

Mary Dupuis Interview – June 9, 2014

1. Why did you join AAUW?

- First of all, my mother was an AAUW member, so I knew about the organization. I was given one of the very early (I guess they didn't call it a scholarship) awards back before we had actual scholarships. 1970 is my memory, which I used to buy an electric typewriter to type my dissertation. In any case, about a year later, Ingrid Holtzman, of great fame (I don't know if anyone else will mention Ingrid's name, she had been or was still president of the Branch) came to me at a social function and said, "why aren't you a member of the AAUW? We gave you money!" She was never anything but direct. And I said, well, you know, it's a really good question. And so I joined. And I have been a member ever since.

2. Why have you remained committed to the organization for so many decades?

- I ask myself that frequently. Well, first of all, I really believe in the mission. The business of equity for women and girls is still a very live issue to me. I did a lot of work with women's concerns when I was on the campus at the University (Penn State) and I remain committed to a lot of things that we don't talk much about anymore but that I still think are live issues so that's one of the reasons. I have waxed and waned with my involvement with the Branch. I was active early on and then I served a longer time than I should have as President and kind of got burned out. And at the same time my job at the University changed and I became an administrator. So for a number of years I was hardly even involved. So when I retired, in 1996, I came back and I just have enjoyed being involved with it. I like the people and I like the work that we do despite my concerns and my reservations about the book sale. And so, you know, I am continuing to do the things I think are important.

3. What would you tell potential members about the organization?

- Well, essentially, I tell them what I just said. You have to be interested in--you have to have a vision for the reason why we need a women's organization, and most of the women I talk to don't have any trouble relating to that at all. We still have so many fights that are not completed and some of them...I say that's when I know it is time for me to retire permanently, because I am fighting some of the same fights the third time around. And that means that somebody else has to step up to the plate here and many people are. But I tell them that they have to decide for themselves how active they want to be. Do they want to go to every meeting, meet the people? Do they want to get active in committees? I have been successful in recruiting some people to our STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics] committee. Probably would not have joined the Branch if they were not

interested in that particular thing. But, you know, that is the kind of thing I talk about.

4. What would you tell current members?

- I would try to get a bunch of them to get off of their butts and do something. I mean, seriously, the whole Branch of 160 members and there are about twenty or twenty-five that do something. We need the minds and the active involvement of a lot of other people.

5. What were the biggest challenges you faced as Branch president and/or Used Book Sale chair? How did you resolve or address those challenges?

- Well first of all, I was a President, not a Book Sale Chair. The Book Sale has seen me as an enemy for some time. And, fortunately, I think that has been resolved and that is why Louise Tukey now sees me as a friend and that's good. One of the biggest challenges I thought, was the thing that kept me active in the early years was we had involvement. We had a committee on international affairs. We had projects like Phone Friend and other things like that, and no matter where you were and what interested you, there was something you could find to do within the Branch. And what I saw, and this was the early 1980's, so it was a long time ago, we were gradually losing those things because it took so many people and so many hours of time to do the book sale, that there wasn't any time left to do anything else. And I always felt that was too bad.

The second challenge I faced was where we are today still, speaking of revisiting things, we had an unacceptable place to do the book sale, in terms of the work shop. When I first got active, we were doing the bookshop out of Trudy Levine's garage. And we moved to some places including that awful basement under Galen Dreibelbis's motel that is now Santander Bank. I mean we have been in some pretty horrible places doing that and this was right when the book sale was beginning to make big bucks. I said let's buy a building. And I went to Dave Lee because his wife Joyce is a good friend, I know Dave was president of, it was People's Bank then, now Omega, or no now First National...? I don't know it's been sold to some other bank. In any case, I said Dave, if we found a place that we could buy and we are AAUW, I think we had something like \$75,000 in a fund; could you help us get a loan to buy a building? He said, "Sure. The AAUW is good money. They will always have money from the book sale. I have no doubt it could be paid back or if you had to sell it, somebody else would buy it. Not a problem." So I went back to the Branch board and I am telling you, it's like I had lit a fuse. Everything exploded! We don't want to own anything. We don't want to be a landlord. We don't want any of that stuff. We just want to take books in and so anyway, I gave up because it was clearly a losing effort. Louise Tukey led the

effort to scuttle that and I think it scarred our relationship for some time. But the issue is one that the Branch faces today. Do we or do we not have the good business sense to decide how we are going to do our business in the most efficient way and to maximize the amount that we earn on the investment? So in any case, that was one of the challenges and I felt that I did not succeed at all, so we went on to other things.

