



Diana Steele



Debra Ahlers

## A Message From the Presidents . . . It's Our 55th Anniversary!

Dr. Diana F. Steele, Ph.D., President

Debra Ahlers, M.S., Program Co-Vice-President

Greetings, to you, the members of the AAUW Beaufort (SC) Branch. We hope you have had a good summer and are ready to get back into the swing of our new AAUW year. Our Program VPs have arranged the activities in response to the surveys you completed. We are hoping that you will be both entertained and educated by this year's programs. The newsletter will look a bit different this year; we have co-editors, Diana Steele, our President, and Debbie Ahlers, one of our Program Co-VPs contributing to our publication. We hope you find this issue interesting and informative as we continue to support our AAUW mission: "to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research." Our first meeting is the fourth Tuesday of October, the 28th. We are looking forward to an outstanding 2014–2015 year with our AAUW Branch!

### Highlights From Our Meetings and Excursions

Thank you to Veronica Miller and Peg Schlichtemeier for last year's worthwhile and enjoyable programs. For those of you who missed some of our 2013–14 meetings, here are a few highlights.

- Victoria Smalls, Director of History, Art, and Culture for Penn Center National Historic Landmark District located on St. Helena Island, SC, presented on the Center's historical significance and the unique living culture of her people. Victoria presented a pictorial overview that incorporated archival images that dated back to the founding of the Center. She shared that Penn Center, founded as Penn School in 1862, has a history that spans more than 152 years — from the Civil War, to Reconstruction, to the Civil Rights Movement, and continues today. Victoria spoke about how Penn Center has been at the epicenter of African American education, historic preservation, and social justice for tens of thousands of descendants of formerly enslaved West Africans living in the Sea Islands, known as the Gullah Geechee people. Because of Penn Center's influence the Gullah people continue to survive today and represent the most tangible living example of one of the outcomes of the Port Royal Experiment, a plan by the federal government to "test the capabilities of the 'Negro' for freedom and self-support" during the Civil War. As the Penn Center commemorates the final year of its 150th Anniversary (2012–2014), it continues to endure both as a national monument promoting historic and cultural preservation, as well as a catalyst for economic sustainability throughout the Sea Islands.
- Rhonda Mincey, Founder of the RC Mincey Group and Award-Winning Author of *A Girl's Guide to Becoming Great*, was the featured speaker for our November meeting. Mrs. Mincey spoke about her innovative program for girls, the "G.R.E.A.T. Girls" program, which she successfully piloted in elementary schools in Beaufort and Jasper counties and in the Boys & Girls Club. According to Mrs. Mincey, "...Greatness is inside of everyone, but not everyone knows it..." The acronym G.R.E.A.T. (Givers, Real, Educated, Amazing, and Talented) represents

*(Highlights continued on page 2)*

### Scheduled Programs 2014–15

All of our scheduled meetings this year will be at the First Presbyterian Church at: 1201 North Street in Beaufort, from 6:00—8:00 PM. Debbi Covington will again be providing delicious dinners for the still low price of \$15.

- **October 28: Larry Bernard — History of Beaufort.**  
Mr. Bernard is a Historian and Carriage Ride Tour Guide in Beaufort. History was the #1 topic you requested on the survey you took regarding what programs you would be interested in. You asked and we are delivering.
- **November 18: Robb Wells — Tourism Works for Beaufort's Economic Development**  
Mr. Wells heads the Tourism Division of Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce. This subject is another one you ranked at the top for your interests.
- **January 27: Bob Lee — Heroes on Horseback**  
Mr. Lee is the Founder and Executive Director of this wonderful organization in Beaufort County, which produced two gold medalists at the Special Olympics in Korea. Heroes on Horseback provides equine-assisted therapeutic activities for people with physical, mental or emotional disabilities in Beaufort County.
- **February 24: Greg Rawls and Betty Commanday — Dragonboat**  
Dragonboat strives to support cancer survivors and raise money for grants to help members who lack coverage or funds to pay for their needs. Mr. Rawls is president of the Beaufort chapter. Ms. Commanday is a member of this organization.
- **March 24: Glenda Stecki — Benefits of Yoga**  
Ms. Stecki is a yoga instructor here in Beaufort.
- **April 28: Staff Member from Beaufort Memorial Hospital's LifeFit Wellness Center**  
Adding Movement to Your Day
- **May 19 — Scholarship Presentation**

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the attributes Mrs. Mincey thinks that girls should possess. She believes, "If our girls realize who they are, they are on their way to having a positive, promising, and productive life." The 'G.R.E.A.T. Girls' program targets girls ages 10–14. In only two short years the program has been extended to four elementary schools and will have reached over 300 girls by the end of this year. This program is a component of The Great Girls, Inc. and is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization formed to establish the program in schools in underserved areas. We in AAUW are all about empowering women and were excited to hear about a program that is empowering young girls.



