

Escanaba Area Branch AAUW

Branch Bulletin

November / December 2012 Issue
PO Box 40, Escanaba, MI 49829

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Visit our new website
<http://escanabaarea-mi.aauw.net/>

Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 1st

1:30 to 3:00

*House of Ludington
Gifts & Live Music*

Tickets \$25 at Walgreens & Positivity



Lunch with Santa

Saturday, December 8

Central United Methodist Church
(by Esky HS - use back door)

Helpers needed at 10:15 a.m.

Ticket takers, pizza servers, toy raffle

Also need raffle toys &/or \$5 donation

Call Deb Trombly 420-3083

Branch New Year's Party

*Stress-free * No Auction * No Program*

Thursday, January 10 at 6:00 pm

Susan Peterson's Home - 720 Lake Shore Dr. - Escanaba

Potluck Dinner: A-F = Side or Salad / G-L = Desserts
M-R = Appetizers / S-Z = Main Dish

Please support the Abuse Shelter by bringing donations: Gift Cards, Books, Laundry, Cleaning, Paper Products, Personal Bath Products, Candy, Gloves, Hats, etc.

RSVP to Sue Hampton: 428-1254



Membership Matters - Janice Gayan, V.P. Membership

There is still time to pay dues. *If you are not sure if you have paid for this new year, please contact **Jan Gayan** 789-9096, or **Dorothy Kollman** 553-7367.*

Helmi Lepisto asked us to share her new address in sunny Florida:

Finnish-American Rest Home, Room W13,
1800 South Drive Lake Worth, FL 33461

Cell number: (906) 235-0785



Remembering Ellen Jensen - Funeral/Life Celebration will take place Saturday, November 24, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 500 Ogden Ave, in Escanaba. Services celebrating Ellen's life will be held at 4:00 p.m., followed by a luncheon served in the Fellowship Hall.

Ellen's daughter, **Laura LaPine**, requests AAUW members send any memorial donations to:

AAUW-Bay College Scholarship Fund, c/o AAUW-Escanaba,
P.O. Box 40, Escanaba, 49829

Ellen's life was a perfect example of what AAUW is all about. Realizing how critical an education was to supporting her family, Ellen returned to college and received her teaching degree from NMU. She taught for 23 years at Lemmer Elementary School.

Ellen was also involved in numerous other activities in our community including foster parenting, childbirth classes and coaching for single parents, and church ministries. Ellen was a very active AAUW branch member. She was there to help each year at Lunch with Santa and directed nearly 30 years of Children's Theater. She will be deeply missed.



A total of 895 postcards were mailed to Get Out The Vote! We had 14 dedicated workers to identify target voters on Voter Registry, stamp cards, address and mail cards, pick up lists, pick up cards, pick up stamps, make deliveries, etc. We have been working hard! Kudos go to: **Susan Peterson, Laura LaPine, Dorothy Kollmann, Liz LaBay,**

Maryanne and Amanda McLeod, Chris Ryan, Bev Ladin, Betty Breclaw, Cindy Blahnik, Judy Fouts, Margaret Carignan, Nancy Smith and Sue Hampton.

Fall Events



Kick-Off Dinner: (above)
Guest Panelists: Sara Unger, Molly Campbell, Kayleen Bigelo, Nanci Love

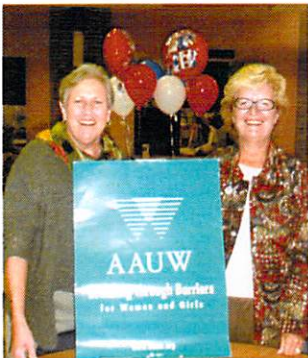


Right: **Sue Hampton**, Guest, **Betty Wagner**, **Bev Ladin**

Political Perspectives and lunch at Pachino's



Left: **Susan Peterson & Liz LaBay** at the Bay College Voter Registration event.



Right: Speakers, **Betty Hivala** - The Compassionate Friends & **Rosemary Hakes, PhD**, at The Terrace November 8.



Legal Advocacy Fund - Case Support

Beverly Ladin, AAUW Funds Officer

LAF provides financial and organizational support for a select number of cases in the workplace and in academia that have the potential to provide significant protection for all women.



"One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar." These words by **Helen Keller** always make me think of AAUW and how often we've been able to soar. I recently got a peek at the minutes taken at the first AAUW meeting held in 1882. They were handwritten nicely, too - and went on for pages. Here were 65 college graduates from 8 colleges and universities meeting together in Boston to start something new. They felt injustice in their world and wanted to make changes to soar to new heights of equality.

Thus began the journey we continue today, 130 years later.

Diane Ludwig, CFRE Chair, AAUW Nat'l Fundraising Committee

President's Ponderings

by Susan Peterson
Branch President



What a terrific branch we have here in the Escanaba area!!! We've had a very successful membership campaign under the great leadership of Membership VP, **Jan Gayan**. Our Patriotic **"Get Out the Vote"** luncheon at Pacino's, planned by that feisty and talented **Sue Hampton**, our Program VP, was terrific--- a red, white, and blue decorated room joined with the opportunity to hear the political concerns of two young Bay College students, Kaylene and Sarah. We were grateful to hear young perspectives on some important issues.

Many of us volunteered an eight-hour day at Escanaba High School working with the **Challenge program** brought in from California. The program is designed to develop tolerance among the students with the hope of eliminating mean behaviors and bullying. The key was leading the students to see that so many of their fears, worries and personal challenges are shared by others. It was a physically and emotionally wearing day for all of us, but I know that I would sign up for "duty" again.

Don't know what the election will reveal, but by the time you read this, the exciting results will be in!

