

**AAUW Planning Business Meeting:
Thursday, June 13**

The meeting was called to order by President Jacqueline Goffe-McNish at 7:20 pm with 22 attendees. Introductions were made with years of membership mentioned so that new members could be especially recognized.

Mary Coiteaux and Susie Blecker, Program Vice-presidents, reviewed the goals for the evening including: suggestions on mission-related program topics, speakers/contacts and possible program coordinators/volunteers. In addition, everyone was reminded that this discussion prepares for the annual open house on Sept 12 where all programs are marketed in addition to interest group displays. Mary then distributed a summary of past programs as a "teaser" for brainstorming.

The group broke up into 5 smaller groups and brainstormed for 20 minutes. The following ideas from the groups were then shared as follows:

1. **Service Dogs in Court**; Contact Dr. Crenshaw at the Children's Home (the first service dog to be allowed in court was accompanying a Children's Home resident); Coordinator: Mary Lou Davis/ Volunteers: Maria DeWald (both members are involved with The Home)
2. **The Power of Action: a discussion**; Movie seen at the UN; Coordinator: Doris Kelly/ Volunteers: Kristie, Jeanette Cantwell, Jackie McNish
3. **Aids in Africa**; Coordinator and Presenter: Kristie Van Horn, former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa and new member; good speaker and has done public presentations for years.
4. **International Day**: a focus on culture with dance, singing, music, readings, food; Coordinator: Amy Pender. She is on the Board of Vanaver Caravan who are artists focused on international dance/music. Amelai Roger organized a "Dancing of Different Cultures" day for the Girl scouts and may have some ideas./Volunteers include Maria DeWald (she can also help with other arts contacts), Mary Ann Boylan, Marcine suggests speaking to Amelia Rogers from the Girl's Conference.
5. **Financial Awareness**: The focus could be on many different topics such as:
 - **Life Organization** including Elder Care issues and other life responsibilities; Contact: Jodie Miller, Coordinator of the Mediation Center, Judy Elkin "Advanced Directives and end of Life Planning, Vassar Hospital
 - **What to Do if You Find Yourself Suddenly Alone** on financial planning issues (divorce, widowhood, serious illness, helping a parent); Contact Chip Simon at Taconic Advisors, who has offered to do this workshop at no cost/ Coordinator: Maria DeWald/Volunteers; needed
 - **Retirement/Estate Planning**, etc.; Contact: Colleen Ash/ Coordinator: Amy Pender

- **We also have many other AAUW members who have expertise in these areas**

6. **Education Reform:** The focus could center on:

- **Race To The Top Funds and Their Effect on Education.** This area would include a focus on the adoption of Common Core Standards and teacher evaluation systems (APPR), as well as the **standardized test controversy** which are the real drivers of this reform effort); Coordinator and volunteers needed but see below
- **Current Congressional Movement on the long-delayed reauthorization of federal education law (ESEA or “No Child left behind”:** Coordinator: Maria DeWald, who can get numerous speakers on these two topics/Volunteers: Elizabeth Hanrahan
- **Education and the Law** (Supreme Court); Contact is the professor at Marist College (Supreme Court expert who has spoken at CLS; Margaret Nijuis connection); Coordinator and volunteers needed
- **Education and Lobbying: Contacts:** Doris Kelly and MaryLou Davis/Coordinator and volunteers needed

7. **Life of Latino Women in Dutchess County;** Contact is Possibly the LaVos editor, Muriel, who has done a presentation before and brought many good people with her; Coordinator: Marcine Humphrey/ Volunteers: Jeanette Maders, possibly Gloria Ghedini

8. **Local Effects of Climate Change;** Contact: Dutchess County Department Planning Department and Cornell Cooperative Extension/ Environmental Department; Coordinator: Peggy Kelland/ Volunteers: Mary Ann Boylan

9. **Panel on Status of Women in Various Countries: An International Symposium;** A panel discussion of women diplomats with missions to the UN. A discussion of the experience of women in that country; Contact is Geeta Desai; Coordinator and Volunteers needed; Possibly the participants from the trip to the UN on International Women’s Day 2013/2014 will volunteer to help

10. **Music of the Holocaust;** Contact is Marilyn Smiley (Professor of Music at SUNY Oswego); Program **MUST BE JUNE** when she is finished teaching; Coordinator: Peggy Kelland (offered to host Marilyn)/ Volunteers: Mary Ann Boylan

11. Peggy Kelland, Mary Ann Boylan and Amy Schweb have volunteered to form a separate committee to **plan summer social events**

12. **Elder Abuse;** Contact: Jodi Miller, Coordinator of the Mediation Center of Dutchess County (Jody Miller is ED and an AAUW member) or The Coalition on Elder Abuse in Dutchess County. Follows up on the theme learned about on UN Day. If the focus is on financial abuse of elders, this could go under Financial Awareness, above; Coordinator: Jeanette Cantwell/ Volunteers: needed

14. **Underserved Women in Dutchess County:** This **November** presentation could focus on:

- **Health Care Needs**; Contact: new DC Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Sabrina Jaar Marzouka , and the 7 County Survey, an overview of area public health needs and what has been accomplished so far. Geeta will contact her. This could perhaps be a two-pronged approach: The DOH might speak on statistics, information, etc. and then women could tell their personal stories. (This presentation supports the growth of this new AAUW Initiative and sets the stage for the presentation on the Status of International Women's Day. Also, in the future, there may be funding from The Health Department for this Committee); Coordinators: Lulu Allen and Kay Bishop, new AAUW Partnership for Healthcare Chair / Volunteers: Maria DeWald, Kay Soderholm, Lulu Allen, Kristie VanHorne, Geeta Desai
- **Parenting Education**; Coordinator: Kay Bishop/Volunteers: needed

15. **The Invisible War**; Contact Kim Davis from Lake Placid and Mary Lou Davis for discussion/Coordinator: Doris Kelly/Volunteers: Jackie McNish, Kristie VanHorn, Jeanette Madera, Marcine Humphrey

16. **Socially Responsible Investing**; Contact is Amy Pender for presenter from the Calvert Fund, a socially responsible investing firm, who can speak on not investing in companies that take advantage of women and children, the environment, and so forth. This could be tied into International Women's Day; Calvert can bring several people and food too!; Coordinator: Amy Pender/ Volunteers: everyone seemed most excited about this and will help in any way

There were several announcements:

- Margaret Nijhuis mentioned the upcoming Leadership Conference in July in Cazenovia as an excellent opportunity.
- The State Convention will be in Ellenville next spring and, as the " home" branch, it is very important for many members to attend. In addition, the current State President, MaryLou Davis, is from our branch.
- The winners of the three free "early bird" memberships were Ellie Charwat , Mildred Jones, and Barbara Markell. Barbara has been a member for 30 years and was so absolutely delighted with this prize she may buy a lottery ticket!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria DeWald for Peggy Hansen