



THE HOT SHEET

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FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

Our next branch meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 20 at the Unitarian Universalist Village Church at 403 Barcelona.

Darla Thurber, vice president of external affairs and chief diversity officer at National Park College, will tell us about NPC's activities in the area of diversity. We also hope to have a brainstorming session on how AAUW can work with NPC in this area.

Following the program, branch business will be discussed.

Coffee and snacks will be available starting at 9 a.m., with Darla's talk beginning promptly at 9:30.

Please send a note to Kim Townsan if you are planning on attending (townsaka@yahoo.com).

"Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, and yet there's so much diversity among His people." Desmond Tutu

AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

President's Message

My husband and I bundled up this past Sunday evening and sat on our driveway to watch the lunar eclipse – what a spectacular show! Hope some of you were able to see it also.

We had a wonderful presentation this month at the Boys and Girls Club – our area is blessed to have a place like that for the kids to hang out and be kids in a safe, nurturing environment. I was impressed with the commitment of everyone that works there and all the programs they have for the kids to learn and just be kids. Thanks, everyone, for your generous donations. I am sure they will put them to good use.

The AAUW state convention is April 12 and 13 in Little Rock. I will pass along information regarding the program as I get it.

AAUW Arkansas wants to sponsor a student to NCCSWL and has asked us for names of anyone we feel should possibly have that experience. We have identified two potential candidates and will keep you up to date on the status as this moves forward.

Hope to see you all at our Feb. 20 diversity program.

Sue Luerssen

VISIT TO THE CEDAR MOUNTAIN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

The Jan. 16 visit to the Cedar Mountain Boys & Girls Club was an uplifting experience for members.

Director Susan Clark related the history of the club, which ran out of funds a few years ago and was revived by its merger with the Boys & Girls Club of Saline County. The Club receives one grant, but all other funds come from individuals and organizations in the area, primarily from Hot Spring Village. Clark quipped, “You know the saying, ‘It takes a village.’ Well, it takes THAT Village!”

The Boys & Girls Club offers after-school and summer programs for youth aged six to 18, and the days are jam-packed with activities.

The after-school program runs from 3:30 to 6 p.m., and four staff members (including two Jessieville students) are “on the floor” the entire time. All activities are optional, and students can choose from music, arts and crafts, STEM-related programs, homework sessions, educational computer programs, etc. Meals are served every day through a partnership with Equal Heart – last year 23,000 meals were served.

The summer program – as Clark says, “the only game in town” – had 173 regular participants last year, with 593 in sports activities. Field trips, community service activities and sports are big draws for the program.

In November 2017 the Club took over Simply Kids, a licensed daycare center for kids six weeks to six years old, and currently cares for more than 70 children.

AAUW members continued the program with lunch at Home Plate with Keanna Peck, a 2018 AAUW scholarship recipient. Peck is currently researching the Boys & Girls Clubs in Hot Springs and Arkadelphia, both of which have closed, to determine the impact on children and families in the region. Peck shared her personal story of attending Boys & Girls Clubs on military bases throughout her school years.



Susan Clark, director of the Cedar Mountain Boys & Girls Club



Keanna Peck describes her research into Boys & Girls Clubs in the area

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 20—Darla Thurber, NPC diversity activities, UUVC, 9:30 a.m.

March 20—Visit with Garbo Watson Hearne, director of **Hearne Fine Art and Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing**, in the historic Dunbar neighborhood of Little Rock

April 17—**Annual Meeting**—program to be announced, UUVD

May—**Teacher Appreciation Day**

May 6—cookie assembly

May 7—cookie delivery

June 19 – **Social, member recognition, NCCWSL presentation**