



CONNECTIONS

Columbia Branch

Advocacy, Education and Research

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Breaking Through Barriers

By the time you read this, the election will have been decided, and the United States will begin marking the next four year increment of its journey as a nation. No matter who has been selected the next president, it is important that each of us continues to make our voice heard beyond the 2008 election.

As I write this, it appears that there will be a record voter turnout, especially a huge number of first time voters. Members of the AAUW Columbia Branch contributed mightily to voter registration efforts here in Missouri. Holly Burgess stepped in at the last minute

to assist AAUW Missouri to complete a grant awarded by national AAUW to register voters throughout the state. Several members of the AAUW Columbia Branch registered hundreds of voters. Members donated their time to make sure that everyone had a voice in this election. I offer each of them a heartfelt thank you.

But hang on—we have another large political event coming up which will have an impact on the future of women and girls. I am referring to the 2009 National AAUW Convention, “Breaking Through Barriers” which is being held in St. Louis, Missouri, June 26th through June 28th. This convention is in our front yard, greatly reducing the cost of travel. There will also be partial

refunds given on both room and registration for those who volunteer for a few hours during the convention. Members who have attended previously relate that convention is a tremendous and empowering experience. The Columbia Branch would like to have as many members as possible attending. Please consider joining us. This is also going to be a historic political event, as there are many proposed changes which will be decided at convention this year.

The Branch retreat, so graciously hosted by Grace Butler, generated a lot of good ideas about actions the Branch should take in order to both bring in new members and serve our current members. I am calling for volunteers to

form a committee in order to wade through these ideas, and help hammer out the specifics to make each happen. On the national front, AAUW is making changes in order for the organization to be effective in breaking through barriers for women and girls. We, in Columbia, need to do the same. I would point to success we had in the changes which were instituted to the Eva Johnston scholarship. The 2008-2009 recipient has been attending meetings, assisting with voter registration, and trying to get other members of the MACC student body involved. We can have similar successes in the future, but the Branch needs all members to make it happen.

This is the last newsletter before the new year. Here is hoping that 2009 is a good one for each of us, and for the AAUW Columbia Branch.

Christine Roberson

Convention Fees

As mentioned in the President's Letter, the 2009 AAUW National Convention is being held in St. Louis June 26-28.

Best Value registration, \$375 for members, is available December 1 until January 15.

Early Bird registration, January 16-March 22, is \$399 for members.

Regular registration, from March 23 until the convention, is \$440 for members.

The Saturday evening 2009 AAUW National Convention Banquet is an additional \$125.

An Invitation

The family of Milton and Elizabeth (Liz) Bailey invite you to help celebrate their 50th years of wedded life at a reception on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Parlors of Missouri United Methodist Church, 9th and Locust, Columbia.

2009 AAUW National Convention: Breaking through Barriers

The 2009 AAUW Convention, to be held June 26-28, 2009, at the Renaissance Grand and Suites Hotel in St. Louis, will be a historic and exciting event. Details on registration, program activities, travel planning, sponsorship opportunities, and St. Louis tourism will be available on our convention website.

<http://www.aauw.org/convention/>.

Eva Johnston Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee (Holly Burgess, Kerri Cornell Duerr, Alice Payne, Alice Anna Reese, and chaired by Janet Groat) completed the changes in the standards for our Eva Johnston Scholarships. The \$500 annual scholarship is now targeted towards "reentry women" attending a Boone County two or four year post secondary institution: Columbia College, Stephens, UMC, and the Columbia campuses

of Moberly Area Community College and William Woods University. The recipient may be working on an associate or a bachelor's degree.

The reasons for the change include a desire to have a bigger impact on an individual woman's path towards income equity. This is very much in line with the current emphasis of our national organization.

We are pleased to announce our recipient this year: Dedrae Marcella Kelly. Dedrae graduated from Hickman High School in 1987, started college and dropped out after the first semester. She is the single mom of a four year old. After eighteen years out of school, Dedrae started back to college on the Columbia campus of Moberly Area Community College. She is majoring in psychology and plans to transfer to MU.

Many of you met Dedrae at our May meeting and know how enthusiastic she is about AAUW. In her gracious acceptance letter she says: *Thank you for your patience and attention in*

helping me through this process. As you know, it is a stressful time for those of us on this path of higher learning, and the financial burdens can seem overwhelming. That is one reason why the scholarship program is so vital. But more than that, I am honored to be selected by such a prestigious organization of remarkable women. I thank you, my family thanks you, my future thanks you. Your trust in me and my abilities serve as an inspiration, and I will endeavor to earn your respect. This is truly an honor for me, I will not let you ladies down. Keep an eye on the sky, for this bird will soar to great heights.

Fundraiser

This may be our easiest fundraiser yet! If you shop at Schnuck's you don't even need to go out of your way. Our local branch will make up to 3% of every purchase you make. Please don't let this one get by you. All you need to do is:

- Go to the customer service counter and pick up the red plastic "eScrip" card. It has both

a credit card size card and a key chain card. Pick up a few extra cards for family members.

