* has just recently been published by the University of Illinois Press.

National **EQUAL PAY DAY** is April 8th. For every dollar a man earns, women at the national level are still making only 77 cents and in Michigan it is only 74 cents. Since Michigan's legislators will not be in session at that time, AAUW is participating in the April 29th Equal Pay Day Legislative Briefing in Lansing. I cannot attend this event because it is on a Tuesday. I will have the registration information at the April 6th program. I hope that there are several members from our Branch that will attend.

If you know of any girls grades 6 through 9 that should be attending the **BRUIN BOTS GIRL CAMP** April 6th through 10th, encourage them. Girls will learn the basic design concepts required to create functioning robots. They will also learn about different types of robots and where they are used in the real world. They will be introduced to LEGO Mindstorm sets and will have the opportunity to design and build robots. Remember that our Branch approved 2 scholarships and KCC also has funds available. Contact Edie for applications: 979-3746 or edieatglenoaks@yahoo.com

Edie Walter, President, AAUW-BC

AAUW Happenings

On Saturday, March 15, 2014, Kathy Shaw, Jan Emery and I attended the first AAUW of Michigan Leadership Conference at Lansing Community College's East Campus. There were approximately 45 women in attendance from across the state.



The keynote speaker, Deepti Gudipati, (left) AAUW Director of Member Leadership Programs, presented on targeting new members with wisdom and precision. Deepti helped the group brainstorm demographic markets in which AAUW branches could potentially find new members. She then provided groups with a visual tool to help write out key points about AAUW, which may appeal to them - or *not*. The exercise stirred some great conversations regarding the activities branches are currently participating in and how these may influence and hinder growth.

Panel discussions were led by Janie Jones, AAUWMI College and University Director, and featured Angela Trepanier, Director of the Genetic Counseling Graduate Program and an assistant professor of Molecular Medicine and Genetics at Wayne State University, April Yost, Residence Hall Director, the Assistant Director of Student Activities, and the Student Government Association Advisor at Olivet College, and Ronnisha Williams, Assistant to the Vice President and Dean of Student Life and Director of the Parent Advisory Council at Olivet College. Ronnisha is very interested in joining a local branch and is hoping to visit Battle Creek for the upcoming April meeting.



The afternoon concluded with several break out sessions covering topics ranging from the use of communication and technology to pending legislation. Overall I believe everyone was very pleased with the content of the conference and look forward to similar opportunities in the future.

(Left) Ronnisha and April

As President-Elect, this conference gave me much to think about....the importance of creating an annual strategic plan, evaluating activities in relation to the AAUW mission, and how to answer the most difficult question: Do we find value in potentially expanding activities and/or programmatic offerings to attract and increase membership? Gives us something to ponder for now.



(Left to right) Jan Emery, Kathy Shaw, and Jenny Andrews

Our mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

INTEREST GROUPS

GOURMET GROUP

Deb Ensign has graciously offered to host the Gourmet Group for a Celebration of Spring Luncheon at her home on **Thursday, April 24** at 1:00 p.m. Rather than divide into teams to provide food and help for this event, everyone who plans to attend please call Deb at 966-9665 as soon as possible regarding your contribution. At the March luncheon we decided unanimously to update our group's name. Please give this some thought and send suggestions to me at jacquelyninglett@att.net. I will compile a list then we can vote on the name we like the best when we meet at Deb's on April 24th. Jackie Inglett 963-2505.



MAH JONGG

Jean Hutchinson is the Mah Jongg chair replacing Joy Bishop. Our regular meeting dates are the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month unless there is an exception, so meetings will be on **April 4th and April 18th** at 1:00 p.m. Nancy Day will be hosting. If you cannot attend, please call her at 269-274-5842.

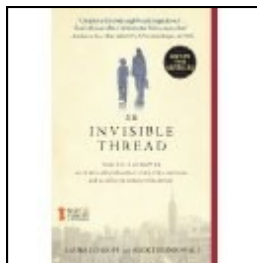


Reminder - BOARD MEETING - The next Branch Board meeting will be April 14th. All members are welcome to attend. Please send agenda items to Edie at: edieatglenoads@yahoo.com or phone: 979-3746

Our mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

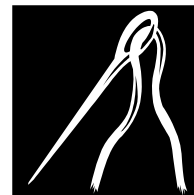
BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be on **April 22nd** at 7:00 p.m. The book, "An Invisible Thread" is a Battle Creek Read this year and is written by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski. It is the true story of an 11-year-old, homeless panhandler, a busy sales executive, and an unlikely meeting with destiny. They met every week for years and built a friendship that spanned almost 3 decades. This meeting will be hosted by Jackie Inglett. Call 963-2505 if you can't attend. She lives at 11 Heather Ridge Road.