6. What impact has AAUW made nationally and locally on women's issues? Or how has AAUW contributed to the status of women in State College and at Penn State University?

- Well first of all, this is really two very important questions. Nationally, there is no question that AAUW has done some of the best research on critical issues pertaining to women that I have ever, ever read. One of the things I did on campus was to be a member of something called The Study Group on the Status of Women, which former President Bryce Jordan and former Provost William Richardson put together. And I read more research on women then, than I ever did before or have since. AAUW was at the forefront of a lot of that stuff even then and they are doing even better stuff now. They are taking stands on important issues nationally. We are respected; if they go to speak on Capitol Hill, and that I find very important, because the other women's groups that I think of when I think of women's issues tend to be single-issue things like, Planned Parenthood. And they are very good in their own right, but we need this broad, umbrella-like coverage and AAUW does that. So I think that's very important.

Locally, I don't think we've had as big an impact as I wish we had. We have almost no relationship with the University. We could have done many things. When I was involved, not only with the study group, but then on the Commission for Women for many years, even when I was chairing it, nobody had ever heard of AAUW. Nobody thought of it as a group they wanted to have involved in putting forward the positions we were all taking and they were all ones that AAUW supported. I don't see us as visible except in terms of the book sale. For example, right now, one of the hot items at the national level is Title IX and they are trying to move Title IX into the high schools. We have a perfect opportunity here to have little study groups go to the various school districts in our area and say, "We are just curious about what you are doing about Title IX and can we talk to you about it?" I don't know what would happen. I don't know if they would talk or not. But it is the kind of thing I think our Branch should be doing. We tend not to do that kind of thing. So in any case, I think we can do a lot more locally than we have done.

7. What were some of the challenges of being members of an early feminist organization?

- Well, the abortion issue was the biggest thing that divided us all. Many of us were pro-choice, AAUW was pro-choice. There were many members of our group who were not. It was simply something we didn't talk about because it became quickly evident that if we did the schism would be irrevocable. So, we took no part in anything local. When I went to Pittsburgh for the Equal Rights Amendment with a number of members of the Branch it was not a Branch function. They made it clear that it was not. We went as individuals and it just happened that we were all members of AAUW. I still think there is a lot of that in our midst. But the feminism business is fascinating because those of us who were on the faculty (I never thought of myself as a feminist on the faculty) might have had a lot of male colleagues who certainly were sure that I was because I kept saying that women should do things that they knew women should not do. And so as a faculty, it was always sort of this intellectual level discourse. But on the study group we started talking about the women in staff positions and the various ceilings. We didn't just have a glass ceiling; we had a whole series of ceilings. Some of which, to their credit, have been done away with by now but not all of them. That was eye opening to me. I simply had never looked at the roles the various women in the world played. And now I look at the law firm where my daughter is a partner and I see that they have these three wonderful women lawyers doing really good things but they have the same sort of policies towards the women who work in the office that we used to have. I mean, some things have changed, but others really have not. So in that case, I really think the feminism (which we don't talk about anymore) has lost some of its relevance to people. The young women think it's done. My daughter now knows that it's definitely not done and that's fine. And I have this crazy, wild activist daughter in Manhattan that we won't talk about. She's over the top. But that's part of the business of being feminist. So I have a good male friend, whom I dearly love, who says we are in a post-feminist world and then he laughs because he knows perfectly well that everything that we were fighting for in 1980 is still on the table.

8. What opposition did the local Branch face over the years as a women's organization? From whom?

- Well, I think our biggest problem was always internal. I never saw anybody speak negatively in public about AAUW. Now there may have been some things that they chose not to say. But when they said something in public it was about how wonderful it was that we had the book sale and that we gave money away. By the way, that is where I am going at noon today, to give out money again. I really think the issue for us was could we get a consensus within the Branch to do some of the things. And frankly, the fact that we didn't have one is a reason why I think we haven't been as visible as we might have been.

9. What are the next important steps for AAUW nationally and locally toward equity for women and girls? Or where would you like to see AAUW go in the future?

