



CAP & GOWN

*A Newsletter for the Chillicothe Branch of
the American Association of University Women*

NOVEMBER, 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Nov 19	Membership Meeting at the McKell Library
Dec 1 & 15	Bridge Group, 1:00 PM
Dec 8	Money Smart Group, 6:30 PM
Dec 11	SUNDAY, Branch Holiday Celebration
Dec 13	Drama Group, 7:00 PM
Dec 15	Book Club, 9:30 AM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, November 19, 11:00 AM

LOCATION: McKell Library at the Ross County Heritage Center

10:50 AM	Arrive at the McKell Library (<i>use Museum's main entrance</i>) 45 W. Fifth Street
11:00 AM	Program begins, with Pat Medert "From Saint Nicholas to Santa Claus" - See rarely displayed archives (No cost. <i>The Branch is paying the speaker fee.</i>)
Noon	Branch Announcements
12:30 PM	Lunch at Bob Evans on Main Street for anyone interested.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT AAUW

The most recent edition of the **ORBIT**, the e-newsletter of Ohio AAUW, is available at:
<http://aauwoh.org/aauwoh/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Orbit-Summer-2011.pdf>

The Fall issue of **OUTLOOK**, the national magazine of AAUW, has been mailed. If you have not received it yet, please call Maryjo or Diane Bambenek. Each member has an AAUW ID number and we can help you get that so you can access AAUW Member websites and receive publications.

"Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."
In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks 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.

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
Chillicothe, OH Branch Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2011**

Time: 6:45 p.m.

Location: Ohio University-Chillicothe Child Development Center, Chillicothe, Ohio

Number of Members Present: 22 Number of Guests Present: 2 (including the speaker)

Meeting Called to Order by: President Maryjo Flamm-Miller

PROGRAM: Dr. Hamid Shahrestani, Professor of Economics at OU-C

Dr. Shahrestani spoke about micro loans to women. He explained that informal banking is more successful in small communities and in less developed countries. The poor need loans for life cycle events (birth, marriage, death, illness, disaster). They use collaborative means, such as exchanging non-cash collateral like livestock and jewelry. They have few assets to use as collateral. Microfinance is the provision of loans to low income and self-employed persons. Micro-credit is loans without collateral made to a group. The group is collectively liable to repay the loan. The origin of micro credit is linked to an organization in Bangladesh and it was mentioned in the Marshall Plan at the end of WWII. 46.2 million persons in the U.S. are below the poverty line.

Group lending takes advantage of economies of scale. The responsibility for repayment is shared among the group. Micro lending to women is important because women have higher repayment rates and are willing to accept smaller loans. It improves their standard of living and empowers women. It gives them higher bargaining and decision making power within their families. It provides higher education for their children and better nutrition. It also correlates to political democracy and provides higher economic growth.

Local tradition, and not religion, dictate the dress and actions (public persona) of women. There have been problems with mycelia's to women. Empowering women financially has led to men acting defensively. Detractors of micro credit claim that it crowds out government welfare. Some women have acted as collection agents for their husbands and sons. Collection field officers (who are paid according to their collection rates) sometimes use coercive or violent tactics. It can sometimes lead to a cycle of debt. Tradition requires girls to have dowries; therefore women get loans to provide a dowry for their daughters. Domestic violence is triggered if the women don't get the loans.

Micro loans require interviews, meetings, trainings and monitoring of the business. Some women don't want to be bothered with all the requirements. Some of the loan interest rates have been usurious. Traditionally if the loan is for consumption, then there should be no interest required, but when pay it back, the borrower should pay it back with enough extra to make up for the lost use of the money. If the loan is for investment, then the lender can ask for a portion of the profit, but cannot set an interest rate. It's more like a mutual fund.

BUSINESS MEETING

Book Sale: President Maryjo Flamm-Miller announced that we made about \$4771 from the book sale. The Drama Club contributed \$50.00 to the endowment fund in honor of Jane Brown. A \$25.00 donation was made to the endowment fund as a memorial to Jean Rusk. All Book Sale bills need to be submitted before Thanksgiving for reimbursement.

Necklace Project: A workshop will be held next Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the OU-C Stevenson Learning Commons. We need volunteers to sign up to staff our booth at the Altrusa Bazaar. We have an 11 x 11 space and will need to provide our own tables & set-up.

