

President's Message: Year is Off to a Good Start

This year promises to be interesting with a varied roster of speakers and programs, as well as work on our fall project, the Pilot Project with Field Elementary School with whom we are now a Partnership Friend. We are starting off the year a bit differently without our usual carry-in dinner. On Tuesday, **September 16**, we will meet in a venue new for us—Field Elementary School—but although we won't have dinner, there will be refreshments and time to talk to each other before the program and business meeting. A dinner meeting at the end of the year is part of the program.

Your Board met in early August to review plans for the coming year. As well as our discussion of the program, we also focused on the budget, which we will present to you at the September meeting. The proposed budget is printed in this Newsletter. Please take a moment to look it over before the meeting. As you see we are operating on a very tight financial base. The Board also established some fund-raising goals. Of prime importance is our local scholarship, the Eva Johnston Scholarship, but we also hope to provide some financial support for LAF and EF. You will find our goals listed in this Newsletter, and we will discuss ways to meet them at our first meeting.

I hope that you have all had a pleasant and relaxing summer. I look forward to seeing you on September 16.

— *Jane Biers, President*

Welcome to Our Newest Members:

*Karen Dixon
Susan Langdon
Charlotte Peaslee
Mary Lou Spradling
Phyllis Ann Stoecklein
Carlynn Trout*

Look for them at the September meeting!

Fall Meeting Dates and Programs Scheduled

SEPTEMBER

Columbia Branch will unveil its exciting ***Notable Women of Missouri*** Pilot Project with Eugene Field Elementary School on Tuesday, September 16 with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting beginning at 7:00. The new Superintendent of Schools, Phyllis Chase, will be on hand along with Field School Principal, Fourth Grade teachers, and Jolene Schulz, Director of School/Community Programs, to officially sign the Partnership Friends Agreement. The project will be presented by Carlynn Trout and Mary Dahm. Carlynn is a freelance writer, formerly of Boston, now living in Columbia. She has contributed to and edited textbooks and leveled readers for Grades K-8 for Houghton-Mifflin Company as well as other major publishers. Mary is production artist for the project. She has worked as a graphic designer for almost 20 years in several major cities. With her husband, she now runs Dahm Design Company in Columbia.

Eugene Field Elementary School is located at 1010 Range Line Street. Parking is available in the school parking lot or on the street in front of the school.

OCTOBER

The October program is one that was canceled in February because of the weather and has been rescheduled. It will be held on Saturday, October 18, 9:00 a.m. at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant. The program, "Building a National Company in a Small Town," will be presented by Lynn Gastineau, owner and CEO of Gastineau Log Homes in New Bloomfield. After the meeting we will carpool and travel east on Interstate 70 for a tour of her model log homes. One of the homes has been decorated by Rust and Martin.

NOVEMBER

The November meeting is a party, a Tea Party. The "Tea And Taste," co-sponsored with Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, is scheduled for Sunday, November 9 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The meeting place will be announced later. This is a fund raiser for the Eva Johnston Scholarship. In addition to the delectable goodies being served, there will be a silent auction, (*continued on page 2*)

Reading Group Report

What is the reading group doing this year? Nationally, the Adelante list has been put on hiatus. However, the program is going to be continued on the state level, with a Missouri reading list being generated as our branch newsletter goes to press. This year's list will be posted on our branch website and will be in the "Missouri in Motion" when it has been finalized. Please review it and see what women across the state will be reading and discussing. I hope that each of you will consider joining us for a book, or three, or maybe the entire year of diverse reading.

We did meet over the summer, reading and discussing three books on diverse topics: "Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in the 20th Century" gives a comprehensive look at the Lesbian community in the United States. "The Ladies Auxiliary" is a fictional account of a convert to Judaism who enters a small, southern Orthodox Jewish community, encountering envy and hostility from the deeply interconnected group of women who fear that she will inadvertently destroy the very things that she says she is seeking. "Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia" is a very frank, brash and disturbing memoir of a woman who has suffered from eating disorders since childhood.

The Reading Group has had a great time this last year and is looking forward to exploring new writers, new ideas and new perspectives this upcoming year. To join or get more information please contact me at (573) 449-9411 or RockMOMS@aol.com.

--- Christine Roberson, Adelante Chair

Book Sales

You are invited to bring books for the book sale to every meeting (sales to benefit Legal Advocacy Fund). We are requesting, however, that if your book(s) **does not sell** you take it home with you and bring it (them) back to the next meeting if you wish.