STITCHERY AND HOBBIES

Spring is finally here!!!! Hopefully this means the end of weather cancellations, and we are positively, 100%, definitely going to meet on **Wednesday, April 9th!!!!** Please join us at Lillian Jones' home, 120 Christy Drive, at 7pm. Any questions, please email Sam at smayo138@gmail.com. Hope to see you all soon.



WRITERS' GROUP



The Writers' Group will meet on **the 3rd Tuesday of April, the 15th**, from 4 to 6 PM at Jackie Inglett's (11 Heather Ridge Rd). Please call if you cannot attend (963-2505).

Suggested topics this month include *Spring, A Dilemma, The College Experience or What Education Means to Me or The Value of Education*, or, choose your own topic. If you are wondering if this would be fun, interesting or challenging, please come to this meeting & see for yourself. We are welcoming & non-judgmental! Please keep your writing to about 800 words.

For further information about the Writers' Group, please call Jackie Sheldrick 979-2344.



CULTURED PEARLS NEWS: Theatre, Art, Music, Dance, Films, Museums, Dining

- **Music:** April 5, Met Opera Live, "La Boheme", W. Columbia 7 theatre, 269-963-FILM
- **Films:** April 5, 1:00 p.m., "Ireland: Celtic Myths & Splendors", Burnham Brook, Kiwanis Club of Battle Creek, Passport to Discovery Films
- **Music:** April 26, Met Opera Live, "Cosi fan tutti", W. Columbia 7 Theatre, 269-963-FILM
- **Art: April 6 - 26**, "Forty Years of Creating Art" (the work of Eleanor DeVries), April 6: Opening Reception, 1-4 p.m
- **Music:** April 4, 8 p.m., "Otello", Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Miller Auditorium
- **Music:** April 12, \$22, "Damon Fowler Blues". Franke Center for the Arts, Marshall, 781-0001
- **Music:** April 26, 8 p.m., \$20, "Albion College Symphony Orchestra, Franke Center for the Arts, Marshall, 781-0001
- **Bridges to Cultural Understanding**, April 10, "Teen Talk/Health Issues", 7:00 p.m. First Congregational Church, 145 N.E. Capital Ave., call 275-1818



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kathy Kiessling
- 3 Connie VanderPolder
- 7 Pat Fosdick
- 13 Jackie Luke
- 14 Samantha Mayo
- 24 Janet Miller



USED BOOK SALE NEWS

1. We have new co-chairs for the upcoming fall sale. Since planning the sale begins now, before the change of the AAUW officers, we will begin transitioning this spring. Our new co-chairs are Joanne Geise and Norma Dudiak. Jean and I are excited about this. These two women are dedicated to the project. They have their hearts and souls in it, they love working with the books and all it entails. Our committee is very fortunate to have them take this on. You will be hearing from them soon with information. Please give them all your support. If you haven't met them, make a point of meeting them soon.
2. We have/had a committee meeting scheduled Monday, March 31st at 6:30 pm in the conference room at Brinks' Storage Unit. If you get this prior to this date, and would like to join the committee, you are welcome to attend. If you are not familiar with the site, and want directions and/or information on entering the building, please call or email Mary Peacock, 964.8785, peacock.maryc@gmail.com.
3. Book Thinning Project!!!! Come help with the thinning of the books, especially those of you who are ruthless. A Thursday date for your calendars follows: April 3rd. 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Joanne & Norma will facilitate. They ask that you bring boxes to pack books for dispersment, i.e., something we could all pick up. If you can help with dispersing the material, please come to work during part or all of that time period. Questions? Norma's contact information is njudiak@TDS.net, or 731-3499. Joanne's contact information is mjoanne@me.com or, 986.4310.

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE by Linda Lumley

Michigan's Abortion Opt-Out Law Takes Effect

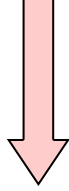
A law requiring Michigan women to purchase a **separate rider** if they want their private health insurance to cover abortion services took effect March 13. The law states that no health insurance policy—whether part of the private health insurance marketplace or the new federal health care exchange under the Affordable Care Act—is allowed to cover the cost of an abortion, regardless of the reason for the abortion. If a pregnancy is the result of rape or incest? Not covered. If the fetus is severely damaged? Not covered. If the woman's health or life will be threatened by the pregnancy continuing? Not covered. In order for the cost of an abortion to be covered by health care insurance, a woman has to purchase a separate policy BEFORE she becomes pregnant.

