



ORLANDO * WINTER PARK BRANCHLINE

ANNUAL LITERARY LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012

11:30 a.m.

The University Club of Winter Park

841 N. Park Avenue

Guest Speaker, CAROL FROST



- Acclaimed author of eleven books of poetry
- Honors and awards include two fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts, and four Pushcart Prizes. The Poets' Prize and Elliston Award committees have also honored her work.

- Holds the Theodore Bruce and Barbara Lawrence Alford Chair of English at Rollins College
- Directs the Winter with the Writers Program, a festival of the literary arts.

TAKE A CHANCE!

Two wonderful gift "baskets" each containing a book of Carol Frost's poetry, a bottle of wine, a special linen book tote, and art work related to the themes of Frost's book, as well as other goodies, will be raffled at the literary luncheon. Winners will be able to kick back and enjoy the wine and Frost's poetry after the luncheon! The estimated value of each "basket" is \$50. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, 6 tickets for \$5 and 15 tickets for \$10.

Please make your reservations by March 1.
Payment is your reservation.

Message From the President



Taking a message from an old adage: March does seem to come roaring in. We are having one of our much-needed downpours today to prove that point. It is teeming out there but we need that moisture badly as we need refreshment in our branch, so let it roar.

In our Branch this month, we are roaring with a special event. It is our chance to have a really good time while providing good fellowship, promoting membership, and raising funds for our scholarships, grants, and research.

The annual literary luncheon is all in place and just waiting for us to enjoy it. Myra has all her helpers in line and all the details in place. It will be a special day for all of us. Check this newsletter for details.

The board had two meetings this past month and many issues have been discussed and resolved. We are moving into our election time and then we will be off and running for another year in May. Do not let the April meeting get away from you since we will be treated to our final program for this year and it will bring exciting information about diversity and ethics in sports, which hits home for all of us in one way or the other, and we will want to hear about the programs for women in Math and Science which dovetails nicely with the AAUW STEM program.

Among my best news for all of us is the work now being done by our new Publicity Chair, Emily Hartmeyer. It is won-

derful to spot our news in community notes all over Orlando and Winter Park. Along with new appointments, I am pleased to welcome to our board Ilene Koller as our new Recording Secretary. We are excited to have our meetings go on file with her adept hands. Also, we will soon be getting a schedule for next year's meetings and a date and time for our September tea. Again, Myra is on top of all of that and will be reporting to you about these important meetings. Our scholarship chair, Karen Buchan, is accepting applications. Please read further in the newsletter about deadlines. We also have an excellent connection to our area university, UCF, as Maria Santana works with students and features AAUW in her grant work and in recruiting new members. Irene Clark, New Member Orientation, is doing a great job helping our VP, Barbara Buchele, with welcoming and encouraging new membership. She is ready with applications and is there to help make new members feel at home.

There are obviously many more members who just quietly do their work and provide the back-up we need to keep things running in spite of all sidetracks. I am grateful as always to those members. And, as always, part of the glue that keeps us up and running and very well informed is our Newsletter Editor, Linda Fessel. We all rely on what she does for all of us each month.

Stay out of the rain but enjoy its results. This can be said for many things in our lives. Remember, every day is a gift.

**Dr. Carol Ancona, President
AAUW Orlando-Winter Park**

Celebrating Women's History Month

Few think of New Orleans as a city of Spanish influence. Nevertheless two of the Big Easy's greatest benefactors, during a time when the city needed it most, were father and daughter Spanish philanthropists. Her name: Micaela Almonaster, Baroness of Pontalba; his was Andres Almonaster y Rojas.

In 1769, shipping merchant Andres found himself in New Orleans, now a Spanish possession. The port was a pit—mud streets, crummy buildings, zero charm. (Cheap, however—after ten years of buying bargain properties, Almonaster became rich). At this point, Almonaster decided he'd foot the bill to give the city a new look. By 1795, when his daughter Micaela was born, Andres had lost count of the structures he'd built and rebuilt: hospitals, convents, civic buildings, the cathedral the customs house . . .