Students at MC Riley involved Rhonda Mincey's "G.R.E.A.T. Girls" program.

### ■ Holiday and Lunch Outing 4

Last December, about 20 members from our Branch met at The Shed in Port Royal to view a wonderful display of locally decorated Christmas trees. Businesses and groups put their creative hats on to deck out the trees in a theme that represented their focus and interests. There were trees with Barbie dolls, homemade ornaments, and beautiful ribbons. There must have been 50 displays! You could also buy homemade wreaths and other items. All the money went to a very good cause: The Friends of Caroline Hospice. After the viewing, we walked a few blocks to have lunch at Moondoggies restaurant. We ate local delicacies, like pickle chips and crab cake sandwiches. We had fun and charged our holiday spirits.



AAUW Beaufort Branch Members who attended the Festival of Trees in December.

First Row (left to right): Diana Steele, Barbara Mattingly, Celeste Nalwasky

Second Row (left to right): Veronica Miller, Anne Heyward, Anita Mahoney, Marietta Pulliam, Roberta Gunderson, Debra Ahlers, Eileen Schlorff

Third Row (left to right): Peggy Fryer, Rhonda Mincey, Nancy Myers

## Highlights (continued from page 2)

### ■ Meeting at Talbots

We held our May meeting at Talbots Store in Newcastle Square. We presented our scholarship to Emma Lee Bennett. Talbots gave Emma a \$25 gift certificate and a grab bag of gifts. After dinner and a short business meeting, we went on a shopping spree. Talbots gave our members a 40% discount on any items we purchased, whether on sale or not.

### ■ Assault in the Military Film Night

Last March, about 10 AAUW members from our local chapter attended the film, *The Invisible War*, shown at the USCB Performing Arts Center and afterwards had dinner at Yes, Thai Indeed. In 2012, the AAUW announced the making of *The Invisible War* and has supported through the Legal Advocacy Fund several plaintiffs who are women and military veterans featured in the film. This movie received an Oscar nomination for Best Documentary. It had also received the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival and was listed as the 10th movie among Time's top 100 movies of 2012, and the only documentary. The film features several plaintiffs from the AAUW-supported lawsuits Cioca v. Rumsfeld and Klay v. Panetta.

The film is about sexual assault in the military and features interviews with veterans from multiple branches of the United States Armed Forces who recounted events surrounding their assaults. Their stories showed the lack of recourse to an impartial justice system, reprisals against survivors instead of perpetrators, the absence of adequate medical and emotional care for survivors, the unhindered advancement of perpetrators' careers, and the forced expulsion of survivors from service. The film also included footage, often shot by the veterans themselves, which documented their lives and continuing struggles in the aftermath of their assaults.

Anne Heyward (left) receiving AAUW Funds Tribute from Beaufort Branch president Diana Steele.

### One Of Our Members Receives AAUW Funds Tribute For Longtime Service

Anne Heyward has been a member of the Beaufort Branch of AAUW since 2002. A dedicated member, Anne served as recording secretary from 2005–2009; co-program vice president from 2011–2013; and historian from 2009 until the present. She further commits herself to the Beaufort community as a volunteer docent at the Verdier House, Beaufort Visitors Center, and the Parish Church of St. Helena. A direct descendant of Thomas Heyward, Anne is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution. Anne holds a B.A. from Landers University and a M.Ed. from the University of South Carolina. She taught elementary school in upper state New York, Beaufort, and Columbia. She retired from teaching and has moved back to Beaufort, not far from her hometown of Bluffton.



### Ways We Are Fulfilling Our Mission Of Supporting Education Annual Non-Traditional Student Women's Scholarship

Each year our Beaufort Branch of the AAUW awards a scholarship to a non-traditional age local woman who is returning to college or technical school. On May 20th, the Beaufort Branch of the American Association of University Women presented its annual scholarship to a woman who is returning to college following an interruption in her formal education. This year's recipient was Emma Lee (Emmy) Bennett. Her selection was based on demonstrated scholastic aptitude and leadership characteristics, as well as financial need. Emmy will be a full-time student entering the nursing program at Technical College of the Lowcountry. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is the mother of five children. One child, Ana Maria, has mitochondrial disease for which there is no cure. Emmy is Ana Maria's caregiver and has raised money for her medical needs as well as the Mitochondrial Disease Foundation. Emmy has met with U.S. Senators on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., in an effort to have legislation passed for mitochondrial disease research. The website [www.helpcureanamaria.com](http://www.helpcureanamaria.com) has been established to tell Ana Maria's story.