But that's a moot point for most women, because no insurance companies will be offering those abortion riders to new customers in the private marketplace once the law has taken effect, according to the states' Dept. of Insurance and Financial Services. Insurers had to tell the state in February if they planned to offer and sell abortion coverage through separate riders. Only 7 said they would, and ONLY as part of employer-sponsored plans. As a result, anyone who purchases health insurance as an individual won't be able to purchase a separate rider covering abortion services.

What impact will this new law have on Michigan women? In 2012, 22,700 abortions were performed in Michigan. We do not know how many of them were related to rape, incest, fetal defect or disease, or to preserve the health or life of the mother. A typical first-trimester abortion in Michigan costs about \$500. Second and third-trimester abortions, which may require hospitalization, can cost as much as \$10,000. (The vast majority of abortions performed in the second or third trimester are due to the health status of the fetus or the mother.) For some women, these costs will be prohibitive.

This law was the product of a petition drive organized by Right to Life of Michigan. They collected signatures representing just 4.2% of Michigan voters. The Michigan Legislature could have chosen to have the issue put on the ballot for the next election, but chose instead to bring it up for a vote in the Legislature, knowing that the Republican-controlled House and Senate would pass it, whereas the people of Michigan probably would not. Although Gov. Snyder vetoed a similar bill in 2012, the governor does not have the authority to veto a petition-initiated bill.

THIS 'N THAT

AAUW nominations 2014-2015		ARTICLE OF INTEREST 
President	Jenny Andrews	
President-elect	Pat Fosdick/Jackie Sheldrick	
Secretary	Susan McCabe (with Jan Emery as mentor)	
Finance	Deb Ensign	
Membership	Jo Russell/Joanne Giese	
Communications	Jenny Andrews	
Program	Jackie Luke/Samantha Mayo	

We subscribe to a magazine called *Michigan History*. This month they had an article on the “Statues of Strength” (Michigan Women in metal and stone). There are currently 11. Here they are:

Marie-Therese Guyon-Cadillac (1671-1740) – The first white female settler in the State. Statue is located at Marygrove College, Detroit.

Of course, Battle Creek’s **Sojourner Truth**

Laura Smith Haviland – (1808-1898) – Statue is located in the town of Raisin, Lenawee County Historical Museum. She helped found the Logan Female Anti-Slavery Society and organized the one of the first Michigan Underground Railroads. She was so successful, slave owners placed a \$3,000 bounty on her head.

Anna Howard Shaw (1847 – 1919) – First ordained female minister of the American Methodist Church. She became a friend of Susan B. Anthony and succeeded her as Pres. of the Nat’l. American Woman Suffrage Assoc. Statue is next to the Big Rapids Community Library

Martha David Warner (1866-1949) – Wife of Governor Fred Warner (1905-1911) she entertained politicians at their family home. Her statue, holding the hand of their daughter, Edessa, is located in the garden of the Farmington home now a museum.

Anna Garrity (1872-1927) – First Michigan Female Lighthouse Keeper on Presque Isle Harbor from 1902 to 1926. Twice a day, regardless of weather, she walked a narrow board pathway to the front range light, which she lit every night and extinguished at dawn. Her statue is at Presque Isle’s Range Light Park.

Helen Claytor (1907-2005) – A key figure in the desegregation of the YWCA, she also served as the group’s first African-American president and the first in the Nation. Her statue will be dedicated on the Grand Rapids Community College campus in July 2014.

Rosa Parks (1913-2005) – There are two statues erected in her honor; one outside the Rosa Parks Circle in GR in 2010, the other inside the Flint Mass Transportation Authority bus station in 2011.

Helen Thomas (1920-2013) – Raised in Detroit in a Lebanese immigrant family, she covered 10 U.S. presidents in a press corps dominated by men. Helen was appointed to the White House press corps after the 1960 Kennedy election. She was the first woman to become a White House bureau chief, pres. of the White House Correspondents Assoc. and the Gridiron Club. Her statue is located at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn.

Naomi Long Madgett (1923) – She introduced the school system’s first accredited African-American literature courses and led the fight for fairer representation of African-American and Victorian literature. She has published 8 volumes of poems and several creative writing textbooks. She is currently poet laureate of Detroit. She statue is on display at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit.

Dauris Jackson (1933-1979) – Earning both a BA and MA from Wayne State University, she served on the University’s Bd. of Governors. While there she aggressively advocated for better accessibility for women and people of color. She co-authored the Detroit City Schools’ first multi-racial textbooks. Her bronze bust is in Wayne State University’s Community Arts Bldg.

They also talk about the **Group Statues** outside the W.K. Kellogg Foundation depicting the Underground Railroad, with Sarah Hussey and Flint’s statues honoring the Women’s Emergency Brigade, who took action during the auto workers strike of 1936 and 1937.

It would be fun to have some of our local historians research these women and give us a program. *Pat Fosdick*

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