



AAUW

American Association of University Women
MILWAUKEE BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

HOLIDAY EDITION ~ DECEMBER, 2009

Saturday, December 12, 2009

Holiday Celebration

Woman's Club of Wisconsin

813 E Kilbourn Ave

11:30 am Social ~ Luncheon at Noon

Make this a very special Holiday gathering for Branch members, family and friends!

Once again we return to the Woman's Club of Wisconsin, a handsome and historic building, always beautifully decorated for the Holidays. At approximately 1:00 pm there will be a special holiday musical program. A cash bar will be available to purchase alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages. Valet parking will be provided. Ample self-parking is in the lot south of the Club. For elevator access to the Club, ask valet attendant for assistance.

~ Menu ~

Reception: **P**unch and **H**ors d'oeuvres

Entree: **B**eef Bourguignon or **R**oasted **V**egetable **P**ot **P**ie

Dessert: **P**umpkin Ginger Mousse with **C**aramel **S**auce

Indicate your entrée choice when making reservations.

Cost of the Luncheon \$25.00 each

Reservations close December 3—Call 414-276-6820

Reservations ONLY – please NO walk-in surprises. If you make a reservation, and do not cancel by the date reservations, you are responsible for the cost of the meal.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO INDICATE YOUR ENTRÉE CHOICE WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION.

Guests and prospective members are always welcome.

President's Message ~ Benita Clark



Did you know that this year was the 115th Birthday of our Branch? Here are some interesting historical facts about us:

We were founded in 1894 when the Association of Collegiate Women and two other Women's Groups came together to

form what is known today as our College Women's Club Foundation. In 1919 we officially became the American Association of University Women. At one time our AAUW exercised political clout to elect school boards. We started schoolchildren's programs in Milwaukee Public Schools such as "Milk in the Schools". We have had our headquarters in several prestigious places in Milwaukee, including the Cudahy Mansion and the War Memorial. During World War I and World War II we taught sewing classes to young women. At one time we sponsored famous actors who performed at the Pabst Theatre.

Committee Explores Potential for Written History

During the past few months the History Committee attempted to get John Gurda, the famous Milwaukee historian, to write our untold and remarkable story. Although he was unable to do it, he highly recommended Priscilla Pardini, a freelance writer and a former newspaper writer and editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Ms. Pardini has written several histories, among them the story of the Faye McBeath Foundation, the life of Betty Brinn, and the history of the Bel Canto Chorus.

We met with Ms. Pardini in October at which time we presented her with approximately 10 bins and boxes containing the history of our Club. We expressed to her the urgency of preserving the various materials, photos, and newspaper articles in scrapbooks which are so carefully put together and are now yellowing and slowly deteriorating. Ms. Pardini, a professional at this kind of work, expressed her enthusiasm to put together all these materials. She indicated to us the intensive

amount of work that would go into this project such as doing the archival research, conducting the personal interviews,

doing the photo preparations, writing the first draft, doing manuscript revisions and proof readings, etc. All this would amount to approximately \$25,000 for Ms. Pardini's high caliber of work.

In addition to the cost of writing, additional resources will be needed for the design process, preparing photos for reproduction, securing the ISBN and the Library of Congress numbers, indexing and printing, etc.

At our November Board meeting the Executive Board gave the History Committee authorization to ascertain the prices for writing the history of our AAUW Milwaukee Branch for \$40,000 or less. The Committee will then need to present these different prices to the general membership. The vote of approval of the membership on how much money to spend for this unprecedented and expensive project will be necessary.

Honor/Memory Gifts Can Help Fund the Project

The idea of a Legacy Project where members can underwrite sections of this history book was also suggested. If any member would like to be honored as a donor to this worthy project, we urge you to step forward and we will have discussions with you on an individual basis.

Our AAUW Branch has sufficient resources to accomplish this task without in any way jeopardizing our ongoing and continuing commitment to providing large sums of money every year for scholarships to graduating seniors. These funds come from the College Women's Club Foundation.

The Board will be scheduling a special Luncheon Meeting of the general membership, possibly in January or February, to vote approval to spend no more than \$40,000 to write the history of our Club.