Halloween Parade: The theme for our float is: Empowering Women, Engendering Leaders. There will be 6 people on the float, wearing caps and gowns or alma mater sweatshirts. Volunteers are needed to build the float. Teresa McAuliffe and Kim Calhoun are working on it. Come Saturday at noon at the barn (workshop). We also need candy to pass out. The parade is Saturday, October 29, 2011 and we need to line up at 5:30 p.m. We also need a second person to help Karen Rieder carry the banner.

Budget: President Maryjo Flamm-Miller presented the budget for 2012. Teresa McAuliffe moved and Diane Bambenek seconded that the budget be passed as is. Budget was approved.

Membership: President Maryjo Flamm-Miller announced that we have 11 new members, 4 of whom were from the summer social and 2 of whom are student affiliates. We currently have 78 members. We have scholarships and gifts ready for recent graduates. We have 2 student affiliate scholarships and 1 branch scholarship left.

ADHD/Dyslexia Clinic: Dr. Jean Kerney talked about the Dr. Ater ADHD/Dyslexia Clinic's 5th Anniversary. She discussed the continuing need for treatment within our community. She explained that dyslexia usually requires treatment twice week.

Next Branch Meetings:

Saturday, November 19 at 11:00 AM at the McKell Library, followed by lunch for those interested. We want to have a really large group present for this event. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Majestic Theater, followed by a catered dinner at the Pump House. Details will be announced later in November. The cost of the dinner is expected to be \$18 per person. Members may attend both or one of these events.

Respectfully submitted:
Barbara A. Fabrey, Branch Secretary

Necklace Project Update

MANY THANKS to chair, Julie Dargart-Willet, and all of the members who volunteered, for making our booth at the Altrusa Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 12 a success. We sold over 30 pieces of jewelry, including 25 Necklaces, for a profit of over \$300. This profit was possible because of all the members who purchased and crocheted skeins of yarn. Remember, all necklace proceeds add to our OU Endowment Fund for educational scholarships to women and girls.

APPRECIATIONS FOR OUR FLOAT

Who doesn't enjoy a parade? MANY THANKS to chair, Theresa McAuliffe, and her team of volunteers for representing our Branch so delightfully at the Halloween Parade. The float festively depicted our Annual Book Sale, with the float theme of "*Empowering Women. Engendering Leaders*". This is exactly what we believe to be true—educate a female and create a leader. Wonderfully, over 25% of our Branch membership contributed in some way to the float. Thank you to all who donated candy for us to toss to the children and those who gathered materials and built the float in Martha Rettinger's workshop. A special appreciation goes out to Amy Jo Newlun's boyfriend, Mike, for pulling our float with his truck—and on his birthday, too! It was a lot of fun to create and ride/walk with the float, and fun is always good for our Branch.

2011 Book Sale Update

We are grateful for the leadership provided by this year's Book Sale Co-Chairs, and for all the members who gave their time and effort to making this year's event another success. The proceeds are expected to be \$4,700 — that's a nice sum for our Operating budget (10%) and Endowment Fund (90%).

With appreciation, we recognize **Joyce Atwood & Anne Holmes, Co-chairs.**

Committee:

Karen Reider & Julie Willett, Publicity

Diane Diekroger, Super Saturday Coordinator

Mary Lou Thompson, Telephone Committee

Barbara Fabrey, Community Outreach

Jodi River, Worker Schedule

Amy Jo Newlun, Barrels

Thersea Herrenstein, Goodwill

Mary Martin, Cash Box

Leslie VanVolkenburg, Rinehart Movers & Lighthouse Youth volunteers

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Maryjo Flamm-Miller

Our Branch continues to grow with new members. At each gathering, I encourage you to seek them out and spend some time becoming friends. You will recognize the new members by the flower on their nametag! We still have six gift memberships for recent Graduates, so if you know someone, please invite them to consider joining AAUW.

Hold a place on your calendars for a special new event coming on Saturday, February 18. "Deep In Winter Wine Tasting" will be an evening of fun and fundraising for our OU Scholarship Endowment. Wine and appetizers to warm your spirit and loosen your wallets! Come relax with other members and their guests, then write a donation check. The "Deep In Winter Wine Tasting" will replace the "Stay-at-Home Tea" of recent years. Dave and I are pleased to host this fundraiser in our home. An organizing Committee will be forming after the holidays. Watch for an announcement about this.