When she grew up, Micaela added to her father's legacy. But first, the spunky redhead had to survive her marriage—and her in-laws. Wed at fifteen to a French baron, she was living in the family chateau near Paris when her father-in-law went ballistic

one night and shot her four times in the chest before pumping a bullet into his own bent brain.

No fortune is worth this hassle, declared Micaela, and gingerly traveled back to New Orleans with her three sons. There, dressed in jodhpurs so she'd be taken seriously, the now-fit baroness personally oversaw the design and construction of two buildings she named the Pontalbas. On family property located on two sides of Jackson Square, she built a series of graceful three-story apartments, with shops on the ground floor. They still border the square, the heart of old New Orleans and today's city as well.

[From Vicki Leon's *Uppity Women of the New World*]

Intimate Enemies: The Two Worlds of the Baroness de Pontalba by Christina Vella was a Booklovers selection several years ago.

In 2003, the story was adapted by the New Orleans Opera.



Welcome to our new members

OFFICERS / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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 Carol Ancona
 407-869-7478
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University of Virginia, B.S. Ed. Special Ed. 1973
 University of Virginia, M.S. Ed. Learning Dis. 1974

Robin Schyman
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UCLA, B.A. Philosophy, 1982

Wendy Simpson
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 Winter Park, FL 32789

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University of Florida, B.A., Math, 1970; University of Central Florida, M.S. Ed. Math, 1980



Church officials, not knowing whether St. Patrick was born on March 8 or 9, decided to honor him on March 17, the sum of the two dates.

Scholarships

The scholarship application deadline is March 1.

As only three have been received to date, the deadline is being extended to **March 10.**

The application is on the website and should be mailed to Karen Buchan, Scholarship Committee Chairman.

Karen Buchan

From the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee amended the proposed slate of officers after telephone and electronic conferences on Feb. 22 and 23, 2012. Amendment took place after proposed nominee Rosemary Vendena withdrew her name on February 20. The amended slate of nominees is:

Myra Gaziano for Branch President [July 1, 2012—June 30, 2014]

Barbara Buchele for Branch Vice President for Membership [July 1, 2012—June 30, 2014]

Pat Stamm for Branch Finance Director [July 1, 2012—June 30, 2014]

Results have been sent for publication to the membership in the Branchline as of this date, February 24, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
 Martha Williamson, Nominating Committee Chair

Interest Groups

Booklovers (6 Groups)
Foreign Films
Colleges & Universities
Dining Out/Potpourri
Foreign Affairs
Garden Group
Museums/Galleries
Out-to-Lunch

Foreign Films

At the Home of Linda Fessel
407-677-0317
LFESSEL@embarqmail.com

Call me at the number or e-mail shown above if you would like to be added to the list in order to receive more information about each movie. If you're a new attendee, please call me in advance for directions.

Our next film (TBA) will be presented on Monday, March 26, 2012.

Foreign Affairs

Co-Chairs:

Juanita Blumberg 407-327-0398
juanitablu@yahoo.com

Jo-Ann McCaffrey 407-841-3640
JoAnnRoux@aol.com

TOPIC: "Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq: right time, right pace?"

DATE: Sunday, March 18, at 2 p.m.

PLACE: Home of Barbara Buchele
Winter Park

For further information, contact Juanita.

AAUW members are urged to check out this stimulating group.

Museums/Galleries

Many of you have expressed an interest in participating, but we need someone to head up this activity. Perhaps two of you would be willing to co-chair? In the past, each member took a turn organizing and planning a visit. It is not difficult or time-consuming. It would be a pity to let this group die because no one is willing to make the effort. Dee Smith would be happy to get you started and assist when necessary. 407-876-4986 (deedadocent@aol.com)

