September Supper and Branch Meeting

Charlotte Price

Sparking Girls’ Activism and Social Change

We are honored to have Lyn Mikel Brown, Ed.D as our first speaker for 2013-14 at the Harvest Supper on September 23. With the above topic, Lyn will talk about scaffolding or supporting girls’ activism, some of her most recent work. This will be a great beginning to the theme of our programs for the year—Breaking the Mold: Empowering Women.

Dr. Brown was born and raised in Downeast Maine. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Maine and Ottawa University in Ottawa, KS. She received an Ed.D. in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1989 and was a founding member of the Harvard Project on Women’s Psychology and Girls’ Development. She joined the Colby College faculty in 1991.

Dr. Brown is a mom, professor, and community activist. She is Professor of Education at Colby and co-creator of Hardy Girls Healthy Women and (with Dr. Deborah Tolman) co-founder of SPARK Movement. She is co-author, with Carol Gilligan, of Meeting at the Crossroads: Women’s Psychology and Girl’s Development, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year that helped spark an international debate on the lives of girls and redefined our understanding of female development. Lyn has written four other books, including Girlfighting: Betrayal and Rejection Among Girls, and Packaging Girlhood: Rescuing Our Daughters From Marketer’s Schemes (with Sharon Lamb; winner of a Books For A Better Life Award) in which she investigates the relationship between girls’ anger and social class, examines the cultural phenomenon of “girlfighting,” and critiques the messages that media and marketers direct at both girls and boys.

In addition to research and teaching, she develops strength-based programs and materials that scaffold girls’ social change work and oversees the online media literacy and activism campaign, Powered By Girl (PBG; http://poweredbygirl.org/).

She has been an American Association of University Women Educational Foundation Scholar-in-Residence and a winner of a National Academy of Education Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship for her research on girls. She is a member of the APA’s Psychology of Women Executive Board and was a member of the APA’s Task Force on Adolescent Girls. And she was inducted into the Maine Women’s Hall of Fame in 2012.
Membership News
Betty Hartley
Have you paid your dues for the year yet? Fifty members have. If you are one who has not, please be sure to do so very soon so you will be included in the directory for the year. I am in the process of finalizing the directory so it will be available for the October 16 meeting of the branch. Dues ($69) should be sent to branch treasurer, Martha McBride, 116 McKeen Street, Brunswick 04011.

Change of Address:
Frances Caswell
25 Thornton Way #106
Brunswick, ME 04011

Book Group
Judith Johanson
The Book Group will meet as usual on the second Wednesday of each month except December and summer, at the Thornton Oaks library at 2 p.m. Our first meeting is September 11 when we hope each member will present a book we might like to read. We will decide on 8 books for the year. The first discussion will be on October 9 when we will discuss An Unquiet Mind by Dr. Kay Jamison.
New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact me at 725-6102 or jjwhimbrel@comcast.net.

Knitting Group
Debbie Schall
After a nice summer break, the Knitting Group will get back together on Friday, September 13 at my house, 251 Woodside Road, Brunswick at 1 p.m. Last spring some of our ladies knit wool sweaters for the opening of a new school for girls in Farza, Afghanistan. We’re happy to report that Afghans for Afghans collected over 500 sweaters so each student would have a new sweater for their first winter in the new school. Here we have Joanne Bollinger, Sonia Lofgren, Betsy Schmidt and Alice Cunningham-Spindler displaying some of the sweaters.

Out to Lunch Bunch
The Out to Lunch will not meet in September. Check the October newsletter for the date of their first gathering.
Co-Presidents’ Letter

Joanne Bollinger

Greetings to all of you.

Our AAUW Board has been hard at work planning your year, with exciting speakers, meals, projects and other gatherings. The annual Harvest Supper quickly approaches -- I always anticipate this first gathering when I renew friendships, catch up on summer doings, and meet new members. Our presenter, Lyn Mikel Brown, is guaranteed to give us something to “chew on” along with the tasty meal. Look elsewhere in this letter for all details and do plan to come and bring a friend.

Our theme for this year is Breaking the Mold: Empowering Women. We trust that you will be challenged, enlightened and energized as the speakers share their knowledge and experiences. Learning from them, one of our tasks will be to find ways to involve more young women in the issues that are crucial to women’s success and growth. I have spoken to a number of women in my generation recently who are concerned that their daughters and their friends have no sense of the ongoing necessity for “breaking barriers for women and girls” -- in other words, AAUW’s mission in today’s world! Let’s keep a conversation going on this important topic.

See you on September 23rd and maybe at Book Group, Out-to Lunch Bunch, Knitting Group, Growstown School’s Open House and 30th Anniversary Celebration!