The Board has approved of an ambitious set of Goals for the Branch during 2011-13. Take a few minutes to become familiar with these. (see page 8-9) You'll see that there are many opportunities for you to be active in Branch projects. Which ones interest you? Getting involved is one way to have fun, make a difference, and strengthen your AAUW friendships.

AAUW OHIO Annual Convention and Equity Day

"Building a Strong Community: Leading, Advocating and Educating"

April 14-15, 2012

Findlay Ohio, at the Findlay Inn

See website for more information: <http://aauwoh.org/aauwoh/events/>

DINNER GROUP

Please call Marcia Austin this week if you wish to join the Dinner Group. Each member hosts one dinner party, usually in her home, sometime between January—June. Spouses, partners, and guests are welcome to attend these monthly dinners with you.

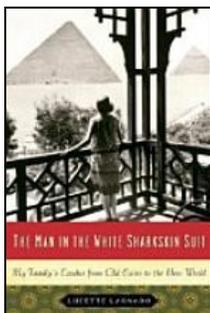
E-NEWSLETTER: Contact Maryjo Flamm-Miller to have information included in the next Cap & Gown newsletter. Of particular interest are announcement and reports from the various Study Groups and project committees. Please send updates to maryjo56@roadrunner.com or call her at 775-0233.

¡adelante! **AAUW Books of the Month** - Read one this month.



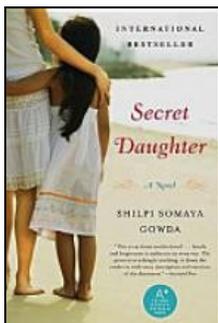
November — Native American Heritage Month
***Set Me Free* by Miranda Beverly-Whittemore**

Elliot Barrow is a man of ideals. The founder of Ponderosa Academy, a school for Native Americans, he is a paragon of virtue. But when he is critically injured in a horrific fire, his family, colleagues, and friends begin to unravel the devastating catastrophe at the heart of his life.



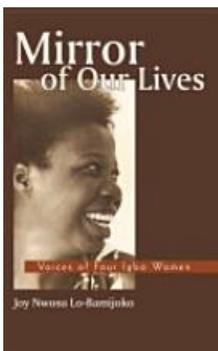
December — *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: My Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World*, by Lucette Lagnado

This book recreates the majesty and glamour of Cairo in the years between World War II and Gamal Abdel Nasser's rise to power. Lagnado's father, Leon, was a boulevardier who conducted business on the elegant terrace of Shepherd's Hotel and later in the cozy, dark bar of the Nile Hilton, dressed in his signature white sharkskin suit. But with the fall of King Farouk and Nasser's nationalization of Egyptian industry, Leon and his family lose everything.



January — *Secret Daughter*, by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

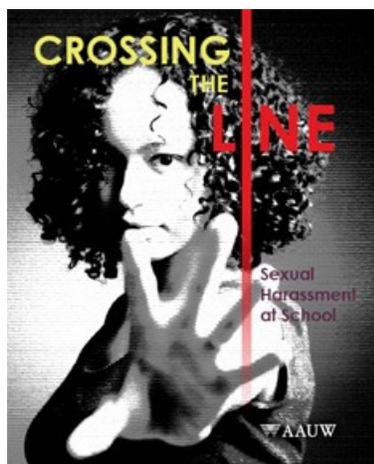
On the eve of the monsoons in a remote Indian village, Kavita gives birth to a baby girl. In a culture that favors sons, the only way for Kavita to save her daughter's life is to give her away. Half-way around the globe, Somer, an American doctor, decides to adopt the child after learning that she will never have one of her own.



February—Black History Month
***Mirror of Our Lives: Voices of Four Igbo Women*, by Joy Nwosu Lo-Bamijoko**

Four Nigerian women share the compelling tales of their troubled lives and failed marriages, revealing how each managed to not only survive, but triumph under difficult and repressive circumstances. Njide, Nneka, Miss Nelly, and Oby relive their stories of passion, deceit, heartache, and strength as they push through life—each on a unique journey to attain happiness, self-respect and inner peace. But none of the women's journeys is without misjudgments and missteps. Njide falls in love at first sight, marries Tunji too quickly, and is dismayed when Tunji shows his true colors. Nneka once thought that she and Oji were the perfect couple—until Oji traveled to the United States. Miss Nelly is a kind and good-natured woman who allows everyone to take advantage of her—even her husband, whom she married only for his name. But everyone wonders why Oby and Mat even married at all, for their marriage was a battle from the very beginning. The tales in this book will inspire women around the world to never give up, to discover a sense of worth, and most of all, to learn to love themselves above everyone else.