Booklovers

See next page

Celebrating Women's History Month

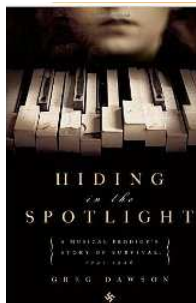
Until a killjoy Roman emperor banned it, frisky females with a taste for blood, blades, and short life spans had a go at gladiatorship, fighting from amphitheatres in Asia Minor to the living rooms of emperors Caligula and Nero. ACHILLIA was one. A heavyweight from Halicarnassus, known for its aggressive queens, Achillia and her bout with another female gladiator named AMAZONIA made history on a bas-relief now in the British Museum. Despite its poor career outlook, women from all ranks became gladiators. Some were war hostages or criminals. In the first century A.D., however, a shocking number were Roman noblewomen, who learned to be lethal weapons at a school near Naples. Although gal glads also fought to the death, they were often billed as novelty acts against other women, dwarves, or blacks. Like the elephant pooper-scooper, however, these dames could proclaim: "At least I'm in show biz."



[From Vicki Leon's *Uppity Women of Ancient times*]

Booklovers

FOR ALL AAUW MEMBERS:



We have a wonderful opportunity to meet Greg Dawson, author of *Hiding in the Spotlight* on Tuesday, **April 17**, at 1:30 p.m. at the Winter Park Library. Mr. Dawson, a columnist for the Orlando Sentinel, tells the true story of his mother, Zhanna, who survived the WWII Nazi occupation of her native Ukraine by performing classical music for the unsuspecting Nazi officers.

Greg and his wife, our own Candy Dawson, will be present on April 17 to discuss this fascinating book and to present a very brief film about this story. Both Greg and Candy Dawson will be happy to answer questions from the audience.

The WP Library Community Room seats up to 90 people, so this event is definitely open to all AAUW members (and friends). Several of our members have seen a similar presentation and each was quite moved by the experience.

Soft cover books are available online from Amazon or Barnes & Noble. Hope to see you there.

Nancy Osterberg

March 2012 Selection

All Booklovers groups will be reading *Love and Summer* by William Trevor. "In spare, exquisite prose, master storyteller William Trevor presents a haunting love story about the choices of the heart, and the passions of three lives during one long summer."

[*The NY Times Book Review*]



BOOKLOVERS COORDINATOR: Nancy Osterberg 407-363-0269 nsosterberg@gmail.com

Booklovers I: meets on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month in Winter Park. Contact Doris Scott doris27m@aol.com 407-831-6652

Booklovers II: meets on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month in assorted locations. Contact Marianne McKinney; mmckinran@cfl.rr.com; 407-492-3003

Booklovers III: will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, at the home of Lyn Shapiro in Maitland. Moderator: Carrie Patterson. Contact Juanita Blumberg at 407-327-0398 (juanitablu@yahoo.com.) or Lynda Hinkley — hinkley_j@bellsouth.net for information.

Booklovers IV: meets on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month in Lake Mary. Contact Christine Brown. catbird@cfl.rr.com 407-774-9501

Booklovers V: meets on the third Tuesday afternoon of each month in south Orange County. Contact Lois Kolski. Lkolski@aol.com 407-352-1146

Booklovers VI: will meet at the home of Grace Smith, 8600 Port Said St., Orlando, FL 32817 (424-744-0104), at 1 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Grace Smith: gsmith1131@gmail.com.

PACE

Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Commission on the Status of Women have announced the three women who will be inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame in March 2012. One of them is Vicki Bryant Burke, the founder of PACE. Vicki Burke graduated from the University of South Carolina and moved to Florida in 1978. She began working as a counselor with adolescent males and females



in a juvenile justice day treatment program. Through her work, Ms. Burke learned institutionalization or incarceration was often the juvenile justice system's response to addressing the needs of girls who committed

delinquent acts and/or status offenses. As a result, Ms. Burke founded PACE Center for Girls, the first and only non-residential program for troubled adolescent females in Florida.

On January 7, 1985, PACE opened its doors at Snyder Memorial Methodist Church in Jacksonville to 10 young women released from the detention center. After being recognized by Florida's Juvenile Judges for the Outstanding Dependency Program Award in 1987, juvenile judges began requesting that PACE expand to their cities. Ms. Burke led a statewide expansion to include PACE Centers in Bradenton, Orlando, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Pensacola, and Tallahassee. Today, PACE has 17 centers throughout Florida and has helped over 29,000 young women find a pathway back to hope. Twenty-six years later, PACE remains the only statewide prevention and early intervention agency in the nation focused on girls and young women.