Harvest Supper

Monday, September 23
United Methodist Church, Brunswick
5:30 p.m. Cider and Socializing
6:00 p.m. Supper
7:00 p.m. Branch Meeting and Program

Menu

Vegetable Lasagna
Tossed Green Salad
Warm Crusty Bread
Warm Apple Crisp / Whipped Cream
Coffee and Tea

$15

Please make supper reservations by September 18. Contact Deborah Cravey at 373-1749 or gmcdbc18@comcast.net

AAUW National Convention Report

This spring, seven AAUW members from Maine had the opportunity to attend the AAUW National Convention in New Orleans. Branch members Betty Fitzjarrald, Betsy Schmidt, Lucy Stinson, and Debbie Schall, were joined by branch member Charmen Goehring who represented the national board. Also attending were Betty-Jane Meader, Maine state president and Lindsay LaChance, Maine state program vice-president and Dawnbreaker editor.

Our four branch representatives were asked to write a paragraph on something memorable or personal highlights of their time in New Orleans.

Lucy Stinson

I have always found AAUW conventions to be exhilarating – there is nothing like a room full of energetic women devoted to a common cause. It has been a while since I last attended a convention, but I thought the energy at this one was outstanding. Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director is most impressive, and the staff members that I had interaction with were totally on top of their subjects. It is indeed an impressive and well-run organization. As some of you know, I am a bit of a political junkie, and I was delighted with the sessions that I attended regarding the lobbying and political work that AAUW does. These people know their stuff, and they are widely respected when they show up on Capitol Hill. “They,” in this case, includes staff and the volunteer lobby corps comprised of members from the Greater Washington DC area. You could feel the frustration at the gridlock that rules in Washington when there is important legislation that needs to be moved along to make so many people’s lives better, and especially women’s and girls’ lives. The final speaker of the Convention, Cynthia D’Amour, was a wonderful wrap-up, motivational speaker, who challenged us to each devise a plan to move our branch
or state AAUW along in some area. I roughed out a plan to see if we couldn’t get a little more participation in the branch to support – or not – legislation, especially at the state level, that is important to the woman and girls of our state. After a very busy summer, it feels like it has been mothballed, but I would be happy to talk with any interested member about doing some of this work.

**Betsy Schmidt**

Thinking back to the convention, my highlights, besides the food and the city, were Robin Gerber, our time with Olympia Snow and the workshop on bullying that emphasized AAUW’s “Crossing the Line.” Robin Gerber was a keynote speaker who spoke on women in history in the leadership role, citing Eleanor Roosevelt. Olympia Snow impressed me with all the work she had done for equality and women’s rights.

**Betty Fitzjarrald**

Sitting as a member at the 2013 AAUW National Convention, I was impressed to be part of over 700 women, representing branches from across the United States, and to feel the energy and enthusiasm within the group. We were celebrating the 125th year of the Fellowships and Grants Program. Twelve thousand women around the world have benefited from the program since it’s beginning. Our branch was fortunate to receive an AAUW grant in the early 80s as we were getting the Growstown School project off the ground. The experience of seeing the results of our branch’s contributions on a larger scale was most rewarding. All the efforts made by us in our fund raising efforts do make a difference by supporting the common goal of Empowering Women.

This convention and it’s many workshops dealt with the future and breaking through barriers that exist for women. The workshops that I attended emphasized the goal of looking to the future with AAUW and I found the following to be informative: Connecting Generations in the Branch, Science and Math Camps for Girls in California and hearing the stories of young women leaders on college campuses. All had worthwhile information and sources for further material dealing with the topics discussed.

The presentation by Cynthia D’Amour, at the end of the convention, “How To Get Beyond - We’ve Always Done It That Way” was a perfect topic for me to return with to the Bath Brunswick Branch. Change is a step towards the future.

**Debbie Schall**

I have been to several National Conventions over the years and am always impressed with how they manage to recharge my AAUW batteries. This year, as newsletter editor and webmaster, I was interested in learning as much about the technology of AAUW as I could. In my first workshop, Anatomy of a New Logo, the staff took us through the long process of choosing AAUW’s new logo. In this era of digitalization, many organizations and businesses are finding it necessary to simplify their logos in order to show them clearly on computers, laptops, tablets, and smart phones.

Next I attended a session on community colleges. Recognizing community colleges as the door to educational opportunity for millions of Americans, AAUW has just published its newest study, Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success, which focuses on two issues that concern women in particular; the limited availability of on campus child care, and the under representation of women in STEM fields.

A very popular session, with standing room only, was A Year of Programming: Connecting and Customizing, which focused on programming for small, medium, and large size branches. We were all encouraged to plan mission-based programs and utilize AAUW’s resources and tools such as Program in a Box.

On our last night, the Maine contingent had the opportunity to have a private meeting with Senator Olympia Snowe, at her request, before the banquet in which she was presented with the 2013 AAUW Achievement Award.

One last note: we were in New Orleans! The foodie in me must mention how much we enjoyed the shrimp remoulade, oyster po’boys, muffaletas, beignets, bread puddings, pralines and all types of lovely dinners.