- Well, nationally, I think the direction is pretty clear in terms of the issues that we are going to be dealing with. They are going to continue to deal with issues of equity that the Legal Advocacy Fund deals with. They are going to continue to move ahead with the research issues that keep coming up. I think it is less clear how their fundraising, philanthropic priorities are going to merge with ours. We are perhaps on the brink of another major difference of opinion there. I talk a lot with Dianne Gregg about this because we work on a number of things together. When she was president we had an issue just like this, which I hadn't even remembered, and the thought was that this Branch might have to drop out of the national organization in order to be able to maintain control of what it did with the money it raised. At that time, Dianne's memory is that national backed down because many of the 30 or 40 Branches across the country, that do what we do, said the same thing and they just couldn't afford to lose us. Now whether that will happen again I don't know, but we are literally on the brink of something like that and before you publish this you will probably know the outcome. I'm really concerned about that. I do understand that the national is having the problem that a lot of national organizations are having (I belong to too many of them): people aren't joining as they used to so all of the memberships are down and everything is more expensive for them to do. So you put those two things together, they're feeling really pinched.

I have already voiced my opinion on that to the people who are going to gather in 2 or 3 hours and make these decisions. The problem is that we don't seem to be able to find that magic middle ground. We are always looking for a way to do both things and so far we haven't found it. That is all I can say. We will be looking for it again. We have this amorphous consensus, I guess, that we would give enough to the national to keep them happy and spend more of our money on local things because we really cared about supporting local social service agencies mainly. But it has dwindled to the point that we give very little to the national and the money that we give we tend to place in particular places where we know we want it to be. So it's generally into endowment funds and the results are used for research or they are used for LAF [Legal Advocacy Fund] or they are used for something specific. And in the mean time, they're still trying to run the business down there and they don't have enough support to do it, so that's the conundrum.

10. Where would you like to see AAUW go in the future?

- In the future, I would like to see AAUW become more sensitive to the immediate issues both locally and somewhere between local and national. The national has no interest in our state issues. The local has not done anything

about some of the big hot topic issues like homophobia and the kind of things that relate to that. And I am sure it is because they see it as too controversial and they'll be too many people that, whatever they do, will not appreciate it. I'd like to see them do a little more of that. And the equity issue for girls is getting lost in my view in the issues related to taxation and how much money there is available to do various things, including schools, so that everybody is being hurt equally, if you will, as we cut back on it. I'd like to see the AAUW take a lot of strong positions about support for education at the national level. Now, I would like to see us do that locally. We have never done anything like that. We have never written a letter to the State College School Board to say we really think that you need to be looking at these kinds of things. Or any other place, Borough Council, anybody. And I really think we should be more visible locally on those areas. That is also a bone of contention.

11. What programs/needs/causes has the local Branch supported over the years?

- I know the kinds of things that we have done. We have done a lot of things for young children or girls from Phone Friend to what we are doing in STEM. I think that is the one thing that the Branch would agree on most easily. We have a lot of interest in certain kinds of causes. We have always supported libraries. We will give a lot of library money today. We've done a lot for the Women's Resource Center and for other groups that seem to be working hard for women in the community. We get muddled when we get requests for money that we don't know what to do with because we can't be sure that girls are going to get at least most of it, if not all of it. So we don't do very much for the Girl Scouts, for example. We don't do very much for some of the educational activities that are outside libraries. We don't seem to be worried about the fact that men can use libraries too. That doesn't seem to enter into it. We just like libraries and will support them no matter what. So whenever somebody has come forward with an issue that has grabbed the Branch we have put money in it. And that's where STEM is right now. It started a long time ago; we are entering our 7th year in the State College schools so this is probably the 8th year we have been talking about it as a Branch.

We now work with 15 different women's groups on campus, science groups, mostly science student groups, grad students. So Physics and Astronomy for Women and Graduate Women in Science and other groups that I had never heard of. And the only reason we are connected to them is because my co-chair, Kristen Dreyer, who is just a ball of fire. I am very excited to have her there because at my age it is time for somebody else to start chairing these things. Officially we are co-chairs, but she is doing most of the work. And the important thing about that, I think, is the way it relates to the community at large. We don't get enough PR out of it, from my point of view, but we do get a lot of satisfaction out of the things that the kids, the girls do. And, you know,

if you can imagine Bald Eagle Area having an after school program for girls. They've never had anything close to that before. They have wonderful, wonderful teachers in these three school districts. They are all women. They are all terribly interested in doing it. They do it; they spend a lot of extra time on it. They do get paid their per-hour contractual amount, but they spend a lot more hours than they get paid for. So that's the kind of thing that I think we ought to be doing more of.