(Left to right) Diana Steele, Debra Ahlers, Emma Lee Bennett and Peggy Hubright

## Highlights (continued from page 3)

### Worldwide Philanthropy Through The AAUW Educational Foundation (EOF)

We also give annually as a group to the AAUW Educational Fund, which awards grants and fellowships to women across the globe. For example, AAUW is helping address the global gender gap in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce. STEM careers offer women the opportunity to engage in technological innovation, which provides an important step toward greater economic success and equality. AAUW delivers STEM education to more than 11,000 girls each year at the branch, state, and national levels in the United States. AAUW's national STEM camps and conferences target middle school girls because middle school is a critical time for girls to maintain their interest in STEM and begin taking courses that will lead to future STEM opportunities.

AAUW sponsors and conducts research on women's access to higher education. For instance, this year a panel at the 58th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in March will provide findings on AAUW's latest research report, *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success*. As a result of their findings, AAUW has selected eleven campus teams to receive 2013–14 Campus Action Project grants. The projects will address such issues as improving access to child care, enrolling more women in science and mathematics fields, and helping students transfer from community colleges to four-year institutions.

AAUW supports International Fellows with fellowships for continuing higher education. One recipient of the International Fellows is the current finance minister of Nigeria, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. Another former International Fellow and International Project Grantee, Otgontugs Banzragch, was recently appointed dean of the Graduate School and dean of the School of Economics at the National University of Mongolia. We also now are helping a former International Fellow, Tererai Trent, to promote rebuilding schools in Zimbabwe.

AAUW helps women generate income. At present in Kenya, we are helping women farmers generate income by providing grants to them for use in developing and supporting their business products. Whether produce or animal husbandry, the women are provided materials to begin and sustain their production, advice on management and marketing, and legal help.

### Books For Birthdays

We are in our eighth year of *Books for Birthdays*. Every month we read to two classes of preschool children at Shanklin Elementary in Beaufort County. We then give the book to the children who have birthdays in that month. In addition, we give a book to every child. We celebrate their birthdays with muffins and juice, and of course, sing Happy Birthday to them. Lynn Lantz orders these books, and as a non-profit organization we must pay only for shipping. The books are very nice, too! Lynn Lantz and Barbara Mattingly organize these monthly visits and we always welcome new volunteers to go on the visits.



The birthday boys and girls proudly show off their new books!

Pre-School Students and Teachers at Shanklin Elementary School with AAUW members Lynn Lantz (second from left), Barbara Mattingly (third from left), and Veronica Miller (far right)

**Join AAUW and help support our efforts!**

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

Want to join us? Fill out the membership application on page 8 of this newsletter.

Questions on what we do? Call any of the names listed on page 8. We will be happy to talk to you!

## Meet Our New Members

**Debra Ahlers** is a new member and a new officer. She is our new Co-VP of Programs (with Veronica Miller). She may be new to Beaufort and our branch, but she is not new to AAUW. She was a member of the local Geneva Lakes WI Branch. In that branch she had served as Co-Membership VP and was on the Scholarship committee. She originated and chaired the Yerkes Observatory Mentor program and started and led the Cooking Club Interest Group. Debbie grew up in Chicago and received a B.S. from University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana and a M.S. from Northern Illinois University. Debbie started as a Special Education teacher, then was an Assistant Superintendent of Schools in the Chicago area, before starting work on an MBA. She then made the leap to the corporate world as a Corporate Trainer. After finishing her last corporate position as Manager of Training at MCI, she opened up her own corporate training company, Ahlers Business Consultants, which enjoyed much success for 14 years and allowed Debbie to travel worldwide while assisting many companies with their training needs. Debbie is retired, and last November moved to Beaufort permanently with her husband. She enjoys cooking, reading, volunteering and being involved with AAUW!

**Donnia Barnes** was an elementary school teacher for several years before she obtained a Masters in Education from Xavier University (Cincinnati, OH). She then worked as a Reading Specialist and a Lead Teacher. While teaching in the Cincinnati Public School System she was honored as "Distinguished Teacher." During this time a principal suggested to Donnia that she return to graduate school to pursue certification for Guidance Counselor. After obtaining this certification she worked with pre-adolescent and adolescent students in a junior high school setting. This time was an especially exciting and enjoyable part of her career as an educator. After retiring, Donnia volunteered in Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She helped these high school students develop skills to become successful in a job or to attend college. She lives on Fripp Island as "snowbird" from December through March. She has enrolled in programs of both OLLI and Road Scholar (Elderhostel) to broaden her knowledge and have more opportunities to travel. She is looking forward to being a volunteer in the Beaufort AAUW Chapter and would like to become involved with our visits to listen to students read and also to read aloud to them.

**Laura Burcin** recently retired after thirty years working for Defense contractors as a systems engineer and program manager. She has a Masters in Computer Science and an MBA. She and her husband Bill moved to Lady's Island last December. She's a weaver, and she and Bill like to take their boat on trips.

