



CAP & GOWN

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

DECEMBER, 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec 11	SUNDAY, Branch Holiday Celebration
Dec 13	Drama Group, 7:00 PM
Dec 15	Book Club, 9:30 AM
Jan 4	Lunch Bunch, 12:30 PM at the Country Club
Jan 5 & 19	Bridge Club, 1:00 PM
Jan 10	Board Meeting (<i>one week later than usual</i>)
	Drama Group, 7:00 PM
Jan 12	Money Smart, 6:30 PM
Jan 19	Book Club, 9:30 AM
Jan 21	BRANCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 9:00 AM
Jan 25	7—9 PM, creation of the Women's History Posters

HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 11, 2:00 PM / 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Majestic Theater / Pump House Center for the Arts

2:00 PM Play: "*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*"
NOTE: You must buy your own ticket and choose a reserved seat.
Call 775-6896. Adults= \$10, Seniors= \$8

5:00 PM Happy Hour, followed by a Catered Dinner at 5:30 PM.
\$16-18 per person, depending on number of people attending.
Please bring exact change, if possible, to pay for your dinner.
The price will include the tip. You are invited to bring alcoholic
beverages. Punch will also be served.

YOU MAY ATTEND DINNER WITHOUT THE PLAY, IF YOU CHOOSE.

Guests are welcome to attend with you.

"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
November 19, 2011**

Time: 11:00 AM—12:30 PM

Location: The David McCandless McKell Library, Ross County Historical Society, Chillicothe, Ohio

Number of Members Present: 23 Number of Guests Present: 3

Program: Rita Long introduced speaker Pat Medert.

With the assistance of her daughter, Melissa, Pat Medert gave an interesting presentation on "From Saint Nicholas to Santa Claus" and shared rarely displayed archived materials, such as an autographed copy of a Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. She first gave a brief history of the library. It started with gifts from Colonel David McCandless McKell, who was the creator and benefactor of the Ross County Historical Society. Pat and a friend organized the library in 1981. There is an on-line catalogue of about 16,000 books, 12,000 archival artifacts and 15,000 photos. The oldest book in the collection dates back to 1140.

Pat told us that the man who became St. Nicholas was born in Turkey in 300 A.D. He was generous to all, especially children. One story is that a poor man with three daughters needed dowries for his daughters to marry or they would have to become prostitutes. St. Nicholas gave each of them a bag of gold, which he tossed down the chimney and fell into their stockings that were hung by the fireplace to dry. St. Nicholas died in 343 A.D. He was made a saint and his saint day was celebrated on December 6th by giving gifts to children. In 330 A.D. December 25th was set by the Pope as the day of Christ's Mass. In 1643 Cromwell and the Puritans banned the celebration of Christmas, but the ban was lifted in 1666.

In the early years of America, Christmas was not celebrated. In 1822, Clement Moore wrote the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas", which would later become "The Night Before Christmas", changing St. Nicholas to Santa Claus. Moore was an unlikely poet. He grew up in New York and was influenced by the Dutch tradition of St. Nicholas, as slim and using a flying wagon, going down chimneys and filling stockings. But in his poem, Moore made St. Nicholas rotund and jolly.

In 1823, a friend of Moore's had the poem anonymously printed in the newspaper. In 1899, the editors of St. Nick's magazine responded to children's questions about where St. Nicholas lived, by telling them that he lived somewhere near the North Pole, so he wouldn't be disturbed in his preparations for Christmas. The North Pole as St. Nicholas' home may have been influenced by Symes scientific arctic speculation that due to circular concentric circles, there was life in the center of the earth and at the poles. Symes had petitioned Congress for money to fund an expedition.

Melissa showed us various copies of the "The Night Before Christmas"; starting with an 1862 illustrated publication; an 1863 Thomas Nast illustrated publication that was in Harper's Weekly, showing Santa Claus dressed in stars and stripes; an 1865 better known illustration; an 1875 printed facsimile of Moore's poem in his handwriting; the first American printed Christmas card with Nast illustrations, in an accordion style; an 1870 Nast "Visit of St. Nicholas"; an 1883 hard-bound copy; a 1902 Denslow's "Night Before Christmas"; a 1923 Centennial boxed set; a 1942 version and a 2002 pop-up version. We were also allowed to see the 1846 autographed copy of Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol", a 1917 illustrated version of a copy of "Christmas Carol", a copy of "The Chimes" by Charles Dickens, and a letter to Santa from the Franklin children dated December 24, 1882.

Business Meeting Called to Order by: President Maryjo Flamm-Miller

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held on Sunday December 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Majestic Theater to see "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", followed by a catered dinner at the

Pump House Arts Center. Members may attend one or both events. The play will cost \$10.00 per person and the dinner will cost from \$16.00 to \$18.00 per person, which includes the tip. The dinner will be BYOB. The dinner will start at 4:30 p.m. with appetizers and drinks. Members to bring appetizers and alcoholic drinks.