12. So could you spend a minute talking about the scope of STEM? Because that was your baby to begin with.

- It was. My first involvement with STEM was about 20 years ago when Pat Farrell and I and Narayan, an engineering professor came together. She agreed to be our titular PI (principal Investigator) for an NSF (National Science Foundation) grant because if it came from the College of Engineering it had a better chance of being funded. Pat and I belonged to different colleges. We did the work and we had a wonderful time, but we learned a lot in the process. We had a camp and the girls came to the camp for a week from all over the state and they had wonderful people. I mean, Laktash Laktakia, he's wonderful! He did things with those girls that I had never heard of. So then they went home and that was the end of it. And we said this is not the way it should be because we can't keep track of the girls. We can't help them. So that's when I began to think about how we could do something on a local level. And with a little help from Donna Ricketts, who is now retiring, we came up with the idea of doing; what is now CSI, Challenging Science Investigations. It would not have happened without the three wonderful women science teachers. They are the best science teachers I've ever seen in my whole life. State College doesn't know what they have. They are just really, very special. But anyway, they came up with the original plans for the projects. And we started doing it in the winter when there were fewer distractions. And then we started doing a second one, so there was one in the summer, which I've now got to get the volunteers going for by the end of July.

Within a year, I decided we really could not justify spending \$5000 a year on State College and nothing on any other school district. So I started talking with people in Bellefonte. Bellefonte and Bald Eagle, number one, don't have anything going on in the summer except sports and band and that doesn't start until August. And the teachers will not talk to you. So on the day school is out, you lose contact with them until the fall because of historical stuff. But I did find this wonderful middle school science teacher, Jill Crisan, who has been the light in Bellefonte. And she does a program of her own devising. It's not the same one as in State College. But we got that started. Just two years ago we started the one in Bald Eagle, and Kristen has done most of the legwork on that one. That's based upon AAUW research.

Without question, the problem for STEM with women is that they lose interest and they don't do things in middle school, from middle school on. If you lose them in middle school, they don't take the right courses in high school, they're not prepared to go into STEM programs in college and it's a bunch of dominoes. So that's why middle school. But when Kristen and I got started with a "STEM Committee" as opposed to just these little projects out there, she said, there are things that we could probably do that are beyond what we're now doing. And I said, let's go for it. So gradually we developed a whole series of things. We give scholarships now to ScienceU camps in the summer. We give mini-grants, mostly, interestingly enough, to these very small, and not very well organized, student women's groups on campus, who are going to have a one-day conference or they are going to do one project and they are doing lots of wonderful things. So we are trying to expand what the Branch does in STEM, gradually, so that we can organize it.

When the committee first started, I had two members of the Branch who joined the committee, Trudy Levine and Gini Brickwedde. And within two meetings they both said the same thing to me, you know, I can't do this. I don't know anything about science. I said, me, I don't know anything about science, I am an English major! That's just not my thing, but I appreciate the importance of it. Well, they just didn't see what they can do and they dropped out. So our committee now is entirely made up of people that we have recruited from University areas. Patty Kenney who runs the ScienceU stuff. A lot of the science outreach people on campus. A couple of really interesting people in town, like Michelle Crowl at Discovery Space and Deb Wells who's temporarily at home with small children but will be back in the business shortly. And some of them have joined the Branch, not everybody has, but they all have something to give. And they are excited to see that a group, like ours, will do something.

So I think right now, the highlight of our STEM activity, broadly defined, was last year's Marie Curie activities. We chose Marie Curie because AAUW originally, in 1916 (it had an earlier name, it wasn't AAUW yet) gave Marie Curie money towards her initial buy of radium. And we bought the element, radium, at Discovery Space. They are using that as a fundraiser since they're not very well funded. And so they have a big board with the periodic table on it on the wall and they're looking for people or organizations to buy an element for \$1000. So we bought radium. And we had two programs. One for kids, on a day when kids were off for in-service. This was all in November because November was Marie Curie's birthday month. And then we had something that I've learned is called a Science Café. I've never heard of that, in which scientists get together and a couple of them give sort of interesting

and provocative stories about their current research. We had a woman who is a professor of physics and I said to her afterwards, your research is fascinating, but what is more fascinating to me is that there is a female who has become a professor of physics at Penn State. The college of science is one of the most intransigent when it comes to putting women into upper level positions. And then another woman, who works with Candace Davison, at the nuclear reactor and is doing research on medical isotopes, which was fascinating. So we had lots of things. We had all of the activities that the kids had done there, including something with an ion cloud. I mean I was way over my head. But Louise Tukey and Martha Hummel came and I thought of all the Branch members who could come, these are women who have no pretensions to science. And they had a ball! Everybody had a great time. So, we are actually in a position of trying to decide what we are going to do for an encore. Because there are people who want us to do it every year and we've decided we don't have enough people to do that.

