

## **Bowling Green Branch Members Toasted the New Academic Year with Annual AAUW Champagne Brunch**

*By Katherine Najacht*

The Bowling Green Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) held its annual program year kickoff event – the Fall Champagne Brunch – on Saturday, September 16 from 10 am – noon at the Bowling Green Country Club. Current members brought guests who might be interested in joining BG AAUW and helping to promote its basic tenets of equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. Several new members joined that afternoon.

President Diane Regan started off the program with a brief discussion of this event as the branch’s “community outreach to perspective members.” Regan suggested that younger women, who, ultimately, are the future of AAUW, don’t believe that equity is still an issue. She read snippets from a “Good Wife’s Guide” from a 1955 issue of Good Housekeeping. The “guide” highlighted ideas such as: “be fresh looking for your husband when he comes home,” “let him talk first, as his topics are more important,” “your husband is the master of the house and will exercise his will,” and last, but not least, “a good wife always knows her place.” Regan joked, saying if the above statements fall in line with your ideas for the future, then AAUW is probably not for you, as AAUW promotes the belief that “women may be in the house, but can also be in the Senate.”

Deborah Wooldridge, co-Vice President for Programming, introduced the featured speaker, Emily Resnik. Resnik, who is a senior majoring in psychology and women’s studies at BGSU, was a delegate at AAUW’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in June, in Washington, D.C. Resnik is very active on campus, as President of the Organization for Women’s Issues, a victim’s advocate and mentoring younger women. She has also interned at two YMCAs in Cincinnati over the summer and hopes to pursue her PhD in Psychology, focusing on issues related to violence against women.

Resnik said that attending the conference was an “awesome opportunity.” While at the conference, she attended workshops and panel discussions on Title IX, campus activism and sexual harassment, and body image, and also attended the Women of Distinction dinner, which featured outstanding women leaders, Eve Ensler, Beverly Tatum, Bernice Sandler, Rebecca Walker and Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch. Resnik said the conference provided “the tools for activism and the Women of Distinction dinner was the motivation.” She hopes to implement these ideas on the BGSU campus starting with an information campaign.

Betty Jean Anderson, chair of local scholarship fundraising, discussed local scholarship efforts, including sending two female elementary students to Be WISE Camp at Denison University. Given the State’s STEM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), this camp is an important stepping stone in the process, interesting girls in math and science at a young age. Anderson also displayed a water color donated by local artist, Nancy Wikoff Leetch, which will be raffled off at the end of the year. Tickets sold will help fund the Camp.

Evie Bachman, who oversees the local Education Foundation, discussed its merits and uses to assist women in their pursuit of higher education. She said this educational fund is the “key to a better life for girls and women.”

Following Bachman's explanation of the Education Foundation, Marilyn Ward discussed the Legal Advocacy Fund. This fund is the largest single national fund for judicial redress for women and girls in education and employment. It provides them with funding to help settle cases arising from sexual harassment and gender discrimination related to tenure, promotion, and other work or school related issues.

The 2006-2007 membership directory and program booklets were handed out and two upcoming events were announced. Royce Ann Martin, assistant professor, BGSU College of Technology, discussed the National Women's History Project Networking Conference, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on October 20 -21, 2006. More details can be found at <http://www.nwhp.org/>. The second upcoming event announced is a free local panel discussion on the rules of the Geneva Convention at Grounds for Thought, October 23 at 7 pm.

The brunch ended with a charge to existing and new members to "Shape the Future" of AAUW in support of the organization. 2006 marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Association of University Women committed to Equity: Make it Real.

Anyone holding an associate's degree or higher from an accredited school is eligible for membership in AAUW. Please contact Vice President for Membership, Helene Weinberger at 419-352-6744 or by email at [hweinber@wcnnet.org](mailto:hweinber@wcnnet.org) for enrollment information. Dues for the year are \$63 and includes membership at the national, state and local levels. Currently enrolled undergraduate students in two or four-year programs are also welcome to join for \$20 as student affiliates. Information is also available on the branch website at <http://www.bgsu.edu/organizations/aauw> or the Association's website at <http://www.aauw.org>. To find out more about the Education Foundation, please visit <http://www.aauw.org/ef/> and <http://www.aauw.org/laf/index.cfm> for information on the Legal Advocacy Fund.