This will relieve our officers from the tiring task of toting loads of books around to each meeting.

(November program, continued from page 1)

entertainment, and tables of arts, crafts and food items for sale. What an opportunity to do some holiday shopping!!! You will need a ticket for this event. Tickets are \$10.00. Each member will also be expected to sell tickets. We hope to see all of you there.

— Betty Burchett, Program Co-Chair

Columbia Branch Tribute To Barbara Lackritz

Ed. Note: This was written by Grace Butler following the death in June of Barbara Lackritz, a past president of Missouri AAUW.

I am writing this tribute to our friend and colleague, Barbara Lackritz, on behalf of the Columbia Branch AAUW. Not everyone in our group had the privilege of knowing Barb, but those of us who did greatly appreciated her outstanding leadership, steadfast mentoring, and overall generosity.

I personally remember how pleased I was to serve on Barb's Board of Directors when she was elected Missouri State President. Although struggling with her illness from time to time, she always had a positive, cheerful outlook and kept the business of state on track. Barb was never afraid to take an unpopular position if the issue concerned the best interest of women --- as well the three AAUW Corporations knew!

Barb's devotion to the AAUW Educational Foundation was phenomenal. She came up with creative, unique (and I do mean "different") ways to raise funds for the EF. I always believed she could sell anything, anywhere, anytime, and for a good price. I have a piece of jewelry that she insisted I could not live without. So I paid the considerable sum she asked for this large pin featuring a mirror and lots of red decorations, which I have never dared to wear. It is hidden away in my jewelry box because I lack Barb's sales ability to even give it away.

Columbia Branch members extend sincere condolences to the Barbara Lackritz family at this very difficult time. Those of us in her AAUW family will miss her terribly, but our lives have been greatly enriched by her friendship and achievements. We are pleased to send a contribution in her honor to the Missouri Diamond Jubilee Fund.

A few days ago, I was looking through some AAUW records and saw in the June 1985 Missouri State Bulletin, a picture of Barb. It was with a report on her election to the Town and Country Board of Aldermen on April 2, 1985. There she was - sitting so straight, shoulders back, a big smile on her beautiful face, eyes twinkling, the epitome of confidence and pride! That is the way I will remember Barbara Lackritz, my dear friend and cherished AAUW colleague.

--- Grace Butler

Past President, AAUW Missouri 1991-93

2003-2004 Fund-raising Goals for Branch Projects

Educational Foundation (EF) \$1,275

Association sets the goal for each branch based upon membership in February of previous year (51). Using this guideline our goal would be \$25 x 51 members, or \$1,275. The Association has also set a goal of three Century Club Members (\$100 donation each). Our Branch has in hand **\$252** designated for EF. Our real goal is, therefore, **\$1,023**.

— *Donations at members' discretion.*

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) \$255

Set by Association based upon membership (51) x \$5 per member. Our Branch has a carry over of **\$106.75** so real goal is **\$148.25**.

— *Raised by BOOK SALES, other?*

Eva Johnston Scholarship \$373

2003 carry-over for 2004 is \$627.11—leaving balance of \$373 to continue carrying over \$500 for next year (2005).

— *Raised by ticket sales to Tea & Taste; and other possible project in the spring.*

The budget in the next column was approved by the Board of Directors and will be presented to the membership for approval at the September meeting.

Proposed Branch Budget for 2003-2004

Carried over (8/2/03)	\$1,548.21
Minus designated funds	- 1,233.86
(includes Eva Johnston \$1,127.11; LAF, \$106.75)	
Actual carry over	\$ 314.35
Estimated projected income:	\$ 435.00
Dues (7 new members/\$5)	\$ 35.00
Tea & Taste (auction & sales)	100.00
Meeting raffles/Oper. Expen.	200.00
Reimbursement for Field Project	100.00
Total 2003-2004 Estimated Income	\$ 749.35

Estimated Outflow/Disbursements:

Delegate to State Leadership	\$ 50.00
Delegate to National Conf.	250.00
Newsletter	300.00
Operating Expenses	149.35
Programs	\$ 50.00
Committee	
Diversity Chair	20.00
EF/Eva Johnston	20.00
LAF Chair	10.00
Membership Chair	20.00
Public Policy Chair	20.00
Other/Misc.	9.35
Total '03-'04 Estimated Disbursements	\$ 749.35

Diversity Corner - Tradition vs. Innovation

There is always a tension between tradition and innovation. One of the Reading Group books, "The Ladies Auxiliary", looked at this tension between individuals that espouse the same beliefs (Orthodox Judaism) yet have conflicting traditions. With tradition, without some common core of belief, there is little that binds a group of people together. Yet, we all know of times when the fabric of the community is woven so tightly that there seems to be no room for others to weave themselves in. The community is cohesive and supportive, but can become stagnant and static. Then, if the community changes rapidly, when the pattern of the cloth changes too quickly, there is often a hesitation to make room for more of the "new". Is it the same cloth if it appears to be a different pattern or a different color due to the influx of the "new"? Is this true, even if most of the original material, the core beliefs, remain?