Help Protect All Students from Bullying and Harassment!



This month AAUW released a brand new report about sexual harassment in grades seven through twelve, called [Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School](#). * The many disturbing stories and statistics our researchers gathered add up to one fact: sexual harassment is part of everyday life in middle schools and high schools across America.

Based on findings from a nationally representative survey conducted in May and June, 2011, this report presents the most comprehensive research to date on sexual harassment in grades 7-12 and reveals some sobering statistics about the prevalence of sexual harassment and the negative impact it has on students' education.

The report concludes with concrete recommendations and promising practices for preventing sexual harassment directed at school administrators, educators, parents, students and community members. We hope readers will be inspired to take new steps toward making schools free from sexual harassment.

To read the full report, go to [Download the full report](#) (PDF, 2 MB).

AAUW has been at the forefront of sexual harassment research for over a decade, including the 1993 *Hostile Hallways* survey and the 2001 follow up report, [Hostile Hallways: Bullying Teasing and Sexual Harassment in School](#).

You can make a difference, right now, to help change this: [Ask your senators](#) to promote the *Safe Schools Improvement Act* (S. 509). The Safe Schools Improvement Act would significantly strengthen schools' ability and responsibility to combat sexual harassment and bullying. It would require schools to have comprehensive anti-harassment and bullying policies and promote prevention strategies. The bill would also tell schools to maintain and report data regarding incidents of bullying and harassment.

The best and fastest way for this critical bill to become law is as an amendment to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). ESEA is the law that sets some of the educational and disciplinary standards by which middle and high schools which receive federal funding—and right now, its anti-harassment and bullying rules are woefully inadequate.

So if you, your friends, or children were bullied or harassed, you can stand up and say "Enough is enough." Tell your senators to support the Safe Schools Improvement Act (S.506) as an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization! This is a simple amendment, but we need your help. To send a letter to your senators, click [AAUW's Two-Minute Activist](#).

* This report was made possible by generous contributions from AAUW members and donors to The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, The Legal Advocacy Fund, and The Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle.

BRANCH GOALS FOR 2011-2013

<i>Area</i>	<i>Goal</i>
Membership Engagement & Retention	Every new member gets a Buddy for the year <i>(Invite those who recruited members to be the buddies)</i> Use greeters at meetings to watch for, welcome, and help new members make connections with others Develop new Study Group for members who are parenting children now
Endowment Fundraising Goal	\$1,500 <i>(in addition to Book Sale proceeds)</i>
Leadership Development	Identify Board/Officer candidates by February Digitally archive the Book Sale how-to binder Identify Book Sale Co-Chairs by April Offer mentoring to student affiliates, recent Graduates, and girls planning to enter college to help them prepare for & launch their careers Have Branch representation at Conventions: State AAUW - 4 members (April) National AAUW - 2 members (June)
Promoting Women's History & Education	Develop poster & book displays for March, Setting these up in libraries Update Branch photo collage poster
Involvement in the Community	Partner with OU-C Women's Studies Program & Public Library <i>(and other women's groups)</i> to create displays for March Contact OU-C Communications Studies faculty to have students create promotional material for our Branch

Continued....

Area

Goal

New Branch Project for Girls

Use this year to study how we might reach out to girls in our community.

Explore the possibility of hosting an event in 2013, such as a "Sister-to-Sister" day for girls in grades 5-9

Survey our Be WISE girls to see what topics interest them. Invite them to help plan the outreach

Technology & Social Media Use

Update our Branch information on the OU-C and *AAUW.org* websites

Hold a training session to teach members how to use Facebook

Create a Social Media and Marketing Plan

Set up Skype capability for connecting home-bound members to Branch meetings

AAUW Awareness

Help members become informed about AAUW's advocacy work and Positions on issues

MEMBERSHIP ADDENDUM (as of November 10, 2011)

Please add cut & paste this information into your Yearbook:

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