13. Identify notable Branch projects and/or community projects supported by the Branch such as Phone Friend, the scholarship endowment, Women's Resource Center, Schlow Centre Region Library, Family Health Center. (Directions the Branch is headed in)

What should I say about them? I mean you've got them identified. Oh, well. We need to be in a position, and we have tried to do this with things like Phone Friend and STEM, of identifying problems within the community and then trying to help solve them, if they are not the kind that can be solved easily by existing groups. I mean, think about that. Phone Friend was designed when there was nothing for after school care for elementary kids. And they would go home to empty houses and we knew that. So Phone Friend worked for as long as it was needed. At Donna Ricketts' retirement party last Friday night, she talked about the new after school programs, which SCASD has now in two schools and they'll have two more in effect come fall. And their goal is to put it in all the schools. So, if your child needs care after school, they can stay at school and do whatever they need. Homework, play in the gym, do whatever and they'll have lots of activities for them. So, Phone Friend worked itself out of a job by calling attention to a problem. This was a limited value kind of resolve but it was something. And the people said we've got to do something about this.

Now the same thing is true with these others. Women's Resource Center is constantly evolving, I mean when you think about the new demands placed on it by the Sandusky problem, they were simply unprepared to deal with it and they have had to massively increase their staff and their fundraising. What can we say about the library? If they don't start funding it again at the State level we are in serious trouble. That's a place where I think AAUW should be in

talking to Legislators and saying this is unacceptable. You've got to fund libraries. I don't think we are doing that but I'd like to see us do it. I don't know what else we can do because the projects kind of come up on their own. And that's really what STEM did. It was simply the time was right to do it. Because other people are talking about it and you know if you get that kind of national press, then if you want to do something locally, it makes more sense. I'm disappointed that our State AAUW is not trying to do more to increase the number of Branches that are doing it and that kind of thing. But there is a limit to what you can do. So I don't know what the next project will be. I have a feeling that we could get involved with things like Title IX. I think there are women's athletics issues all over the place. But we have to have a critical mass of people in the Branch who are willing to do something and then we have to have somebody take the lead. And frankly, right now, leadership is in short supply. I look at the people who are in their 40's and 50's who should be the leaders of the Branch. We have some but we don't have very many. There are far too many people on the board who are my age.

14. What impact did AAUW have on the State College area, on Penn State University, and on women's leadership opportunities locally?

- Well, the short answer is not much. I think some of our individual members have gone on to do interesting things. Not because the Branch did it, but they may have learned some things from the Branch about leadership. When I look back at the people who have served in leadership positions, many of them are already doing it, if you will. And so when they came to AAUW we got the benefit of their leadership, and they probably learned, I learned a lot as president, I know that. But I don't know that you could say that my years of working in leadership at AAUW had much impact on what I did on campus except to the extent that I was constantly aware of what was happening in the community in ways that not everybody is. I would like to see our relationship with the University be much stronger. I would like to see us more involved with the women's groups on campus and with women's studies and areas like that. Charlene Harrison and I have talked about that because she knows that side as well. There has not been a concerted effort on campus to have a lot of leadership on women's issues recently. That's a nice way to put it, right?

15. What are the scholarship recipients? That's one of those areas where AAUW is annually giving out scholarships and the Branch is giving out scholarships and what is the follow up with the scholarship recipients?

- That turns out to be interesting because, for many years, except for Ingrid forcing me to feel guilty if I didn't join the Branch, there really wasn't much connection. Recently, we have been following up by finding out where they are or where they go. Many of them take jobs and go

somewhere else, which is perfectly reasonable. We have not made a big effort to get them to join the Branch if they're in town. Now, Allison Franklin is the obvious exception to that and I think she has helped some people to realize that, you know, there are probably untapped resources out there. I'd like to see us do a little more of that and push them to come with us. I'd like to see us invite them. There was a time when we gave each of them a complimentary first year, one-year membership. I don't think that happens anymore. And I think that is unfortunate because I would like to see them try to get involved. Now many of them are way too busy with family and school to be able to do much going to meetings, but it's certainly a way that we could start it out. Allison, as it turns out, got involved first with STEM because she is a Forensic Science major and so she had a lot of good things to say. And she felt that she was respected and that we wanted her, which is definitely the case. And from that she has now gone onto other kinds of things. Yeah, I'd like to see us do more of that. That is not, by the way, in the job description of our scholarship committee. So what that means is, if we want to do that somebody has to be given the task of doing it.