I believe that by looking at issues related to diversity we are making room in the weave for another thread. By attempting to understand "the other", by trying to understand our differences while celebrating our common human elements, I think that we are making space in the weave of our community for a new pattern, a new color, a new texture. When the entire community thinks about diversity, it also ensures the preservation of the original material. If we are really reaching out, meeting new people and new cultures on their terms, we are weaving ourselves into their cloth, too. By embracing diversity issues, we are not losing our own identity, as an individual or group; we are simply adding to it.

Please contact me at RockMOMS@aol.com or 499-9411 or for comments, suggestions or questions regarding Diversity Corner

— *Christine Roberson, Diversity Chair*

Annual Report of President — 2002-03
American Association of University Women
 Columbia, Missouri Branch

Programs this year covered a variety of topics, starting with State EF chair Sue Barley's visit to talk about the Educational Foundation and ending with an account by Kathy Sokol which highlighted the work of the Legal Advocacy Fund. We also were glad to welcome State President Donna Medlin to our Holiday Social at which we honored our 50-year member Constance Schenk. Women's role in Nepalese culture and the history of women's suffrage in the USA were featured in two presentations, and education on the local level was discussed at a third. A talk on costume design for the theater provided an interesting insight into the career of one of our members.

We began our fund-raising in October with an architectural tour of the University of Missouri campus from the proceeds of which we sent in \$320 for the Diamond Jubilee Fund of EF in memory of Peg Witt. Sale of books at branch meetings and raffle of a quilted wall hanging netted \$124 for LAF. In addition, we raised \$374 in support of our local scholarship, the Eva Johnston Scholarship. To bolster our operating funds we held raffles of donated objects at selected branch meetings.

The branch has been active in other areas. We hosted a State Board meeting in Columbia on February 1, coordinated State AAUW special judges for History Day on April 12 (several branch members participated as special judges), and sent two delegates to the leadership Conference in Columbia on that same day. Two other members, Grace Butler and Jane Biers, also attended. We are sending Grace Butler as our delegate to the National Convention in Rhode Island. We continued our support of Missouri Girls' Town by collecting gifts at our Holiday Social. Our book group, led by Christine Roberson, met throughout the year. The Board encouraged branch members to participate in "Let's Talk, Columbia," a program of the Human Rights Commission to increase community awareness of issues concerning diversity. Elizabeth Bailey, one of our board members, participated. We also initiated a pilot project to become a Partnership Friend with the Fourth Grades of Eugene Field Elementary School. We will be supplying written resources for student projects on Missouri women and participating in student research. Grace Butler and Betty Cook Rottmann attended Lobby Day in Jefferson City on March 19, and Grace participated in Hands Around the Capitol on April 30.

To increase our visibility in the community we initiated a web page for our branch, and produced fliers for several meetings, and the architectural tour of campus. We also made contact with Women Studies on the University of Missouri Campus.

--- Jane Biers, President, May 24, 2003

Minutes - Columbia, Missouri Branch AAUW
 Meeting at the Pasta Factory Restaurant
 Tuesday, May 20, 2003

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. There were 32 women present including the guest speaker.

President Jane Biers informed the group that Pat Atwater was moving to New York and would be missed. Constance Schenk announced that her mother, Averil Schenk, also an AAUW member, would be celebrating her 100th birthday on July 17 from 3:00 to 5:00 at Columbia Country Club. All members were invited to the reception.

The speaker was Kathy Sokol, former Chairperson of Hospitality Studies/Tourism Department at St. Louis Community College. She was a recipient of funds from the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund to fight sexual harassment of herself and her students by a male colleague. Her reports to higher administrators of harassment episodes were ignored and later there was actually retaliation against her by college faculty and administrators. She gave a chilling account of how she was pressured to resign and felt at times that she was in personal danger since her office and her property were defaced. She was able to bring her harassment charge to a jury trial in October, 2002, when AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund contributed \$20,000 toward her costs. She said she had an excellent attorney, but people who had said they would testify in her behalf in court proceedings did not do so out of fear for their jobs. As a result, the trial outcome was only partially in her favor, but she said she would do it again in spite of the tremendous personal stress.