Church Tour: Laurel Evans announced that the Chillicothe Restoration Foundation is coordinating a Chillicothe Christmas Church Tour on December 10, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The list of churches participating will be listed in the newspaper and participants may start at whichever church they want.

Project: President Maryjo Flamm-Miller announced that at the January and February 2012 meetings we will be setting time aside to make posters displaying women worthy of imitation or display in local libraries. One of our members suggested that we feature local women.

Fundraiser: President Maryjo Flamm-Miller announced that she and her husband will be hosting a wine tasting fundraiser at their home in February 2012 to raise money for the endowment fund.

Necklace Project: We raised \$365.00 from the sale of our necklaces at our booth at the Altrusa Bazaar. We had 6 to 8 volunteers manning our booth. We have 45 necklaces left, which may be signed out to sell at other meetings.

Halloween Parade: President Maryjo Flamm-Miller honored Teresa McAuliffe for the wonderful job she did leading the creation of our float for the Halloween Parade.

Next Branch Meeting: Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Majestic Theater, followed by a catered dinner at the Pump House.

Respectfully submitted:
Barbara A. Fabrey, Branch Secretary

PUBLIC POLICY, *by Chrissy Park, Public Policy Chair*

“AAUW is Getting Ready for Election Day 2012: Are You In?”

Last month, the AAUW National Board of Directors approved some changes to AAUW's policy on inviting candidates for public office to town halls, debates, and other events (policy number 302). The updated policy will better address the needs of AAUW states and branches, particularly those working hard to host a candidate event or forum closer to the 2012 election. There have been no changes to AAUW's long-standing policy of not supporting or endorsing candidates for partisan political office.

Why make these changes? Because we're getting ready now for the next Election Day, and we know AAUW members and our Action Network e-advocates will want to be on the front lines of the AAUW Action Fund's soon-to-be-launched, massive voter education and turnout campaign!

There are 12 months until Election Day 2012 -- that's 12 months of online activism, 12 months of issues education, and 12 months of teaching our friends, families, and communities why women's issues matter. AAUW is starting now to ensure that by November 6, 2012, women of all ages -- and particularly young, twenty-something women -- know where the candidates stand on student loans, women's health, equal pay, and other issues critical to women and girls.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Maryjo Flamm-Miller

A Chance to Socialize

Hold a place on your calendars for a special new event coming on **Saturday, February 18. "Deep In the Heart of 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. This event replaces the "Stay-at-Home Tea" of recent years. An organizing committee will meet in early January. If you would like to help plan this fun event, call me.

Women's History Month Project

Our Branch Goals for 2011-2012 include celebrating Women's History Month in March. Our plan is to display a poster in each of the seven public library branches. We will make a set of seven tri-fold posters and display on in each of the seven branches that month. Each poster would feature a different influential woman from Ross County. Our hope is to be able to identify a woman who lived geographically in the area served by each library branch. The library would display books on the relevant person or her area of expertise with each poster. These displays will rest on bookcases or tables.

The Board is collecting names of women which could make interesting posters. Do you have a suggestion? Call a Board member. The selected women will be announced in the January Cap & Gown. Then we will meet to create the posters on **Wednesday, January 25, from 7-9 PM at Rita' Long's office**. This is a great opportunity for many of us to use our creativity and computer skills. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to help. It's sure to be both enlightening and fun.

News from the December Board Meeting:

BOOK SALE: It was decided that we would appropriate the \$4,416.91 proceeds of this year's Book Sale as follows:

\$2,000	OU Foundation Endowment, Principal Account <i>(to grow the endowment)</i>
\$2,000	OU Foundation Endowment, Spending Account <i>(for OU and Be WISE scholarships)</i>
\$416.91	Checking Account <i>(for Operating Expenses)</i>

NECKLACE PROJECT: To date, \$548.55 has been raised from the sale of our creativity!

ELECTIONS: Leaders will be chosen for various Branch positions in April. The Nominating Committee will be looking for people to serve as President, Membership Co-Chair, Program Co-Chair for 2012-2014. We will also be announcing the 2012 Book Sale Co-Chairs. Please consider stepping up into these Branch leadership opportunities.

Read the Fall Outlook Magazine

Read about retirement issues, the Women's History Museum, and the AAUW 1885 research report. Send a message to Diane Bambenek or Chelsea Thornton, Membership Co-Chairs, if you are not receiving this periodical from AAUW National. This is a benefit of your membership. It helps you become informed about activities at the state and national levels.

MEMBERSHIP ADDENDUM (as of November 10, 2011)

Please add cut & paste this information into your Yearbook:

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