16. What are the most notable or most meaningful changes you've seen during your involvement in AAUW?

- Well I don't think we are doing any better job than they were when they recruited me as a grad student to bring in active younger people though we have made a concerted effort to bring in some younger people and people of color. That's one of our great missing links. Victoria Sanchez and I talk about that a lot. We had a short run interest in which we recruited several women of color from campus. The theory was that that is where all of the women of color were. That turned out not to be the case. And we gave them a complimentary year's membership to see if we could get some of them to stay. Well it turns out, Vicki is the only one who did and then we never did it again. Now that AAUW is involved with this cultural empowerment for women group, I sit on that committee and we bring in, twice a year, 40 or 50 of the most interesting women. Many of them are, to everyone's surprise, not just students who have been here for a short time and don't expect to stay here. Many of them have lived in this town for 10 or 15 years. They are permanent residents. They are no better connected now than the day they got there. And they're the kind of people that we now say that we should be trying to help make the connections that will be permanent. We don't quite know how to do it, but we are working with the Community Diversity Group that is Carol Eicher's group. That's our partner in this. We need to be doing more of that in my view. We need more diversity in our membership, both in terms of age and in terms of ethnicity. I would love to see us do much more of that. The other change

that I've seen is a remarkable change toward being a group of elderly people. There are just not a lot of active people who are young. I'm thrilled to see some of the people like Billie Willits come in. I mean, she is a mature person not far from retirement. The number of people that are Kristen's age is just minimal. And maybe that is characteristic of every group. I don't know that. But, in any case, I see that as a problem.

17. During your membership in AAUW, how has women's role in society evolved?

- Well if you think about the time from 1970 on, women have expanded what they do in this community and in the country and the world so dramatically. I would like to think that we had something to do with it and I guess in some sort of obtuse way, we might have. But the main thing is, that it was just simply time to bring women in. They've got to have us because there are too many of us and not enough of the other guys. I mean they've got to use the strengths and the talents that they can find. And women have a lot of them. So, I'm delighted to see all of that. Obviously there is much more yet to be done. I think the one remaining issue is how we help girls see themselves as they go through school. And therefore, what do they aspire to be. And what kind of options do they think they have. Some districts are doing very, very well. I read, what, yesterday's paper with all of the merit semi-finalists, all but one from State College High which is embarrassing, but not unusual. A lot of them are girls. And a lot of those girls are going into really significant areas in STEM. They are also going into public service, foreign affairs work and all kinds of interesting things. And I'm delighted to see that. That they see that they have those choices and they can just go off and do them. That's a change. When I was in high school, my father's father had been a dentist and so he asked me to talk to our dentist who was a personal family friend about what I could do. And he suggested that I think about becoming a dental hygienist. Because he couldn't imagine, clearly, suggesting that I become a dentist. Not that I have any interest in any of it, but never mind. And it was just fascinating to think about that. He's a very nice guy. He thought he was doing me a favor. That still happens, but much less often than it used to.

18. Over time what has the Branch done to raise funds? What form has Branch philanthropy taken over time?

- Mostly one thing, as we all know which, is the book sale. Back in the day, Louise Tukey used to sell calendars. And she'd make a couple of hundred dollars selling AAUW calendars every year, but she doesn't do that anymore. The result is that we don't do anything but the book sale. The book sale is so overwhelming in size and scope that there is just no room for anything else.

