



***“BRANCHING OUT
For MARCH, 2017***

AAUW PENOBSCOT VALLEY BRANCH

**What an Exciting and Topical Subject is
Planned for our March Branch Meeting!**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 7:00 P.M.

Large Conference Room

Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center

University of Maine Campus

Speaker: Our own Judi Coburn-Harris

Her Topic:

“ISSUES IN DIVERSITY:

“DISABILITY AND WOMEN”

Judi will speak on the misconceptions, assumptions, and prejudices that occur due to disability. These can discourage and even prevent advancement by women in the workplace. Not only gender

bias but also being viewed as less competent based on perceived disability status that could affect women's progress.

Your editor thinks that this is a "dynamite" topic to hear about. There is much here that could open a great discussion. I myself have had an experience that fits into Judy's synopsis. Perhaps there are others in our group that have experienced similar experiences.

I cannot be there due to my Parkinson's and the distance (I now live in a senior community in Auburn), but you can be there!!!!

In the January newsletter, I urged you to attend our Brunch- and you did! Now I urge you again:

LET'S FILL THAT CONFERENCE ROOM!!

Triad: Judi Coburn-Harris, Fran Haines and Janice Osgood, (in spirit as she had a bad fall, broke her leg and is just now home)



BOOKS! THINK BOOKS!



**YES, our fabulous Book Sale is coming in April-the 8th to be exact!
We are again using The Church of Universal Fellowship.**

This Book Sale-as we all realize- is the major source of income that funds our scholarships and our Branch. All members should be proud of their commitment to this sale. Again, this spring, there is time to show this commitment once again.

The work of putting on our Book Sale can be strenuous though. Boxes of books can be very heavy especially if you must lift a lot.

Susan Wishkoski is the main chair of the Book Sale along with Sharon Barker who has offered to be available the week of the Sale with trucks, pickup, Kiwanis, etc.

At a special Leadership Meeting in December, Susan conducted a pros and cons exercise. Some of the comments discussed were:

1. Find a way to move books only once.
2. Find another storage space, where some of the sale could take place in advance.
3. Need to have fewer books to deal with at and after the sale.

AGAIN IN THIS ISSUE YOUR EDITOR WILL QUOTE SUSAN AS A REVIEW OF THE PARTICULARS OF HER PLAN.

“Two concerns emerged from that December Book Sale meeting: We are no longer able to lift heavy books; Too many books we receive are not saleable. I recommend that we only accept books two days ahead of the sale. The books would be delivered to the church and would save on the labor of collecting and then having to move them from other locations. We can check in the donations at the church and turn back those that are not saleable. We could organize some sort of pick-up service at this time. Finally, I recommend that we only sort books into 4 large categories-fiction, non-fiction, children’s and special books of unique value. Let our customers **browse**. They will enjoy the treasure hunt and may buy more. One other change-on Saturday, the 8th, vendors will be allowed in at 7:30 a.m. And the

sale will open to the public at 8: AM. We will not be using shelves this year. We will be displaying books in cardboard boxes. Please save your boxes.

MEMBER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:

To donate books themselves.

To set up on Tuesday.

To receive books on Wednesday and Thursday and Friday.

To run the sale on Saturday.

To help clean-up on Saturday afternoon.

To donate baked goods-cookies, muffins, etc. for the day of the sale as we are planning to serve coffee, hot tea, with the baked goods."

If you haven't received an email from Fran or Susan with Word attached documents from Susan, you will receive them with this newsletter.

Your editor has been advised that Susan will explain how it will all come together the week of April 4-8th at Wednesday's meeting. So please check your own calendars so you can sign up to volunteer that week. Thank you.

IN OTHER NEWS

SUSAN LANDRY has some very exciting news from the state. You editor felt that this news should be prominent in a communique. So, I will make it so. I will send newsletter #2 with all else I have.

Newsletter 2:

NOTES TO BRANCH MEMBERS AFTER OUR STATE LT MEETING

Members are encouraged to enroll in and use the Two Minute Activist. When you do, and when you engage in any lobbying effort, State President Dora McCarthy wants to hear from you: let her know who you contacted (and by what means), on what issue/s, and what if any response you received. It was pointed out by Waterville co-President Carolyn MacRae that the marches on January 22 were well attended by AAUW members, and if each of those members pledged one lobbying effort per week-- we would see results! Imagine if ALL of us did this.

The state's annual convention will follow the usual format: Friday night dinner with the Achievement Citation Award winner (Kathy Kilrain del Rio) and branch recognitions, and Saturday workshops after annual business meeting. Speaking of branch recognitions: I need your suggestions -- as soon as possible -- for our outstanding branch member of the year. Also, anyone who is interested in helping with planning the convention, contacting participants, etc. should get in touch with Marlise Swartz (mshartz@maine.rr.com); she would appreciate the assistance, and it would be a great way to gain some insight into the position of Program Convention Director should you possibly like to hold it in future.

IMPORTANT: we need a representative on the state nominating committee; if you will serve, please tell me immediately. Note that the committee conducts its business by email and phone and will be seeking to fill just two positions this year. I hope to hear from you soon-- don't let me down!

Another opportunity to serve the state: one of the public policy co-chairs has had to step down, and the other would definitely appreciate having another member step up! If interested, let me or Dora know.

One final note: remember when recruiting new members that dues are discounted 50% until March 15 and then back to full rate but good through the following full year.