In addition to this wonderful accolade, PACE has also re-

ceived awards from Mutual of America and Blue Cross/Blue Shield (Sapphire Award). This recognition enhances PACE's reputation and increases awareness around the nation for an agency that gives girls who had little hope and little belief in themselves to move forward to lead productive, engaged, and fulfilling lives.

AAUW's Candy Dawson will be producing and directing "A Celebration of American Women" in conjunction with Altrusa International of Orlando/Winter Park and the girls at



PACE. Answering the AAUW call for someone to work on a Women's History Month project for PACE in 2011, Candy worked on a script for the project built around famous women in history. The PACE girls will portray

these women in costume and will tell their stories. Candy merged the project with Altrusa's, and the combined effort comes to fruition at the Rio Pinar Country Club at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 17. Several AAUW members have been instrumental in helping with costumes and all members are invited to attend. Fifty percent of the profits from the luncheon will go to PACE. A special guest will be Val Demings.



Please call Barbara Knapp (407-282-5449, jbknapps@cfl.rr.com) or Candy Dawson (candydawson@me.com) for further information.

Don't forget to "SAVE THE DATE" for Wednesday, April 25 for the "Portraits of PACE" annual luncheon.

Barbara Knapp

Celebrating Women's History Month



When she could barely see over a washtub, Elleanor Eldridge began work for the Baker family in Warwick, Rhode Island, washing clothes for 25 cents. That's per week, not per garment. Those tedious hours bent over a scrub board weren't wasted—they merely motivated Elleanor to get into weaving, spinning, and making her own soap.

By her twenties, she and her sister ran a business in those services. Despite her modest income, Elleanor knew how to save. As soon as she'd amassed enough, she bought a lot, built a house, and rented it out for \$40 a year. Another ten years or so, and Miss Eldridge had a nest egg for a bigger house. What with her add-ons, house rentals, and various enterprises, by the early 1800s this nonstop black entrepreneur had doggedly built

herself a net worth of more than \$4,000 in property alone. But into each life, however blameless, some precipitation must fall. Miss Eldridge finally took a vacation to visit kinsfolk. The words Eldridge and time off had never been linked before; perhaps that's why the rumor began that Miss Elleanor had died.

The happy vacationer came back to find her property sold. Now she had to go to court, where she filed a trespass-and-eject suit. But you know the legal system. Sometimes when you win, you lose. Miss Eldridge got the catch-22 news. You've won your case! Once you fork over \$2,700, you can recover your property!

Despite this slippery reversal of fortune, the Queen of Suds kept on making bubbles—and money. This Rhode Island legend became an inspiration to many, affectionately remembered by her community, and written about in a history by Frances Whipple.

From Our Members

The care and concern expressed by so many of you was truly heartwarming. A big Thank You for your cards, emails, thoughts and prayers, and to those who came to the celebration to honor my husband.

A special THANK YOU to the board for their memorial contribution to the American Cancer Society.

Karen Buchan

Chapter member Catherine Giordano, now semi-retired, is devoting more of her time to speaking and writing. Three of her poems will appear in a new anthology: *Love and Other Passions: Poets of Central Florida, A Contemporary Anthology, Vol. Two*.

On Sunday, March 4, at 2 p.m. she'll be speaking at the Maitland Public Library on "The Amazing Gift of Laughter: The Physical, Emotional, Social, and even Spiritual Benefits of Laughter." It's open to the public and free. If you go, bring friends, and be prepared to laugh.



THE YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS PROGRAM (YWLP)

YWLP Fundraiser for AAUW Campus Action Project Grant is a Success!

The Young Women Leaders Program (YWLP) at the University of Central Florida held a basketball tournament fundraiser on Saturday, February 18. Funds were needed as part of the requirements for receiving the AAUW Campus Action Grant to work toward leadership to prevent harassment and bullying in the area (see February's Branchline).