- Register the card one of three ways :
 1. Go on line to www.escrips.com
Copy this group ID: 500018994 or find us by zip code 65203.
 2. Call 800-931-6258 (8 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Friday)
 3. On line www.schnucks.com
Link fundraising under Corporate Programs on the home page. From that link select "Schnuck's eScrip Community Card". It will link you to eScrips. Copy this group ID: 500018994 or find us by zip code 65203.

On line, register to get a supporter ID /user name (a number) and you select your password.

- Next, the hard part, *remember to use it! Have the checker scan it at checkout.*

- *See if you can get your family and friends to sign up and use it too.*

If you already use the eScrips for another organization, notice that you are able to select up to three organizations to share with, so please think of us too.

Additional cards for family members are registered under your user Supporter ID/user name. On line: go to [Account Administration](#) to register additional cards. You can add the additional cards on the phone line as well.

What could be easier? The money will be deposited directly into our checking account. Maybe we will never have to do another raffle again!

If you have any trouble please let Janet Groat know. 256-8278
jg.design@wildblue.net.
 If you e-mail Janet, be sure to use that dot after jg.

On line shopping

Wow, if you are an on line shopper; please, *pretty*

please, start using this. Log in using your password and look for the **ON LINE MALL**: to generate contributions, you must click through a link on the escrip.com website to the merchant site. Looks as if almost every on-line retailer is linked: take a bit of time to use the index to check out the stores represented.

Other brick and mortar merchants

There appears to be other merchants, using cards similar to Schnuck's, including Barnes and Noble, Sears, and Eddie Bauer, that can be added as well, but I have not yet attempted to pick up the cards. Macy's is mentioned but for St. Louis only.

Credit Cards

There is an eScrips credit card you can apply for plus you can register your existing credit cards.

Book Club

The Book Club meets at the Bread Basket Cafe in the Crossroads Shopping Center the first Monday at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

AAUW Columbia Branch reading list for 2008-2009 focuses on diversity.

Nov.3 Native American Heritage: Thomas King's *Green Grass, Running Water* (F KIN 2* copies in library)

Dec.1 Ann Fester's *The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades before Roe vs. Wade.*

(362.8298 FES 2 copies)

Jan.5 Ursula Hegi's *Stones from the River* (F HEG 3 copies)

Feb.2 W.E.B. DuBois *The Souls of Black Folk* (973.0496 DUB 5* copies)

Mar.2 Women's History Month. Katherine Weber's *Triangle* (F WEB 3 copies)

Apr.6 Elva T. Hart's *Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Childhood* (973.0468 3 copies)

May 4 Asian Pacific Heritage: Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies* (F LAH 5 copies)

June 1 Gay, Lesbian Month Gene Robinson's *In the Eye of the Storm: Swept into the Center by God* (283.092 ROB 2 copies)

July 6 Ayaan Hirsi Ali's *Infidel* (949.2073 4* copies)

Aug. 3 Min Jin Lee's *Free Food for Millionaires*

(F LEE 2* copies)

*indicates book also available in recorded and/or electronic formats.

AAUW Receives NSF Grant

The National Science Foundation awarded AAUW a two-year grant to research, write, and disseminate a report on recent key findings on girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and math. We are proud of this second NSF STEM grant, and the AAUW Research Department is excited to get to work on this new project!

New STEM Resources

Visit the National Girls Collaborative Project's page on the AAUW website to see some new resources for girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and math fields. Find information on how to evaluate your branch's STEM programs, a video about AAUW of California's Tech Trek Science Camp for Girls.

<http://www.aauw.org/education/ngcp/>
<http://www.aauw.org/education/ngcp/NGCPresources.cfm>

AAUW Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Spread the Word---Apply Now!

Fall means back to school and application time for the AAUW Educational Foundation's fellowships and grants. The deadline for AAUW's American Fellowships program is **November 15**. See all deadlines and eligibility requirements. Please note that AAUW members may now apply for all fellowship and grant opportunities.

http://www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellowships_grants/

AAUW Attains Special U.N. Status

Expect AAUW to take an even more active role in global affairs now that we have special consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council, which promotes respect for human

rights and fundamental freedoms. AAUW can now participate in international conferences, sign on to NGO statements, and share our expertise. Visit the International Corner to learn more about how AAUW is supporting women globally.

http://www.aauw.org/About/international_corner/

Help Design Our 2009 Note Cards!

We're letting you design our 2009 note cards. Submit your art or visit the design gallery to vote for your favorite look. Find details here and spread the word!

<http://www.aauw.org/contests/>

December's Program

On Sunday the 14th 2 p.m. at the Library Pent House at Stephens College we will have a Traditional Holiday Tea. Friends, family and potential new members are most welcome.

Please bring gifts (gift cards are great) in gift bags for teenage girls at **Missouri Girls Town**.