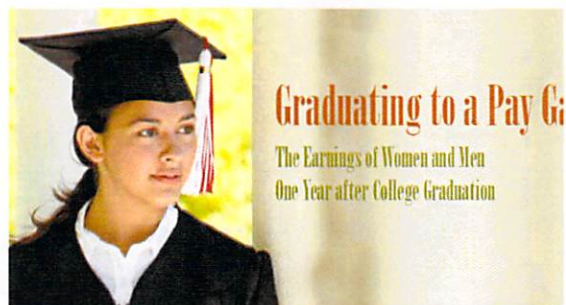
AAUW's mission this past summer and fall has been to identify women voters between

the ages of 18 and 29. Sadly, this target group is determined the least likely to vote.

We worked hard here in Escanaba, peering over teeny tiny print voter registration lists and identified over 800 eligible voters to whom **"reminder to vote" postcards** were sent. All this was lots and lots of work and involved so many of you in various ways. I hope you feel as proud as I do about directly carrying out such an important AAUW project right here in our own backyard! **THANKS, THANKS, THANKS** to everyone who worked on this project.

Also, talking politics, great turnout of AAUW members at the **Candidate's Forum**. *(I was unable to moderate this time, as I had candidate signs in my yard and had hosted a fund raising event for one of the candidates. And, of course, both LWV and AAUW have a commitment to nonpartisan politics which is right.)*

I will miss the many events coming up between November 1 and December 1, but I may see some of you at the **Santa Luncheon on Dec. 8**. Our daughter and son-in-law in Durango, Co. are expecting baby #3 on Nov. 5, and Grandma and Grandpa are needed to help with the other two little ones. We will spend Thanksgiving and a grand's 5th birthday with the family before heading back north. I wish you all a peace filled holiday with special family and friends. And certainly, **one of my "Thanks" this year is for all of you** and what you do for each other and for AAUW .
Fondly, Susan



The newest AAUW research report, **Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation**, is a follow up to the 2007 AAUW report, **Behind the Pay Gap**. The 2012 report explores the earnings difference between female and male college graduates who are working full-time one year after graduation. The full report (available at www.aauw.org/graduatetopaygap/)

uses the latest nationally representative data, compares apples to apples by looking at the pay gap after controlling for various factors known to affect earnings, such as occupation, college major, and hours worked. It also examines one immediate effect that the pay gap has on many women: the heavy burden of student loan debt.

aauw.org

Don't let anyone tell you any differently - elections are always about hope." First Lady Michelle Obama

Bouquets are certainly in order for all you talented and accomplished AAUW women! Thank you for the grand turnout we had for our **September 22 Kick-Off Luncheon** that featured an excellent Bay College Panel Discussion about young women and their involvement in political issues. Instructors **Molly Campbell** and **Nanci Love**, along with honor students, **Kaylene Bigelow** and **Sarah Unger**, helped us to broaden our perspectives about political involvement of young adults.

AAUW has been VERY busy with **Voter Education activities** that include **Voter Registration, Candidates' Forums** in collaboration with LWV and the Chamber of Commerce, and **postcard mailings** to targeted registered female voters in the age range of 18-29 years. Thank you to all of you who signed up to help! Women have a great deal at stake in this election in preserving women's health and economic rights. Issues that affect women, affect all of society

December ushers in visions of Santa, presents and goodwill to all. Two AAUW-sponsored events will benefit scholarships at Bay College. The AAUW December 1st **Holiday Tea** at the House of Ludington, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., will be the perfect start to celebrating this special season of gift-giving. All ticket proceeds benefit our local AAUW scholarships at Bay College. What could be a better gift than helping to provide an education to local women! We still need more volunteers to help pay for table centerpieces and

Program Highlights by

Susan Hampton

V.P. Programming



small ornament gifts for patrons. A small fresh floral bud vase costs \$8.00, and we need 18. Trotter's Floral in Gladstone will be making them up. Call me (428-1254 or 630-1577) if you wish to donate one or more table centerpieces or to apply your donation to the purchase of special Christmas ornaments ordered from Positively. You may **send your donation by November 26** to Escanaba-AAUW, P.O. Box 40, Escanaba, MI 49829. Thank you! Tickets are on sale in Escanaba at Walgreen's and Positively. Cost: \$25. This includes an afternoon of delicious savory and sweet treats, tea or coffee, live music, small gifts, relaxation, and friendship.

Deb Trombly has planned the annual **Lunch with Santa** at the Central United Methodist Church, Escanaba, for December 8 at 11:00 a.m. This fun event features a pizza lunch, toy raffle, live music, treats for all tots, and, of course, a visit from Santa. Tickets (\$5) are available at Walgreen's in Escanaba.

"Helpers" should show up by 10:30.

Lastly, remember to mark your calendars for Thursday, January 10, for the **AAUW New Year's Party & Potluck**, 6:00 p.m., at Susan Peterson's home (720 Lake Shore Drive, Escanaba) that benefits the Alliance Against Abuse. Please bring a gift card, check, or personal or household products for the Women's Shelter.

I'll close this with a letter to Santa:

Dear Santa: All the members of AAUW-Escanaba Area have been VERY, VERY good! They have been so busy paying their dues to support important AAUW causes that help women, girls and families; volunteering their time, expertise and energy for organizing and helping with purposeful meetings and events; registering voters; volunteering to help stop bullying; working on voter education with the LWV and the Chamber of Commerce by hosting Candidates' Forums; mailing out postcards to remind women to VOTE on November 6; hosting a dinner meeting, which is open to the public, to address women's mental health issues and access to care and support; and organizing the Holiday Tea and Santa Lunch to raise money for Bay College scholarships for women. Please, dear Santa, remember each and every one of our members and fill their stockings with love, peace, joy, hope, rest, laughter, good health, generosity, family, and lasting AAUW friendship. Thank you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Susan Hampton, Program VP