The fundraiser was successful in many ways. Altogether, from raffles, admission, a bake sale and basketball team registration, YWLP was able to raise \$1,400 as the final profit.

Plus, the event was fun for everyone involved! (I am a part of YWLP as a big sister and was in charge of raffles. I had a blast! I was told by many of the basketball players that they really enjoyed participating in the tournament.) Current little sisters from Lawton Chiles, Tuskawilla, and South Seminole middle schools were in attendance. Families of big and little sisters past also came out to the Faith Outreach Church in Oviedo.

Donations for the raffle items included a Wii gaming console, tickets to Disney, tickets to the Orlando Magic, iTunes gift cards, and much more. There were many themed baskets like "Spa Day," "Beach Day," and "Family Fun Day." Food donations were supplied by Del Dee's Bistro in Casselberry and Marco's Pizza.

Teams that registered to play included teams of adults and UCF student groups. Some of the student groups were the UCF College Democrats Women's Caucus, Student Labor Action Project, VOX (Voices of Planned Parenthood), and

YAYA (Youth & Young Adult Network of the National Farm Worker Ministry).

Although everyone had a great time and we reached the amount that was necessary for the funding requirements, the program can still use monetary and item donations for things like goodie bags for the Lead Out Loud workshop on March 30 for middle and elementary school students. If you are interested in donating to YWLP you can go to the program website: <http://womensstudies.cah.ucf.edu/ywlp/> or contact YWLP Program Coordinator Maria Roman at maria.roman@ucf.edu or 407-823-6502

Camille Thomas

(AAUW ORL-WP member, YWLP mentor for 2 years, CAP Grant Research Assistant and Promotions Coordinator)



Public Policy

Florida Redistricting

Redistricting legal battles are looming and a House Committee in February passed a bill protecting lawmakers and their staff from having to testify if they get sued. The League of Women Voters and Democratic members of the committee criticized the late session-emerging bill from the House Judiciary Committee as an “outrageous” attempt to undermine the redistricting amendments in the constitution. The bill gives “absolute privilege” to current and former legislators and their staff in any civil action. Lawmakers would not be able to be compelled to testify or produce documents relating to any action or function performed in a legislative capacity. Please contact your legislators and ask them to vote “NO” on HB 7123 dealing with legislative immunity.

President Obama Requests \$80 Million to Train Science, Math Teachers

President Barack Obama will request \$80 million for teacher training in his fiscal year 2013 budget to reach his goal of training 1 million graduates in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields over the next decade. The president stressed the urgency of training young Americans in science and math to foster innovation, create jobs, and keep the U.S. competitive globally.



AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and math education, especially for girls and other under-represented populations. These efforts will help increase America's competi-

tiveness by reducing gender barriers that deter women from pursuing academic and career goals in these fields.

Medicaid Expansion to Improve Low-Income Americans' Health Care Access

A report by the Commonwealth Fund found that the Medicaid expansion and other provisions of the Affordable Care Act will help provide low- and moderate-income Americans with a regular source of health care. Many lower-income workers experienced a reduction in benefits over the past decade that was accelerated by the recession, when 9 million people lost their jobs and employer health insurance between 2008 and 2010. When the Medicaid expansion takes effect in 2014, Americans earning less than 133 percent of the federal poverty limit—about \$30,000 a year for a family of four—will be eligible for Medicaid coverage.

AAUW supports the idea that all Americans are entitled to access quality, affordable health care. Failure to provide for and to protect that right has had numerous consequences over time, ranging from dismal outcomes for healthy Americans as compared to the rest of the developed world to excessive indirect costs that have taken a substantial toll on the economy. Women disparately feel these negative outcomes. AAUW is hopeful that the health care law will substantially improve a system that has not worked as well as it needs to for far too long.