The funds for this project if approved by the membership will come from our Gifts and Memorials Fund and from the resources which we have from the sale of the Marshall Street Clubhouse. It is anticipated that we would not use more than 2% of this fund.



Benita's Message is continued on the next page....

November Photo Gallery

Photos courtesy of Mary Fiedler



Hostesses Faye Topetzes and daughter, Sophia Strelka set out quite a spread!



Carole Montgomery, Ramona Bowie, who was able to drop by for the Social, and newest member, Tina Klose relax together in the Suite before the Dinner on Thursday evening.

IN MEMORY OF:
LOIS TICE who entered eternal life
on **October 21, 2009**
and
DOROTHY WOOD who passed
away suddenly of a heart ailment
on **November 13, 2009.**



WOMEN'S
COURT & CIVIC
CONFERENCE OF THE
GREATER
MILWAUKEE AREA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009
Italian Community Center

11am Business Meeting
11:15 am Social
12 Noon Luncheon
1 pm PROGRAM:

"Celebration of Laughter"

Speaker: Diane Kane

Cost is \$20. Contact the AAUW Branch office for more information.

Benita's message continued...

Special Thanks to Hospitality Hosts

I would like to give special thanks to the hospitality hosts for the last three chapter meetings (September: Marcia Zientek & Nancy Nohl, October: John Clark, and November: Fay Topetzes & Sophia Strelka) for going out of their way to share such gourmet tidbits and wine before the meals.

We're all looking forward to a great Holiday luncheon get together at the Women's Club of Wisconsin on December 12. If you wish to make reservations for yourself and other guests/potential members, please call the office 276-6820.

Holiday Charity is Pearls for Teen Girls

Don't forget our Holiday Charity—PEARLS for Teen Girls. Please bring your unwrapped gift such as winter hats, gloves, scarves, movie passes, gift cards, jewelry, and other gifts appropriate for young women. The Hospitality Committee will provide special baskets for these gifts.

On behalf of your Board of Directors and myself I wish you and your dear ones a Holiday filled with peace and joy.

Legislative Day in Madison on November 4, 2009

Benita and John Clark attended the annual Legislative Day help in Madison, and were joined by more than 60 AAUW members from all corners of the state. The day presented the opportunity to head legislators and advocates speak on three topics: health care, education and campaign finance reform as those topics relate to the legislation currently before the Assembly and Senate in the state of Wisconsin.

In a follow-up, Barbara Peterson, AAUW-WI Public Policy Coordinator, reported the following in a memo dated November 5:

The Democracy Campaign just issued this statement:

"The Impartial Justice bill passed today by the Assembly and Senate easily qualifies as the most significant campaign reform in Wisconsin in more than 30 years. Not since 1977 has a reform approaching this magnitude been achieved in this state.

Wisconsin has been electing Supreme Court justices for more than 150 years, but in very recent years these elections have been turned into auctions.

Passage of this legislation marks the beginning of Wisconsin's return to the kind of high court elections that served our state extremely well for over a century and a half.

Our justice system is built on a bedrock principle. Judges aren't supposed to belong to anyone. They are to be accountable only to the law and the Constitution. Every legislator who voted for the Impartial Justice bill today struck a critically important blow for that principle.

Today's action was a timely and forceful response to the court majority's outrageous decision last week to approve rules written by Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and the Wisconsin Realtors Association allowing judges in Wisconsin to rule on cases involving their biggest campaign supporters. The Impartial Justice Bill does not address a very cause of eroding public confidence in the independence of our courts and the fairness and impartiality of judges, and it does not solve every problem plaguing the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Other reforms—such as those proposed in Senate Bill 43 and Assembly Bill 63—are surely needed. But this legislation does free candidates for the state's highest court from the money chase and enables any who see this office to vigorously campaign and communicate with voters without having to raise huge sums of private special interest money from individuals and organizations who may end up appearing before them in court."

Reminder for January 2, 2010 BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, January 2, 2010 will be the Branch meeting, at the Astor featuring a unique acting presentation by Jessica Michna as "Eleanor Roosevelt".

Because the date will come up very fast after the Holidays, make sure you mark your calendars. You can make reservations at any time before December 29, 2009.

NO COMMITTEES OR GROUPS WILL MEET IN DECEMBER.