19. Should there be something else, and if so, what?

- I don't think we need a massive fundraising thing besides that. We can't give away all of the money we get now. I do think that, given things like Centre Gives, if we had another purpose. If we wanted to raise money independently for STEM or any other project we come up with, we could create a pretty good database and end up getting some money contributed for that. We've never asked. And I think everybody is sort of embarrassed to ask when we've got all of this money in the bank. Everyone is also scared to death that the book sale is going to dry up. There is certainly no evidence of it yet, but over 10 or 15 years that could certainly be the case. You are going to have a lot of people like me giving away a lot of books at some point, but whether people want to buy them is the open question. So far, not a problem. I think one of the things that has distressed me a little bit about our book sale, we have evolved so massively, but we have not chosen to reach out to other Branches that have book sales. To say, how do you do this? And could we maybe learn something from what you do. The assumption is that everything we do is so unusual and so unique that nothing anybody else does could help us. I think that's a mistake. We don't treat it as a business. We don't choose to be business people. And there are some members of our group, including a lot my age, who shudder at the thought of being business people. Hey, that's what we are in. We are in a business. And if we don't do it right, we don't get as much out of it as we might. With all of the hours people give, I keep saying, we should try to do it as well as we can so we maximize the value of the investment that all of these people are making. But, you have to have somebody willing to take on the task. I have had several conversations with Nancy DeWalle, bless her heart, she has been a long time book sale worker and she took on the task of running the thing this year and she said, "I can't do that. It drove me crazy. I don't understand how to do it." And, yet, she did a nice job and it worked very well. We made record money and so forth. Now, I don't know whether Donna Trapp will treat it more as a business since she does come from a business background. I think there is a possibility. But when it comes to looking at the investment we make versus what we get out of

it, everybody is just boggled by the numbers. And the result is that they don't look at specific pieces of the action to see if we could do it better.

20. Are there other AAUW issues that you would like to talk about at this, which is coming up on the 100th anniversary of the Branch?

- Well, I think we should celebrate. I mean 100 years is a lot. One of the other things that we don't know as we should, as a Branch, is how we fit into the state and national picture. How many Branches are as old as we are? And how many Branches do the kind of things we do and what might we learn from some of the others? I'm a little concerned about that because here we are, as I said earlier, on the cusp of this decision of national versus local and we have no real way of knowing. Although, Sally Kalin probably knows as much as anybody does about it, I'm concerned about us having to make that cataclysmic decision, really, in many ways without knowing much about what other people are thinking about it. At this point, I don't have much else to offer on that one.

21. Are there other women's issues that you think AAUW should be addressing or the Branch should be looking at?

- Well, I'd like to see us look at issues like access to family health services. Not because we don't have them here in town because we do. But, we have been, despite our protest to the contrary, very State College-centric. We don't look at who else in the county might have problems. I mean, we sort of know they're out there and that sort of thing. But we don't really interact with them and so as a result, we make a lot of assumptions as I hear us talk about it. One is, that everybody has access, for example, to the same health care that we do. Well, most of us are on University's health care system which is an amazing health care system and there are a lot of larger companies in town, because they have to attract workers, have pretty much mirrored the University's system. That isn't true when you get outside the friendly confines, as they say, and get out into the valley. So I'd like to see us look at that kind of thing. There are community issues that started with the, well I shouldn't say. They came to our attention at the time of the Sandusky thing. When everybody was feeling like the world was coming to an end. This community is not unified in any very real sense. Although, this latest election on the school referendum was amazing. I don't think any of us anticipated that at all. But there are an awful lot of people who are just not part of the real scene. One of the places that we see that is in this cultural diversity group because there are so many new people to this community. So many serious immigrants, who are not here to get a Ph.D. They are trying desperately to bring their families and earn a living here. They're immigrants in the true historical sense of the word. Our Branch doesn't have any real sense of that. And it

isn't that we don't care, we just don't know about it. And people are not particularly invested in it so there are things like that in the local community that I think we should be attending to.

22. Are there others things that you would like to say about the Branch or AAUW as it looks forward to it's 100th anniversary?

- I think we should just enjoy it and use it as a springboard to move in new directions. To do some different things. That would be fun. Starting this undergraduate student chapter could be one of those. But again, it is going to take some person or persons to say, this is my baby, I am going to see this through. There was a long time when I felt if I didn't stick with STEM, it would just die. I feel much better now because I see all of these other people who are there and some of them at least are taking some leadership. It gives me hope for the future.

23. Your last words --

- I just thank you for doing this. You know, we need to look backwards in order to look ahead. We need to know where we came from. We have made a couple of major changes in our focus since 1916. We are no longer just an appendage of the university. We are looking at other things quite a lot and so I can complain about the fact that people who know us, know us only because we give away money from the book sale, but that's a move forward. I mean, we are much more visible than we were before, so we just need to think about the next hundred years, that's all.