

Branching Out



for May, 2016

AAUW PENOBSCOT VALLEY BRANCH

ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY

MAY 11, 2016, 7:00 P.M.

CHURCH OF UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP-

(MACKENZIE ROOM-SECOND FLOOR)

(There is an elevator)



AND.....A

FABULOUS DESSERT

EXTRAVAGANZA!!!!!!

ARRANGED BY OUR TRIAD: JANET GIVENS, JANICE OSGOOD,
FRAN HAINES

Join us for a **DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA** and coffee as well as some social time to visit with other branch members. We plan to honor our scholarship recipients and Outstanding Branch Member, Peggy Hallee. The 2016-2017 Leadership Team will be introduced and voted upon. The new Leadership Team is comprised of the following members: Liaison to National: Susan Landry; Secretary: Cathleen Bauschetz; Treasurer: Jocelyn Runnebaum; Membership: Sharon Ashworth and Janice Osgood as co-chairs; Public Policy: Susan Wishkowski; AAUW Funds: Susan Landry; Scholarship Advisors: Sharon Ashworth and Melba Wallace, co-chairs; University of Maine Representative: Mary Cathcart; Branching Out Editor: Peggy Hallee; Web Page Editor: Fran Haines; Social Media Editor: Dora McCarthy; Historian: Janet Givens.

The Annual Meeting is also a good time to pay our dues for 2017. Jocelyn Runnebaum says that they will still be \$69.00. If you can't make the meeting you can send them to her at 485 County Road, Milford, ME 04461.

Susan Landry will have raffle tickets at our Annual Meeting. They are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. She will also be accepting Maine items from members to put in this basket. The baskets are raffled at our State Convention held this year in Castine on May 20th -21st. Let her know if your contribution will need special help to be carried out to her car.



DIDN'T WE HAVE A REALLY SPECTACULAR BOOK SALE?

We had great member support, from those who worked at the sale, to those who gave a donation, or made food, to those who sorted books-AND WE MEAN BOOKS! -LOTS OF BOOKS! during the days before the actual sale, to those who cleaned up afterwards.

Sharon Ashworth, our phenomenal Book Sale chairwoman, wrote a factual and complete article about the nitty-gritties of our sale. This article is in the Supplement to the latest issue of "The Dawn Breaker" and also contains some nice pictures of the sale. Sharon did a lot of innovative things, but one of them that impressed your editor was that she emailed the membership each day-even on the day of the sale itself- as to the progress of the sale's readiness and reality, thus hoping to spark member interest and help-which she did.

The revived "Dirty Book Party" was a great success with many members staying to sort...AND THEY EVEN FOUND SOME "DIRTY BOOKS"! Thanks to Susan Wishkoski for covering the pizza. Even if there were not that many children to sit in Dora's tent and read, their parents were delighted with the concentration of books just for them artfully arranged for them to get a clearer look at what we had.....and buy them. Your editor even heard some buyers remarking: "People still like to buy and presumably still read books!" Sharon did want to thank the non-members from the community who helped sort books. Your editor saw quite a few when she was there on Friday doing the food. There may be others, but I saw, Mary Anne Eason, Sally Jacobs, Marie Lusth Winn, and Terry Morrow. Lois Soule came on Saturday to help me in the kitchen. Then of course Neal Hallee was his usual best. THANK YOU ALL AND OTHERS I DIDN'T SEE.

There were many accolades given about the sale and the members who organized and worked hard to make it a reality, but I feel that this one from Joanne Boynton captured the spirit the best.

“My sincere appreciation to you Sharon, and to all others for such a successful book sale. It was a true example of “women’s work”, with members pulling together and supporting one another. These qualities have kept me coming back for the more than 40 years of my membership. For me, along with the success of the sale was the joy of reconnecting with familiar faces and meeting new members. Thanks to all who made this 2016 AAUW book sale possible.”

AND WE MADE \$2,638.00!

WHICH WAS ABOUT WHAT WE DID LAST YEAR

Which makes our scholarships viable. There have been 13 applications so far. The non-traditional scholarships will be decided on this week. Orono High School now decides who receives the Marge Erhard scholarship.

AAUW OF MAINE STATE CONVENTION, 2016

Those branch members who have registered for the Convention on May 20-21 may be in for the State’s most unusual convention ever, according to Marlise Swartz, State Program Vice President. It is our privilege, she writes, to host 50 young women, freshmen and sophomores in high school, exposing them, through the efforts of the Maine Maritime Academy staff and the enthusiasm of AAUW to STEM opportunities via their visit to MMA, now in its 75th year.

Marlise goes on to say that it was exciting to prepare for this convention. The focus is to acquaint young women with career opportunities in the STEM fields. The students will spend the morning with the MMA staff, join AAUW membership for lunch and the opportunity to meet Paige Brown, a Bangor High School senior whose science project has won her national acclaim. Additionally, students will benefit from panelists and speakers in the afternoon who will share information about STEM careers and opportunities.

To top the weekend off, Marlise has arranged for AAUW to be on MPBN radio as guests of MAINE CALLING with host Jennifer Rooks from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 20th. The State Board encourages you to listen or call in, and give your opinion and support and ask questions.

All branches are encouraged to nominate a woman for The Achievement Citation Award which is given during Friday night’s banquet. Our branch nominated Abbie Strout....and she WON!

Abbie has quite an interesting biography as written by Ruth Lockhart:

Abbie is a reproductive rights activist, a sexuality educator, and a successful community organizer. She is currently the Director of Education and Community Engagement for Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center. She is committed to working for equality for all. Abbie lives out her philosophy both in her profession and in her personal life. As a "young" activist, (27 years old), Abbie has made great strides on behalf of Maine women, particularly when it comes to advocacy on the state level for good health policy. She is on many committees for reproductive rights. She collaborates with many organizations to produce relevant and accurate educational programs on feminism, women's health, transgender health and rights. Abbie created the Restore Maine Care Funding Initiative, which seeks to bring back Medicaid funding for abortions in Maine. Abbie is an engaging and entertaining public speaker who inspires everyone who hears her to action and advocacy. She is a real light and a real spark in today's movements for equal rights. Her achievements are many and are a perfect fit for AAUW's mission.

CONGRATULATIONS ABBIE

.....and lastly, all of us with computers received from Susan Landry last week an invitation from a California AAUW branch to go with them on a trip to Cuba to interact with the Cuban people. It does sound like a fascinating trip and the Package Price of only \$5094. covers just about everything.....and so I wondered how many of us are going?