President Jane Biers opened the business meeting with the secretary's report, which was approved as printed.

Liz Bailey presented the treasurer's report, which was accepted and filed for audit.

Liz attended the "Let's Talk Columbia" workshop on May 3 and 4, which was sponsored by the Human Rights Commission. Participants were divided into study groups for dialogue on diversity issues. Liz felt that the workshop was extremely worthwhile.

Grace Butler represented AAUW in "Hands Around The Capitol" in May. Various organizations brought signs, etc., to Jefferson City.

Jane reported that there is a new AAUW study coming out on women at work.

There was a discussion of proposed bylaw amendments that will be voted on at the National Convention in June. Jane asked for a local vote on these proposed amendments. The group voted overwhelmingly against Proposal 1A that would have added to the eligibility requirements for membership the category "any individual who supports the mission and goals of AAUW." Nine voted for and nine voted against (continued on page 6)

Highlights of Association Convention

Membership Eligibility Unchanged; Dues to Increase

It was a privilege and my pleasure to represent Columbia Branch at the Association Convention, June 20 - June 24, in Providence, Rhode Island. It was an outstanding event as usual with more to do, see, and learn than time and energy allowed me to absorb. However, I attended all the business sessions (always my favorite), plenaries, as well as several workshops. I very much enjoyed the Pace-setters Dinner, the LAF Banquet, and other meals with friends from far and wide. I had to leave on Monday so was not able to stay for the EF Banquet featuring Gloria Steinem and presentation of several awards.

I will report here some of the highlights of the Convention but will either do another report for the next newsletter or put together some handouts to distribute at the September meeting.

Results of votes on issues of concern to our Branch members are:

Membership -- Several options were proposed, none accepted. A 2/3 vote was required to approve.

Opening Membership to all supporting AAUW: Yes-- 369 No -- 1069

Associate Degree: Yes -- 762 No -- 640 (Members asked for a recall vote and measure failed again.) (Unfortunately, it was decided to bring this up again for study and review! So, look for more to come.)

Dues -- Annual \$2.00 increase with 2009 sunset clause Yes -- 1220 No -- 192. (Sorry about this but there was overwhelming support that this was only way to keep AAUW viable.)

The bylaws change to establish "business/organization" membership failed to pass. Reason for this was there were no guidelines presented as to how the businesses/organizations were to be selected. An overused example was "what if Hooters wanted to be a member." This item, too, will be brought up again at the next Convention BUT with carefully worked out criteria.

Diana Campo was re-elected as Southwest Regional Director. Under the new Restructured Association Board, Diana will not serve on the Association Board. This was a change that I and several others fought hard to stop, but only two of the 10 Regional Directors will attend Association Board meetings. They are Marie Wolbach, CA (no surprise there!) and Ann Terry, SC.

There is a strong movement by some Texas members to eliminate the Regional Conferences and restrict even more the Regions. Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas Boards have all come out strong in support for the Regional Conferences so we will see what we can do against the "mighty" Texas group. I will keep you updated on this very serious matter. *(continued to next column)*

Local Members Attend Women's Equality Day

Grace Butler and Betty Cook Rottmann attended the 16th Annual Women's Equality Day in St. Louis, Saturday, August 23. Featured speakers were Dr. Martha Burk, Coordinator of Augusta Golf Club Action and Chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations, and Billie Heller, Chair/Founder, National Committee on the UN Convention On the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. These were outstanding speakers who work tirelessly for their respective "causes" and who presented interesting and valuable information. August 26 is actually the date designated in 1971 by the US Congress as "Women's Equality Day." The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

Wanted--Help with Publicity

Our branch urgently needs someone to work on advertising our branch and its programs. The job would involve sending announcements to the newspapers and other media, preparing fliers for programs and posting them around town, and attending Board meetings. If anyone is interested in taking on this important task, please contact Jane Biers at Biersj@missouri.edu, or Mildred Prather-Garner at mprather@coin.org.