Settlement Announced in Title IX Case at UC Davis

University of California, Davis and former wrestlers Arezou



Mansourian, Christine Ng, and Lauren Mancuso announced this week that they had reached a settlement in the wrestlers' Title IX claim against the university. A federal judge ruled in August that UC Davis had violated Title IX, and proceedings to

determine damages had been scheduled to begin in March. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund supported the plaintiffs in this case, *Mansourian v. Regents of the University of California*, and commends the \$1.35 million settlement in their favor. The group of female wrestlers sued in 2001 after they were told they could no longer participate in varsity wrestling at UC Davis. The women were later reinstated but forced to compete against men for spots on the team.

AAUW Action Fund Releases Congressional Voting Record for 112th Congress

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Action Fund has released a scorecard of congressional action on issues that will be critical to women and their families when they cast their votes in the upcoming elections. The *Congressional Voting Record*, available at www.aauwaction.org, covers the first session of the 112th Congress, outlines how U.S. senators and representatives voted and whether they co-sponsored legislation on priority issues affecting education, economic security, and civil rights. The AAUW Action Fund's “It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard” campaign will work to turn out the women's vote and ensure that members of Congress are held accountable for their votes.

Barbara Knapp

How Our Contributions Benefit AAUW

Does AAUW require a set amount of money for any fund?

If one joins AAUW, one commits herself/himself (yes, there are quite a few men in AAUW in some states) to support the organization so that it can continue its purpose: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

AAUW, through its Action Fund, develops extensive research across the country (witness the many research reports over the past 50 or more years), investigating the status of women and children in various situations such as sex discrimination in schools, sexual harassment especially in 7th grade through college, inequality in sports --- and the list goes on. As members of AAUW, we provide funds to support this research and its publication throughout the country.

The funds we contribute also provide scholarships in the Educational Fund for American women to attain advanced degrees and doctorates, to assist foreign female graduates to study for degrees and specialties in the United States, and to fund the various special programs around the country that educate state and local leaders and provide local programs on specific issues important to women and girls. NOTE the current STEM initiative which is educating girls about taking Science, Technology, Engineering and Math courses to develop their futures. NOTE also that grants are given across the country to colleges/universities or branches for various programs, one of them won this past December by Dr. M.C. Santana of UCF for the purpose of making fe-

male students aware of sexual harassment in class and sexual violence on campus.

The Legal Advocacy Fund is supported by funds that are collected separately from the Educational Fund. LAF supports women who have suffered discrimination in the workplace such as receiving less pay than men of equal or lesser education and skills, who have been denied tenure or equal pay when at the same level and have worked the same number of years in colleges and universities, who are denied advancement in positions in their workplace because they are female, who are refused time for pregnancy leave, and who suffer from poor workplace conditions, among other reasons.

Recently LAF extended its purpose to focus on situations suffered by women in particular work places that will enhance the position of many women in one case. LAF provides small payments to assist the women with their legal complaints and suggests experts in each particular woman's case to assist her with legal experience.

To answer the question posed: NO, we are not required to send funds to AAUW.

From its beginning, AAUW has suggested that branches send a certain amount for the Educational Foundation, and after 1981, also to the Legal Advocacy Fund. There is NO required amount to be sent to keep our branch open.

ALL OF THE ABOVE IS WHY WE JOIN AAUW, AND WHY WE SEND FUNDS TO AAUW; NOT BECAUSE THE ORGANIZATION REQUIRES IT, BUT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN, AND SUPPORT, ITS PURPOSE!!!

Joan

Pictures from February's General Meeting



AAUW Orlando/Winter Park BRANCHLINE

c/o Joan Rinaldi
2007 Kimbrace Place
Winter Park, FL 32792



**“...because
EQUITY IS STILL
AN ISSUE.**

**AAUW and the AAUW Educational Founda-
tion**

MISSION: To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Advocating for Women and Girls

Equity is the legal right of all women and girls. AAUW frames and fosters factual, in-depth, objective dialogue among legislators and change makers that results in political, institutional and legal support for women's equity in all areas of life and work.

For more information about AAUW, call the HELPLINE, 1-800-326-2289, Mon.-Fri., 10am – 5pm EST or go online: helpline@aauw.org