**Wendy Conroy** grew up in Ohio, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. She received her B.A. from the University of South Carolina (Columbia) and attended graduate school at Rowan University

in New Jersey. Her jobs have included technical writing for a manufacturing firm and product training for both the legal and accounting sectors. She recently retired from Thomson Reuters where she was Senior Product Trainer responsible for specialized training in International Tax and International Trade for Thomson's web-based Checkpoint products. Three years ago Wendy, with her husband, moved to Beaufort from southern New Jersey. She volunteers for V.O.I.C.E. and Habitat for Humanity. She enjoys working with her two rescued dogs, reading, and having the time to cook!

**Eileen Schlorff** grew up in Michigan in the downriver area of Detroit. She attended Marygrove College, transferred to Eastern Michigan University and graduated with a B.A. in English with minors in Education and Social Studies. Accompanying her husband, Lee, to the University of Missouri while he attained a Ph.D., she taught English on both the Junior High and High School level. They continued onto Laramie, Wyoming where Eileen taught until the birth of their first child. She furthered her graduate studies in education at both Missouri and University of Wyoming. The family then moved and lived near Boston, MA, for thirty years. When her two daughters were grown, she worked in the Financial Aid Office of Bentley College, now Bentley University, in Waltham, MA. Having discovered the Low Country in 1998, Eileen lived part-time on Dataw Island from 2007-2009, then full time from 2009 to the present. She greatly enjoys reading, knitting, and volunteering at the Beaufort County Cat Shelter and the Tabby House. She loves the beautiful surroundings of the Low Country.

**Stacey Zelten** and her husband Luke split their time between Wayne, Pennsylvania, and Beaufort. She grew up in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. She moved to Philadelphia shortly after graduating from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., with a Bachelors degree in accounting (1993). In 1994, after a year as a public accountant, Stacey started her career at The Glenmede Trust Company. In her 20-year career at Glenmede she was a senior accountant, a Performance Analyst and Vice President/Relationship manager for their institutional clients. She loved working daily with the foundation and endowment clients and volunteering as a mentor for City Year. Her career was cut short due to a medical issue. She now spends her time enjoying golf, gardening, home renovations, relaxing, independent films, theater, and socializing.

**Check out our website!**  
Learn more about AAUW at [www.AAUW-SC.org](http://www.AAUW-SC.org)

## Dateline Beaufort October 2014

Dateline Beaufort is a publication of the Beaufort Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and is a source of information to our membership.

Board Of Directors for 2014-2015

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 Publicity; Website; Facebook: Diana Steele  
 Directory: Roberta Gunderson  
 Historian: Anne Heyward  
 Phone and Email Messenger: Marietta Pullman  
 Newsletter Publisher: Cynthia Schafer



**First Row (left to right):**  
 Diana Steele, Lynn Lantz, Debra Ahlers  
**Second Row (left to right):**  
 Veronica Miller, Diane Goodrich,  
 Barbara Mattingly, Celeste Nalwasky

CONTACT INFORMATION OF MEMBERS TO CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION:

President Diana Steele: 522-2796; steele.diana@comcast.net  
 Past President Lynn Lantz: 770-0075; lynnbobbeauf@earthlink.net  
 Program VP Debra Ahlers: 379-3004; debbie.ahlers@gmail.com  
 Program VP Veronica Miller: 838-4575; veronicamiller34@gmail.com  
 Membership VP Diane Goodrich: 838-5370; dmgoodrich71@gmail.com  
 Recording Secretary: Celeste Nalwasky.838-4569; celestenalwasky@aol.com  
 Treasurer Barbara Mattingly: 522-8203; bmatting6@naz.edu

**AAUW Needs YOU**

Beaufort Branch membership dues continue the same as last year.

Renewals in the total amount of \$76 (includes \$49 for the national AAUW association dues, \$10 for AAUW SC dues, and \$17 for Branch dues) were due by July 1.

If you have not sent in your dues for this year, please rejoin and encourage other women to become members. We wish to continue to support women in our area and to do so we need your help. Use the membership application form on the right or contact Membership VP Diane Goodrich. Questions? Contact Diane or any of the people listed on the Board of Directors article above. Please visit our new website at <http://aauw-sc.aauw.net/branches/beaufort/> and like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/AAUW-Beaufort-SC-Branch/729257513813995>.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
**BEAUFORT BRANCH**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PREVIOUS BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEGREE \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose check for annual dues (\$76) payable to:  
**Beaufort Branch AAUW**

(Dues amount includes: National \$49, State \$10, Branch \$17)

**Mail to:** Barbara Mattingly, Finance Officer  
 923 Lafayette Street, Beaufort, SC 29902