I have much to share with you on the plenaries and workshops I attended on Title IX, the ERA, and particularly the special session on "Women in Charge on the Global Front." This was a special session on strategies for advancing equity around the world and featured Reiko Aoki, President, IFUW; Barbara Carey, President, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund; and Carolyn Donovan, AAUW's Representative to the United Nations (this was a position held for many years by past Association President Mary Purcell). I wonder how many of our members, particularly our new members, know that we have a representative to the UN; it is a significant position..

I will have more later on the keynote speakers, LAF plaintiffs, and others. Also will have copies of the Convention Dailies at the September meeting for those who are interested in additional details.

--- Grace B. Butler

Coming Events

2003

Sept. 16 Tues . . . Columbia Branch Meeting & Program
 Oct. 8 . . . Sat Missouri Conference for Women
 Oct. 14 . Tues.. Columbia Branch Board Meeting
 Oct. 18 . Sat. Branch Brunch, Meeting, Program & Tour
 Oct. 23 . Tues. Deadline for Branch Newsletter
 Nov. 9 . . Sun. Columbia Branch/DKG Tea & Taste
 Dec. TBA Columbia Branch Holiday Social

2004

January no Branch meeting scheduled
 Jan. 15 . Thurs. Columbia Branch Board Meeting
 Jan. 20 . Tues MLK Columbia Diversity Breakfast
 Jan. 28 . Wed. Deadline for Branch Newsletter
 Feb. 21 . Sat Columbia Branch Meeting
 March Women's History Month
 March TBA Legislative Day, Jefferson City
 Mar. 11 . Thurs. Columbia Branch Board Meeting
 Mar. 16 . Tues Columbia Branch Meeting
 Mar. 24 . Wed. Deadline for Branch Newsletter
 April 17 Sat. Missouri History Day
 April 20 Tues Columbia Branch Meeting
 April 24-25 State Convention, Kansas City
 May 18 . Tues Columbia Branch Meeting
 June TBA Columbia Branch Board Meeting
 June 4-6 SW Central Regional Conf., Lawrence, KS

(Minutes, continued from page 4)

Proposal 1B that would allow a graduate holding an associate degree to be eligible for membership. There were three abstentions. Thirteen voted for and five against Proposal 2, which would establish a business/ organization membership category. The majority voted against the proposed dues change of an annual fixed-amount increase.

New AAUW Board members for 2003-2005 were announced. Ellen Flottman will be membership chairman. Kathy Fishel will be secretary. Jane will continue as president.

Betty Burchett announced that this year's scholarship recipient is Leslie Dawn Martin from Columbia College. Photography is her interest and major.

A basket of small items, toiletries, preserves, etc. was raffled for LAF at \$5.00 a ticket. Betty Eyestone was the winner.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

—Lola Southall, Secretary

Governor and First Lady to Host First Annual Missouri Conference for Women

Recognizing the important contributions of women to the State of Missouri, Governor Bob Holden and First Lady Lori Hauser Holden will host the first annual Missouri Conference for Women at the Hearnes Center on Wednesday, October 8, 2003.

"In every community across the state of Missouri, women play significant roles, in business, health, education, the arts, government - not to mention their family relationships," said Lori Hauser Holden. "The goal of our conference is to create a forum that brings women of different generations and backgrounds together to share their wit and wisdom on living full and satisfying lives."

In addition to Governor Holden, featured speakers at the Missouri Conference for Women include former Texas Governor Ann Richards; syndicated columnist Jane Applegate, founder and CEO of SBTV; and award winning author and motivational speaker, Dr. Bertice Berry, the former co-producer and host of "The Bertice Berry Show" and "USA Live".

The Conference is open to the public. Registration fee is \$80; \$50 for students. For more information and to register on-line, visit www.missouriconferenceforwomen.org.

Connections

is the newsletter of the Columbia, Missouri Branch
 American Association of University Women.

Submit items to

Mildred L. Prather-Garner,

4701 W. Gibbs Rd., Columbia, MO 65202-3292

or <mprather@coin.org>.

News of Our Members

Fran Beach has moved to Wisconsin. Her address is 430 Park Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081.

Dian Link (lives in Illinois but has dual membership here) sent a postcard from Russia, where she was traveling, with the message: "Say hello to everybody".

Averil Schenk was 100 years old on July 27 and celebrated at a gala birthday party hosted by daughter Constance Schenk. She is a life member of this branch.

Margaret Schaper has been undergoing therapy at Rusk Rehabilitation Center after experiencing a fall that cracked a bone. She will be going home soon.

Pat Atwater has retired and moved out of town; her new address is 163 S. Buckhout, Irvington NY 10533.